



FIRST PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH OF CHAMPAIGN

Annual Report 2017

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

Our Journey Together

MATT MATTHEWS
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I love maps.

When I hold a map in my hands, I get a sense that I'm holding the big picture, the east of it and the west, the mountains and the bottom land. When you're holding a map, you can see where you've been. You can plot your destination. You can eyeball visits you'd like to take one day, day trips, strolls, through-hikes, Sunday drives.

Your church's annual report on these pages does not provide the best map, but you can see something of where we've been in the last year. Some of the measurable things are measured, bucks and butts, for example. You can see the marks we've hit and those we've missed. You might get a sense of where we're going in 2018 and beyond.

Let me encourage you to study these pages carefully. Read between the lines. Be inspired. Imagine the steps we'll take together in the New Year. Where do you want to go? Do you want to take the northern route or the southern? I've loved the 13-days I've served as your new senior pastor. I'm liking the journey Jesus has invited us on, and I am blessed beyond measure for you to have invited me and Rachel to share the journey with you. That's amazingly good.

Help me on the journey, please, by being active in areas that you feel called. Please feel free to explore areas of ministry you've always been curious about. Work hard. Laugh. Pray for me, God's church, and our ministry in the world. Be generous with your time, talent, and treasure. The biggest thing the church can do, I think, is to show up at worship; that's where the mission fires are stoked. Our true north is there. That's where God recalibrates us in centering worship. Finally this: let's enjoy the journey. The first question and answer of the Westminster Shorter Catechism (that's a road map, too) is this:

Q/What is the chief end of man?

A/Man's chief end is to glorify God, and to enjoy God forever.

Let's enjoy the journey, and in so doing, by God's grace, bring God delight and honor.

The best thing about a map when it comes to discipleship is that Jesus is always inviting us to step off the charted page into a great adventure. So, be brave. And let's stay focused on Jesus. He's the only map we really need.

Hallelujah!

An Exciting Year

ERIC CORBIN
(eric@firstpres.church)

What a year it has been at First Pres!

It has been an honor to walk the road together with all of you. As you'll read in the pages which follow, much important ministry has been carried out in God's name in this place and far beyond. We did not slow down during the time between installed senior pastors. **Interim Senior Pastor Chuck Carlson** guided us well until his well-deserved retirement in October. Many thanks to Chuck for his years of service to God through several churches around the country, culminating in his work among us at First Pres. This church honored Chuck and Betty well with a wonderful joint worship service and luncheon as we bid them a fond farewell.

We then began a season of ministry together as we awaited the arrival of our new senior pastor. I greatly appreciate the support given to me as I endeavored to serve in the anomalous position of solo Associate Pastor. The ministry of the church continued apace during the nearly four months I served as the only pastor here, and that is due to your dedication to the call of God on each of our lives. This congregation understands well that ministry is not the domain of the pastor(s) alone, but is rather the work of us all. May a spirit of cooperation and dedication to God's work through us enliven us all for the ministry ahead of us.

The work of the church goes forward as well due to a dedicated staff, all of whom strive for excellence while often working with limited resources. I'll highlight only the new staff members, but know that your staff is an excellent one and they always appreciate the support that you give them. This year, **Robert Ferrer** joined us in the new position of Audio/Visual Technician, and his work has helped us to ensure the audio-visual aspects enhance our worship together. **Jeanette Pyne**, new ESL Coordinator, hit the ground running, ably guiding our English as a Second Language

program, a wonderful ministry of this church which helps with not only English skills, but cultural and social skills, as well. **Blaise Pascal** joined us as Assistant Director of CYF, assisting Mindy in many aspects of our diverse Children, Youth, and Family Ministry. In early 2018, **Beth Chandler** begins her work in the new position of Outreach Coordinator, helping us spread the word about the wonderful work of God through this congregation.

We remember with gratitude those saints who joined the Church Triumphant in 2017. Their names are listed on this page. May God give comfort to their loved ones, as we seek to follow well in their footsteps.

Finally, we begin 2018 with the excitement and anticipation of what God will do through the ministry of our new **Senior Pastor Matt Matthews**. I applaud our Pastor Nominating Committee for their diligent and prayerful work. I truly believe they have found the person God had in mind for us, and I am full of hope about the continuing ministry of this historic congregation with Matt's leadership.

I close with the words of Paul from his letter to the church at Philippi: "I am confident of this, that the one who began a good work among you will bring it to completion by the day of Jesus Christ."

Grace and peace,
Eric

HR Team

BILL MARBLE, CO-CHAIR
(coffeelover2@comcast.net)

Members: **Bill Marble, Ann Stout, Jeannie Snoeyink, Ann Webbink.**

We had a busy 2017, with the changing of the guard. **Pastor Chuck Carlson** retired. **Pastor Eric Corbin** passed all of his requirements to become a member

Deaths

We extend our sympathy to the family and friends of those who died in 2017

Bob Brunson	Jerry Dobrovolny
Evelyn Harness	Joann Hower
Richard Joy	Rosanne Koehler
Donna Kuhlman	Mary McDonald
Linda McKay	Paul Mortensen
Elizabeth Mussey	Helen Parro
Jacqueline Peden	Marge Richmond
Dave Shaul	Nadine Sutton
Geraldine Thompson	Carol Trulock
Don Trulock	Phyllis Van Buskirk
Kathy Villegas	Ben Watts
Bill Widenor	

of the PCUSA. He is now a member of the Southeastern Illinois Presbytery.

Debra Miller resigned her position as English as a Second Language Director. Hired as the new director of ESL, **Jeanette Pyne**.

Blaise Pascal has been hired as Assistant Director of Children, Youth and Families and works with **Mindy Watts-Ellis**.

New position created, Outreach Coordinator, **Beth Chandler**.

Andrea Pope continues to serve as Contemporary Worship Director on Sunday mornings.

New position created, Audio Visual Technician, **Robert Ferrer**.

We have not been successful in hiring a Children's Music Director. For now, **Joe Grant** has taken over this responsibility.

The HR Committee has revised staff job descriptions and is in the process of revising the Personnel Policy Manual.

Outreach

GARY & LINDA PETERSON
(amer_swede@yahoo.com)

The Outreach Committee in 2017 consisted of Membership, Fellowship, Hospitality as well as Outreach. We have an active committee that meets monthly and we thank each of you for your dedication to this important part of our church.

The committee consisted of **Bob Kirby, William Stout, Ginny Waaler, John and Jane Seiler, Beth Hutchens, Lola and Kurt Ruthmansdorfer, Betty Hollister, Linda and Gary Peterson and Leland and Jim Andrews.**

This past year has been a busy one. We begun by having an Outreach Fair in Westminster Hall by highlighting each of the above groups and their importance to the church.

We hosted a pool party and picnic this past summer at Centennial Park called Sholem Fest. It was well attended and young and old enjoyed the open pool after the picnic. We continued our Outreach by hosting a table at the Taste of C-U in West Side Park. We had several volunteers manning the booth from Friday evening thru Saturday. Along with that we opened the doors of our beautiful church to tours. The Historical Society fundraiser brought people to 3 downtown churches and we had our own tour guides for a tour of 20 minutes throughout our church.

In September we organized the 7,8 or 9 dinners with 56 participants gathering for fellowship and meals once per quarter. In October we organized a farewell luncheon for **Pastor Chuck and Betty Carlson** at City View. We had over 200 in attendance and received a nice News Gazette article and picture on Pastor Chuck's accomplishments at First Church. We also sponsored a table at the Virginia Theater for trick or treaters that were seeing the movie *Hocus Pocus*. We gave out a lot of candy and information about our church.

November saw our church building turn 150 years. We celebrated by having an organ concert by **Richard Rossi** with the Downstate Strings that was well attended. It was followed with a reception and refreshments.

Beginning Thanksgiving and ending on Christmas we sponsored Christmas music on 97.9 radio. A big thank you to the Gathering service for paying for the spots and to **Pastor Eric** for recording the 30 second ads. The Gathering service also displayed advertising on 4 city buses in town.

In December we kicked off a Radom Acts of Christmas Kindness. The congregation was given money or ideas on how they could be involved by reaching out to the community and sharing God's love. We have several amazing stories.

The Membership Committee received 117 responses to a church survey. The Committee went thru 3,000 names of past and present attendees to determine how active each person has been. We also sent out a Time and Talent Survey with the stewardship letter.

Membership classes were put on hold due to the current process not working well. The committee continued to collect friendship pads, tracked attendance and sent out welcome letters to first time attenders.

Church Staff

Pastors:

Matt Matthews.....Senior Pastor/Head of Staff
Eric Corbin Covenant Associate Pastor

Staff:

Beth Chandler.....Outreach Coordinator
Kristi Corbin.....Missions Coordinator
Ritchie Drennen.....Facility Maintenance
Patty Farthing.....Receptionist
Robert Ferrer.....Audio-visual Technician
Marcia Franks.....Administrative Assistant
Joe Grant.....Director of Music
Blaise Pascal..... Asst Director Children, Youth & Family
Chris Penny..... Facilities Manager
Ann Petry.....Accounting
Andrea Pope..... Contemporary Worship Director
Jeanette Pyne.....ESL Coordinator
Richard Rossi..... Church Musician
Mindy Watts-Ellis.....Director Children, Youth & Family

Mission...serving God - Serving Others

Amateur Preachers

JOHN MUIRHEAD
(jmuirhead@comcast.net)

Amateur Preachers serve pastors who are away for vacation, or other forms of leave as well, as their congregations, by leading their worship services. We have enjoyed another active year of assisting churches in our Presbytery. We provide an "Amateur Preacher" to give the sermon and lead worship services. In some of these visits, we also bring our own liturgist.

In 2017, eight Amateur Preachers served 9 different churches a total of 26 times on 23 Sundays with the highest number for one church being 10 Sundays. Over the years we have averaged 30 Sundays of service to churches. Our busiest Sundays were July 9, July 30 and December 31 when we served two different churches.

We would like to increase our number of Amateur Preachers for the coming year. Perhaps you have been thinking of a message you would like to share? You may also consider serving as a liturgist for an Amateur Preacher as a way of being introduced to this mission of our church. Please feel free to talk with one of the Pastors or contact **John Muirhead** (j.muirhead@comcast.net or 398-1048) to discuss Amateur Preachers.

Community Mission Deacons

MARY GRITTEN
(maryhg3@sbcglobal.net)

The Community Mission Deacons (CMD) support 11 different agencies located in Champaign-Urbana, some financially, some with physical assistance, and some through both means. Each agency has its own liaison from the committee in order to more effectively share needs and concerns with each other and with the congregation, through our fabulous staff support, **Kristi Corbin**.

The agencies are the Canteen Run (through the Salvation Army), Courage Connection, Crisis Nursery, ECIRMAC (East Central Illinois Refugee Mutual Assistance Center), *empty tomb*, Faith in Action, Jesus is the Way, RUM (Restoration Urban Ministries), SAFE House, Salt and Light, and Times Center (Rosecrance C/U).

For several years World Missions and Community Missions have alternated supporting a special summer fund raising campaign, the Raindrop Project. This year CMD chose Courage Connection as the agency to highlight. Thanks to the congregation for contributing an additional amount of \$2,110 to assist abused women.

The Advent Offering this year was designated to go to food for the hungry, through Salt and Light.

The Advent Angel Tree was organized and coordinated by the always supportive **Kristi Corbin**.

The children of our church are also supporting mission efforts as they make and share something special and specific for different agencies, thanks to ideas and leadership from **Mindy Watts-Ellis**.

The members of CMD this year are **Cliff Dykstra, Dana Dykstra, Don Fischer, Mary Gritten, Steve Gritten, Linda Tauber-Olson, Judy Gamble, Kathy Havey, Mike Havey, Allen Moore, Nancy Brombaugh, Barbara Fuller-Curry**.

Compassion Peace & Justice

TRACY DACE, CHAIR
(tddace@gmail.com)

Statement of Faith and Purpose

"The Presbyterian Church commitment to justice is core to its identity and understanding as followers of Jesus Christ. Beginning with the ancient texts of the faith, God's people have given both voice and

witness to the prophet Micah's calling to do justice, love kindness and walk humbly with God.

The Confessions of the Church, especially the Confession of 1967 and A Brief Statement of Faith, challenge the church to follow Christ into a broken and fearful world:

- to pray without ceasing,
 - to witness among all peoples
 - to unmask idolatries in church and culture,
 - to hear the voices of peoples long silenced,
 - and to work with others for justice, freedom and peace.
- A Brief Statement of Faith 10.4

The Book of Order also makes it clear that "the whole church gathers in worship and its corporate life for the purpose of being sent out into the world to engage in the reconciling, healing work of God through Jesus Christ. God sends the church in the power of the Holy Spirit to share with Christ in establishing God's just, peaceable and loving rule in the world". (W-7.4000)

The Compassion Peace and Justice Ministry Team (CPJMT) works with the leadership of the denomination in The Presbyterian Mission Agency's Compassion Peace and Justice Ministry. Our focus is on education of our congregation and community and on action when we believe we are called to act and when we can make a practical difference. This year we focused on promoting compassion and justice within our own congregation.

Organization

The CPJMT meets monthly on the second Monday from 5:30-7 PM. The members are **Sandy Carr, Miriam Chenault, Kristi Corbin, Tracy Dace** (moderator), **Mike Havey, Bob Kirby, Claudia Kirby, Ann Stout**. Meetings include prayer and scripture study.

Activities

The following motions and suggestions were made:

1. "That our congregation's policy and procedure for conducting searches for non-pastoral staff be evaluated for effectiveness and fairness". The Human Resources Committee reviewed current policy for consideration. The policy is being updated.

2. "That our congregation's policy for letting bids for purchases and for contractual labor be written with considerations of effectiveness and fairness." The Building and Grounds committee is satisfied with its current methods and does not have written policy.

3. We agreed to the move of Sholem Fest and International Potluck to the Outreach Committee expecting that CPJMT will continue to take a meaningful role in planning these events.

Events

January 14. Diversity a Gift and an Obligation. Martin Luther King weekend Celebration with **Rev. Alonzo Johnson** included Saturday workshop and worship and Sunday worship. Dr. Johnson did an introduction to our Belhar Confession Study.

May 30. Courageous Conversation with **Rev. Daniel Carroll** with Courageous Conversation Committee.

June 25. International Potluck. This was moved to the Outreach Committee.

August 13. Sholem Fest August 13. This was moved to the Outreach Committee.

Other Activity

The months of August and September were spent in a discernment process facilitated by Kristi Corbin, Mission Coordinator. In October we came to believe that our call was to focus on the issues of immigration and racial justice with the primary focus on the latter. This will be our focus in 2018.

Budget

Our team budget is \$300 per year. We transferred most of this to our Benevo-

lence Fund and paid for \$49.96 for welcoming signs and \$100 voluntary dues for the Interfaith Alliance.

Cuba Partners

BOB KIRBY, CHAIR
(rwk3213@gmail.com)

Background

Champaign First Cuba Partners (Cuba Partners) is the sister relationship between the congregations of First Presbyterian Church, Champaign and The Presbyterian Reformed Church of Cuba at Luyanó. Our respective sessions signed a sisterhood agreement in 2012 and renewed it in 2015.

Purpose

The purpose of the relationship is:

1. To create a partnership between our two churches embodying our Unity in Christ.
2. To strive to be faithful witnesses to Jesus Christ in our families, our communities, our countries and the world.
3. To sensitize both church families to critical situations in our societies, and cooperate in the projects to which the Church, as part of the Body of Christ, can make a substantial contribution.
4. To explore various areas for joint mission.

Our objectives are to:

1. To share a worship service twice a year using common hymns, responses and messages by the pastors in order to celebrate our Unity in Christ.
2. To regularly share prayer concerns and congregational news via email, bulletins, and photographs.
3. To promote shared Bible Study between the women's organizations of both congregations.
4. To develop an active sharing of faith concerns and projects through correspondence and visits between the women committed to the intercessory knitting groups of both churches.
5. To encourage and support an exchange of information about their families, schools and faith communities between the chil-

dren of our two church schools via email letters.

6. To develop opportunities for exchange visits of the youth of each church to foster the deepening of individual faith, as well as knowledge about the reality of life in the sister church community.

7. To develop an intentional exchange between pastors of study, pastoral concerns and projects.

Organization

Cuba Partners includes 47-50 people who have completed a study of Cuba. Most have traveled to our sister church.

The Cuba Partners adopted by-laws which call for election of a nine-member rotating steering committee which then elects four officers. The steering committee meets monthly on the fourth Thursday from 5:30-7 PM. Meetings include worship and education. A Cuba Partners meeting is held when needed but at least yearly at which time a business meeting and election of the steering committee occurs combined with the Annual Cuba Forum. The Forum is an informational congregation wide meeting.

Current steering committee members and officers are: **Mary Lou Bauer, Emily Beach, Sandy Carr, Bob Kirby** (moderator), **Pat Metcalf** (moderator elect), **Carol Miles** (treasurer), **Tracy Dace, Jonathan Mnyampara, and Elizabeth Pippin** (secretary), **Peter Yau, Rittchell Yau**. Ex officio members with voice but without vote are **Kristi Corbin** and **Eric Corbin**.

At an international level our congregation is a member of the Presbyterian Cuba Partners Network and the Cuba Connection. These groups support the Presbyterian entities in both the U.S. and Cuba who have formal mutual relationships.

Summary of 2017 Activity

In March 2017, Cuba Partners held a fundraiser to raise money for Luyanó's new guest house project. We offered salsa dancing lessons and the event was a huge success. The event was attended by 50 people.

Much of 2017 was spent preparing for our group trip to Cuba in April 2017. From October-December 2016 we had nine participants in a the Cuba study. April 17- April 24, 2017 nine travelers went to Cuba with three having never made the journey before. This year the trip was made easier with the ability to take direct flights to Havana. On our trip we were also able to celebrate with Luyanó on their 95th anniversary.

The 2017 Cuba Study was seven sessions with 13 participants. Twelve will travel to our sister church May 14-21, 2018. The Study included members of the First Urbana and First Mount Vernon Presbyterian churches.

Su Voz, a daily devotion written by laity and ordained Presbyterians in Cuba is distributed daily. This has been a valuable tool to connect members of the congregation with the partnership in a practical way.

Activity Calendar 2017

- Cuba Fundraiser March 12 Salsa Lessons
- Visit to Cuba by FPC April 17-24
- Annual Cuba Forum September 23
- Hosting Mission Co-worker September 23-25 Jo Ella Holman, regional liaison to the Caribbean in coordination with World Mission
- Cuba Study October 18-December 6

Budget

The following financial support was provided to the Presbyterian Reformed Church of Cuba:

- 1. Congregational gift to Luyanó for the 95th anniversary of the church \$300 (gift from session)
- 2. Cuba Synod for national camp and retreat center (CANIP) \$1,000.00 (Operations).
- 3. JoElla Holman, mission co-worker Caribbean \$4,600.00 yearly (Operations-World Mission).
- 4. Presbyterian Cuba Partners Network- \$100.00 dues (Operations)
- 5. Cuba Connecton -\$200.00 (Operations)
- 6. Congregational gift to Luyanó for completion of guest house \$1,989.00 (Cuba Partnership restricted)

Recommendations

We will continue to focus on building relationships, deepening our understanding of the Cuban experience and growing together in our faith with our Cuban sisters and brothers. We need to follow-up on what we learned from our Cuban guests to more diligently develop regular effective communication with our church at Luyanó and with our partners at Covenant Presbyterian in Austin, TX.

Budget recommendations.

Increase gift to Cuban Synod from \$1,000.00 to \$1,050.00 (operations budget)

Environmental Stewardship

BARBARA FULLER-CURRY, CHAIR
(barbarafullercurry@gmail.com)

I. Committee Activity

The ESC meets in the Church Library at 3:30 PM. We did not meet every month, but did meet several times. The Committee consists of 11 members. We have very strong committee participation and very good attendance at monthly meetings. Our meetings are opened with prayer and devotion and close with recitation of the following: “God of the universe, we thank you for your many good gifts – for the beauty of creation and its rich and varied fruits, for clean water and fresh air, for food and shelter, animals and plants.”

Our Committee is committed to saving our environment and has strong ties with PEC (Presbyterian Earth Care in Louisville).

In December we were sad to lose **Roseanne Koehler** who had contributed so much over the years. She will be missed by so many.

II. Significant Accomplishments/ Highlights

Nancy Brombaugh continues to sign-up volunteers to clean coffee cups every Sunday and needs more volunteers. It is becoming more and more challenging to

find volunteers due to aging participants or members gone in the winter months to warmer climates.

Liz Miley continues to coordinate the Adopt-A-Highway Program with the City of Champaign. Our Adopt-A-Highway program was held on Saturday, March 25, Saturday, July 22, Saturday, November 4, 2017.

ESC continues to collect empty medication vials and used birthday cards for donation to Idea Store. The Humane Society also receives donations of empty medication vials for their pets. **Tanya Deckert** collects used batteries and delivers them to appropriate agencies for disposal.

Many hostas were replanted to shaded areas around the Educational Building in 2017.

Member(s) of ESC (weekly) empty recycle containers in all the buildings and carry materials to containers at SW corner of parking lot.

With guidance from Faith in Place, **Mark and Kathy Schoeffmann** and **Chris Penny** planted a Story Garden. On Saturday, February 25, members of our Committee attended a program presented by Urbana Park District.

The Story Garden is located on the southeast side of the Christian Education Building. The garden actually tells a story of our church, beliefs and a little about the Midwest prairie. The “anchor” plants that reflect our prairie roots are: swamp milkweed, butterfly milkweed, purple coneflowers, northern dropseed grass and little bluestem grass.

The elements that tell our own story include three pots representing the Trinity. Our church is the oldest church in Champaign-Urbana and the pots contain ancient plants referred to in the Bible and found around the world, representing our multi-cultural congregation, the age of our church and our global mission. These plants are dill, lavender and mint. They also are used for healing and soothing in

other cultures. The colorful zinnias reflect the diversity of our congregation. We mounted the “Story Garden” sign on a re-used post (part of our environmental mission to reuse, reduce and recycle) and in such a way as to represent the cross. All of the flowering plants were chosen to attract pollinators such as bees and butterflies (and hummingbirds) and the grasses produce seeds to help feed small birds in the winter. Finally, the birdbath provides life-sustaining water for God’s smallest creatures. We hope the congregation enjoys our little garden.

A total of eight churches participated in the Story Garden project. Later in the summer we went on a garden walk to inspect other gardens.

A native redbud tree (Pansy Redbud) was planted in area where two pine trees were removed with funds from the Rose fund at a cost of \$292. Tree was planted and guaranteed by Country Arbors Nursery in December. The tree had to be replaced by Country Arbors. With the current zero temperatures we are experiencing, we hope our little tree survives the winter.

Mark and Kathy Schoeffman hosted the annual ESC party in their home in Mahomet on Monday, December 18, 2017.

III. 2016 Budget Expenditures

Of the \$250.00 allotted to our budget, we donated the whole amount to Faith In Place. Many expenses members of the Committee paid for from their own funds.

IV. 2018 Goals

We plan to continue having a Story Garden and attend meetings planned by Faith In Place. We added a new member to our Committee: **Aline Delpomdor** from Brazil and recommendation from **Kathy Schoeffmann**. We hope to gain new members in the coming year.

In place of hostas, ESC will plant other plants at base of tree.

V. Recommendations

The ESC is a very dedicated & committed group of individuals that care deeply about our beautiful planet. It is advertised

in the newspaper weekly that we are an earth care congregation. We would like to search for ways to better communicate to the whole congregation and committees our goals and needs to take care of our beautiful planet.

Due to aging of ESC, we need to recruit younger members to carry on the work of recycling and staying up to date on environmental issues.

ESL

JEANETTE PYNE, COORDINATOR
JEANETTE@FIRSTPRES.CHURCH

I. Committee Activity

The ESL “committee” is a group of about 20+ volunteer tutors who provide English instruction to immigrants, refugees, and international visitors. About 75% of the tutors are associated with First Presbyterian Church; the remaining tutors have other (or no) church affiliation.

Most tutors volunteer for one 2-hour session/week; although several commit to two days/week, and a few serve the program 4 days/week. These very dedicated tutors consistently model friendship, hospitality, openness, patience, enthusiasm, and flexibility.

Because different people volunteer on different days, it is difficult to get all the tutors together for a “committee meeting.” To facilitate communication, **Jeanette Pyne** (October 2017-Present) ESL Coordinator, on site each day) sent a weekly email update, and regularly discussed important issues with the tutors in person. Jeanette also created a Google Spreadsheet Calendar and gave the link to all the tutors so they can check when they are volunteering. She has also doubled-up tutors to allow more to have the opportunity to volunteer.

2. Significant Accomplishments/ Highlights in 2017

- Made connections in the community. **Debra Miller** attended meetings to set up resources for the New Americans Center at the YMCA. This allowed for the

opportunity to get the ESL program more community exposure.

- Hired a new ESL Coordinator. **Debra Miller**, former ESL Coordinator, successfully handed over the ESL Coordinator position to **Jeanette Pyne**, who has adjusted to her new role. **Jeanette Pyne** began working as the ESL Coordinator in October 2017.

- Instituted and maintained a monthly ESL Informational Meeting. **Debra Miller**, during her tenure as the ESL Coordinator, began the meetings in an effort to reduce the amount of time spent putting interested ESL learners onto the waitlist. Instead of showing up to the church and signing onto the waitlist, interested ESL learners were directed to go to a meeting whereby they would receive an overview of the ESL program, sign up onto waitlist process, and interviewed to determine their level. This process would take 2 hours for 10 people, instead of often being interrupted during the day to address interested ESL learners’ questions and needs. After **Debra Miller**, **Jeanette Pyne**, the new ESL Coordinator, has continued the monthly ESL informational meetings.

- **Digitizing the Waiting List.** Jeanette has digitized the waiting list process by having the prospective ESL learners sign up via a Google Form instead of handwriting their information. Many people on the waitlist were unable to be contacted because their handwriting was illegible.

- **Standardizing the Interview.** Jeanette also standardized the interview process, so that the likelihood of the student being placed in the correct level is greater. She first interviewed already enrolled students to create a proficiency rubric, and, then, applied this rubric in the interviews with the prospective ESL learners.

- Determined program goals. The ESL Advisory Committee voted on program goals, written by **Jeanette Pyne**, that clarify the purpose and goals of the program. The four goals are outlined below:

The purpose of this program is to:

- To serve and meet the language learning needs of immigrant and visiting people with providing quality English instruction.
- To cultivate and promote an open, safe environment for students and volunteers.

to feel part of a caring community while making friends and learning from each other about their cultures, languages, etc.

- To provide flexibility and support, which includes teacher training, to volunteer tutors in order that they may provide quality English instruction to the students.
- To provide current social services information and/or transportation needs via bus tokens.

Maintained “full” classes at all levels. Our enrollment numbers continue to be high. We average about 30 happy, energetic students/day.

• Enrollment data from January 2017 – December 2017

- Number of students that were registered in 2017 – 131
- Number of immigrants are about 50% of student body
- Number of countries represented: 20 (Albania, Belarus, Brazil, China, Colombia, Democratic Republic of Congo, Ecuador, Guatemala, Iran, Japan, Kyrgyzstan, Mexico, Peru, South Korea, Spain, Taiwan, Turkey, Ukraine, Vietnam, Yemen)

3. 2017 Budget Expenditures

The bulk of the ESL Program expenditures included such things as instructional resources (workbooks, instructional texts, teaching idea books, dictionaries), photocopies of materials for student use, and organizational/office supplies (folders, paper, office supplies). Other expenditures included things like transportation costs (we occasionally provide bus tokens for students in need), field trip costs, food costs (snacks, tea, coffee, juice, and miscellaneous food for end-of-year picnics and holiday gatherings). We spent all of our budget on items and materials necessary for the ESL Program to continue.

4. 2018 Goals

Looking ahead, we would like to:

- Work to insure continued funding for this amazing program!
- Continue to provide a supportive environment where students can learn English and feel part of a caring community, and where volunteers can help others while learning just as much as they teach!
- Conduct Needs Assessments.
- A student needs assessment needs to

be created and issued to current students to determine how the ESL Program can better meet their needs and help them to reach their goals.

- A tutor needs assessment also needs to be created and issued to the tutors to determine how the ESL Coordinator and Program overall can better support them to be better teachers.

- Teacher/Tutor Training
- From the tutor needs assessment, **Jeanette Pyne** intends to develop a series of workshops for the current tutors to give them further support in instruction and help them with their understanding of second language acquisition and what are the best teaching practices to help their students acquire a second language.
- Continue to problem-solve and improve the ESL Program to fulfill its purpose previously outlined.

Mission Possible

HARRY BREMER, COORDINATOR
(h1bremer@yahoo.com)

Mission Possible had its 26th trip on May 14-19. We went to our Presbytery camp, Camp Carew, in the Marion-Carbondale area. Our mission was to build open cabinets and bunk beds for eight rooms in the McNabb cabin. (The cabin was converted from an open area to 8 small rooms.)

Most of the supplies were purchased ahead of time; much of the wood was cut and painted (primed) before we left for camp. We initially worked at two sites – one being the maintenance building, where further sawing and painting was done for the beds. Pieces for the storage units were made, painted, and the units constructed.

All the above was transported to the McNabb cabin. Cabinets were installed. Construction was started on the bunk beds and that took several days. Final touches (including painting) were complete by the final day. In addition, boards for coat hangers were cut, painted, and installed. New trim was nailed in the rooms and new hallway. The hallway was painted. New powered exit signs replaced the old ones. Morning devotions used the book “Dare

to Journey with Henri Nouwen” by Charles Ringma. The book is a collection of 180 reflections. Each person spoke on one of the reflections and its related bible verse.

Sixteen people participated with this work trip: **Dave & Mary Lou Bauer, Harry & Charlene Bremer, Chuck Carlson, Tanya Deckert, Bill Gamble, Steve Gritten, Paul Huang, Itch Jones, Byron Kemper, Dave McNattin, Carol Miles, Gene Morgan, Gloria Reed, and Dale Tutje.**

S.A.F.E. House Psychology Class

KRISTI CORBIN, MISSIONS COORDINATOR
(kristi@firstpres.church)

From my simple question to **Pastor Tatum** of “What else can we do to help?” during my normal S.A.F.E. House agency visit in early 2016, came the request for me to teach psychology classes to help the program. It continues to be a humbling and exciting experience to facilitate classes for the S.A.F.E. House. What a beautiful reminder that God can use our experiences for the greater good when we least expect it. I am using my experiences as a former Associate Professor of Psychology and former co-director of a university community engagement program, and get the chance to observe the Holy Spirit at work in the lives of the participants in the class.

Concepts covered in the class include topics generally addressed in many undergraduate Introduction to Psychology, Stress Management, and Positive Psychology courses. The course is not offered through any accredited educational institution, and thus does not offer any actual college course credit. It is a course purely for the academic understanding and self-development of those attending. The goals of the course are to learn and apply psychology in one’s daily life, especially those that have been linked to increased well-being. As such, I try to communicate faith in humanity’s ability to adapt, to demonstrate that all humans face challenges and to ensure that the participants know that I

believe all humans are in need of (and can benefit from) self-improvement or growth. Topics covered in 2017 include: neuroplasticity, introduction to Positive Psychology principles, theories of emotions, emotion regulation, emotional expression, classical conditioning, operant conditioning, observational learning, healthy relationships, stress and anger management techniques and exercises, resilience, mindfulness, the effects of psychological factors on physical health, religion and spirituality and their effects on health with special emphasis on compassion, empathy and forgiveness, social well-being, flourishing communities, and altruism.

The class is taught with a Christian perspective. We pray at the beginning and end of classes, utilize scripture, and otherwise relate concepts to God and Christian teachings naturally throughout the course. The class is ecumenical and all are welcome regardless of their faith. The classes met throughout 2017, with several holiday breaks that coincided with the Mission Coordinator's children's school schedule. Both men and women participated together this year. However, we have discerned that going forward into 2018, the men's classes will be separate from the women's classes. This will allow for more indepth exploration of topics as they relate uniquely to men and women. It also is in keeping with how the S.A.F.E. House runs their program. In all other classes, they attend separately.

May God continue to bless this program in 2018.

World Missions

ELIZABETH PIPPIN, CHAIR
(elizabeth.m.pippin@gmail.com)

Committee Activity

The World Mission Committee (WMC) oversees the World Mission budget and is an active participant in the ministries supported by First Presbyterian Church Champaign (FPCC). This past year our goal was to continue with our previous work of ensuring the congregation is aware of the mission activities supported by WMC and FPCC and expanding

congregational knowledge of the mission opportunities on the global level.

The WMC typically meets monthly (excluding December) and the meetings include an educational component, a devotion, and a business component. Each member is asked to be the liaison to at least one mission ministry supported by FPCC. Liaisons help keep WMC and the church apprised of what the ministries are doing and provide updates during meetings.

The committee is currently comprised of seven church members, two staff members, and one supervising elder. The moderator is **Elizabeth Pippin**.

This committee is composed of compassionate, dedicated loyal servants of First Presbyterian Church who focus on seeking understanding, serving the world's disenfranchised people, and actively witnessing the Great Commission. Members include **Jim Berger, Steve Gritten, Sallie Hutton, Elizabeth Pippin, Jeannie Snoeyink, Bill and Ann Stout, John Muirhead** is the overseeing elder and staff members include **Kristi Corbin** (Mission Coordinator) and **Chuck Carlson** (pastor), prior to his retirement. New members are always welcome. It is our hope in the new year to have more members join us.

Accomplishments/Highlights

This year was a quiet year for WMC. We wanted to devote the year to providing educational opportunities for the congregation about the many different ministries supported by FPCC through WMC. Our main effort in this regard was through regular articles submitted to the *Heart of Missions* newsletter to provide congregational updates on the works of the ministries. We also hosted mission co-workers. July 2017- Hosted **Jeff and Christi Boyd**
September 2017- Hosted **Jo Ella Holman** in collaboration with the Cuba Partnership committee.

Budget Expenditures

- Disbursed \$48,322.00 to various mission

agencies and in support of some congregational mission activities (including \$26,051.00 to PCUSA sanctioned activities).

- Disbursed \$20,000.00 of Forward 150 Mission Funds to Opportunity International to help fund schools geared for children in poverty in the Dominican Republic.
- Disbursed \$500 to support the CYF Go and Serve Trip to Hammond, LA this past summer.
- Disbursed \$6,000 from congregational gifts to Presbyterian Disaster Assistance for the relief efforts for the Hurricanes in Texas and the Caribbean.

2017 Goals

The WMC developed a "Policies and Procedures" statement in 2014 and the stated purpose is: "To respond to God's call to love our neighbors as ourselves. We recognize that everyone is our neighbor and we are committed to growing in that recognition and honoring that. The WMC focuses on our church's role as servant ministers by bringing concerns of needs of those outside of the Champaign County area to the congregation and striving to make a difference by meeting those needs." This past year we took a hard look at what this meant for us as a committee with having to look at possible decreases in financial support to different ministries. In 2017, we took the time to try and discern how we can best use the gifts of FPCC to be servant ministers outside of the Champaign County area and will continue to do this in 2018.

Final Note

On January 1, 2017, I took over as the chairperson of the World Missions Ministry. It has been a year of learning for me as I have worked with this wonderful team of volunteers and learned even more about the different ministries we support. I look forward to 2018 and what it will bring for our church and our team. I am excited to see the ways God leads the WMC in this next year.

Session Highlights

January

- Approved hiring Solstace to restore the stained glass windows as proposed by the F150 committee;
- Approved Jazz Sunday service on March 12 and Music Sunday on May 5.

February

- Approved the updated Benevolence Policy.

March

- Approved extending an invitation to Dr. Carroll to speak on May 30, 2017;
- Approved moving Communion to April 30, 2017 due to Music Sunday on May 5;
- Approved the Rev. David Bauer to serve communion by intinction during children's church on April 23, 2017;
- Approved Session retreat on Saturday, April 1, 2017 from 8:30 AM to 1 PM.

April

- Approved moving the Contemporary Service to 11 AM beginning the first Sunday in June;
- Approved an extension of the terms of Eric's contract beyond June;
- Approved funding participation in the Habitat Interfaith Build of \$2,000 from donations from the congregation and the Session Discretionary Funds;
- Approved curriculum recommendations from the Spiritual Formation team.

May

- Approved special meeting of Session to discuss new format for Sunday services;
- Approved study of *Waking Up White* over the summer;
- Approved engaging Jim Webster and Associates to look at the valuation of the southwest property at a cost not to exceed \$6,000.

June

- Approved a Time and Talent survey be included in our fall Stewardship Campaign.

July

- Approved a concurrent service on Sunday, September 23, 2017,

August

- Approved an organ concert on November 3, 2017 at 7 PM;
- Approved a class by **Peter Yau** on *God In the Manger*;

- Approved Eric teaching an adult education class in the fall;
- Approved Cozad Asset Management, Inc. to manage the church's investment portfolio;
- Approved Adult Education be held from 10:10-10:55 AM on Sunday mornings and the children's sermon be at the earliest part of the 9 AM service.

September

- Approved a letter to the congregation explaining the proposal to sell acreage to Copper Creek with Q and A forums on October 8 and 9.

November

- Approved a combined service on November 25, 2017 followed by a Congregational Meeting to vote on the PNC nominee;
- Approved hosting the Presbytery meeting on November 15, 2018;

- Approved funds from F150 for safety and needed improvements for the nursery;
- Approved freezing the 2018 Budget to the figures from 2017;
- Approved Christmas Eve service times of 9 AM; 4 PM and 8 PM.

December

- Approved a Congregational Meeting for requesting the sale of a portion of the acreage in Southwest Champaign to Copper Creek Church for January 21, 2018.

2018 Church Officers

2020	2019	2018
Session Elders Moderator: Matt Matthews		
Judi Geistlinger	Celeste Kim	John Muirhead
Steve Tock	Bill Marble	Mark Schoeffmann
Karin Vermillion	Pat Metcalf	Eric Stickels
Tim Young	Cesar Mnyampara	Jeannie Snoeyink
	Gary Peterson	
	Ann Stout	
Community Mission Deacons Moderator: Mike Havey		
Barbara Clark	Nancy Brombaugh	Don Fischer
Steve Gritten	Barbara Fuller-Curry	Judy Gamble
		Kathy Havey
		Mike Havey
		Linda Olson
Congregational Care Deacons Moderator: Beth Hutchens		
Jean Brunson	Kathy Kinser	Jane Alsberg
Katharine Jones	Jeannie Murray	Amy Born
Pam Knox	Cathy Stickels	Beth Hutchens
Marge Olson		Nancy MacGregor
		Kurt Ruthmansdorfer
		Lola Ruthmansdorfer
		Joanne Walther
		Larry Walther

Spiritual Formation...

JUDI GEISTLINGER
(judigeistlinger@outlook.com)

Our team organized in February with **Pastor Chuck Carlson** then **Eric Corbin** joined **David Bauer, Judi Geistlinger, Betty Hollister, Claudia Kirby, Peter and Rittchell Yau** after Chuck's retirement.

Purpose

Our purpose is to provide adult spiritual formation opportunities that respond to the diverse needs of our congregation. We aim to not only increase attendance at our classes but also increase the depth of faith for all.

2017 Activities

One of our goals was to offer some study each Sunday as well as facilitate and cross-advertise studies happening on other days of the week.

Studies offered this year included:

- Revelation facilitated by **Chuck Carlson**
- Belhar Confession facilitated by **Pat Metcalf** and **Chuck Carlson**
- *God's Abundant Table* by Cynthia Campbell during Lent, facilitated by **Judi Geistlinger**
- *Fear of the Other* by William Willimon, facilitated by **Judi Geistlinger**
- *Pilgrim's Regress* and *Surprised by Joy* by C.S. Lewis, both facilitated by **Peter Yau**
- *God is in the Manger* by Dietrich Bonhoeffer was facilitated by **Peter Yau** during Advent.

We offered a Summer Sunday series which met in Mae Chapin Parlor at 10:10 AM. We purchased the curriculum from Feasting on the Word for the summer semester for adults, based on the lectionary. We liked the drop-in format for participants and the opportunity to reflect on the scripture preached in church.

Facilitators in the summer included: **Judi Geistlinger, Bob Kirby, Bill Metcalf, Mary Gritten, Ann Stout, Gary Peterson, Betty Hollister, and Pat Metcalf.**

During the spring we ran a pilot of *Waking Up White* in our team, to see if we thought the book could be taught to the congregation. We offered the book in a six-week format in the fall, facilitated by **Betty Hollister** and **Judi Geistlinger**. It was extremely well received, with 20-30 in attendance each night.

Guest presenters spoke to us this year;

- **M. Daniel Carroll** from Wheaton College presented a workshop entitled: 'Discovering God's Heart for Migrants in the Bible' and an evening lecture and discussion titled "Can the Bible Help us with Immigration?"
- **Mr. Underwood**, who grew up child of missionaries in Korea presented a history of the Presbyterian Church in Korea to help understanding of the Korean conflict. A wonderful, catered Korean lunch was enjoyed before the presentation.

In August we updated our twice-yearly brochure on educational opportunities that included the listing of our small groups and Bible studies. This is in print form and also on our website. The brochure is prepared and distributed by **Marcia Franks** of the church office. In addition to Sunday morning classes for adults, the brochure contains information about Bible studies, Presbyterian Women Circles, ChristCare groups, and prayer, fellowship and book study groups that meet throughout the week at church, in homes and in locations in C-U and Rantoul. Some groups meet weekly, biweekly or monthly throughout the year. Others meet for shorter periods of time during the school year. Some groups meet for a specific period of time and focus. The Cuba Study group met for seven weeks in the Fall to learn more about Cuba and the Presbyterian Church there and to prepare members who would like to participate in travel to visit our sister church in Havana, Cuba in April of 2018.

In the fall we continued Feasting on the Word during the new Education Hour

from 10:10-10:55 to allow participants to attend after the 9 AM service and before the 11. Facilitators and presenters both noted how little time was actually available and would like to revisit the timing of the education hour.

We developed and approved an evaluation form for facilitators to distribute following classes, seeking feedback on the course, more subjects to teach

During Advent we offered two opportunities for spiritual growth:

- **Peter Yau** offered a study of Dietrich Bonhoeffer's *God is in the Manger* to a packed Parlor during Advent.
- Presbyterian Outlook bulletin inserts were added the four Sundays of Advent which included daily readings and suggestions for action.

The team closed the year by selecting a curriculum to offer to new church officers, entitled *Making Disciples, Making Leaders* in a 4 session format, as a pilot program beginning in January. **Betty Hollister** and **Judi Geistlinger** were set to lead, but **Eric Corbin** took Judi's role when Judi was elected elder in January 2018.

Membership Stats

Membership 12-31-2016	679
Gains	
Other	2
Losses	
Deaths	23
Certificate	2
Other	50
Membership 12-31-2017	606
Baptisms	
Infant	2

Worship...

PAT METCALF
(PATMETCALF@ATT.NET)

Acting on behalf of the Session, the Worship Team is responsible for overseeing Worship and the elements of the Worship services not reserved to the Pastor by the "Book of Order", and to assure the concordance of those elements with the theme of the sermon and hymns selected by the Pastor for a given service.

Members: **Pastors Chuck Carlson and Eric Corbin**; Session representative and chair; **Pat Metcalf; Celeste Kim**, Session representative; **Dave McNattin**, co-chair and Communion Ministry chair; **Joe Grant and Andrea Pope**, music ministries; **Nancy Martin**, chair of Ushers; **Bill Stout**, representing "The Gathering"; **Charles Masengu, Godfrey Bukenya and Bob Kirby**, representing the Francophone service. (**Pat Mitchell** served briefly as a representative of the 8 o'clock service. **Mindy Watts-Ellis** was an "as-needed participant".)

The committee met monthly, with two exceptions. Each meeting began with a period of Bible study/devotion focused on an element of Reformed worship: the call to worship (adoration), the confession, song, prayer of the community, baptism, the Lord's Supper and the Hearing of the Word.

A variety of issues were brought to the committee, resolutions sought, and recommendations were made to Session for action. Among these were: change in Sunday worship schedules; child care and uniform requests for musicians for the Francophone service; request to relieve **Marcia Franks** of liturgists recruitment; changes in communion dates, 150 anniversary service participant planning, request from the African community for regular conjoint services, planning for **Chuck Carlson's** final service, participation in the stewardship campaign; planning for the pastoral candidating sermon service; and Christmas Eve services scheduling and participant recruitment.

There were three specially called meetings to deal with emergent issues.

In August the committee received an urgent request from CYF to deal with logistical problems related to the Session decision that the children would be present in worship.

Two other called meetings related to the planning of the Carlson farewell services, especially the music. The planning incorporated elements of the traditional, the contemporary and the francophone service.

Liturgy is defined in the reformed tradition as "the work of the people." The team is extremely grateful to the more than 35 new faces as well as the veterans who have stepped up to take on the responsibility of leading the congregation in the liturgy.

Reports of two standing sub-committees of "Communion" and "Ushers" as well as a report of the Francophone Ministry follow below.

Ushers

NANCY MARTIN
(NEMARTIN@HOTMAIL.COM)

The goal of the ushers is to welcome all to the sanctuary and to help each one to feel at home. We connect with the pastors and the custodial staff when a special need arises.

With the faithful assistance of leaders and several willing helpers, we have been able to provide ushers for the 8 and 9 o'clock services.

Ushers arrive twenty to thirty minutes before each service to prepare for the arrival of members and guests. Friendship pads are distributed, marked, and collected as needed. Bulletins are distributed. The welcome bell is rung. The offering

is received and secured. Attendance is recorded.

We extend grateful appreciation to leaders **Byron and Kim Kemper, John Muirhead, Gwen and Jack Pollard, Sue and Don Fischer, Gloria Marsh and Jeff Pribble, Steve and Janice Bangert, Nancy and Dave Whitford, Barb Clark, Carol Ann and Dick Green, and Jeff Henderson.**

Faithful ushers include **Gene Morgan, Laurie and Jim Dey, Skip and Lacy Pickering, Ken and Kenna Chapman, Richard Friese, John Braden and Paula and John Stoops.**

We would like to enlarge our circle of leaders and other dependable volunteers who will share their talents for a month or two each year – or a week or two to see what our work is about. Ushering is the ideal way to keep in touch with friends in the congregation and to get acquainted.

Communion Ministry

DAVID MCNATTIN
(DMCNATTIN@GMAIL.COM)

Serving communion at First Presbyterian church requires many people, both those you see serving, as well as those behind the scenes making sure that everything goes smoothly.

The communion team this year consisted of 60 servers filling 101 serving positions at our eight and nine o'clock services. We also have support from our church staff in mailings, instruction handouts, shopping and clean-up. These volunteers are both Elders and Deacons. Though they were elected for specific terms of service, they are committed to a lifelong pledge of service to this congregation. Some serve once each year and others serve as many as three or four times.

This year we implemented a schedule which included several Sundays where communion was served via intinction, also known as "common cup". Though we have done this in the past, we have increased the number of times that have used this method of service. Common cup reduces the number of servers needed and offers a different and some say more personal experience to the sacrament of communion. We hope this has been rewarding for each member of First Presbyterian Church. Your comments are always welcome.

Thank you for allowing the communion team to serve you this past year and if you would like to be involved in either the serving or preparing the elements, you are invited to join our group.

[Communion is served weekly by intinction at "The Gathering". The sacrament of Holy Communion is offered at the Francophone Service on the first Saturday of each month.]

Francophone Ministry

Purpose

The Praise and Prayer Gathering is a French-English language participatory spiritual worship experience combining scripture reading, music, simultaneous praying aloud and a brief sermon.

We are an all-inclusive community. You will be welcomed Saturdays 6 to 8:30 PM in Centennial Hall.

A House of Prayer

As the body is nourished by food, so the human mind is nourished by God's word and the soul is nourished by prayer. The Praise and Prayer Gathering is not a church or a department. It is a house of prayer. "My house will be called a house where people from all nations can pray." (Isaiah 56:7).

We pray aloud together with cries and tears. "Jesus prayed while he lived on earth. He made his appeal with loud cries and tears. He prayed to the One who

could save him from death. God heard him because he truly honored God." (Hebrews 5:7)."

History

Following a well-attended New Year's Eve ecumenical night of prayer in 2012 the idea of a regularly scheduled time for Francophone prayer was discussed. A prayer time called The Praise and Prayer Gathering was scheduled on Saturday evenings in the chapel. It initially consisted of four people. While the initial emphasis was on prayer alone, a sermon given by visiting pastors was added along with other elements of Christian worship such as the sacrament of communion. When we outgrew the chapel, we moved to Centennial Hall.

Description

The Praise and Prayer Gathering is a weekly Saturday worship opportunity from 6 to 8:30 PM. About 100 people participate with an average attendance of 65. This is a family worship so children of all ages worship with adults. Most of those who attend are members and guests of First Presbyterian Church of Champaign but there are often some worshippers who are affiliated with other congregations, particularly when our service is led by visiting pastors from Central Africa. Worship is in French with translation to English when Anglophones are in attendance. Translation has also been offered in Lingala when appropriate.

Our prayers are offered with simultaneous music. We pray in song and we pray aloud with music background. We praise God and we plea for forgiveness and we petition Him. Relative to other local Francophone ministries, our worship has an emphasis on repentance.

We have a time for greeting each other. We recognize new guests and we celebrate birthdays, new babies and marriages. The first Saturday of each month the sermon is offered by one of our First Presbyterian Church teaching elders and Holy Communion is served that Saturday. On other Saturdays we rely on both members of the congregation and guests from other

congregations.

Our choir consists of seven to nine people including vocalist, guitar, keyboard and percussion. In total a group of about fifteen are available to step up when needed.

Organization

Our goal is to actively involve as many as possible in the work of the Christ in the church and beyond. We emphasize discipline and service as essential Christian values which glorify God.

The Worship Committee meets weekly and prays from 5-6 each Saturday. We are organized as follows: Shepherd and Worship Director **César Mnyampara***; Worship Leaders **Charles Masengu, Gabriel Mboyo, Solange Mboyo, Noelle Ntumba***; Music Director **Aron Ngonde***; Ushers **Olga Manzungu, Lajoie Ditunguluka, FyFy Kasongo** and **Nadette Eloia***; Treasurer, **Neema Nelly Musafiri**; Secretary **Christian Ilunga**; Prayer **Serge Ilunga**; Presbyterian Women **Mamiley Masweka*** and **Noelle Ntumba***. (*members of First Presbyterian Church, Champaign)

Representatives of both the Francophone ministry and Session meet monthly on the first Sunday at noon to share and plan together.

Diaconal Care

While not ordained deacons we provide care to those in the community with need. All needs are directed to Alain Nana who organizes support as possible. This includes home visits for prayer, transportation, job applications, hospital visits and needs for the Widows and Orphans fund such as food or shelter emergencies.

Prayer Groups

Small group prayer is offered twice daily on weekdays and daily during advent. Night prayers in larger groups occur through the year primarily during federal holidays.

Conferences and Special Worship Events

We celebrate International Day of The Woman each March with visiting speakers from the community. We have usually done at least one three-day conferences each year featuring guest pastors from the U.S. and Africa.

Traditional Music Program

JOE GRANT
(JOEGRANT@ILLINOIS.EDU)

The traditional music program includes the Sanctuary Choir, Upper Room Ringers, and Children's Choir. The Sanctuary Choir has 21 volunteer members and four paid section leader/soloists. It provides music for the 9 AM traditional service on a weekly basis, song leaders for 8 AM, and features two Music Sundays per year in which a master work or series of anthems are performed with chamber orchestra. It is conducted by **Joe Grant**.

The Upper Room Ringers consists of 6-10 players and plays in services approximately once every two months. It is led by **Karin Vermillion**.

The Children's Choir serves jointly as part of the CYF ministry and meets following Sunday School at 10 AM. It performs quarterly in the main traditional service. It was led by **Allegra Martin** for a year. Following an unsuccessful search for a replacement this fall, **Joe Grant** worked with the children to prepare music for the Christmas Eve Family worship service.

Spring Music Sunday 2017 included eight works of varying musical styles, highlighted by two movements from Mozart's *Missa Brevis in D*. The choir was accompanied by six string players.

Christmas Music Sunday featured the Baroque cantata, *Magnificat* by Pergolesi. This was accompanied by a string quartet.

The Sanctuary Choir and musicians from both The Gathering worship team and the Congolese performers took part in the farewell celebration for **Pastor Chuck Carlson**. More combined worship events of this nature are being considered for the

coming year. Jazz Sunday provided another musical highlight to the worship calendar.

Traditional Music Staff:

Joe Grant, Conductor/Director
Richard Rossi, Organist
Karin Vermillion, Bell Choir Director
Karen Dohme, Rehearsal Accompanist

Contemporary Worship

BILL STOUT, CHAIR
(W-STOUT1@ILLINOIS.EDU)

Committee Purpose and Function

The CWT is charged with developing strategies to maintain, execute, and grow the 11:00 worship service, aka The Gathering. Current committee members are **Gary and Linda Peterson, Bill and Ann Stout** (more members needed clearly a 2018 goal!). We appreciated the support of **Mike and Linda Olson**, who had served on CWT for much of 2017.

Staff includes **Andrea Pope**, worship leader ¼ time, and pastors, **Matt Mathews** (incoming Feb. 2018) and **Eric Corbin**. Supportive staff are the Outreach Coordinator, who, under the auspices of the Outreach Committee (**Gary Peterson**, chair) will be an important resource person because CWT currently does and will continue to do serious Outreach. Also supportive is the Audio-visual Technician, **Robert Ferrer**, who manages (under Eric's oversight) sound for us every Sunday. CWT always has a representative on the Worship Committee, whom CWT reports to.

The CWT meets monthly, with meetings consisting of planning the general structure of the service, and planning publicity/outreach, which includes planning special events like luncheons. CWT's central mission includes (1) attracting new members to The Gathering and (2) maintaining and modifying The Gathering so that it provides a family friendly (there is a children's activity area) contemporary worship experience that is spiritually meaningful

for those 1st Pres members who prefer a more informal service and, importantly, can help attract new members and thus help grow our church.


CWT thus has a missional purpose as an outreach ministry, noting that almost all of our local churches offer a "contemporary" service, while often including a traditional service. CWT has a fixed budget to carry out the above functions, including a modest line item to pay outside musicians, as needed.

The process of creating and refining The Gathering service is ongoing for CWT. To illustrate, we provide Communion every Sunday, provide a prayer time where those present can offer prayers of concerns and joys, have minimal liturgy, sing often as led by our band (a mixture of contemporary songs and traditional hymns sung up-tempo), and augment the service with audio/visual clips. All of these components have been the result of CWT planning.

Notable 2017 Events.

The 2016 move of the service to 9 AM, done entirely to allow the children of attending parents to go to Sunday School, was judged a failure, and we now meet at 11 AM with the children's activity area allowing families who wish it to have their children stay for the service. It is believed that the informal and lively nature of the service can work well for children. Sometimes The Elect of God and **Jean Rene's** group have helped lead our service and we hope to continue this in 2018. A serious Outreach effort was restarted in late 2017, extending into 2018. It includes back-of-the-bus MTD ads, radio spots (voiced by Eric), and Daily Illini ads, both print and digital. This publicizing of the service will be evaluated and modified as appropriate in 2018.

Andrea Pope's position was reduced from ½ time to ¼ time, and thus CWT recommended that 1st Pres hire an Outreach Coordinator ¼ time, which is being done. We are planning the streaming of our services in 2018 and are providing video clips of the band to be viewable by



potential Gathering visitors to the service. For example, web visitors can see such on our church webpage. In 2018, the quality will be improved via new recordings. Plans were completed for a celebration of The Gathering with a New Year's luncheon on January 14 with the seating for the service and the luncheon being at tables.

Snacks of various kinds, including fresh popcorn, cheese and crackers, homemade cookies/candy, etc. have been provided virtually every 2017 Sunday for after service visiting. Much committee time was spent discussing how to best grow our service via attracting more visitors to a service that is not in its final form yet, but like the traditional service, is of a very high quality. Now with the Outreach Committee being active and effective, the CWT is in liaison with them as their and our outreach goals mesh.

A beautiful wall quilted hanging of The Cross requested by CWT and done by **Judy Gamble** is a welcome addition to Centennial Hall and thus to the Gathering service (come see it)!

There is much optimism about 2018!

Finance...

MARK SCHOEFFMANN
(mschoeffmann@mchsi.com)

Operating Funds

In 2017, total revenues for the operating fund were \$991,255, about 2.0% above the budgeted amount and \$7,826 more than in 2016. Revenue for 2017 included \$863,159 in contributions compared to \$886,100 in 2016. Total Expenses for 2017 were \$970,018, about 3.3% below budget and \$64,919 less than in 2016. The net result was a positive balance of \$21,237 compared with a deficit of \$51,509 in 2016. Contributions in 2017 were about 89% of church expenses with other funds accounting for 13.2% resulting in the 2.2% surplus. Other revenues include payments from the Cannon Trust which amounted to \$75,903 in 2017 and \$27,700 in transfers from other funds that were not made in 2016.

Endowment/Strategic Reserves

Total invested funds at the end of the year were \$2,147,063 compared to \$1,945,212 at the end of 2016. Invested funds include \$1,485,183 in strategic reserves and \$543,205 in permanent endowment funds. Investment returns were 13.8% for 2017.

2018 Budget

In 2018, projected total revenues are \$982,050. Pledges of \$ 740,000 are anticipated for 2018 which is 1.6% less than pledges budgeted for 2017 and 0.1% less than actual pledged contributions received in 2017. Expenses are budgeted at \$1,020,567 which is about 5.2% more than the actual expenses in 2017 and 1.7% above the 2017 budget. Actual expenses in 2017 were 3.3% below the budget. This results in a projected deficit of \$38,517, compared to a projected deficit in 2017 of \$31,271.

Thank You

God has entrusted much to our care; in fact all we have comes from God. Being faithful stewards of all our gifts is an essential part of our grateful response to God's amazing grace. Thank you for all the ways you contribute to the financial strength and vitality of God's church through the ministry of this congregation.

Summary of Budgets for 2017 and 2018

	2017 Budget	2017 Actual	2018 Budget
Revenues			
Pledges	\$752,403	\$741,046	\$740,000
Plate	110,000	122,113	113,000
Cannon Trust	74,200	75,903	77,000
Restricted Funds	32,450	32,450	29,750
Other	3,100	19,743	22,300
Total Revenues	\$972,153	\$991,255	\$982,050
Expenses			
Clergy	\$233,816	\$236,637	\$239,332
GA Per Capita	27,480	27,480	27,440
Staff Misc.	14,400	8,890	14,000
Music	73,284	73,041	74,800
Contemporary Worship	33,336	30,214	21,000
Worship	3,700	3,906	8,200
Mission	126,650	124,329	129,700
Children/Youth	84,087	64,964	82,750
Adult Education	1,100	1,274	1,100
Office (Administration)	191,558	180,329	190,331
Building & Grounds	207,413	211,927	212,314
Congregational Care	1,000	637	1,000
Hospitality	5,600	6,390	18,600
Total Expenses	\$1,003,424	\$970,018	\$1,020,567
Revenue-Expenses	(\$31,271)	\$21,237	(\$38,517)

Forward 150

ERIC STICKELS
(ericstickels@gmail.com)

The final year of the Forward 150 Campaign was a busy one. In addition to its yearly mission commitment, Forward 150 funded an upgrade to the nursery in the Christian Education Building and a new church sign at the corner of State Street and Church Street.

The major project of 2017 was the removal, restoration, and reinstallation of the stained glass windows in the east and north sides of the sanctuary. 2018 will see the reinstallation of restored stained glass on the south side of the Sanctuary, as well as completion of masonry work on the church sign.

Beginning Balance (12/31/16)	\$743,969
Income	
2017 Contributions	\$168,237
Investment Income	8,668
 Total Income	 \$176,905
Expenses	
Total	\$619,732
Ending Balance (12/31/17)	\$301,142

Buildings & Grounds

CHRIS PENNY, FACILITY MANAGER
(chris@firstpres.church)

Team members: **Rob Vermillion** (Session rep), **Tim Young** (new Session rep/Chair 2018), **Bill Gamble** (Chair 2017), **Gene Morgan**, **Jim Andrews**, **Gary Burgett**, **Bill Marble!** If anyone has an interest in joining the B&G Committee, please see either **Tim Young** or **Bill Gamble**.

In the past couple of years, Building & Grounds met collectively a few times but we communicated all matters whether it be financial or any other task that needed attention by email or phone. Over the

period, we worked on improvements to the facility and closely with Forward 150 on upgrades.

- All outside lighting is LED
- Resolved the flooding issue in both buildings
- Stain glass window repair/F150 and B&G
- AC upgrade to Education Building/ F150 and B&G
- Digital Sign/F150, B&G and Tech
- Office remodel
- Nursery Room upgrade/F150, B&G and CYF
- Removal of dying trees SE corner of Church Building
- Painting of handrails, light poles, bike rack, poles to awning of Ed Building, repairing and painting of awning and light trims of Ed Building, painting the shed
- Brick work to SE and NE corner of flower beds
- Concrete repair of sidewalk in front of Education Building
- Sprinkler system in Church Building/ F150 and B&G
- New hot water heater Ed Building

The facility is well used with meetings, Bible studies, memorials, social events and other gatherings. In 2018, we will continue to provide an inviting and safe place for the congregation and visitors to worship and fellowship.

Children, Youth & Family Ministries...

MINDY WATTS-ELLIS, DIRECTOR
(mindy@firstpres.church)

Personnel changes

Allegra Martin resigned as the Children's Choir Director on May 21, 2017. A search committee was formed and did not have a replacement by December 31, 2017. **Blaise Pascal Zamena** was hired on June 26, 2017 as the part-time Assistant Director of Children, Youth, and Family Ministries.

Sunday School Winter/Spring

The schedule of having children begin for a children's worship time in the chapel from 9-9:20 AM and then dismissing to their classes continued. Sunday School curriculum for January continued with Power Express curriculum units for the elementary and Middle School students. Bible subjects taught were the calling of the disciples, the good Samaritan, the greatest commandment, the Lord's Prayer, the Shema and the Beatitudes, the Lord's Supper, and the conversion of Paul. A special celebration of the Lord's Supper was approved by Session and concluded our unit of study on April 23 in the chapel with **Rev. David Bauer**. A personal invitation was sent to all families regarding this special children's church time and parents were encouraged to take part. All of the Sunday School children in attendance on April 30 were in worship to share the experience of communion with the greater congregation.

The preschool class used Bible Learning Folders curriculum by Karyn Henley with the topics; God made all kinds of friends, I help, I pray, Jesus is My Friend, Jesus is Alive, and I am kind to my friends.

The Third Grade Bible class was held March 5- March 26, with presentation of the Bibles on March 26. Recipients were: **Marleo Ange Mondebele, Willy Brindel Kuignou, Mike Musasa, Charlie Wixson, and David Kabeya**. The Bible class was taught by **Betty Hollister and Joyce Wittler**.

There was no confirmation class for the 2016-2017 academic program year.

Sunday School Summer

Summer Sunday school for elementary students was a 4 week series in June—Pentecost, Daniel is captured, Shadrach, Meshach and Abednego in the fiery furnace, and Daniel and the Lion's den. The children began with worship time in the chapel and then proceeded to West Side Park for the activity choices of a craft, game, or time on the playground.

Vacation Bible School was held on each of the five Sundays of July in the afternoon from 1-3:30 PM. The curriculum was Spark Labs: God's Plan 4 You.

Sunday School Fall/Winter

Another new Sunday morning schedule and Sunday School routine started September 10 with a continuation of the 9 AM beginning time, but with the elementary children beginning in the sanctuary until the children's sermon and then dismissed to class. The Power Express curriculum has been discontinued, so some desired topics were obtained from the Deep Blue curriculum also. Elementary children studied the following topics; Jesus and the Children, Jacob, Joseph, Jonah, and the angel messages of the Christmas story. Preschool and toddlers curriculum was Karyn Hendley's Bible Learning Folder Series for Early Childhood. The topics of study were I praise God, God made my family, I give, I obey my parents, and Jesus is God's Son.

A confirmation class began October 1 with 7 students: **Ian Evensen, Sam and Henry Laufenberg, Richard Miller, Maisie Wixon, Hannah Stickels, and Katie Young**. Confirmation met from 10:10-11 AM using the 'colaborate' Presbyterian confirmation curriculum from Sparkhouse.

The high school Sunday school hour was held from 10:10-11. Focus: 'Developing our Relationship with God through trust, love and faithfulness, prayer, scripture,

and patience' and the Christmas story characters from a modern social media experience.

Sunday School Mission

Mission projects were offered for Sunday school participation from 10am-10:30am from January until May. Projects were 20 Valentine gift bags for Faith in Action clients, 31 bean bags for DREAM house kids, two completed communion table covers (one for our sister church in Cuba and one for us), thank you gift bags for R.U.M. staff and Restoration Urban Ministries.

The children collected coins in fish banks for the One Great Hour of Sharing offering which was received by the church on Easter Sunday.

Mission projects continued in the Fall as an option before 9 AM in the chapel as children arrived. The children made 24 Hygiene kits for Presbyterian Disaster Assistance, decorated trash cans for Jesus is the Way Prison Ministry, made greeting cards for the homebound members of the church, and made a special gift for **Rev. Chuck Carlson** for his retirement.

Children's Choir

Children's choir sang February 12, May 7, and May 21 at the 9 AM traditional worship service.

The children's choir met regularly for rehearsal on Sunday mornings from 10-10:30 AM. Preschool children also got music time during 15 minutes of their Sunday school lesson each week until Allegra's last day. There was no choir offered in the summer. **Joe Grant** offered practice time for the children in November and December to prepare for the Christmas pageant. Children's choir sang for the 4 PM Christmas Eve service December 24.

Family Events

October 29 was the annual Trunk or Treat event from 5:00-6 PM with treats, trunks, and games! A soup supper was offered afterward from 6-7 PM in Centennial Hall. We had over 300 participants for a fun **18**

filled evening.

Christmas Eve service at 4 PM featured the program "The Greatest Gift Ever."

Special Youth Events

Four youth and two adults went to Hammond, LA for the Go and Serve trip June 4-10. Participants were **Jonathan Mnyampara, Dann Musasa, Destin Lemblembe, Rick Loma, Lizz Pippin,** and **Mark Schoeffmann.** The trip helped with long term flood recovery efforts in the community in partnership with the Fuller Center and Presbyterian Disaster Assistance.

Collaborative youth fellowship events were organized with The First Presbyterian Church of Urbana and McKinley Presbyterian Church for the fall. The first was held September 24 at our church with food and games. One was November 5 at McKinley for food and a service project for Canteen Run, and one was December 10 at Market Place Mall for Mall Tag, a fun service project to buy gifts for families in need.

A pancake dinner was held for the church as a fundraiser for the Go and Serve trip on February 26. A Christmas cookie bake sale fundraiser was held December 17 for the 2018 Go and Serve trip.

Many thanks to the CYF Team: **Joyce Wittler, Mel Leichter** (resigned from committee in August), **Sabrina Hwu, Elizabeth Pippin, Kristi Carlson,** and **Patty Farthing.**

Sunday School Volunteers: **Joyce Wittler, Mel Leichter** (resigned in August), **Elizabeth Pippin, Sabrina Hwu, Claudia Kirby, Simao Nhoca** (left in June), **Thethe Kidimbu, Noni Ledford, Judy Hendrickson, Pam Hadley, Beth Born, Grace Rispoli, Beryl Forewah** (moved in August), **Cathy and Eric Stickels** (resigned in May), **Marjorie Wixson** (resigned in May), **Jan Wittler, Naomi Rempe, Jane Seiler** (resigned in May), **Betty Hollister, and Laeticia**

Kyungu. New volunteers that joined in Fall: **Kathy Kinser, Mary Lou Bauer, Dionne Goodman, Bob Twardock** (resigned in December), **Kathy Schoeffmann, George and Liz Miley, and Jay Geistlinger** (joined in December).

Assistant CYF Report

BLAISE PASCAL, ASSISTANT DIRECTOR CYF
(blaise@firstpres.church)

I joined the Children, Youth and Family Ministry on 26 June 2017. As an assistant, I work under my director supervision.

I would like to outline some of my duties according to my job description and also in term of the assignments which were given by my director.

Some of my jobs were:

- Updating CYF Ministry family database
- Planning and taking care of middle grade and secondary school curriculum
- Monitoring Sunday School classes every Sunday
- Planning for 2018 Go and Serve Mission trip
- Taking care of confirmation class curriculum
- Attending meeting with First Presbyterian Church of Urbana and McKinley Church to plan for youth events
- Planning and helping my director to run winter youth retreat
- Helping CYF department to run Trunk or Treat event
- Dealing with transportation issues
- Making calls and reaching CYF French speaking families
- Working with CYF team to recommend CYF budget
- Planning with CYF team cookie sale

2018 will be a year of improvement and also we will be always working as a team in order for us to deliver to the community through our ministry.

Ministries...

Congregational Care Deacons

BETH HUTCHENS, MODERATOR
(Beth.Hutchens@icloud.com)

Our Congregational Care Deacons for 2017 were **Miriam Chenault, Katharine Jones, Liz Miley, Mamiley Masweka, Linda Tichenor, Jane Alsberg, Amy Born, Beth Hutchens, Nancy MacGregor, Kurt and Lola Ruthman-sdorfer, Joanne and Larry Walther, Kathy Kinser, Linda McKay, Jeanie Murray, and Cathy Stickels.** Pastors **Chuck Carlson** and **Eric Corbin** met with the group about once a month on the first Thursdays of the month at noon. Pastor Eric played an increasing role as the year progressed and Pastor Carlson retired. Pastors and committee members also had group communions at Windsor of Savoy and Clark-Lindsey senior living facilities. As requested, private communions were served by ministers, and assisted by a Care Deacon.

Retiring at the end of 2017 were **Miriam Chenault, Liz Miley, and Linda Tichenor,** and we are so thankful for their years of service. We were sad to lose **Linda McKay** when she passed away six months into her service as a Care Deacon but were grateful for her U.S. Mail ministry for us along with her daughter **Cathy Stickels.** We were joyous over the recovery of **Joanne Walther** after an automobile accident.

We made monthly contacts with our Care Receivers through visitations, phone calls, emails, letters, and cards. Prayers were offered at meetings and during visits besides our prayers at home and in church. We delivered church bulletins, quarterly devotion booklets, other church information such as the monthly newsletters and mission newsletters, prayer shawls, PW cookies, and other seasonal surprises. We also said good-bye to way too many of our special friends during 2017 but are grateful for their lives and their loyalty

to our church throughout their lives, as well as their gifts of stewardship, time and talent. We maintained the most current contact information we could between some changing residencies throughout the year and are grateful to **Patty Farthing** for keeping our records for us. We have tried to love these friends through their challenges, to show them that they have not been forgotten, and to keep them as current as possible with the activities of the church.

Our major expenses for the year were for miniature poinsettias that were delivered with PW Cookies to as many Care Receivers locally in early December and a donation toward the luncheon expense that honored **Pastor Chuck Carlson.** The Care Deacons are to be thanked for their individual generosity in assuming expenses for gifts, cards, and postage. In addition, 127 thank-you notes were written for memorial donations in 2017.

Jean Brunson, Pam Knox, and Marge Olson have joined the Care Deacons in 2018, and we are grateful that **Katharine Jones** will continue in this ministry. Thanks to others who still want to continue their contacts with these friends.

Continue to pray for this ministry, for the Care Receivers as well as the Caregivers. Also, if you know of someone who would appreciate a monthly contact from the church, please let the ministers or **Patty Farthing** know of their wishes. We don't want to intrude but we do want to remember and appreciate these church members.

Relocation Ministry

BOB KIRBY, CHAIR
(rwk3213@gmail.com)

Statement of Faith

Hebrews 13:2 Do not forget to show hospitality to strangers, for by so doing some people have shown hospitality to angels without knowing it.

Matthew 25:40

The King will reply, 'I tell you, whenever you did this for one of the least important of these followers of mine, you did it for me!'

Purpose

- Welcome immigrants-refugees to our community
- Provide essential items to live in first independent American home

Organization and Support

Team: **Mary, Don and Christine Clegg, Bill and Judy Gamble, Joe Grant, Bob, Claudia and Mike Kirby, Christian Ilunga, Jonathan King, Eric Maye, Audry Kukosama Muntu, Destin Lembelembe, Charles Masengu, John Muirhead, Cameron McDonald, Sean Miller, Christina Nelson, Riley Nsukulu, Timothee Pukuta, Kurt Ruthsmandorfer, Don Sendwe, Riley Nsululu, Tim Young** and multiple donors throughout Champaign County.

This team does not have scheduled meetings. We meet to respond to needs.

Description of Work

The focus of this ministry is to provide basic support to new Americans as they move from a host family to their first independent home. The objective is to provide prayer for the family and their new home and to provide basic furnishings donated as gifts from the community. We try to supply a place to sleep and eat, the ability to prepare a meal and a place to sit. This is a start. We know that families will want to purchase the things they really want in the future. We notify them in writing of our limitations.

We provide services to immigrants-refugees affiliated with our congregation or those referred by ECIRMAC or CU-FAIR. We provide services only once to a family. We completed 21 team events (pickups/deliveries) in 2018.

We collaborate with ECIRMAC*, CU-FAIR*, YMCA New American Welcome

Center*, Salt and Light, SHEDD*, Three Spinners*, First Presbyterian-Urbana Twice is Nice Thrift Shop. We request donation letters from ECIRMAC to document charitable donations. When necessary we purchase items (Habitat Store, Salt and Light, Walmart) up to \$50.00 per family member. [A family of four would have a cap of \$200.00]. We maintain records of family name, address, date of relocation and general description of items received and note suggestions for future moves. Gifts can be stored in two storage units, one donated and one paid by the church.

We organize moving crews to receive donations and to move gifts from storage if needed and to receiving homes. We recruit young people to lift and carry and transport them to work sites if needed. Volunteer drivers provide trucks or trailers. We polish wood furniture, treat scratches (Old English) and do simple repairs. We have shoppers (estate and garage sales), laundry, sorting and packaging volunteers who also maintain storage order in our receiving and storage areas.

On receipt of items we cannot use for a relocation (clothing, toys, children's books, home decorative items) we can then move items to First Presbyterian Urbana Twice is Nice thrift shop or to Salt and Light.

Budget

We receive monetary support from our church for one storage unit (\$1,200.00), from an anonymous community donor for a second storage unit and we receive designated monetary gifts and donations of items from our congregation and the community. We have received donations from Champaign, Urbana, Rantoul, Savoy, Sidney, Mahomet, Homer and unincorporated areas of Champaign county.

Recommendations and Goals

This ministry offers many opportunities for volunteers. The good that can be done is limited only by money and time of volunteers. Collaboration and consolidation of efforts with other community agencies

doing similar work is a goal. In addition to collaborators listed above we may have opportunities to work with Illini Christian Fellowship, Apostolic Life Fellowship and Stone Creek Church. We will meet in early 2018 with the agencies which provide similar services for immigrants-refugees to explore whether services can be more effectively organized.

This ministry has no place in the organizational structure of our congregation. Had we a ministry to broadly serve the needs of immigrants-refugees then the Relocation Ministry could be a part of that effort.

*East Central Illinois Refugee Mutual Assistance Center <http://ecirmac.weebly.com/>

*Friends And Allies of Immigrants and Refugees <https://www.cufair.us/>

*New American Welcome Center <https://universityymca.org/welcome/>

*Sharing Hope Every Day (SHED) <http://www.newday8.org/SHED.html>

*Three Spinners (<http://www.threespinners.org>)

Congregational Meetings...

Congregational Meeting January 8, 2017

A meeting was held following the 9:00 A. M. worship services to elect officers to serve beginning in 2017. It was determined that there was a quorum. Pastor Chuck Carlson opened the meeting with prayer. Bill Metcalf, Chairman of the nominating committee proposed the following nominees for office:

Session

Celeste Kim
Bill Marble
Pat Metcalf
Cesar Myampara
Gary Peterson
Ann Stout

Congregational Care Deacons

Kath Kinser
Linda McKay
Jeannie Murray
Cathy Stickels

Community Mission Deacons

Nancy Brombaugh
Barbara Fuller Curry

Nominating Committee

Brandi Lowe
Eric Stickels
Bill Stout

There were no nominations from the floor. The congregation moved, seconded and voted unanimously to elect the slate of officers as presented.

The meeting adjourned at 10:10.

Respectfully submitted,
Betty Hollister
Clerk Pro-tem

Minutes First Presbyterian Church, Champaign IL Annual meeting, July 11, 2017, 10:00 a.m.

The meeting was opened with prayer led by Pastor Chuck Carlson.

A quorum was declared to be present.

Pastor Carlson reviewed the printed annual report and asked for questions or comments. There being none, Pastor Carlson left the meeting and Mark Schoeffmann, elder and chair of the Congregational Finance Committee assumed the chair.

After reviewing the financial reports of 2015 and 2016, he entertained a motion and second to approve the pastoral terms for Chuck Carlson, as printed in the annual report for 2016. Discussion opportunity was given and there was no response. By unanimous vote, the terms for the eleven months of 2017 were approved. Pastor Carlson is retiring near the end of 2017, as per previous action.



The meeting was adjourned on motion with a closing prayer.

Clerk pro tem
C. William Metcalf, elder

**First Presbyterian Church of Champaign
Congregational Meeting
November 26, 2017**

The Reverend William McLean, II as Presbyter for Congregational Care for the Presbytery of Southeastern Illinois and as Moderator called the meeting to order at 10:10 a.m. It was noted that notice of the meeting had been duly made. There being 320 members present, Marc R. Miller as Clerk declared that there was a quorum.

The Moderator noted that the Pastoral Nominating Committee (PNC) had moved for a motion that the Reverend William Parra-more Matthews, Jr. be called by the First Presbyterian Church of Champaign as Senior Pastor and Head of Staff under the terms of call as presented, that Session be authorized to approve the Congregational minutes at a future Session meeting and that the Clerk be authorized to report the actions to the Presbytery.

Ballots were then passed to the Congregation and then collected. The ballots were then counted by the Clerk, PNC member Sabrina Hwu, and Session Member Rob Vermillion. The Clerk announced the vote as being 282 in the affirmative. The motion carried.

Rob Vermillion then made a motion that the PNC be dissolved acknowledging the hard and highly productive work that it had invested into the search process. There was a second by Claudia Kirby. The Moderator called the matter for a vote and the motion carried.

The Moderator led the Congregation in prayer and then called the meeting adjourned. The meeting was adjourned at 10:50 a.m.

Respectfully Submitted,

Marc R. Miller, Clerk