

The Heart of Missions: First Presbyterian Church of Champaign's Missions Magazine

November Missions Events and Meetings

Every M, T, W, and Th:

English as a Second Language (ESL)

All English levels

1-3pm on second floor of Education Building

Every Monday and Wednesday:

English as a Second Language (ESL): Survival English

New English Speakers Only

9-11am on second floor of Education Building

Every Tuesday:

Pakistan Study

1:30pm-3pm in the Parlor

November 5: African Blues

11:45am-12:45pm in Lifetree Café

November 7: Mission Team Retreat

8:00am-noon in Centennial Hall

November 9: Compassion, Peace and Justice Ministry

4:00pm in Westminster

November 10: Mission Team

Noon in Westminster

November 16: World Mission Committee

5:30pm in Westminster

November 17: Environmental Stewardship Committee

3:30pm at Booker T. Washington School

November 19: Cuba Steering Committee

6:00pm in the Parlor

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One Step at a Time

By: Wanda Whitsitt

Sweaty palms, pounding heart, shaking hands. What am I doing up here alone? I can't get this plane on the ground. Yes, you can. You've been working five months for this moment. Solo! You've done a hundred landings. This one is no different. Calm down. You can do it. One step at a time. Decrease power, add flaps, say a little prayer, easy does it. Touch down. You did it! Is there any greater feeling than that first solo flight?

Why did it all begin? What is a 48 year old woman, whose life has been consumed with Girl Scouts, PTA, Junior League and Sunday School teaching, doing learning to fly a plane? Could it be reaching out - growing - one step at a time? It all began with a spontaneous reply to my husband's 100th announcement that he sure would like to learn to fly. I was tired of hearing it and said, "You get out there and I'll learn with you." We started together. He took two hours and quit - too many business commitments (however, at age 60, he got his license.) I had the unique distinction of going through four years of college and never taking a course in math or science (the Journalism School did not require it). Now I found that learning to fly is 40% math, 40% science and 20% panic. I took the ground school at the local Junior College and found myself the only woman with 20 young men in the class. However, if I could drive a car, surely flying an airplane is not that different. Wrong...everything about flying was terribly confusing. Steer with your feet? How can you control so many types of movement at once? After 80 hours of instruction, I took the flight test and failed - a strong cross wind on landing forced the flight examiner to take over. Back to the drawing board and more instruction. Another ten hours and the certificate was mine. The challenge of mastering this art led me to get the instrument rating and commercial pilot's license. Thea Rasche, an early woman pilot said, "Flying is more exciting than love of a man and less dangerous." I was hooked. It was great that my husband and I could fly on vacations and visit our children at their colleges and homes. However, I felt this was a special skill that should be used to help others.

It occurred to me that many people need to travel for medical treatment or diagnosis and have no way get there. I put an article in the Illinois Aviation newsletter inviting anyone interested in starting a new project to meet and discuss it. Forty pilots responded and **Lifeline Pilots** was formed. **This free air service** would make it possible for people to receive emergency medical help, such as organ transplants and other medical needs when other options are not available. The first year, eight missions were flown. **In the 33 years of operation, over 8,000 missions have been flown.** The early criteria of emergency need was expanded to any medical or humanitarian need. Over 1,000 pilots have participated. The pilots cover all of the expenses themselves. The area covered has expanded from the state of Illinois to much of the country. Many individual cases come to mind. The mother of a two-year-old boy from Windsor, Canada, was told he had no hamstrings and would never walk. She met a pilot in Detroit who flew that child to Children's Hospital in Chicago for a five-day treatment every week. After a year of treatment, he took his first step and will lead a normal life. A teenager in Peoria, Illinois was suffering from kidney failure and other organ problems. The doctors had done all they could and gave him less than a year to live. They noted that Mayo Clinic might be able to help. There, he was told he would need to come in three times a week for treatment. The family could not handle that, so Lifeline Pilots flew him there for 90 treatments. He is completely cured now and looking forward to being a pilot. Recently, a high school senior was being treated for a malignant brain tumor at St. Jude Children's Research Hospital in Memphis, TN. His class voted him homecoming king, but his doctor said making that trip by car would not be possible in his condition. Lifeline Pilots flew him home for the festivities and immediately back to St. Jude. There is no doubt than many people are still alive today because of the service Lifeline Pilots provided. One of my personal missions will always remain in my mind. I was flying a four year old boy to another state for treatment when the air controller asked me "Who is singing Old MacDonald Had a Farm?"

The World Mission Fund donates to Lifeline Pilots regularly. What an amazing ministry Lifeline Pilots is!

—continued on page 3



Lifeline Pilots has been actively involved in disaster relief. When the twin towers were hit in New York, all but military aircraft was grounded. Lifeline was permitted to fly skin tissue for the Red Cross for burn victims that night. The pilots have assisted in tornado and hurricane disasters by flying supplies and personnel to the areas needing help. A recent example is the trips made to assist victims of Hurricane Sandy in the East. In 1990, all of the groups around the country involved in public flying met at the Aircraft Owners and Pilots Association headquarters in Maryland and formed an alliance to share information and find ways to work together. Air Care Alliance enables these groups to link together to transport people longer distances.

The first ten years were challenging. A Board of Directors was formed to establish criteria for use and operational standards.

Pilots were recruited to fly and medical centers and other user groups informed of the service. My job was to put the recipients and pilots together. My technical tools were a phone and typewriter. After ten years, it was obvious that the project had grown to the extent that a full time mission coordinator was needed. Subsequently, an office was opened in Peoria, Illinois at the airport and a three person staff runs the operation. A thirteen member Board of Directors sets policy and oversees the annual budget of \$200,000. Many changes



Destinations are rarely the same, but the Hope always remains unchanged!

have occurred in the past 33 years. Communication is now by cell phone, email and computer websites. What has not changed is the need for medical diagnosis and treatment. Many times insurance will cover the medical treatment but not the transportation. Traveling long distances to a medical center can be very difficult by car. Recipients must be able to enter a small aircraft with little or no assistance and sit up with a seat belt. The service is not air ambulance but more like a taxi service.

How defining was that moment of my first solo flight? It changed my life. I have met some wonderful people and found great satisfaction in reaching out to help others. As we are confronted with continuous news of violence, corruption and hatred it is heart warming to know of the compassion and generosity of so many people. A man once turned to God and said, "There is so much pain and suffering in the world, why don't you do something about it?" God answered, "I did. I sent you."



Caring for Creation

Environmental Stewardship Meeting

Tuesday, November 17th, 2015

Booker T. Washington School

606 East Grove Street

Champaign IL 61820

The committee will be meeting the children enrolled in the DREAM after school project and will be providing the healthy snack for the students that day.

Brown Bag Lunch

Friday, November 13th 12:00-1:00

at UU Church of Urbana

Hear inspiring stories of Earth Care and get inspired to do more by joining the last brown bag lunch of the year with Faith in Place (faithful people caring for the earth).

RSVP at faithinplace.org/news-events

Missions Official Business

Reminder: Mission Team changed its normal meeting time from first Tuesdays at noon to second Tuesdays at noon.

Reminder: Community Mission Deacons will not meet in November.

December's meeting will be on December 1st, during which allocations to agencies will be prayerfully decided.

A Letter from Bob and Kristi Rice, Mission Co-Workers in the Congo September 23, 2015

Greetings in the name of Jesus Christ! We want to express how grateful we are for your participation in our ministry here in Congo. Your prayers and sacrificial financial gifts enable us to stand with our partner ministry, the Congolese Presbyterian Community (CPC).

We are doing well. We have just entered the long rain season in Congo. We anticipate being in the US next year (2016), itinerating and visiting churches from July until December. If you would like for us to visit your church, please let us know.

We want to share just a few of our current activities and prayer requests:

- In late May/early June, Kristi and Elder Victorine Manga, a Congolese colleague, were able to attend a training in Togo on savings groups. Just this week we are training the second savings group near Kananga; the first group has already saved almost \$100 in four weeks and three members have been able to take out a loan. Our hope and prayer is that these groups will spread throughout both Kasai provinces to give a lift up to those stuck in physical poverty.
- Bob and two colleagues, Pastor Mboyamba and Elder Kalambayi, attended the three week International School of Reconciliation in Rwanda in July; we learned a significant biblical approach to help Christian leaders receive inner healing, to forgive and repent, and to be reconciled to one another; in August we conducted a seminar with these teachings and saw amazing fruit! We plan to conduct another seminar on healing and reconciliation in November. We ask prayer for discernment concerning how these teachings and seminars can bring peace and reconciliation here in Congo.
- The Ditekemena program for street children is going well; the new school year has just started and all 23 school age children are either in normal schools or a catch-up school which has been initiated by this program; we hope and pray that 10 children can return to homes in the next 2-3 months.
- The Bible subsidy program continues to roll along, helping people access Bibles, songbooks, and children's Bibles.

Again, we are grateful for your participation and support of God's ministry in Congo. We trust that you have been receiving our newsletters, posted on our PC(USA) web-page. If there is anyone you would like to add to receive these updates, please let us know. Please know that we pray for you each week.

Nzambi anutue mpanda! (may God be your support!)
Bob and Kristi



November is Native American Heritage Month.

The University of Illinois is hosting a variety of events celebrating the rich heritage of native peoples. From art workshops like basket-weaving and beading, to a Counseling Professionals Workshop on the effects of historical trauma, the university has a huge variety of activities offered to our community to enrich and equip. More information about the 2015 events can be

found at oiir.illinois.edu/native-american-house



African Blues

Free lunch time mini-concerts. Bring your lunch and a friend. Come as you are, leave when you must.

Jean René Balekita and the Bomoyi

- ▶ **First Thursdays of each month at 11:45am-12:45pm**
- ▶ At First Presbyterian Church of Champaign (downtown Champaign at the corner of Church St. and State St.) In the Café (second floor) of the Education Building 302 West Church Street Champaign, IL 61820



FIRST PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH OF CHAMPAIGN

Compassion, Peace and Justice Ministry cordially invites members to participate in the following learning opportunity:

Into the Streets: Learning about Juvenile Justice

Tour the Champaign Juvenile Detention Center and a post-tour presentation and discussion with Juvenile Probation and Court Services Staff.

**Monday,
November 9, 2015**

**400 Art Bartell Road
Urbana IL 61802
4:00pm-5:30pm**

Space is limited to 25 members, so please sign up today! Sign-up sheet is in Westminster Hall.

Intercultural Dialogue
Where Are We and Where Do We Want to Go?
Submitted by Bob Kirby

Alvarez Dixon, University of Illinois Extension, facilitated a dialogue Tuesday, November 3, with eighteen members and guests of First Presbyterian Church. After several interactive activities, he led an open discussion where we listed our resources. Among those are a growing foreign born membership, our community engagement through our English as a Second Language program, and our openness to consider change. Then we listed our challenges talking about being inviting, welcoming and inclusive. In closing, Dixon read Revelation 7:9-10 and invited us to a time of discernment, suggesting that our question is not “Where do we want to go?” but rather, “Where is the Holy Spirit leading us?” This dialogue was sponsored by our Compassion, Peace and Justice Ministry Team. To join the team, please contact Tracy Dace.

Dixon earned a Bachelor of Arts degree in Inter-American Studies and a Minor in Spanish from the University of Northern Iowa. He graduated with a Master of Arts degree in Higher Education Administration from the University of Michigan during which he was a Kellogg Foundation Evaluation Fellow.



Mr. Dixon

On the Move!

Ten mattresses to five locations in five hours. Bless our recipients in their first American homes. Thanks to our donors and volunteers and all who pray for our Relocation Ministry. You are invited to join this ministry team in any way you are called.

Pictured are Tressor, Erwin, Jean René, Joe and Riley.

Not pictured were team members Bob, Ha, Steve and Timothee.



ESL Halloween Celebration



Our church's English as a Second Language

program participants learned from each other and our volunteers/ Coordinator about Halloween. Participants from around the globe shared their own cultural experiences surrounding Halloween, including The Day of the Dead. As you can see from the photos, this was a fun occasion with some excellent food! What a joy it is to see people from around the world working and learning together!

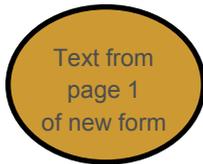
Organizing a Mission Event? Please Use the Updated Orange Form...

One of our staff goals has been to increase efficiency and joy in planning events. A product of this goal is a new Orange Form. Many of you are familiar with the Orange Form from previous years. We attempted early this year to utilize an online version via the website. However, this version was confusing to some, and didn't allow an easy way to draw out instructions needed for setup. As such, we have created a new orange form.

The new orange form puts details needed for a successful event all in one place. Questions relate not only to room reservation and setup, but also to child care and marketing. We hope you find this new format more helpful. The text of the forms are provided on pages 8-9 so you can familiarize yourself with what items will be asked.

I am happy to help you fill these out as you plan your mission events.

—Kristi Corbin



Event Planning, Facility and Childcare Request Form

Please fill out this form at least two weeks, (preferably more), in advance of your event

Today's Date: _____
Your Name: _____
Your Email Address: _____
Your Phone(s): _____

Date of your event: _____
Event Name: _____
Name of the church group in charge of this event: _____
Name or number of room you are requesting: _____
Estimated number of people attending the event: _____

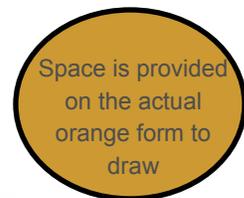
Events that exceed regular building hours must be scheduled and approved through Marcia and Chris.

*Regular building hours are:
Sunday: 7:30 am-12:30 pm
Monday-Thursday: 8:30 am-8:30 pm
Friday: 8:30 am-5:30 pm
Saturday: 5:00 pm-8:30 pm*

Official starting time of your event: _____ am/pm
What time do you need to enter the room in order to prepare it for the event? _____ am/pm
What do you expect the last person leave the room after the event is over? _____ am/pm

HOW DO YOU WANT THE ROOM ARRANGED?

Please draw a diagram of the room setup needed and provide a brief written summary if further clarification is helpful (items such as chairs, tables, lecterns, etc.)



WHAT EQUIPMENT IS NEEDED FOR THE EVENT?

Please list equipment you need provided by the church for your event [such as projector, screen, TV, DVD, White Board, speakers, laptop, or sound system with microphones (sound system is available in Centennial Hall, Westminster Hall, Sanctuary and Chapel)].

- Please think through the equipment needs of event carefully and list all that you need. This enables staff members to provide you a more joyful and less stressful event.
- If bringing any of your own equipment to connect to the church's projectors, computers, etc., please provide the equipment to the church 24 hours before the event in order to ensure it is compatible with our own equipment.

More space is provided on the form here

IS CHILDCARE NEEDED? *CHILDCARE IS CURRENTLY PROVIDED FOR CHILDREN AGES BIRTH TO FIVE ONLY*

How many children do you anticipate attending? _____

What are the children's approximate ages? _____

Budget / Account Number (or indicate personal payment) _____

The ministry requesting childcare will be billed for the services using its account number. If your ministry/small group does not have a church account, cash or check is accepted and is due at least 2 weeks prior to the event. The cost of childcare is \$10 per hour, per worker. Church policy requires a minimum of 2 workers in a room at all times and each age group requires a specific worker to child ratio, to ensure safety. Patty Farthing, the childcare coordinator, will determine how many workers will be needed for the event.

Who will be on-site during your event, for the childcare workers to contact in case of an emergency?

On-Site Emergency Contact's Name: _____

On-Site Emergency Contact's Phone Number: _____

Parents should be on site at all times while children are being cared for. If this will not be the case, the event coordinator should meet with the childcare coordinator to discuss the event and request in detail.

WHAT PR DO YOU NEED? PLEASE TEAR OFF AND USE FOR YOURSELF AS A HELPFUL GUIDE FOR PR.

- a. Web banner on front page of church website
 - a. Email your request with any pictures, verbiage or other information needed to create a banner to marcia.franks@firstchurchchampaign.org.
- b. Facebook posting of your event in our Facebook Group (First Presbyterian Church of Champaign)
 - a. You may post this yourself if you are on Facebook or you may request it be done by appropriate staff.
- c. Flyers posted in Westminster and in Education Building
 - a. Submit your printed flyers to Marcia for display. *Flyers should be 8.5" x 11" and vertical orientation only.*
 - b. If this is a Mission Event and you would like help from Kristi Corbin with creation of the flyer, please contact her ASAP.
- d. Information in the Sunday bulletin
 - a. Email your request with to marcia.franks@firstchurchchampaign.org by Tuesday morning for publication in that week's bulletin. If the event is a Missions activity, please carbon copy Kristi Corbin kristi.corbin@firstchurchchampaign.org.
- e. Article in the Church Newsletter
 - a. Email an article to submit for publication to marcia.franks@firstchurchchampaign.org by the last Monday of the month preceding the month of the event. If the event is a Missions activity, please carbon copy Kristi Corbin kristi.corbin@firstchurchchampaign.org.
- f. Article or announcement in the News Gazette's Friday religious page.
 - a. Email your submission by Monday at 9 am preceding the Friday publishing date to Marcia marcia.franks@firstchurchchampaign.org
- g. Article in the Heart of Missions (for Missions only)
 - a. Email an article to submit for publication to kristi.corbin@firstchurchchampaign.org by the last Monday of the month preceding the month of the event. Articles about previous Missions events will also be accepted if you would like a "follow-up" article about the event.

Our Community



The TIMES Center will receive our Advent Offering.

The Center is in significant need of new mattresses for the Level 1 program. They also need to replace their front door, their dishwasher and garbage disposal.

The TIMES center primarily serves adult men experiencing homelessness, working hard to facilitate their transition to a lifetime of self-sufficiency.

The Thanksgiving Project through Children, Youth and Families will be through Salt & Light. A “can-less food drive” will provide families served through Salt and Light the option to purchase (at a reduced price) foods and paper goods normally desired, but inaccessible, especially during the holidays.

November 20th, **Salt & Light** is hosting a fundraiser complete with food, testimonials, and silent auction (complete with mobile bidding)! The guest speaker will be **Matt Burgess** from Home Sweet Home Ministries in Bloomington.

Interested?

Contact Jennifer Hinds at
Jennifer@saltandlightministry.org or
call 355-5654

Thank you for Helping a New Neighbor!

Tell them to use their money to do good. They should be rich in good works and generous to those in need, always being ready to share with others. 1 Timothy 6:18

In October, we asked the congregation to help ECIRMAC serve the needs of recently arrived immigrants to our area by providing funds for coats and diapers. We, and the staff at ECIRMAC, are once again grateful for your generous response. We raised \$1200 over the two Sundays. Thank you for helping our new neighbors as they adjust to their new community!

Mark and Kathy Schoeffmann, Community Mission Deacons to ECIRMAC

Kemmerer Village Needs Your Assistance:

Kemmerer Village (KV) has been recognized by families, graduates of the program and the State of Illinois for its extremely effective program that has saved the lives of hundreds of troubled youth. KV does this through many programs such as one on one counseling and programs to change the attitudes of the youth. Most of the youth's spare time is scheduled. The programs work to create self-worth in the youth. The art programs are an important aspect of the intervention. The program utilizes such things as oil and water color painting, pencil art, plus all types of arts and crafts. Almost anything found in an art or craft store is utilized. The challenge for KV, of course, is finding funds to purchase these materials. **This is where you come in.** Please consider purchasing a couple of packages/bundles of anything that you find in an art or craft store and bring it to the church on November 8th and 15th. There will be a collection box in Westminster labeled "Crafts for Kemmerer Village." Please help us fill that box several times over. A small contribution from each of you adds up to a great benefit for the KV program.

—Steve Gritten, World Mission Committee Member



CU at Home is seeking anyone skilled in construction (carpentry, plumbing, electrical, lighting, HVAC, or painting), to help with the new building. The new Phoenix location is at 34 East Green Street, but it is a concrete shell right now. They need help in turning it into a drop-in center. If you can help, contact their contractor, Jeff Haynes, of Haynes Construction. His phone is 217-202-3841.

If you would like to receive *The Heart of Missions* automatically each month when it is published, just let me know. Please send an email to Kristi Corbin at kristi.corbin@firstchurchchampaign.org and I will get you on the electronic mailing list. An electronic copy will then automatically be delivered to your in-box monthly.

If you prefer a paper copy, or like one in addition to the electronic format, we print some of those as well. Copies are available each month in Westminster (on the wall near the Welcome Desk) and in the church office (outside of Marcia's office). I print a few at the beginning of each month, and as they run out, I print more as needed. ——— Kristi

Find this, and all copies of the Heart of Missions, at firstchurchchampaign.org/heartofmissions

El Toro

Mexican Restaurant

is proud of their staff, food, and the service they provide to the Champaign-Urbana area. EL TORO likes to give back to the community and would like to say “thank you” by hosting the First Presbyterian Church for a fundraiser.

This is how it works: You and your family, friends and neighbors are invited to come to:

EL TORO BRAVO Mexican Restaurant
2561 W. Springfield Ave. Champaign

on

Monday, November 9th

(from the time they open until the time they close)

EL TORO BRAVO will donate **20%** of your check to First Presbyterian Church Missions Ministry

The coupon is only good on Monday, November 9th and this flyer **must** accompany the order for the donation to be applied. The coupon can be used on carry-out orders and gift cards also.

Organization: First Presbyterian Church Missions Ministry

Date of fundraiser: Monday November 9th, 2015 (open to close)

Guest Check Total: \$_____ (before tax)

Location: EL TORO BRAVO, 2561 W. Springfield Ave., Champaign

Flyer must accompany order for donation to be applied. Not valid with any other coupons or discount offers. Offer valid on date listed only. Carryout available at dine in menu pricing. Alcohol purchases cannot be calculated into the donation amount. Other restrictions may apply.