



Illinois Free Will Baptist

March 2017

Newsletter

ILLINOIS STATE ASSOCIATION

TO MEET AT BENTON CHURCH MARCH 16-18

Church Location: 1208 East Bond Benton, Illinois 62812

Thursday Evening, March 16 – 7:00 pm Christian Education Seminar

Speaker: Dr. Eddie Moody, “Surviving Culture”

Friday Morning, March 17 - 9:00 am: Registration and Business

Friday Morning – 11:00: Dr. Moody

Friday Afternoon – 1:30 pm: Brother Jim McComas

Friday Evening – 7:00 pm : Dr. Moody

Saturday Morning, March 18 – 9:00 am: Business

Saturday Morning – 11:00 am: Brother Steve Cantrell

Note: The complete schedule for the State Meeting is available @ www.ilfwb.org

Lake Cove Hotel

13277 Freeway Lane Whittington, Il. 62897 Phone: 618-200-4116 www.LakeCoveHotel.com
Rates: Double queen \$77.00 plus tax It does have an elevator for upper floors. This hotel is approx. 7.5 miles north from church. It is at the corner of IL Route 154 at IL Route 37. (Exit I-57 at Exit 77).

Rend Lake Golf Resort's Seasons Lodge

12575 Golf Course Drive Whittington, Il 62897 Phones: 1-800-999-0977 or 618-629-2600
www.rendlakegolfresort.com or e-mail seasons@rendlake.org

Rates: \$69 double queen plus tax - One king with setting area \$89.00 plus tax. It doesn't have an elevator for upper floors. This hotel is approximately 9 miles north from the church at Exit 77 on I-57, just south of IL Route 154 at the Golf Course Resort. It is west of Exit 77 off I-57 about 1/4 miles west and then south of 154 into the resort about 1/2 miles

Both motels have a small continental breakfast and coffee.

Join the 2017 Prayer Team for the National Association in Louisville!

To join via your computer go to this address:

<https://www.remind.com/join/2017pray>

To join from your mobile phone:

Text the message #2017pray
To the number 81010

If you're having trouble with 81010, try
Texting #2017pray to (270)872-0478



You can receive messages by email and by text.

Messages will contain prayer suggestions for the National Association.

Thanks for joining!

EMILY MALONE DISTRICT WOMEN ACTIVE FOR CHRIST

The Emily Malone District of the Illinois Women Active for Christ will be meeting at the Peace Free Will Baptist Church in Granite City on Saturday, March 25th. Registration will begin at 9:45 am with the meeting starting at 10:00.

Joy Davison, missionary to southern France with The Hanna Project, will be the special speaker. She and her husband, Shane, minister in a community of North African Muslims through their Teaching Centre. Come and join us for a great time of worship and fellowship. Lunch will be served by the host church.

- Secretary Suzanne Lewis

FIRST CHURCH - Johnston City

Carol Sue Phillips died January 19 after a lengthy illness. She had requested that Brother David Mishler preach her funeral. He brought compassionate and comforting words to the family from God's word. Goldia Crain passed away February 3. She was one of our oldest members at 94½ years old. The songs at the funeral were beautiful, and Brother Keith preached a wonderful, loving message using Scriptures pertaining to faith. We extend our sincere sympathy to these families. We were pleased that both families allowed us to serve them a meal at the church after the funeral services.

Olivia Grace Soroba was born January 9 in Nashville, Tennessee. Her mother, Grace, is like a daughter to Pastor Keith and Sarah, so Olivia joins her big brother Isiah as their "adopted" grandchildren. We pray God's blessings for Grace, her husband Moses, and their growing family.

Brother Keith continues to develop our annual theme, "Grow in Grace" from 2 Peter 3:18, in his sermons. In January, he preached on grace and in February, he preached on growing in the body of Christ. Our choir is beginning to work on songs for the Easter season. We are looking forward to sharing the good news about our Living Savior with everyone in our community.

I requested prayer at the quarterly meeting for Alan to be saved. Tuesday, January 31 at 11:25 a.m., Alan prayed and asked the Lord to forgive his sins. Oh, he's a different man now! His vocabulary has changed. Thank you, Lord!

On a personal note: I was able to go to Future Swings Camp and meet Cardinals pitcher Lance Lynn and his trainer Jay. He gave me an autographed baseball and put several pictures of us on Facebook. I was also able to watch my first Super Bowl this year.

My friend David explained everything that was going on in the game. The way the game turned out, it reminded me of when the Cubs won the World Series. It was so exciting! My address is Reba Ritter c/o Integrity Nursing and Rehab, 1301 E. DeYoung, Marion, IL 62959. I would love to hear from you!

"For where your treasure is, there will your heart be also." - Luke 12:34

Pastor: Keith Fletcher

Reporter: Reba Ritter

BEAR POINT CHURCH – Rural Sesser

Remember in prayer the family of Dale and Annette Branche. Her mother Geneva Mays Hutton passed away at the age of 99 on January 12. Also remember the family of Robin Payne. Her mother Ruth Sarsen passed away on January 14.

We enjoyed fifth Sunday night fellowship on January 29.

Our youth shared in the morning services on February 12. They sung in the choir with Lauren Mygatt playing piano, read scriptures about love, three of the young ladies served as ushers and Layla Bell and Alba Newbury sang a special. It is a blessing seeing our young people taking part in the services. Several of our youth are preparing for CTS competition. Sarah Pierce came and played piano for our services and sang a special on Sunday night February 12 as part of her service project at Welch College.

Several of our youth and adults went to Winter Jam in St Louis on January 28.

We want to congratulate Myra Lincoln on the birth of great grandson Jordon Michael, Suella Cox on the birth of great granddaughter Grace Oliva and Jason and Chrissy Confer on the birth of granddaughters Catie JoAnn and Catalina JoLee born one week apart.

Pastor: Larry Cook

Reporter: Linda Cook

BRIDGE CHURCH - Champaign

Greetings! We have spent every weekend in January at the Alabama Mission Conference. We have raised quite a bit of support. Everyone we met embraced our family as well as embraced our vision.

We have made great progress in getting some foundational Ministry set up in Champaign. We have partnered with the Villas of Hollybrook Assisted Living. This is going to allow us to serve 160 employees and 320 residents altogether. We will be available to them 24/7. We will be available to them if they need any type of pastoral care.

As of right now we will be moving sometime between the middle of March to the middle of May. We are not sure yet. We can't believe we started out on this journey in February of last year and we are to this point today. God is so faithful to what he's called us to do. – **Jamie Lee**

ARNOLD VIEW CHURCH – Rural Creal Springs

Average Sunday School attendance during January was 75. Marvin Pulley, 81, passed away on January 6. Judy Holmes, 73, passed away on January 12. Betty Beyers, 75, passed away on January 14. Dana McSparin, 56, died on January 28. Condolences to these families. Greg Walker brought a challenging message on January 15. Ava Settle was baptized on January 22. Seven from our church attended the South Central Meeting at Johnston City on January 28. The Family Project and Understanding Biblical Beliefs are Wednesday Night classes being offered. Our 5th Sunday song service was a blessing.

"The name of the Lord is a strong tower" - Proverbs 18:10a

Pastor: Ivan Ryan

Reporter: Buddy Parks

HERITAGE CHURCH – Springfield

The first months of 2017 are flying by at Heritage Church. We remain a small band of Christians in this community. We lost two of our members because they were called home to God. Lori Vink passed away recently after being in a nursing home due to failing health. Marrienne McCann was also called home. She leaves her husband, Jim who attends our church, to cherish her memory.

Some of Pastor Leonard's recent sermons have included, "You may not need an Army, Still you can't win without others' help", "Are You in the Way?", "The Same Bridge that brought you across", "What the Light reveals", and "The One True God really does respond to Real, True Prayer".

Recent baptisms include Ann and Charles who were also married by Pastor Leonard a few years ago.

Tom Hay teaches our Youth Wednesday nights and Sunday morning.

"Wilt thou not revive us again; that thy people may rejoice in thee?" – Psalm 85:6

Pastor: Marcellus Leonard

Reporter: Marilyn Guthrie



PITTSBURG CHURCH - Pittsburg

We are welcoming March with open arms here at Pittsburg! Hoping to see the Sonshine even more as spring approaches! God continues to pour out His blessings upon us. Our new Sanctuary construction is coming right along. The Lord is working in mighty ways and we cannot wait to see just how He continues to reveal himself to us.

As this is being written, our Pastors, Eddie Donelson, Keith McDannel and his wife Kim are traveling back from a stay in Israel. They went along with a group of other Pastoral leaders and have had just an amazing time learning and exploring. We can't wait to hear their experiences and the blessings they received when they return!

We will host our skate night on March 2, from 6-8pm at Emery Bros. Skating Rink in Marion! Looking forward to a fun time! Praying everyone stays healthy this month and looking forward to warmer weather!

Our bi-annual Blood Drive is on Wednesday, March 22, from 3:30-6:30pm. Appointments can be made to donate as well as walk-ins are welcome too. Our youth group will be providing a donation based meal again for us from 4:30-6:30pm in the Life Center. If you are interested in making an appointment to donate, please call the church and we can assist you. (618)982-2230 Come and give life!

We are looking forward to hosting the FWB Quarterly meeting coming up in April. Make plans to attend and be in prayer! "Making our faith seen in 2017!"

*"Let your light so shine before men, that they may see your good works,
and glorify your Father which is in heaven." - Matthew 5:16*

Pastor: Eddie Donelson

Pastor: Keith McDannel

Reporter: Hollie Utley

BLUE POINT CHURCH – Rural Cisne

After a Sunday evening service we went on our annual Bowling Trip to Salem. Over forty teens and adults enjoyed supper at McDonalds, then bowling two games together at Salem Bowl. We also hosted Team Sunday for the Cisne High School basketball team. The team members and cheerleaders were introduced during the service. Afterwards, we fed the teams and their families with a pizza and salad luncheon.

We hosted the East Central District quarterly meeting in January. Harlen Johnson, new pastor of the Calvary Free Will Baptist Church, was the morning speaker.

Shane and Joy Davison held a special service at our church on a Sunday morning in January. They shared about their ministry in Aix-en-Provence. We not only received an offering for their account, but many made monthly commitments to support their ministry on a regular basis. Their offering totaled over three thousand dollars.

The teenagers who participate in the Wednesday night S.W.A.G. program hosted a Spaghetti Supper. The teens helped set up the Link, decorate, serve the meal and clean up after the dinner. The proceeds went to Jennifer Detherage, daughter of John and Brenda Simpson as she battles cancer. Over two thousand dollars was raised that evening.

Brother Ernie and Suzanne were able to attend an “Ignite the Flame” planning dinner for Welch College. It was held at Ryan’s Steakhouse in Mt. Vernon. Mike Edwards and David Williford were there to represent the college.

At a Sunday evening fellowship we hosted a wedding shower for Matthew Byars and Meghan Halley. They received many wonderful gifts. They will be getting married in March.

Brother Ernie and Suzanne Lewis went to Tennessee to welcome their new twin grandchildren. Ryan and Ashlee Lewis had a boy, Cole Everett, and a girl, Blakely Kate.

Pastor: Ernie Lewis

Reporter: Suzanne Lewis

RESCUE CHURCH – Rural Whittington

As we face the coming months of 2017, let us strive more than ever to do God’s will for us. Here is a review of our past activities:

Our Tuesday School opened for the new year on January 10th. We pray God’s blessings on Mrs. Rita and all her helpers. On January 15th our Pre-Kindergarten Class presented a skit about Noah’s Ark.

We had our District Meeting at the Nason Church on January 21st with Jane Harmon, Anne Sink and Nathan Beaty as our representatives. Then, on the 26th, the WAC ladies met for their monthly meeting in the Fellowship Hall. They brought their favorite dishes and sold them with the proceeds going to missions.

One of our young couples, Pokey and Melinda Squires lost their home to a fire on January 29th. Ted and I want to thank the Lord that the family is OK. Our church had a love offering for them, a fundraiser was hosted for them at The Potter’s Way Church, and Todd and Susan Poe gave them their lodge to live in until they can rebuild. There were many of our people who helped with the clean up after the fire and we realize that words cannot express the appreciation given to everyone by Pokey and Melinda.

The grandfather of Andrea Harris, Charles Ivan, Sr. passed away on February 1st. Our condolences to Pastor Bryant and his wife, Andrea, to his son, Charles Ivan, Jr. and his wife Ginger. Remember God’s promise is comfort for tears and light for your way...and your memories follow. *“What an Awesome God we serve!”*

Pastor: Bryant Harris

Reporter: Donna Harmon

YOUTH NEWS!

2017 Illinois CTS Competition Friday and Saturday, April 28 -29, 2017

Hosted by the Ina Free Will Baptist Church

Mail completed registration forms and fees to:

Allen Bigley . 2446 North Log Cabin Lane . Ina, Illinois 62846 by March 18!

OAK VALLEY CHURCH – Rural Geff

February is here already and so winter has been mild so far. Our church is busy planning revival in April and Valentine parties for adults in February.

We enjoyed the Payton Sisters from the Enfield area on January 29th, followed by a basket dinner noon with about 50 in attendance. We started having prayer Meetings each Wednesday at 6:30 pm.

We go to the Brookstone Estates each 4th Wednesday at 6{00 pm and to Cisne Manor on the 1st Sunday afternoon at 2:00 pm for services for the residents there. We also help the Geff Ministries give out commodities to about 200 families on the 3rd Saturday of each month.

Our prayer list is rather long and includes these members who are sick: Glen and Shirley Byars, Gary and Kathy Taylor, Betty June Hilliard, Oneta Manahan, among many others.

On “Whirlwind Wednesday”, February 22, we furnished desserts for school students at Cisne Methodist Church where area churches prepare food for students each Wednesday.

The best thing to do with the Bible is to: KNOW it in the head, STOW it in the heart, SOW it in the world and SHOW it in your life!

Pastor: Richard Brown

Reporter: Marie Rutger

NOTE TO ILLINOIS PASTORS:

The Christian Education Board is again offering assistance to pastors attending the RHMA (Rural Home Missionary Association) Small Town Pastor’s Conference in Morton, Illinois, April 24-26. The board will reimburse any Illinois Free Will Baptist pastor for the conference registration fee. Pastors who would like to attend should register themselves and send receipts to the CE Board for reimbursement. A form for this purpose is provided on the State Association website: www.ilfwb.org.

Report from the ILLINOIS FWB CAMP BOARD

The Camp Board has three projects pending:

1. The roof on the Boy’s Dorm was damaged in a storm and it needs to be replaced. The metal for this project has been purchased.
2. A plan has been proposed to add shower rooms to the Girl’s Dorm at a projects cost of \$53,000.
3. Remodeling of the Caretaker’s house is estimated to cost \$30,000.

Donations for any or all of these projects may be sent to Camp Hope in Ewing, Illinois...please designate your Gifts.

CAMP HOPE 2017 CAMP SCHEDULE

Leadership Camp – June 1-3
Junior High Camp – June 4-9
Junior/Senior Camp – June 11-16
Freshmen/Sophomore Camp – June 18-23
Junior Camp – June 25-30
Primary Camp – July 2-6

Calendars with camp dates have been mailed to all our churches, along with camp application forms and Leadership Camp forms.

DISASTER RESPONSE UNIT

Several team members responded to the area of Hattiesburg, Mississippi in February following an outbreak of several tornados in that area. They assisted several needy families by cleaning and removing the debris left by the storms. Hopefully, this team will give a report at our State Association in Benton later this month.

Illinois Free Will Baptist March 2017 Newsletter

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

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Note to Reporters: Please address all correspondence for the Illinois Newsletter to:
David Shores 25 Edgewood Road Mount Vernon, Illinois 62864 or by e-mail to: davids@mvmfreewillbaptist.org.
The deadline for articles for the April issues is March 15.

E-TEAM 2017 UPDATE

Each year Illinois is blessed to have high school students apply for a summer mission ministry on E-Team. They will be serving in various countries around the world. These young folks can use your support and prayers and they will come to your church at your invitation. (Except for McGwire Portell who lives in with his parents in Taiwan)

This year we have seven students, counting one young man from Indiana, who have been selected to serve on E-Team 2017. You may send a check to: International Missions

P.O. Box 5002

Antioch, Tennessee 37011-5002

Be sure to designate the person you are supporting.

You may donate online at WWW.FWBGO.COM

1. Select the "Give" icon
2. Scroll down to and select the drop-down menu: "Search Opportunities"
3. Search and select the name the name you want to donate to, then select the amount you wish to donate.
4. Select: "Give Once" or "Give Monthly"
5. Scroll down and select "Proceed to Checkout"

Our E-Team students: Benjamin Barcroft, McGwire Portell, Gabrielle Boomer, Alayna Baker, Ashten Winter, J. Garrett Gibbs and Isaiah Penn. All these young people need our love, prayers and support.