

Illinois Free Will Newsletter

August 2017

REPORT FROM BRIDGE CHURCH - Champaign

The Day God Used Our 3-Year-Old:

"Peyton! Get off the counter." "Peyton! Get out of the fridge." "Peyton! You are going to fall off the slide." "Peyton! STOP!" As he runs towards the road. Peyton is full of life and we love him so much.

But - you can bet in our home, we are going to say these one of these four lines every day – maybe all of them. Understand, Peyton climbed up on a pulpit and knocked it over while we were visiting a church while on itinerant – not many can say that! Many have said, "God is going to use your kids in Champaign." We were pretty sure they met our other two - Jaden and Caleb (kidding). In our first full week in Champaign God used Peyton.

A few Sundays ago, we took the kids to the park. Peyton decides to take off running and runs into a man who was pushing his nephew in a swing. I quickly apologize and we end up striking up a conversation. It was there I met Joe and his brother Larry. Joe (from different state) is a Christian hip-hop artist and an inspirational speaker who goes around to high schools sharing his testimony. Larry (from Mahomet) is one of the strength trainers for the U of I football team. We ate lunch last week - Larry and I are meeting again next Wednesday.

Larry and his wife are really seeking answers in their life right now. We are all in agreeance God put us together for a reason. You see, they didn't plan on going to the park that day - but they drove by it and decided to stop. There are two words that come to mind – divine appointment. Much like when Jesus had to go through Samaria because He knew there would be a woman at the well. You may be a parent who has a Peyton for a son or perhaps a daughter, don't underestimate how our Great God can use him or her - that divine appointment might be right around the corner for you!

Love, Jamie, Heather, Jaden, Caleb, and Peyton Lee *(Story is true - but we changed the names for personal reasons)*

HAZEL DELL CHURCH – Rural Sesser

On Father's Day our fathers were recognized and given small gifts in appreciation for all they do.

On June 22nd., there were 18 present for the Peppy Calebs' monthly luncheon. A good time of food and fellowship was enjoyed by the group that met at Cozy Table in Benton.

We had a Missions Service with Shane and Joy Davison on June 25th. They were with us to share what God is doing in southern France. A special offering was received to assist this couple in their service to the Lord. A fellowship time of food and refreshments was enjoyed following the service.

The Master's Men group met for breakfast and devotion time on July 2nd. There were 13 present. Brother Rusty Miller gave the devotion on the "Warning Against False Doctrine".

On July 3rd Peggy Clyatt, Jennifer LeVault and Diana Kirk helped prepare and serve the noon meal at Camp Hope for Primary Week. Communion Service was held on July 9th.

Preparations are being made for the Annual Hazel Dell Men's Rally to be held on Thursday, August 3rd. Music will be provided by the Victory Boys Quartet and the guest speaker will be Rev. Bill Uhles. Men, make plans now to attend this event.

Praise the Lord for His watch care over Valerie Gibson as she has recently undergone her second surgery to complete the corrective surgery that was needed. Please join us in praying for Valerie's healing. Remember our shut-ins in prayer: Sister Wilma Cockrum,

Brother Gerald Hamilton and Sister Francis McNeil

"The Lord is not slack concerning his promise, as some men count slackness, but is longsuffering to us-ward, not willing that any should perish, but that all should come to repentance." - II Peter 3:9

Pastor: Larry Clyatt

Reporter: Diana Kirk



**These young ladies
accepted the award for
The Ina Impact Team
as they were named
"FWB Youth Group of
the Year 2017"
Congratulations!**

In the August issue we hope to have a full report of the 2017 National Free Will Baptist Convention

HARMONY CHURCH – Rural West Frankfort

The warm summer breeze, children laughing and playing, family coming together to celebrate life, all these things remind me to embrace and appreciate the gift of joy that God has given me through His precious Son, Jesus Christ.

Harmony has begun meeting on Thursdays at 5pm at the church to go visiting the shut ins, those who are ill, and others. Please pray this outreach will bless those God is directing the church to reach out to

June 18th, Harmony hosted Church in the Park. Despite the rainy weather, we had a good turnout. Harmony celebrated Father's Day and also recognized all the graduates. Congratulations to all the graduates!

On June 21st, Harmony celebrated Brother Curtis' birthday after Bible study. Happy Birthday Brother Curtis! Harmony is thankful for your leadership and passion for serving the Lord.

June 25th marked the beginning of a new ministry at Harmony. Starting at 8:45am through 9:20am we are serving coffee and doughnuts in the Fellowship Hall. Please pray God will lead and guide this ministry as we seek to reach out to more church goers and encourage them to attend Sunday School.

June 25th was also collection day for the Manna Mission.

Harmony will host its Vacation Bible School from July 31- August 4 at 6:15pm-8:30 each evening. The kids will have an exciting time as they journey to Rome to experience what Roman life was like and learn about the Underground Church. Please pray for this ministry, that hearts and minds will be drawn to our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ!

Harmony Church will also be hosting a revival during the week of August 21-25 at 7pm nightly. Monday and Tuesday Brother David Ring will be speaking, Wednesday and Thursday Brother Jim McComas will be with us and Friday Brother Tom Malone will bring the message. Please pray that as individuals we will seek revival in our hearts to prepare us for a greater revival in the church and

beyond the church doors. Please continue to lift the speakers up in prayer, that God will give them the truth we need to hear and He will send people to this revival that desire to have and accept that precious and intimate relationship with the Savior.

Harmony Church is very excited to announce that Brother Curtis and Sister Emilee are expecting another bundle of joy! Baby Smith will arrive to make his/her presence known in January of 2018. We are so very happy for them both and can't wait to see what great things God has in store for this family!

"Though now you do not see Him, yet believing, you rejoice with joy inexpressible and full of glory."

~1 Peter 1:8

Pastor: Curtis Smith

Reporter: Jennifer Cook

PITTSBURG CHURCH

Greetings from Pittsburg! God is good! We are so thankful for safe travels of our youth returning from their mission trip and His Holy Spirit that continues to fall each and every time we worship Him!

On June 25, we held our first service in the new Sanctuary in which God has blessed. What an exciting and spirit filled service! Our congregation met in the old Sanctuary and, as a complete body, we traveled together to the new Sanctuary! It was such an awesome service to be part of! We had 510 in attendance on that day and what a sight it was to see a full house! On Sunday, July 9, we held our Dedication Service during the 10am worship. Our pastors and deacons gathered around the church body and each prayed a prayer of thanks and protection to our Heavenly Father. We dedicate what God has given to us, back to Him and pray that only He will be represented each and every time the building is used!

School is starting back up...which brings our Annual Back 2 School Bash! It will be held on Wednesday evening, August 9th from 6-8pm in our Life Center. Dental Safari will be here as well and appointments start at 6pm. We will be giving away free school supplies, haircuts, prizes, and more. This outreach is always a great way to love on the community that surrounds us. If you know someone in the area who would benefit from attending, send them our way! More information can be found on our website, www.pittsburgfwb.org.

At the time of this writing *Maker Fun Factory* VBS is almost here! Everyone is anticipating this fast paced, high energy week. We are expecting great things! We are praying for the upcoming school year. Join us as we pray for the students, teachers, parents and all involved in the school systems. Praying for safety, good health and a productive year!

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

Pastor: Eddie Donelson

Pastor: Keith McDannel

Recorder: Hollie Utley

JOHNSTON CITY CHURCH

God called two of his dear saints home in July. Noma Moore (the mother of Marta Phillips, our children's ministry director and Lunch Bunch activities coordinator) went home to be with the Lord, July 2. Noma had suffered a series of heart attacks and other problems in the past few months but is now at peace. Brother Keith preached her funeral, July 8, at Liberty Christian Church near St. Elmo.

(Continued on Page 3)

(Continued from Page 2) On July 5, Eloise Sullivan received the ultimate healing for her second round of an aggressive cancer. Brother Keith and Dr. Randy Carney preached her funeral July 10. We are praying for the loved ones these two dear sisters left behind. Both families designated memorial donations for Lunch Bunch.

I (Reba) have been battling a painful condition that seems to be getting worse. The gout in my finger has spread to my knuckle, wrist, and knees. The doctor may have to open my finger again to remove calcium build up my body isn't handling as it should. I too would appreciate your prayers. I'm reminded of the passage from Psalm 8:3-4 "When I look at your heavens, the work of your fingers, the moon and the stars, which you have set in place, what is man that you are mindful of him, and the son of man that you care for him?"

We mentioned last month that we scheduled a series of cottage prayer meetings on Sunday nights as part of our pastor's emphasis on "Prayer That Moves Mountains." July 9, nine prayer warriors joined me at Integrity Rehab to pray for the needs of our church and loved ones. Thanks to our new bus, two ladies in wheelchairs were able to attend. We had a wonderful evening with the Lord and with each other.

Thanks to the prayers of our people and others, our summer children's ministries have been going well.

June 21, the youth group from Ina Church presented their CTS entries in music, drama, and art for our Summer Supper Bible Bunch. We counted 86 students and parents in attendance that evening. We pray all our Illinois entries do well at the National. We have some really talented students. Brother Keith and Sarah will attend the National in Louisville also. We pray they will have an enjoyable and relaxing trip.

We're excited that Mark King is home from China for a few weeks and will be able to speak at our church July 30. Dennis and Carol Teague are also coming Sunday morning, August 13. We're grateful that our church is able to have an impact in other parts of the world through these faithful servants.

Pastor: Keith Fletcher

Reporter: Reba Ritter

FIRST CHURCH - Benton

God is in charge of the seasons and he knows when we need the sun and when we need the rain. He knows our needs before we do, but be sure and thank Him for fulfilling them. We work and we relax!

We were happy to have Wanda Mountain Boys with us on our 46 anniversary. Music was great and as usually the food was awesome. Thanks to Janice Page and Mary Bauer - the flowers were perfect for the tables and Barbara Combs did an excellent job decorating the sanctuary. Fathers were honored on their day. Ray and Marci MacDonald are proud to announce they have a new daughter-in-law. Brent and Leah Exmeyer were married June 16 in Evansville, Indiana.

On June 25, we all attended a get together at the Benton Park for our evening services and were proud to have many visitors with us. Let us remember to pray for those who traveled to the National. Our heartfelt prayers are for Gary Cook who was seriously injured in a motor cycle accident on his way home from a Patriot Guards Mission. Gary is husband of Mary Cook who resides at Heliacare in Benton. Marty Leffler is doing much better - thank you all for your prayers.

Many of you remember Floyd and Mae Sullivan. Their son Gary lost his wife Elliose recently. Please remember him and their sons in your prayers. We know you have many requests too. Maybe if we put our hands on the lists God will know our hearts desires.

Pastor: Kent Dunford

Reporter: Barbara Spencer

BEAR POINT CHURCH – Rural Sesser

Greetings from here at Bear Point. Recently we had four new members join our church family. We thank the Lord for these.

On June 25 the youth sponsored a pasta luncheon after the morning services. This was to help with expenses to the National. We are thankful to all those who help with our youth and the support of the church for our youth.

Brother Shane and Sister Joy Davison shared in our morning services on July 2. It is a blessing to have them with us and telling about the ways they share the gospel in France and how God is blessing.

July 7 Clara Brown celebrated her 97th birthday and on July 8 Marj Bunton celebrated her 80th birthday. Each had a celebration with family and friends.

We had five to attend the Rend Lake District meeting at the Rescue Church on July 8. We enjoyed a good meeting, good preaching and good fellowship.

Pastor: Larry Cook

Reporter: Linda Cook

*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 September issue is August 15*

Illinois Free Will Baptist August 2017 Newsletter

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

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

Or Current Resident

CAMP MEETING TIME!

SEPTEMBER 10-13 CAMP HOPE CHAPEL 6:30 Each Evening



**Rusty
Miller**
Music
Director

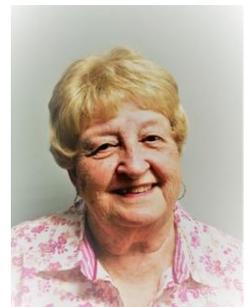
**Great
Gospel
Music**

**Special
Singing**



CH (COL)
Kerry Steedley,
U.S. Army (Retired)
Evangelist

**Bible
Based
Evangelist
Preaching**



**Doris
Wallace**
Pianist

Pray for a blessed Camp Meeting!