



Newsletter

CONNECT CHURCH

Pastor: Dan Smith Reporter: Shirley Brown

Hallelujah, Christ is risen! We celebrated a great Resurrection Day at Connect Church on April 1. The music was uplifting, the message was thought provoking and the egg hunt for the children following the services was successful. The Lord held off the snow until after the children collected their goodies.

I do want to mention the first of our 90-day Outreach events that occurred on March 24th. I had previously reported that we planned to feed 1,000 from the community. Everything was set - the entire village of been canvassed and invitations given at each home the week prior, the food was prepared and abundant, the workers came out in force to work together- and a great lesson was learned. Satan doesn't like what we are trying to do here. The weather was not good and most folks thought a BBQ would be held outside, so attendance was not what we had hoped for. However, we are not daunted - our next 90-day Outreach event will take place in June, and next year if we plan another dinner the invitational will include "no matter what the weather" or words to that effect so folks will still come out!

Back to April. On Sunday, April 8th, we celebrated two baptisms! Again, the worship service was great and the Pastor's message resulted in an altar call response. On the 14th, the church school hold its annual BBQ fundraiser and on Sunday evening April 15th, we will hold a business meeting. We are looking forward to more spring-like weather and anticipating future community outreach events. We'll keep you posted and expect God to continue to do great things here at Connect Church. God is good - all the time.

BENTON CHURCH

Reporter: Barbara Spencer

We can hope it is finally Spring. Flowers are blooming; grass is growing (?). Isn't God wonderful the way he changes the seasons just for us? We want to thank everyone for their prayers as we are searching for a new pastor. God has something planned for us and will show us in his time.

Our thanks to Brother Walter Freeman and family. He has been a blessing to us as he has filled the pulpit a couple times. We have also had Brother Phillip Kennedy and family in services with us two times. We enjoy him and his family. Brother Jim Beatty has filled the pulpit also and will be with us on April 15th and 22nd. We always enjoy Brother Jim as he is well known to our church. We are looking forward to having Rusty Carney and family with us in May. Communion Service was held on Palm Sunday morning with foot washing in the evening Services. The children were given a bag of treats on Easter Sunday. Marci MacDonald and her children church are filling their Operation Christmas Child boxes already by filling 10 per month. They just finished with those for an older age group. We're proud of our younger musicians and how they take part in the services.

Woman's Auxiliary is preparing to attend the State Meeting at Rescue Church and will taking items for the Provision Closet. They held their 30 pieces of silver donations before Easter. Many little bags were filled. Now the church family is taking home the little boxes to fill for the World Mission Offering. Brother Mike Thomas has vowed to pay an extra amount for filled boxes. I always put a check in mine, but he wants weight. The lady who has been living in the parsonage the past months will soon be able to move into her new home across the street from the church. We will be doing some long postponed repairs in the event that our new pastor will want to live there. Remember Gary and Mary Cook, Edith Taylor, and the others on our prayer list as we will be doing the same for others. God bless you all.

WALTONVILLE CHURCH

Pastor: Harold Hungate Reporter: Maxine Hicks

Our church will be in a revival with Brother Curtis Smith May 6th – May 9th. Services begin at 6:00 pm on Sunday night, 7:00 pm on Monday through Wednesday. Our church had a fish fry after church on Sunday, March 25th. We had the Gospel Messengers on April 22nd for an evening service with finger foods served following the service.

PITTSBURG CHURCH

Pastor Eddie Donnelson Pastor: Keith McDannel Reporter: Hollie Utley

Greetings from Pittsburg! Praying every one of you had a blessed Resurrection Sunday!

The weather has been very unpredictable which caused us to cancel our Easter Egg Hunt last month. The kids were able to take home candy-filled eggs on Sunday! God poured out his blessings upon our service on Resurrection Sunday! We were able to pour His love into more than 300 souls for SonRise service and 570 for worship! The men of PFWBC prepared an amazing breakfast for the church, we appreciate their efforts.

As this is being written, we are preparing for a couple events; our AWANA Closing Ceremony/Block Party on April 25 and the Church Closet Giveaway on Saturday, April 28. Praying those events are successful!

This month we will host our annual Women's Banquet. The preparations and final details are being made and we are excited to fellowship with the women of PFWBC and their families. Also, in May, we look forward to our annual Dutch Anderson Memorial Day Fish Fry! The fryers start early and the aroma begins draw in the crowds! We are excited to see God's hand throughout the coming month.

Happy Mother's Day to all of the mothers at our sister churches!

"There are many virtuous and capable women in the world, but you surpass them all! Charm is deceptive, and beauty does not last; but a woman who fears the LORD will be greatly praised." - Proverbs 31:29-30

"There Ain't Nothin' Gonna Steal Our Joy, in 2018" ...and no one can rob you of that joy. - John 16:22

BLUE POINT CHURCH

Pastor: Ernie Lewis Reporter: Suzanne Lewis

Brother Ernie was able to attend the Illinois State Association meeting at the Peace Free Will Baptist Church in Granite City. Brother Ernie and Suzanne attended the East Central quarterly meeting held at the Oak Valley Church in Geff. Some from our church also attended the Emily Malone District meeting at Pleasant View Church and the Welch College Choir presentation at the Calvary Church in Salem.

We recently held our annual Talent Night for Missions. The offering for the evening was split between Shane and Joy Davison in France and Josh and Ashley Bennett in Tifton, Georgia. We enjoyed hosting a baby shower for Christal Waller Lewis who is expecting her first child, a boy, at the end of April. We also hosted a Concealed Carry Weapons Safety class for twenty people. Seven of them were not from Blue Point.

We took a group of teens to Mt. Vernon to see "God's Not Dead" III. Several from Blue Point went to Olney Central College to see a production of "Sister Act". Two of our teens had parts in the musical. Ellie Hill went to Welcome Days at Welch College. Caleb Barnard and Madison recently announced their engagement. They will be married in November.

We had a very large service for Easter Sunday. What a blessing it was. Our newest babies, Brock Byars and Anna Beth and Savannah Endsley have been able to start attending services. Our Sunday school classes' volleyball tournament continues after Sunday evening services.

Long time member Bob Bozarth recently passed away at his home. After his funeral service our ladies served a meal to the family and friends in the Link.

HAZEL DELL CHURCH

Pastor: Larry Clyatt Reporter: Diana Kirk

Hope all are doing well as we anxiously wait on spring to arrive.

We observed The Lord's Supper as part of our morning worship service on March 25th, Palm Sunday. The Sesser-Valier Community service was held on Friday, March 30th at the 1st United Methodist Church in Sesser. Our Easter Services began with a Sunrise Breakfast Service at 6:30 a.m. We enjoyed breakfast, fellowship and a great message by Brother Brian Gibson. Then regular morning services were held at the usual times. Evening service was dismissed to allow time to visit with family members.

The Peppy Calebs met at the church for a noon meal on April 26th. Brother Jim and Sister Peg LeVault hosted with fried chicken as the main course. There were 14 in attendance.

Join us in celebrating Brother Pat Petro's recent decision to accept Christ as his personal Savior. He is the son-in-law of Brother Jim & Sister Peg LeVault.

Brother Jamie Lee and family was with us on April 15th, to share the "progress and plans" for The Bridge Church in Champaign, IL. What a blessing to hear Brother Jamie share his passion to do God's work in that area.

Please continue to pray for our shut-ins: Gearld Hamilton, Frances McNeal, Wilma Cockrum and Helen Galloway.

"Set your affections on things above, not on things on the earth." - Colossians 3:2

HARMONY CHURCH

Pastor: Curtis Smith Reporter: Jennifer Cook

As summer approaches we eagerly await warm, sunny days filled with joy as life around us continues to grow and flourish. I pray the joy unspeakable in our hearts, as we serve, worship, and praise the Lord, will be as bright as the sun shining down on us. The Easter Egg hunt on March 31st at Harmony was cancelled due to the weather, it has been rescheduled for April 21st at 10:30am at Harmony Church. Resurrection Sunday was a glorious and blessed day spent in fellowship, worshiping and glorifying our Savior, Jesus Christ! The Holy Spirit was moving throughout the entire service!

Thank you to Masters' Men for providing and serving breakfast following the Sunrise service! April 3rd Harmony held the monthly Sisters of Strength and Masters' Men meetings and on Thursday April 5th the Crazy Love Bible Study was held at 7pm. Saturday, April 14th at 6pm, Autumn Ridlen and Ladonne McShannon will host a Bible Journaling class. This is a wonderful time of fellowship with one another as we dive into God's word together and grow closer with each other. April 27-28th the CTS Competition will be held at Ina FWBC. Please pray for the young adults who will be participating in the competition. Also, on Saturday, April 28th, the quarterly meeting will be held at Harmony Church beginning at 9am. The church will be providing a meal in the Fellowship Hall. Sunday April 29th is Friend Day Sunday! Bring a friend to Sunday School! If we get 100 people for Sunday School, Bro Jeff Hartwick will get a pie in the face!

The evening of April 29th, Harmony will host a Night of Worship at 6pm. There will be scripture reading along with praise and worship. Please pray that God will open hearts and His name will be lifted up and glorified through these services. Future events coming up: Homecoming on May 6th with Clint Morgan bringing the Word followed by a meal in the Fellowship Hall. The Chosen Ones will be with us in the afternoon and finally Bro. Kevin McNeely of Grange Hall FWBC will close out the service. On Father's Day, June 17th, Harmony Church will host it's annual Church in the Park at West Frankfort City Park beginning at 11am. Please join us in praying for these upcoming events that the Holy Spirit will continue to move and the fires of revival will grow in our hearts and spread like wildfire drawing us deeper into His holy presence! *“Let the words of my mouth and the meditation of my heart be acceptable in Your sight, O LORD, my strength and my Redeemer.” - Psalm 19:14*

JOHNSTON CITY CHURCH

Pastor: Keith Fletcher Reporter: Reba Ritter

Our Palm Sunday morning worship service was the most blessed, spiritual service we've had since I (Reba) rejoined the church in August 2012. We don't have room to tell how glorious it was. Easter was blessed as well with 93 in attendance. Our choir worked hard preparing special music for both services and Palm Sunday involved several of our students in a processional waving palm branches and carrying items related to Christ's death including a large wooden cross.

Between Palm Sunday and Easter (during Johnston City school's spring break), we hosted another community Vacation Bible School. An average of 75 children attended this 3-day VBS, which had the theme "Resurrection Road" and focused entirely on the Gospel message of Christ's death, burial, and resurrection. Over 20 workers, including 7 pastors and volunteers from at least 10 area churches, made this VBS truly a "Kingdom effort."

Our pastor has been encouraging us to become a more "welcoming church" and we have tried to be considerate of our guests by offering them coffee and refreshments before the service, a comfortable place to sit in the foyer, and a free book entitled, "We Want You Here". Dave and Jerri Shoemake have joined our faithful greeter Marsha Snedden welcoming and connecting with new folks. We've also added guest parking, improved signage, and upgraded restrooms with diaper changing stations.

We express our deepest sympathy to Marsha and her family. Her mother, Joyce Snedden, 88, went home to be with the Lord March 26. She, her husband J.R., and their 6 wonderful daughters were so active in our ministry for many years. We rejoice in the wonderful legacy of faith this family is passing down to Joyce's 5 grandchildren and 2 great grandchildren

Looking ahead, JC Kids' Lunch Bunch begins Monday, June 4. A kick-off celebration (community carnival) will be held the Saturday before (June 2), 10:00 am-2:00 pm. We will serve meals Monday-Friday, 11:30 am-12:30 pm August 3. I (Reba) was admitted to the hospital April 10 after being sick 5 months and not knowing why. They told me I have an infection in my right leg, and my ongoing problem has a big name but has something to do with my stomach. I returned to Integriety April 12 and am doing well for someone 94 years young!

“The grace of our Lord Jesus Christ be with you all. Amen” - 2 Thessalonians 3:18

Happy Mother's Day!

THE BRIDGE CHURCH

Pastor: Jamie Lee

Greetings. We pray you all are doing great. We have had some pretty exciting movement over the past couple months. In the month of March we have ended up adding four more people to our launch team. We now have 10 people who are on our team and we have several who are helping us. Please continue to pray for us as we continue to develop the launch Team.

We spent a majority of our time in March preparing for Easter Service, so if I were just to report on March - there isn't much to say. Therefore I want to report on our first preview service which was on Easter. We were inviting people to our Easter Service up until the day of April 1. The week of Easter kicked off with an interview with the local newspaper, who then wrote and published a very nice article on The Bridge Church.

With all the prayers and the work that went forth, we had over 70 attend our Easter Service. We had 47+ adults in the Worship service and 23 in our children's ministry, workers and kids. Our theme for our Easter Service was Rethink Easter. The seed of the gospel was preached and planted. It was truly a very blessed day.

God gave us something to build on and something to look forward to in the future. Our next event will be a picnic on April 22nd.

ARNOLD VIEW CHURCH

Pastor: Ivan Ryan Reporter: Buddy Parks

Average Sunday School attendance during March was 81. Braden Hankey was baptized on March 11. Our delayed Valentine Banquet was held that evening. After the meal, we enjoyed rounds of Family Feud. Pastor Ivan Ryan attended the State Association Meeting at Peace Church in Granite City. "The Comeback", by Louie Giglio is the name of our new Wednesday evening Bible Study that Barb Richey is teaching. Our Sunday evening service on March 25 was dismissed for the FCA Palm Sunday Service at Crab Orchard School.

A group from our church attended the FCA Banquet at Carbondale. Bethel University football coaches Steve Johnson and Mike McElroy were the featured speakers. We had a large crowd at our Easter Sunrise Service. Pastor Ivan Ryan shared a devotion. Tony Loyd and Barb Richey sang specials, and our youth group had a blacklight presentation. Breakfast was provided by the Young at Heart Class. Josh and Cassie McKinney joined our church on Easter. *"Fight the good fight of faith, lay hold on eternal life, whereunto thou art also called, and hast professed a good profession before many witnesses."* - Timothy 6:12

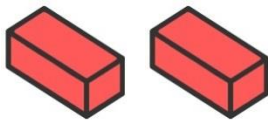
NEW HOPE CHURCH

Pastor: Craig Smith Reporter: Jackie Capps

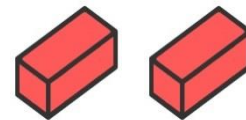
We are pleased to announce another newborn in our congregation. Jovie Lynn Capps was born on February 19th. Her parents are Josh and Erica Capps.

March 18 - 23 our church held a revival. Those bringing the message were: Sunday - Rodney Mellott; Monday through Wednesday - George Musgrave; and Thursday and Friday - Curtis Smith.

Our annual Easter Sunrise service and breakfast was held. Eighty-nine attended the worship service. A Sunday evening service was also held. *"Pray without ceasing."* - I Thessalonians 5:17



WELCH COLLEGE
"1000 Bricks by June"



"HELP PAVE THE WAY"

Order a personalized brick for \$250 to line the sidewalks at Welch College!

Purchase a brick "In Memory" of a family member or friend.

Place one "In Honor" of a teacher, pastor or someone who has impacted your life.

Show your support for the school by having a brick with your name or group's name on our campus.

We want 1000 bricks by the first of June so we can have them in place by September.

Order at: www.bricksus.com/donorsite/WelchCollege.

**ILLINOIS WOMEN ACTIVE FOR CHRIST
RESCUE CHURCH
SATURDAY, MAY 5**



RUSTY and BRENDA CARNEY
Missionaries to Japan

THEME: THE DOUBLE BLESSING

Towel Sets – solid colors except blue, Sheets – Twin, Full, Queen (300+ thread count), Mattress Pads – Twin, Blankets – Twin and Full, Crock Pots – 4 quart or larger, Flatware – durable and at least 12 place settings, Cookie Sheets, Muffin Tins, Gift cards

Provision Closet Shower

The Rescue Church is located
near Whittington, Illinois

The meeting begins at 9:00 am
Brunch will be served at 10:30
Worship Service after Brunch



Address: 90 Stanley Lane | Greeneville, TN | 37743
Phone: 423.639.9449 | E-mail: info@fwbfm.com | Website: fwbfm.com

Dear Friends in Christ,

Considering that every year, thousands of families are involved in the tragedy of abuse and neglect, breaking apart the very essence of family, leaving in its path heartache and misery;

Considering.....that the majority of the victims of a broken family are the CHILDREN, what would you invest to stop the hurt of those children, ending the hollow emptiness they feel in their heart?

Considering.....that Free Will Baptist Family Ministries is here to protect families, children and their futures, what would you give to secure the success of help for hurting families?

Considering.....that you will search your heart in responding to our **ANNUAL MOTHER'S DAY OFFERING**, please accept our sincere gratitude for your prayerful consideration of this special appeal. Through our Tennessee and Arkansas foster care ministries, we are meeting the daily needs of nearly 135 youth. Your gifts help ensure that each child in our care has everything that your mother would want for you; warmth, security and a healthy family environment.

In Christ, Rev. Frank Woods Executive Director

MOUNT VERNON CHURCH

Pastor: David Shores Youth Minister: Phillip Kennedy

Brother Phillip took a group of teens to Welcome Days at Welch College. The teens meet each week on Tuesday evening and the children have their special service on Wednesday evenings. Also, on Wednesdays, the adults, led by Brother David, have been doing a study in the book of Genesis. We also have a small group which meets for prayer on Thursday morning.

Our church kitchen is being enlarged and we are installing new cabinets, lighting and appliances. New flooring is to be installed with hopes that everything will be completed by Homecoming Day in June. Brother Phillip had the privilege of baptizing his son, Joshua on a recent Sunday morning. Please remember us as we pray for revival.

OR CURRENT RESIDENT

Happy Mother's Day!

*Note to Church Reporters: News items for the June issue of the Newsletter must be submitted by May 15th.
Send all correspondence to David Shores: davids@myfreewillbaptist.org.*

CAMP HOPE WORK PROJECTS



The camp needs a number of workers to help complete the projects going on there before the 2018 Summer Camp program begins. You may work on any given day, and work the number of hours you determine for yourself.

Workers are needed to help complete the remodeling of the Caretaker's Home, yard work and mowing, clean-up of the buildings, completion of the Girl's Dorm bathroom/shower rooms, and several other projects.

A few men have been volunteering all Fall and Winter, and now churches need to send in people who can help them finish it up.

The work has been slowed because of the cold, rainy season we have experienced. To get specific details on the jobs, you may contact these men who can update you on each project, and schedule a time for you or your church group to come and share your skills:

Tom Harmon: 618-534-5248

Brad Ryan: 618-316-4123

Jason Janus: 618-439-1120

Bryant Harris: 618-218-2844

Share the need with your church and send some volunteers!

