



# FIRST PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH OF CHAMPAIGN

## Annual Report 2018

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

### Reading Between the Lines

MATT MATTHEWS  
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Notice the crowd gathered around Jesus in the Sermon on the Plain (it's in Luke's gospel, chapter six). They are expectant, *for power came out from him*. Like a good shepherd, he blesses the hungry, those who weep, and those who are hated because they are his followers. They will be filled; they will laugh; they will rejoice in heaven. Good news!

But woe to the rich, woe to the satisfied, woe to those who laugh, woe to the popular, for they have received their consolation, they will be hungry, they will mourn and weep, and their popularity will lead to ruin. These cautionary words are good news, too.

Here in Jesus words we find a word of comfort (blessed are you) and a word of warning (woe to you) for which we can thank God. We can thank God because when life breaks us, God heals us. And we can thank God because when our world orbits only around ourselves, God reminds us that human strength is not sufficient, but God's strength is.

Jesus comforts the afflicted. He afflicts the comfortable. Jesus always has a way of appearing in scripture speaking the truth in love, walking with the poor, and standing toe to toe with those in power inviting them into a healing relationship with those who need a friend. Jesus is all about our loving God by finding ways to love and to be in authentic relationship with our near and far neighbors.

This is a theme in scripture. The young prophet Jeremiah puts it this way: Trust God, not people. Those focused on God will flourish and grow (17:5). Those who put their focus elsewhere will wither.

As I read the annual report of our church's ministries, I wondered where our congregation has put its trust. I like what I see, but when one reads the report, it helps to read between the lines. Allow me these comments:

1.) The Finance Team report gives a good snapshot of our numbers, but it doesn't tell the story of the people who pledged a little more than they thought they could afford because they wanted to step out in faith. They did, and they were not disappointed.

2.) Nor does the financial report tell you about the joy a little girl felt when the church gave her her very own Bible. The cost of that Bible was covered by *your* generosity. She'll treasure that Bible for the rest of her life. She'll turn to it when she is bullied in middle school. She'll read the Psalms when she falls in love with poetry in high school. She'll take it to college. She'll read its underlined stories to her children. She'll remember how Mr. Rob and Mrs. Joyce stood up for her on that day in church, and she'll want the same thing for her children. When she's old and dies, her old, grown children will look in that Bible to find some of her favorite passages for the preacher to mention in her funeral sermon.

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3.) The Finance report doesn't spell out that our church budget paid for the seeds that yielded 8-foot sunflowers towering in our church flowerbed by the alley. Our church budget paid emergency rental assistance many times. Our church budget paid for choir music, donut holes, photo copier toner, and after school supplies for at-risk fifth graders in the DREAM House after school program. That's your money at work. Blessed are you who share. Woe to you who do not; *you are missing out*. I'm glad our church tries to be a sharing place, a caring place, a challenging place, a giving place. We are, I think, *faithful* in the eyes of God even though sometimes we may not be *successful* in the eyes of the world.

4.) Again, the financial report doesn't tell you how hard that small committee works pinching pennies. Their favorite chorus about new ministries is, "How are we going to pay for that?" They are often the first to see (and sometimes the last) that Jesus not only multiplies loaves and fishes, he melts hearts and multiplies the generosity of formerly stingy people. We can afford it because, by the grace of God, you pay for it.

5.) You have a report in your packet from the Human Resources Committee. You don't see on those pages how tenderly they work caring for your paid staff. Nor do you see the motion they made to the Session encouraging your Session to speed the day when no one is hired here for anything less than \$15/hour.

6.) The HR report doesn't tell you how your staff is such a faithful, hardworking team. I see it every day. They make me look good, and I need all the help I can get in the good-looks department.

7.) The Worship Team reports they help plan and execute myriad services of worship. You have to read between the lines to see how old people are coming back to worship, new people are finding welcome, children—sometimes squirming—are being nurtured in our always-solid pews, and how God continues to be in the business of changing lives.

8.) The Contemporary Worship Committee, the Traditional Music, and the Children, Youth, and Family reports mention eating, singing, and learning. These are things not to be read about, but lived. If you've missed any of this last year, be wiser this year and—as the Psalmist says—*taste and see that the LORD is good*.

9.) Mention is made in the report of the wildly successful Trunk or Treat event, but no mention is made about the grandmother who couldn't come into Centennial Hall for a hot dinner on a cold night because her wheel chair couldn't make it down the steps. *With God's help, that won't be a problem next Halloween*.

10.) You'll find mention of things like Sholem Fest, International Taste of First Pres, and "The Big Event." These events seem so small on the page, but were, in fact, bursting-at-the-seams exciting. At Sholem Fest, Eric Corbin was the biggest kid in the swimming pool.

11.) Nowhere in the report are gatherings at the Jarling Custard Cup mentioned, but they've happened. I've had sweet meetings there with the Session and Congregational Care Deacons and old church members and potential church members.

12.) Nor does the report mention that it snowed on every Sunday afternoon in April.

13.) The report does not mention the trip a few of us made in the church van to Kemmerer Village where I kissed a real horse. They use horses at Kemmerer to help vulnerable children gain self-confidence and learn something of God's love. It's an amazing place. We support it.

14.) Nothing is said about what happens in the church library where the prayer group meets monthly. Nothing is mentioned about that because their holy work is confidential. Only God knows. Thank God for these pray-ers.

15.) This report underscores how our church serves children, adults, and members who are homebound. We reach out

to neighbors. We give away baby cribs, financial grants to area mission agencies, and popcorn to people in Westside Park. We care about Central Africans who are new to this country; some worship on Sundays with us; some worship together on Saturday nights. We care about people in the community who need help with English as a second language. Sure, we have our prejudices and ideas of "our" turf, but we try, nevertheless, to be a place of welcome for all. We care about the earth. We are a pollinator pocket for Monarch butterflies. We nurture relationships with folk working hard to stay clean and sober. We continue to deepen relationships with friends in Cuba, Central Africa, Indonesia, Pakistan.

16.) This report intimates that we are reaching out to the world with the hands of Jesus.

You pay for this, pray for this, and make it happen, by the grace of God, with your laughter, energy, resources, tears, and hard, faithful work. Thank you. Thanks be to God for you.

The young prophet Jeremiah leads me to believe that so long as we stay focused on God's work, we will flourish. And when we heed Jesus' words of comfort *and* correction, we can look to the future with hope.

AMEN.

# Administration...

## Finance Team

MARK SCHOEFFMANN, CHAIR  
(mschoeffmann@mchsi.com)

## Operating Funds

In 2018, total revenues for the operating fund were \$961,676, about 3.0% below the budgeted amount and \$29,578 less than in 2017. Revenue for 2018 included \$843,142 in contributions compared to \$863,158 in 2017. Total Expenses for 2018 were \$1,005,310, about 1.5% below budget and \$36,121 more than in 2017. The net result was a negative balance of \$43,634 compared with a surplus of \$22,065 in 2017. Contributions in 2018 were about 83.9% of church expenses with other funds accounting for 11.8% resulting in the 4.3% deficit. Other revenues include payments from the Cannon Trust which amounted to \$80,037 in 2018 and \$29,750 in transfers from other funds.

## Endowment/Strategic Reserves

Total invested funds at the end of the year were \$1,996,509 compared to \$2,147,063 at the end of 2017. Invested funds include \$1,391,695 in strategic reserves and \$543,205 in permanent endowment funds. Investment returns were -7.7% for 2018 compared to 13.8% in 2017.

## 2019 Budget

For 2019, projected total revenues are \$1,029,250. Pledges of \$790,000 are anticipated for 2019 which is 6.8% more than pledges budgeted for 2018 and 12.6% more than actual pledged contributions received in 2018. Expenses are budgeted at \$1,062,666 which is about 5.7% more than the actual expenses in 2018 and 4.1% above the 2018 budget. This results in a projected deficit of \$33,416, compared to a projected deficit in 2018 of \$38,517. The projected deficit represents 2.4% of our strategic reserves. The budgeted level of spending allows for the continuation

and expansion of programs to grow our church.

## 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.

## Human Resources

BILL MARBLE, Co-CHAIR  
(mrbill1205@gmail.com)

ANN STOUT Co-CHAIR  
(mrsas2003@gmail.com)

2018 was a very productive and busy year.

In February our new **Pastor Matt Matthews** was installed. We said goodbye to **Richard Rossi, Chris Penny, Andrea Pope, Beth Chandler, and Kristi Corbin.**

## Summary of Budgets for 2018 and 2019

### Revenues

	2018 Budget	2018 Actual	2019 Budget
Pledges	\$740,000	\$701,599	\$790,000
Plate	113,000	141,544	126,000
Cannon Trust	77,000	80,037	81,000
Restricted Funds	29,750	29,750	9,750
Other	22,300	8,746	22,500
<b>Total Revenues</b>	<b>\$982,050</b>	<b>\$961,676</b>	<b>\$1,029,250</b>

### Expenses

Clergy	\$239,332	\$236,292	\$256,124
GA Per Capita	27,440	27,440	25,452
Staff Misc.	14,000	8,811	11,700
Music	74,800	63,834	66,700
Contemp. Worship	21,000	20,297	20,000
Worship	8,200	7,907	13,000
Mission	129,700	128,457	130,100
Children/Youth	82,750	79,427	102,800
Adult Education	1,100	1,525	4,100
Office (Administration)	190,331	196,291	192,490
Building & Grounds	212,314	220,502	219,600
Congregational Care	1,000	263	1,000
Hospitality	18,600	14,263	19,600
<b>Total Expenses</b>	<b>\$1,020,567</b>	<b>\$1,005,310</b>	<b>\$1,062,666</b>
<b>Revenue-Expenses</b>	<b>(\$38,517)</b>	<b>(\$43,634)</b>	<b>(\$33,416)</b>

We officially installed **Eric Corbin** as Associate Pastor and promoted **Ritchie Drennen**.

**Lizz Pippin** came on board to assist **Mindy Watts-Ellis** in CYF. We welcomed aboard **George Almasi, Jason Pope, and Pierre Tang**.

Those were the upfront things Human Resources did in 2018. Behind the scenes, we did things like...

- Updating the employee manual
- Updating job descriptions
- Monitoring staff reviews
- Support of staff
- Resolving personnel issues that come up.

## Session Highlights

### January

- Moved Transportation Committee oversight fall under Mission Team;
- Approved letter to congregation from the Gathering committee.

### February

- Approved replacement of entire boiler system;
- Appointed **Mark Schoeffmann** as point person on land sale with Copper Creek Church.

### March

- Approved Compassion, Peace, and Justice Committee move from oversight of Mission team to Spiritual Formation;
- Approved Lent and Easter schedule.

### April

- Approved purchase of *Glory to God* hymnal;
- Accepted **Cesar Mnyampara's** resignation from Session;
- Received into membership six students from 2018 Confirmation Class.

### May

- Authorized Finance Committee to speak with **Greg Millage** about the possible sale of FPCC's remaining property in southwest Champaign.

### June

- Approved amended agreement with sister church in Havana, Cuba;

- Approved purchase and sale agreement for 10 acres of southwest farmland to Copper Creek Church as presented;
- Approved changing Sunday morning schedule to allow for a dedicated Education Hour;
- Approved funding for ChristCare members traveling to Pakistan in November.

### July

- Approved dissolving the Forward 150 Committee as their work has been completed;
- Approved the Facility Use Policy as presented.

### August

- Approved job description for Associate Pastor as well as Terms of Call;
- Approved creating a new position, Connections Assistant, in CYF;
- Approved \$1,000 of budget to be spent for church-wide "Big Event."

### September

- Approved purchase of a translation system;
- Approved engaging LifeTouch Directories to produce picture directory;
- Approved a hiring freeze to keep handle on finances.

### October

- Approved the 2019 Draft Budget;
- Approved Thanksgiving dinner on November 18 to honor **Bob Nutt**.

### November

- Approved the Memorandum of Understanding with DREAM use of facilities for a Youth Reporting Center;
- Approved an ad hoc committee to meet with C-U Church who have expressed interest in renting space.

## 2019 Church Staff

### Pastors:

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

### Staff:

George Almasi ..... Facility Assistant  
Ritchie Drennen ..... Facility Manager  
Patty Farthing..... Receptionist  
Robert Ferrer ..... Audio-visual Technician  
Fred Foster ..... Facility Maintenance  
Marcia Franks..... Administrative Assistant  
Joe Grant..... Director of Music  
Blaise Pascal..... CYF Connections Assistant  
Ann Petry..... Accounting  
Lizz Pippin ..... CYF Associate Director  
Jason Pope ..... Contemporary Worship Director  
Jeanette Pyne..... ESL Coordinator  
Damen Rowell ..... Facility Maintenance  
Pierre Tang ..... Church Musician/Children's Choir Director  
Mindy Watts-Ellis ..... Director Children, Youth & Family

### December

- Approved development plats for the SW farm property and granted authorization to proceed meeting with the city and take other necessary action to complete sale to Copper Creek Church;
- Approved motion to eliminate hiring freeze;
- Approved request from DREAM for additional office space at no charge;
- Approved \$4,500 for new security system.

## Worship...Love God More

### Worship Team

JUDI GEISTLINGER, CHAIR  
(judigeistlinger@outlook.com)

Taking our direction from the classic statement from our historical church documents: "The chief end of humanity is to glorify God and enjoy God forever," the Worship Team aims at providing opportunities to glorify God as a community in worship.

To achieve that end:

- ❖ We worshipped in three formats on Sundays (contemplative, traditional and contemporary) and hosted the French-African praise and prayer services Saturday evenings.
- ❖ Special, joint services of worship occurred several times throughout the year.
- ❖ Welcomed Pastor Matt in a service of installation then made it official with Pastor Eric, cementing our relationship with his own service of installation, both held on Sunday afternoons with many from the Presbytery joining us.
- ❖ Ash Wednesday was a drop-in service of reflection and imposition of ashes, held between 5-7 PM.
- ❖ Holy Week brought a traditional Maundy Thursday service in the sanctuary.
- ❖ A joint Good Friday service was held at noon at the First Methodist church.
- ❖ We added a service of Wholeness during Advent, with several dozen brave souls venturing out on a chilly December Sunday evening.

This fall the church made a concerted effort to have children in worship and a dedicated hour for Sunday School. With more children in worship, we have pew partners that join unaccompanied children during the 9 AM worship service. The Children, Youth and Family team coordinates the pew partners and children and provides activity boxes for the children to do during the sermon and other quiet times of worship.

*Glory to God* hymnals and the electronic version of the hymnal for display on the

screens during worship were purchased by donors, replacing the decades old blue Presbyterian hymnal. enlivening worship services with new songs and the introduction of sung prayers.

For safety, a couple of items were added to the sanctuary: an AED (automated external defibrillator) is now housed in the sanctuary and an evacuation chair that can assist parishioners to leave the sanctuary if the elevator were unavailable for a ride down to the exit doors.

Music notes:

- ❖ Organist **Richard Rossi** answered the call to return to the monastery after 20 years as our church musician.
- ❖ **Pierre Tang** was hired as church musician and children's choir conductor.
- ❖ **Jean René Balekita** continues to provide music once a month.

In order to be more welcoming to our New American congregants during our services of worship, the worship committee:

- ❖ Researched and bought a system to broadcast live French translation to congregants.
- ❖ Includes French version of scripture often read from the pulpit and displayed on the screens.

A concerted effort was made to reduce the number of weekly bulletin inserts, in part by having announcements broadcast on the screens before and after worship.

Outreach efforts beyond our doors were accomplished with regular live broadcasts of worship on Facebook and the weekly half hour radio broadcast of worship on a local station, reaching an estimated 2500 listeners weekly.

### Contemporary Worship Team

BILL STOUT, CHAIR  
(w-stout1@illinois.edu)

**Committee Purpose and Functioning.** The CWT is charged with developing strategies to maintain, execute, and grow the 11:15 (note time change!) worship service, aka The Gathering. Current committee members are **Pastor Matt, Jason Pope** (our new worship leader in 2018), **Gary and Linda Peterson, Bill and Ann Stout** (more members desirable, a 2019 goal!).

We were sorry to see our worship leader **Andrea Pope** leave, but are happy for her in her new role as a college music instructor at Eastern Illinois. Keeping it in the family, we are pleased to report **Jason Pope** has very effectively assumed the role of Gathering worship leader. And, Andrea returns periodically (yeah) when our new lead singer **Melinda Rodriguez** needs to be away. Jason recruited Melinda, who was in turn recruited by the university because of her jazz background. She adds a wonderful and worshipful voice to the band.

The CWT meets monthly, with our meetings consisting of planning the general structure of the service and planning publicity/outreach. This includes planning special events like luncheons, often with an invitation to all at 1st Pres., but sometimes smaller luncheons with an outreach focus, especially to reach out to recent Gathering visitors. We will continue in 2019 to try to increase worship service attendance in coordination with the church Outreach Committee, which has a CWT representative on it. CWT also has a representative on the Worship Committee, whom CWT reports to.

CWT's central mission includes (1) maintaining and modifying The Gathering so that it provides a family friendly (there is a children's activity area in Centennial

Hall) contemporary worship experience that is spiritually meaningful for those who prefer a more relaxed yet worshipful service, (2) attracting new members to 1st Pres (something we have had success with), and (3) taking a lead in proposing and/or facilitating 1st Pres. Sunday activities such as the recent Big Event (proposed by and co-led by The Gathering, but with a LOT of help from others, especially Kristi Corbin in her role as Mission Coordinator).

CWT has an important church growth purpose, noting that almost all of our local churches offer a “contemporary” service, with some of these churches growing quite rapidly. CWT has a fixed budget to carry out its various functions, including a modest line item to pay outside musicians, as needed.

Distinct elements of the Gathering service. We provide Communion every Sunday, provide an extended prayer time where those present can offer prayers of concerns and joys, have minimal liturgy, and the band leads us in song (a mixture of contemporary worship songs but especially including traditional hymns sung up-tempo). We continue to work on the general structure of our worship service.

Some notable 2018-9 Events. In order to facilitate adult education (Spiritual Formation) and Sunday School, we moved the start of our service back to 11:15, something CWT felt was vital for the overall 1st Pres Sunday morning worship experience.

Snacks of various kinds, including fresh popcorn, cheese and crackers, vegetables with dips, homemade cookies/brownies/cupcakes, etc. have been, and will continue to be, provided virtually every 2018 Sunday for after service visiting.

Sometimes **Jean Rene** provides a song-as-sermon experience, something received with enthusiasm. We will definitely continue this in 2019. We will continue to work hard to facilitate Sunday all-church events and are helping plan the John Williams September 15 Sunday experience. We will have a few special music

experiences during 2019. Indeed, we expect to provide non-standard worship experiences a few times in the year, such as combining worship with lunch by having the service with congregants seated at tables blending into lunch, something that was done successfully in 2018. Because our service is of modest size we are able to try “new things” periodically and are working hard to do this effectively.

We look forward to 2019!

### Traditional Music

JOE GRANT, DIRECTOR  
(joegrant@illinois.edu)

The traditional music program includes the Chancel Choir, Upper Room Ringers, and Children’s Choir. The Chancel Choir has 23 volunteer members and three 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**.

A major change took place over the summer as long-time organist **Richard Rossi**, chose to return to his monastery in Pennsylvania. After a search throughout the summer we were fortunate to hire **Pierre Tang**, a graduate student at the School of Music at UI. He has degrees in conducting, and piano and is a native of Hong Kong. We welcome Pierre as he ably fills this important position.

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 11 AM. It performs quarterly in the main traditional service. The choir was led by **Joe Grant** during the spring and **Pierre Tang**, our new organist, took over in September.

Spring Music Sunday 2018 included works

by Clausen, Rutter, Martini and Handel. Christmas Music Sunday was a major event as our choir combined with our colleagues from First Pres Urbana to sing at each church. The services were highlighted by the performance of the moving contemporary work, *In Terra Pax* by English composer Gerald Finzi.

Jazz Sunday provided another musical highlight to the worship calendar.

Traditional Music Staff:

**Joe Grant**, Conductor/Director  
**Pierre Tang**, Organist  
**Karin Vermillion**, Bell Choir  
Conductor

# Connect...Love People More

## Children, Youth, Family Ministry

MINDY WATTS-ELLIS, DIRECTOR  
(MINDY@FIRSTPRES.CHURCH)

Personnel changes: From January 2018 through May 2018 **Joe Grant** took on the role of children's choir director. **Blaise Pascal Zamena** continued as the part-time Associate Director of Children, Youth, and Family Ministries until August 29, 2018. At which time Blaise accepted the position of Connections Assistant to serve as the main liaison between CYF and the church families to arrange home visits and help with translation of information and transportation communication. **Lizz Pippin** was hired to fill the position of Associate Director of Children, Youth, and Family Ministries on September 6, 2018. **Pierre Tang** began work as the Children's choir director September 23, 2018.

### Sunday School Winter/Spring

The schedule of having the elementary children begin in the 9 AM worship service until the children's sermon and then dismiss to class continued. Middle school class met the full time from 9-10 AM. The high school and confirmation classes met following worship from 10-11 AM. Sunday school curriculum for January continued with *Power Express, We Believe, and Deep Blue* curriculum units for the elementary students. Bible subjects taught were Jesus' baptism, the lost sheep and lost coin parables, the healing of the paralytic man lowered through the roof, Jesus appearing to the disciples on the beach after the resurrection, the great commission, and the story of Peter and Cornelius.

The preschool class used Bible Learning Folders curriculum by Karyn Henley with the topics; God is with me everywhere, I take care of my room, Jesus made people well, I share, Jesus is Alive, and God made all kinds of friends.

The Third Grade Bible class was held April 8-April 22, with presentation of the Bibles on April 29. Recipients were: **Kris**

**Dee, Antoine Kabongo, Fiona Leakey, Miriam Miller, Vaiquer Nana, Kaleb Nevels, Winner Ngalamulumbe, and Prunella Tembo.** The Bible class was taught by **Joyce Wittler** and **Rob Vermilion**.

The Middle School class continued units of study with the reform: Ancestors curriculum and reform: Core questions. They studied Deborah and the following questions: Why should I follow Jesus; can't I just say I believe in him?, Why should I pray when God doesn't answer all my prayers?, Was Jesus of Nazareth God?, If Jesus was God why did he have to die?, Why did Jesus get baptized?, Is believing in Jesus the only way to get to heaven?, Why are there so many different religions?, Why do Christians believe Christianity is the best religion?, Why are there so many different Christian churches?, What if my friends aren't Christian?, How can I stop doing things I know I shouldn't do?, Why does God let bad things happen?, and Is the Holy Spirit a person or wind or fire or what?

The confirmation class for the 2017-2018 academic program year continued using the collaborate curriculum with the leadership of **Pat Phillips, Eric Corbin, and Kathy Schoeffmann**. A confirmation retreat was sponsored by the Presbytery of Southeastern Illinois at Camp Carew April 13-15. **Sam and Henry Laufenberg** as well as **Richard Miller** attended. The confirmands were received by Session on April 19 and confirmed as full members on May 13. Confirmed members were **Sam and Henry Laufenberg, Richard Miller, Ian Evensen, Hannah Stickels, and Katie Young**.

### Sunday School Summer

Summer Sunday School was not held due to lack of volunteer leadership.

Vacation Bible School was held in collaboration with First United Methodist Church of Champaign on each of the five Sundays of July in the afternoon from 1:30-4:30 PM. The curriculum was *Hero*

*Central*. Both church campuses were used.

### Sunday School Fall/Winter

Another new Sunday morning schedule and Sunday School routine started September 9 with the 9 AM and 11:15 AM worship services fully including all ages. The education hour took place from 10:15-11:05. The elementary children studied the following topics; Respect (the golden rule), the exodus story, David as a boy, the prophet Elijah, and the Christmas story. Preschool and toddlers curriculum was Karyn Hendley's Bible Learning Folder Series for Early Childhood. The topics of study were God made my family, God gave me a place to live, God is with me all the time, I trust God at night, and Jesus is God's Son. The Middle School class continued the reform: Ancestors curriculum studying the following people; Noah, Abraham and Sarah, Moses, Rahab, Samson, and David. They also studied the Christmas story, what the Bible says about heaven and hell and explored the question "Does God still create stuff today?" The high school Sunday school studied the lectionary using *Feasting on the Word for Youth* curriculum.

### Sunday School Mission

Mission projects were offered for Sunday school participation from 10-10:30 AM from January until May. Projects were Valentine gift bags for Faith in Action clients, a handprint banner for our sister church in Cuba, and canvas bags for use at Salt & Light grocery store. The confirmation class collected money on February 4th as part of the Souper Bowl of Caring and donated it to local agencies. The children collected coins in fish banks for the One Great Hour of Sharing offering which was received by the church on Easter Sunday. The VBS mission projects were to create puppet kits for Crisis Nursery and snack mix and cards for the Champaign Police Department and Fire Department. Mission projects continued in the Fall as an option within Sunday school classes. Two classes made Christmas greeting cards for the homebound members of the church to be

delivered with the cookies made by PWV.

### Children's Choir

Children's choir sang March 4 and April 29 at the 9 AM traditional worship service. The children's choir met regularly for rehearsal on Sunday mornings from 10-10:30 AM in the winter and spring and from 11-11:30 AM in the fall. There was no choir offered in the summer. Children's choir sang November 11 and for the 4 PM Christmas Eve service December 24.

### Family Events

A family carnival was held August 26 in the outdoor patio and alley with games and popcorn and pop-ice. The Hearts, Hands, and Voices Event was September 16 and CYF had an active part in planning and support. October 28 was the annual Trunk or Treat event from 5-6 PM with treats, trunks, and games! A soup supper was offered afterward from 6-7 PM in Centennial Hall. We had over 200 participants for a fun filled evening. A candy house making event was held December 23rd in the café with about 36 participants.

Christmas Eve service at 4 PM featured a program of scripture readings, a nativity scene, and carols.

### Special Youth Events

Eight youth and three adults went to Little Rock, AR for the Go and Serve trip June 3-8. Participants were **Audrey Mfulama, Destin Lemblembe, Emilio Kabakele, Miriam Bokamo, Oceanne Mnyampara, Princess Lutete, Samantha Musasa, Syntiche Ngonde, Sabrina Hwu, Lizz Pippin, and Matt Matthews.** The trip was based at Ferncliff camp and conference Center. The group served in the Presbyterian Disaster Assistance warehouse, with the Arkansas Food Bank, the Little Rock Compassion Center, and the Stewpot.

Collaborative youth fellowship events with other Presbyterian Churches discontinued. Youth fellowship events for the winter and spring were an overnight retreat January 14-15, swimming event at the indoor aquatic center on February 11, March 11 games at the church, April 29

Skateland event, and May 29 bowling.

### Professional Development

**Mindy Watts-Ellis**, Director of Children, Youth, and Family Ministry attended the national conference for the Association of Presbyterian Church Educators January 31- February 3 in Louisville, KY. I attended many workshops about diversity in the church and how to create a more welcoming environment for immigrants and the many peoples the church invites and serves. I visited our sister church in Cuba May 14-21 and met many members active in ministry there and the children.

From **Lizz Pippin**, Associate Director of Children, Youth, and Family Ministries...

Starting September 23 we offered youth group for high schoolers on Sunday evenings. **Lizz Pippin** and **Matt Matthews** were the primary leaders with **Mindy Watts-Ellis** and **Jay Geistlinger** assisting at times. Once a month middle school students were invited to join the high schoolers for youth group.

Our Sunday evenings have consisted of activities such as a scavenger hunt downtown, bible studies and game nights. We also participated in different events of the church. We attended Eric's installation and the Service of Wholeness. We went Christmas Caroling with the church on December 9 and held our annual Christmas Cookie Baking and Fundraiser for the Presbyterian Youth Triennium on December 15 and 16.

From **Blaise Pascal Zamena**, Connections Assistant...

### Home Visits

CYF Team with the support of pastor Matt conducted home visits from September 09, 2018 to December 12, 2018. We planned to visit 50 families but it was not possible due to some circumstances. We were able to visit 28 families.

I planned and coordinated home visits according to Pastor Matt's and Mindy's schedules. I was in touch with the visiting families via e-mails or calls to make sure that everything would go according to

plan.

### Other duties

During VBS I served as a crew leader and I was in charge of second grade learners, helping learners with activities, discipline, and also translating for French speaking learners.

For the Go and Serve trip I was in charge of looking for probable places in line with Presbyterian policies about Go and Serve mission trips. Ferncliff was selected amongst many other agencies.

I scheduled the Go and Serve informational meeting with parents and communicated with all families to make sure they would attend.

I organized a recreational activity on May 29, 2018 at Arrowhead Lanes in Champaign including booking the lanes and arranging transportation.

I assisted as leadership for the youth retreat January 14-15. I called parents and let them know about the retreat and Martin Luther King Jr celebration service project.

I packed rice with our youth and took care of discipline.

I also took care of my regular duties: communicated with parents (letters, emails, texts and phone calls), dealt with transportation issues, chaperoned youth events, printed name tags, confirmed teachers for Sunday school schedules, bought a Sunday school curriculum subscription, coordinated transportation with John, and put materials in classrooms.

### Many thanks to the CYF Team

CYF Committee: **Joyce Wittler, Sabrina Hwu, Elizabeth Pippin, Karin Vermillion** and **Patty Farthing**

Sunday School Volunteers: **Joyce Wittler, Sabrina Hwu, Jay Geistlinger, Claudia Kirby** (resigned in May), **Thethe Kidimbu, Noni Ledford, Judy Hendrickson** (resigned in May), **Beth Born** (resigned in May), **Grace Rispoli, Jan Wittler** (resigned in May), **Naomi Rempe,**

**Dionne Goodman, and Rob Vermilion.** New volunteers that joined in Fall; **Celeste Kim, Rachel Matthews, Lisa Ainsworth, Andrew Leakey, Laurie Dey, Mary Gritten, Ensung Kim, David Evensen, and Sarah Laufenberg.** Subs: **Judy Hendrickson, Liz and George Miley, and Pam Hadley.**

### Compassion, Peace, Justice Ministry Team

TRACY DACE, MODERATOR  
(TDDDACE@gmail.com)

#### Statement of Faith and Purpose

“The Presbyterian Church commitment to justice<sup>1</sup> 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, and 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. After discernment, we discussed having CPJMT be organized administratively in Adult Spiritual Formation and not Mission. Our principal work is education and advocacy. This matter will be further discussed in 2018.
4. 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 Celebra-

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

<sup>1</sup> <https://www.presbyterianmission.org/ministries/compassion-peace-justice/commitment-presbyterian-church/>

### Congregational Care Deacons

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

Care Deacons for 2018 were **Jean Brunson, Pam Knox, Marge Olson,** and **Katharine Jones**, who will continue their ministry through 2020; **Kathy Kinser** and **Cathy Stickels** continuing through 2019; and **Jane Alsberg, Amy Born, Beth Hutchens, Nancy MacGregor, Kurt and Lola Ruthmansdorfer, Larry and Joanne Walther** through 2018.

In addition, retired Care Deacon **Miriam Chenault** continued to see her care receivers.

30 care receivers were contacted monthly via phone, by mail or email, or through visits to them at their homes or current residences. There was also a U. S. mail monthly contact with 12 members, some of whom live outside our area now.

This ministry has had as its main goal to serve and maintain contact with those in our congregation who are unable to attend regular church services. In addition, residence communions have taken place in private home communions and in larger group communions at Clark-Lindsey Village in Urbana and at Windsor Court and in the main Windsor of Savoy. The special communion times in 2018 were April 5, October 2-4, and December 3-6 with both Pastors being assisted by Care Deacons.

Our monthly meetings were scheduled for the first Thursdays of the month from noon-1 PM. Meetings were held in all months except January, October, and December in 2018. **Pastor Matt Matthews** arrived in town on February 1st, and **Pastor Eric Corbin** continued to lead the Care Deacons monthly with **Beth Hutchens** as moderator.

**Jane Alsberg, Beth Hutchens, the Ruthmansdorfers, and the Walthers** completed their three year terms of service at the end of 2018. **Amy Born** and **Nancy MacGregor** are continuing their service for another term. **Jean Smith, Julia Ulen, and Tom Ulen** were elected to serve as Care Deacons starting in 2019. **Jeanie Murray** was elected to be a Community Mission Deacon starting in 2019 so will begin that service.

A goal for 2019 will be to have four residence communion times during the year: Lent, early summer, October World Communion timing, Advent.

Contact either pastor to establish a Congregational Care Deacon relationship with a church member.

Also, our thanks to **Patty Farthing** for her secretarial help as well as her providing communion supplies for our communions throughout the area. Thanks to the Care Deacons and Pastors for their special support of some of our longtime church members.

### Membership Team

LINDA PETERSON, CHAIR  
(LINDAKPETE@gmail.com)

The Membership Committee meets monthly on the second Thursday at 10:30 in the Mae Chapin Dining Room. Committee members are **Betty Hollister, Kurt and Lola Ruthmansdorfer, Gary and Linda Peterson. Beth Hutchens** mans the Welcome Center each Sunday. **Dorothy Pearson** and **Merna Piper** aid in attendance pad collecting

Each Sunday the attendance sheets are collected and attendance is entered into Church Community Builder. Any first-time guest is contacted by mail, e-mail or phone depending on information provided.

**Ginny Waaler** acknowledges birthdays to our senior members with a card.

In conjunction with Spiritual Formation, a class on *Presbyterian 101* was led by **Judi Geistlinger**.

The committee worked long at researching and working with Life Touch to create a photo directory. Photo sessions were coordinated and volunteers solicited to help facilitate a smooth photo session. We are currently waiting on submissions of photos from members who could not attend the scheduled photo sessions. We anticipate all information being forward to Life Touch by mid-February.

The committee has worked diligently to update the information in Community Church Builder. We appreciate all those members and attenders who notify us when address or phone numbers change. We especially need to make sure we have your preferred phone number and if you still have a land line.

Members of the committee have also helped Outreach with their projects and activities.

The membership committee tabulated the Time and Talent Survey and results forwarded to committee chairs. If you completed a survey and have not been contacted please notify lindakpeterson@gmail.com.

### Membership Stats

Membership 12-31-2017	606
Gains	
Letter of Transfer	1
Profession of Faith	6
Other	2
Losses	
Deaths	15
Certificate	5
Other	18
Membership 12-31-2018	577

### Outreach

GARY PETERSON, CHAIR  
(AMER\_SWEDE@yahoo.com)

Members of Outreach Committee: **Bob Kirby** and **Bill Stout** (special functions), **Beth Hutchens** (welcome center), **Betty Hollister** (secretary), **Ginny Waaler** (greeters), **Leland Andrews** (coffee service), **Linda Peterson** (membership) and **Gary Peterson** (leader).

We began our year by organizing home reception gatherings for the **Pastors Matt and Rachel Matthews**. We also brought the Matthews food to their home and supplied lists to help them with shopping and services that they might need.

The group helped with planning and organizing the International Taste of C-U held at the church on June 24. Over 100 were in attendance.

We were involved in planning and hosting

receptions for both **Pastors Matt and Eric** after their formal installations on two different Sunday afternoons.

Outreach hosted a *Day in the Park* at West Side Park in July. We had games and popcorn for those passing thru the park on that Saturday morning.

We helped **Brandi and Jason Lowe** with a few game nights during the year. We hope to have more in 2019 as those who attended enjoyed fun and games.

During August, we again hosted a booth at the *Taste of C-U* in West Side Park. That same weekend we had our annual picnic and swim at Centennial Park called *Sholem Fest*. Over 100 attended this event.

In September, we helped with the *Big Event* at the church. We were involved with engaging food trucks and helping with the flow of the crowd.

In November, we helped with the Presbytery of Southeastern Illinois meeting held at our church. We planned lunch for two days and helped in many other ways.

Overall it was a busy but rewarding year for Outreach. In 2019 we will be known as the Nurturing Committee as Session approved having Outreach as a separate committee. Nurturing will be in charge of hospitality, fellowship and membership.

### Prayer Ministry

MIDGE MILLER, COORDINATOR  
(MIDGE12@ATT.NET)

The Prayer Ministry consists of **Janice Bangert, Nancy Bell, June Cullum, Sue Fischer, Beth Holm, Nancy MacGregor, Bill Marble, Midge Miller, Mimi Nygren, Marilyn Parkhill, Lacy Pickering, Joyce Wittler.**

In response to Jesus' words, *My house will be called a house of prayer for all nations.* (Mark 11:17), the Prayer Ministry team provides church wide prayer support and encourages prayer habits.

Our prayer activities include:

1. Meeting monthly for group prayer
2. Praying for one week for each family listed in the church directory
3. Maintaining a prayer email line for confidential prayer requests
4. Providing a article on prayer for each issue of our church newsletter

We are planning a future prayer and music event with **Dr. Ollie Watts Davis.**

### Presbyterian Women

NANCY BROMBAUGH, MODERATOR  
(N.BROMBAUGH@GMAIL.COM)

Presbyterian Women is open to all women in our congregation and offers a variety of opportunities for participation. Presbyterian Women determines its own leadership, programs and budget.

Three circles with a total of 68 members, meet on the fourth Thursday of each month, September through May (except December) for Bible study and fellowship. In 2018-2019, *God's Promise: I Am With You* is the Horizons Bible Study being used.

Four Gatherings, general meetings of all Presbyterian Women were held.

On March 5, a special Welcome and "Celebration of Women" Gathering was enjoyed by all. The **Rev. Dr. Rachel Matthews** was the featured speaker.

The Spring Gathering on May 31 included the installation of 2018-2019 PW officers and **Pat Metcalf** and **Jo Foley** presented an outstanding program, *The Life of Mae Chapin.*

October 4th's Gathering was truly *A Party With A Purpose*, celebrating 20-years of PEB in Pakistan. Thanks to generous donations, Executive Director of PEB in Pakistan and honored speaker, **Veda Gill**, was given \$1800. The amount provided tuition for two residential students and one-day student enrolled in PEB schools in Pakistan.

At the December 6th Christmas Tea, noted Illinois historian **Reg Ankrom's**

program on the United States' first black Catholic priest, **Augustus John Tolton**, entertained 52 people.

On November 15, PW provided the Southeastern Illinois Presbytery Stated meeting attendees a continental breakfast, as well as, assisted with varied jobs.

The PW Coordinating Team hosted an appreciation luncheon for the church staff, February 6th.

A number of standing committees are established to carry out the work of PW both in the church and community.

Missions continue to be in charge of the collection of General Mills Box Tops for Education project for Kemmerer Village. The Cribs and Layettes ministry donated 60 cribs and layettes to needy families through empty tomb, inc., at a total cost of \$3,384.

PW's representative and current president of Church Women United is **Sandy Carr**. Members attended the CWU Interfaith Gathering, the World Day of Prayer and May Friendship Day. **Lizz Pippin** was recognized as an outstanding young churchwoman at the Friendship Day event.

The Flower Committee was in charge of decorating the sanctuary throughout the year.

The House Committee (**Barb Clark**,

### Deaths

We extend our sympathy to the family and friends of those who were a part of the congregation and died in 2018.

- |                |                 |
|----------------|-----------------|
| Ralph Allen    | Raymond Bashore |
| Stanley Bush   | Judy Cotter     |
| Donald Dodds   | Mary Ruth Garza |
| Gary Lietz     | Lois McCulley   |
| Dorothy Miller | Robert Nutt     |
| Tom Phillips   | Jo Radcliffe    |
| Sharon Rapp    | Juanita Rector  |
| Barbara Swain  | Emily Watts     |
| Warren Wessels |                 |

**Kathy Kinser and Nancy Brombaugh** held a Silent Auction, April 21st, in Mae Chapin Parlor. Over \$700 was raised for PW's missions.

We hosted a reception for graduates on Sunday, May 27.

The Prayer Chair channeled prayer requests through an e-mail list.

Members attended PW Presbytery of Southeastern Illinois Gatherings in Effingham and Centralia. **Mary Gritten, Sabrina Hwu, Rachel Matthews and Carol Penka** attended the Church-wide Gathering of Presbyterian Women in Louisville, KY August 2-5.

Helping Hands coordinated delivery of meals to church members in need of help following hospitalization or other family emergencies.

Memorial Receptions were held for ten members of the congregation.

The Meals on Wheels Chair organized teams from the church to deliver meals, as part of a larger community wide effort. FPC committed to deliver meals 5 different weeks in 2018.

Cookies for Shut-Ins PW baked Christmas cookies and placed them in decorative containers. The Congregational Care Deacons then delivered 29 containers of cookies to FPC's care receivers, on December 6th.

The Knifty Knitters gathered twice a month to participate in a fellowship and knitting ministry. Congregational Care Deacons and ministers distributed prayer shawls. Twenty-eight hat and scarf sets were knitted for the children at Kemmerer Village. The group also knitted twenty-five small, colorful purses for the sisters in Christ of Luyanó Church in Cuba along with skeins of yarn.

Three free offerings are collected during year.

The Birthday Offering supports projects chosen by a committee of the national

PW. In 2018 \$240.66 was received. The Fellowship of the Least Coin links prayer and "least coins" in a very significant way, as the 'least coin' becomes the symbol of prayer for peace and reconciliation. In 2018 \$39.74 was collected. The Thank Offering supports three projects each year selected by Creative Ministries Offering Committee of PW. In 2018 the thank offering was \$439.00.

## Spiritual Formation

BETTY HOLLISTER, CO-MODERATOR  
(B.HOLL@MEDIACOMBB.NET)

CLAUDIA KIRBY, CO-MODERATOR  
(CLAUDIA.A.KIRBY@GMAIL.COM)

Our team organized in February, 2017. **Pastor Eric Corbin** is our teaching elder representative. Committee members include: **David Bauer, Judi Geistlinger, Betty Hollister, Claudia Kirby, Peter Yau, Rittchell Yau, Carol Penka, Pat Phillips, Sandy Carr.**

### 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. Our focus is to choose materials to help participants apply Biblical study to our walks of faith in the secular world.

### 2018 Activities:

Spring and Summer *Holy Solitude* by Heidi Haverkamp. This study included a daily blog and weekly studies on Sunday mornings.

*Feasting on the WORD* provided materials for weekly sessions led by a variety of facilitators on Sunday mornings from May through September.

Fall Opportunities included: *Easy English Christian Fellowship* led by **Bob Kirby** and **Judy Gamble** *Presbyterian 101* led by **Judi Geistlinger** *One Blood: Parting Words to the Church on Race and Love* by Dr. John M. Perkins led by **Rittchell Yau** and **Betty Hollister**

*Advent and Christmas: Wisdom* from G.K. Chesterton led by **Peter Yau** *Blue Christmas* by Tod Outcalt. This program included a weekday, *Moving Through Grief, Chair Yoga*, and a Sunday evening Service for Wholeness.

### Year around activity:

Covenant Bible Study led by **Judi Geistlinger**

Our committee helped develop the program for an educational workshop featuring the Stated Clerk, Rev. Dr. J. Herbert Nelson, III in November. Panel discussion with a Q and A Session featured leaders from the Champaign-Urbana faith community who are active in social justice issues. These included :

**Pastor Robert Freeman**, First United Methodist Church, whose background is urban development.

**Dr. Rebecca Ginsberg**, Associate Professor, Education Policy, Organization and Leadership

**Tracy Dace**, Director of DREAM House, an educational program for young males at risk.

This year the Spiritual Formation Committee now includes the Adult and Children's Library and the Compassion, Peace, and Justice Ministry under its structural umbrella.

We also provide promotion and support for twenty small study and Christ Care groups. Additional curriculum offered this year was a training program for new elders led by **Pastor Eric Corbin** and **Betty Hollister** based on *Making Disciples, Making Leaders*.

Our goals for 2019 include providing new and diverse opportunities to attract a wider base. These will include faith-based TED Talks and guest speakers who will provide insight into *Faith in the Real World*. We also plan to keep more accurate data of attendance, evaluations of current programs, recruitment of more facilitators, and better publicity for program offerings.

# Serve...Love More People

## Amateur Preachers

JOHN MUIRHEAD  
(J.MUIRHEAD@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 2018, seven Amateur Preachers served 12 different churches a total of 26 times on 16 Sundays with the highest number for one church being 3 Sundays. Over the years we have averaged providing 30 Sundays of service to churches. Our several

Sundays we served more than one church.

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 phone 398-1048) to discuss Amateur Preachers.

## Benevolence Fund

The Benevolence Committee was formed a few years ago to act on financial requests to the church for emergency assistance. It provides help only to those who have a significant relationship with First Pres. That includes members, regular guests at worship, employees, members of our small groups or regular participants in church activities.

Normally, no gift may exceed \$500 and no family may receive more than one gift per calendar year. Applications are submitted and reviewed by the Benevolence Committee. Assistance is only available for what the committee sees as emergency relief that meets a basic need. This past year 5 families were helped with a total of \$2547 distributed.

Benevolence Committee members include **Sandy Carr, Mike Havey, Matt Matthews, and Naomi Rempe.**

Individual donations support the Benevolence Fund. Donations are always welcome and at times very much needed. Simply mark your check/contribution "Benevolence Fund."

## Community Mission Deacons

MIKE HAVEY, MODERATOR  
(MIKE\_HAVEY@HOTMAIL.COM)

The Community Mission Deacons (CMD) supported 10 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.

The agencies are the Canteen Run (through the Salvation Army), Courage Connection, Crisis Nursery, ECIRMAC (East Central Illinois Refugee Mutual

## 2019 Church Officers

2021	2020	2019
<b>Session Elders</b> Moderator: Matt Matthews		
Ron Deering	Judi Geistlinger	Sabrina Hwu
Debra Miller	Steve Tock	Celeste Kim
Mark Schoeffmann	Karin Vermillion	Bill Marble
Eric Stickels	Tim Young	Gary Peterson
		Ann Stout

<b>Community Mission Deacons</b> Moderator: Mike Havey		
Sandy Carr	Barbara Clark	Nancy Brombaugh
Richard "Itch" Jones	Steve Gritten	Barbara Fuller-Curry
Jeannie Murray		Mike Havey
Lola Ruthmansdorfer		

<b>Congregational Care Deacons</b> Moderator:		
Amy Born	Jean Brunson	Kathy Kinser
Jean Brunson	Katharine Jones	Jeannie Murray
Nancy MacGregor	Pam Knox	Cathy Stickels
Jean Smith	Marge Olson	
Julia Ulen		
Tom Ulen		

Assistance Center), empty tomb, Faith in Action, Jesus is the Way, RUM (Restoration Urban Ministries), SAFE House, Salt and Light.

This September the church hosted its first "Big Event." On this joyous day many members and friends combined efforts to organize and prepare for delivery items needed by six agencies to further their missions.

The Advent Offering this year was designated to go to Presbyterian Disaster Assistance. Again this year the purpose of the Advent Angel Tree was to collect items for our local agencies. This effort was very successful as the tree was replenished with angels after all the original angels were taken.

Among her numerous other accomplishments this year, Mission Coordinator, Kristi Corbin produced videos to highlight some mission efforts and organized and maintained a mission board, which is prominently displayed in Westminster Hall. Deacon Steve Gritten shared information about the contents of the board with those who attended the Presbytery meeting hosted by First Pres. in December.

The members of CMD for 2018 were **Don Fischer, Steve Gritten, Linda Tauber-Olson, Judy Gamble, Kathy Havey, Mike Havey, Nancy Brombaugh, Barbara Fuller-Curry, and Barb Clark.** Mission Coordinator **Kristi Corbin** provided invaluable service to the committee and the agencies we serve.

## Cuba Partners

BOB KIRBY, MODERATOR  
(RWK3213@GMAIL.COM)

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.

### 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 e mail, 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 children 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 45 people who have completed a study of Cuba. Most have traveled to our sister church. The Cuba Partners adopted by-laws which calls for election of a seven-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 steering committee members 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), **Carol Miles** (treasurer), **Tracy Dace, Jonathan Mnyampara, Peter Yau, Rittchell Yau.** Ex officio members with voice but without vote are **Kristi Corbin, Eric Corbin** and **Lizz Pippin** who serves as secretary.

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 relationships.

### History

Twelve congregants made our first trip to Cuba October 14-22, 2010 to explore the possibility of partnership. This resulted in a partnership (hermanamiento) agreement between the sessions of our two churches signed in 2012 and renewed in 2015 and 2018. Copy is available on file. Since then we have completed twelve congregational trips another to support the Luyanó Vacation Bible School, a youth focused trip and several smaller trips to celebrate celebrations of our Cuban congregation.

We hosted guests from Cuba: **Ofelia Ortega** and **Xiomara Arenas** in 2015, **Yamilet Sanchez** and **Raquel Cordona** in 2016, **Pastor Daniel Izquierdo** in 2010, 2016 and 2018 and **Ary Fernandez** in 2018. We have also enjoyed regular visits from our mission co-worker in Cuba and the Caribbean, **Rev Jo Ella Holman.**

### Summary of 2018 Activity

April-22 A fundraiser to help fund Luyanó's new guest house project. We offered salsa dancing lessons followed by an authentic Cuban dinner. The dinner was attended by 80 people.

May 14-21- Delegation of ten visited Luyanó. Trip report is available on file.

June 16-23- Represented Cuba Partners

Network at 223<sup>rd</sup> General Assembly in St. Louis

- July 7-14- Vacation Bible Study in Luyanó with Austin, TX partners and Liz Pippin
- July 10- All American Cookout (cancelled due to flooding).
- July 8-10- Hosted Rev. Daniel Izquierdo
- July 24- Hosted Rev. Ary Fernandez
- September 4- October 30 Annual Cuba Study

Daily- Su Voz, a daily devotion written by laity and ordained Presbyterians in Cuba is distributed daily to a mailing list of 180155 people.

**Budget**

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

1. Cuba Synod for national camp and retreat center (CANIP) \$1,250.00 (Operations). This is a priority of the Presbyterian Reformed Church of Cuba.
2. **JoElla Holman**, mission co-worker Caribbean \$4,900.00 year (Operations-World Mission)
3. Presbyterian Cuba Partners Network- \$50.00 dues (Operations)
4. Annual congregational gift to Luyanó \$1000.00 (Operations)
5. Gift from special fundraiser \$3800.00 (Restricted)

**Moving Forward**

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 learn from our Cuban brothers and sisters to more diligently develop regular effective communication with our church at Luyanó and with our partners at Covenant Presbyterian Church in Austin, TX. We pray for a deepening three component partnership.

We continue to explore ways to work with our Cuban congregation to address our mutual responses to the needs of unaccompanied children and youth in the life of our congregations. For example, how might our experience with DREAM House be useful in the Cuban context?

We want to continue to build relationship with Covenant Presbyterian Church through active participation with them in the annual Vacation Bible School and in exploring other ways to collaborate with them in the ministries of our all three churches.

**Budget recommendations.**

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

**Environmental Committee**

BARBARA FULLER-CURRY, MODERATOR  
(BARBARAFULLERCURRY@GMAIL.COM)

**Committee Activity**

The ESC met this year in the Church Library at 3:30 in February, March, April, May, July, October & November. Meetings were opened with prayer and devotion and closed with reciting environmental prayer as a group. In December, **Kathy and Mark Schoeffmann** hosted Committee for refreshments and time of socializing with everyone bringing an appetizer to share.

The Committee added two new members to our group: **Clemmie Ackermann** and **Pat Phillips**.

**Nancy Brombaugh** continues to solicit members of the congregation to sign up to clean coffee cups following coffee hour on Sundays. She has diligently followed through on this project for many years. It would be helpful if we could find members to participate in loading the dishwasher.

Adopt-A-Highway was coordinated by **Liz Miley** with City of Champaign on the following dates: April 14, July 21, November 3.

Thanks to **Nancy Brombaugh** who filled out the extensive application with PC(USA) to earn us the Earth Care Congregation designation. It is an exclusive designation as only a small percentage of Presbyterian Churches apply. Our certification is hung in a frame and hung by Environmental Bulletin Board.

**Kathy Schoeffmann** has kept abreast of the community solar project and reported to Committee progress in the area. Due to the construction of the roof at our church, installing solar panels was not possible.

Earth Day (April 22, 2018) service was shared, plus bulletin, with Cuba Connection Group. **Joe Grant** selected music to reflect Environmental & Cuba themed music. (Earth Day in 2019 is Monday, April 22nd - - - the day after Easter.)

Members of ESC continue to check Mission Closet weekly for items to be recycled, such as: empty medication vials and shredded paper for Humane Society; used batteries (with tape adhered to both ends) and used greeting cards and toiletries for Courage Connection.

**Monarch Butterflies**

Due to research by the U. of I about migrating monarch butterflies, the ESC planted a flower space and applied to the University of Illinois Extension Service for a "Pollinator Pocket" award. We were granted the award and given a metal sign to have on display on Environmental Bulletin Board across from men's washroom in Westminster Hall. It is an exhaustive journey for butterflies to fly back to Mexico and hopefully we can aid in their long journey by planting flowers for them to rest and recuperate.

**2018 Budget Expenditures**

Of the \$250.00 allotted to our budget, we used \$117.00 for new cups for Deacon's Kitchen, \$72.46 for Bio-degradable cutlery and the remaining \$60.54 donated to Faith In Place. Many expenses members of the Committee pay for from their own funds.

**2019 Goals**

Continue to educate congregation as to the location of the Story Garden and specifics as to why certain plants/flowers are grown. The Butterfly Garden and its location needs more publicity. Coordinate with Faith In Place to continue how to implement environmental issues throughout our community and State.

**Kathy Schoeffmann** will be the new moderator of ESC to replace **Barb Fuller-Curry** in 2019.

## ESL

JEANETTE PYNE, COORDINATOR  
(JEANETTE@FIRSTPRES.CHURCH)

### I. Volunteer/Committee Activity

The First Pres ESL Program is sustained by and thrives on the hard work and dedication of volunteers. The First Pres ESL Program has 20+ volunteer tutors who provide English instruction to immigrants, refugees, and international visitors. About 40% of the tutors are associated with First Presbyterian Church; the remaining tutors have other (or no) church affiliation. Three new tutors joined our ESL tutor team this year, and we have two other volunteers who help with administration work and event planning.

Most tutors volunteer for one 2-hour session/week; although several commit to two days/week, and a couple serve the program 4 days/week. These very dedicated tutors consistently model friendship, hospitality, openness, patience, enthusiasm, and flexibility. Some tutors volunteer on the ESL Advisory Committee. They are **Vern Snoeyink** (chair), **Linda Sims** (secretary), **Mike Havey** and **Debra Miller**.

Because different people volunteer on different days, it is difficult to get all the tutors together for a “tutor/committee meeting.” To facilitate communication, **Jeanette Pyne**, ESL Coordinator, sent a weekly email update, and regularly discussed important issues with the tutors in person. Jeanette also maintained 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 2018

- Created, distributed, and deployed a student needs assessment. In order to fulfill the program’s goal of provid-

ing quality English instruction, **Jeanette Pyne** created a student needs assessment to determine the goals and needs of the students in learning English. Collaborating with volunteers, **Jeanette Pyne** had the student needs assessment translated into 9 different languages, so students could respond in the most accurate and thorough way possible. The ESL Advisory Committee and **Jeanette Pyne** hoped that this information would give them direction on where to take the program based on students’ needs.

- Analyzed the quantitative and qualitative data from the student needs assessment. After collecting needs assessments from 51 students and translating the responses back into English, **Jeanette Pyne** analyzed the data to see if there were any trends. **Jeanette Pyne** presented her findings to the ESL Advisory Committee and made recommendations for next steps. From this analysis, **Jeanette Pyne** has implemented a new step in each unit that would promote a learner-centered environment. At the beginning of each unit, tutors were to ask the students what they want or need to learn about each thematic unit; this information should guide the tutors on what to teach in the classroom. Additionally, analyzing this data has been a crucial first step in developing new curriculum for the program with student input.

- Created, distributed and deployed a tutor needs assessment. The tutors are an essential part of the ESL Program. They need support through tutor training, which is one of the goals of the ESL Program. **Jeanette Pyne** created a tutor needs assessment to see what knowledge tutors lacked in order to provide quality instruction to the students. Jeanette Pyne used this information to create the initial training workshop.

- Created a Tutor Orientation/Training Process. Previously, there had been no orientation and training process for new tutors. Now, prospective tutors must attend an orientation session where **Jeanette Pyne** would review ESL tutor responsibilities, conduct a short interview and answer any questions the prospective tutor may have in regards to the First Pres ESL Program. The purpose of this 1 hour orientation session is to determine that

the prospective tutor would be a good fit for the program. After the orientation session, the tutor must attend a 2-hour initial training workshop and complete the Tutor Orientation Process. The Tutor Orientation Process includes: 1) observing an experienced tutor for a few classes, 2) co-teaching with an experienced tutor, 3) teaching a session while being observed by **Jeanette Pyne**, and finally, 4) teaching on their own. This new orientation and training process has been well-received by the new tutors.

- Created and presented the Initial Tutor Training Workshop. Prior to **Jeanette Pyne**, there was no initial training workshop for volunteer tutors, many of whom have never taught ESL before. Jeanette created the Initial Tutor Training Workshop, which lasted 2 hours, to equip volunteer tutors, both veterans and newcomers, with vital fundamental knowledge about how adults learn a second language and what are the best teaching methods for our ESL program context. All 20+ volunteer tutors have been trained through this workshop. Overall, the tutors evaluated the workshop as helpful and enlightening.

- Organized a *Know Your Rights* Training Session for tutors and church staff. Gloria Yen, the director of the New American Welcome Center at the University YMCA, presented *Know Your Rights* (KYR) on April 24th, 2018. Because of the current hostile political climate towards immigrants and international visitors, **Jeanette Pyne** asked **Gloria Yen** to train the tutors and church staff about what rights our ESL students have and to raise awareness about the activities of Immigration and Customs Enforcement (ICE). Fortunately, the church is deemed a sensitive location and will most likely not be raided by ICE; nevertheless, the ESL Program and church staff have taken various precautions such as training the students on KYR, no longer allowing students to hold the door open for other people, taking down the “ESL” sign and putting “Chapel” on the Education Building door, and establishing “workplace primary contacts” and procedures in case police or ICE come looking for a student.

- Introduced a Pronunciation Handbook

to the ESL Program curriculum. **Linda Sims**, a former ESL Coordinator and current tutor, created a Pronunciation Handbook for her Master's thesis specifically for the ESL Program. **Linda Sims** trained the tutors on how to use the handbook and implement it in their classes. This handbook has been a huge success with the tutors and the students.

- Changed the daily schedule of the ESL Program. Traditionally, the schedule for the ESL Program looked as follows:

- o 9:00-9:30—**Jeanette Pyne** teaches a mini-class with all the levels combined called, "Big Group Time"

- o 9:30-10:00—Students and tutors go to the café for coffee, snacks, and conversation.

- o 10:00-11:00—Students go to their level classes for instruction by the tutors.

Due to needing to plan the Big Group Time class, **Jeanette** was unable to make very good progress in other projects that would benefit the program. The class did not seem altogether beneficial to the students because they were all at very different levels of proficiency and many arrived late. So, the ESL Advisory Committee and **Jeanette Pyne** agreed to change the ESL

Program schedule to look as follows:

- o 9:00-9:30—Students and tutors go to the café for coffee, snacks, and conversation.

- o 9:30-9:40—**Jeanette Pyne** makes some important announcements.

- o 9:40-11:00—Students go to their level classes for instruction by the tutors.

This change has improved the program and the students' and tutors' experience.

**Jeanette Pyne** also has more time to work on projects for improving the ESL Program.

- ESL Coordinator continued professional development and training. In order to stay up-to-date on the latest research in linguistics and teaching pedagogy as well as to stay well-informed about current issues facing immigrants, refugees, and international visitors, **Jeanette Pyne** attended a few conferences and training sessions.

- o TESOL Conference

- o Better Angels Conference in Montreat

- o Bridges to Citizenship Training (FREE)

- o Public Charge Policy Changes Session (FREE)

- Increase communication with First Presbyterian Church of Champaign. **Jeanette Pyne** sent out a monthly update on the ESL Program in the church newsletter and the *Heart of Missions* starting in the fall to keep the congregation abreast of what has happened at the ESL Program. **Jeanette Pyne** also did a Minute for Mission for the ESL Program on a Sunday in September 2018.

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

- o Enrollment data from January 2018 – December 2018

- o Number of students that were newly registered in 2018—51

- o Number of students enrolled throughout the course of the year—107

- o Number of immigrants are about 50% of student body

- o Number of countries represented this past year: 22 (Afghanistan, Albania, Belarus, Brazil, China, Democratic Republic of Congo, Ecuador, Guatemala, Iran, Japan, Kazakhstan, Kyrgyzstan, Mexico, Peru, Russia, South Korea, Spain, Taiwan, Turkey, Ukraine, Vietnam, Yemen)

### 3. 2018 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. 2019 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!

- Expanding the ESL Program

- o In January 2019, we are starting a new Wednesday night class to serve more immigrants and international visitors who have a beginning level of proficiency. This was in an effort to alleviate the long waiting list and serve a different demographic of students.

- o The class will run from January 16 to May 22, 2019. After the course, the ESL Advisory Committee and **Jeanette Pyne** will evaluate the course to see whether or not it should be continued into the future.

- Curriculum Development.

- o Based on the student needs assessment, it became clear that a curriculum needed to be developed to improve the instruction at the ESL Program. **Jeanette Pyne** will be working on creating curriculum for all four levels based on research and input from the appropriate stakeholders. This is a long-term project.

- Teacher/Tutor Training.

- o From the tutor needs assessment, **Jeanette Pyne** intends to continue to develop workshops for the current tutors to give them further support in instruction in various skills and cross-cultural teaching.

- Continue to communicate with FPCC on a regular basis by submitting a monthly entry to church newsletter and presenting a Minute for Mission once a semester during church services.

- Continue to problem-solve and improve the ESL Program to fulfill its purpose previously outlined.

## Relocation Team

BOB KIRBY  
(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.*

## Purpose

- Welcome immigrants-refugees to our community
- Provide essential items to live in a first

independent American home

### Organization and Support

Team: **Hezbollah Akmal, Waheedullah Asmati, Mary, Don and Kate Clegg, Les Cotton, Bill and Judy Gamble, Tyler Gegg, Joe Grant, Bob and Claudia Kirby, Jonathan King, Eric and Keny Mayele, Audry Kukosama Muntu, Destin Lembelembe, Sue Merkel, John Muirhead, Cameron McDonald, Ben Mueller, Neelma Mehmood, Christina Nelson, Minoo Roghani, Kurt Ruthsmandorfer, Don Sendwe, Awais Vaid, Colum Wilson** 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 welcome for the family 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 provide services to immigrants-refugees referred from community organizations such as CU FAIR, ECIRMAC, public schools and churches, synagogues and CIMIC. We provide services only once to a family. We completed 16 team events (pickups/deliveries) in 2018.

We collaborate with ECIRMAC\*, CU-FAIR\*, YMCA New American Welcome Center\*, Salt and Light, SHED\* and Three Spinners\*. We request donation letters from CU FAIR 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 were 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 order in our storage area.

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

Early in 2018 several meetings with representatives from Habitat, Salt and Light, CU FAIR, University YMCA Welcome Center, CIMIC and Three Spinners occurred to consider how we might pool resources and better coordinate services for immigrants. Later CU Public Health District (CUPHD) offered a large storage space in their building on Kenyon Rd in Champaign.

In November we vacated our units on Staley Road and North Mattis and moved all of our furniture and household items to the CUPHD. We now have central storage open to all community organizations serving immigrants. As a result of this collaboration we have been able to work with a larger interfaith group of people in the community expanding our volunteer and donor base to more effectively support our newest Americans.

### Budget

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

### Recommendations and Goals

CU FAIR has assumed leadership for

relocation work in our community and we should support them with our prayers and tangible gifts. First Presbyterian, Champaign, should consider supporting the work with immigrants-refugees by having a single Community Mission Deacon liaison who will actively interact with other individuals and groups in order to inform the congregation about migration issues and new American needs in Champaign County.

Our Relocation Ministry as it was constituted as an organization within Mission Team should be discontinued.

### Some Resources:

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 <https://www.threespinners.org/community-resource-center/>

## S.A.F.E. House Psychology Class

KRISTI CORBIN, MISSIONS COORDINATOR

The 2018 year brought with it great transition at the SAFE House. The psychology class I offered to them since 2016 was affected in the process.

I began the year with attempting to facilitate the Women's SAFE House class at their location. However, it was often difficult to schedule a time to meet since the women had other appointments scheduled in their week (doctor, parole officer, visitation with children, etc). Those times shifted as new participants arrived.

Also, it became clear that the personalities of the residents in the SAFE House at that time did not mesh with the material being presented. In consultation with **Sister Cheryl**, we put the class on hold until she felt it was beneficial to return to class.

Since the overall situation did not change, we did not meet the rest of 2018. I did, however, continue to maintain a good working relationship with **Sister Cheryl**.

In late February, **Brother Green** retired from the Men's SAFE House. The Men's classes met a few weeks before his retirement. After a few months off as Canaan Baptist searched for a new Men's SAFE House leader, **Alan Williams** began to lead the Men's SAFE House. We began meeting again in the summer. Alan's leadership was temporary. After he left his position, SAFE House again began looking for a permanent replacement. They are currently staffed with other temporary leadership, and haven't had the ability to meet for the class since Alan left.

Now, as I prepare to leave First Presbyterian Church of Champaign's staff on December 31, 2018, the class is in question from our end. The likelihood of another Mission Coordinator having the skills and education to teach this class is low. The SAFE House class was not a part of the original job description, either, when I was hired. Thus, if SAFE House desires to have the class back again, I am willing to teach it as a volunteer of the church.

I want to continue to deepen our relationship with SAFE House and to use my skills and abilities in that way as long as it is deemed of help. However, since this class was a part of my employment, whether I am able to teach the class again will depend on approval from Mission Team, Pastor Matt, Human Resources, and Session.

May God bless the mission work of SAFE House and of our church in 2019.

## Transportation Ministry

JOHN MUIRHEAD, CHAIR  
(J.MUIRHEAD@COMCAST.NET)

The Transportation Ministry of First Presbyterian Church Champaign had an active year of providing transportation to Sunday church, Sunday School and special programs such as Sunday evening High School

Youth group and the annual Go and Serve program. Additionally the church van is used daily by the DREAM program that provides their own approved driver. Church volunteers have driven for the DREAM program as needed.

While the church van was a key part of this ministry it is important to note that a number of church members provided transportation on a regular basis bringing worshippers in their own car or van. The church van carries up to 14 passengers and on a typical Sunday we transport 30-35 persons to church and Sunday School. Over 60 persons were transported at least one time in 2018. So, you can see the importance of volunteers who assist by driving their own vehicles.

We have 7 drivers who have driven the church van to take the Road Test at the Secretary of State's Motor Vehicle facility which earned a special endorsement on their license to drive the 15 passenger van (driver plus 14 passengers). Additionally, 11 more drivers have participated in the Transportation Ministry by bringing parents and children to church.

Operation expenses for the church van are a separate line in the church budget and run approximately \$3,800 per year. **Bob Kirby** and **John Muirhead** have shared the responsibility for organizing transportation on any given Sunday or Special Event. A special thank you to **Matt Matthews** for his willingness to become a van driver as he was the lead driver on the Go and Serve trip to Arkansas this past year.

## World Missions

LIZZ PIPPIN, CHAIR  
(LIZZ@FIRSTPRES.CHURCH)

### Committee Activity

The World Mission Ministry (WMM) oversees the World Mission budget and is an active participant in the ministries supported by First Presbyterian Church Champaign (FPCC). We spent 2018 working on our goal to deepen our relationships with our mission co-workers and

partner organizations.

The WMM 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 WMM and the church apprised of what the ministries are doing and provide updates during meetings as well as

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** (Chairperson), **Jeannie Snoeyink**, **Ann Stout**, and **Bill Stout** (resigned from the committee in July). **John Muirhead** is the overseeing elder who will be off Session in 2019 and staff members include **Kristi Corbin** (Mission Coordinator) prior to her resignation at the end of the year and **Matt Matthews** (pastor). New members are always welcome, and it is our hope in the new year we have more members join us.

### Accomplishments/Highlights

2018 was an exciting year for the WMM. We supported five mission-workers and This year we hosted two mission co-workers, organizational partners and 13 partner organizations. We also hosted mission co-workers and organization partners to our church. We also gave added support to Presbyterian Disaster Assistance and our travelers to Pakistan. We supported the Healing Hearts Initiative July 2018- Hosted Bernie and Farsijana Adney-Risakotta

July 2018- Raindrop Offering in support of Healing Hearts Initiative supported by Christy Boyd (mission co-worker DRC)

October 2018- Hosted Veda Gill from Presbyterian Education Board in coordination with the Education is the Pathway to Peace Christ care Group.

December 2018- Advent Offering in support of Presbyterian Disaster Assistance.

**Budget Expenditures**

Disbursed \$47,500.00 to various mission agencies and in support of some congregational mission activities (including \$26,060.00 to PCUSA sanctioned activities).

Disbursed \$1,000 to Presbyterian Disaster Assistance for the relief efforts for the Hurricane Florence.

**Final Note**

As 2018 has draws to a close the World Missions Ministry has begun working on our goals for 2019. We hope to use 2019 to re-evaluate the policies and procedures that we created in 2014 to ensure that is still in line with the needs and desire of our church. I look forward to seeing how God will use this ministry in the next year.

# Congregational Meetings

## Congregational Meeting Minutes January 7, 2018

Pastor Eric Corbin called the meeting to order at 9:55 A.M. Betty Hollister was appointed to act as Clerk pro tem. It was determined that there was a quorum present.

Pastor Eric opened with prayer and called Eric Stickels, chairman of the Nominating Committee, to present the slate of new officers for 2018. The following nominees were proposed for election:

Session Elders:

Judi Geistlinger  
Karin Vermillion  
Steve Tock  
Tim Young

Community Mission Deacons:

Barb Clark  
Steve Gritten

Congregational Care Deacons:

Jean Brunson  
Marge Olson  
Pam Knox

Congregational Nominating Committee:

Greg Cozad  
Judy Hendrickson

Pastor Eric asked for any nominations from the floor. Beth nominated Katharine Jones as an additional Congregational Care Deacon. Harry Bremer moved and Bill Marble seconded that nominations be closed. The entire slate was accepted by acclamation.

Judi Geistlinger moved and Eric Stickels seconded a motion to adjourn. The meeting adjourned at 10:00 A.M.

Respectfully submitted,  
Betty Hollister, Clerk pro tem

## Congregational Meeting December 2, 2018

Quorum was met.

Meeting commenced at 10:03am.

Pastor Matt Matthews opened the meeting by announcing that CNC Chair Eric Stickels would announce the nominated candidates for Ruling Elders, Congregational Care Deacons, and Community Mission Deacons.

Eric Stickels announced the following candidates, and Pastor Matt Matthews opened up nominations from the floor.

Session:

Ron Deering  
Sabrina Hwu\*  
Debra Miller  
Mark Schoeffmann  
Eric Stickels

Community Mission Deacons:

Sandy Carr  
Richard "Itch" Jones  
Jeannie Murray  
Lola Ruthmansdorfer

Congregational Care Deacons:

Amy Born  
Jean Brunson  
Nancy MacGregor  
Jean Smith  
Julia Ulen  
Tom Ulen

Congregational Nominating Committee:

Leland Andrews  
Linda Peterson

\*All nominees are for the Class of 2021, except for Sabrina Hwu (nominated to serve the remainder of Pat Metcalf's Session term, Class of 2019.)

Pastor Matt Matthews made a motion to close nominations.

Motion carried.

Meeting adjourned at 10:17am.

Celeste Kim  
Clerk