

February 2018



FIRST PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH OF CHAMPAIGN

Snippets from Matt/We're On Our Way!

BY MATT MATTHEWS SENIOR PASTOR/HEAD OF STAFF
(matt@firstpres.church)

Dear Members and Friends of First Presbyterian Church.

Grace and peace to you all.

As I write this note, Rachel, Casey-the-dog, and I hope to be on the road to Champaign today (Tuesday, January 30th). The packers have packed our house and my office. Only nail holes in the walls and dust bunnies remain. The movers have loaded most of our stuff into their hulking eighteen-wheeler. The house we called home for nearly 14-years is getting emptier. Our cars are loaded with everything but Rachel's ancient African violets and jade plant clippings. Casey is mightily confused about the alchemy happening around her; dog biscuits don't satisfy her yearning for order. We've said goodbye to church, neighbors, our beloved sons, and friends. What isn't done now by way of goodbyes will be left to telephone calls from the long road to you. Champaign, here we come.

I am eager to meet you, to roll up my sleeves (if the cold will allow it), and get to work. I'm eager to hear your story, to share a pot of tea, to worship with you. By the time you read this note, I'll be slowly establishing office routine and meeting you in person. I'll have church keys and alarm codes and I might even know how to work them. Some of my books will be on my office shelves, my office calendar will be filling, and, at home, most pieces of furniture will—I hope—be in the right room. We hope to have found a local grocery store. Grace will have led us to our new home. In terms of my work as your pastor, I'll be deep in the middle of what the PNC calls a "soft start."

You've already been in my prayers. I lament that your nearby Episcopalians have suffered through fire; I hope to meet that pastor asap and offer a listening ear and, possibly, the help of my new friends at First Presbyterian.

Thanks for your patience with me as Rachel and I get unloaded and acclimated. Thanks, too, for the work of so many of you who have worked so faithfully over the past weeks, months, and years during your church's season of transition. Thanks especially to the PNC (ya'll are so caring), and Pastor Eric who has, by God's grace, already been walking by my side.

PEACE to you all,
Matt Matthews

Ash Wednesday February 14, 2018

Ash Wednesday, February 14, marks the beginning of Lent. You are invited to come that evening to the Chapel in the Education Building any time between 5-7 PM for the imposition of ashes and a contemplative experience.

Annual Meeting Sunday, February 18, 2018

immediately following the 9 AM service in Sanctuary. Annual Reports will be available at the meeting and online.

Fincincial Review of 2017

BY MARK SCHOEFFMANN, FINANCE CHAIR
(mschoeffmann@mchsi.com)

Operating Budget: As presented in Table 1, higher than anticipated revenue in 2017 combined with lower than budgeted expenses resulted in a budget surplus of \$21,235.

This is the first time the operating budget has finished the year in the black since 2013.

Church Assets: Church assets as of the end of 2017 compared to 2016 are shown in Table 2. Following is a breakdown of the components of these assets.

Investment Portfolio with Busey Wealth Management (BWM): The market moved substantially upward in 2017 and this was reflected in a \$268,538 (13.8% after fees) gain in our BWM investment pool. During 2017 contributions

of \$12,588 were received, distributions for endowments and F-150 were made totaling \$79,275, and fees of \$15,089 were paid, resulting in a final balance of \$2,147,063 compared to \$1,945,212 at the end of 2016.

Forward 150 (F-150): At the end of 2017, the conclusion of the third and final year of the campaign, contributions of \$2,003,167 had been received, which is over 97% of the total amount expected. Expenses in 2017 were \$619,732 and total \$1,729,391 to date. Major expenses in 2017 were for the sanctuary stained glass window repairs and outside signage. Payments of \$17,357 were made to missions.

Restricted Contributions: These special contributions and contributions for specified uses are outside the operating budget. Approximately \$74,000 of these contributions were made in 2017. This included approximately \$64,000 for a variety of specific and general missions and over \$10,000 in memory of members that passed away.

Property: The amount of \$1,025,000 is the estimated value of the southwest Champaign property that is presently rented for farming. This value is based on an appraisal performed in 2017.

Expenses

January expenses are \$26K below budget at \$59K and \$22K below 2017. Considering all sources, revenue exceeds expenses by \$182K which is \$42K better than in January 2017. This figure includes \$48K more in prepaid pledges than in 2017.

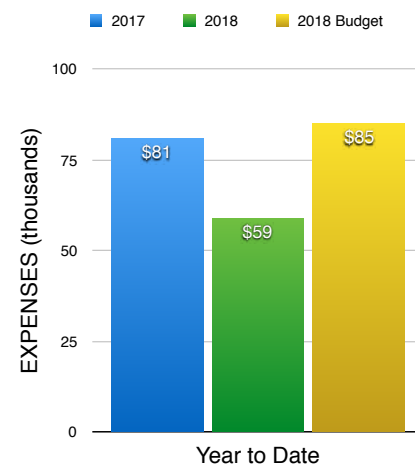
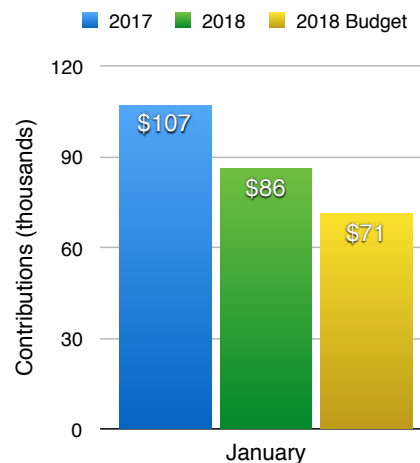


Table 1 2017 Operating Budget

	Actual	Budgeted
Contributions	\$863,158	\$862,403
Total Revenue	\$991,254	\$972,153
Expenses	\$970,019	\$1,003,424
Balance	\$21,235	(\$31,271)

Table 2 Church Assets - End of Year

	2016	2017
Cash	\$867,782	\$543,059
Investments	\$1,945,212	\$2,147,063
Property	\$1,025,000	\$1,025,000
Total	\$3,837,994	\$3,715,122

Cash

F-150 Funds	\$663,440	\$278,053
Prepaid Pledges	\$92,039	\$140,522
Operating Carryover	(\$69,710)	(\$48,814)
Restricted Endowment	\$20,268	\$20,893
Restricted Designated	\$71,564	\$76,455
Restricted Mission	\$89,053	\$74,854
Payroll/Medical Plan	\$1,130	\$1,096

Investments

Reserve Funds	\$1,269,236	\$1,485,183
Permanent Endowment	\$543,205	\$543,205
Endowment Earnings	\$52,242	\$95,588
F-150 Funds	\$80,528	\$23,090

Fincincial Update

Contributions

Contributions in January were \$21K less than in 2017 but \$15K above the budget at \$86K. These figures include prepaid pledges (those paid in the year prior to the budget year) that are prorated over the year with 1/12 added to each month's contributions.

Prayer Corner



A Habit of Prayer

How often do we think of prayer as a habit, as something we do frequently and often spontaneously? In Romans 12:12 God tells us, "Be joyful in hope, patient in affliction, faithful in prayer." Christians can be joyful in the hope God has given us in Jesus Christ. When we are faithful in prayer, it becomes a habit to go to God in difficult times while also maintaining our communication with him at other times. Our hope in Christ and faithfulness in prayer help us to be patient in times of affliction.

Making prayer a habit helps keep us from giving up in hard times.

Volunteers Needed to Make Food Deliveries

Each year, *empty tomb*, a Christian organization serving the CU area, identifies individuals and families in need of food assistance. And each year, members of First Presbyterian Church of Champaign have joined other churches and organizations from the community to buy food for those in need and make deliveries to their homes.

The Community Mission Deacons (CMD) coordinates the volunteering of FPCC members through identifying volunteers and sending a list of information about FPCC volunteers to *empty tomb*.

While some donate the cost of the food as part of their contribution to the church, you are not expected to pay for the food. You can either charge the food to the church at a local grocery store where we have a charge account (information will be provided to you) or submit a receipt for reimbursement.

If you would like to volunteer, please let the church office know by calling 217.356.7238 or emailing info@firstpres.church. More information on how the process works will be provided to all volunteers.

Lent Study Begins February 14

Observation of the Lenten season is not merely about giving up chocolate. We are studying *Holy Solitude* by Heidi Haverkamp. There will be an online forum with daily reflections on the book's reading and spiritual discipline of the day. On Sundays at 10:10 beginning February 18, we will gather in the Parlor in a drop-in format session. Join us online and/or in person. Books available in the Welcome Center for \$12 or at your favorite online bookstore. Website of reflections by church members: lentenholysolitude2018.blogspot.com where comments are encouraged. Facilitator: **Judi Geistlinger**.

Jays & Concerns

A Memorial Service for **Donna Kuhlman** who died December 19, 2017 will be held Saturday, February 17, 2018 at 11 AM in the Sanctuary.

Congratulations to...

- **Victoria Kwete**, on the birth of a daughter, Naysa Mwarabu Nehma on January 10, 2018.

Our Church

Children, Youth & Family Update

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

Sunday School Notes

In January, elementary students studied the story of the baptism of Jesus. The Middle School class studied Deborah and began a question series. The first two questions they have studied are “Why should I follow Jesus, can’t I just say I believe in him?” and “Why should I pray when God doesn’t answer all of my prayers?” The preschool explored the concept that ‘God is With Me Everywhere.’ The High School class explored “Who is Jesus?”.

February will turn the focus to the Lost and Found parables for the elementary classes. Middle School will continue the question series with the topics, “Was Jesus of Nazareth God?,” “Did Jesus know he was God?,” And “If Jesus was God why did he have to die?”

The Confirmation Class has been working on memorization of the Apostle’s Creed and scripture selections. They have been studying *Jesus Saves, Word and Response*, and will be turning to the *Book of Confessions* before embarking on the journey of writing their own faith statements. We are in the process of partnering mentors to each of our students. Contact Mindy if you are interested.

I hope you will consider being part of a teaching team for the Sunday School for the academic year. We need more teachers and helpers in order to have strong teams of leaders for the kids. Please prayerfully consider if you would be able to give two Sundays a month or more toward ministering to an age group of our children.

Youth Group

The next youth fellowship event will be at the Urbana Indoor Aquatic Center on February 11 from 5–7 PM. We will have a pizza party in the rental room upstairs and lots of time to splash around and play in the pools. Be sure to bring your swimsuit and towel. The church is paying for the room rental and admission for up to 15 people, but if your family is able to contribute \$6 per child attending, it would be very helpful.

Children’s Mission

The children are making Valentine gift bags for the clients of Faith in Action. We are accepting donations of travel size soaps, lotions, shampoos, and conditioners to add to the gifts. Donations need to be brought in by February 9.

Outreach

BY GARY & LINDA PETERSON, CHAIRS
(amer_swede@yahoo.com)

Thanks to **Betty Hollister** for submitting to Presbytery the results of the Random Acts of Christmas Kindness that were reported to us from the congregation.

Thanks also to those of you that participated in this worthwhile activity. Many heart warming stories were submitted and displayed on our scrolling message boards.

We also want to thank those that provided food for the **Matthews** over the past weekend. We know that it was greatly appreciated by **Matt and Rachel**.

Annual SAFE Houses Winter Concert

in memory of Willie T. Summerville

Sunday, February 25, 2018

4 PM

First United Methodist Church
210 West Church Street
Champaign, IL

Featuring...
Sanctuary Choir
First Presbyterian Church

Choral & Chancel Choir &
Chancel Ringers
First Methodist Church

U of I Black Chorus

A Celebration of WOMEN

First Presbyterian Church of Champaign
Francophone Ministry
Saturdays in March at 6pm

March 3



Rev. Dr. Rachel Matthews

Rev Dr. Rachel Matthews will preach and serve communion for the March 3rd service. She is an ordained Presbyterian pastor, who holds a Master of Divinity degree, a MA in Christian Education, and is a Doctor of Ministry in pastoral counseling and psychotherapy.

Evelyn Reynolds

Evelyn Reynolds is an Associate Sociology Professor at Parkland College. She is an activist for women's rights and racial justice. Evelyn is a founder of CU's Black Lives Matter chapter, as well as an active member of the Global Black Lives Matter Network.



March 10



Robyn Gobin, PhD

Robyn Gobin is an Assistant Professor of Kinesiology and Community Health at UIUC. She is a clinical psychologist and member of the board for DREAM House, an enrichment program for black boys. Her research relates in part to the psychological effects of emotional trauma.

March 24

Nkechinyelum Chioneso, PhD

Nkechinyelum Chioneso is an Assistant Director for Public Engagement at the Psychological Services Center at UIUC. She is a clinical psychologist interested in promoting healthy communities by building healthy systems. She works with others to better address the social determinants of health.





FIRST PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH OF CHAMPAIGN

302 West Church Street
Champaign, IL 61820

Change Service Requested



FIRST PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH OF CHAMPAIGN

Pastors:

Matt Matthews Senior Pastor/Head of Staff, Ext 213
Eric Corbin..... Covenant Associate Pastor, Ext. 214

Staff:

Beth ChandlerOutreach Coordinator
Kristi Corbin Missions Coordinator, Ext. 219
Ritchie DrennenFacility Maintenance
Patty Farthing..... Receptionist, Ext. 211
Robert Ferrer..... Audio-visual Technician
Marcia FranksAdministrative Assistant, Ext. 210
Joe GrantDirector of Music
Blaise Pascal ...Asst Director Children, Youth & Family, Ext 216
Chris Penny Facilities Manager, Ext. 237
Ann Petry Accounting, Ext. 224
Andrea Pope.....Contemporary Worship Director
Jeanette Pyne.....ESL Coordinator, Ext 235
Richard Rossi Church Musician
Mindy Watts-Ellis .. Director Children, Youth & Family, Ext. 212

All staff email address are the person’s first name followed by @firstpres.church. For example, eric@firstpres.church.

The newsletter is published monthly. Deadline is the last Monday of the month for the following month’s edition. Send submissions to marcia@firstpres.church.

302 West Church Street
Champaign, IL 61820

P: 217.356.7238

F: 217.356.7242

E: info@firstpres.church

www.firstpres.church

Sunday:

- 8 AM Contemplative Service
- 9 AM Traditional Service
- 9:15 AM Children’s Sunday School
- 10:10 AM Adult Education & High School Class
- 11 AM Contemporary Service

Saturday:

- 6 PM Praise & Prayer Gathering
(French-English Service) Centennial Hall