

The Heart of Missions:

First Presbyterian Church of Champaign's Missions Magazine

January Missions Events and Meetings

Mondays-Thursdays: English as a Second Language Classes
9-11am on Second Floor of Education Building
Classes resume on Tuesday, January 17th

Wednesdays: SAFE House Psychology Classes
Classes resume on January 11 in Westminster Hall

January 9: Compassion Peace and Justice
4pm in Westminster Hall

January 10: Mission Team
Noon in Westminster Hall

January 22: Marion Medical Mission
Talk with Harry Bremer
10:30am in Centennial Hall

January 24: Community Mission Deacons
6:30pm in Westminster Hall

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Marion Medical Mission
with Harry Bremer
January 22, 2017
Centennial Hall
10:30 a.m.

Hear about his latest trip and the work
done with our church's support to provide
clean water in remote villages.



Communities go from THIS...



...to THIS!

Join us for Harry Bremer's presentation on Sunday, January 22, at 10:30 am in Centennial Hall. He will speak about his most recent experience with September-October's Marion Medical Mission's trip. You will learn more about its organization, and how it helps to improve the health of Africans. What is a day like for a volunteer when in Africa? Come and learn about one of the organizations that our church supports. Coffee and light morning snacks will be provided.

John 4:10

"If you knew the gift of God & who it is that asks you for a drink, you would have asked him & he would have given you living water." (As we thirst for – and provide water for people- water, we need God's living water as we thirst for him).

If you have been watching the news or reading the local paper, you know that we have an emergency men's shelter operating in Centennial Hall! This development has brought much joy at our church! Our church is now doing one more thing to serve those in need and to be Christ's hands and feet in the world. It has also brought up several important questions. Hopefully, this FAQ will inform and inspire.

- 1. Why is there a need for an emergency men's shelter?** The TIMES Center shut down Level 1 of their program this summer due to lack of funding. Level 1 provided emergency overnight shelter for men. No other alternative existed in our community to shelter men, especially men who might be under the influence of some substance (see #7 for more explanation).
- 2. When did the organization on this start? This seems sudden!** This summer, a coalition of community members, both secular and faith-based, met to discuss the problem, with special concern for the winter months. What were these men going to do? Nobody wanted men to die on our streets. Some of our individual church members attended these meetings, but with so much transition and high workloads on staff, church staff members did not attend. In November, we were approached as a possible location for the shelter, with the understanding that there would be paid staff running it. At that point we were a backup plan, as there were other locations on board as possible sites. Session heard a presentation of the plan from the United Way, and approved the concept in November's meeting. In December, less than a week before Christmas, circumstances arose making it impossible for the other locations to serve in this capacity. In December's Session meeting, Session approved of FPCC being the actual site for the emergency shelter. Folks worked over the break to get the program up and running. Our first evening open was Sunday, January 8.
- 3. In a budget year with significant shortfalls, how are the costs being covered?** Church staff have calculated the estimated costs of the program in utilities, supplies, etc. These costs are being offset by a small portion of the donations that have been sent to United Way for this program.
- 4. Is this going to happen every year? What is the long term plan?** The hope is that with the data gathered during this winter, a long term, seven day a week solution will develop before next winter. We expect to serve in the current capacity this winter only.
- 5. Is the church being protected?** Yes. Through donations, extra insurance has been taken out to better protect FPCC, extra security measures have been put in place in and surrounding Centennial, and the program is being staffed by people with experience working with homeless populations.



Rev. Palmer (FUMC), Rev. Carlson and Beverly Baker of the United Way at a press conference

6. **Who is in charge?** Faith United Methodist Church's administration, led by Rev. Sheryl Palmer, is supervising the program. FUMC recently discerned that they are called to serve the homeless through their ministry. Thus, they have available administration and volunteers for the program. FUMC hosts the shelter at their location on Friday and Saturday nights, the nights that we are unable to host. They were unable to host the shelter on the five days that we host it. The Holy Spirit worked it out that working together, the shelter could still occur within the constraints of our current ministries.

Funds from donations from the United Way are being used to pay shelter staff salaries, administered through FUMC. Three of the paid staff are supervised by led by Mr. Joshua Fourman, Director of the shelter. All staff have some level of experience working with this population. On our church's end of the equation, Kristi Corbin has helped facilitate the process administratively, under Pastor Carlson's supervision. Chris Penny, who is Facilities Manager, is expertly supervising the facilities-related portion of the program.

7. **I heard this was a "damp" shelter? What does this mean?** The word "wet" shelter means that people can stay even if under the influence of drugs or alcohol. Leadership has termed this shelter "damp," meaning that someone can be under the influence, but not significantly and no alcohol or drugs can be ingested on the property. Individuals are screened at the door by staff at the center. Staff members also work closely with law enforcement, helping to ensure that each guest is placed at the appropriate location for their needs, whether that is at our location, the emergency room, or jail.

8. **How can I volunteer?** Contact Joshua Fourman at jkfourman4@gmail.com to inquire about volunteering.

9. **How can I contribute funds?** Those who wish to donate towards the shelter effort can give to United Way of Champaign County's Men's Emergency Winter Shelter fund. Please denote the gift is for Men's Emergency Winter Shelter. By mail: 404 W. Church St, Champaign IL 61820 or online: www.uwayhelps.org/give

If you have any more questions, please feel free to contact Kristi Corbin by work phone or email.



Do you want to support another ministry to the homeless? Canteen Run serves people year-round who are currently living on the streets. Volunteers bring resources TO the people. They provide prayer, access to/education about area resources, sandwiches and other foods, hygiene items, and clothing to those they reach through their program. **Attend the dinner and silent auction to help benefit the Canteen Run.**

Advent Offering Outcome:

The Advent Offering exceeded the goal of 4,000! We raised **\$4,366.88**! The funds will be used to fund improvements on the **Café Justo y mas** in Agua Prieta, Mexico, one of the ministries supported by Frontera de Cristo, where two of our mission co-workers **Mark Adams and Miriam Maldonado Escobar** serve.

Thank you from the World Missions Ministry Team!

Joy Offering Outcome:

The total for the Christmas Joy Offering was **\$4,708.51**! What an amazing outpouring of support for racial-ethnic minority schools and for the support of our church workers in the PC(USA)!

Thank you!

Angel Tree Outcome:

The Angel Tree was very successful! Individuals and families served through ECIRMAC, Jesus is the Way Prison Ministry, Courage Connection, Crisis Nursery, and the New Americans Relocation Ministry were all very well supported through your efforts. Alex and I took the first set of donations, **which filled up half of my van**, to three of the agencies before Christmas. The last set of donations will be delivered in the coming days.

It is such an honor to serve among so many generous people. ~Kristi

ECIRMAC employees thankfully received Angel Tree donations for individuals they serve.



Dear FPCC,

For those of you I have not had the pleasure of meeting, let me introduce myself. My name is Alexandra (Alex) Burris. I am a Social Work major at the University of Illinois. I have spent the last semester as the Missions intern here at FPCC.

Kristi Corbin, the Missions Coordinator, has served as my supervisor. During my time here I did a lot; some examples are creating a booklet of local resources for low income residents, compiling and editing a video showing all the good done by the ESL program, as well as spending some time each week working in the ESL classes. I volunteered at several of FPCC's community partner agencies, helped Kristi plan for the SAFE House Psychology class, and worked with Sandra Carr to organize and assemble the Angel Tree. I also performed some more stereotypically "intern-y" duties, such as (occasionally) making copies, cleaning out one of the Missions closets, and providing assistance where needed across the office.



Alex delivering donations.

My internship at FPCC has been overwhelmingly positive. I have been treated with extraordinary kindness. Kristi is an awesome example and mentor, and has invested a lot in my personal and professional growth. The entire staff has been warm, welcoming, and enthusiastic about what I'm doing. Every congregation member I've met has shown interest in my education and future plans; I have had a great time working with each one and getting to know them. I've been shown gratitude for every task and project completed. I'm thankful to everyone I've interacted with. I've been very blessed by my time here, and truly believe God guided my steps to your doors. I'm fully confident that the people skills and leadership strategies I've learned here will be invaluable wherever the Lord leads me. I pray He blesses this church for being so open and helping me so much!

Blessings,

Alex Burris

The Sunday school students are collecting unopened **travel size** shampoos, conditioners, body wash, lotions, tissue packs, deodorant, hand sanitizers and toothpaste as gifts to place in Valentine gift bags to be distributed to seniors in the community by Faith in Action. We hope to make 20 bags, so the more donations the better!

We are accepting donations from now until February 5th in the CYF office. Thanks! Mindy



Mission Possible had a very successful trip working at Camp Wyoming in 2016, on their 25th anniversary!

Mission Possible is at it again! After 25 years of faithful service, Mission Possible continues to be called by God to help improve Presbyterian Camp's physical spaces. This year's trip is expected to take place between mid-May and June. Mission Possible leadership is praying for new members who would like to be welcomed into the group and are open to God's call to be trained to help on camp worksites.

This year's trip will be to Camp Carew, just a few hours south of Champaign. An informational potluck will be held on February 24th. Stay alert for updates as the weeks march toward this year's wonderful trip!