



Illinois Free Will Baptist

May 2017

Newsletter

ILLINOIS WOMEN ACTIVE FOR CHRIST

BE A PART OF SOMETHING BIGGER

SATURDAY, MAY 6, 2017

START – 9:00 A.M. (LUNCH NOON)

BEAR POINT FWB CHURCH, RURAL SESSER

**ILLINOIS
BOARD of MISSIONS PROJECT**

The Illinois Board of Missions is working to remodel the parsonage at the Joliet property for a new Hispanic pastor to move in and start a Spanish speaking church. We need every church to be a part of this work. Perhaps you can donate to complete a project on our list of needs. Perhaps you could send a worker or two to Joliet for our work days.

A list of projects needed, the estimated cost of each job, and dates we plan to work on them is on Page 3

For more information or for a ride to Joliet for the workdays, contact: Ernie Lewis at 618-838-6708 or bluept@wabash.net!



**SHANE AND JOY DAVISON
SPEAKERS
EZRA DRAMA TEAM
SPECIAL MUSIC**

PROVISION CLOSET NEEDS

TWIN AND KING SHEETS (300+ THREAD COUNT), TWIN MATTRESS PADS, BLANKETS (TWIN & FULL), 4- QUART OR LARGER CROCK POTS, FLATWARE (DURABLE AT LEAST 12 PLACE SETTINGS), COOKIE SHEETS, MUFFIN TINS, KITCHEN TOWEL AND POTHOLDER SETS, AND GIFT CARDS.

CAMP HOPE - Rural Ewing

Here at Camp Hope we are getting excited about the upcoming summer events. Most of you are aware that without your help we would not be able to carry out the ministries God has called us to. Every year children and adults come to our camp for Summer Camps, Leadership Training, Family Reunions, and Church Activities.

It is a wonderful place to get away from the hustle and bustle of life and meet with God. It is no wonder people's lives are changed at Camp Hope. God has blessed us at the "Old Dirt Camp". We strive to make improvements and to keep our camp in great working condition.

This year we have taken on the project of building a bathhouse on the Girl's Dorm and update the Caretaker's house. I want to thank you for your support in this much needed project. I hope to have some updates coming soon on the progress.

We did however have a crew of people work on the Boy's dorm roof on March 31- April 1st. Due to their hard work there is now a new metal roof on the Boy's dorm. Thank you to all those who helped. Camp dates are out, please be in prayer for this summer that it will be another great summer filled with God's blessing and the changing of lives. You can go to ilfwb.org and find forms to fill out and get them in for your young people to come to camp. You will also find worker forms. Consider coming out and helping a week. Thanks again for all you do and may God richly bless you as you serve Him.

Camp Board: Bryant Harris, Brad Ryan, Tim Pierce, Brandon Dwyer, Cory Penn and Reporter, Jason Janus



2017 Annual Illinois Master's Men Youth Fishing Tournament (Open to youth 13 and younger) May 13th at 9:00 am. Meet at camp Hope – Ewing, Illinois

HARMONY CHURCH – Rural West Frankfort

Warm summer days are almost upon us! I love to see new life blossom and bloom and grow! How beautiful is Your creation, O God! On March 19th, Brother Rodger Castle, Sr of FWB Family Ministries in Greenville, TN, joined us for our evening service and shared the history of their ministry and their goals for the future. The services provided by this ministry cover all stages of life, from pre-natal to senior citizen care. Please pray for this ministry as they continue to reach out to those who are suffering.

On March 23, the Truth Project was held at Harmony Church at 7pm.

April 4th, Harmony Church held their monthly Sisters of Strength and Masters Men Meeting at 6pm.

On April 8th, Harmony Church participated in the Walk For Life with Pregnancy Matters in Carbondale. Harmony Church raised \$1500 and had 10 participants in the walk. Thank you Sister Sherry Stewart for all your hard work and thank you for those who were able to walk for the precious gift of life!

On April 13th, Harmony held the youth rally and it was truly a blessing! There were about 80 in attendance representing Harmony FWB Church, Ezra Church of God, Johnston City FWBC, and Mt. Vernon FWBC. Brother Tim Parton provided the worship service and Sister Melinda Edgell gave the devotional, they both did an amazing job sharing God's truth and message of salvation to the youth (and the adults!). We appreciate them taking the time to come and minister to the youth! Alexis Walker recited a poem entitled "The Funeral of Jesus". Michael Walker, Austin Sands, Carly Madrid, and Emily Walker performed two songs, "Redeemed" and "Oceans (Where Feet May Fail)". These young adults did an outstanding job and it was truly a blessing from start to finish! They convened in the fellowship hall after the service for pizza and hotdogs and dessert! Thank you Sister Jennifer Meacham for organizing the rally and for all your hard work and to everyone who in any way helped to make this such a meaningful night for the kids!

Saturday, April 15th will be our Easter Egg hunt at Harmony Church, rain or shine beginning at 10:30am. Please pray for this outreach that hearts and minds will be drawn to Jesus, our Savior!

Harmony is very excited to announce the nursery will be available this Sunday morning! Thank you to all those who have donated to make this ministry possible.

April 16th, Resurrection Sunday, will begin at 6:30am for our Sunrise service, followed by breakfast provided by the Masters Men group. Then, regular Sunday School at 9:30 followed by worship service at 10:30. Join us as we come together to praise and worship the King of Kings and the Lord of Lords! Hallelujah He arose!

"I have been crucified with Christ; it is no longer I who live, but Christ lives in me; and the life which I now live in the flesh I live by faith in the Son of God, who loved me and gave Himself for me." – Galatians 2:20

Pastor: Curtis Smith

Reporter: Jennifer Cook

PITTSBURG CHURCH – Pittsburg

Hello from Pittsburg! Warmer temps are on their way, we can just feel it!! We are excited to see new life blooming outside and also in the house of the Lord!

Last month we hosted our bi-annual Blood Drive and were so excited that 38 pints of blood were donated!! It's a wonderful feeling to know those pints will help so many people!

We hope everyone had an amazing Resurrection Sunday. Our Resurrection weekend got off to a great start Friday evening at a night of worship hearing *Casting Crowns* at the SIU arena. We, then, got to see the excitement of the little ones as they hunted for Easter Eggs Saturday at the City Hall here in Pittsburg. We closed out the weekend, Sunday, with just a fantastic SonRise service, breakfast and worship service! He is Alive!!

Our AWANA program is coming to an end and break for the summer. The kids have had an awesome time learning and growing this year. We are preparing for the closing night to recognize all the kids and workers who make this program possible!

The women of PFWBC are looking forward to the yearly Women's Banquet, Friday, May 12. This night is always fun and full of great music, laughter, food and most importantly, hearing the Word through testimonies!

Preparations are being made for the next Church Closet Giveaway. We will hold our giveaway Saturday, May 20 at 7am. This event is open to the public and we encourage you to share the information with anyone who could benefit from this outreach! We pray that these donations can help families from all over the community and that the presence of the Lord will be felt as they walk through the doors! Praying you all have a wonderful month ahead!

"Making our faith seen in 2017!" - Matthew 5:16

Pastor: Eddie Donelson

Pastor: Keith McDannel

Reporter: Hollie Utley

*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@mvfreewillbaptist.org.
The deadline for articles for the June issue is May 15.*

ILLINOIS MISSION BOARD PROJECT

The Illinois Mission Board is looking to renovate the Joliet parsonage. We need churches and individuals to help with the cost of this work and help in demolition and construction. Contact Ernie Lewis (618-838-6708) if you can help with these projects! SEND VOLUNTEERS LABORERS: Flooring, HVAC, Construction - Tuesday, May 2nd and Wednesday, May 3rd. The parsonage at the Joliet property will be used by a Spanish speaking pastor in planting an Hispanic church. With what project(s) or work would your church be able to assist?

Furnace and A/C Replacement	\$ 3,000.00	Wall Repair & Replacement	500.00	TOTAL PROJECTED COST: \$14,050.00
Laminate Flooring	1,100.00	Bathroom Remodeling (2)	500.00	
Kitchen Appliances	1,800.00	Termite Treatment (back wall)	2,200.00	
New Carpeting Installed	2,200.00	Attic Insulation	700.00	
Bathroom Linoleum	250.00	Wiring Replacement & Repairs	300.00	
Painting and Trim	1,000.00	Dumpster for Demolition Removal	500.00	

INA CHURCH – Ina

Greetings from the metropolis of Ina. God is good and we are blessed to be able to serve Him. At the end of March we hosted an Illinois Hunter Safety Course at the church. It was a great way to show people the love of Christ.

On April 9th, Palm Sunday, there was a choral/drama presentation of the events leading up to the Crucifixion of our Lord. On Monday, April 10 we hosted the American Red Cross for a blood drive.

We are excited about Easter Sunday where we will have an early service, breakfast, and morning worship to follow as we celebrate the Resurrection.

On April 22 (How Exciting!) we will be having a bridal shower for Ms Morgan Droll in the church fellowship hall. We also look forward to seeing everyone at the State CTS Competition April 28-29 here at Ina. In 2017, we at Ina are striving to give God all the glory and honor that is due Him for all He has done.

Pastor: Brad Ryan

Reporter: Jason Janus

BLUE POINT CHURCH – Rural Cisne

Brother Ernie Lewis and Shane and Joy Davison represented Blue Point at the Illinois State Association meeting held at Benton. Suzanne was able to attend the Friday night missionary banquet. Suzanne and Joy also attended the Emily Malone District meeting held at the Peace Church. Joy was the morning speaker.

Sam and June McVay were in a recent Sunday morning service as Sam represented International Missions. The three E-TEAM girls from Decatur: Gabby Boomer, Ashten Winter, and Alana Baker shared with us on a Sunday morning. We received an offering for their accounts. The FFA Debate team from Cisne High School, including our own Marissa Byars, presented their Ag Issues debate for us.

We offer congratulations to Matthew Byars and Meghan Halley on their recent wedding. We hosted a wedding shower for Nic Allison and Jenna Montgomery who will marry at the end of April. Noah Hill did an excellent job portraying 'Flounder' in the Olney Central College production of The Little Mermaid.

A new Hispanic work will be starting up in Joliet. Jose Correa of Puerto Rico is helping with some of the preliminary work and mentoring the couple who will come to pastor the church. Jose recently spoke at the East Central District meeting and also shared his testimony at one of our Sunday morning services. Brother Ernie, along with Bryant Harris, Tom Harmon, and Brandon Dwyer, made a trip to Joliet to assess the renovation needs of the parsonage there.

On Wednesday evening our adults have begun a new study on memorizing scripture. Our S.W.A.G. for youth continues to go strong. With lots of area young people hearing the gospel each week, we are enjoying this ministry.

Pastor: Ernie Lewis

Reporter: Suzanne Lewis

BEAR POINT CHURCH – Rural Sesser

Greetings from Bear Point. We had six ladies that attended the Emily Malone WAC meeting at the Peace Church. We had eight ladies that went out to eat at BJ's Cafe in DuQuoin for our monthly outing.

We extend our prayers to Sonny and Marj Bunton and their family. Sonny's sister, Darline McNeil, passed away on March 25. Sister Darline was a member of our church for over 77 years and played the piano and organ for many, many years. She will be greatly missed. Please remember two of our members Fern Price and Larry Burroughs who are in much need of our prayers.

Pastor: Larry Cook

Reporter: Linda Cook

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Illinois State Association of Free Will Baptists
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HAZEL DELL CHURCH - Rural Sesser

Greetings! Hope all had a blessed Easter, remembering and being thankful for all that this time of year means to us.

The Peppy Calebs met at the church for lunch on Thursday, March 23rd. Sister Sharon Sample provided the main course for the meal. Brother Jim LeVault shared some Church History with the group. A good time was had by all.

The Men's Prayer Breakfast group met for their monthly meeting on Sunday, April 2nd.

Communion and Feet Washing were observed during the evening service on April 9th.

Our community Good Friday Service was held at Bear Point FWB Church on Friday, April 14th. Rev. Kevin Bradley, the pastor of Valier 1st Baptist Church was the speaker for the service. It was a good meeting for all those attending. We worshipped in music, testimonies and the message. Praise the Lord for the time that we can gather together with fellow Christians in the community.

"But God commended his love toward us, in that, while we were yet sinners, Christ died for us." - Romans 5:8

Pastor: Larry Clyatt

Reporter: Diana Kirk

ARNOLD VIEW CHURCH – Rural Creal Springs

Average Sunday School attendance during March was 86. Skate Night was held on March 6 at Emery Brothers in Marion. The Women Active for Christ meeting was held on March 8. Derrick Doss and Katie Wise were married at our church on March 11. Congratulations. John Montgomery, 82, passed away on March 13. Melinda Jean, 68, passed away on March 17. Brooklyn Jennings was baptized on March 19. Angel Packs were prepared and delivered to Crab Orchard School during the month of March. Some of our congregation attended the FCA Banquet at Carbondale. Former WNBA All-Star Tamika Catchings was the featured speaker. Special thanks to George and Cathy Kirkpatrick putting together our new Church Directory. Dale and Nancy Hastings celebrated their 55th wedding anniversary with an Open House at our church on April 8.

"Have not I commanded thee? Be strong and of a good courage; be not afraid, neither be thou dismayed: for the Lord thy God is with thee whithersoever thou goest." - Joshua 1:9

Pastor: Ivan Ryan

Reporter: Buddy Parks

