

The Heart of Missions:

First Presbyterian Church of Champaign's Missions Magazine

April Missions Events and Meetings

Mondays-Thursdays:

English as a Second Language Classes

9-11am on Second Floor of Education Building

Tuesdays: SAFE House Psychology Classes

1:30 pm in Westminster Hall

April 10: Compassion Peace and Justice

4pm in Westminster Hall

April 11: Mission Team

Noon in Westminster Hall

April 11: World Mission

5:30pm in Westminster Hall

April 25: Community Mission Deacons

6:30pm in Westminster Hall

Inside this issue:

Amateur Preachers	5
Bob and Kristi Rice New Assignment	5
ECIRMAC Fundraiser Banquet	6-7
Men's Emergency Shelter Update	8
Mission Aviation Fellowship	8
Mission Possible Needs You	7
Report from Headquarters on Special Offerings	2-3
One Great Hour of Sharing	4
Presbyterian Women Selling Mother's Day Cards	5

March 2017

Dear Partner in Ministry,

Blessings to you in the name of our Lord Jesus Christ.

As the 2016 books close, it is time to celebrate the generous participation of the congregations in your synod or presbytery. Your church has joined thousands of others in Christ's mission in the world through the four churchwide special offerings: One Great Hour of Sharing, Pentecost, Peace & Global Witness, and Christmas Joy.

Because of this ministry, churches in the Southeastern US received aid to muck out and fix damaged buildings after flooding, five thousand young people gathered to worship God and learn together at Presbyterian Youth Triennium, projects of sustainable agriculture allowed people all over the world to alleviate hunger and poverty in their communities, racial ethnic students received a quality education that might otherwise have been impossible, and life-changing gifts were received by church workers and their families experiencing financial hardship. Thank you! Not only for the impact your participation and support have made but also for your time and energy devoted to answering questions and inspiring support. We at the Office of Special Offerings are grateful for your continued engagement with this form of connectional Presbyterian ministry.

I want to be sure that these quarterly impact mailings are as helpful as they can be. If there is anything that could be clearer, or more helpful to you, I covet your suggestions. If there are ways we can be more effective and transparent in our reporting, please let us know.

In 2017, we intend to continue celebrating every gift and every act of giving as motivated and accomplished through God (James 1:17). Our office is available to assist you in any way we can, so that the transformative work accomplished together will be known and celebrated by all.

Faithfully yours,



Bryce Wiebe
Director, Special Offerings and Appeals



Presbyterian Mission Agency | 100 Witherspoon Street | Louisville, KY 40202-1396
800-728-7228, ext. 5047 | specialofferings@pcusa.org | presbyterianmission.org/specialofferings



THANK YOU

The 221st General Assembly (2014) affirmed a bold goal for Special Offerings of \$20 million a year by 2020 and challenged each congregation to begin receiving a new Offering and/or increasing current offering support by 10 percent. We hope this statement helps you track progress of these goals and provide transparency on direct giving to the Mission Agency. You will receive information concerning the local portions of the Pentecost and Peace & Global Witness offerings after the books are closed for the fiscal year.

1504
First Presbyterian Church
302 W Church St
Champaign IL 61820-3514

	Your congregation		Nationally	
	2015 <i>(end of year)</i>	2016 <i>(as of 12/31/16 preliminary, subject to audit)</i>	2015 <i>(end of year)</i>	2016 <i>(as of 12/31/16 preliminary, subject to audit)</i>
Christmas Joy Offering	\$4,953.32	\$4,275.49	\$3,270,701	\$3,048,083
One Great Hour of Sharing	\$8,396.00	\$9,211.00	\$5,998,872	\$5,333,442
Pentecost Offering	\$0.00	\$1,436.43	\$656,886	\$717,021
Peace & Global Witness Offering <i>(includes Peacemaking Offering gifts)</i>	\$66.00	\$0.00	\$872,573	\$829,578 *
Presbyterian Giving Catalog <i>(includes Special Offerings events)</i>	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$615,714	\$771,903

* Peacemaking Offering receipts are reported under the Peace & Global Witness Offering. Gifts designated to the Peacemaking Offering are credited as such and will be disbursed to the Peacemaking Program. These gifts do not include the percentages retained by congregations and mid councils for the Peace & Global Witness and Pentecost offerings.

Individuals giving directly to Special Offerings

Total number of individuals from your congregation 1

	Total given	# Donors
Christmas Joy Offering	\$0.00	0
One Great Hour of Sharing	\$40.00	1
Pentecost Offering	\$0.00	0
Peace & Global Witness Offering <i>(includes Peacemaking Offering gifts)</i>	\$0.00	0
Presbyterian Giving Catalog <i>(includes Special Offerings events)</i>	\$0.00	0

Funds to be remitted to your congregation after 2016 books close

Pentecost Offering <i>(for youth programs)</i>	\$0.00
Peace & Global Witness Offering <i>(includes Peacemaking Offering gifts)</i>	\$0.00
Presbyterian Giving Catalog <i>(includes Special Offerings events)</i>	\$0.00



Presbyterian Mission Agency | 100 Witherspoon Street | Louisville, KY 40202-1396
800-728-7228, ext. 5047 | specialofferings@pcusa.org | presbyterianmission.org/specialofferings



One Great Hour of Sharing Helps Us Answer God's Call: A Story from PC(USA) Special Offerings

The Christian season of Lent is historically marked with fasting, a traditional practice of giving up food and devoting yourself to prayer. This isn't the only type of fasting the Bible talks about. Isaiah 58 describes a new kind of fast, not to give up bread but to share it. Isaiah calls us to "loose the bonds of injustice," to "let the oppressed go free," and to "share bread with the hungry" and "invite the homeless poor into our homes." We are called to offer help to those in need and restoration to those who have been broken down. One way we answer this call is through our gifts to One Great Hour of Sharing.

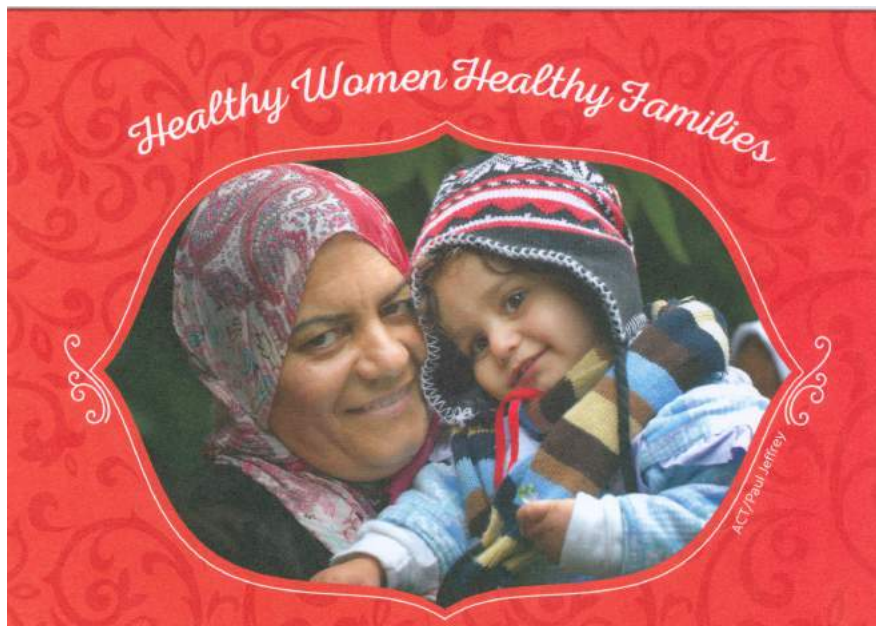
Our gifts to this offering helped "loose the bonds of injustice" for Olga Pedraza and others like her who received support in accessing a job after a prison sentence and beating drug addiction. Self-Development of People invests in communities responding to their experiences of racism, oppression, and injustice and educates Presbyterians about the impact of these societal ills. By investing in those like Olga who have reformed their lives after prison, we help reduce the number of people who end up back in prison.

Our gifts helped alpaca farmers in Peru whose livelihoods were threatened by the poisoning of their water sources. What began as an apparent need for assistance with irrigation grew into a partnership between these farmers and the Presbyterian Hunger Program to support a host of environmental initiatives. Environmental degradation and climate change are primary threats to the world's hungry and vulnerable, and the Hunger Program's work is part of our response.

Gifts to the offering also rebuilt forty apartments and houses destroyed during the Syrian civil war, so that those made homeless by its violence could return to a home of their own. Presbyterian Disaster Assistance has provided essential support to refugees throughout this crisis, through education for refugee children, emergency supplies for refugees journeying to new lands, and assistance for US congregations receiving refugees into their communities.

Our gifts to One Great Hour of Sharing will do much more than these few examples. They will join those of congregations all over the country as we seek to answer God's call and make a difference in the lives of many more people. As we respond through our sharing, Isaiah 58 also provides a promise. As we respond to injustice, feed those who are hungry, and provide places for those without homes, our "light will break forth," and we shall be called "repairers of the breach, restorers of streets to live in."

Let us Pray: God, your call to us is both great and challenging. May the gifts we share bring justice and help to those in need, and may your light break forth in our lives and in the lives of those served through our shared ministry. Amen.



Presbyterian Women's mission of offering Mother's Day Cards will be from April 23 to May 14.

Your donation will help with the Healthy Women, Healthy Families program. This program provides grants to fund education, health, and community development activities in impoverished communities.

World Mission and Presbyterian Women have cosponsored the Mother's Day Project since 2001. **Gifts to this project transform lives!**

Greetings in the name of our Lord Jesus Christ!

As you will know from our recent newsletter, we have accepted reappointment to South Sudan. World Mission is offering a webinar on Monday, April 10th, at 12pm EDT, to do a formal "get to know Bob and Kristi" for those who have a great interest in South Sudan. While many of you know us already, we invite you also to participate in this 35 – 40 minute webinar to hear us share our past mission experience coupled with our sense of call and passion for this new place of service. Below you will find the link to register. We hope you will join us, and that you will also share this opportunity this Sunday and in the coming days with your church. Thank you! <http://cts.vresp.com/c/?BobandKristiRice/b59315eda6/3f4a9688fe/e863704457>

Joyfully in Christ,
Bob and Kristi Rice

Amateur Preaching has been an active mission of our church for decades. Volunteers serve, by request, in Presbyterian pulpits as preachers and/or liturgists when pastors are away for some reason.

Last year, Amateur Preachers served in ten different churches, over a total of 34 weeks!

Think you might be called to serve with Amateur Preachers? Contact John Muirhead if you would like to volunteer or find out more information: jmuirhead@comcast.net

Tenth Annual E.C.I.R.M.A.C. Fundraiser Banquet 2017 Saturday April 15, 2017

RSVP by Thursday, April 6, 2017



The Tenth Annual Fundraising Banquet to benefit the work of the East Central Illinois Refugee Mutual Assistance Center will be held on Saturday evening, April 15, 2017, at the Round Barn Banquet Centre at 1900 Round Barn Road, Champaign, IL. (Located one block west of Mattis Ave. on Springfield. Turn left at the first traffic light.)

The evening's activities begin with a silent auction and welcoming entertainment at 6:00 p.m. with introductions at 6:45 p.m. and Buffet Dinner at 7:00 p.m. A vegetarian option is included in the buffet. Entertainment and Program will follow the dinner.

Tickets, at \$75 each, are available at the ECIRMAC offices at 302 South Birch, Urbana. Tables of eight may be purchased for \$550. You may clip and mail the bottom of this flyer or the one announcing the banquet on our website: www.ecirmac.weebly.com. You may call ECIRMAC at 344-8455 or Board President John Muirhead at 398-1048 for more information. As a 501(c) (3) organization, your donation, less the value of the meal, is tax deductible. *With your generous support we made it through FY16 with no State funding.*

The East Central Illinois Refugee Mutual Assistance Center has provided services to refugees, immigrants, and their families who settle in East Central Illinois for 35 years. In the past 12 months we have served over 2,000 clients! We provide a variety of services including resettlement, translation, adjustment, citizenship, and a children's tutoring program. Helping our clients complete the myriad of forms required is an ongoing process. At this time of year, assistance in completing tax returns is a valuable and needed service to our clients.

**ECIRMAC Banquet
Saturday April 15, 2017**

_____ Tickets @ \$75 = _____

_____ Table(s) of 8 @ \$550= _____

Checks payable to ECIRMAC

Mail to: ECIRMAC

302 S. Birch St.

Urbana, IL 61801

RSVP by April 6, 2017

_____ **First Name** _____ **Last name**

_____ **City** _____ **State** _____ **Zip**

_____ **Telephone**

_____ **E-mail Address**

Please list everyone in your party so we can make name tags. List attendees on the back.

SAVE THE DATE: Saturday April 15, 2017

The East Central Illinois Refugee Mutual Assistance Center (ECIRMAC or Refugee Center) has provided services to refugees and immigrants for 35 years. We have assisted the community in welcoming thousands of "New Americans" by providing key services in the native language of the individuals and families who have come to our community from all parts of the world.

The Refugee Center is a 501 (c) (3) organization that relies on grants and generous giving to provide these services. Our major fund raising activity is a Banquet which will be held this year on **Saturday April 15, 2017** at the Round Barn Banquet Centre in Champaign. Individual tickets to the Banquet are priced at \$75 each and a table of 8 may be purchased for \$550.

The flier on the left gives more specific information about the Banquet.

Please see our website to learn more about ECIRMAC. <http://ecirmac.weebly.com/>

We would be happy to follow up by answering any questions that you may have.

Sincerely,
John Muirhead
ECIRMAC Board President
j.muirhead@comcast.net

Mission Possible Needs You!

It's not too late to join us for our trip to Camp Carew May 14-21. Camp Carew is the Presbyterian Camp of our Presbytery, which our church supports. The trip requires a willingness to learn new skills and work with others. Besides improving the camp, you will meet new people and have a wonderful experience!

The cost of this trip is \$110.00. Medical/liability forms are available from the missions office or from Harry Bremer (h1bremer@yahoo.com). The deadline for submitting your form is April 15.

If any questions, contact any member of the committee: Jim Andrews, Harry or Charlene Bremer, Bill Gamble, Gene Morgan, or Dave McNattin.

First Presbyterian World Missions Support: Mission Aviation Fellowship

Submitted by: Jeannie Snoeyink

Today, **MAF** has a fleet of 53 light aircraft in 15 bases in six countries in Africa, Asia, Eurasia, and Latin America. Each year they fly over two million miles to speed the work of 600 Christian and humanitarian organizations. **MAF** flights support indigenous churches and local evangelists, provide access to medical care and disaster relief, and make community development projects possible in very remote places on earth. The technology arm of **MAF** helps indigenous church leaders and missionaries spread the gospel and helps isolated Christians receive theological training and pass this training to others.

MAF has a fascinating history. After World War II, a few pilots dreamed of a way they could use their flying skills to reach isolated people with the gospel. Here are a few of the interesting projects. In 1948 Nate Saint launched the **MAF-US** program by flying to Ecuador. In 1954, **MAF** started work in Dutch New Guinea, now Papua, Indonesia. In 1956 **MAF** flyer, Nate Saint and 4 other missionaries were killed by the Waorami Indians in Ecuador, but a few years later 7 of the 9 killers became Christians, along with many tribe members. In 1959 **MAF** flew Indonesian national missionaries to Dutch New Guinea and 1,000 tribe people became Christians. In 1961 **MAF** began work in Zaire, now Democratic Republic of Congo. In 1998, **MAF** began digging shallow wells in Mali with the **MAF** staff hand digging the first 18 wells and consequently starting 20 churches.

The **MAF** workers our church supports are Kent and Nancy Contrucci, who worked in Indonesia in the 1990's. They now live in Caldwell, ID and give seminars to **MAF** staff around the world. In March-April, they were in Mozambique, Lesotho (a country inside South Africa), and in Kinshasa and Lubumbashi in the Democratic Republic of the Congo where they gave seminars on Inside Out Safety Program and encouraged workers in these countries.

The Men's Emergency Homeless Shelter hosted in our church since January, has moved to a seven night location at New Covenant Fellowship. New Covenant will host the Men's Emergency Shelter in Champaign for the next three to five years. Faith United Methodist Church will continue to provide the supervision and staffing during those years and United Way will continue to help with donations and community organizing. You may still donate to the cause via the United Way or our church. Thank you for your support and generosity while we helped to fill this emergency need. **Please be in prayer for a long-term solution, that some group or individual will provide a long-term emergency shelter solution.**