

ILLINOIS FREE WILL BAPTIST

OCTOBER 2022

NEWSLETTER

A monthly publication for Illinois Free Will Baptist families

OCTOBER IS PASTOR APPRECIATION MONTH!



Since 1992, October has been observed as “Pastor Appreciation Month” in our nation. However, the call to honor our church leaders goes back to biblical days and is mentioned several times in the Scriptures. Because I was a pastor, I never emphasized a time to honor myself, but now that I am no longer serving in that capacity, I want to encourage all our churches to give special recognition to our Illinois pastors.

We have some great men who serve with sincere dedication to the Lord and the church, and with a desire to see people saved and to feed and serve those who are already saved. They fulfill their call to God as promised in the Old Testament when the

LORD said: *“And I will give you pastors according to mine heart, which shall feed you with knowledge and understanding.” — Jeremiah 3:15.*

Many people do not realize that they should seek to understand the many situations faced by their pastor. The Apostle Paul encouraged the church to love and honor them as they work among people, both in the church and in the community, *“And we beseech you, brethren, to know them which labor among you, and are over you in the Lord, and admonish you. And to esteem them very highly in love for their work’s sake, and be at peace among yourselves.” — 1 Thessalonians 5:12 – 5:13.*

Your pastor has a very important position of responsibility, not only in your church, but also in your community. *“How then shall they call on him in whom they have not believed? and how shall they believe in him of whom they have not heard? and how shall they hear without a preacher?” — Romans 10:14.*

Let me encourage every church to make October a month to bless, honor, respect and pray for your pastor. At a time when we have a large number of churches without a pastor, use the ingenuity of your heart and soul to find ways to show your pastor you love and appreciate him!

ARNOLD VIEW CHURCH

Pastor: Adam Brown Reporter: Buddy Parks

Average Sunday School Attendance during August was 86. Brother Ivan Ryan brought the Morning Worship Message on July 31. Our Fifth Sunday Song Service was held that evening. Our Homecoming Service was celebrated September 18 with Brother Doug Little.

Arnold View was well represented at the National Convention. Brian Stotlar, 51, passed away on August 23. He was a son-in-law of Dale and Nancy Hastings. Condolences to the family.

Norman and Joyce celebrated their 65th Wedding Anniversary at Arnold View on August 27.

“They are new every morning: great is Thy faithfulness.” — Lamentations 3:2

WALTONVILLE CHURCH

Pastor: Mark Wells Reporter: Chris Kuhner

Hello from Waltonville Free Will Baptist Church! We have had a couple of cases of the covid and a lot of sinus infections going around lately so our attendance has been down a little, but the Lord has been good to us over all. Brother Max Clarke had prostate surgery on the 1st of September and is home recovering. We are praying for good reports which he should have by the time you all get this letter.

We are still seeing growth in our church and we thank the Lord for that. We have started a young couples class on Wednesday nights and there are four couples as of right now. Our food pantry is still moving ahead and we have gained at least 10 new people coming to church! I don't know about you but that makes me excited!

Please keep praying for our church as we will be having a new roof put on at the end of September and that is exciting to say the least. We have made some new changes to our auditorium and it looks great. You can check us out on the web (www.waltonvillefwb.com) and see the messages there too. We are still looking and praying for at least two more souls for Jesus in 2022!

MOUNT VERNON CHURCH

Pastor: Craig Smith Reporter: Linda Polston

By now school is likely in full swing. Like it or not, children of all ages are adjusting to "early to rise" and new schedules as the day begins.

We can be proud of Brother Craig and wife Marcella for their send off to kids here. Brother Craig called them to the front where Sister Marcella was waiting with school supplies for them. And, Pastor gave them a mini-sermon on troubles in schools with assurance that God, their best friend, is always there with them.

Lots of anxious tasters went to our watermelon and home-made ice cream social on Saturday, August 27. Then Saturday, September 3 we helped Rural King celebrate Customer Appreciation Day. We served many people hot dogs provided by Rural King. And we provided beverages, chips and baked goods. Most importantly, the effort also gave us the opportunity to invite folks to worship with us and reach people for Jesus.

Some of our evening services were postponed for Camp Hope meeting held from September 11-14. Then FWB Masters Men held its Retreat from September 15-17 at Camp Hope.

The Illinois Women's Retreat was held at Camp Hope September 23-24.

We hope you have made your plans to join us with The Family Sowell for an evening of bluegrass gospel music. The date is Sunday October 9th at 6 p.m. REMEMBER to bring your love offering for them.

October 15 at our church beginning at 5 p.m. will be our Fall Harvest Social to raise awareness of our Revival at 2610 Logan Street. Revival will start at 6 p.m. Sunday, October 16 through Wednesday, October, 19. Bring neighbors and friends.

We must share that our decorating angels flew in and left beautiful Sunflowers everywhere. Thank God for His gifts. *"Seek the Lord and His strength, seek His Face continually". - 1 Chronicles 16:11*

BENTON CHURCH

Pastor: Phillip Kennedy

The school year is in full swing and the weather is cooling down. We are getting ready for a new ministry to kids and Youth on Thursday nights in October. Please pray for us as we reach out to our community.

It was exciting to attend Ryan Payne's Ordination service! Many from our church attended both the joint church service at Hazel Dell Church on August 21 as well as the Revival services the nights that followed.

Our Ladies had a fellowship time on September 3. They also had a Rummage sale to raise money for Missions on September 10th.

Different ones from our church attended the Adult Camp Meeting at Camp Hope each night!

Open Gym nights will begin soon as well!

We appreciate the fellowship we have with other churches in our state and the fact that we can pray for one another. Please do pray for us as we pray for you!

BLUE POINT CHURCH

Pastor: Ernie Lewis Reporter: Suzanne Lewis

Rebecca Eckelberry received the annual Bozarth Memorial Scholarship. This scholarship is named after long-time members Bob and Doris Bozarth. Mike, Barbara, and Caitlyn Bozarth served as the presenters.

We hosted a grocery giveaway for senior citizens for the Tri-State Food Bank. We enjoyed a Sunday evening fellowship in August. We held our 49th annual "Chili and Chowder". Entertainment before the soups were served included a trap shoot and a weight-stacking competition. We hosted a cookout for all those who attended the Johnsonville Grade School open house.

Steve and Linda Spicer celebrated their 50th wedding anniversary with a gathering in the Link. The minister who married them, David Shores, was able to attend the gathering with his wife, Pat. We recognized all grandparents on a Sunday in September and gave each grandparent a small box of chocolates. Brother Ernie attended the August Executive Board meeting in Mt. Vernon. Shane and Joy have safely arrived back in France where they have resumed all their classes.

A few from the church were able to attend the Adult Camp Meeting and were blessed by the messages of Howard Bass. A group went to the Orchardville Church to see the presentation of "Heaven's Gates and Hell's Flames". A group of women continues to study the Book of Hebrews. On a recent Sunday, David Shores preached in the morning service and a local lay-speaker, Noel Madding, filled the pulpit for the evening service.

We are excited to be celebrating 125 years of God's blessings on Blue Point in October. On Friday night October 7th, comedian Jonnie W will present his program at 7:00pm. Jeff and Sheri Easter will be singing on Saturday, October 8th at 6:00pm. On Sunday morning October 9th at 9:30am, The Victory Boys will be singing. Jason Taylor, pastor of the Vertical Church in Yuma, Arizona, will be speaking in the 10:30am service. And a pot-luck dinner will be served at noon. Commemorative mementos will be distributed to those who attend Sunday morning.

HAZEL DELL CHURCH

Pastor: Curtis Smith Reporter: Diana Kirk

We had a joint church service with some of our sister churches on Sunday evening, August 21st to kick off our revival services. A special blessing that evening was the baptism of Xavier Miller by Brother Curtis. Xavier is the son of Brother Justin Miller. What a blessing it was to see this young man follow Christ through baptism.

Brother Tim York was with us August 21-24 for a great time of reviving us in God's word. Thank you, Brother Tim, for sharing with us.

The Sesser Crusade which is sponsored by the Ministerial Alliance was held September 18-21. Brother Curtis was the speaker for the first evening of worship. Brother Kirk Packer, pastor of the Jesus Center, spoke on the second evening. What a great time of fellowship for the community when we can all come together to worship. Brother Kaleb Miller led the music on the second evening.

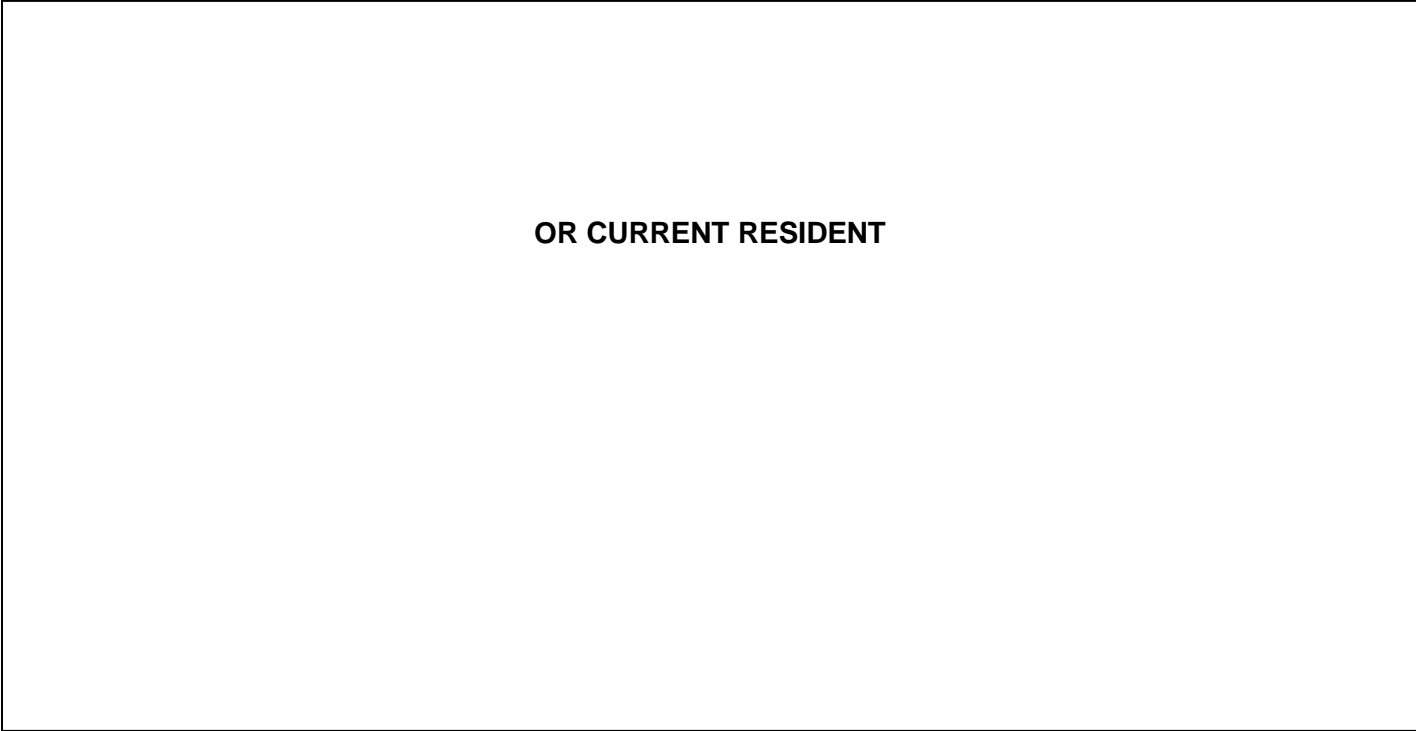
Due to some sickness our Senior Meals were postponed, but are scheduled to resume on September 27th. Meals are to be prepared and delivered on the second and fourth Tuesdays of each month through the month of May. Contact Brother Curtis if you know of someone who would like to be included.

October 9th is our Homecoming Day at Hazel Dell. I look forward to this day each year. Brother Eric Drake is planning to be with us to deliver the message. Joe Arview will be singing for us. A noon meal will be provided. Hope you all can come join us.

"Yet I will rejoice in the LORD, I will joy in the God of my salvation." - Habakkuk 3:18

Note: All articles submitted for publication for the November edition of the Illinois Newsletter must be received by October 15th.

*Please send all correspondence to this **new email address: patdave56@att.net***



PITTSBURG CHURCH

Pastors: Eddie Donelson and Keith McDannel Reporter: Heather Phillips

We hope everyone had a good September and a wonderful start to the school year! Summer has officially gone and fall has arrived! The warmth of summer can still be felt, but the air is beginning to feel crisp. If you look closely, the leaves are beginning to turn from green to yellow, brown, orange, and red.

Our monthly “HE KEEPS ME SINGING” was held on Tuesday, September 13. This month’s theme was “Listen For That Great Trumpet Sound”. We sang some exciting songs reminding us that Jesus’ return is very soon! The next “HE KEEPS ME SINGING” will be on October 11, in the PFWBC Chapel at 6:30pm. Please join us...everyone is always welcome!

A favorite time of the year for many at PFWBC is Pastor Appreciation Month. So many great opportunities to lift them up in prayer, fellowship with others brothers and sisters, and enjoy breaking bread with one another are being planned this month. Even though we appreciate them and thank God every day for our wonderful pastors, we enjoy spoiling them a bit more during the month of October!

PFWBC has been so blessed!! In October, we will be celebrating our 115th Homecoming. We are currently working on the details for our service, but we are prayerfully looking forward to what God has in store for us. The day is certain to be filled with joy and gratitude as we celebrate God’s using our church to accomplish His mission and His purpose. We hope you will come celebrate with us on this special day!

October is a very busy month here at PFWBC. We have so much to look forward to this month! We pray everyone is enjoying the beautiful scenery that only our Heavenly Father could create!

“I will give thanks to you, Lord, with all my heart; I will tell of all your wonderful deeds.” - Psalm 9:1

The HOPE is in you in 2022!