

# July 2018



## FIRST PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH OF CHAMPAIGN

### FPCC Participation at the General Assembly in St. Louis

BY PAT METCALF (PATMETCALF@ATT.NET)

The 223<sup>rd</sup> General Assembly meeting from June 17-21 considered an array of issues across the church and world. Seven members of our congregation (**Matt and Rachel Matthews, Claudia and Bob Kirby, Pat and Bill Metcalf** and **Judi Geistlinger**) were present for one or more days to take part in the worship services and observe or witness to the committees where the actual work of the assembly is done.

Our primary purpose in being there for Cuba Partners, was to support and educate about an item to be considered by the assembly. The last mutual mission agreement between the Cuban Presbyterian-Reformed Church and the PCUSA was in 1986. Because of the dramatic changes in both churches and societies since then, the Cuba Partners Network has been working toward the development of a new agreement for more than 4 years. We helped write the overture from Santa Fe Presbytery in 2014. It eventuated in a comprehensive consultation and report back for which the network provided key leadership. That report led to a demand for a new agreement by the 2016 assembly. Thanks be to God; the resulting Mutual Mission agreement of 2018, collaboratively developed by both churches was approved by the assembly this past Wednesday afternoon.

**Ary Fernández**, Moderator of the Cuban Church, was introduced to the assembly plenary to report that their church had affirmed the agreement in February. We were blessed to receive him as guest preacher on Sunday, June 24.

### Fall Worship Schedule

The Sunday morning schedule will be adjusted this fall to allow a dedicated block of time for the Sunday School from 10:15 to 11:05 AM.

Beginning September 9, 2018, the Contemporary (The Gathering) worship service time will move to 11:15 AM.

#### Fall Schedule September 9

8:00-8:45	Contemplative Worship
9:00-10:00	Traditional Worship
10:00-10:10	Fellowship
10:15-11:05	Sunday School
11:15-12:15	Contemporary Worship

This schedule will be reviewed by the Session in early 2019.

## Our Phantom Staff

FROM YOUR HR TEAM

BY ANN STOUT (MRSAS2003@GMAIL.COM)

When we think of First Presbyterian Church, many things might come to mind. Missions, diversity, music, children’s programs, preaching, PW, small groups, or caring people are some of the many possibilities. We are a dynamic, productive group of believers! And we are able to accomplish as much as we do thanks in part to having a very competent and supportive staff. In many cases, it is the groundwork and support of a staff person that empowers us to be as productive as we are.

Several of our employees are visible to us, recognizable. This includes pastors, musicians, maintenance crew, and our children’s leaders. There are a few others who support the ministries of the church that we seldom or never see (our “phantom” staff). We are listing a few here to acknowledge their service to the church and express our appreciation for all they do.

Marcia – has worked for this church for over 30 years and is our “go to” person for anything and everything. Her duties include in part: managing the office, dealing with vendors, maintaining data bases and church calendar, organizing weddings, funerals, and baptisms, publishing bulletins and newsletters, and so on.

Patty – has been a member since December of 1978. She was hired to fill the part-time nursery director position in 2001 and in 2004 t she began working full-time when she accepted the receptionist position. Her voice and bright smile are the first things visitors to the office encounter. Her varied duties include: answering the phone and door, managing the mail, providing clerical support for church ministries, and keeper of the office candy drawer.

Ann – is our relative newcomer, having worked here for 3 years. She does a dynamite job as bookkeeper, managing our financial records. Since she is responsible for payroll (among other things), she may be the most popular person on the staff!

Thank you, office staff for all you do!!!

## A Sad Goodbye

Members and Friends of FPCC:

This is not easy for me to do or say, ten years ago I walked into First Presbyterian Church of Champaign with my life a total mess. Through all the love and prayers here at First Pres. my life began to change for the better. I accepted God into my life, got my G.E.D and became a member of the church. This is why this is so hard for me to say goodbye.

I feel as though my work here at First Pres. is complete and it’s time for me to move on to the next journey in my life. I strongly feel that God is telling me that it is time to move on with a healed heart and soul and that it’s time to save and rebuild someone else’s life.

I will forever be grateful and will cherish all the memories here at First Pres. Thank you everyone and have a blessed day.

Best Wishes  
Chris Penny

**Join us for a reception  
Sunday, July 15  
immediately after 9 am Worship  
to say goodbye and  
wish Chris well!**

## Financial Update

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

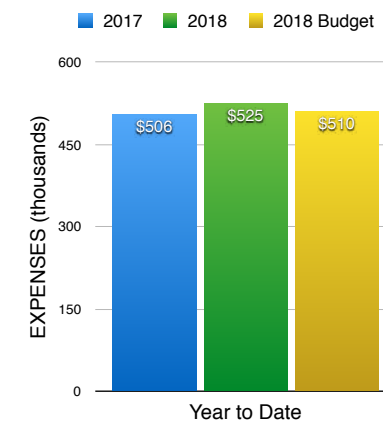
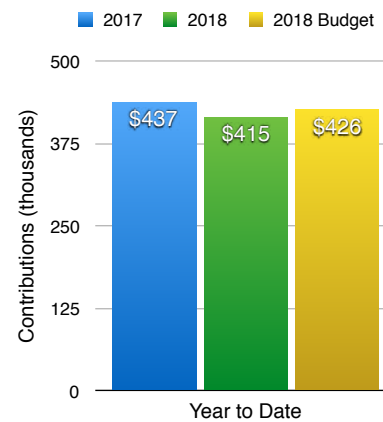
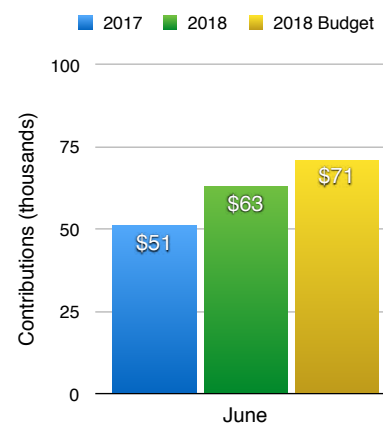
### Contributions

Contributions in June were \$12K more than in 2017 but \$8K below the budget at \$63K. The Year to Date total is below last year by \$22K and is below the budgeted amount by \$11K. 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.

Including all prepaid pledges, at the half-way point of the year we have received 55.5% of the expected 2018 revenue.

### Expenses

Year to Date expenses are \$15K above budget at \$525K and above 2017 by \$19K. Considering all sources, revenue exceeds expenses by \$20K which is \$11K less than at the end of June in 2017. At the half way-point of the year we have experienced 51.5% of the expected 2018 expenses.



Face to Face



Seated are Marcen & Noel. Standing are LaJoie & Seneve. Not pictured is Bernard.

The Ditumyuwka family have been members since June 11, 2016.

**What brought you to First Presbyterian Church?** We were members of the Presbyterian Church in Kinshasa, DR Congo. So when we came to the United States four years ago we prayed about finding a Presbyterian church. A friend said to go to ESL at First Pres. We met people who invited us to worship.

**What has been the highlight of your church experience?** It's like family. People are faithful and joyful. LaJoie: I like to translate. I did not study English in Congo because I thought I would never use it. Noel: I like to lead worship and pray.

**Tell me about your family?** In Congo we owned two businesses, a grocery and an auto parts store. We would like to start our own business here. Our daughters, ages 20 and 10 are still in Congo but will join us next month so we will finally all be together. Seneve is in 8<sup>th</sup> grade and Marcen will begin second grade. LaJoie graduated from Centennial High this year and will enter Eastern Illinois University to major in communications. She hopes to go to

law school and then to work as a criminal defense attorney or an immigration attorney. She will also join the army and do her basic training next summer.

**What are your favorite Bible characters?** Noel- I think Moses because he obeyed God and led his people out of Egypt. LaJoie- Jonas because the story intrigues me. Seneve-David because he was brave. Marcen- Joseph but I don't know why.

**How can the church best be the church? What can we do better?** I wish we did more things together. I think we are too separated. We love the joint worship services and Sholem Fest because everyone is together there.

Outreach

BY BETH CHANDLER, OUTREACH COORDINATOR (beth@firstpres.church) AND GARY PETERSON, OUTREACH CHAIR (AMER\_SWEDE@YAHOO.COM)

Saturday in the Park

On Saturday, July 7, we will gather at West Side Park from 10 AM to noon. We'll introduce our new *turquoise table* to the community and invite our neighbors to join us for fellowship and conversation.

In addition to popcorn, music, and outdoor games, we'll help our neighbors learn some of the ways to get involved at First Pres, such as Missions, the Gathering, and Vacation Bible School and other Children, Youth & Family programs.

Help us be friends to the neighborhood and show our love and God's love. We hope to see you July 7, rain or shine!

Please contact **Beth Chandler** at beth@firstpres.church if you have an outdoor game you're willing to lend for this event.

July Game Night

Game Night is a new way for all ages to enjoy an evening of fun and fellowship at the church. This family-friendly event is hosted by **Brandi and Jason Lowe**, who share a variety of board games or card games for children and adults. Our next Game Night is Tuesday, July 17 from 6:30 to 8:30 PM in the Café and will feature card games like Euchre, Uno, Hearts, and Spades. Childcare is provided by request for infants to pre-K children. Please email **Beth Chandler** at beth@firstpres.church by July 10 if you require childcare.

An International Thank You!

We had great fun and fellowship at the third annual International "Taste of First Pres" Dinner on June 24. We had the best attendance to date with family, friends, and food representing the Republic of Congo, Cuba, Sweden, Korea, Taiwan, China, and more. Thanks to all who helped with this dinner. We look forward to planning this event next year. Please send comments or suggestions to **Gary Peterson** at amer\_swede@yahoo.com.



International "Taste of First Pres" Dinner on June 24



## Call Out To God

Sometimes our minds are overwhelmed with worry. We need to call out to God. In Psalm 28:1-2 David says, "To you I call, O Lord my Rock; do not turn a deaf ear to me—Hear my cry for mercy as I call to you for help." When we recognize God as our Rock, we are seeing him as bringing safety. He is a heavenly Father who wants us to talk with him about all our needs.

In our prayers may we continually be calling out to both God our Father and Jesus, talking with them about everything.



Feasting on the Word, adult Spiritual Formation drop-in class, continues each Sunday morning at 10:10 in the Parlor. We study and reflect on the lectionary scriptures and sermon for that Sunday. No

preparation needed and all are welcome. Bring your coffee and join us! More information? Contact **Judi Geistlinger** 217-493-5462 or [judgeistlinger@outlook.com](mailto:judgeistlinger@outlook.com)

# COVENANT

BIBLE STUDY

Spiritual Formation team continues the pilot of a summer study held on Wednesday evenings. The study is Covenant Bible study, an in-depth group Bible study in which people read and discuss the Bible together, learning how to love God—and each other—better. Covenant represents a relationship—a living, breathing conversation. We invite you to join in it. We gather at 5:30 for dinner, 6:30-8:00 is the study. We began on June 13 and will skip July 4, and will conclude August 8. Materials cost \$30. Also recommend to have the Common English Study bible (available online or via order with **Judi Geistlinger**. To RSVP or order materials, contact Judi (217-493-5462 or [judgeistlinger@outlook.com](mailto:judgeistlinger@outlook.com)).



**Dr. Ary Fernandez, Moderator of the Reformed Presbyterian Church of Cuba, recently shared comments about the Cuban church and society at the 10:10 education time.**

# Children, Youth & Family

## Children, Youth & Family Update

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



### 2018 Go & Serve Youth Mission Trip

With much excitement and anticipation, eight high school students and three adults departed Champaign, Illinois on Sunday, June 3rd and drove towards Little Rock, Arkansas. After nine hours of travel, we reached Ferncliff Camp and Conference Center where we rented a 2-story house to stay for the mission week.



As we worked at different local agencies in Little Rock through the week, we saw the students diligent work attitude. We

worked on inspecting and repackaging hygiene kits at the Presbyterian Disaster Assistance Center for six hours. At the end of the day, the students became very proficient. We labelled and packaged pinto bean cans at the Arkansas Food Bank Network where we discovered that many students have fast hands!

At the Little Rock Compassion Center, we cooked in the kitchen to prepare food for the residents at the center and served lunch there. Students were unsure about the experience the night before but once they got to work, they came out

of their shells and interacted so genuinely with the residents there. I saw they brought smiles to many people's faces.

We also helped reorganized the thrift store where **Pastor Matt** got to be very good at sorting women's clothing! We also served over 150 people at the Stewpot, the soup kitchen operated by Little Rock First Presbyterian Church.

After their positive experience from the previous day at the Compassion Center, the students were efficient and attentive to all who came to eat a hot meal at the Stewpot. Their sweet and smiling faces welcomed the ones who unfortunately

are often treated with disrespect.

We also packed in tours to different places. We visited the Little Rock Central High and learned the brave deed of the "Little Rock 9" in trying to break down the racial barrier over 60 years ago. We toured the Heifer Village and Urban Farm to learn about how their work is helping many countries around the world. The trip to Little Rock would not be complete without visiting the Clinton Presidential Library.

During the week, we ended each night with a reflection of the day and a devotion. The meeting often extended over an hour long because everyone had so much to share. It touches us deeply to share this precious week and to witness how each and every student's faith stretched, was challenged and deepened.



With grateful hearts, we want to thank the First Presbyterian Church of Champaign for your generous contribution. Without it, this trip would not be possible – the students would not be able to work in the fields of mission and touch many lives, and in return, have their own forever changed!

**Family Outing**

**Pastor Matt** and **Charles Masengu** will be taking the church van on a trip to the Miller Park Zoo on July 14. Families interested in going to the Miller Park Zoo on July 14 need to have an adult go with them and money for admission.

Admission fees are:

Youth (ages 3 - 12) \$4.95, Adult (ages 13 - 59) \$6.95, Senior Citizen (ages 60 and up) and Military Members \$5.95, Children ages 2 and under FREE, Parking FREE

Space on the church van is limited. If you wish to have your family ride in the van contact Matt or Charles asap. Others are welcome to arrange their own transportation by car pool within vehicles of families planning to attend.

heart, courage, wisdom, hope, and power that comes from the Holy Spirit!

Registration is underway. Children ages 4 in preschool through children who have just completed 5<sup>th</sup> grade are encouraged to attend. A \$10 donation per child is requested at the time of registration.

Members of the congregation are welcome to sponsor one or more children to attend VBS by donating to the church and writing VBS in the memo line.

You can register by going to <https://hc.cokesburyvbs.com/PresFUMC> or by filling out a paper registration form available the first Sunday of VBS at the registration table in the First United Methodist Church.

**Our Story Garden**

Environmental Stewardship Committee

Did you know our church, for the second year, has a “Story Garden” planted on the southeast side of the Christian Education Building by members of our Environmental

Stewardship Committee? The garden actually tells a story of our church, beliefs and a little about the Midwest prairie.

The “anchor” plants that reflect our prairie roots are: swamp milkweed, butterfly milkweed, purple coneflowers, northern drop seed grass and little bluestem grass.

The elements that tell our own story include three pots representing the Trinity. These plants are dill, lavender and mint. They also are used for healing and soothing in other cultures.

The colorful zinnias reflect the diversity of our congregation.

All the flowering plants were chosen to attract pollinators such as bees, butterflies and humming birds. The grasses produce seeds to help feed small birds in the winter.

Finally, the birdbath provides life-sustaining water for God’s smallest creatures.

We hope you enjoy the Story Garden and will stop by after services today to enjoy the beauty that surrounds us.

After you have seen the Story Garden, please step across Doxology Lane and view the recently planted butterfly flower bed. The flowers will provide nourishment this fall for monarchs to prepare them for their southerly migration. ESC is planning on applying for Pollinator Pocket Certification from the University of Illinois Extension.

**GREENING IS AN ACT OF LOVE,  
FAITHFULNESS AND PRAISE.**



**Vacation Bible School**

Come one, come all to Hero Central this July! Vacation Bible School will be held July 8, 15, 22, and 29 from 1:30-4:30 PM. We will be collaborating with the First United Methodist Church to offer this series of action-packed afternoons in which children will learn that real heroes have

## Missions

### Cuba 2019

The Cuba Study will be offered Tuesday evenings from 6:30 to 8 PM from September 3 through October 30. We will not meet on October 9. The Cuba Study explores the culture of Cuba focusing on those things that have shaped the Presbyterian Church in Cuba.

The study is for everyone wanting to learn about Cuba but the study is required to travel to our sister congregation. The next trip is anticipated in the spring of 2019. Specific travel dates will be chosen by those in the fall study group in consultation with the Session of our church in Havana.

For more information or to enroll contact **Bob Kirby** [rwk3213@gmail.com](mailto:rwk3213@gmail.com) or 217.621.5915.

### Healing Hearts Raindrop Project

War is traumatic on all involved and the Congo is no exception.

In the area where the conflicts have been the worst and where millions have been killed, one can see the loving and caring hands and heart of **Christi Boyd**. Christi Boyd is a Mission Co-Worker supported in part by the World Mission Ministry of our church. Christi, along with many experienced professionals, built a support system for these victims called *Healing Hearts*. They are training teachers, Sunday school leaders, community workers, hospital staff to train others to be support systems and to help in healing the emotional wounds left by the techniques of war. We are asking

for your support to train these professionals.

Your World Mission Team is hoping you will be a part by giving to the Raindrop Project this July. There will be a display in Westminster Hall July 15 and 22, with opportunities to help support *Healing Hearts* in the war battled area of the Congo.

See you at the rainbow to pick a raindrop!

### Mission to Kemmerer

BY STEVE GRITTEN  
([steve.gritten@sbcglobal.net](mailto:steve.gritten@sbcglobal.net))

Kemmerer Village, located approximately 28 miles south of Decatur, had its beginnings in 1884, when a farmer named **Phillip Kemmerer** willed his 400 acre farm to the local Presbyterian Churches for an orphanage. Since that time the name has changed many times to reflect current needs caring for children. Its current name reflects its use for helping troubled elementary and high school youth suffering from various mental and social challenges to become lifelong contributing citizens.

The Village has also come under the direction of the Presbytery of Southeastern Illinois and the Great Rivers Presbytery. Kemmerer Village looks to our Presbyteries for guidance and support. For this reason our church has been a strong supporter by providing Board Members plus financial support.

This trip is the third mission trip that one of our church groups has taken. Previously our groups painted Kemmerer's school rooms, built a wishing well, constructed ten picnic tables, landscaped and repaired a leak in a roof.

This year, our Mission Possible group selected Kemmerer Village for the destination of our annual trip to help provide physical support to the upkeep of the facilities. We were asked to retrofit an old storage building so that it could be used for office space for several new employees. This included repairing the walls, replacing some electrical wiring, providing additional lighting, adding shelving and the like for office resources and storage, making and installing curtains and valances, modernizing an old kitchen for the employees, plus lots of painting.

Twenty-three volunteers spent part or all of their time at the Village from Wednesday evening thru Sunday evening, June 6 – 10, bringing this old structure up to modern standards. The Kemmerer Village staff have thanked us, and complimented our volunteers for the fresh and amazing new look of the aged building that has been used for storage for several years.

Those attending part or all of the time or working at home were **Mary Lou and Dave Bauer, Don Eberly and Sally Hutton, Tanya Deckert, Bill and Judy Gamble, Brother Green, Mary and Steve Gritten, Paul Huang, Sue and Itch Jones, Katharine Jones, Byron Kemper, Rachel Matthews, Carol Miles, Dave McNattin, Gene Morgan, Paul Schaap, Mark and Kathy Schoeffmann, and Dale Tutje**. In addition to the work of the above individuals, **Shirley Goin** and **Mati Stone** assisted **Judy Gamble** making curtains and valances at their homes.

**The next scheduled Adopt-A-Highway is Saturday, July 21, 2018. We will gather between 8:00 & 8:15 outside the Education Building. You may want to bring gloves and smaller plastic bags than the City provides.**



**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 Chandler .....Outreach Coordinator  
Kristi Corbin ..... Missions Coordinator, Ext. 219  
Ritchie Drennen .....Facility Maintenance  
Patty Farthing..... Receptionist, Ext. 211  
Robert Ferrer..... Audio-visual Technician  
Marcia Franks .....Administrative Assistant, Ext. 210  
Joe Grant .....Director 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, Ext 215  
Jeanette Pyne.....ESL Coordinator, Ext 235  
Mindy Watts-Ellis ..Director Children, Youth & Family, Ext. 212

All staff email addresses 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.**

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**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