



Illinois Free Will Baptist

November 2015

# Newsletter

## BLUE POINT CHURCH - Rural Cisne

Brother Ernie was able to attend the D6 Conference held in Louisville, Kentucky. He and Suzanne also went to the quarterly meeting at the Crossroads Church in Effingham. J. D. Williamson once again hosted a trap shoot in the back field of the church. Many of all ages and both genders enjoyed the shooting experience. Later that same day, we held our annual Chili and Chowder.

One Sunday evening after the service, we hosted a wedding shower for Megan Byars and Eric Spitzner.

Many of our youth and several of our adults participated at "See You at the Pole" held at Cisne High School. There were over 125 present. Our church provided donuts and soda for all those in attendance. Our Bible Bowl team of Jon Hill, Noah Barnard, and Colin Waller gave their first demonstration in front of the church. A group of seventeen teens went to the Shawnee National Forest on Columbus Day. They enjoyed hiking at Garden of the Gods and Rim Rock, roaming in Cave-in-Rock, a picnic lunch on the Ohio River, and a ferry ride.

We recently celebrated our 118th anniversary with special homecoming services. The Varner Family sang at the 9:30 service. Former member Kent Waller preached the morning message in the 10:30 service. The potluck meal at noon was delicious. Several took time to tour the addition to our church that is under construction.

**Pastor Ernie Lewis**

**Reporter Suzanne Lewis**

## HAZEL DELL CHURCH – Rural Sesser

Happy Fall everyone! What a beautiful time of year the Lord has given us!

The annual Harvest Crusade in the Sesser City Park was held September 20th-23rd. Brother Eric delivered the message on Wednesday evening. It was great weather for this event. Praise the Lord for blessings received from the outdoor services.

Congratulations to Grace Hicks and Michael Phelps who were united in marriage on September 19th. Grace is the daughter of Brother Roger and Sister Sandy Hicks.

Congratulations to Ryan Petro and Adrea Barnes who were united in marriage on October 10th. Ryan is the son of Brother Mark and Sister Gena Petro and the grandson of Brother Danny and Sister Sharon Sample, Sister Sue Petro and the late Brother John Petro.

The WAC and Men's Prayer groups met for their monthly meetings on October 4th. A reminder that the WAC is sponsoring the Operation Christmas Child project and completed boxes will be due in early November to assure delivery by Christmas.

Our Homecoming services were held on October 11th. Brother Mike Sample delivered the message and special music was provided by the Gospel Messengers. Sister Donna (Tucker) Rice gave a review of the planting of the church in Mascoutah, IL. There were 128 in attendance for this special service. Sister Kerry and Sister Len Jones decorated the fellowship hall. As always, a wonderful lunch was provided by the ladies of the church. A special thank you to all who helped to make the day special.

We have begun collecting food items and paper goods for the SV Lifeline (Food Pantry). This is an opportunity to be a blessing to the less fortunate in our community. This project will be completed on November 8th.

Please keep Brother Brian Lewis in your prayers. He will be in Houston, Texas for the next few weeks undergoing treatments. Pray for his family, as well, while he is away.

*"But seek ye first the kingdom of God, and his righteousness: and all these things shall be added unto you." - Matthew 6:33*

**Pastor: Eric Drake**

**Reporter: Diana Kirk**

## **FIRST CHURCH – Mount Vernon**

Sometimes I feel like we will soon be having church at the hospital! So many have been in the hospital lately and we have a long prayer list so everyone help us pray. September 8th was service at Green Tree. Sister Pat Shores did the devotion and they all sang some songs.

Wasn't Camp Meeting great? Brother Tim York preached some great messages and gave us lots of food for thought. The song leaders, Rusty Miller and David Mishler did a fantastic job with the music and Doris Wallace is always great when she plays the piano. Everything about it was great.

September 17th was our church social and Brother Ivan Ryan was our speaker. He did a good job and we all had a great time and some good fellowship. The food wasn't bad either.

Some of our men went to the Men's Retreat and as usual they enjoyed it.

The WNAC meeting was postponed as it fell on Labor Day, but we met on October 5th and Sister Pat Shores and Sister Cora Flota prepared the meal and Sister Pat Shores presented the lesson. The ladies discussed old and new business and closed with circle prayer.

On the last Sunday of each month Brother Phillip Kennedy preaches and afterwards we have cake and ice cream to celebrate the birthdays and anniversaries for that month. Sister Marian Williams always decorates a cake for the occasion. It is nice to have our very own professional cake decorator.

We have our Shoe Boxes for Operation Christmas Child and we already have several filled. I am sure there will be a lot of shopping going on for a while to get the boxes filled.

Brother Roger Bennett preached for us the night of September 20th and we enjoyed having him.

Things have been busy at Mt. Vernon First. People have been painting, replacing ceiling tile and other chores that needed to be done around the church.

We gained another member Sunday, October 4th. We feel very fortunate to have Brother Jeff Ramsey join us.

Life Chain 2015 was October 4th and people silently held signs in support of Pro-Life. This is such a good cause for the churches to support.

We have so much sickness this year so just praying we have a better winter! God bless you all...we will pray for you and you be sure to pray for us! "When you pray for others, God listens and blesses them, and sometimes, when you are safe and happy, remember that someone has prayed for you."

*"Soul winning and Missions is the life blood of the church"*

**Pastor: David Shores**

**Youth Minister: Phillip Kennedy**

**Reporter: Donnie Shurtz**

## **RESCUE CHURCH - Rural Whittington**

Our church offers a "Salute To Veterans" on November 11. Let us be thankful for the freedom with which God has blessed our country. To those who have served, to those who gave their lives, and to those now serving, we thank you! How blessed we are to be able to give just this small tribute to honor these veterans.

My, how time flies. It does not seem like a year has already passed since we were walking through the fallen leaves as we strolled along on the beautiful autumn days of last year.

Our Tuesday School began a new year on August 25th with Ms Rita working hard to make everything special for the children. The classes are so interesting that the kids literally jump in to learn. She has a special way to lead them to Christ.

Our condolences to the family of Paula Tate, daughter of Erma Lee Conner and mother of two daughters: Erin and Molly. This sweet lady came to my class every Sunday morning before morning worship to give me a hug and talk with me about our families.

I would love it if each church would have a special prayer for my best friend, buddy and husband, Teddy Harmon.

Let me add a "Happy Thanksgiving" from Rescue Church.

*"What an awesome God we serve!"*

**Pastor: Bryant Harris**

**Reporter: Donna Harmon**

## HERITAGE CHURCH – Springfield

Beautiful fall colors are visiting Heritage—bright oranges, reds and browns crown the trees as fall starts its march toward winter. Along the way the Master's Men's meeting at Camp Hope brought joy to two Heritage men, Tom Hay and Tom Green, whose glowing report was as bright and hopeful as the harvest season. One thing though, news has reached us that Tom Hay sounded reveille on his trumpet every morning before all those sleeping were ready to revel at the day's breaking. That must have been fun.

Here at Heritage, having celebrated Pastor Marcellus and Liz's 76<sup>th</sup> birthdays and three years at Heritage, we gladly report a creeping increase in attendance despite that a few of us are facing a few physical challenges. Pray with us against age related memory decline in several of us, respiratory ailments, heart problems and hypertension. We are glad despite our concerns that God has allowed us to live long enough to experience the Ecclesiastes 12 affect.

So we are particularly pleased to note that our Youth Program is revving up again after a couple of heavy hits among the bussed in teen population. We are planning a harvest festival for the youth and we oldsters that will allow us come to church Wednesday, October 28, dressed as Bible Characters. Pray for those young people who Satan fears that they too will ascent to the Ecclesiastes experience by remembering God while they are young and still ailment free, that they, as will we, remember this: in our Christian walk, we are being followed.

*"Blessed are the peacemakers, for they shall be called sons of God." - Matthew 5:9*

**Pastor: Marcellus Leonard**

**Reporter: Marilyn Guthrie**

## PITTSBURG CHURCH - Pittsburg

The first weekend in October was our annual Homecoming celebration weekend. On Friday, October 2nd we had our worship service and it was Spirit filled! God has blessed our church to the overflowing point with people who are musically talented! Our Homecoming service was supposed to be on Sunday, October 4th, however due to a water main break, we had absolutely no water in the town. We had to cancel services and our fellowship meal. It was a little disappointing, but it made the next weeks services that much more special!

Our bi-annual Blood Drive resulted in 36 people attempting to donate and over 30 pints collected for the Red Cross. That has the potential to help over 90 people! The Youth Meal also had a great turnout for their Taco bar. They are raising funds for their annual mission trip.

Our Youth building is starting to be finished on the inside. Insulation is in and sheetrock is going up shortly. Hopefully services will be able to be held in there before the year's end. Our Youth Group is growing by leaps and bounds! It is awesome to see the Lord working through our young people in such mighty ways.

By the time this letter reaches you we will be just a couple of short weeks away from our Church Closet that is scheduled for Saturday, November 14th from 7am to noon. Our barn is full to the busting point with toys, clothes, furniture, household items, and more. Each time we have the Closet the crowd gets bigger and the needs are always on the rise. We ask you to please pray for us during this outreach to the community that needs are met and that the people who cross over the threshold of God's house will feel His presence and take Him with them when they go.

Happy Thanksgiving from PFWBC to you!

*"Saying Amen: Blessing, and glory, and wisdom, and thanksgiving, and honour, and power, and might, be unto our God for ever and ever. Amen." - Revelation 7:12*

**Pastor: Eddie Donelson**

**Pastor: Keith McDannel**

**Reporter: Christina Wilcox**

# Happy Thanksgiving



*"Offer unto God thanksgiving...Psalm 50:14a*

*I will praise the name of God with a song,  
and magnify Him with thanksgiving - Psalm 69:30*

## BEAR POINT CHURCH – Rural Sesser

Happy Thanksgiving!

We had several who attended adult camp and heard some very challenging messages and had a good time of fellowship.

Our annual fish fry was on September 19. We are thankful to those men who willingly fish to supply the fish. Also to those men who cook the fish, fries and hush puppies. As always, there was good eating and good fellowship.

Brother Joe Wilson preached in the AM service on September 20. It's always good to have him in services with us. He and his family hold a special place in our hearts.

Congratulations to Megan Newbury and Jeff Melvin who were married on September 26 in a lovely outdoor wedding at the Newbury farm

Please pray for Dallas Lively, one of our young men who left for basic training on September 29.

We had two young ladies Millie Mandrell and Jaryn Haarmann baptized this month. Both were saved at Camp Hope.

Thanks to Larry Burroughs who donated bricks for a fire pit built by Larry Burroughs, Judson Phenicie and Dallas Lively. We broke it in on October 4 with an outdoor service around the fire sitting on bales of straw provided by Alan Hicks. Afterwards hot dogs and marshmallows were roasted.

Our youth sold fried pies at the Sesser Octoberfest on October 10.

Jr. Eubanks celebrated his 90th birthday on October 11.

Our sympathy to Marj Bunton in the loss of her brother-in-law, to Jim Dean in the loss of his brother-in-law and to Brenda Goddard in the loss of her mother.

Our Country store will be held at the church on November 7 from 9am -2.pm.

**Pastor: Larry Cook, Pastor**

**Associate Pastor: Judson Phenicie**

**Reporter: Linda Cook**

### BEAR POINT CHURCH “Country Store”

This annual WAC Missions Project  
is scheduled for  
**NOVEMBER 7 9:00 am – 2:00 pm**

Lunch: Soup and Desserts - \$5.00  
The ladies will also offer Fried pies,  
Crafts, Home canned goods, and gift items

**All proceeds will be given to a missions project**



#### *Note to Reporters:*

Thank you for submitting the news from your church.

It is our intent to get all church articles published in the current Newsletter, however because of scheduling we have to set a deadline for publication each month. There is usually a notice on the last page of each monthly Newsletter announcing the deadline date for the next issue. Please try to be on time so nothing is carried over for an extra month. This is important when announcing activities at your church such as programs, singings, homecomings, revivals, Christmas programs, etc.

The deadline for articles to be published in the December edition of the Illinois Newsletter is November 15.

Please send all articles to: David Shores + 25 Edgewood Road + Mt. Vernon, Illinois 62864 or e-mail to:  
davids@mvmfreewillbaptist.org

## ARNOLD VIEW CHURCH – Rural Creal Springs

Average Sunday School attendance during September was 76. The Women Active for Christ meeting was held on September 9. Brandon Dwyer attended the Master's Men Retreat at Camp Hope. Services were dismissed for the Adult Camp Meeting. Sherry Ude, 60, died on September 14. Pam Fietsam, 60, passed away on September 25. Margaret Jackson, 93, passed away on September 30. Virginia Powell, 87, died on October 5. Our condolences to these families.

Congratulations to Deon and Norma Bennett on the birth of great-granddaughter Emma Renee Bennett on September 30. She is the daughter of Kaysha and Jordan. Skate Night was held on October 5 at Marion.

*"Continue in prayer, and watch in the same with thanksgiving." - Colossians 4:2*

**Pastor: Ivan Ryan**

**Reporter: Buddy Parks**

### LETTER OF THANKS

The 2015 Adult Camp Meeting was great. The fellowship was good as well as the preaching.

The Master's Men Retreat was outstanding as usual. Seeing those targets burst is awesome (of course they were someone else's, not mine!)

I thought it was well attended. The preaching was good and having the Lord's blessing was a great extra. The food is always good. I always leave refreshed and looking forward to the next year, hope to see you there in '16.

Thanks to the Camp Meeting board and the Master's Men for letting me have a table top display and a service with them.

I want to give thanks to Rescue, Hazel Dale, Oak Grove, 1st Benton, and the 1st Mt Vernon churches for letting me have meetings with them in 2015.

**Roger Bennett, Welch College Regional Representati**

### 2016 NOMINEES REQUESTED

The 2015-2016 Nominating Committee, which will serve through the national convention in Kansas City, Missouri, is prepared to receive nominees for the 2016 convention election, according to Joel Franks (KY), committee chairman.

The committee will meet Tuesday, December 8, 2015, at the annual Free Will Baptist Leadership Conference in Nashville, Tennessee, to consider nominations and compile a slate of nominations for each position to be filled.

The report will be presented to the delegates at the 2016 convention.

The following board and commission positions will be filled in 2016:

- Welch College (3)
- International Missions (3)
- Randall House (3)
- WNAC (3)
- Commission for Theological Integrity (1)
- Historical Commission (1)
- Media Commission (1)
- Music Commission (1)
- General Board (12)
- Executive Committee (3)
- General Officers (4).

Nominations, accompanied by a brief resumé, must be submitted in writing exclusively to the chairman on or before Monday, November 30. Contact Chairman Joel Franks:

Joel Franks/Nominating Committee  
559 Coon Creek Road  
Glasgow, KY 42141  
[jfranks@fomntt.com](mailto:jfranks@fomntt.com)  
Telephone: 270.579.4085

# Illinois Free Will Baptist November 2015 Newsletter

Illinois State Association of Free Will Baptists  
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## MISSION: NORTH AMERICA OFFERING

– SUNDAY, NOVEMBER 22, 2015



- \*Church Planting**
- \*Cross Cultural Ministry**
- \*Church Revitalization**
- \*CELF**
- \*Chaplaincy**
- \*Master's Men**

*Please give generously*

