



# Newsletter

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## BLUE POINT CHURCH

**Pastor: Ernie Lewis**

**Reporter: Suzanne Lewis**

The Cisne High School Volleyball team used the Link at Blue Point for their "senior night" gathering. The team also celebrated their win over Fairfield High School that night. We held our Annual Trunk or Treat on a very cold evening. A large crowd still attended. Besides receiving candy at the trunks, they were also served hot chocolate, apple cider, and a variety of cookies and brownies. Our Junior Church directors Bill and Christal Lewis set up 'glow games' in the Link for the young people who attended.

George and Carol Best recently shared with us about their upcoming mission trip to an orphanage in India. They will be going through the Jireh India Mission. We received a special offering for their mission account.

Brother Ernie took Ellie Hill from our church and Ashten Winter from the Decatur Church to Welcome Days at Welch College in Gallatin, Tennessee.

The Junior High Sunday school class has been saving their offerings for a couple of months and used them to purchase items for the Compassion Pregnancy Center in Fairfield. Brother Ernie and Suzanne recently made a trip to Nashville for the baptism of their grandson and the dedication of their twin grandchildren. Larry Ohms of the Calvary Church filled the pulpit in their absence.

Lyn Waller's dad, John Spears, recently passed away. Our church prepared a meal and served the family in the Link after the funeral. Glen Byars, father of Ritchie and Rodney from our church, also passed away recently. Our ladies provided desserts for the meal for this family and helped the ladies from the Oak Valley Church serve.

## HARMONY CHURCH

**Pastor: Curtis Smith** **Reporter: Jennifer Cook**

As we quickly approach the holiday season, I think of all the wonderful and amazing things God has done for His people: His mercy, His grace, His plan of salvation, His never-ending love for us. I could go on forever in gratitude, thankfulness and praise to our heavenly Father who above all gives us life more abundant and free. October 15th the Evangels Drama Team from Welch College were with us during our morning worship service. It is wonderful to see a generation with a hunger and passion for serving God. October 21st Harmony Church held its annual Harvest Fest and Hayride. The weather was nice and it was a wonderful evening spent with family and friends in fellowship together. Sunday, October 29th, Harmony had Pink Out Sunday for Cancer Awareness. The congregation was encouraged to wear pink to show support for those who are battling cancer. Harmony Church hosted its annual Ladies Banquet on Saturday, November 4th at 10:30am. Sister Carla McNeely from Grange Hall FWBC brought the devotion. We are very thankful God allowed her to come and be a part of our banquet. It was truly a blessing to see old friends and new come together and worship God in praise and fellowship. Thank you to all those who helped prepare, set up and make this such a special day for the ladies! Our youth (and some of the young at heart!) recently had the opportunity to go to a Christian concert at the Marion Civic Center. We are truly thankful for the youth in our church. It is encouraging and a blessing to see so many hearts eager to serve the Lord and live for Him! Please pray for our music ministry as we strive to follow God's will for this ministry. He is worthy to be praised and our desire is to lift up our Lord and Savior with hearts full of praise, thankfulness and worship to the King of Kings!

*"Enter into His gates with thanksgiving, and into His courts with praise. Be thankful to Him, and bless His name. For the LORD is good; His mercy is everlasting, and His truth endures to all generations." ~Psalm 100:4-5*

Merry



Christmas

## **RESCUE CHURCH**

**Pastor: Bryant Harris     Reporter: Donna Harmon**

Fall is now here, and next month we say hello to Winter and move into the Christmas season! It has been a short stroll down the path of 2017 that pleases our Savior, Jesus Christ.

The children in Tuesday School were taken to Ewing School for their annual Halloween dress up day. It was quite a show. Ted and I and watched the kids on their hayride out in our field, around our driveway , laughing, talking and waving as they had so much fun!

How sorry we are for Brother Paul and Sister Cathy Lingle. They were involved in a terrible accident last week and even though they are going to be OK, they have a long hard road ahead of them. At the present time they are in Deaconess Hospital in Evansville, Indiana with hopes of being transferred to the Marion Bounce Back Center. Please put them on your prayer list and also pray for Ann Sink as she recovers from surgery.

In closing, thank you to all our veterans. It is a blessing and an honor to thank them for the freedom with which God has blessed us and our country. *“What an awesome God we serve!”* I hope you had a great Thanksgiving.

## **JOHNSTON CITY CHURCH**

**Pastor: Keith Fletcher     Reporter: Reba Ritter**

Seven from our church attended the South Central Quarterly Meeting at Arnold View, October 28. Dr. Matthew Pinson, president of Welch College, and his daughter Anna were special guests. He spoke two times, first bringing a timely, detailed, and informative message about the Reformation. After the break, Dr. Pinson preached on “Be Happy” sharing several scriptures about happiness. Afterward, I (Reba) insisted on singing the version of “Happy Birthday” that was sung to me on my 94<sup>th</sup> birthday (about living in zoo and looking like a monkey!). Most went out laughing which is what we needed. We live in a sad, mixed up world. I’ve been left here to pray for people at Integrity and share happiness. The Lord let me lead new resident Dan Woliver to the Lord at breakfast October 7. Praise the Lord!

We had wonderful services during “Family Weekend,” October 21-22. God used six very dedicated and servant-hearted college-age students, the New Life Drama Company, to bless and challenge us Saturday night and Sunday morning. The altar was full Saturday night with those desiring a closer relationship with Christ. Sunday morning, we were challenged to take off the masks that hide our true selves when we come together to worship. The drama group stayed that evening for our men and women’s fellowship. All food, activities and crafts (at least for the women) had a pumpkin theme.

Dr. Randy Carney from Thompsonville was our guest speaker November 5 while the Fletchers were on a much-needed vacation. He preached a sermon entitled, “Who Are You?” from John 1:19-26.

Brother Keith was scheduled to speak at the community Thanksgiving Service, sponsored by the Johnston City Ministerial Alliance, Sunday night, November 19, at Washington Avenue Baptist Church.

*“But He knows the way that I take; When He has tested me, I shall come forth as gold.” Job 23:10*

## **THE ILLINI INITIATIVE**

**Missionary: Tyler Penn**

Colossians 4:2 – Devote yourselves to prayer being watchful and thankful. We are so very thankful for the opportunities that we have been given here in Champaign to make God’s name great among the nations.

We are thankful for the events we get to have for international students these next few weeks. On the Thursday before Thanksgiving we will serve a full Thanksgiving meal to over 100 international students at the English Corner. The Bridge FWB Church with the Help of the Illinois Mission Board will be sponsoring this event. We hope to make this an annual event. We are super excited about the connections we can make here. We will be hosting around 10 international students at our home for Thanksgiving this year. These students are close to us and we are so grateful we get to spend this holiday with them. Almost all of these students have either been to church with us or are presently in our bible study. Then the first Saturday of December we will take 60-70 international students to a Christmas play at Lincoln Christian University. This is a great time for them to see a play about the true meaning of Christmas.

We are also very thankful for the continuation of student participation in our bible study. We have 5 to 6 students who come every week this fall. We are currently looking at the beginning of Luke as we approach the Christmas season. These students are so excited to learn about the true meaning behind Christmas. This hour of the week is great!

We are so very thankful for the churches and people who continue to lift us up in prayer and also give out of their generosity for our students. I thank you all who followed my marathon journey. I am still able to walk after that event. It was a great personal accomplishment and I hope it also brought some awareness to our ministry. We continue to do what we do here with very thankful hearts

## HAZEL DELL CHURCH

**Pastor: Larry Clyatt Reporter: Diana Kirk**

What a beautiful fall the Lord has provided us with!

The Peppy Calebs met at Joe's Pizza in Benton on Thursday, October 26<sup>th</sup>. for their monthly meeting. There were 15 in attendance. With the busy schedule associated with the upcoming holidays we will not be meeting again until January.

The Sesser Ministerial Alliance hosted their annual Halloween Trunk or Treat at Miner's Memorial Park on Tuesday, October 31<sup>st</sup>. It was a huge success as many children attended. Thank you to those who provided candy treats for the children and to those who were on hand to help pass out the treats.

Brother Larry delivered a wonderful message on November 5<sup>th</sup> in honor of the International Day of Prayer for the Persecuted Church.

Brother Larry and Sister Peggy were honored with an umbrella of blessings (money gift) on Sunday morning, November 5<sup>th</sup> in appreciation for all they do in serving the Lord here at Hazel Dell. We love and appreciate them so much!! A "Sweet" time of fellowship was enjoyed following the evening service.

In honor of Veteran's Day, Brother Dean Galloway was recognized for his service to our country. We thank Brother Dean and all Veterans for their service.

Brother Mitchell Bulla delivered our evening message. He gave a very thought provoking message on the giving of our time for prayer and study of God's Word. It is such a blessing to see how God is using this young man!

Please join us in prayer remembering our shut-ins: Wilma Cockrum, Gearld Hamilton, and Frances McNeil.

Wishing all a very joyous holiday season!!

*"In everything give thanks: for this is the will of God in Christ Jesus concerning you." - 1 Thessalonians 5:18*

## PITTSBURG CHURCH

**Pastors: Eddie Donelson and Keith McDannel Reporter: Hollie Utley**

The days are flying by! We are very excited the day we celebrate our Savior's birth is quickly approaching! December is always a busy month here at PFWBC, but we couldn't be more delighted to welcome the hustle and bustle of all the activities that ultimately glorify our Lord!! I have some updates on events that occurred toward the end of October; Pastor Recognition Sunday, Church Closet Giveaway and our annual Fall Festival. We honored our Pastors and their families on Sunday, October 22. The kids of PFWBC sang a few songs and also shared a video of interesting facts about our Pastor's! The church presented Pastor Eddie & Kristal, Pastor Keith & Kim and Youth Leader Kyle & Tonya with a special gift of thanks. We are so appreciative of them!

Our fall Church Closet Giveaway was held on Saturday, October 28. Despite the cold weather, we had an amazing turnout of more than 400 people within the first few hours of opening the doors. The needs are so great in the community and we are so thankful God allows us to be a vessel and continue to reach those in the community who are in need of so much. We give Him all the glory!!

We hosted our annual Fall Festival on Sunday, October 29 at Bandy's Pumpkin Patch with a wonderful lunch, hayrides, bonfire and a fun time in the play barn! We closed out the evening with an outdoor service around a bonfire in our parking lot, this is a favorite service for many here at PFWBC!!

The Operation Christmas Child Shoebox outreach went great! We collected over 100 filled shoeboxes that will be distributed to children across the globe and we pray God's love will show through each and every one.

On Saturday, December 2 (9am-2pm) we will host our second Christmas Craft Bazaar. We have several business owners within PFWBC that will be setting up booths to sell their items and help support our youth group fundraising efforts in the process. Come and shop local, open to anyone! Also in December, we will be hosting a Christmas lunch open to anyone in need of a hot meal on Saturday, December 23 from 11-1 at the Pittsburg Village Hall. We look forward to meeting all of the people God sends our way!

Most importantly, we pray everyone has a safe and healthy December, all while remembering the reason for this joyous time of the year...Jesus!! "Making our faith seen in 2017!" - Matthew 5:16

**HAPPY**  
**New Year**

## CONNECT CHURCH

**Pastor: Dan Smith    Reporter: Shirley Brown**

October was a really busy and uplifting month here at Connect Church in South Roxana. We are blessed to have a new Worship Leader, Sister Sandy Jones, working with our Praise and Worship Team. She brings her family and friends right along with her and we expect to see a real difference in the worship and praise each Sunday.

Brother Joe and Sister Ralynne Case have volunteered to lead the Outreach Team and have begun having a free movie night the second Sunday night of each month, including a free box of popcorn. Other refreshments are also offered for \$1 each and the proceeds will help defer the expenses for the Outreach Ministry.

On the 15<sup>th</sup>, the Connect 2 Mission ladies hosted an evening event with Pastor Johnny and Sister Eunice with other ladies who have immigrated to the US from Kenya, Africa. It was an evening of worship and fellowship for those in attendance.

Brother Jeff and sister Paula Lievers hosted their 29<sup>th</sup> annual bon fire and hayride for our church family on October 20<sup>th</sup>. It was very well attended, and everyone enjoyed the hot dogs, chili, S'mores, hot chocolate, and other goodies during the evening. A great evening of fellowship!

October 22<sup>nd</sup> was a very uplifting day and evening also. Four people were baptized at the morning service, and we took in eight new members at our business meeting. It was also the date the church chose to honor our Pastor and his wife, Pastor Dan and Angie Smith, for their devoted dedication to the Lord and our church family. Following the presentation, we had an old fashioned hymn sing-a-long, followed by fellowship in the Connect Café.

As part of our efforts to reach South Roxana and area communities, we participated in two Halloween parades-South Roxana and Wood River-on October 24<sup>th</sup> and 28<sup>th</sup> respectively. The church entered a float, and we also had walkers and van riders. Hundreds of tracts and nearly 4,000 flyers were handed out to those watching the parades. It was wonderful, and we anticipate a harvest from this effort.

Our church ladies gathered on October 26<sup>th</sup> for the final Chat 'n Chew get together of this year. We will meet again in January, 2018.

On Sunday, October 29<sup>th</sup>, we hosted Trunk or Treat as another outreach project. There were 25 cars in the parking lot decorated up and passing out treats; between 400 and 500 area folks showed up and everyone had a great time. Free hot dogs, chips, hot chocolate and , of course, lots and lots of candy were given out. What a night!

November looms ahead and the busy holiday season along with it. Connect Church is becoming known in South Roixana and the surrounding area. Our quarterly attendance is averaging 150 for worship services!! What a great God we serve!

## A LETTER TO ILLINOIS FREE WILL BAPTISTS

I praise the Lord for the adults who are interested enough in our young people to have and support Camp Hope. I have been going to the camp for a number of years. When I lived in Illinois I was able to help mow, help put the roof on the Caretaker's Home, Girl's Dorm, and the Gym and work with some great Christian men doing these jobs. (Of course, I did most of the work – ha!)

Being in Illinois churches is always a blessing to me. Thank you so much for letting me come and represent Welch College to you. These are the churches I visited in 2017: Waltonville (Pastor Harrell Hungate), Oak Grove (Pastor Randy Kash), Blue Point (Pastor Ernie Lewis) and Oak Valley (Pastor Richard Brown). I also attended the Camp Meeting getting to hear retired Col (CH) Kerry Steedley preach, and attended the Master's Men Retreat to hear Pastor Brandon Bell of Tennessee. What a good time I had and I am looking forward to seeing you all again – **Roger Bennett**

## NEW BOOK: FREE WILL REVISITED

Free Will Revisited addresses the ever-present question of whether man truly has free will. Dr. Robert E. Picirilli defines free will from worldview and biblical standpoints and then boldly engages theologians Martin Luther, John Calvin, and Jonathan Edwards. "Free Will Revisited is a must-read book for those interested in the Calvinist-Arminian debate," says Welch College President Matthew Pinson. "Picirilli writes in a clear, readable manner that Calvinists and Arminians alike will find refreshing."

Dr. Picirilli taught New Testament and philosophy at Welch College, where he is now professor emeritus. He is author of Discipleship: The Expression of Saving Faith; Grace, Faith, Free Will; Paul the Apostle; and numerous other works and journal articles. FREE WILL REVISITED is now available.

Order a copy from the author at: [repicirilli@comcast.net](mailto:repicirilli@comcast.net) for the special low rate of \$20 (includes shipping).

## ARNOLD VIEW CHURCH

**Pastor: Ivan Ryan Reporter: Buddy Parks**

Average Sunday School attendance during October was 90. Barbara Brainard, 80, passed away on October 1. Daisy Cajigal, 77, passed away on September 15. John Eastman, 81, died on October 16. John Blumenstock, 74, passed away on October 19. Condolences to these families.

Thanks to Steve and Robbie Dwyer for again hosting the Fall Fellowship on October 6. Brother Josh Colson brought the evening worship message on October 8. Some of our congregation attended FCA Day at SIU. The Salukis defeated Illinois State, 42-7.

We met at Dee Ozment Gym in Crab Orchard on October 15 for the FCA Service. Josh Jean shared a devotional message. Congratulations to Tyson and Sarah Faulkner on the birth of Ezra William Faulkner on October 17. We were blessed by The Wanda Mountain Boys on October 22. Lexie Bundren gave a presentation that evening. The Pastor Appreciation Fellowship was also held that evening.

Our teen group made a trip to The Judgment House at Dorrisville Baptist Church. Arnold View hosted the South Central Quarterly Meeting on October 28. Dr. Matt Pinson brought two messages. Our Fifth Sunday Song Service on October 29 was a blessing. Several attended the Trunk or Treat event at our church.

*"For by grace are ye saved through faith; and that not of yourselves: it is the gift of God." - Ephesians 2:8*

## MOUNT VERNON CHURCH

**Pastor: David Shores Youth Minister: Phillip Kennedy**

Our church has not had a report for quite some time but we are still trying to reach out with the gospel and bring people to the Lord. In addition to our Sunday and Wednesday services we have a Thursday morning prayer meeting primarily to pray for revival and renewal in our church, community and in our nation. The teens have a special meeting on Tuesday evenings. Our WAC has supported several missionary projects and raised money for them in several different ways.

The women had a coat and clothing give-away, they also prepared a wonderful Thanksgiving dinner for the church family and the church gave the Pastor and his wife a generous love offering on Pastor Appreciation Sunday.

Several people helped with providing candy and treats for the annual Trunk or Treat. Lots of people came and had a good time with games, hot chocolate and other good things to eat!

We had a special time on a Sunday morning to honor our military veterans. Eight men stood and we also asked that the widows of veterans to join with them for recognition of their time of serving our country. In appreciation of their service we are sending a donation in their names to the Wounded Warrior Project.

Several people will be helping with the decorating of our church sanctuary for the Christmas season. We are planning a special musical service on December 17<sup>th</sup> which will feature a brass ensemble and a Candlelight Service is planned for Christmas Eve. May God bless you and your family during this wonderful time of the year!

*"And she shall bring forth a son, and thou shalt call his name JESUS: for he shall save his people from their sins." – Matthew 1:21*

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# newsletter

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*Note to Church Reporters: News items for the January issue of the Newsletter must be submitted by December 15<sup>th</sup>.  
Send all correspondence to David Shores: [davids@myfreewillbaptist.org](mailto:davids@myfreewillbaptist.org).*

## **WELCH COLLEGE DEDICATION**

GALLATIN, TN— Over 900 people gathered at Welch College recently to dedicate its new campus and celebrate 75 years of service to Christ’s kingdom, according to Welch President Matt Pinson. Guests at the September 29 celebration included alumni, donors, denominational leaders, local and state political figures, Free Will Baptist supporters, local community leaders, and academic representatives from various institutions of higher education.

“Our people were there to celebrate three quarters of a century of God’s goodness and faithfulness,” President Pinson said. “They came to celebrate the culmination of a vision for campus relocation that spread over two presidential administrations at Welch. And they came to celebrate a future that is exciting and promising.”

The celebration began with an academic convocation, which was immediately followed by a ribbon-cutting ceremony. Leaders from the Free Will Baptist denomination, community and governmental leaders, and higher education representatives expressed words of gratitude and commendation, and hymns and songs resonated from the audience, college choir, and alumni choir.

Following a barbeque luncheon under a tent on the quadrangle, guests enjoyed campus tours, a musical concert, children’s activities, and alumni reunions. The day ended with an encore presentation of *The Slipper* and the *Rose* performed by the Welch College Drama Department and Choral Union.

The public phase of the Building on the Legacy campaign was formally announced at the celebration, with the unveiling of the Pave the Way brick campaign. The campaign provides the opportunity for bricks to be purchased and installed at a future time on the Gallatin campus. Bricks are \$250 and can be purchased in memory of, in honor of, or in the donor’s name. More information can be found at [buildingonthelegacy.com](http://buildingonthelegacy.com).

To see videos of the dedication ceremony and events, please visit [welch.edu/dedication](http://welch.edu/dedication).

