



# Newsletter

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## **BLUE POINT CHURCH**

**Pastor: Ernie Lewis Reporter: Suzanne Lewis**

Our Annual Ladies Banquet was held on a Saturday evening in April. Salt and Strings out of Louisville catered the delicious meal with an abundance of food. Melissa Garrison of Fairfield was the speaker. On Mother's Day all mothers present were given a round of applause and were given a small gift at the conclusion of the service. The family of long time member Eileen Krutsinger hosted a 90th birthday party for her in the Link. Many church people, friends, and family were able to attend.

On a recent Sunday morning Jamie Lee spoke to us about the Bridge Church plant in Champaign. He also preached the morning message. On another Sunday Larry Ohms of the Calvary Church filled in for both services during Brother Ernie's absence. Brother Ernie and Suzanne had made a trip to Georgia to see their newest granddaughter, Harper Azalea Bennett, daughter of Josh and Ashley Bennett (church planters in Tifton).

Our two CTS competitors Noah and Ellie Hill both presented musical numbers at competition at Ina. Brother Ernie moderated the Bible portion of the competition and Suzanne served as a judge. Paul and Kim Hill also attended the competition to watch their kids.

We want to congratulate our 2018 graduates. Chynna Byars received her degree at Missouri Valley College and Meghan Byars finished at St. Louis College of Pharmacy. Madison Smith finished the phlebotomy program at Frontier College in Fairfield. Our high school graduates include Harrison Walker, Rebecca Smith, Jordan Hosick, Sam Robertson, Noah Hill, Natalie Dillon, and Blake Atwood.

## **BEAR POINT CHURCH**

**Pastor: Larry Cook Reporter: Lana Travelstead-Eubanks**

Well, Spring has finally sprung...and sent us straight from heaters to air conditioners all in one month. But God is great and knows our needs and blesses us in His time.

The past month has been very busy for us with many events blessings and needs. We would like to congratulate to Jeff and Megan Melvin on birth of James Lee Blair on April 16th.

On April 21st and 23rd we sent a group and supplies to Love Packages. Christian Literature, Bibles and lesson materials are sorted, repackaged and sent all over the world where the needs are great and we truly thank all of those who participated and pray people are reached and needs are met.

The youth did very well at state CTS competition. The competition was high and we are very fortunate to have several going on to Nationals. The Lord has blessed us with many smart and talented young people. Congratulations to all who qualified.

On April 29th, there was a special prayer during the morning service for U. S. Marine recruit, Kenny Eubanks and his family. He shipped out to boot camp on April 30th. Continued prayers for his strength and courage are appreciated, as this is an especially stressful 13 weeks for these young men and their families.

Also, on April 29th, we had a Spaghetti luncheon for youth for a fundraiser.

May 5th saw three teams in the youth fishing tournament at Camp Hope and all had a good time.

Linda Cook and Jean Ann Armes attended state WAC meeting at Rescue Baptist Church on May 5 and took items collected for the provision closet which is greatly appreciated.

On Mother's Day, the Church presented each lady a gift along with taking portraits of mothers and their family which was very special and greatly appreciated. Gifts were also given out to the youngest, oldest and mother with the most family present.

The Bear Point family would like to express our deepest sympathies and offer prayers for the family of Diane Burroughs who passed away, and the family of Al Acosta who passed away in April. May the Lord comfort these special families. It seems the needs in our Church and community are many and we pray for God's grace and to fulfill the needs as to his Will and to Him be the Glory.

## **JOHNSTON CITY CHURCH**

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

On April 22, while our pastor and his wife were out of town, our deacons led a testimony service. Some folks shared songs, readings, original poems, and of course, testimonies of God's work in their lives.

We received our World Missions Offering Sunday morning, April 29. That evening, about 75 from various churches in Johnston City gathered for the Fifth Sunday Night Sing at the First United Methodist Church. A fellowship time with finger foods followed the service.

Our church hosted an appreciation banquet for local fire fighters, police, and EMTs Thursday, May 3. This was the second First Responder Appreciation Dinner organized by Johnston City Ministerial Alliance on the National Day of Prayer. About a dozen first responders and family members attended, and we sent carry-outs back to the fire station for five fire fighters who were at training that evening.

We honored all our women on Mother's Day by giving each a carnation. Cheryl Hammontree, the mother who had the most children present in the service, and Laverne Stroud, who had the most children and grandchildren (four generations) present, received beautiful crystal bells.

Our women's ministry meeting and men's fellowship will be held Sunday night, May 20. After we enjoy the meal together, we will separate for our respective meetings. The theme for the evening is May Flowers. "May we see flowers, not weeds." Folks have been instructed to bring foods made with FLOUR.

JC Kids' Lunch Bunch begins Monday, June 4. The kick-off celebration (a community carnival) will be held Saturday, June 2, 10:00 am - 2:00 pm on our church parking lot. We will serve meals Monday-Friday, 11:30 am – 12:30 pm until August 3.

*"And do not be conformed to this world, but be transformed by the renewing of your mind, that you may prove what is that good and acceptable and perfect will of God." - Romans 12:2*

## **RESCUE CHURCH**

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

Hello from Rescue Church. I hope everyone is enjoying this beautiful spring. We have all our rakes and shovels in order for all the lovely things God has allowed us to have.

March Events: State Meeting at Granite City, filling Easter eggs, WAC meeting at Kathy Lingle's house, Sunrise Service with breakfast following.

April Events: Business meeting, special music from the youth choir, Todd Poe treated everyone to a fish fry, WAC meeting at Kathy Lingles, Rend Lake District Meeting at Bear Point.

On Dessert Sunday the best comes forward. Brother Florentine Clipa was the speaker with all proceeds going to the new building. State WAC Meeting at Rescue Church on May 6

On Tuesday, May 8 we had Tuesday School graduation for 36 children. The program was dedicated to the beloved, late Mrs. Venita Kern. The Tuesday School staff wishes to thank all who made this past year a success, and to Miss Melinda Squires and Miss Rita Lynn, the Church appreciates your dedicated care to the children and certainly all the staff.

Another fishing tournament with first place going to Judd Hicks and Zane Harmon, second place to Eva Harmon. Blessings come in many ways. We had a lot here for Sunday dinner and our grandson Pokey showed us a picture of Brother Bryant and his fish. It was very hard to see, but if you stared long enough you could see the fish. Everyone had a very good laugh. I believe that God's love happiness and love makes us grow in his love.

Keep Xander Walker in your prayers. He had leg surgery at Shriners Hospital in St. Louis and is now doing very good. Keep Erma Lee Conner in your prayers. This wonderful friend, not only to Ted and I, but to everyone at Rescue Church just lost her second daughter, Ruth Kirk. Our condolences to all the family with their great loss. All our love Erma Lee, we miss you at church.

## **ARNOLD VIEW CHURCH**

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

Average Sunday School attendance during April was 89. Don Grisham, 85, passed away on March 31. Jim Fosse, 68, passed away on May 1. He was a cousin to Robbie Dwyer. Dorothy Smith, 88, passed away on May 2 in Fayette, Alabama. She was Diane Ryan's mother. Condolences to these families.

Greg Walker brought the evening worship message on April 8. The Women Active for Christ meeting was held on April 11. Linda Eason's Celebration of Life Dinner was held in our gym on April 22. Brother Florentine Clipa also shared about World Vision Romania on April 22. Our CTS Youth and Workers shared during our service that evening. Very talented group!

*(Continued on Page 3)*

(Arnold View Church continued from Page )

Our CTS group did an outstanding job of representing our church at State Competition at Ina.

Arnold View's delegates at the South Central District Meeting at Harmony on April 28 were Larry and Karen Jones and Joyce Owens. Our Fifth Sunday Song Service was a blessing. We have been viewing selected scenes from The Andy Griffith Show and applying Biblical principles to them during our recent Wednesday Evening Bible Study.

*"That you would walk worthy of God, who hath called you unto his kingdom and glory." - 1 Thessalonians 2:12*

## **HAZEL DELL CHURCH**

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

Greetings from the Hazel Dell Family.

April 22<sup>nd</sup> was a day of rejoicing as Brother Pat Petro followed the Lord in Baptism. Congratulations and prayers for Brother Pat on this wonderful decision. Also, we want to be sure to pray for God's healing for Brother Pat as he recovers from his recent open heart surgery. God Is Good!

The Peppy Calebs met at the church on Thursday, April 26<sup>th</sup> for their monthly luncheon. There were 12 in attendance. Thank you to Brother Larry and Sister Len Jones for providing the main course for the meal.

We want to thank all those from the church that gave so generously toward the World Missions Offering 2018.

The Men's Prayer Group met for their monthly breakfast and devotion on Sunday, May 6<sup>th</sup>.

Brother Larry recognized the mothers for Mother's Day. He then delivered a very good message entitled, "A Pattern for Mothers". The Men's Group gave all the mothers a pen in celebration of the special day.

It was a blessing to have Jessalyn Eubanks with us on Mother's Day. She has just completed her first year at Welch Bible College. Brother Larry and the deacons joined Jessalyn and her family at the front of the auditorium as they offered a special prayer for Jessalyn and her team who will be traveling to Brazil as their mission's work this month. We are excited for her and can't wait to hear about her experiences when she returns.

Congratulations, best wishes and prayers for all the 2018 graduates. We will share a list of our graduates in next month's newsletter.

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

*"Except the Lord build the house, they labor in vain that build it..." - Psalms 127:1*

## **FIRST CHURCH - BENTON**

**Reporter: Barbara Spencer**

This is the day that the Lord hath made - we should rejoice every minute that He gave us. We at Benton Church are doing that every time we have had a special speaker during our search for a new pastor. We want to thank Brother David Milburn for filling the pulpit for a couple Sundays. He touched all of us.

We had Brother Phillip Kennedy on Mother's Day and his sermon gave all of us an insight of how important a mother's love is in our lives. The Deacon's wives gifted each lady present with an orchid tote bag with the inscription that read, "The Lord delights in you (Isaiah 62-4)". On a note of irony, even a bird knows our church is a sanctuary. A mother killdeer made her nest on the driveway with 3 eggs. She was very protective - as was the apparent spouse. The nest is in the no parking zone next to the walk.

Darline Zimmerman, Barbara Spencer, and Darlene Baumgarten attended the Illinois WAC meeting at Rescue Church. The theme was "A Double Portion", and truly that much was poured out that day. Many gifts were brought for the Provision Closet as well as money cards. This is done once a year to aid the closet in providing for missionaries and others. We had a beautiful song from Andrea Harris, and were led in other songs that fitted the theme. The speakers Rusty and Brenda Carney are always a blessing and they had got home from Oklahoma at 2 a.m., but their messages on double portions touched each one there. Board Members were seated and Amy Johnston is the new president as Susan Burgess was stepping down.

On May 20, a young man with the last name Pugh whose family is well recognized in Illinois, will fill the pulpit and on May 27, Rusty and Brenda Carney will be with us. On June 10, we will celebrate our 47th anniversary with the Victory Boys. We still have many on our prayer list - and we'll pray for your list as you pray for ours.

**Homecoming: Mt Vernon Church - June 3<sup>rd</sup>** Abundance Quartet singing at 9:30am  
Trevor Johnston preaching at 10:30 am Lunch served at Noon

**2018 State CTS Winners      April 27 – 28, 2018**

Category	Age Group	Winner	2 <sup>nd</sup> Place	Church
Bible Mem.	A – Kinder.	Jaxon Hollis		Bear Point
	A – Kinder.		Xander Bunton	Ina
	A – 1 <sup>st</sup> Grade	Olivia Johnson		Ina
Sword Drill	B – 4 <sup>th</sup> Grade	Joshua Lewis		Northwest
Bible Millionaire	B – 4 <sup>th</sup> , 5 <sup>th</sup> , 6 <sup>th</sup> Grades	Arnold View – Team A		Arnold View
		Arnold View – Team B		Arnold View
Bible Tic Tac Toe	C – 7 <sup>th</sup> , 8 <sup>th</sup> , 9 <sup>th</sup> Grades			Calvary
Vocal Solo	A	Alicen Janus		Ina
	B	Molly Hicks***		Ina
	C – Female	Josie Tanner		Arnold View
	D – Female	Ellie Hill		Blue Point
	D – Male	Ben Barcroft		Calvary
Vocal Duets	A	Phoebe Bunton/ Alicen Janus		Ina
	B	Jewel Patterson/ Ellie Hicks		Ina
Vocal Trios	D	Harmony Duet		Harmony
	B	Trey Mygatt, Molly Hicks, Gwen Janus		Ina
Vocal Quartets	A			Ina
	B			Ina
Vocal Ensembles	A			Ina
	B			Arnold View
	D			Ina
Vocal Choirs	C			Ina
Woodwinds	B	Skye Mausey		Arnold View
Bowed Strings	D	Josh Jean		Arnold View
Plucked Strings	D	Josh Jean		Arnold View
Keyboard Solo	B	Allie Jane Dwyer		Arnold View
	C	Stephen Lewis		Northwest
Christian Lit.	C	Emily Walker		Harmony
Recitation				
Human Video	D	Shine		Ina
Ind. Drama	D	Jessica Porter		Calvary
Group Drama	A			Ina
	B			Ina
	C			Ina
	D			Decatur 1 <sup>st</sup>
Recorded Puppetry	A			Ina
	B			Ina
	C			Ina
Painting	A	Alba Newbury		Bear Point
	B	Lilian Dunaway		Calvary
	C	Faith Treat		Arnold View
Drawing	B	Lucy Dwyer		Arnold View
	C	Seth Ulrey		Calvary
	D	Carly Madrid		Harmony

Mixed Media	B	Lucy Dwyer	Arnold View
	D	Ashten Winter	Decatur 1 <sup>st</sup>
T – Shirt Design	A	Phoebe Bunton	Ina
	B	Skye Mausey	Arnold View
Single Photo	A	Mila Orrill	Arnold View
	B	Brayden Hankey	Arnold View
	C	Katie Mygatt	Bear Point
Photo Essay	B	Layla Newbury	Bear Point
	C	Josie Tanner	Arnold View
Photo Essay	D	Lauren Mygatt	Bear Point
Sculpted Clay	B	Skye Mausey	Arnold View
Conceptual Art	B	Jack Laughlin	Ina
	C	Katie Mygatt	Bear Point
	D	Cayle Fauke	Decatur 1 <sup>st</sup>

\*\*\* Will not be attending Nationals in this category. Will be replaced by Layla Newbury, Bear Point.

The following entries are submitted directly to Nationals.

Short Article	C	Faith Treat	Arnold View
Long Article	D	Sophie Laughlin	Ina
Personal Exp. Essay	D	Lauren Mygatt	Bear Point
Interview	C	Katie Mygatt	Bear Point
Original Script	B	Trever Confer	Bear Point
Devotion	D	Maddie Kate Hollis	Bear Point
	D	Kennady Thompson	Arnold View
Infomercial	C		Arnold View
Bible Truth Quest	C	Stephen Lewis	Northwest

## PITTSBURG CHURCH

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

Summer is so close and we are gearing up for a warm and busy time!

This past month, our AWANA program came to a close with our commencement ceremony and block party. The kids and workers were recognized for their achievements, dinner was served and fun was had on the inflatables! Our summer program on Wednesday evenings for the kids has begun and we have had a good turnout so far.

For Mother's Day, our mothers were gifted a beautiful carnation flower this year! Also, the women of PFWBC hosted the yearly Women's Banquet, Friday, May 11. They had a lovely time, laughing, eating and sharing together as always! As this is being prepared, we are planning for our annual Dutch Anderson Memorial Day Fish Fry event on Sunday, May 27! We are praying for a wonderful turnout and fellowship with all!

VBS preparations are already underway here at PFWBC. The decorating committee has been working hard since March to make this year's decor awesome! We can't wait until July is here! (VBS July 16-20)

The annual Men's breakfast will be held this month on Saturday, June 16 at Cracker Barrel in Marion in honor of Father's Day. This is a favorite amongst many of the men!

Praying everyone has a great start to the summer and **Happy Father's Day** to all the fathers!

*"Blessed is the man who fears the Lord, who delights greatly in His commandments.*

*His descendants will be mighty on earth; the generation of the upright will be blessed."* - Psalm 112:1-2 (NKJV)

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

**OR CURRENT RESIDENT**

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

### **A LETTER FROM DARREN AND DANA PORTELL**

#### **Serving at Morrison Academy in Taipei, Taiwan**

We only have 4 more weeks on our island before we return to the US for a few weeks this summer! May is always the craziest month! Our sweet littles celebrated birthdays in April! They are counting the days until they see their big sister and grandparents and cousins; they are so excited! McGwire graduates June 1 and we jump on the plane headed to the states on June 3. He has decided to attend Trevecca Nazarene University in the Fall with his sister. He will serve on Eteam Cuba in June (just days after we arrive), then July will be all about adjusting to life in the US. McKenna has wrapped up her 3rd year at Trevecca and heads into her senior year and student teaching now. She has two more PRAXIS tests coming in May/June. Thank you for partnering with us! We appreciate you!

Please join us in prayer for: • Our outreach to 9th graders, pray for the time we spent together on May 6 to have an impact • Finishing strong in May and our crazy exit June 3 and re-entry • McGwire's adjustment to life in the US especially learning to drive a car • Family transitions that will happen at the end of summer when we return to Taiwan as a family of 4 • McKenna's two PRAXIS tests. She has test anxiety so these are stressful for her and she must pass them to be able to student teach next Spring to complete her degree.

How can I pray for you? Send me a message to let me know please. Can I just say how thankful we are for your prayers over us? I always have a visual of Aaron and Hur standing holding up the arms of a weary Moses so the Israelites can win the battle when I think of your partnership. Thank you!

**REMEMBER TO HONOR YOUR FATHER ON FATHER'S DAY – JUNE 17**

