



Illinois Free Will Baptist

Newsletter

July 2017

Report from THE BRIDGE CHURCH - Champaign

We pray all is well with you. We have been in Champaign for over a week. We have been really busy from just getting back from fundraising in Arizona and from moving. For the most part we are unloaded and situated. Champaign has a lot of nice parks! There is one for every day of the week. We have been able to interact with a few people since we have been here.

Praise

On Saturday morning I took the boys to the park in Ashland Park subdivision which is located right across the road from our apartment. I notice I am more aware of what people are saying than ever before. I struck up a conversation with a dad / mom (with two kids). I noticed he called his son, "Malachi." I am thinking - your average person wouldn't name their son Malachi. So I asked if he went to church. Long story short - he was from out of town and his brother in law (Steve Squires) lives in the subdivision, but is currently looking for a church. I got his number. Please pray for this connection!

On Saturday afternoon I officiated a wedding for my cousin. As I was leaving the reception I went over and talked to one of the groomsmen who I happened to graduate high school with. We began to talk about life, marriage, struggles - it opened a door for us to reconnect. He told me him and his wife were wanting to get involved in church more but haven't found a church yet. I began to tell them about what we were doing - and they are very interested in getting involved. He told me he felt like this was a God thing for him and his wife - and the fact after all these years - God allowed us to connect this way. Please pray for this connection!

Prayer

1. Now we are here, we need to put to work everything we have prayed about over the past year. We are currently working on: this is where we are, this is where we are going, and this is how we get there. Please Pray God puts the final pieces together.
2. The Penn's and our family are meeting on June 25th to pray and discuss the future. Please pray God will unify us even more and He will show up in a mighty way. We are going to be discussing events, our schedules, and a few other things.

Church Planter: Jamie Lee

2017 Free Will Baptist Convention Services to be Streamed in English, Spanish

The Media Commission will stream 2017 convention worship services live from Louisville, according to Chairman Travis Penn. In addition, business reports given by departments and commissions will be available for viewing.

For the first time in its 81-year history, the convention will additionally offer a live stream of the worship services in Spanish. Pastor Jose Rodriguez, long time Spanish interpreter at the convention, will provide simultaneous translation.

Archives of past convention services (dating to 2009) are available at www.nafwb.org/media. Links to the live stream will be provided at www.nafwb.org/convention. A schedule of convention events will be published on the site in the coming weeks. Services begin each evening at 7:00 pm EDT.

Prayer for National Convention

Dear Pastors, Church Staff Members, and FWB Friends,

Please join our 2017 Prayer Team for the National Convention to be held in Louisville, Kentucky, July 16-19.

I trust you have plans to attend, but if you can't join the denominational family in Louisville, would you please join us in prayer for the effort? If you join the 2017 Prayer Team, you will receive a daily reminder to pray along with timely suggestions and useful information. You can choose to receive communications either by text message or email (or both). Let me thank you in advance for joining! Simply click on the link below and follow the simple instructions:

www.remind.com/join/2017pray

In Christ's Service Together, Pastor Tim Hall - 2017 Prayer Chairman

HAZEL DELL CHURCH - Rural Sesser

Greeting from all of us here at Hazel Dell. What beautiful weather the Lord has given us!

Our 2017 graduates include: Annabelle Gunter-Kindergarten, Matthew Galloway and Garrett Gunter-8th Grade, Jessalyn Eubanks-High School, and Johnathon Galloway-Rend Lake. Congratulations to all!

The Peppy Calebs met at The Pioneer Cabin in Willisville for their luncheon on May 25th. There were 13 present for a wonderful time of food and fellowship.

In honor of Memorial Day, Brother Larry led the congregation in pledges to the American Flag, the Christian Flag and the Holy Bible. Brother Bob Harrison, Brother Dean Galloway and Brother Denny Dial were recognized for their service to our country.

The Master's Men group met for breakfast and devotion time on June 4th. There were 11 present. Brother Rusty Miller gave the devotion.

Congratulations to Jennifer Gibson and Jeremy Delaneuville who were married on May 27th. We pray for God's richest blessings on their lives together. Jennifer is the daughter of Brother Brian and Sister Lori Gibson.

Special thanks to Brother Rusty and Sister LeAnn Miller and Emily, Mitchell and Madlyn Bulla, who represented our church in cleaning a portion of Camp Hope in preparation for the camping sessions.

Praise the Lord! Bro. Larry was able to return to the pulpit on June 11th, following his recent surgery. We thank the Lord for His blessings of healing! We are so thankful for Brother Walter Freeman and Brother Harl Ray Lewis for filling in for Brother Larry during his absence.

Another praise item: Brother Brian Lewis received a good report from his doctors in Houston. Praise God for hearing and answering prayers.

Our condolences and prayers to the family of Sister Sue (Petro) Mandrell who passed away on June 11th.

Please join us in praying for our shut-ins: Sister Wilma Cockrum, Brother Gearald Hamilton and Sister Francis McNeil. *"Praise ye the Lord. Blessed is the man that feareth the Lord, that delighteth greatly in his commandments."* - Psalm 112:1

Pastor: Larry Clyatt

Reporter: Diana Kirk

PITTSBURG CHURCH

The heat is here! The PFWBC Men's Softball team has been practicing hard and having a great time preparing and playing their weekly games! Each Tuesday evening they play their games at Pyramid Park in Marion against other local churches. It's a fun and sometimes entertaining event!!

The men of PFWBC hosted a Fellowship Breakfast on Saturday, June 17 at Cracker Barrel in Marion. They had a wonderful time enjoying each other's company! We are thankful for all of our Father's and most importantly our Heavenly Father!

We know when it warms up outside, that must mean VBS is quickly approaching! We are getting ready to open the doors for as many as the Father would send our way. It is set for the week of July 24th thru the 28th from 6:15-8:30pm. This year's theme is *"Maker Fun Factory: Created by God, Built for a Purpose."* We are excited to teach the kids that God created them for a purpose and each soul is set out to serve in different ways! Keeping a child's attention for over 2 hours each night has to include FUN!! A high energy, fast paced week is what we are expecting. Praying for lives to be forever changed that week and the Holy Spirit to flood all in attendance.

As this is being written, we are planning for our first service in the new Sanctuary that God has provided! We couldn't be more excited to praise Him for His blessings in the new building and we look forward to filling each and every seat in the future! I can't wait to report just how wonderful that first service was...stay tuned!

Our Youth Group is in the middle of their annual mission trip at this writing. The organization is through Lifeway, called Power Plant (P2). They are in Nashville, TN hosting a VBS for a local church that they have helped the last two years. Such a great opportunity for them to shine the light of Jesus! They are hoping to get to see some familiar faces while they are there and hear how the Father has been working in their lives. Praying for more names to be written into the Lamb's Book of Life.

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

Pastor: Eddie Donelson

Pastor: Keith McDannel

Reporter: Hollie Utley



JOHNSTON CITY CHURCH

Our pastor has declared this summer a “season of prayer” and has been preaching on “Prayer That Moves Mountains” (Matthew 17:14-21). May 31, we scheduled a day of prayer and many signed up to pray for at least 30 minutes for our summer ministries. We are having a series of cottage prayer meetings on Sunday nights. The one June 25, 6:00 pm will be at Integrity Rehab where I (Reba) make my home. The purpose of these meetings is to pray for specific needs of our church. Our pastor has prepared a guide booklet and prayer card to guide us as we pray together and individually. Brother Greg Walker filled in for our pastor May 21, while Brother Keith and Sister Sarah took a much needed mini-vacation. Samuel Abney filled in for Sarah on the piano.

JC Kids’ Lunch Bunch began Saturday, June 3 with a kick-off celebration in the church parking lot. We registered over 75 children for the program and quite a few signed up to ride the bus. The day before the newsletter deadline, we had a high attendance of 88 children, serving 118 meals that day including adults and seconds.

When Lunch Bunch began, we also launched a new program for students on Wednesday nights at 6:30. It’s called Summer Supper Bible Bunch and is like a nighttime version of Lunch Bunch, with a meal followed by fun activities. The first week was “color night” and by the end of the evening, almost everyone was covered in colored chalk. The second Wednesday was “water night” so more than a few got a little wet.

On Father’s Day, we presented our fathers pens imprinted with the church logo. They were such nice writing pens, I had to get one for myself.

Come by our church after dark and we think you’ll notice quite a change in our parking lot. We installed new LED security lighting on the poles, and new fixtures on the cross and steeple.

We offer congratulations to Gaytha Pritchett and Sam Smith who were united in marriage at Gaytha’s home Sunday afternoon, June 11. Brother Keith performed the ceremony of these two high school sweethearts who were reunited after more than 60 years.

Pastor: Keith Fletcher

Reporter: Reba Ritter

HARMONY CHURCH – Rural West Frankfort

As the temperatures begin to rise, I find myself often under the shade of the sycamore tree. Despite the cares and worries of this world, I am at peace within my heart and so very thankful for the many blessings God has given me. The nursery is up and running! It is a much needed service and has been a blessing to several of the mothers here at Harmony. Thank you to all the dedicated volunteers who are giving their time to this ministry. Please pray that God will continue to bless this ministry that it may be a source of joy, peace, and light to all those who are involved.

On May 2, Harmony held its monthly SOS and Masters Men meeting. Harmony Church celebrated 185 years on May 7th. Brother Ernie Lewis and Brother Jeff Jones each presented a powerful message.

The choir sang two specials under the direction of Brother Tim Parton. Thank you Brother Tim for your dedication and hard work! The Pittsburg FWBC Praise Team provided an outstanding worship session for the afternoon service. It was a wonderful day of blessings and fellowship with new and old friends!

On June 6th the SOS hosted their annual “Un-Birthday” party for the participating Secret Sisters. The Masters Men meeting was also held at 6pm. Please continue to pray for these ministries as we seek out God's design and purpose for each group. June 8th was the final showing of the Truth Project Bible Study. Thank you to all those who came out to learn more about our Awesome and Mighty Savior!

This Sunday, June 18th, Harmony will host its annual Church in the Park event. We will have morning worship at 11am at shelter #1 in West Frankfort City Park, followed by a fish fry and fellowship. Harmony will also be celebrating Father's day during this service and acknowledging our graduates. Please join us and bring your friends! This ministry is a blessing to us and to those who may not step foot inside the church they can hear the Truth of God's love and mercy.

Harmony will host its Vacation Bible School from July 31- August 4. Please pray that those who come to participate will feel and see the love of Jesus from those who serve and minister to them. Pray also for the volunteers that God will give them an abundance of loving mercy and wisdom to pour out onto all those children and their families who come. Harmony will also be hosting a revival during the week of August 21-25. Please pray that God will send people that need to hear His Truth and those also that have a hunger and thirst for His Word. Please pray also for the speakers, that God will give them the words we need to hear and that hearts and minds will hunger for a closer relationship with our Savior, Jesus Christ.

“For the word of the LORD is right, and all His work is done in truth. He loves righteousness and justice; the earth is full of the goodness of the LORD.” ~Psalm 33:4-5

Pastor: Curtis Smith

Reporter: Jennifer Cook

BLUE POINT CHURCH – Rural Cisne

The 7th and 8th grade Sunday school class went to Mt. Vernon to complete a service project. After a delicious lunch at Ryan's, they went to Walmart to buy summer grocery items for some area families. The class members sorted all the items into three separate baskets and delivered them to three different families. While they were out and about, they also stopped locally to experience farm life seeing chickens, goats, and cows of a class member.

Once again Beth Bowen directed a wonderful Vacation Bible School, "Passport to Peru". With the help of Brooke and Anita Byars and Vicki Gifford, every area of the church was turned into a scene from the country of Peru. We ended the week with a family picnic including inflatables on Saturday.

Brother Ernie was recently on vacation. Those filling in for him included deacon Shannon Hosick, Daniel Simpson, and Josh Demett, the pastor of the Round Prairie General Baptist Church.

Camp season at Camp Hope is in full swing. Rebecca Smith and Harrison Walker attended Leadership Camp. For Junior-Senior Camp some of our teens helped provide the music: Ellie and Noah Hill, Nathaniel Freeman, Ruth Marie Simmons, Harrison Walker, and Natalie Dillon. Shane Davison also played the guitar when he was at camp teaching missions. Rebecca Smith also attended the week of camp and Hope Walker served as the SAM worker.

One day that week we sent down cookies and also sent several ladies to work in the kitchen. Joyce Kingsbury made special desserts for all the workers. Anita and Marissa Byars also helped with the kitchen work.

During 7th and 8th grade week we sent many workers. Mike Conard served as the director. Daniel Simpson was the Bible teacher. Jenna Allison, Chloe Byars, Megan Spitzner, and Amelia Byars all served in the girls' dorm. Lauren Grace Conard and Maddie Bowen operated the concession stand and helped in games. Colin Waller served as a lifeguard for the week.

Pastor: Ernie Lewis

Reporter: Suzanne Lewis

RESCUE CHURCH –Rural Whittington

We are adding two more graduates to our list this month: Gracie Walker graduated from the 8th grade and Ted Heater graduated from college with a degree in Physical Therapy. Our congratulations to them!

Our May events included: Master's Men Fishing Tournament, WAC provided lunch for the teachers and staff of Ewing-Northern School, Mother's Day was celebrated by presenting each mother with flowers and a treat, fellowship time at our new property with a time for devotions and a worship service, and our Homecoming with Brother Larry Cook preaching and special music by Andrea Harris and Rachelle Barker.

In June our church folks installed a new roof on the fellowship hall (however our Pastor did not get me to carry shingles by trying to put me on a guilt trip). We also had a trap shoot, our monthly WAC meeting and a fund raiser for Traci Kelley. Please keep Traci in your prayers. Here are some prayer requests: Brian Barker is recovering from shoulder surgery, Duane Sink is awaiting test results from St. Louis, Lida Mandrell is needing more tests, plus payers are still needed for Gracie Young, Ted Harmon, Jane Harmon and Cathy Lingle as they improve.

Our condolences to the family of Ron Eubanks who passed away Sunday. He leaves behind his wife, Sue, and children Ryan, Daniel and Nicole. Also, we extend our condolences to the family of David Lingle on the loss of their son, Carter. He is the grandson of Paul and Cathy Lingle. I was proud to know him and be a part of his life. He was in my Sunday School class. Our condolences also to John and Marilee Clark on the loss of their son-in-law, Jared Lowery. He leaves behind his wife, Sarah, and children Tamrah and Lauren.

Pray for our Vacation Bible School which is scheduled for Friday and Saturday, July 21-22.

"What an awesome God we serve!"

Pastor: Bryant Harris

Reporter: Donna Harmon

BEAR POINT CHURCH – Rural Sesser

Congratulations to our graduates! Jr High was Harley Newman, Sydney Crawford and Seth Loucks. High School was Mariah Eader, Sadie Jo Payne, Jared Acosta and Kenny Eubanks. Automotive Mechanics School was Kody Miller. Welch College was Shelby Payne. Dena Kirk graduated with her Masters. Celebration from kindergarten was Alba Newbury, London Powell, Hunter Dunmyer and Jackson Brown. On Sunday afternoon May 21 we had a deacon dedication service for Brother Mark Lappin. We are thankful for his willingness to answer God's call on his life.

Brother Larry preached at Rescue's homecoming May 28. Brother Johnny Hollis filled in for him at Bear Point.

Our ladies provided cakes and pies for Jr High Camp week.

Pastor: Larry Cook

Reporter: Linda Cook

ARNOLD VIEW CHURCH – Rural Creal Springs

Average Sunday School attendance during May was 73. Kendal and Olivia Ryan shared about their upcoming mission trip to Cuba on May 7. The final Christian Skate Night of the season was held on May 8 at Emery Brothers in Marion. Our Mother/Daughter Banquet was held on May 9. "Spring Cleaning for the Heart and Soul" was theme. Cleaning supplies were collected and donated to The Lighthouse Shelter in Marion. Congratulations to our recent graduates: Mya Dwyer, Cooper Harris, Mila Orrill and Josey Settle (K); Ayden Lindsey (8th Grade); and Mikayla Chamness, Dallas Reynolds and Katelynn Wise (Crab Orchard High School). Steve Dwyer, Gale Mausey and Rick Doss shared testimonials about their mothers. Rick also shared about his grandmothers. Each mother received a potted plant on Mother's Day. Homecoming was observed on May 21. There were several congregational songs and 2 songs from our children. Tony Loyd, Shaunetta Meyers and Katie Damron-Stokes sang specials. Brother Ben Ryan brought challenging messages for our Homecoming/Revival on May 21-24. The Jones Fish Fry was held on June 2. Kandace Jennings attended Leadership Camp, and Regan Thompson and Josh Jean attended Junior/Senior Camp. Five ladies from our church helped with meal preparation one day at Jr/Sr Camp. Brother Barry Simpson shared with us about the Free Will Baptist Foundation on June 4.

"Finally, my brethren, be strong in the Lord, and in the power of his might." - Ephesians 6:10

Pastor: Ivan Ryan

Reporter: Buddy Parks

FIRST CHURCH – Benton

God sent us some sunshine to go along with the rain! It's fantastic to see gardens growing now, crops in the fields, and I'm really enjoying the flowers.

The Lefflers were in Florida to attend the wedding of Alisa's cousin Prudence and for Zeb to be in the parade at Disney World. The Zimmermans attended the conference in Branson and were joined there by the Portells. We were fortunate to have the Portells visit with us on June 4. We also had Brandon Page and daughters Phoebe and Vivian, as well as his sister Erin. We celebrated 46 years of Benton First Free Will Baptist Church on June 11. Many may remember when they first met at the old Camp Ground Tabernacle in West City before building the West Wing and finally the chapel.

The Wanda Mountain Boys came to bring the message to us in word and song. They are such a delight to visit with and we pray for health for all of them. We try to feed them really well when they come and they are taken care of for their journey home.

We are pleased to announce that several of our Wednesday night TACL group are going to camp - three are from the same family.

We continue to ask for prayer for Grace Young, Marty Leffler who is still having trouble with his leg, Mary Cook, Edith Taylor, and all the many others on our prayer list and yours.

Pastor: Kent Dunford

Reporter: Barbara Spencer

BAKERVILLE CHURCH – Rural Bonnie

During the month of May we had a video tribute to all Mother's still here with us, as well as Mother's that have gone on to be with the Lord.

"Train up a child in the way he should go, And when he is old he will not depart from it." - Proverbs 22:6

Thank you to Vera Lowery our lady in charge of our Prayer Chain. Vera had a wonderful meal catered for all the Prayer Chain Ladies and it was a wonderful little get together. And as we all know - there is power in prayer. Our Lord always wants to hear from us and does answer our prayers.

"Ask and it will be given to you; seek and you will find; knock and the door will be opened to you." - Matthew 7:7

Pastor: David Mishler

Reporter: Tammy Hendricks



GOD BLESS AMERICA! CELEBRATE YOUR FREEDOM ON JULY 4TH

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Illinois State Association of Free Will Baptists
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Happy Fourth of July!

Note to Reporters: Please address all correspondence for the Illinois Newsletter to:
David Shores 25 Edgewood Road Mt. Vernon, IL 62864 or e-mail: davids@mvmfreewillbaptist.org
The deadline for the August Newsletter will be July 15th.

SUPPLIES for CUBA

The Cuban churches have asked for help with supplies for the Nursing Home and the Seminary. A shipping container to send these supplies has been approved by both the U.S. and Cuban governments. It has been a lengthy process, but everything is in place to ship these items down there in August. Brother Jim Dycus and Brother Gary Curry are coordinating the program. Items needed are listed in **bold print**; those listed in *italics* have already been donated. If you can help in any way, please contact me at 618-927-1284. Thank you, David Shores.

Nursing Home

- 160 twin bed sheets (non-white)**
500 towels (non-white)
- 9 beds for Nursing Home**
10 wheel chairs
- 50 canes**
50 pairs of aluminum crutches
- 1000 packs of adult disposable diapers**
10 walkers
- 2 Laptop Computers**
2 Printers
- 2 Printer battery back-ups.**

Seminary

- 2 Laptop Computers**
2 Printers
- 2 Printer battery back-ups**
4 Televisions for Classrooms, 2 Weed Eaters, 50 110v electric outlets
- 50 electric switches, 30 electric plastic conduit tubes*
- 50 drain pipes for drains, 50 pants, 50 shirts, 30 skirts,*
- 30 blouses, 100 pairs of shoes, 100 USB flash drives.*
- 100 meters (328') of metal screening to cover windows**
25 shower curtains and rods, 20 folding tables, 60 bicycles
- 20 small generators**
- 100 ponchos for rain**
- 6 Electric Bicycles**