



Illinois Free Will Baptist

November 2017

Newsletter

BRIDGE CHURCH

Pastor: Jamie Lee

Greetings. We can say we have hit the ground running. We had our first event on September 17 together. There were a total of 31 who joined us. It was very encouraging to see different age groups come together. My cousin catered the event and knocked it out of the park! The event included a meal, games for the kids, and free Bridge Church attire. What really excited us, is everyone stayed the entire two hours. Our prayer is this will set the tone for the future of the Bridge Church in our fellowship. Baby Greyson will be here sometime in October! We will have more news to report next month!

ILLINI INITIATIVE

Pastor: Tyler Penn

Many of us love the season of fall because when it comes through our towns it brings familiar traditions like football, pumpkin patches, and bonfires with S'mores. All these familiar moments of fall are quite foreign to our international students. We love fall with the students because we get to share the moments we love for people who will experience them for the first time and these familiar moments now have an added excitement and freshness.

This Fall our numbers have been up, which is a carryover from the summer. We had over 120 international students at our opening cook out for English Corner. We had 35 students at our home for a cookout, which is the largest number of students we have ever had in our home. We also our continually having 5 to 6 students in our Bible study which is the most of any fall. There are seasons of fruitfulness and seasons of famine and number wise we are in a fruitful season. We hope that this will also translate into spiritual fruit as well.

One of my favorite moments this fall has been sitting around a table with international students studying 1 John. The verse was about how Jesus forgives us of our sins but not our only but also the sins of the whole world, and I am sitting with students from around the world who are hearing this for the first time. I absolutely love teaching Jesus to people who have not idea about Jesus.

The family has also had a great fall. All three kids have made great transitions into their next grade and all three are enjoying playing soccer this fall. Life for Kellie and I is busy with the students during the week and traveling to different churches across the States during the weekends. We are always so grateful and encouraged by the prayer support and financial support we receive from you. We are truly blessed.

HAZEL DELL CHURCH

Pastor; Larry Clyatt Reporter: Diana Kirk

Happy fall everybody!!! The Harvest Crusade was held at Miner's Memorial Park in Sesser, September 17-20th.

The Peppy Calebs met at the church for a noon meal on September 28th. Sister Martha Hargis provided fried chicken. There were 14 in attendance.

The Men's Prayer group met for breakfast and fellowship on October 3rd. Brother Brian Gibson delivered the devotion on "Christian Leadership". There were 10 in attendance.

We are thankful for the Lord's blessings on our 2017 Homecoming Day. The music by Steve Ladd was great and the message by Brother Rob Robbins was a blessing. There were 93 present for our special day. Special thanks to all who provided food and helped serve and clean up. We also appreciate Amy Galloway (and family) for the beautiful table décor in the fellowship Hall.

Oliver Rene Morhet was born on September 30th. He is the son of Keith(II) and Dawn Morhet, grandson of Keith and Toni Morhet and great grandson of Dick and Iris LeVault. Congratulations to all!

Our condolences to Bro. Danny Kirk and family on the passing of his brother, Bobby D. Kirk.

"Whether therefore ye eat, or drink, or whatsoever ye do, do all to the glory of God." - I Corinthians 10:31

**Remember to Honor our Veterans this month and honor our God
with a grateful heart at Thanksgiving!**

NEW HOPE CHURCH

Pastor: Craig Smith Reporter: Jackie Capps

Several people from our congregation participated in the Ina Fall Festival. The WAC group had a booth and sold cookbooks, crafts, jewelry, and pumpkins that the children painted and etc. We also had a float in the parade. Bottles of water, candy and information about our Harvest Festival were passed out during the parade.

October 14th was our Harvest Festival. "Joe's" Barbecue in Ina donated the delicious food. As usual, the pie auction was a huge success. Half of the proceeds will be given to Camp Hope. Two bouncy houses, money in the straw, and a hayride made the evening fun for the children. Terry Conner & Friends and the 4-Given group were our music for the evening. Both were very entertaining.

At 3:00 on October 15th, Robert Lea and Jersey Lea were baptized in Darrell Fowler's pond. Darrell is Jersey's grandfather. Thanksgiving will soon be here. May we always be thankful for all the blessings that God has given to us who live in America!

JOHNSTON CITY CHURCH

Pastor: Keith Fletcher Reporter: Reba Ritter

God is opening new opportunities to serve our community. Our pastor was named chaplain of the Johnston City Police Department and will help the officers as they deal with difficult calls and provide a listening ear for them afterward. In August, Pastor Keith was selected by Harmony Health Plan as a "CommUnity Hero" in the area of community support because of our Lunch Bunch ministry, which has served over 17,000 children's meals in the past 5 of its 8-year history. Along with this award, the company donated \$500 to Lunch Bunch.

We were blessed with several guests on National Back to Church Sunday, September 17. The service was followed by a fellowship picnic that gave us opportunities to get to know some of our guests. The next Sunday, Brother Keith began a new sermon series on the family called "I Can't Be Calm; My Family Is Crazy." As part of this series, we scheduled the New Life Drama Company from Arizona for a weekend of services, October 20-21.

At our last business meeting, October 1, our church voted to drop the word "First" from its name. We will now be known as "Johnston City Free Will Baptist Church" or just "JCity Church." This change represents our vision to put Christ and our community FIRST instead of ourselves.

Brother John Hollis spoke at the last South Central Quarterly meeting. We extend our deepest sympathy to the Hollis family on the passing of his mother, Sister Eddie. Our next quarterly meeting will be at Arnold View, October 28, and Dr. Matthew Pinson, president of Welch College will speak. The Fletchers gave me an "Inherit the Mirth" card for my 94th birthday, October 12. God has a great sense of humor. Genesis 21:6 says, "Sarah said, 'God has brought me laughter, and everyone who hears about this will laugh with me.'"

BEAR POINT CHURCH

Pastor: Larry Cook Reporter: Linda Cook

Happy Thanksgiving! Thankful for all of God's bountiful blessings! On Sunday September 17 Jack and Bess Mygatt celebrated their 50th wedding anniversary with an open house at the church.

Our community Harvest Crusade in the park was September 17 - 20. A different minister from our churches would speak each night. Brother Larry preached on Wednesday night.

Shawn Mygatt hosted a 3D archery shoot on September 23 at the church.

Meet you at the flag pole was September 27 at the school.

Fried pies were made on October 6 and our youth sold them at the Octoberfest on Saturday October 7. This was a fundraiser for our youth.

On October 9 the church had an appreciation day for Brother Larry and Linda. There was a time of people sharing, slideshow, love gift and meal. We are thankful for our church family and their love and appreciation shown to us.

November 4 will be our annual Country Store at the church. There will be crafts, baked goods, fried pies, etc., soup, dessert and drink \$5. This is a WAC project and proceeds will go to missions!

Some of our readers will remember **Russell Wolfe** who pastored the Bakerville Church for 10 years. His sister, Darla Milliner informed the Newsletter that Brother Wolfe passed away October 13 at the home of his daughter in California. A Celebration of Life service was held on October 28 in Bakersfield, California. Pray for his family during this time



PITTSBURG CHURCH

Pastors: Eddie Donelson and Keith McDannel Reporter: Hollie Utley

Can you believe October is already over?! October is always a busy month at PFWBC. We had a great time celebrating our 110th Homecoming with a wonderful worship service and message followed by an absolutely amazing fish fry meal with more sides and desserts than the eye could see! We appreciate all of the people who put forth effort to prepare for a meal of this size, it is not an easy task! October 8 we had a baptism service and two young people were baptized and we couldn't be more proud of them! Also, our monthly skate night was held October 12 at Emery Brothers Skating Rink in Marion. Many came and had a great time!!

As this is being written, we are preparing for many events here in Pittsburg: Pastor Recognition Sunday, Church Closet Giveaway and Fall Festival are all updates I'll have for you next month!

Christmas is approaching quickly and we all know the needs that come with the holiday season. We are preparing to fill and send in the shoeboxes through Operation Christmas Child this month. Each year our congregation fills multiple shoeboxes that are given to children across the world. It is an amazing outreach and we are so excited to be able to participate!

Praying everyone has a great November and a Happy Thanksgiving! *"Making our faith seen in 2017!" - Matthew 5:16*

HARMONY CHURCH

Pastor: Curtis Smith Reporter: Jennifer Cook

I watch the farmers harvesting the fields around our property, from early morning to evening they bring in the crops. As a child of God I am reminded that I too must be diligent in going out into the "fields" and doing my part to help bring in the harvest for my Lord and Savior. On Sunday, September 17th, we held our baptism service at Dick Smith's pond. What a blessing to see these individuals dedicate their lives to Christ!

Harmony Church was recently blessed with the opportunity to purchase a bus for our bus ministry. God's hand was on this situation and provided for our needs. Thank you Lord for your provisions! On September 21st, Harmony hosted the Knowing Jesus Bible study, led by Brother Curtis. It has been a wonderful study, drawing us closer to God and to each other. October 2nd, Harmony's youth had a night of fun at Emery Brothers Skating Rink in Marion. October 3rd, the Sisters of Strength and Masters Men held their monthly meeting. Please continue to be in prayer for both of these groups as we strive to build one another up and follow God's will for the church.

Sunday, October 8th, Harmony hosted Church in the Park at West Frankfort City Park. We had a great turnout and it was a blessing to see Brother Charlie Swann there as well as Sister Ladonne McShannon. It was a wonderful day spent with family and friends in fellowship together. It is truly a blessing to be able to hold this event in a public forum and a wonderful opportunity to share God's light with the world around us. October 13th and 14th Harmony Church is having a yard sale at the church to raise money for the CTS competition our youth participate in each year. Thank you, Sister Buffy, for all your dedication and time you invest in our youth. Thank you also to all those who pitched in to help in any way from donations, to pricing, and setting up.

On October 15th the Evangelists Drama Team from Welch College will be with us during our morning worship service. October 21st at 5:00pm Harmony Church will host its annual Harvest Fest and Hayride. Looking forward to an evening of fun and fellowship with family and friends. Also, Harmony Church will host its annual Ladies Banquet on Saturday, November 4th at 10:30am. Carly McNeely will bring the devotion and there will be dinner following. Please join us as we come together in worship and fellowship!

*"The harvest truly is great, but the laborers are few;
therefore pray the Lord of the harvest to send out laborers into His harvest." - Luke 10*

ARNOLD VIEW CHURCH

Pastor: Ivan Ryan Reporter: Buddy Parks

Average Sunday School attendance during September was 76. Congratulations to Justin and Jayda Anderson on the birth of Reid Marshal Anderson on July 28. Congrats to Josh and Becky Orrill on the birth of Sawyer Michael Orrill on September 9. The Women Active for Christ meeting was held on September 13. Brother Larry Hampton brought the evening worship message on September 24. Brother Gordon Smith, 80, passed away on September 17. Gene Stettler, 81, passed away on September 25. Corinne Wilkins, 81, passed away on September 26. Condolences to these families. We are studying the Book of Acts in our Wednesday night Bible Study.

"Giving thanks always for all things unto God and the Father in the name of our Lord Jesus Christ" - Ephesians 5:20

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BLUE POINT CHURCH

Pastor Ernie Lewis Reporter Suzanne Lewis

Brother Ernie was able to attend part of the Master's Men Retreat held at Camp Hope. Brother Ernie and Suzanne enjoyed the quarterly meeting at the Crossroads Free Will Baptist Church as Jamie Lee gave an update on the work in Champaign. A large crowd attended our annual Chili and Chowder supper on a day with beautiful weather.

Harrison and Hadley Walker, Noah and Ellie Hill, and Bailey Hacker all had roles in the excellent production of Shrek, Jr at Cisne Schools. Several of our teens took part in the See You at the Pole observance at Cisne High School and our church provided donuts and drinks for all those who attended. The teens also enjoyed their annual trip to Garden of the Gods on Columbus Day.

We hosted our first ever "We Care We Share" giveaway in the Link in September. A huge crowd came for the clothing and household giveaway, a free car wash, free haircuts, an 8 X 10 family photo, kid's games, medical services by our nurses, free items from our General Store, and a free lunch. It was a day of blessing for all.

We celebrated our 120th anniversary with special Homecoming Services. The quartet Fortress sang in the morning service and former pastor, David Shores, was the guest speaker.

Congratulations to Ruth Smith who recently turned 90. Also, congratulations to Hayden and Amelia on the birth of their son, Brock Ausby. Brock was born a couple of months early, weighing 2 pounds and 11 ounces. He is still at the NICU at Evansville but has gained a full pound.

We have been using our new Link building for several ministries lately. We have been especially busy serving dinners for several families who have lost a loved one in the past month. We also have young people playing games there every Wednesday night as a part of our S.W.A.G.ministry.

Remember the North American Missions Offering November 19, 2017

