



FIRST PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH OF CHAMPAIGN

Annual Report 2016

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

It's Been Quite a Year!

CHUCK CARLSON, INTERIM HEAD PASTOR
(chuck@firstpres.church)

This is odd writing an annual report for mid-July. Recently I realized that we met last January 8 to elect church officers but had not scheduled a formal congregational meeting. Neither I nor the Session recognized this oversight until the May meeting of Session. To rectify the situation we set July 9 to officially have our congregational meeting.

We have had quite a year. The last half of 2016 proved difficult for us as we sought to recover from losing a pastoral candidate in early July of 2016. Though we kept pace with all of our ministries, we did so with a limp. Energy lost, financial giving and attendance suffered. The Pastor Nominating Committee, under guidance of Presbytery and Session to strengthen processes and relationships, resumed its pastor search in January of this year.

However, we continued on a path of faith and obedience to God. Our English as a Second Language ministry transitioned to a new leader, **Debra Miller**, when funding became available. Church, Youth and Family ministered to children with a limited volunteer base. The Transportation Ministry continued to pick up children

and bring them to church along with many families. A strong high school group formed as well as a middle school group.

As 2017 began I felt energy coming back. This congregation was responsive in its giving. We have been able to hire a part time Audio –Visual Technician, **Robert Ferrer**. We opened up the part-time Assistant CYF Director to work with Mindy in CYF and that position has just been filled.

Session made a decision to change the Fall worship schedule in July. It was thought that holding both The Gathering (in Centennial Hall) and the Traditional Worship at 9 AM we might attract families who would place their children in Sunday School while parents could worship. Sometimes decisions we make do not prove to be wise. This was one of them. We learned from it and revised the Worship Schedule beginning this June. Now The Gathering meets in Centennial during the 10:30 hour.

Mid-way through 2017, Session is requesting the congregation's input for a Sunday morning schedule which best serves the needs and interests of both Worship and education. Please give us your prayerful thoughts and opinions. Session has set up

listening groups each Sunday for conversation. At the July meeting we hope to collect the data and offer a new schedule beginning in September.

Forward 150, now in its third year cycle, is wrapping up its projects. You have all noticed the windows in the sanctuary are removed and being repaired. We are still awaiting a church sign. A big thank you to all of you who have been so faithful in your giving. The mission portion continues to fund the DREAM project which is growing and expanding. Operation International is funding micro-loans in the Dominican Republic for education. Other funds continue to be used for one time grants and special projects open to the community and the church family.

Kristi Corbin, our Missions Coordinator is putting her skills to use as she teaches a Positive Psychology /Applied Psychology class for those enrolled from both the women and men's SAFE House drug rehabilitation ministry at Canaan Baptist. A total of 27 have attended and offer rave reviews on the helpful life skills being offered.

At the close of 2016 Session was approached by Beverly Baker of United Way requesting that our church extend the use

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Continued from Chuck Carlson

of Centennial from Sunday through Thursday evenings for use as a men’s shelter from January through March. Faith United Methodist provided space on Friday and Saturday evenings. It was a joy to experience the community coming together in support of this outreach. I was present to receive a STAR award (Service Together Achieves Results for Champaign Neighborhoods) on April 27 of 2017 honoring our church for Excellence in Community Service.

I am leading a Stephen Ministry training class for five people with Pastor Eric. Recently Pastor Eric attended the Stephen Ministry Leadership class in St. Louis enabling our Stephen Ministry to continue uninterrupted as I transition to retirement in October.

Our Christ Care leadership and groups are functioning and steady. However, I am praying for a new burst of energy and leadership for this ministry. Our small groups provide a vital component of ministry and mission for our members.

As this is the last pastor’s annual report I will write, I want to express my deepest gratitude for the staff I have been privileged to work with and the love, encouragement, and support that I have experienced from all of you in the congregation. I will be in Montana with Betty in August. Returning in September I will be actively serving this congregation through Sunday, October 15, my last Sunday. Betty will continue to stay in Montana and return to be with me from September 30 until we leave the week of October 15.

The PNC is working diligently and prayerfully. Please pray for and with them as I believe that God will provide a pastor, as David prayed, “At an acceptable time, O God, in the abundance of your steadfast love.” (Psalm 69:13)

We continue to follow God’s Spirit into the unknown of the future. Our role is to love God, love people, do what God is asking of us, and then trusting the outcome to God. Does not God’s eternal presence hold the future as well? I am

compelled to close with Paul’s words to a church challenged by the times and events of its own day as we are in our own:

But thanks be to God, who in Christ always leads us in triumphal procession, and through us spreads in every place the fragrance that comes from knowing him. For we are the aroma of Christ to GodWho is sufficient for these things?” For we are not peddlers of God’s word like so many, but in Christ we speak as persons of sincerity, as persons sent from God and standing in his presence. (2 Corinthians 2: 14-17).

Let us continue to stand in God’s presence and allow the fragrance and aroma of Christ to flow from our lives and ministry together.

Chuck

Pastor Nominating Committee

ERIC STICKELS, CHAIR
(ericstickels@gmail.com)

PNC continued its search and process of discernment for a new Head Pastor during 2016, reviewing dozens of applications, listening to candidate sermons, talking to references, and conducting candidate interviews. While the PNC’s work did not end in 2016, the committee continued to be heartened by the amount of interest shown by candidates throughout the country in the congregation and work of First Presbyterian Church of Champaign.

A restricted account with \$14,407 was established by Session in May 2016 to

Pastor’s Terms of Call

	Chuck Carlson	Eric Corbin
Salary	\$60,544.75	\$40,600.00
Housing	\$32,063.85	\$23,345.00
Medical Spending Acct.	\$2,537.50	\$1,015.00
Supplemental Life Insurance	\$1,260.00	
Auto Reimbursement	\$2,000.00	\$1,500.00
Continuing Education	\$1,000.00	\$1,000.00
Professional Expense	\$2,500.00	\$1,500.00
TOTAL (1)	\$100,646.10	\$68,960.00
Taxes & Insurance Benefits (2)	\$41,812.88	\$28,602.19
GRAND TOTAL	\$142,458.98	\$97,562.19

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

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

cover expenses related to PNC's search. A total of \$2,272 was spent in June and July 2016, leaving a balance of \$12,135 as of December 31, 2016.

Forward 150

ERIC STICKELS
(ericstickels@gmail.com)

Forward 150's year-end balance for 2016 was \$81,005 higher than its beginning balance, driven by \$428,499 in contributions and investment income, against \$374,494 in expenses. The extensive church sprinkler system and pipe organ projects accounted for over three-quarters of Forward 150 expenditures in 2016, with Mission, technology improvements, and consulting/professional fees accounting for most of the rest.

Beginning Balance (12/31/15) \$662,950

Income

2016 Contributions	\$425,329
Investment Income	3,170
Total	428,499
	\$1,091,449

Expenses

Church Sprinkler	\$214,575
Organ	50,533
Mission	35,738
Technology	14,590
Phase II Prof. Services	18,500
Clerk of the Works	6,058
Window Consultant	4,500
Misc.	3,000

Total 347,494

Ending Balance (12/31/16) \$743,955

Prayer Ministry

MIDGE MILLER, COORDINATOR
(midge12@att.net)

Jesus said, "My house will be called a house of prayer for all nations."
(Mark 11:17)

In response to these words the Prayer Ministry team consisting of usually 10 church members, 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 prayer requests.
4. Providing an article on prayer for each issue of our church newsletter.

God wants to communicate with each one of us in prayer.

The committee meets the 2nd Thursday at 10:30 in the Parlor Dining Room. We held an Exploring Membership Class on March 7, June 11 and October 2.

We have 679 members down from 680 in 2015.

Below is the list of members joining in 2016 and the times they worship with us.

Jean Rene Balekita	Sun
Victor Baza	Sat
Tomas Kabeya	Sat and Sun
Mujinga (Watcho) Kamuanya	Sat and Sun
Thethe Kidimbu	Sun
Laeticia Kyungu	Sat and Sun
Euphraise Lapepe	Sat
Parfait Lukau	Sun
Nadeige Lumbu	Sun
Ferdinand Lutete	Sun
Victor Matondo	Sat and Sun
Debra Miller	Sun
Sean Miller	Sun
Bernard Mpembele	Sat
Noel Mtumba	Sat
Alain Nana	Sat
Joyce Nkama	Sat
Michael Nyembo	Sat
Blaise Pascal Mfulama Zamena	Sun
Hugh Stone	Sun
Matilde (Mattie) Stone	Sun

Deaths

We extend our sympathy to the family and friends of those who died in 2016

Faye Anderson	Edith Daniels
Phyllis Gillette	Carol Hobbs
Fran Johnson	Mac MacGregor
Dale Robb	Rick Sandquist
Bob Sprague	Don Swanstrom

New Members

GARY PETERSON, CHAIR
(amer_swede@yahoo.com)

The New Member team consists of **Linda and Gary Peterson, Betty Hollister, Kurt and Lola Ruthmansdorfer** with assistance from **Bob Kirby and Beth Hutchens** at the Welcome Center. **Dorothy Pearson and Roseanne Koehler** help with the Friendship pads.

Membership Stats

Membership 12-31-2015	680
Gains	
Profession	14
Certificate	2
Other	11
Losses	
Deaths	9
Other	19
Membership 12-31-2016	679
Baptisms	
Infant	1
Adult	2

Mission...serving God - Serving Others

Amateur Preachers

JOHN MUIRHEAD
(jmuirhead@comcast.net)

Amateur Preachers serve pastors and their congregations when pastors are on vacation or on other forms of leave, by leading their worship services. We provide an "Amateur Preacher" to give the sermon and lead worship services. In some of these visits we also bring our own liturgist.

We have enjoyed another active year of assisting churches in our Presbytery. In 2016, 11 Amateur Preachers served 10 different churches a total of 34 times on 24 Sundays. The highest number for one church to utilize our services was 6 Sundays in one year. Over the years we have averaged 30 Sundays of service to churches. Our busiest Sundays were May 29 and June 5 when we served three different churches.

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

Community Mission Deacons

SANDY CARR
(scar60@msn.com)

We have had a very dedicated group of volunteers on Community Mission Deacons this year with strong attention to our local agencies.

The members were: **Sandra Carr, Cliff Dykstra, Dana Dykstra, Don Fischer, Judy Gamble, Mary Gritten, Steve Gritten, Kathy Havey, Mike Havey,**

Jenette Moline, Allen Moore, and Linda Tauber-Olson.

We also acknowledge and appreciate the assistance of Mission Coordinator **Kristi Corbin** and her intern **Alex Burris**. The amounts given to our selected local agencies are as follows:

Recipient	2016
Emergency Fund	0%
Canaan SAFE House	25%
Canteen Run	0%
Courage Connection	10%
Crisis Nursery	0%
Eastern Illinois Food Bank	5%
ECIRMAC	10%
Empty Tomb	5%
Faith in Action	1%
Jesus is the Way Prison Ministry	7%
Restoration Urban Ministry	10%
Salt and Light	20%
TIMES Center	7%

As you can see our mission money does not go as far as we would like. Our deacons are concerned about the budget shortfall for missions in 2017, especially given how much several of these agencies have been negatively impacted by the state budgets.

We used the Angel Tree project this year to fill "wish lists" from several local missions. The project was very successful due to the generosity of our church members. (We welcome suggestions from the church family as to other ways we can assist local agencies other than financially).

Compassion Peace & Justice

TRACY DACE, CHAIR
(tdpace@gmail.com)

Statement of Faith and Purpose

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

do justice, love kindness and walk humbly with God.

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

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

—A Brief Statement of Faith 10.4

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

The Compassion Peace and Justice Ministry Team (CPJMT) works with the leadership of the denomination in the Presbyterian Mission Agency's Compassion Peace and Justice Ministry. Our focus is on education of our congregation and community and on action when we believe we are called to act and when we can make a practical difference. This year we focused on bringing people together feeling the way to learn to love "the other" is to share stories together, break bread together coming to know people on a personal basis.

Organization

The CPJMT meets monthly on the second Monday from 4:30-6 PM. The active membership is **Chuck Carlson, Sandy Carr, Kristi Corbin, Tracy Dace** (moderator), **Mike Havey, Bob Kirby, Claudia Kirby, Bill Marble, Pat Metcalf, Bridgette Smith, Ann Stout** and **Bill Stout**. The meetings include worship and

education. Some meetings will continue to be “in the streets”.

Activities

CPJMT represents the congregation on Interfaith Alliance (**Sandy Carr**), a valued partner. We also represent the congregation on FAIR (**Bob Kirby**) (Friends Assisting Immigrants and Refugees). FAIR is an auxiliary and action arm of ECIRMAC bringing our relationship with ECIRMAC (**Mike Havey**) closer to the vision of Christ to be His hands and feet. We partner with DREAAM House (**Tracy Dace**) through advocacy and volunteering. We value other partnerships including our relationship with The Education Justice Project (**Tracy Dace**).

- June 26 International Potluck. Testimonies from **Rob Vermillion** and **Simao Nhoca**.
- July Book Study- *Tattoos on The Heart*- **Eric Corbin** and **Lizz Pippin**
- July 26 School to Prison Pipeline – Courageous Conversation workshop and community plenary with panel. **Rev Alonzo Johnson**
- August 14 Sholem Fest music, potluck and swimming gathering
- September 16 Movies and Popcorn: *Phoenix Rising*-documentary on local homelessness
- September 7 Francis Ssuubi presentation on prison families in Uganda
- October 13 Movies and Popcorn: *Girl Rising*-documentary on educating girls
- November 10 Movies and Popcorn: *The House I Live In*-prison reform
- November 20 Interfaith Thanksgiving Worship at Krannert Center

Budget

From our budget of \$250.00 we gave \$100 to Interfaith Alliance and \$100.00 to East Central Illinois Refugee Mutual Assistance Center (ECIRMAC) working with FAIR (Friends Assisting Immigrants and Refugees) to support a refugee family. Cost for books for *Tattoos on The Heart* was \$49.35.

Recommendation and Goals

The CPJMT will continue to focus on Micah 6:8. We will worship God more through prayer and will inform ourselves and others about the critical social issues of our time and the opportunities to make a practical difference.

We have submitted calendar and budget requests for the International Potluck and Sholemfest for 2017. We are evaluating the Movie and Popcorn series with an inclination to resume that in the summer or fall. We look forward to the Martin Luther King Celebration in January with Rev. Alonzo Johnson including Saturday and Sunday worship and a workshop for all our presbytery.

We continue interest in developing a relationship with a local African American congregation.

We will continue to work with our African American and immigrant brothers and sisters seeking ways to work toward a more just society. We will work collaboratively with partners in the PC-USA and others in our community and beyond to grow in our faith and in our ability to reflect Jesus Christ as we seek to do justice, love kindness and walk humbly with our God.

Cuba Partners

BOB KIRBY, CHAIR
(rwk3213@gmail.com)

Background

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

Purpose

The purpose of the relationship is:
1. To create a partnership between our two churches embodying our Unity in Christ.

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

Our objectives are to:

- 1. To share a worship service, using common hymns, responses and messages by the pastors in order to celebrate our Unity in Christ.
- 2. To regularly share prayer concerns and congregational news via email, bulletins, and photographs.
- 3. To promote shared Bible Study between the women’s organizations of both congregations.
- 4. To develop an active sharing of faith concerns and projects through correspondence and visits between the women committed to the intercessory knitting groups of both churches.
- 5. To encourage and support an exchange of information about their families, schools and faith communities between the 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 47 people who have completed a study of Cuba. Most have traveled to our sister church. The Cuba Partners adopted by-laws which call for election of a nine member rotating steering committee which then elect four officers. The steering committee meets monthly on the fourth Thursday from 5:30-7:00 PM. Meetings include worship and education. A Cuba Partners meeting is held when needed but at least yearly at which time a business meeting and election of the steering committee occurs

combined with the Annual Cuba Forum. The Forum is an informational congregation wide meeting.

Current steering committee members and officers are: **Emily Beach, Judi Geistlinger, Bob Kirby** (moderator), **Pat Metcalf** (moderator elect), **Carol Miles, Nicole Miller, Elizabeth Pippin** (secretary), **Paul Schaap** (treasurer), **Peter Yau**. Ex officio members with voice but without vote are **Kristi Corbin** and **Chuck Carlson**.

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

Summary of 2016 Activity

Notable this year was the ability to have the overture previously requested by The General Assembly heard and approved at The 222nd General Assembly. This required the request of First Champaign Cuba Partners for endorsement by the Session, the Session's unanimous endorsement and the subsequent endorsement by the Presbytery of Southeastern Illinois. The initiatives call for:

1. Mutual mission engagement between the Presbyterian Reformed Church of Cuba (PRCC) and Presbyterian Church (PC-USA)
2. Support for legal recognition of PRCC
3. Joint work to address Cuba's environmental concerns
4. An end to the embargo and subsequent impedimentary acts
5. End of the Cuban Adjustment Act, Cuban Professional Parole Program and other preferential immigration policies.
6. The return of Guantanamo naval base and prison to the Cuban people.

Much of early 2016 was devoted to preparing for the visits of **Daniel Izquierdo Hernandez, Nancy Raquel Cardona Fernandez** and **Yamilet Sanchez Camacho** which occurred April 12 to April 19. File copy of details is available.

Cuba Partners by-laws were updated and

more cookbooks were sold. We discussed how to display the commissioned art from artist, Robert, but were unsuccessful in deciding how to do so. Presbyterian Women worked on pen pals between our congregations, a banner was created and given to the congregation at Luyanó. Pat Metcalf served as secretary of the Cuba Partners Network where she was integral in developing consultations adopted at the 222nd General Assembly.

Su Voz, a daily devotion written by laity and ordained Presbyterians in Cuba is distributed daily to a mailing list of 155 people. This has been a valuable tool to connect members of the congregation with the partnership in a practical way.

Activity Calendar 2016

Palm Sunday, March 20

Shared Worship

Visit of Cubans from Luyano, April 12-19
Congregational Potluck, April 17

Update on changes in Cuba-impact of the church

Pentecost, May 15

Shared Worship

Annual Cuba Forum, October 22

Cuba Study, October 25-December 12

Budget

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

1. Congregational gift to Luyanó \$1,000 (Cuba Partners restricted)
2. Cuba Synod for national camp and retreat center (CANIP) \$1,000.00 (Operations).
3. JoElla Holman, mission co-worker Caribbean \$4,600.00 yearly (Operations-World Mission).
4. Presbyterian Cuba Partners Network- \$100.00 dues (Operations)
5. Cuba Connecton -\$200.00 (Operations)

Recommendations

We will continue to focus on building relationships, deepening our understanding of the Cuban experience and growing together in our faith with our Cuban sisters and brothers. We need to follow up on what we learned from our Cuban

guests to more diligently develop regular effective communication with our church at Luyanó and with our partners at Covenant Presbyterian in Austin, TX.

Budget recommendations.

Increase gift to Cuban Synod from \$1,000 to \$1,050 (operations budget)

Environmental Stewardship

BARBARA FULLER-CURRY, CHAIR

(barbarafullercurry@gmail.com)

Committee Activity

The ESC meets the third Monday of the month in the Church Library at 3:30 PM, but due to health issues of the Moderator, we did not meet every month. We did meet eight times. The Committee consists of 12 members. We have very strong committee participation and very good attendance at monthly meetings. Our meetings are opened with prayer and devotion and close with recitation of the following: *God of the universe, we thank you for your many good gifts – for the beauty of creation and its rich and varied fruits, for clean water and fresh air, for food and shelter, animals and plants.*

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

Significant Accomplishments/Highlights

Nancy Brombaugh continues to sign-up volunteers to clean coffee cups every Sunday and needs more volunteers. It is becoming more and more challenging to find volunteers due to aging participants or members gone in the winter months to warmer climates.

Liz Miley continues to coordinate the Adopt-A-Highway Program with the City of Champaign.

ESC continues to collect empty medication vials and used birthday cards for donation to Idea Store. The Humane Society

also receives donations of empty medication vials for their pets. Tanya Deckert collects used batteries and delivers them to appropriate agencies for disposal.

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



With guidance from Faith in Place, ESC planted a Story Garden.

The Story Garden is located on the southeast side of the Christian Education Building by members of the ESC. The garden actually tells a story of our church, beliefs and a little about the Midwest prairie.

The “anchor” plants that reflect our prairie roots are: Swamp Milkweed, Butterfly Milkweed, Purple Coneflowers, Northern Dropseed grass & Little Bluestem grass.

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

The colorful zinnias reflect the diversity of our congregation.

We mounted the “Story Garden” sign on a re-used post (part of our environmental mission to reuse, reduce and recycle) and in such a way as to represent the cross.

All of the flowering plants were chosen to attract pollinators such as bees and butterflies (and hummingbirds) and the grasses produce seeds to help feed small birds in the winter.

Finally, the birdbath provides life-sustaining water for God’s smallest creatures. We hope the congregation enjoys our little garden.

A total of eight churches participated in the Story Garden project. Later in the summer (July 9th), 30 of us went on a garden walk to inspect other gardens.

Moderator of ESC, **Barb Fuller-Curry**, participated in attending a Green Team Summit in Chicago in September.

A native redbud tree (Pansy Redbud) was planted in area where two pine trees were removed with funds from the Rose fund at a cost of \$292. Tree was planted and guaranteed by Country Arbors Nursery in December.

On December 8, many members of ESC attended continental breakfast for Annual Celebration & Fundraiser at I hotel for Faith in Place.

Our December meeting was held at home of Barb Fuller-Curry with refreshments served and to talk about goals for 2017.

2016 Budget Expenditures

Of the \$250 allotted to our budget, we spent:

\$52.30 at Lowe’s for recycle containers in Office/Education Building

The remaining \$183.56 was donated to Faith in Place for their work in the faith community.

Many expenses members of the Committee paid for from their own funds.

2017 Goals

We plan to continue having a Story Garden and attend meeting Saturday, February 4th to hear more ideas from Urbana Park District at Philips Recreation Center.

We need to transplant many hostas from where new redbud tree is planted to shady areas round church.

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

Recommendations

The ESC is a very dedicated and committed group of individuals that care deeply about our beautiful planet. It is advertised in the newspaper weekly that we are *An Earth Care Congregation*. Our committee is consistently searching for ways to better communicate to the congregation as well other committees our goals and needs to take care of our beautiful planet.

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

ESL

LINDA SIMS, COORDINATOR

Committee Activity

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

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

Because different people volunteer on different days, it is difficult to get all the

tutors together for a “committee meeting.” To facilitate communication, **Linda Sims** (2015-2016 ESL Coordinator, on site each day) sent a weekly email update, and regularly discussed important issues with the tutors in person.

of the student body.
 • Maintained “full” classes at all levels. Our enrollment numbers continue to be high. We average about 35 happy, energetic students/day.
 o Enrollment data from September 1,

additional class gives us more flexibility as we group students to meet their language learning needs (particularly the needs of our immigrant community, as their language levels are generally lower than our shorter-term/visiting students.)

- Updated all program forms. We updated the registration form by shortening it considerably and adding symbols/icons to help non-native speakers fill it out. We also spelled out our attendance policy (requiring students to let us know if they're going to be gone for more than 2 weeks, so as not to lose their seat in the program), and had the policy translated into 12 languages to avoid potential misunderstanding. In addition, we revised the Waiting List form

On January 5, 2017, I went to the Intensive English Institute (IEI) at the University of Illinois to take advantage of their offer of “free books” from their ESL library. As I gathered books that might be of use to our FPCC ESL Program, I was introduced to two IEI instructors who greeted me with, “You’re from First Pres! Cool! We are so happy to meet you! We hear about your ESL program all the time. So many of our students know someone who attends. And you’re also the church that’s going to host the emergency shelter too, right? That is so awesome. You guys are really making a name for yourselves as a church that does such great work in the community!”

—As experienced by Linda Sims, outgoing Coordinator of the FPCC ESL Program

to include information about whether the prospective student is staying in the U.S. or just visiting. This information is used to determine which Waiting List applies to each prospective student.

• Completion of flexible, re-usable curriculum. In August 2016, we rolled out the last of over 30 thematic units created for use within our program. The units are structured to give tutors maximum flexibility and to accommodate the structure of our program, where different tutors teach different levels on different days. All resources are carefully organized so that tutors can quickly and easily choose materials and tailor them to the needs of their students. The system also allows tutors to easily note what they accomplished each day so the next tutor is aware of what happened beforehand. A key benefit of this type of curriculum planning is that it will allow us to reuse the plans and materials in subsequent years, rather than “reinventing the wheel” each time.

• Voted to institute a “recommended registration donation” of \$20 to incoming students. At the recommendation of the ESL Advisory Committee, incoming students are now asked to make a donation (if able) to the ESL program. This was instituted informally for the past several months by simply explaining the new policy to the few students who came off the waiting list, but beginning in January 2017, we will explain this policy more formally

Significant Accomplishments/ Highlights in 2016

- Created an ESL Program Advisory Committee consisting of **Vern Snoeyink, Mike Havey, and Debra Miller.**
- Successfully petitioned the Finance Committee/Session to reinstate funding to continue childcare through the end of 2016. Although the current budget no longer provides for continuing the childcare program, the ESL Advisory Committee successfully petitioned Session to extend the program through the end of 2016, benefiting several ESL families.
- Created 2 waiting lists: To prioritize those with greatest need (immigrants and long-term visitors), we created 2 separate waiting lists – one for those who are “visiting” (usually spouses of international grad students at the U of I), and one for those who are planning to stay (immigrants, refugees, asylum-seekers, etc.). Those who have emigrated to the U.S. are usually able to register for the program within a few weeks of requesting a spot. Those on the Visitor waiting list often wait for 3 months (and sometimes longer).
- Increased number of immigrants served (compared to non-immigrants): Our current student body (as of Dec. 2016) is composed of approximately 50% immigrants. This is in contrast to last year (Dec 2015) when immigrants made up only 25%

2016 – December 15, 2016:

- Number of students registered – 101
- Number of immigrants – 50 (50% of student body)
- Number of countries represented: 24 (Albania, Angola, Argentina, Belarus, Brazil, Burkina Faso, Cameroon, China, Colombia, Democratic Republic of Congo, Ecuador, Indonesia, Iran, Japan, Mexico, Paraguay, Peru, Russia, Rwanda, South Korea, Taiwan, Turkey, Ukraine, Vietnam)
- In the Fall of 2016, we changed the schedule to mornings-only classes. We now offer only morning classes at all levels (rather than just “beginning” level morning classes), concentrating all of our tutor forces and programming efforts in the morning only. We no longer offer afternoon classes. While no time slot is ideal for all, students and tutors met the change to mornings with enthusiasm.
- Hosted a summer tutor potluck to allow tutors to get to know other tutors who volunteer on different days. Thanks to tutor Bonnie Ward for opening her home.
- Added an additional lower-level class. Before September 2016, we offered 4 levels of English, informally called (from low to high proficiency) Red, Orange, Green, Blue. Beginning in September 2016, we added a “Red-Orange” class to fit between the Red and Orange levels. This was possible because our tutor ranks continued to hold steady at 20+. This

by providing students with an explanation translated in their own language. The explanation is carefully worded (see below) so that students do not feel pressured to give beyond their means.

Welcome to the ESL Program of the First Presbyterian Church of Champaign. We are excited that you are joining us, and we hope you have many wonderful experiences learning English and making new friends from around the world!

Our classes are free, but donations are welcome if you are able to give. The "recommended registration donation" is \$20, but any amount is appreciated. (Note that all donations will be used for ESL program expenses, such as books, dictionaries, classroom supplies, photocopying, and other resources.)

If you are able to contribute, please put your donation in the attached envelope and place the envelope in the ESL donation can. (You can also give the envelope to any tutor.)

Thank you so much for helping us keep your ESL program strong!

2016 Budget Expenditures

The 2016 ESL budget had two parts: ESL Program and ESL Childcare. ESL Childcare expenses were incurred by paying childcare workers – a fixed and predictable cost. As such, the childcare budget matched our expenditures closely. 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). In mid-December 2016, we still had about \$2000 remaining in our ESL Program fund. While this money could have been spent for additional resources for the program (books, technology, etc.), none of the items were "critical" to the program at this time, and because of the current financial situation of FPCC, we made the decision not to spend the remaining funds in 2016.

2017 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!
- Forge ahead with new leadership and ideas.

Mission Possible

HARRY BREMER, COORDINATOR
(hlbremer@yahoo.com)

In 2016 Mission Possible celebrated 25 years of service at Camp Wyoming, Wyoming, Iowa. There were 28 participants, including 2 men from the S.A.F.E. House. Some of the assignments completed were sewing costumes for the Christ Walk Service, replacing 24 windows and doors in cabins, and constructing firewood shelters. Several cabins had their exteriors painted, and other cabins had windows cleaned.

We took a half-day off. Some participants toured the area and others rested. We enjoyed a meal away from camp that evening.

For morning devotions we studied the Book of James.

On Friday evening we had a 25th anniversary. The camp prepared a beautiful cake, with "Mission Possible 25 years" on it. **Rev. Dale Tutje** was honored for his foresight to start an adult work trip. With the work trips, not only did we use skills that we had, but we also learned new ones.

The value of these work trips is not only the improvements made to camps, but the long-standing fellowships that have occurred.

Committee members: **Jim Andrews, Charlene and Harry Bremer, Steve Gritten, Gene Morgan, Bill Gamble, Dave McNattin, and Dale Tutje.**

S.A.F.E. House Psychology Class

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

From my simple question to Pastor Tatum of "What else can we do to help?" during my normal S.A.F.E. House agency visit in early 2016, came the request for me to teach psychology classes to help the program. The class met four times in the spring to pilot the classes. After I collected data and submitted a report to Session for Session's discernment as to the future of the class, Session voted for the class to be a part of my regular job responsibilities as Missions Coordinator. The class began meeting again in August. The class met a total of 20 times in 2016.

It has been an honor to be invited into deeper relationship with the S.A.F.E. House. It has been humbling to witness the work of the Holy Spirit at work in powerful experiences in the class; God has multiplied the academics taught in ways that amaze me. S.A.F.E. House participants often spontaneously express both enthusiasm and quick application of the concepts to their own lives.

Concepts covered in the class include topics generally addressed in many undergraduate Introduction to Psychology, Stress Management, and Positive Psychology courses. The course is not offered through any accredited educational institution, and thus does not offer any actual college course credit. It is a course purely for the academic understanding and self-development of those attending.

The class is geared toward individuals making a fresh start in their lives and is taught with a Christian perspective. We pray at the beginning and end of classes, utilize scripture, and otherwise relate concepts to God and Christian teachings naturally throughout the course. The class is ecumenical and all are welcome regardless of their faith.

The goals of the course are to learn and apply psychology in one's daily life,

especially those that have been linked to increased well-being. Topics covered in 2016 include: neuroplasticity, introduction to Positive Psychology principles, theories of emotions, emotion regulation, emotional expression, classical conditioning, operant conditioning, observational learning, healthy relationships, stress and anger management techniques and exercises, resilience, mindfulness, the effects of psychological factors on physical health, religion and spirituality and their effects on health with special emphasis on compassion, empathy and forgiveness, social well-being, flourishing communities, community psychology, and volunteerism.

World Missions

ANN STOUT, CHAIR
(mrsas2003@gmail.com)

Committee Activity

The World Mission Committee (WMC) is charged with overseeing the World Mission budget, actively participating with the various ministries supported by FPCC, keeping the congregation apprised of mission activities, and expanding their knowledge of the various opportunities in the world.

The WMC typically meets monthly (excluding December) and the meetings include an educational component, a devotion, and a business component. Each member is asked to be the liaison to at least one mission ministry supported by FPCC.

The committee is currently comprised of nine church members, two staff members, and one supervising elder. The moderator is Ann Stout.

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, Melissa Leichter,**

Elizabeth Pippin, Musafiri Amani, and Bill and Ann Stout. Jeannie Snoeyink joined us in 2016. **John Muirhead** is the overseeing elder and staff members include **Kristi Corbin** (Missions Coordinator) and **Chuck Carlson** (pastor). New members are always welcome.

Accomplishments/Highlights

- Hosted a presentation by **Harry Bremer** in January
- Participated in hosting visitors from our sister church in Cuba in April
- Hosted a visit by **Bernie and Farijana Adeney-Risakotta**, PC(USA) Mission Coworkers, in July
- Hosted a visit by **Bob and Kristi Rice**, PC(USA) Mission Coworkers in the DRC, in July
- Hosted a visit by **Veda Gill** in October

Hosted a visit by **Mark Adams**, PC(USA) Mission Coworker, in November
 Conducted a successful Raindrop Project in July in which we raised funds for a microfinance project which **Farsijana Adeney-Risakotta** is supervising.
 Conducted a successful Advent Offering in December in which we raised funds to help renovate a meeting facility in Agua Prieta, Mexico where **Mark Adams** is serving.

Budget Expenditures

Disbursed \$62,300 to various mission agencies and in support of some congregational mission activities (including \$49,700 to PCUSA sanctioned activities).
 Disbursed \$20,000 of Forward 150 Mission Funds to Opportunity International to help fund schools geared for children in poverty in the Dominican Republic.

2017 Church Officers

The following list shows the 2017 church officers along with their year of retirement.

2019	2018	2017
<u>Session Elders</u> Moderator: Chuck Carlson		
Celeste Kim	John Muirhead	Kristi Carlson
Bill Marble	Mark Schoeffmann	Betty Hollister
Pat Metcalf	Eric Stickels	Claudia Kirby
Cesar Mnyampara	Jeannie Snoeyink	Marc Miller
Gary Peterson		Rob Vermillion
Ann Stout		
<u>Community Mission Deacons</u> Moderator: Mary Gritten		
Nancy Brombaugh	Judy Gamble	Cliff Dykstra
Barbara Fuller-Curry	Kathy Havey	Dana Dykstra
Mike Havey	Don Fischer	
Jeanette Moline	Mary Gritten	
Alan Moore	Steve Gritten	
Linda Olson		
<u>Congregational Care Deacons</u> Moderator: Beth Hutchens		
Kathy Kinser	Jane Alsberg	Miriam Chenault
Linda McKay	Amy Born	Mamily Masweke
Jeannie Murray	Beth Hutchens	Linda Tichenor
Cathy Stickels	Nancy MacGregor	
	Kurt Ruthmansdorfer	
	Lola Ruthmansdorfer	
	Joanne Walther	
	Larry Walther	

Disbursed over \$4200 to Mark Adams' ministry on the border of Arizona and Mexico (Advent offering).
 Disbursed over \$2500 to Farsijana's microfinance project in Indonesia (Raindrop Project).

2016 Goals

The WMC developed a "Policies and Procedures" statement in 2014 and the stated purpose is: "To respond to God's call to love our neighbors as ourselves. We recognize that everyone is our neighbor and we are committed to growing in that recognition and honoring that. The WMC focuses on our church's role as servant ministers by bringing concerns of needs of those outside of the Champaign County area to the congregation and striving to make a difference by meeting those needs." In 2017, we will continue to operate using these principles.

Final Note

As of December 31, 2016, I will be ending my term as chairperson of the World Missions. It has been a privilege to serve in this position with a group of Christians who are dedicated to the mission of First Presbyterian Church and the vision of serving and empowering those people in the world who (through no fault of their own) need a "hand up." As of January 1st, **Lizz Pippin** will be chairing and I am confident that she will do a wonderful job.

Session Highlights

January

- Approved modification of the job description for CYF Director;
- Approved guest speakers for the celebration of The Day of Women in March.

February

- Approved forming an ESL Advisory Committee;
- Approved creating an Inclusion Ministry Team.

March

- Approved a "Sunday in the Park" to be held in June;
- Approved 6 scholarships for the Youth Triennium;
- Approved a special Pentecost Offering.

April

- Approved moving the country flags from Sanctuary;
- Approved holding a blended service on August 28, 2016;
- Approved holding concurrent services at 9 AM Sundays;
- Approved job description for Praise & Prayer Gathering leader;
- Approved suspending youth meetings during summer.

May

- Approved \$15,000 from Creamer Trust be earmarked for PNC expenses.

June

- Approved exploring and revitalizing Centennial Hall as location for "The Gathering" service.

July

- Approved putting our pastoral search on hold;
- Approved moving Children's Music Director to report to the Music Director;
- Approved establishing a fall session of Spiritual Formation (Adult Ed);
- Approved a committee to investigate and recommend a conflict training consultant.

August

- Approved a survey by the Membership Committee;
- Approved participating in the Interfaith Habitat Housing program with a \$2,000 contribution;

- Approved financing the renovation of Centennial Hall from capital expenditures.

October

Staff...

Pastors:

Chuck Carlson.....Interim Head Pastor
 Eric Corbin.....Covenant Associate Pastor

Staff:

Kristi Corbin.....Missions Coordinator
 Ritchie Drennen.....Facility Maintenance
 Patty Farthing.....Receptionist
 Robert Ferrer.....Audio-Visual Tech
 Marcia Franks.....Administrative Assistant
 Joe Grant.....Director of Music
 Debra Miller.....ESL Coordinator
 Chris Penny.....Facilities Manager
 Ann Petry.....Accounting
 Andrea Pope.....Contemporary Worship Director
 Richard Rossi.....Church Musician
 Mindy Watts-Ellis.....Director Children, Youth & Family
 Blaise Zamena.....Associate Director CYF

- Approved a Congregational Meeting to hire Eric Corbin as Associate Pastor;
- Approved not offering childcare on Christmas and New Year's day;
- Approved combined service for January 15, 2017.

November

- Approved empowering PNC to continue their work;
- Approved the use of the church as a back-up for the Men's Emergency Winter Shelter.

December

- Approved the 2017 Budget;
- Approved Debra Miller as ESL Coordinator;
- Approved Congregational Meeting on January 8, 2017 to elect officers.

Spiritual Formation...

CLAUDIA KIRBY

(claudia.a.kirby@gmail.com)

Our team organized in February with **Pastor Chuck Carlson, Emily Beach, Judi Geistlinger, Betty Hollister, Claudia Kirby, Peter and Rittchell Yau.**

Purpose

Our purpose is to provide adult spiritual formation opportunities that respond to the diverse needs of our congregation.

2016 Activities

We offered a Summer Sunday series which met in Mae Chapin Parlor at 9 AM.

1. Connecting with Women in the Bible
Betty Hollister
2. Gratitude as a Spiritual Discipline
Judi Geistlinger
3. Here I am Lord – Now What?
Leland Andrews
4. John 13:14 and Implicit Racial Bias
Bob Kirby
5. Simplicity as a Spiritual Discipline
Judi Geistlinger
6. Science and Faith
George Miley
7. Connecting with Women in the Bible
Betty Hollister

A Wednesday noon study the month of July was led by **Pastor Eric Corbin** and **Lizz Pippin** on the book, “Tattoo’s on the Heart” by Father Gregory Boyle.

In August we updated our yearly brochure on educational opportunities that included the listing of our small groups and Bible studies. This is in print form and also on our website.

A fall Sunday series was presented at our 10:30 Education Hour

October **Peter Yau** lead us in a four week study of the C. S. Lewis book, “Surprised by Joy.”

November found us in a three week study of “Presbyterian 101” taught by **Judi Geistlinger.**

December we presented An Advent and Song study taught by **Betty Hollister.**

A Wednesday evening study in October was lead by **Pastor Chuck Carlson** and **Judi Geistlinger** on the book, “Fear of the Other: No Fear in Love” by Rev. Wilimon.

Courageous Conversations in 2016:

March 1

Syrian Refugee Crisis and the Christian Response

Afternoon Workshop: Lead by Emily Grey LCSW

Evening Program Panel:

Emily Grey, World Relief; Dr. Rizwan Uddin, Central Illinois Mosque and Islamic Center; Konstantinow Kourtikaskis PhD, UIUC Professor of Political Science

July 26

School to Prison Pipeline

Afternoon Workshop: lead by Rev. Alonzo Johnson

Evening Panel Discussion: with Rev. Alonzo Johnson from PCUSA, Rebecca Ginsberg PhD, from Education Justice Project and Orlando Thomas PhD. From Unit 4 Schools

October 13

Girls Education around the World

Afternoon Workshop led by Veeda Gill and evening movie, “Girl Rising”

Movie and Popcorn Nights were sponsored by Compassion, Peace and Justice Ministry Team, The Education: Path to Peace small group, the Courageous Conversation Committee and the Spiritual Formation Ministry Team.

September 16

The Phoenix: Hope Rising a film from CU at Home

October 13

Girl Rising

November 10

The House I Live In

Finance...

MARK SCHOEFFMANN
(mschoeffmann@mchsi.com)

Operating Funds

In 2016, total revenues for the operating fund were \$983,428, about 4.5% below the budgeted amount and \$36,800 less than in 2015. Revenue for 2016 included \$886,100 in contributions compared to \$933,682 in 2015. Total Expenses for 2016 were \$1,036,903, about 3.3% below budget and \$51,200 less than in 2015. The net result was a deficit of \$53,475 compared with a deficit of \$67,832 in 2015. Contributions in 2016 were about 85.5% of church expenses with other funds accounting for 9.4% resulting in the 5.1% deficit. Other revenues include payments from the Cannon Trust which amounted to \$76,433 in 2016.

Endowment/Strategic Reserves

Total invested funds at the end of the year were \$1,945,212 compared to \$1,875,566 at the end of 2015. Invested funds include \$1,269,236 in strategic reserves and \$543,205 in permanent endowment funds. Investment returns were 4.1% for 2016.

2017 Budget

In 2017, projected total revenues are \$972,153. Pledges of \$ 739,653 were received for 2017 which is 8.4 % less than pledges for 2016 and 3.5% less than actual pledged contributions received in 2016. Expenses are budgeted at \$1,003,424 which is about 3.2% less than the actual expenses in 2016. The main reduction is in Missions due to the decrease in pledges this year. This results in a projected deficit of \$31,271.

Summary of Budgets for 2016 and 2017

Revenues	2016 Budget	2016 Actual	2017 Budget
Contributions	\$945,701	\$886,100	\$862,403
Cannon Trust	77,500	76,433	74,200
Restricted Funds	3,750	3,750	32,450
Other	2,630	17,145	3,100
Total Revenues	\$1,029,581	\$983,428	\$972,153
Expenses			
Clergy	\$245,292	\$244,451	\$233,816
GA Per Capita	30,000	27,480	27,480
Staff Misc.	9,700	16,254	14,400
Music	72,734	71,797	73,284
Contemp. Worship	33,336	33,281	33,336
Worship	1,200	763	3,700
Mission	169,194	163,590	126,650
Children/Youth	118,997	77,865	84,087
Adult Education	1,250	491	1,100
Office (Administration)	183,009	178,357	191,558
Building & Grounds	200,895	214,229	207,413
Congregational Care	1,500	511	1,000
Hospitality	5,100	7,836	5,600
Total Expenses	\$1,072,207	\$1,036,903	\$1,003,424
Revenue-Expenses	(\$42,626)	(\$53,475)	(\$31,271)

Children, Youth & Family Ministries...

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

Personnel changes: The Director of Children, Youth, and Family Ministry **Cassie McConkey** resigned in December of 2015. **Kristen Plemons** served as the Interim Director while a search committee was formed and began interviewing for a replacement. **Julia Hartman**, Children's Choir Director went on maternity leave March 16 and then resigned in May. On July 17 **Daudet Illunga** resigned as Associate Director of CYF. On August 1 **Melinda (Mindy) Watts-Ellis** started as the new Director of Children, Youth, and Family Ministries. On October 2 **Allegra Martin** started as the new Children's Choir Director. On October 19 **Kristen Plemons** went on maternity leave. **Kristen Plemons** resigned her position as Assistant Director of Children, Youth, and Family Ministry effective on January 1, 2017.

Sunday School Winter/Spring

Sunday School curriculum for January continued with using *Holy Moly* by Sparkhouse for elementary students.

The Third Grade Bible class was held April 3- April 17, with presentation of the Bibles on April 24. Recipients were: **Tango Okwen, Michaelangelo Tembo, Cecilia Vermilion, and Sam Nicolette.** The Bible class was taught by **Betty Hollister** and **Joyce Wittler.**

On April 10 confirmation students (8 and 9 grade) were confirmed and had a special luncheon. Participants were **Jack Born, Destin Lembelembe, Rick Loma, Carter Lowe, Grace Rispoli, Jack Stickels, and Kam Wilson.** The class was taught by **Chuck Carlson, Eric Corbin, Tim Born, Scott Hendren, and Jennette Moline.**

Sunday School Summer Children's Choir

A High School and Middle School class summer series on the parables was taught by **Sabrina Hwu** Sundays July 3-31. Summer Sunday school for elementary students was a 6 week series – *Roadtrip with Jesus.*

Sunday School Fall/Winter

A new Sunday morning schedule and Sunday school routine started September 11 with a switch to *Power Express* curriculum for Elementary and Middle school students. Preschool and toddlers curriculum was Karyn Hendley's *Bible Learning Series for Early Childhood.* The topics of study were Creation, the Ten Commandments, How the Bible Came to Be, Jeremiah, and Christmas Around the World.

New High School Sunday school hour after worship from 10:30-11:30. Focus: 'Developing our Relationship with God' and 'Who is Jesus?'

Sunday School Mission

The Noisy Offering on June 12, July 10, and August 14 collected for Restoration Urban Ministries totaled \$503. Mission projects were offered for Sunday School participation from 10-10:30 AM starting in the fall. Projects were 2 polar fleece baby blankets for empty tomb, cards for Pakistani students attending the school for girls supported by our church, 53 peanut butter and jelly sandwiches for the Canteen Run, 20 chocolate chip cookie mixes for the residents of Courage Connection, 16 cat toys for the Champaign County Humane Society, 40 suncatchers for homebound church members, and a blessing blanket for the Canteen Run.

Children's Choir sang February 14 at the 9 and 10:30 AM worship services. Children's choir sang November 20, December 11, and for the Christmas Eve service December 24. The Children's Choir met regularly for rehearsal on Sunday mornings from 10-10:30 AM. Pre-school children also get music time during 15 minutes of their Sunday School lesson each week. There was no choir offered in the summer.

Family Events

A Parents' Night Out was held February 12, 2016.

Parents' Night out options were offered for the same nights as Mission movies September 16, October 13, and November 10. Each was canceled due to no participants.

On October 9 was the Hardy's Reindeer Ranch outing for families with a weiner roast, hay rack ride, pedal carts, and the corn maze. Good participation and fun by all. McKinley Presbyterian church youth were invited and also attended.

October 30 was the annual Trunk or Treat event from 5:30-8 PM with soup, treats, trunks, and games! We had over 300 participants for a fun filled evening.

Christmas Craft Sunday was December 4. Christmas Eve service at 4 PM featured Christmas Around the World.

Special Youth Events

Middle school fellowship events were held through May on Sunday evenings.

Fired Up February 25-28 high school conference retreat was offered. No one went. Presbyterian Youth Triennium- July 19-23,

2016 at Purdue University, 4 male participants from our high school youth attended with leader **Kristen Plemons**. The theme was Keep Going; Go and see, Go and do likewise, Teach me the way I should Go, Let my people Go, The great Go-Mission.

Cookie bake sale fundraiser was held December 11 for the Go and Serve trip.

CYF TEAM

CYF Staff:

Melinda (Mindy) Watts-Ellis

Director of Children, Youth, and Family Ministries

CYF Committee:

Joyce Wittler, Mel Leichter, Sabrina Hwu, Elizabeth Pippin, Kristi Carlson, Patty Farthing

Sunday School Volunteers:

Joyce Wittler, Mel Leichter, Elizabeth Pippin, Sabrina Hwu, Claudia Kirby, Simao Nhoca, Thethe Kidimbu, Noni Ledford, Judy Hendrickson, Pam Hadley, Beth Born, Grace Rispoli, Beryl Forewah, Cathy and Eric Stickels, Marjorie Wixson, Jan Wittler, Naomi Rempe, Jane Seiler, Betty Hollister, and Laeticia Kyungu.

Ministries...

Congregational Care Deacons

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

The FPC Congregational Care Deacons were **Kristie Cozad, Sue Fischer, Katharine Jones, Liz Miley, Julia Ulen, Miriam Chenault, Mamiley Masweka, Linda Tichenor, Jane Alsberg, Amy Born, Beth Hutchens, Nancy MacGregor, Kurt and Lola Ruthmansdorfer, Joanne and Larry Walther. Nicole Miller** also helped as needed during the first three months of the year when the Ruthmansdorfers were in FL.

Kristie Cozad, Sue Fischer, and Julia Ulen retired at the end of 2016, and we commend them for their loving terms of service. Both pastors, **Pastor Chuck Carlson** and **Pastor Eric Corbin**, have been actively supporting the deacons in our meetings and contacts with our more homebound members of the congregation or those who find it challenging to attend church services. We are also grateful to our staff support through **Patty Farthing**. Monthly meetings are scheduled the first Thursday of the month from noon-1 pm when our pastors are most available for support.

Our goal is a monthly contact between Care Deacons and their assigned Care Receivers. The contact may be in person, by mail, or by phone. Care Deacons have been generous in their time and support. In addition, in 2016 we began a US Mail monthly contact to those who have moved away from the area or who have asked for us not to visit.

Three group communion services were provided by the pastors and Care Deacons at the locations with our largest number of church members, both areas of Windsor of Savoy and Clark-Lindsey/Meadowbrook. Individual home communions with pastors and Care Deacons were also available throughout the year.

We visited in homes, hospitals, rehab facilities, total care facilities, and local senior facilities during 2016. There were also final loving farewells to several beloved church members.

A one-time event, JOY, or Just Older Youth, was held on August 4, 2016, in Westminster Hall at the church from 1:30-3 PM. A fellowship time preceded a one hour program that was senior-oriented. Transportation was assured by the Care Deacons, and all church members, caregivers, and family members were encouraged to attend along with current church staff. Food and beverages were donated by Care Deacons. Expenses of \$128.63 were for a pianist, decorations, and paper goods for the event with many cups donated for the church use afterwards.

In early December, the Care Deacons delivered seasonally decorated Presbyterian Women cookie boxes, miniature poinsettias from FPCC, and nativity suncatchers colored by our church children to our Care Receivers. Care Deacons' budget assumed the expense of the poinsettias (\$143.54) and the nativity suncatchers and colored pens (\$91.75). CYF personnel added decorative personal greetings to the suncatchers.

Thank you to the Care Deacons for their continuing generosity of their own personal expenses for flowers, cards, stamps, treats and other monthly surprises for their Care Receivers. In addition, 97 memorial/honorary church donation acknowledgements were mailed to donors in 2016.

Please notify the pastors or **Patty Farthing** in the church office if anyone would appreciate a loved one to have this personal contact from our church.



Congregational Meetings...

FIRST PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH OF CHAMPAIGN
CONGREGATIONAL MEETING MINUTES
February 21, 2016

Chuck Carlson called the meeting to order as moderator at 9:55 a.m. It was determined that there was a quorum. Chuck reviewed the Annual Report for 2015, a copy of which was distributed to the congregation. There were no questions. Chuck then lead the Congregation in prayer.

Chuck then turned the meeting over to Byron Kemper, Session member and Chair of the Finance Committee. Byron gave a summary of the difference between the 2015 and the 2016 budgets. There were no questions.

Byron called the question to approve the terms of call of Chuck Carlson for 2016 as presented. The motion carried. There being no further business, there was a motion to adjourn, a second and a vote to approve adjourning the meeting.

A slate of candidates was presented as follows:

Session

John Muirhead, Mark Schoeffmann, Eric Stickels, Jeannie Snoeyink.

Community Mission Deacons

Judy Gamble, Kathy Havey, Don Fischer, Mary Gritten, Steve Gritten.

Congregational Care Deacons

Jane Alsberg, Amy Born, Beth Hutchens, Nancy MacGregor, Kurt Ruthmansdorfer, Lola Ruthmansdorfer, Joanne Walther, Larry Walther.

The meeting was adjourned at 10:07 a.m.