



Illinois Free Will Baptist

November 2018

Newsletter

ALEXANDER CHURCH

Pastor: Dr. Sam Ramdial Reporter: Tiffany Schultz

Exciting things are happening at Alexander Free Will Baptist Church. In August, we joined forces with the Olive Branch Methodist Church to host a Back to School Bash. Seventy-seven students were blessed with backpacks filled with school supplies to start the new school year and were given a bible to carry with them daily to school. After they filled their new backpacks they played on the bouncy house and playground equipment as well as being able to catch up with their friends. There were well over 200 people that attended the Back to School Bash and all went home with their bellies full of fish. Pastor Brent Gordon from the Olive Branch Methodist Church gave the devotion to everyone in attendance so they could hear about God's love and grace. To end the exciting evening the children had a water balloon fight with over 1000 balloons. Next year we plan to join forces with a couple of other churches and make it even bigger and better to spread God's love.

Our church is also encountering a face lift for the sanctuary. We are replacing the ceiling, carpet, pews, and beam across the ceiling. We project to be back in the sanctuary in time for our 2nd Annual Friends and Family Day. We will have a Southern Gospel singing group, The Clark Family, worship service, and of course end with a Thanksgiving type of meal. We invite all to come join us for our Friends and Family Day service on November 18th to see our newly remodeled sanctuary, to worship and praise God and converse with us.

CONNECT CHURCH

Pastor: Dan Smith Reporter: Shirley Brown

Hello Sister Churches from South Roxana! Fall is here, and the holidays are not far off. September 30th we held our quarterly business meeting, end-of-month Sing-A-Long, and fellowship. We are continuing our Fish Fry Fridays until October 28th. The proceeds will help defray the cost of surveillance cameras for the Church and the School.

Our Connect 2 Missions group will meet on October 8th, with potluck dinner at 5:30 p.m. followed at 6:30 p.m. by the regular monthly meeting. On October 11th our School Principal, Bro. Greg Gomez III, will be leaving for Bangladesh on mission. Please keep him and his companions in your prayers for safe travel and security while in that country.

On October 13th our Men's Breakfast will be held, and Sister Rose Evans graciously prepares the food for these monthly meetings.

Don't forget your Pastor during October; Pastor Appreciation Day is October 14th. It is our chance to let our Pastors and their Wives know how much we love and appreciate them and all they do - actually, we should do this all year long - not just in October!!

Connect Christian School is entering a contest held by Vantage Credit Union. If we are a winner, our School could be awarded as much as \$2,000! On November 2nd, Bro. and Sister Lievers will be holding their 30th Annual Hayride and Bon Fire and all are invited to join them at their place in Worden. It's Christmas Shoe Box time again, and boxes are to be turned in by November 5th. This is a project of Samaritan's Purse, and is a very worthy cause. The School will be holding its Fall Trivia Night on November 10th. We are praying for a great turn-out. Have a wonderful Thanksgiving, everyone.

"O, give thanks unto the Lord, for He is good: because His mercy endureth forever." - Psalm 118:1



HAPPY THANKSGIVING

NOVEMBER 22, 2018

"I will offer to thee the sacrifice of thanksgiving, and will call upon the name of the LORD." - Psalm 116:17



BENTON CHURCH

Pastor: Phillip Kennedy Reporter: Barbara Spencer

Fall is here! The colors are beautiful and the trees and animals know when the seasons are changing.

Thank you Pastor Phillip and family, excitement is felt, on September 8th a Family day was held for the neighborhood. Several went from door to door passing out pamphlets and flyers. Everything was free for the event. We had bounce houses, games, a cup cake walk and many door prizes. We had one family to return to church and we look for many more.

Our WAC prepared wound kits which were taken to the State WAC Retreat. Those attending the meeting were Darlene Z, Darlene B, Jackie K and her mother, Barbara S.

Pastor Phillip and several men from our church attended the Master's Men Retreat.

Please pray for Mary and Gary Cook, Edith Taylor, the Legendres in the loss of their brother-in-law. Barb Spencer thanks all for their prayers, care and visits while she has been out with a slight stroke. The Wednesday night youth visited Mrs. Barb at Helia.

RESCUE CHURCH

Pastor: Bryant Harris Reporter: Donna Harmon

Happy Thanksgiving from Rescue. Are you ready: slow but sure, here comes winter! Anne Sink and I decided to have our annual biblical scavenger hunt for our classes. The kids had fun and learned that everything we have relates to the scriptures in the Bible. The hardest thing to find in the Bible was the gourds and the easiest was the dogwood tree. According to legend, the dogwood tree once grew as a tall straight tree, but when the dogwood was used to make the cross, Jesus was so moved that He promised the tree would never again grow large enough to be used for such a purpose. It is said that the bracts of the dogwood flower resemble the cross and bear nail marks of the crucifixion. The red leaves in the fall have been associated with the Savior's blood on Calvary.

September: the month for Master's Men Retreat, our Dessert Sunday proceeds went to missions, and the WAC Retreat had Elizabeth Hodges and Sarah Malone as speakers.

October: Tuesday School enjoyed a fall break and the WAC meeting was held at the home of Jane Harmon.

A special "Thank You!" to all the veterans who have served our country, and to all those who are now serving. We thank you so much for the freedom we enjoy. God bless all of you!

THE BRIDGE CHURCH

Pastor: Jamie Lee

September 12 2015 I was in Friendswood TX at a retreat. One of the best spiritual experiences of my life. As I sat there knowing at any moment God would make it clear to me on our next step, He made it clear to me to plant the Bridge Church in Champaign. Three years later on September 16, 2018 the Bridge Church would have our grand opening. It was a day or better described as a weekend of celebration. We had several family and friends drive in from Ohio, Kentucky, Tennessee, and Southern Illinois. Right before we went to bed on Saturday, Heather and I talked about this is what the past three years have been all about leading up to the morning.

I woke up about 5:30 on Sunday still trying to wrap my mind around the big day. I headed to the theater, shortly after, our team showed up and we began to set everything up. On that day, God didn't disappoint. It is our prayer 52 people come to know Christ in our first year and two people accepted Him. God continues to show us it was never about us, it is always about Him. It was tempting on Sunday to talk about the changes we needed to make instead of celebrating, but we made our minds up to celebrate what God did.

Thank you for your prayer and financial support. We couldn't do this without the state of Illinois and we are very grateful. You are true partners in what God is doing in Champaign!

ARNOLD VIEW CHURCH

Pastor: Ivan Ryan Reporter: Buddy Parks

Average Sunday School attendance during September was 86. Congratulations to Robby and Katie Stokes on the birth of Amelia Kate Stokes on August 30. Some from our church attended Adult Camp Meeting services. The Women Active for Christ meeting was held on September 12. Some members attended the State Women's Retreat at Camp Hope. A group from our church attended Faith & Family Night at SIU. The Salukis lost to SEMO, 48-44. Adam Brown brought a challenging message at our evening worship service on September 16. A Youth Connect Fellowship followed. Adam Brown is leading a Wednesday Bible Study on Prayer. Jeff Spicer, 53, died on September 16. Condolences to this family. Our 5th Sunday Song Service on September 30 was a blessing. An Egg Hunt was held on October 3 for those in Children's Church and Junior Church.

"What shall I render unto the Lord for all his benefits toward me?" - Psalm 116:12

BLUE POINT CHURCH

Pastor: Ernie Lewis Reporter: Suzanne Lewis

Our 2nd Annual “We Care We Share” was a big success. It was such a blessing to offer free clothes, household items, haircuts, lunch, and family photos to all the families that came.

We also enjoyed our 45th Annual Chili and Chowder. Both soups were delicious. The hot weather moved the meal inside our gym.

Several ladies traveled to Effingham to hear the Southern Illinois Homecoming Choir. Suzanne Lewis was able to attend the Ladies Retreat at Camp Hope. Brother Ernie and Suzanne enjoyed traveling to Salem to see Kathy Hayes in the play “Nine to Five”. Brother Ernie represented Blue Point at the quarterly meeting held at Calvary Church in Salem. Brother Jamie Lee was the guest speaker.

The teens went on their annual hiking trip to the Shawnee Forest. They hiked at Garden of the Gods and Rim Rock, explored Cave-in-Rock, ate a picnic lunch on the bluff, and enjoyed a ferry ride across the Ohio River. A few of our teens and adult chaperone, Kara Taylor, enjoyed the Sadie Robertson concert in Evansville

The singing group, “The McKay Project”, sang at our 121st Anniversary Homecoming Service. They also played a variety of musical instruments. Vickie Neuman sang two songs and played the piano. Also a local quartet composed of Brooke Byars, Connie McGrew, Beth Hilliard, and Kim Cook sang a special that morning. Larry Cook, who was raised attending Blue Point Church, was our guest speaker. A delicious lunch in the beautifully decorated Link was enjoyed after the service.

PITTSBURG CHURCH

Pastors: Eddie Donelson and Keith McDannel Reporter: Heather Phillips

Can you believe October is already over?! The leaves have changed and the cooler temperatures are finally here. October is always a busy month at PFWBC. We had a great time celebrating our 111th Homecoming with a wonderful worship service and message by Todd Greiner, author of *Miracle Man*, 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! Our evening services were dismissed to allow time with family. Such a great day or worshipping the Father and fellowshiping with our brothers and sisters in Christ.

As this is being written, we are preparing for a few events to finish out the month of October and start to November: Pastor Recognition Sunday, our Fall Family Festival and our Annual Church Closet Giveaway. The Church Closet Giveaway will be held November 3 from 7am – noon in our Life Center. Everyone is invited!! There will be clothing, furniture, toys, and household items...all FREE! I will have updates on these events 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 is looking forward to the Thanksgiving holiday. Thanksgiving is a wonderful time to gather with family and friends and reflect on the blessings of the last year!

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

THE ILLINI INITIATIVE

Missions Pastor: Tyler Penn

This week the weather has changed from being near 90 degrees to the lows in the 30’s. I tell my students that Illinois weather is like this. If you don’t like it just wait a day and it will change. Change is our routine. Every year the people we serve and reach out to changes. We may do the same events each year like a cookout, a trip to the apple orchard, or Thanksgiving dinner, but these events even change, simply because the people do. There is a constant though among all these changing students and that is that they do not know Jesus. We continue to build relationships to meet needs to have conversations of faith.

We have loved being a part of the starting of the Bridge FWB Church. I teach 7-10 year olds on Sunday mornings. They are keeping me on my toes. We are so excited to have such a good group of people who are working together to build a church here. One of the best parts of the church so far on our end is having some of our students attend. We have one Chinese student who is a mother of baby and she loves coming and dropping off her son in the nursery. We are looking forward to seeing how God uses this group of believers for His glory.

I am grateful that my family and I get to serve and reach out to international students here at the University of Illinois. I am so thankful for all the people who help make that possible and for the churches that continually support us. Thank you so much!!

HAZEL DELL CHURCH

Pastor: Larry Clyatt Reporter: Diana Kirk

Happy Fall Everyone!!

The Peppy Calebs met at Bonnie Café in West Frankfort for their monthly gathering on September 27th. There were 14 in attendance. A good time of food and fellowship was enjoyed by all.

The Men's Prayer Breakfast group met for their monthly meeting on Sunday, Oct. 7th. There were 9 in attendance. Brother Brian Gibson delivered the morning devotion.

As you drive by the church you will notice a new LED sign in the front of the church. Brother David Harrison and Brother Denny Dial have been very diligent in getting the sign in place and working properly. We thank them for their time and effort in the completion of this project.

A special prayer time was held for Emily Bulla and her family on the morning of Sunday, Oct. 14th. Emily is leaving this week for the Army National Guard. God bless Emily and her family as she begins this new chapter of her life.

Our Homecoming service on Sunday, October 14th was a great blessing as we celebrated 104 years of ministry. The Peyton Sisters delivered the special music for the service. It is such a blessing to see these young girls using their talents for the Lord. Our speaker for the service was Brother Ron Helms, son of former Pastor Robert Helms. Brother Ron has been pastoring for the past 27 years at the Southgate FWB Church in Southgate, Michigan. It was such a blessing to have him back with us for this special day. He is also staying over to preach at our revival services October 15-17. We thank the Lord for allowing Brother Helms the time to be present with us for all these services.

"Nevertheless he left not himself without witness, in that he did good, and gave us rain from heaven, and fruitful seasons, filling our hearts with food and gladness." - Acts 14:17

HARMONY CHURCH

Pastor: Curtis Smith Reporter: Jennifer Cook

Praise the LORD! God has been so very good to us! Harmony just wrapped up our fall revival which ran from September 30th through October 12th! Each night saw an ever increasing outpouring of the Holy Spirit. We are so thankful to all the pastors who came and lifted up God's truth to our congregation. Praise to our Savior and Lord Jesus Christ! Please join me in praying for the fires of revival to continue within each one of us! Sisters of Strength and Masters Men did not meet in October but will be back on schedule for November.

Brother Jim Thompson, a beloved part of our Harmony family, passed away on October 11th. He was laid to rest on Sunday, October 14th. He was part of our family for 63 years, served as song leader, Sunday school teacher and trustee for many years. His love for life was contagious; he had such a loving spirit and shared God's love with all those who crossed his path. His loss is felt deeply by all those who knew and loved him. His desire was to be the "keeper of the gate" so he could see all the beautiful smiling faces as they entered into God's kingdom. I can imagine Brother Jim there with arms open, ready to embrace those who are about to enter into God's presence, worshipping our Savior Jesus Christ for all eternity!

Saturday October 13th Sister Autumn hosted the monthly Bible Journaling Class at her home. This experience has strengthened our commitment to reading God's Word and to spending time in prayer and reflection on His Word. God is doing great and mighty things through this ministry and we pray that our walk with the Lord will continue to grow stronger and we will grow closer together as a body in unity and fellowship as we continue this journey together. God is so good!

October is Pastor Appreciation month. We are truly thankful God has led Brother Curtis to shepherd this body of believers. His strong commitment to God's Word, his bold stance for God's Truth and his loving, obedient and faithful service to God and His people is truly a blessing. We love and appreciate you Brother Curtis, Sister Emilee, Titus and Lydia!

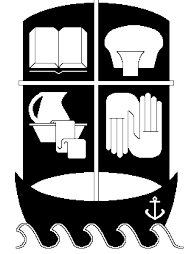
Upcoming events for October are the Holy Ghost Weenie Roast (Hayride) on the evening of October 27th and Pink Out Sunday (Cancer Awareness) will be October 28th.

"..not by works of righteousness which we have done, but according to His mercy He saved us, through the washing of regeneration and renewing of the Holy Spirit, whom He poured out on us abundantly through Jesus Christ our Savior, that having been justified by His grace we should become heirs according to the hope of eternal life" ~ Titus 3:5-7

Editor's Note : Delivery of the Illinois Newsletter was delayed a few days last month due to the flooding of the Bonnie Post Office on September 8th. The Post Office was closed for about 5 weeks and is scheduled to reopen about the time this issue is being mailed. Sorry for any inconvenience.

Check Your Calendar! ✓ NOVEMBER 18, 2018

FREE WILL BAPTIST NORTH AMERICA MINISTRIES
Mission North America Offering



JOHNSTON CITY CHURCH

Pastor: Keith Fletcher Reporter: Reba Ritter

Since Back to Church Sunday in September, our praise team has continued to lead worship in our Sunday morning services. They select a blend of old and new songs to appeal to a variety of people, young and old. In addition to reading Scripture most Sundays, the altar is open for prayer while the offering is received for people to bring requests that are on their hearts, and again at the end of the service to respond to the message as God is leading. We believe prayer changes things and have seen God answer our prayers many times.

We have continued ReLaunch 3D on Sunday nights. This has become a time for those interested in our public ReLaunch to share, learn together, and plan ways to reintroduce our church and its ministry to the community. In the next month or so, we will have a booth to reach children and their families on Halloween night in Johnston City's first ever "Trail of Treats" on Broadway. We will also have a presence at Hometown Christmas, Saturday, November 24. Our "Grand ReOpening/ReLaunch" service has been scheduled Sunday, March 24. Save the date!

Eight women attended the first session of a community women's Bible study on the Book of James. This group meets on Thursdays at 7:00 in the fellowship hall and are enjoying Beth Moore's videos and study called *Mercy Triumphs*. Sarah Fletcher is facilitator. Jerri Pigg-Shoemake heads up our women's ministry and always comes up with some great ideas for our bimonthly meetings. The fellowship meal at the October 14 meeting focused on fall flavors and the ladies made cute little pumpkins from material scraps and rolls of toilet paper.

I (Reba) turned 95 on October 12, and that day, I received a phone call from Brother David Turner in California, where he lives with his daughter. He sang "Happy Birthday" to me while accompanying himself on the piano. What a wonderful surprise!

"Ah, Lord God! Behold, You have made the heavens and the earth by Your great power and outstretched arm. There is nothing too hard for You"- Jeremiah 32:17, NKJV

BEAR POINT CHURCH

Pastor: Larry Cook Reporter: Lana Travelstead-Eubanks

Happy November! As suspected, we jumped from summer right into winter...seems we missed spring and fall this year. It seems we've only begun tidying up our summer activities and chores and now we must turn our attention on the busy holiday months ahead.

September saw several members attending Camp Hope and heard a good message by Bro Bobby Jackson. The Pillars SS class which is our older members led the opening services on Sunday, Sept 9. Sister Linda Cook would also like to express her love and gratitude to the Church for the love offering presented to her on her birthday, Sept. 15th.

In October, the youth had a fund-raiser, selling our world- famous fried pies, always a treat and a guaranteed success. Thanks to all who helped sell, prepare and fry the pies.

We would also like to extend our heart -felt condolences and continued prayers to Jennifer Huie and family. Her mother Barbara McCoy passed away and also to Bonnie Taylor and family. Bro Larry passed away.

Our *Homecoming* is October 28th, Singers are The Gospel Messengers, speaker is Dennis Southerd. Service begins at 10:30AM. with dinner following the service. Be sure not to miss this great blessing the Lord has provided!

Our annual *Country Store* is November, 3rd from 9 AM to 2 PM. There will be a lunch of soups, chili and desserts at a cost of \$5.00.... can't beat that anywhere! Proceeds go missions. Something a little different this year, we will have different vendors along with crafts. Make plans to attend or be a vendor!

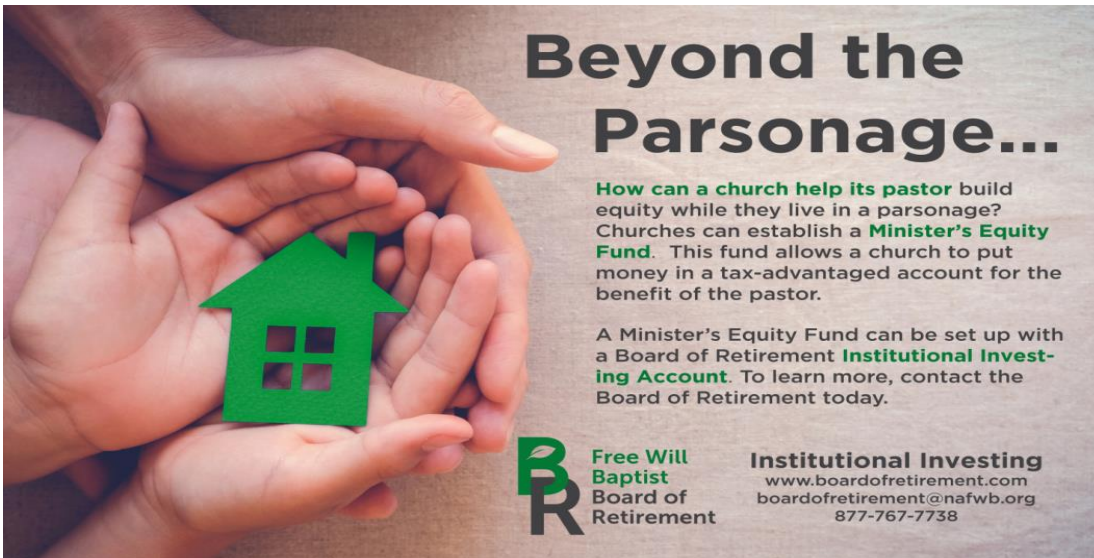
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OR CURRENT RESIDENT

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



Beyond the Parsonage...

How can a church help its pastor build equity while they live in a parsonage? Churches can establish a **Minister's Equity Fund**. This fund allows a church to put money in a tax-advantaged account for the benefit of the pastor.

A Minister's Equity Fund can be set up with a Board of Retirement **Institutional Investing Account**. To learn more, contact the Board of Retirement today.

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