



ILLINOIS FREE WILL BAPTIST November 2024

NEWSLETTER

A monthly publication for Illinois Free Will Baptist families

Laborers in the Lord's Harvest

by Ivan Ryan, Promotional Director

Do you love this time of the year? Cool nights, warm days, farm fields being harvested, the Autumn colors coming into full "bloom", and seasonal get-togethers are but a few of the things that many of us are able to enjoy. Several of our churches select this time of the year to host homecomings, revivals or other special events. Harvest time is a blessing in so many ways to so many different people. Harvest time all over our state is a time of hard work. All the equipment cleaning begins immediately after the harvest, often the land preparation for next year begins at once either tilling or planting a cover crop to aerate the fields. The waiting time for the spring planting is filled with planning, ordering and more equipment tuning for the coming spring. Then the planting, the cultivating, the expenses of it all. Then the waiting while God gives the warmth and the moisture necessary for growth. Eventually comes the harvest. The farmers' work is never completed.

The spiritual harvest is no different. After the sultry summer, missionary activity picks up and we are given the opportunity to think more carefully about the other harvest. The one that we are to be involved with year-round, the spiritual harvest. The one that has generational and eternal implications. The one that truly makes all the difference in the world. So it is with the commission Christ left for His church. The work is never done. He continually prepares hearts, breaking up strongholds of sin, long held addictions and lifelong misinformation. He uses us to work in His fields. Sometimes we may feel unworthy, unprepared or even inadequate. None of us is perfect, but nonetheless, He wants to use us. He will, if we will allow Him to.

I had the blessed privilege this month to visit with the good folks of the Fox River Association when they met at the Palabra De Vida Church and Pastor Ilian Perez in Burbank. The fellowship was outstanding as they sang and worshiped in Spanish as well as English. It was a special day as they welcomed Pastor Paul Shreiner and the Hoopston FWB into the Fox River.

A number of our churches have become acquainted with Armon and Yvette Jordan who are going to Hilo, Hawaii. Their goal is to reach the field by late summer 2025. They have proven themselves to be a real blessing at every service or event they have participated in. The Champion family has been in the area for a couple of services. They are an outstanding family who are heading to Japan. And we are especially thankful for the opportunity to have Darren and Dana Portell into our churches as we help them get to Champaign as soon as possible.

Possibly the biggest blessing of the month is that the Angelville Community Church has voted to unite with the South Central Association of the Illinois State Association of Free Will Baptists. Pastor Josh Colson has led this effort in a very careful and patient way. We welcome the good people of this church and their deacons, Bros. Dallas Duty, Tony Mocaby and Justin Rix. We welcome this fine church into our fellowship.

While we rejoice with all the positive news, we must remember our churches who are searching and praying for a pastor. The Pleasant View Church in the Walnut Hill community and the Oak Valley Church near Geff are still in need of a pastor. Nason appreciates the help of Bro. John Hollis and Harmony has Bro. Kent Dunford as their Interim.

Please remember the Mission North America Offering on Sunday, November 24! An offering from your church will help provide resources for church planting, church revitalization, cross cultural ministries, the chaplaincy, and men's ministries. Thank you each one for the service you give to the Lord through your church. And as we all make our contributions to this special offering, always remember that We are Better Together.

A Picture's Worth a Thousand Words



On October 14th, several of our pastors were able to enjoy a breakfast with Bro. Armon Jorden and Bro. Darren Portell at the Bonnie Café in Mt. Vernon.



Bro. Armon and Sis. Yvette Jorden with Dr. Randy and Sis. Rhonda Carney at the JCity Free Will Baptist Church.



David Potete visits with Paul Shreiner of the Hoopeston Free Will Baptist Church, which joined the Fox River Association.



Bro. Kenneth Hendley moderating the Fox River Association when meeting with the Palabra De Vida Church in Burbank.



On October 6th, Angelville Church (pictured above) voted join the South Central District of the State Association. We are glad to have them as part of our work.



Angelville's church sign

Arnold View**Pastor: Adam Brown****Youth Leaders: River & Danielle Doss**

October was a busy month at Arnold View. Home Missionaries Armon & Yvette Jordan came to share about their upcoming work in Hilo, Hawaii. It was thrilling to hear how his life & the lives of his family (immediate and extended) were touched by the work of a church planter in Colorado several years ago. This reminded us all of our daily mission field of those we come in contact with at work, school, and in our daily comings & goings. Recently, two girls, Ella Kate Brown & Allisyn McKinney, were baptized upon their profession of faith in Christ Jesus. Please join us in praying for these girls and all our youth to be strengthened in their walk with Christ. Another of our youth, Luci Dwyer, shared about her mission trip to Panama and the Truth & Peace conference over the summer. We loved hosting our third annual Fall Festival for the community. It was a wonderful time of fun, food, and fellowship. We were blessed to be a drop off location in the community for disaster relief supplies for recent flood & hurricane victims. We're grateful for being able to partner with the NAFWB to get these delivered to the area of greatest need.

November—trademarked by its spotlight on thankfulness—promises to be busy as well. Of course, we realize that we should exhibit this gracious attitude throughout the year. We are thankful for the lives of Don Wall, Jerry Burns, Steve Furlong, and Gary Hastings. We want to extend our Christian condolences to each of their families. We are also thankful for the births of Mavis Etherton (daughter of Justin & Trisha) and Augustus Porter (son of Jessie & Carlin). On November 10, we'll honor veterans in our morning service. The gift of their service is truly a blessing to us all. Our annual Arnold View Thanksgiving dinner is planned for November 17 in the evening. On November 20, we will host a community Thanksgiving service. It's always a blessing to gather with those in the community to worship any time, but especially in this season of thanksgiving. Throughout November, all ages of the youth have activities planned from movie nights to bonfires. There's a chorus titled, Take A Little Time that repeats the phrase, "Thank you, Lord, I just wanna thank you." Let this be our attitude throughout all our days and show in our countenance.

Blue Point**Pastor: Ernie Lewis****Reporter: Suzanne Lewis**

Our praise band played for 'church night' at the Fairfield Fall Funfest. Emalie Matthews was in charge of "See You at the Pole" at Cisne High School. Several of our teens participated. Blue Point provided donuts and sodas for all in attendance. At the end of September, the men held a Bible study at the home of Daryl Hargrave. Brooke Byars is leading a Bible study for the women in the Link. It is entitled "The Faithful: Old Testament Heroes".

We recently received a WMO offering on a Sunday morning. We are thankful for the faithful who help out at our monthly Senior Grocery Giveaway. Our decorators have the church looking beautiful for fall with mums and pumpkins adorning the church, the Link, and our pavilion.

Several of our ladies attended the Chanda Pierce concert in Newburgh, Indiana. Suzanne Lewis attended the WNAC retreat at Camp Hope. The games were so much fun, the food was delicious, the praise music was tremendous, and Ruth McDonald did a powerful job speaking. Brother Ernie and Suzanne attended the East Central District meeting in Decatur. Darren Portell was the special speaker.

We held our 50th Annual Chili and Chowder. All cooking was done behind the pavilion. Then we ate in the pavilion. It was a beautiful evening with a wonderful breeze and a great crowd. We celebrated our 127th anniversary with Homecoming Services in October. The Dave Melton Family singers provided the special music, along with a group of our own people. Dave Melton brought the morning message. Everyone enjoyed a delicious pot-luck lunch in the beautifully decorated Link.

We offer our sympathy to the family of David Taylor who recently passed away. He was survived by his wife, Kara. Brother Ernie spoke at the funeral and our ladies provided a meal for the family afterwards.

Crossroads Pastor: Jeff Pope Reporter: Tammy Boster

On the 11th Mike and Mary Altgilbers hosted a hotdog roast at their home, several attended, and all had a great time. Our youth will be going to a pumpkin patch on the 19th. On the 20th we are looking forward to our friends and family day, food and fellowship to follow, everyone is welcome. On the 27th of October we are looking forward to Becky Learcher coming to sing for us, food and fellowship to follow.

October is pastor appreciation month. Always remember to pray for your pastor and his family. We love and appreciate ours Pastor.

In January we are having a revival featuring David Crowe. We are looking forward to that, and warmly invite everyone to come and hear him preach.

Harmony Interim Pastor: Kent Dunford Reporter: Alice Barron

Praise the Lord. He stopped the rain just in time for our Church in the Park on August 29th. What a great time was had by all. There was a great message, singing, and food. We had several visitors who had never attended before. Thanks to everyone who took part in the service and to those who provided the food. On October 2nd, the men prepared breakfast before the service for Pastor Appreciation. Bro. Kent and Sis. Tedra left for a much-deserved visit with family. On October 8th, we had our Master's Men and Sisters of Strength meeting. Linda Cunningham, Linda Hall, and Penny Blades have started our Christmas Child Boxes for Samaritan's Purse. Thank you, ladies. We will be finishing these boxes on November 12th. On October 13th, Ted Cunningham brought the messages for both services. Many thanks to Bro. Ted.

"But they that wait upon the Lord shall renew their strength; they shall mount up with wings as eagles; they shall run, and not be weary; and they shall walk, and not faint" (Isaiah 40:31).

Ina Pastor: Brad Ryan Reporter: Katie Williams

Hello from Ina FWB Church! Hope you all are enjoying this fall weather! We have had a busy month. October 1-5 some of our men went on a construction mission trip to Texas and Mexico. They accomplished a lot in just a few days and we are so thankful they made it home safely. Some of our ladies went to the IL Women's Fall Retreat out at Camp Hope and really enjoyed that time of fellowship.

October 6th was our 96th annual Homecoming Service. We had the privilege to hear from Dr. Eddie Moody. We had a wonderful meal afterwards. God has truly blessed our church, and it is always nice to celebrate its rich history. On October 13th we were able to hear from Darren and Dana Portell about their mission work in Champaign-Urbana.

Mt. Vernon Pastor: Craig Smith Reporter: Mary Ann Levitt

Autumn with all its beauty has arrived! Everywhere we look we see the wonders of God's creation!

The WAC bake sale was a huge success! We would like to thank all who furnished baked items and helped at the sale. On 9-11 Bro. Craig gave the blessing for our 1st responders and the meal that followed held at the Mt. Vernon Police Department. Mark Headrick from Harvest FWB Child Care Ministries spoke to us during the morning service on September 15. On September 29 we held our 5th Sunday singing followed by the September birthday and anniversary fellowship. Allan Morgan and Amy Hoard were united in marriage in a beautiful ceremony at our church. May God bless them with many years of happiness! Sunday, October 6, was an exceptionally beautiful day as we held our Sunday School and Morning Worship at Veterans Park followed by a potluck.

Prayers were answered for the Cisco family (New Chapter-New Life) as they were able to move into their new home after living in a motel for 8 months following a fire that destroyed their home.

Please use your freedom to vote on November 5th. Pray for our great country that it will remain free and "One Nation Under God" upon which it was founded! 2 Chronicles 7:14

Pittsburg Pastors: Eddie Donelson and Keith McDannell

Can you believe October is already over?! October is always a busy month at PFWBC.

On October 6, we had a great time celebrating our 117th Homecoming. It was such a wonderful spirit-filled service. Then to top it off after the service we had an amazing fish fry meal with more sides and desserts than the eye could see! We appreciate all of the people who put forth effort to prepare for a meal of this size; it is not an easy task!

As this is being written, we are planning our Fall Family Festival at The Patch in Marion. Riley's BBQ will be treating us with bbq, hot dogs, and all the fixings! Life can get really busy and our Fall Fest is always the perfect opportunity to slow down and enjoy time as a church family, hang out with friends, and meet new people. After some fun at The Patch, we are looking forward to an evening service outside under the stars.

During the month of October, we celebrated our PFWBC Pastors. Ephesians 2:10 says, "We are God's handiwork, created in Christ Jesus to do good works, which God prepared in advance for us to do." We are so blessed by the dedication and hard work of Pastor Eddie, Pastor Keith, and Pastor Kyle.

We are praying everyone has a great November and a Happy Thanksgiving! Let us remember and celebrate our blessings of 2024. Our Heavenly Father is so, so good to us, and we need to praise and thank Him daily! As Thanksgiving approaches let us take time to reflect upon all the things that God has given us. Let us be thankful for all the things that He has done for us in our lives. It is so important, as Christians, that we humble ourselves before God and show true appreciation for all that our Maker has done for us and provided us with. What JOY!! "I will give thanks to you, Lord, with all my heart; I will tell of all your wonderful deeds." Psalm 1:9

Waltonville Pastor: Mark Wells Reporter: Sandra Shurtz

As usual the summer has come and gone very quickly. Kaylyn Klamm has helped our community's children prepare to return to school by having a Back to School drive. Backpacks and school supplies were provided to 112 local students. Thank you Kaylyn and all that donated their time, money or supplies.

Our food pantry has been very busy suppling food to over 100 families. The Lord has blessed with additional produce to distribute. Peaches, tomatoes, peppers, carrots were distributed in addition to the regular food. Thank you to all that help monthly to provide families in need.

The church welcomes two new members, Audrey Gray and Ruth Wells. We look forward to you serving the Lord along side the church family.

Our project to build a new church building is progressing well. The leadership and members are preparing plans to begin building in the near future. The Lord is so faithful to provide the resources necessary to make the vision of a new building possible. Brother Mark has challenged everyone to invite 2 people to church per month to reach a goal of 200 people attending church by 2030. If you would like to donate to our building fund you may do so on Facebook.

Sunday, September 29, we celebrated homecoming with special singing from Righteous Reign. It is very encouraging to have young men serve the Lord with their musical talents. Brother Mark Shores was our guest speaker. The service was followed by a delicious meal and time of fellowship.

North American Missions in Illinois

We are blessed to have Ed and Rachel Good as church planters at the Bridge Church in Champaign. The Lord is working through them in truly wonderful ways! At right, Ed and Rachel celebrate a family dedicating themselves to raise their children in the fear and admonition of the Lord.

November 24th is the Mission North America offering, which will be used to support home missionaries like Ed and Rachel as they work to preach Jesus and establish local churches. Won't you consider giving?



Mission North America Offering

Save the date

November 24, 2024



Illinois Free Will Baptist November 2024

NEWSLETTER

Illinois State Association of Free Will Baptists
P.O. Box 1 Bonnie, Illinois 62816-0001

U. S. Postage Paid
Non-Profit Org.
Bonnie, Illinois
Permit Number 1

OR CURRENT RESIDENT

Reporters, please note: Please send all correspondence for the Illinois Newsletter to www.iryann1970@gmail.com The deadline for the December Newsletter is November 15