



# FIRST PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH OF CHAMPAIGN

## Annual Report 2013

**Worship**, Love God More.  
**Connect**, Love People More.  
**Serve**, Love More People.

## 2013 Was a Significant Year

The Apostle Paul's letter to the Philip-  
pians sets the tone for our life together,  
"I thank my God every time I remember  
you. In all my prayers for you, I always  
pray with joy because of your partnership  
in the gospel." (Philippians 1:3-4)

2013 was a very significant year of  
growth and renewed vitality. God has  
clearly revealed to us that we are to be a  
downtown, full-service, servant-missional  
church, serving at the heart of the city.  
Our New American and ESL programs  
have grown markedly. Our Saturday  
evening French-English prayer and praise  
service and The Gathering, our 10:30 a.m.  
contemporary service are growing, as  
is our Sunday School, VBS and Family  
Ministry programs. We now have a much  
more cohesive staff, a clearer mission and  
a deeper unity.

At the same time, the Copper Creek  
Church, which continues as a new church  
development of Southeastern Illinois  
Presbytery is drawing new members and  
has found a home at the YMCA. God  
has clearly blessed the hard work of the  
Session to envision the decision to birth a  
new congregation.

So I warmly thank our dedicated staff  
members for their long hours and hard

work in making these transitions. I also  
thank our extraordinary Session, who have  
helped create new structures, organiza-  
tional charts, and job descriptions. The  
work of the Move Forward process is  
continuing in the form of a proposed two  
phase capital drive, about which you'll be  
hearing much in coming months.

I also give thanks for our Care Deacons  
and Presbyterian Women, for teams that  
have gone to Cuba, for Community Mis-  
sion Deacons, Amateur Preachers, and  
Stephen Ministers, and the leaders of our  
small group ministries. Thank you for be-  
ing ambassadors of Jesus Christ. In 2014  
we plan additional trips to both Cuba and  
Pakistan to see our mission partners face-  
to-face.

And I want to thank you for your generos-  
ity. Despite approving a deficit budget as  
we began 2013, we finished with a surplus  
of more than \$70,000. That is a wonderful  
testimony to your love of the Lord and His  
church.

Last April I received a letter from a new  
immigrant who wrote, "Please thank the  
members of First Presbyterian for their  
rides to church, for our ESL Bible Study,  
for helping my family find an apartment,

for translating my resume and for helping  
me find a job. When I look at the faces  
of the members of First Presbyterian, I  
see the face of Christ." So what can I  
add except, "Well done, good and faithful  
servants."

Grace and peace,  
Rick

## Love Is Our Aim for God and Others

CHUCK CARLSON, ASSOCIATE PASTOR

So many things occur over a year that it  
is difficult to single out what is most im-  
portant. The most significant work of God  
may be those actions and activities we  
little recognize. No matter what transpires,  
the good or bad, we can agree with Paul;  
"We know that all things work together  
for good for those who love God, who are  
called according to his purpose" (Romans  
8:28).

So love is our aim, for God and others.  
How do we structure our ministry to do  
that? One way is through Stephen Minis-  
try. Currently we have about 28 Stephen  
Ministers paired with Care Receivers.  
Each second Monday of the month we

meet for continuing education and supervision. We are looking forward to beginning a new Stephen Minister training class next Fall. The training involves a commitment of 50 hours over several months. Our thanks goes to **Linda Sandquist** who continues to serve as our Stephen Leader. ChristCare is another way that we seek to love, serve, and honor God. Bringing people together for worship, biblical equipping, fellowship and mission connects us and provides a context for us to serve. Leaders are given 40 hours of training and meet the second Wednesday of the month for continuing education and supervision as well. Each August Rick and I lead a small group leadership training class. We are blessed to have such great leaders and the groups that they lead. An administrative oversight group called the Equippers meets the second Thursday of each month. Much thanks goes to Rittchell Yau for her leadership.

Confirmation was reinstated this past year. We serve eight confirmands who began with us in September and will finish up in April. We can thank **Sabrina Hwu** and **Scott Hendren** for their leadership and commitment. **Leslie Barr** has been part of our team assisting in planning and substituting when necessary. We meet from 10:30 -12 each Sunday morning in the Youth Lounge.

Care Deacons connect with over 40 homebound members of our congregation. Quarterly communion is held at Windsor and Clark-Lindsey. Communion is brought to individuals upon request. Care Deacons meet monthly on the first Thursdays. My thanks goes to **Barb Barker** who has been a wonderful moderator, keeping us organized and on track.

In order to feed the mind and spirit, I've taught two classes the past year. We finished the Discipleship Old and New Testament study. An interest in the book of Revelation prompted a lengthier study where we looked at the roots of Apocalyptic literature, studied the text in its historic setting and looked at ways Revelation has been interpreted at various times over the last 2000 years up to the present age.

Pastoral Care, hospital visitation, counseling, funerals and weddings, all come in addition to Session meetings, staff meetings and other responsibilities. I supervise Mission Coordinator **Tracy Dace** and ESL Coordinator **Jan Sabey**. Both are exceptional in their positions, bringing a love for God and for people, reflecting that in what and how they serve in their ministries.

Mission is a big piece of how we demonstrate love for God and people. Our partnership with Luyano Presbyterian Church in Havana, Cuba, continues to grow as does our relationship with **Veeda Javid** and the Sangla Hill girls school in Pakistan. Through world mission we extend God's ministry through partnerships in Egypt, Indonesia, central Africa and beyond. You may read the specifics in other parts of this report.

Community Mission Deacons keep us connected and serving in partnerships with key local agencies. The Mission Team holds it all together, coordinating the various components of world and local mission. New Americans and ESL enable us to reach out to others who need assistance as they find their way in a new country. I am enrolled in a two year Spiritual Direction Training Certification program with the Franciscans. I have found the first year challenging, engaging and a tremendous source for my own spiritual formation. I hope to offer a spiritual direction group for those wishing to become more intentional in their own spiritual transformation in the near future.

All of life is God's who is always working in and through all the things we do. Every dimension of our personal and communal life is the soil of God's work wherein God seeks to awaken and engage us. Indeed, all things do work together for good as we seek God's direction and discernment, seeking to be faithful in the kingdom's work.

I am grateful to be part of your life and ministry.

## Thank You for Your Support

VERONICA VALLI, DIRECTOR OF OPERATIONS

I have been in my position since March 2013 and would like to thank the great staff and congregation at FPCC for giving me such support and encouragement in this role.

I have many areas of responsibility as Operations Director including HR, Finance, Communication and Facilities. I have been helping the church prepare for the anticipated capital drive. This has involved meeting with many church groups to devise a program statement that accurately reflects the needs of the church. I have also been reviewing and revising the church's policies and procedures ensuring that all of the documents are accessible and in one place to ensure the church runs as efficiently as possible. I have had great assistance from **Marcia Franks** and **Rittchell Yau** in doing this.

I organized a staff away day that gave the staff an opportunity to reflect on their ministries and re-connect with each other. This was helpful in understanding the challenges and celebrations each staff member has in their role.

I work closely with the HR and Finance committee to ensure the church is operating as effectively and economically as possible.

I have also worked closely with our insurance provider in order to navigate the changes in health care provision.

It has also been a pleasure to work with the van committee and support the process of buying a church van which now sits proudly in our parking lot.

I'm looking forward to the challenges of 2014, particularly the upcoming capital drive and all that entails.

It is such a blessing to be part of this wonderful organization.

### Pastor's Terms of Call

	Rick Snyder	Chuck Carlson
Salary	\$53,537.29	\$44,431.25
Housing	\$40,600.00	\$24,000.00
Medical Spending Acct.	\$2,500.00	\$2,500.00
Supplemental Life Insurance		\$1,260.00
Auto Reimbursement	\$1,500.00	\$1,800.00
Continuing Education	\$1,200.00	\$1,000.00
Professional Expense	\$750.00	\$1,900.00
Compensation before Taxes & Insurance Benefits (1)		
	<b>\$100,087.29</b>	<b>\$76,891.25</b>
Taxes & Insurance Benefits (2)		
	\$41,024.55	\$30,060.94
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>\$141,111.84</b>	<b>\$106,952.19</b>

(1) The pastors have discretion regarding allocation in the categories above this line.

(2) This amount is mandated by PC(USA) Board of Pensions.

### Membership Stats

Membership 12-31-2012	746
Gains	
Profession	12
Transfers	8
Other	13
Losses	
Transferred	7
Deaths	13
Other	11
Membership 12-31-2013	748
Baptisms	8



2013 was a significant year of growth and renewed vitality.

One of the highlights of the summer was a pool party in August. Festivities included a congo line around the pool.

# Worship

## Contemporary Worship

ANN STOUT, CHAIR

The Contemporary Worship Team is charged with developing strategies to maintain, execute and grow the 10:30 worship service, aka The Gathering. Committee members include **Soo Choi, Kevin Kim, Midge Miller, Gary and Linda Peterson, Bill and Ann Stout and Karin Vermillion**. Staff includes **Dave Plemons**, worship leader, and Pastors **Rick Snyder and Chuck Carlson**.

The CWT meets monthly, or as needed, and meetings consist of planning the publicity, outreach and other aspects related to the service. We plan and execute publicity, (we have completed two mailings, secured a banner, discussed radio and newspaper ads, and started occasional e-mail blasts). In addition, we initiated, planned and organized the Second Sunday Guest Lunches. We see these lunches as an important ministry to guests and new members, helping them to get assimilated to our congregation. We also perceive this as an all-church ministry and, as such, we have recruited various entities within the church to host the lunches. Several small groups have hosted and the Environmental Team and the World Mission Committee have also hosted. Attempts will continue to enlist more groups to host these lunches.

The CWT itself does not have a budget but The Gathering has a budget that is overseen by staff. In 2013 we spent \$5,336 out of the contemporary worship budget. That budget funded chord charts, a couple of media subscriptions, various video clips, music related software, and a variety of general music expenses. Out of that budget here are some of the major expenses:

Sanctuary computer and dedicated projection software	\$1800.
Church T-shirts	\$800.
Some of this money has been recovered by the sale of the T-shirts	
Electronic drumset	\$400.

Note: All of the musicians and singers (with the exception of Dave) in The Gathering praise band are volunteers.

In addition, there is a budget for the Guest Lunches.

Two projects have been discussed for 2014. There has been discussion about conducting a worship service in the park across the street during the summer. This may include providing a picnic (or cook-out style) lunch for people from the neighborhood. More detailed plans will be made this spring.

We also perceive this as an all-church project and will attempt to recruit assistance from other committees in the church. In addition, there has been discussion about a “Pray for 100” campaign. This would be a church-wide campaign in which all members would be encouraged to pray daily for the weekly Gathering attendance to increase to an average of 100 by the end of 2014.

Although the weekly average attendance has grown for The Gathering, the growth has been slower than hoped for. The support from the Session in the past has served to encourage those who attend The Gathering and has been very much appreciated. Increased participation from Session members would further validate this service and suggest church-wide support.

## Music

JOE GRANT, DIRECTOR

The adult music program is in strong shape. A new bell director, **Karen Vermillion**, was appointed this fall and she is doing an excellent job of preparing the players and educating them as well. A marked improvement can be noted in their performances.

The Sanctuary Choir continues to provide excellent support to the weekly services and special music Sundays. The dedication of its members is outstanding. Four new members have been added to the choir and their voices have strengthened our group.

Plans to integrate a new digital organ with our existing pipe organ are well under way as part of the broader capital campaign. This will be a wonderful addition to our program and the overall quality of the worship experience in the sanctuary. Likewise, a proposed increase in the music program’s special fund will allow us to continue and expand the frequency of having instrumental players in our services.

## Technology Updates

DAVE PLEMONS, TECHNOLOGY COORDINATOR

This past year was an exciting time for technology at First Presbyterian Church of Champaign. We are transitioning our church database to a different secure system to offer greater flexibility and more robust capabilities in caring for our members and guests.

We partnered with Enjoy Creativity to ensure sustainability for our website in remaining secure and current. We were able to purchase a more powerful server to replace our current server that runs our office network. We updated and/or purchased several computers so we can stay on the cutting edge of our increasingly technical world.

Thank you for your continued support that allows us to use technology as a tool to share the hope of Jesus in Champaign-Urbana and beyond.

# Connect

## Outreach

BETH HUTCHENS, CHAIR

Five Exploring Membership Classes were held in 2013:

- February 24
- May 19 (Joint Luncheon with Second Sunday Lunch)
- July 15
- September 8 (Joint Luncheon with Second Sunday Lunch)
- September 28

Chuck led three of the classes and Rick led two.

New Members received in 2013 totalled 33.

The committee is responsible for the collection of attendance of members, regular attendees and visitors at church services on Saturdays, and maintains a database of contact information of prospective new members.

We host the Welcome Center providing bags for newcomers. We also provide hospitality and welcoming to services.

New member coordinator, **Dave Plemons**, was hired in 2013.

Committee members in 2013: **Pastors Rick Snyder and Chuck Carlson; Beth Hutchens, Ruth Craddock, Judy Cotter, Betty Hollister, Gary Peterson, Linda Peterson, Dave Plemons, Mamiley Masweka, Lola Milandu, Marge Olson, Margaret Martin,**

Additional assistance was provided by **Bob Kirby and Linda Tichenor.**

## Prayer Ministry

MIDGE MILLER, CHAIR

The purpose of the Prayer Ministry Team is found in Jesus' words, "My house will be called a house of prayer for all nations." (Mark 11:17)

Therefore, we encouraged prayer in the following ways.

- (1) Year round we maintained a prayer email and voice mail line for receiving prayer requests. All prayer requests were kept confidential.
- (2) During the year we spent one week praying for each family listed in the church directory. The families were given the opportunity to send us specific prayer requests.
- (3) Sunday mornings we supplied someone to join our pastors in their time of prayer before the first service.
- (4) Once a month we met together to pray for our church plus church members/attendees and other needs.
- (5) An article on prayer was supplied for each church newsletter.

## *We Remember Those That Died this Past Year*

- Helen Browning
- Donald R. Dodds
- Delsie Dorsett
- Dick Foley
- Fredericka Garrard Ross
- Elva Greeson
- Len Hernecheck
- Denny Hutton
- Patty Grubb Jenkins
- Walt Robbins
- Mary Rose
- Robert Suter
- Creed Tucker

### Pastors:

- Rick Snyder..... Pastor/Head of Staff
- Chuck Carlson..... Associate Pastor

### Staff:

- Tracy Dace..... Mission Coordinator
- Ritchie Drennen..... Facility Maintenance
- Patty Farthing ..... Receptionist/Family Ministry
- Shelby Faullin..... Preschool Coordinator
- Marcia Franks..... Administrative Assistant
- Joe Grant..... Choir Director
- Julia Hartman ..... Children/Youth Music Coordinator
- Trisha Lange..... Accounting
- Cassie McConkey ..... Director of Children, Youth & Families
- Brandi McDade ..... Nursery Coordinator
- Chris Penny ..... Senior Custodian
- Dave Plemons ..... Technology/Contemporary Music Director
- Kristen Plemons ..... Youth Coordinator
- Richard Rossi ..... Church Musician
- Jan Sabey..... ESL Coordinator
- Veronica Valli ..... Director of Operations

## Connecting through Children, Youth, & Family Ministry



"To reach real  
peace in the  
world,  
we will have to  
begin with the  
children."  
Gandhi

### Making a Lasting Impact

We read the Bible to discover God's truths, scriptures, and stories. We read and teach these stories to our children, and grandchildren, our nieces and nephews, and our friends and family. But His story isn't done. We're a part of God's story, carrying it on throughout our lives, and into the lives of the next generation. We live God's story by helping others, by making an impact in our communities and world, by teaching our children to do the same. The strongest impact you can make in the world today is to impact a youth.

Your impact will then carry on, and on, and on. As we take a look back, and see how we've made a lasting impact in 2013, be praying about how we can answer God's call to continually pass on faith to the next generation for years to come.

### Early Childhood

(BIRTH - PRESCHOOL)

"Love the Lord your God with all your heart and with all your soul and with all your strength." -Deuteronomy 6:5

Our Early Childhood wing, including nursery, toddler, and preschool has been booming this year! We've opened a new room dedicated to toddlers because the nursery was too full! We welcomed **Brandi McDade** and **Shelby Faullin** as Early Childhood Coordinators. Brandi works with the nursery scheduling and toddler room teaching and curriculum, and Shelby works with our 3-5 year olds in the preschool. Although we are sad to announce that Brandi will be moving away in a few weeks to be with family in Minnesota.

**Julia Hartman**, our Children's Music Coordinator spends time with the preschool class every Sunday, and it has become the highlight of the morning for this class!

Children connect with God through music, art, drama, and play. We see this in our three Early Childhood classrooms every Sunday!

Our curriculum, *First Look*, for children under 5 brings stories of the Bible to life. This group learns memory verses each month, which are set to actions, to help the kids learn and remember these important scriptures.

*First Look* gives young children a first impression of their loving heavenly Father. Our take-home materials encourage families to transform everyday, regular moments, into something more! We want to incite wonder about God in the hearts of our toddlers and preschoolers.

We now offer childcare to support our church's ESL classes, every M-Th from 1-3 PM. It has been a blessing getting to know these new children and their parents!

### Elementary

(KINDERGARTEN - 5<sup>TH</sup> GRADE)

"These commandments that I give you today are to be upon your heart. Impress them on your children." -Deuteronomy 6:6-7

Elementary students have learned about God's love through many different experiences this year!

We continue to use *252 Basics Curriculum* by Orange. This curriculum teaches through drama, hands on activities, and prayer – helping kids discover Jesus and reflect on His character. It's important for us to also incorporate mission projects to help kids build character and feel like they are meaningful contributors to our church. Vacation Bible School 2013, Miracle Marketplace was a great success! We learned about miracles that Jesus performed, and partnered with Heifer International to raise over \$2,000 for the purchase of animals to be distributed to families in need.

**Julia Hartman** joined our team as the Children and Youth Music Coordinator. She gets the kids moving and grooving every Sunday morning before our Sunday School classes and leads the Children's Choir in practice each week and various performances throughout the year. She has been such a blessing to our ministry!

Parents received an opportunity for nights out as we offered movie and fun nights for children. Our 4<sup>th</sup> Annual Christmas craft night allowed children to learn about how to give to others by making Christmas gifts that they could give to their family and friends. We also put on a Christmas Play this year, called "The Unexpected Christmas". The kids did a fabulous job telling a story about how God chose to send his Son to earth, as the most unexpected Christmas gift ever given!

## Youth

(MIDDLE AND HIGH SCHOOL)

"Talk about them when you sit at home and when you walk along the road, when you lie down and when you get up."  
-Deuteronomy 6:7

This year has been an exciting one for our youth program! We continue to build the ministry from what was once only a few students attending church to a ministry where students are connecting with each other and connecting with God, and connecting with other youth groups in our community.

There have been a few slight staffing changes this year. First, **Shelby Faullin** was asked by the Preschool Coordinator and moved positions at the start of the 2013 school year. She is still very involved in the youth program as it is near and dear to her heart! We welcomed **Kristen Plemons** to our Family Ministry Team as the Youth Coordinator. She is excited to start building relationships with the students and families.

**Sabrina Hwu, Scott Hendren, Leslie Barr**, and **Pastor Chuck Carlson** have been leading our Confirmation Ministry this year. Confirmation meets on Sunday mornings from 10:30-12, engaging 8 students this year with bible study around God, Jesus, the Holy Spirit, and the Church. This year, these 8 students have had the opportunity to dig into the scriptures, ask questions, challenge each other, and connect with God. These students have been blessed with incredible leaders, sponsors, and mentors as they reach a pivotal point in their faith journeys.

In addition to Sunday morning Sunday School classes for all ages, and the Confirmation Ministry, our students have been very busy outside of the church walls. We participated in monthly fun gatherings including cookouts, a dog wash, Road Rally, a trip with McKinley PC to Hardy's Reindeer Ranch, baking and selling cookies, a New Year's Eve Lock-In with McKinley PC and Community United Church of Christ.

We connected with other students and leaders from our Presbytery as we attended the 2013 Presbyterian Youth Triennium at Purdue University. It was the experience of a lifetime as we discovered what "I Am" meant to us and to God.

### The Book of Mark

Our 6<sup>th</sup> and 7<sup>th</sup> grade class has been studying in depth, the Book of Mark. Each week they break down a chapter and answer questions about the life of Jesus and how it relates to their own lives.

### Confident Christian

High School students started the year with some Rob Bell videos and discussion questions. Currently we are finishing a series called *Confident Christian: 6 Lessons on Apologetics for Teenagers* by Greg Stier. The students have really engaged in discovering the differences between various religions and how we can be faithful Christians in today's society.



## Our Team

Director of Children,  
Youth, & Families  
Cassie McConkey

Administrative  
Assistant & Family  
Education  
Patty Farthing

Preschool Coordinator  
Shelby Faullin

Middle & High School  
Coordinator  
Kristen Plemons

Children & Youth  
Music Coordinator  
Julia Hartman

Family Ministry  
Leadership Committee  
Leslie Barr  
Chuck Carlson  
Sabrina Hwu  
Bob Kirby  
Sarah Laufenberg  
Marc Miller  
Bienvenu Nzinga  
Rick Snyder  
Linda Wessels  
Joyce Wittler

## Faith in the Home

"Tie them as symbols on your hands and bind them on your foreheads. Write them on the doorframes of your houses and on your gates." -Deuteronomy 6:8-9

What is Faith in the Home? Is it parents and children? Is it praying before dinner? Is it talking on the way home from church? Yes! Faith in the Home is those things, but so much more.

Faith in the Home is for everyone. Everyone young, old, single, married, widowed, with children, without children. Faith in the Home is just that, Faith lived out in EVERY Home! Will you be a part of our Faith in the Home Ministry?

At First Presbyterian Church, we believe that parents are the primary faith teachers, mentors and role models for their children with the church equipping and supporting, not replacing them in their God given responsibility to pass along the faith to every generation. We know that with the hustle and bustle of our everyday lives, that this is not easy! Our Family Ministry team provides families with simple resources and fun events to encourage families to build their faith together and in community with the larger congregation.

From the weekly activities and prayers displayed on our Faith in the Home bulletin board, to the take home cards that kids bring home from Sunday school, to the weekly emails that our team sends to parents during the week – we want to provide easy ways for you to connect with your kids by practicing Faith in the Home each and every day.

Parents also need support. The more faith filled people that a child comes in contact with in their life, the more likely they are to hold their own faith tightly as they experience the storms in life. Take a leap of faith and consider being a faith influencer in a child's life this year.

## Volunteers

"Now go; I will help you speak and will teach you what to say." -Exodus 4:12

By volunteering with children and youth, you are not only impacting the lives of our future congregants, community members, and leaders, they are impacting you too! Please read the letter below, sent to parents of our Confirmation Class, from an extraordinary volunteer.

*As you know, I have been the "shepherd" for this year's confirmation class. And it has indeed been my pleasure to do so. Pastor Chuck and Sabrina are doing a wonderful job teaching this class and all of our students are engaged and attentive. It's a real joy to come to class each Sunday.*

*Yesterday, I had the pleasure of actually teaching the class. We are studying the Holy Spirit and our lesson yesterday focused on the Spirit at work in our lives. Using Galatians 5:22-23 as a guide, but without first reading the scripture, I challenged the students to describe a time in their lives when they experienced or showed someone else love when it was challenging to do so.*

*We did the same things for each of Fruits of the Spirit; Love, Joy, Peace, Patience, Kindness, Goodness, Faithfulness, Gentleness, and Self-Control. The purpose was to show the students that the Holy Spirit, that has been present since the beginnings of creation, is alive and at work in their young lives today and can serve as a source of power and guidance throughout their lives, bringing out those Godly qualities.*

*It was a difficult task and one not all of us would be comfortable doing in a group setting. Frankly, I wasn't sure how well it would work. But the answers we received were compelling, thoughtful, and candid. It is abundantly clear that our students, your children, are displaying and applying the fruits of the Holy Spirit in their daily lives.*

*The depth of their love, joy, peace, patience, kindness, goodness, faithfulness, gentleness, and self-control, demonstrated through these candid personal examples from their lives, is truly inspirational. We had some absences from class yesterday but I am equally confident that the same holds true for all of our students. The Holy Spirit is very active in their lives and they are sharing the fruits of the Spirit with their families, friends, neighbors, and classmates, even when it is challenging to do so.*

*This is a very impressive group that teaches me more each Sunday than I can ever hope to teach them. Thank you for letting me be a part of their faith journeys. And please thank your students for their active, studious participation in the class and for honoring our class covenant of creating an environment where we are all free to share and learn together."*

*Joyfully in Christ,  
Scott Hendren*

We ARE  
making a  
lasting impact...  
the children ARE  
our future.





### Super Star Support

While we have been without an Elementary Coordinator, **Joyce Wittler** has taken on the responsibility of personalizing all of the K-5<sup>th</sup> grade curriculum and gathering supplies. She does this in addition to teaching her own small group of students and personally keeping in touch with them each week.

Joyce is a blessing to our team and she is continually a mentor to new staff, sharing her experience and wisdom. Thank you Joyce, for everything you give to the CYF Ministry!

**Sabrina Hwu** has done an amazing job leading the Confirmation Ministry this year, and personalizing/creating curriculum for the class. Her passion for teaching and sharing the scriptures with students is unmatched. Thank you Sabrina for investing in these students!

"Love the Lord your God with all your heart and with all your soul and with all your strength. These commandments that I give you today are to be upon your heart. Impress them on your children. Talk about them when you sit at home and when you walk along the road, when you lie down and when you get up. Tie them as symbols on your hands and bind them on your foreheads. Write them on the doorframes of your houses and on your gates." -Deuteronomy 6:5-9

After wondering in the desert for forty long years, God’s people are about to enter the promised land. Before they move forward across the Jordan River, Moses calls them to remember how they have been a part of God’s great story of love and redemption and instructed them to pass His story along to future generations. Recalling God’s special involvement in their lives gave them hope and encouragement for their future. God uses families to link the past to the future and to display the heart of God to every generation. This passage in Deuteronomy proclaims that God’s story will be passed on in the context of the family’s daily life. The strategy for our ministry is based on this same passage and combines the responsibilities that both the church and the families have as the spiritual mentors of our children that will leave a legacy of faith to this next generation. Each committed to doing what they do best...the church being best suited to stimulate the faith while the home is best suited to nurture the faith. As our church moves forward, we have the opportunity to give God’s love, hope and direction each week to families so that they might make “everyday faith” a reality in their homes. “This philosophy is as old as that given in Deuteronomy and yet as fresh as today’s new.” (Jim Burns, Youthbuilders) What a privilege we have not only to tell God’s story but to also be a part of His story!

### Our Values...

- ❶ We believe that parents are the most important faith influencers in the life of their child.
- ❷ We believe that children grow spiritually in an environment where kids feel loved and valued.
- ❸ We believe that through serving in Family Ministry, a person will grow in their relationship with Jesus and their leadership skills.



# Serve

*"I appeal to you, brothers, in the name of our Lord Jesus Christ, that all of you agree with one another so that there may be no divisions among you and that you may be perfectly united in mind and thought."*

*1 Corinthians 1:10*

projects. We restated our commitment and focus on mission and developed a motto and value statement. These will guide our mission efforts for the next 3-5 years.



An International potluck was one of the many activities during Mission Week.

## 2013 Significant Accomplishments

### Mission Ministries

Mission Ministries are committed to seeing the lives of those in our local and global communities transformed. We impact communities and see spiritual growth through English instruction for new Americans, engaging with world mission co-workers, helping low-income families with food, protecting God's creation and many other ways. We welcome friends and strangers, Christians and non-Christians who want to come alongside us and serve through our Mission Ministries.

In 2013, Mission Ministries hosted two planning retreats and a Mission Celebration Week. During Mission Celebration Week, we held a Mission Fair, organized a fundraiser, hosted a well-attended International Potluck and also led service

#### Community Mission Deacons

- o Supported the Gifford Tornado Relief Fund with a donation of \$2,109.75
- o Collected 50 backpacks for Salt & Light's Annual Family Resource Day and over 50 coats and 35 hats, pairs of gloves and scarves for ECIRMAC's "Warm a Neighbor" event
- o Raised \$5,550 through the annual Garage Sale at Savoy United Methodist Church and \$4,877 through the Advent Offering to increase support to our community partners

#### World Mission

- o World Mission Committee hosted five world mission partners: PCUSA Mission Co-Workers (Rev. Bob & Kristi Rice and Drs. Bernie & Farsijana Adeney-Risakotta) and

Veeda Javaid, Executive Director of the Presbyterian Education Board-Pakistan

- o Hosted a month long celebration of World Mission in August 2013
- o Organized a congregational visit to Lyuano, our Cuban sister church, for eight people

#### Mission Possible

- o Held its 22<sup>nd</sup> annual work week at Camp Carew in Carbondale, IL and 27 people participated
- o Made 46 pairs of curtains for the residents' rooms at Jesus is the Way Ministry
- o Built 27 children's rocking horses to donate to children during Christmas

#### Environmental Stewardship Committee

- o Coordinated an Environmental Month, hosted speakers and sold recyclable tote bags
- o Picked up trash on State Street as part of the Adopt-A-Highway project

### Mission Motto – Serving God...Serving Others

Mission Value Statement – Mission Ministries at First Presbyterian Church of Champaign honor the fundamental value and dignity of all individuals. Through the power of the Holy Spirit, we are committed to creating opportunities to serve, expressing empathy for individuals with limited choices, supporting congregational members and other individuals' faith in God, and empowering our local and global communities through love.



Members of our sister church in Luyana, Cuba with some of our Mission members.

At least once a year, there was a paid performance. We used the monies to purchase new music. Most of the music came from England, where hand bells have been popular for decades.

We wore special outfits. Navy pants, white top and a special vest. We made our vests from material purchased in Mali, Africa. It had a hand bell motif printed on it. **Harry** and **Charlene Bremer** purchased the material while visiting their daughter in the Peace Corp in Mali.

Those who have played in the group over the past 13 years includes:

**John and Shirley Goin**

- Christie Schuetz**
- Sandy Carr**
- Mary Gritten**
- Marge Olson**
- Karen Kane**
- Kathy Villegas**
- Judy Johnson**
- Judy Gamble**
- Cheri Sullivan**
- Frank Bernhart**
- Carol Miles**
- Christine Wright**
- Jean Smith**
- Charlene Bremer**

- o Sponsored a Family Fun Day to spread mulch in West Side Park

**New Americans Team**

- o Hired an ESL Coordinator and added childcare to enable mothers to learn English
- o Installed a computer lab through a partnership with the University of Illinois
- o Had an ESL enrollment of 64 students from 14 countries with as many as 26 students attending on a given day.
- o Helped 14 men and women pass their road tests and become licensed drivers

**Amateur Preachers**

- o Served a total of 16 different churches and preached 31 sermons
- o Led a worship service at the Salt & Light Ministry on the second Wednesday of the month

**2014 Proposed Goals**

Mission Team will increase mission education, community building and commitment to social justice in the following ways.

- Increase volunteerism in Mission Ministries by 20%
- Provide more opportunities for mission education and awareness through quarterly All Mission Meetings and Make a Difference

Days (service projects)

- Strengthen communication, collaboration and community amongst the Mission Ministries and with our community and world partners through a weekly e-newsletter and a monthly report to Session

**Simply Bells Ring for the Final Time**

CHARLENE BREMER

Simply Bells was a Music Ministry of this church, from 2001 through December 2013. It was a group of 6-12 hand bell ringers, which had an hourly afternoon practice weekly. We entertained Senior citizens in nursing homes and retirement centers in the Champaign County area. The program consisted of hymns to folk tunes. The music was written in the Key of C (no accidentals). We would take music, music stands, and bells (one in each hand) to play. We would play 10 songs, different for each month, and each performance was about 30 minutes. We gave two performances each month of October, November, December, February, March, and April; most were given in the morning or afternoon.

*Thank you  
Simply Bell  
participants for  
12 years of service  
and sharing  
your talents!*

# Finance

## Summary of Budgets for 2013 & 2014

Revenue	2013 Budget	2013 Actual	2014 Budget
Contributions	\$948,656.	\$994,561.	\$978,904.
Cannon Trust	\$64,000.	\$70,013.	\$67,000.
Other	\$1,000.	\$4,787.	\$1,800.
<b>Total Revenue</b>	<b>\$1,013,656.</b>	<b>\$1,069,557.</b>	<b>\$1,047,704.</b>
<b>Expenses</b>			
Clergy	\$244,777.	\$244,778.	\$248,725.
GA Per Capita	\$35,000.	\$34,291.	\$35,000.
Staff Misc.	\$11,000.	\$14,311.	\$12,000.
Music	\$107,635.	\$107,153.	\$102,119.
Worship	\$1,200	\$1,789.	\$1,200.
Mission	\$137,000.	\$147,386.	\$165,658.
Children/Youth	\$98,019.	\$89,709.	\$116,712.
Adult Education	\$11,350.	\$4,314.	\$3,850.
Office	\$177,694.	\$172,045.	\$190,094.
Buildings & Grounds	\$205,000.	\$178,220.	\$193,431.
Congregational Care	\$1,500.	\$828.	\$1,500.
Hospitality	\$4,500.	\$4,217.	\$5,500.
<b>Total Expense</b>	<b>\$1,034,675.</b>	<b>\$999,042.</b>	<b>\$1,074,789.</b>
Revenue minus Expenses (\$21,019)		\$70,514	(\$28,085)

In 2013, total revenues for the operating fund were \$1,069,557, about 5.5% above the budgeted amount. This included \$887,805 in pledged contributions and \$106,756 in plate contributions, the latter a remarkable 30% above projections. Total expenses were \$999,042 which was about 3.5% below the budgeted amount. Nearly all programs in the church were below budget. As a result of the restrained spending and the strong revenues, there was a year-end net balance of \$70,514.



The Elect of God provide music each week for the Saturday evening Praise and Prayer Gathering.

### **Minutes of the Annual Meeting of First Presbyterian Church of Champaign**

The annual meeting of First Presbyterian Church of Champaign was held on Ash Wednesday, February 13th, 2013 in the sanctuary, following the Ash Wednesday service. The meeting began at 6:13 p.m.

The meeting was opened in prayer by the Rev. Dr. Eric J. Snyder. Copies of the annual report were distributed. A quorum was not present so the pastoral terms of call will be presented at a subsequent congregational meeting.

Reports were made. 2012 was a most significant year in that it featured the launch of our former southwest campus as a new church development of Southeastern Illinois Presbytery. The church is now known as the Copper Creek Church. As a result, a new Session structure, committee job descriptions and staff job descriptions were updated.

Mark Thies, representing the Finance Team, reported that we finished 2012 with a \$50K surplus, and that pledges increased for 2013 by more than ten percent.

Ministry reports were given by the Rev. Dr. Chuck Carlson (Stephen Ministry), Sallie Hutton (small group ministry), Cassie McConkey (our ministry to children, youth, and families), and Bob Kirby (our ministry in Cuba).

Satisfaction was expressed that mission giving in the regular budget had been increased.

Chuck Carlson closed the meeting in prayer at 6:41 p.m. and the congregation adjourned to a soup supper.

Rick Snyder  
Moderator

### **Special Congregational Meeting Sunday, July 14, 2013**

A special congregational meeting was held for the purpose of electing one ruling elder to the class of 2014 and one member of the congregational nominating committee to the class of 2015.

The Rev. Rick Snyder opened the meeting with prayer at 9:55 a.m. A quorum was present. Rick read the call to the meeting and introduced Midge Miller from the Nominating Committee.

Midge moved that we elect the nominee, Betty Hollister, as a ruling elder in the class of 2014. Russ Straayer seconded the motion. The motion carried.


Midge moved that we elect the nominee, Cathy Stickels, as a member of the Congregational Nominating Committee in the class of 2015. Dave Hunter seconded the motion. The motion carried.

There being no other business the meeting was closed with a benediction by the Rev. Rick Snyder at 10:00 a.m.

Rick Snyder  
Moderator

### **Special Congregational Meeting Minutes Sunday, August 25, 2013**

A special meeting of the congregation of First Presbyterian Church of Champaign was held on Sunday, August 25th for the purpose of electing one ruling elder to the class of 2013. A quorum was present. The meeting began at 9:56 a.m.



The Rev. Rick Snyder opened the meeting in prayer. Elder Midge Miller represented the Nominating Committee and placed in nomination the name of Byron Kemper. The motion was seconded. The motion passed unanimously.

There being no other business, the meeting was closed in prayer and with a benediction from the Rev. Snyder.

Rick Snyder  
Moderator

**First Presbyterian Church Champaign IL  
Congregational meeting December 29, 2013**

The meeting was convened with prayer by Chuck Carlson, pastor at 11:00 a.m..

A quorum being present, Bill Metcalf acted as clerk for the meeting and the report of the congregational nominating committee was presented by Betty Hutchison.

Nomination for session three year terms was made for Byron Kemper, Bill Metcalf, Bill Marble, and Lori Schaap. On motion from the floor, nominations were closed and a unanimous ballot was recorded.

Nomination for Community Mission Deacons three year terms was made for Sandy Carr, Martha Henderson, Judy Hendrickson, and Remy Manongo. On motion from the floor, nominations were closed and a unanimous ballot was recorded.

Nomination for Care Deacons three year terms was made for Barb Baker, Sue Fischer, Katherine Jones, Liz Miley, Nicole Miller, Julia Ulen. On motion from the floor, nominations were closed and a unanimous ballot was recorded.

Nomination for congregational nominating committee three year terms was made for Nancy Brombaugh and Pam Knox. On motion from the floor, nominations were closed and a unanimous ballot was recorded.

The meeting was closed with prayer by Chuck Carlson, pastor.

Chuck Carlson  
Moderator