

# September 2017



## FIRST PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH OF CHAMPAIGN

### Pastor Nominating Committee Update

BY ERIC STICKELS  
(ericstickels@gmail.com)

The Pastor Nominating Committee continues the work of evaluating, researching, and interviewing candidates for the next Head Pastor/Chief of Staff at First Presbyterian Church. In addition to our regular weekly meetings on Sunday afternoons, the committee meets throughout the week (as needed) to plan and conduct candidate interviews. Committee members have participated in these meetings by telephone when vacations, family events, or work commitments have taken them out of town this summer. While the past few months have been extremely busy, an atmosphere of trust, friendship, and openness has kept the PNC working smoothly.

For comparably-sized PC(USA) congregations, it is not unusual for the PNC process to take three years to complete. (We just passed the two-year mark in July.) We were very close to the final stage of the search with two candidates this summer, but both withdrew from consideration (one for family reasons and the other for an opportunity to teach and lead outside of a pastoral call). While these results were disappointing, they are a reminder that however great a candidate is in our eyes, and however great First Presbyterian is in their eyes, if the timing is not right at that particular moment, then the call to our pulpit just was not meant to be and God is pointing us in another direction.

In addition to finding someone who is comfortable leading a congregation and staff as large as ours, we are also looking for:

- someone who can consistently deliver spiritually engaging and thoughtful sermons

continued on next page

### Sunday morning schedule beginning September 10...

- 8 AM Contemplative Service
- 9 AM Traditional Service
- 9:15 AM Children's Sunday School
- 10 AM Children's Choir
- 10:10 AM Adult Education & High School Class
- 11 AM Contemporary Service

For more information on the children's Sunday morning schedule, please see article from Mindy in this publication.

**ONE service Sunday, September 24  
9 AM**

**Jo Ella Holman, guest speaker**

- someone with a gift for pastoral care and working effectively with small groups within the church
- someone who is a good theological fit with First Presbyterian Church
- someone with the energy and wisdom to effectively minister to all age groups
- someone who is comfortable with multicultural engagement and with diverse points of view, both within the church and outside of it
- and finally, someone who is forward-looking and excited by the opportunities this congregation has ahead of it

In short, we are looking for a unique person and our expectations for the candidate we will ultimately present to the congregation for your approval are very high. Like everyone else at First Presbyterian Church, we look forward to the day when our task is finally done, but we will not cut corners or compromise the search process in order to come to a quick conclusion. This congregation deserves our best effort at every stage of the search process, and that is what we are trying to give you every week.

What can you do to help? First of all, keep the prayers and encouragement coming – we are so grateful for the interest and support coming from everyone in the church. Second, if you know of someone who might be open to a new call, please refer them to the Pastor Search page ([www.firstpres.church/pastor-search/](http://www.firstpres.church/pastor-search/)) on the church website.

As always, if you have any specific concerns or questions about the work of the PNC, please direct them to **Eric Stickels** (PNC Chair) at [ericstickels@gmail.com](mailto:ericstickels@gmail.com).

- |                         |                      |
|-------------------------|----------------------|
| <b>Harry Bremer</b>     | <b>Beth Hutchens</b> |
| <b>Sabrina Hwu</b>      | <b>Wen-mei Hwu</b>   |
| <b>Robert Kirby</b>     | <b>Pam Knox</b>      |
| <b>Bill Metcalf</b>     | <b>Carol Miles</b>   |
| <b>Eric Stickels</b>    | <b>Tom Ulen</b>      |
| <b>Karin Vermillion</b> |                      |

### Part of our History

Work continues on the restoration of the stained glass windows and the wood trim surrounding each window. An historic color analysis was performed on samples that were taken when getting down to the base layer. In keeping with historical tradition, this color has been specified for the new trim paint...a deep hunter green.

If you look at the Church History book, the photos taken before 1950 or so show a dark color trim on the windows. It is believed that when the secondary storm windows were installed, the wood frames were painted white.

The white paint was identified as lead containing material. The contractors are following a specification using the EPA standards for lead removal when stripping the paint.

•••••  
 • A celebration of appreciation •  
 • **Chuck and Betty Carlson** •  
 • Sunday, October 15 •  
 • City View •  
 • (top floor of the Illinois Terminal •  
 • Amtrak and Bus station) •  
 • All are invited to a catered •  
 • lunch at noon •  
 • following ONE church service •  
 • at 10 AM. •  
 • If you would like to donate toward a retirement gift for •  
 • the Carlsons, please make your check out to the church •  
 • with a memo for retirement. •  
 • RSVP to church office •  
 •••••

### Got Photos?

As we prepare for the retirement of **Pastor Chuck Carlson**, we are looking for photos of Chuck and Betty. If you have some good photos of one or both, we'd love to get a copy. If in digital form, please email them to [photos@firstpres.church](mailto:photos@firstpres.church), or bring them on USB drive or CD. If you have printed photos, we can scan them. To make sure we get the photos back to you, please enclose them in an envelope with your name on the outside.

As we prepare for the 150<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the main church building, we'd also love to have copies of other great photos you have of the church buildings, people, or activities. Thanks!

## A Glimpse Into Our Past

The story that has been passed down was that during the wet spring season, there were hogs from a neighboring farm that found the space under the new frame church building an attractive place to wallow in the mud. Often parishioners were said to have been disturbed by sounds of the hogs scratching their backs on the floor joists.

## Prayer Corner



### The Glory of God

What an awesome display occurred in the sky on September 21. That is when we took time to watch a 93% eclipse of the sun. We saw "the heavens declare the glory of God; the skies proclaim the work of his hands." (Psalm 19:1) This was an unspoken declaration of the reality and glory of God to everyone on earth because "there is no speech or language where their (heavens and sky) voice is not heard. God used nature to reveal himself.

May the wonder of this display in the sky cause us to praise God, the creator of the universe.

### Pastor's Pen

BY CHUCK CARLSON  
(chuck@firstpres.church)

After a few weeks in the Montana forest fire smoke, it is good to be back for the last six weeks of ministry with you. It is a bittersweet time for me. Betty and I have been blessed beyond measure over these last eleven and a half years of ministry with you. Though the terrain and landscape have changed and continues to change, "Jesus Christ is the same yesterday and today and forever" (*Hebrews 13:8*).

Speaking of change, our Contemporary Music Director, **Andrea Pope**, has resigned to take a full time position in the voice department at Eastern Illinois University. Andrea has been with us just a little over two years. She and her family have provided music leadership for The Gathering Worship. She has brought musical quality and a professional attitude to her music ministry with us. Andrea has always been ready to assist and participate in all of our worship activities, including

our traditional worship. I have enjoyed her as a colleague and friend in ministry. Our blessing goes with you.

Our ESL Coordinator, **Debra Miller**, has resigned as well to take a teaching position more conducive to her schedule. Though we have had her on staff for only a year, she has blessed us with her loving heart, leadership and teaching skills. Thanks, Debra, for all of your hard work and commitment to the ESL community at FPC. You have brought the light and love of Christ in helping those from other cultures navigate within our culture and learn the English language.

Christ's Peace and Blessing,  
Chuck

## Jays & Concerns

### Congratulations to...

- **Eric Mayele** and **Carine Moanda** on the birth of a son, **Kirby Fukama-Kabika** on August 29, 2017.
- **Douglasse Ndubula** and **Miriam Lutete** on the birth of **Delriam Faith Ndubula** on August 15, 2017.

### We extend our sympathy to...

- the family and friends of **Linda McKay** who died August 13, 2017.
- the family and friends of **Marge Richmond** who died August 16, 2017.

**There will be a special offering this Sunday, September 10, for Presbyterian Disaster Assistance to assist with relief efforts in Texas.**

## Our Church

### Sunday School Update

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

Our Sunday morning worship schedule is changing., and with it, our education hour is changing a little too. Children will still report to the education building to check-in for the morning and receive a name tag. Children who arrive between 8:45 and 9 AM will have the option to enter the chapel and help with a mission project. Children in preschool and younger will proceed to their classroom for their lesson. At 9 AM, Middle School students will also proceed to their classroom.

At 9 AM, children in grades Kindergarten through 5<sup>th</sup> grade will go to the sanctuary to worship with the congregation for the first portion of the worship service accompanied by their teachers. We will have pews reserved for them near the front. They will stay through the Children's Sermon time and then be dismissed to their classrooms with their teachers for the lesson of the day.

A Confirmation Class will be held this year for those 8<sup>th</sup> or 9<sup>th</sup> grade students wishing to deepen their understanding of faith, the church, and their role within it. Students will be invited to join the church as full members at the conclusion of the course. Confirmation class will be held at 10:10 until 11 AM.

The High School students will meet for Bible study and discussion from 10:10 to 11 AM. A light brunch will be served.

I hope you will consider being part of a teaching team for the Sunday School for the academic year. We desperately need more teachers in order to have a viable program for the kids. Please prayerfully

consider if you would be able to give two Sundays a month or more toward teaching an age group of our children.

### Youth Group

We will be offering some youth fellowship events jointly with the First Presbyterian Church of Urbana and McKinley Presbyterian Church. Our first youth collaboration event will be September 24 at 5 PM . We will have some community building games and food. We may also attend a youth worship event that evening sponsored by area churches that will be hosted at Central High School.

This year, Presbyterian Women (PW) will support the DREAAM house as their mission. PW will promote the DREAAM house's STEM project. This will keep the funds with a local mission that educates young boys. Your donations toward this project will help young minds to create and improve in the areas of science, technology, engineering, and mathematics (STEM).

You will find PW volunteers in Westminster and Centennial Halls on Sundays, September 10 and 17. If making a donation by check, make the check payable to: Presbyterian Women with STEM project noted in the memo.

We thank you for your support!

### Calling All Students of the Lord!

BY CLAUDIA KIRBY  
(claudia.a.kirby@gmail.com)

The Spiritual Formation Team is excited to announce our curriculum for fall. We know you will find something to peak your interest due in large part to our volunteer teachers: **Mary Gritten, Pat Phillips, Gary Peterson, Betty Hollister, Bob Kirby, Judi Geistlinger, Pat Metcalf, Marilyn Parkhill and Cesar M'Nynampara.** The Spiritual Formation team would like to say a huge *thank you* to them for stepping forward to lead.

Encouraged by the success of the summer sessions, we will continue with the "Feasting on the Word" curriculum Sunday mornings in Mae Chapin Parlor. This PCUSA study follows the liturgical calendar. Since Session has tweaked our morning worship schedule, starting September 10 there will be no conflict with services if you attend adult Sunday School from 10:10 to 10:55. No advanced sign up is necessary, so "drop in" for a lively discussion of the scriptures covered in the sermon.

Other fall offerings include:

- *Waking Up White*, a book study suggested by the PCUSA on Wednesday evenings, Sept. 6 – Oct. 16, in the Parlor with facilitators **Judi Geistlinger** and **Betty Hollister.**
- **Peter Yau** will be teaching our Advent study starting Nov. 26 – Dec. 24. Peter's choice is a book by Dietrich Bonhoeffer titled, *God is in the Manger.*
- Our fall brochure listing all our small groups, Bible studies, and book study opportunities is now available in Westminster Hall in the kiosks.

Come join a group for fellowship, study and prayers.

## Financial Update

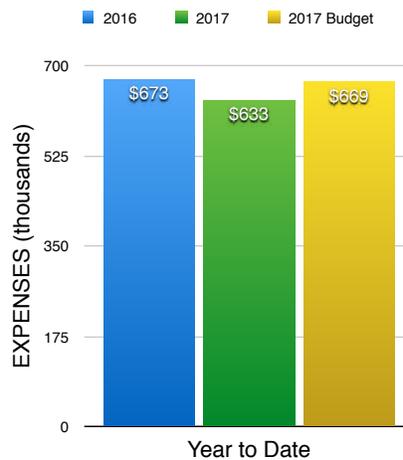
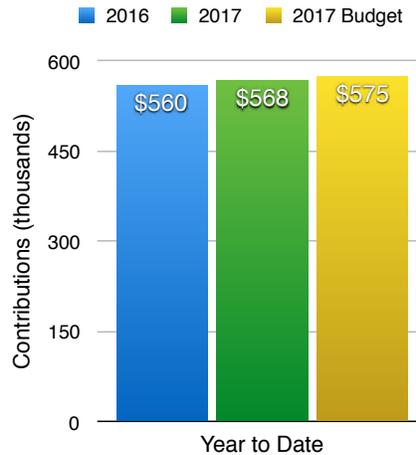
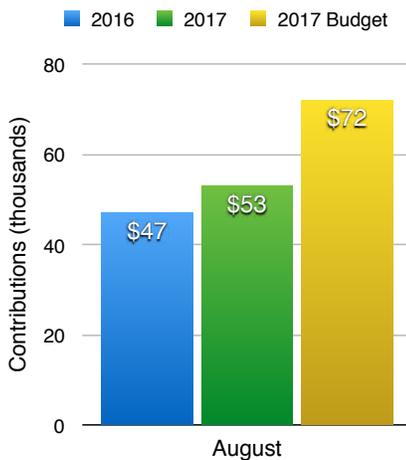
BY MARK SCHOEFFMANN, FINANCE CHAIR  
(mschoeffmann@mchsi.com)

### Contributions

Contributions in August were \$6K more than 2016 but \$19K below the budget at \$53K. The Year-to-Date total exceeded last year by \$8K but is below the budgeted amount by \$7K. The increase in this year's contributions continues to offset the decrease in prepaid pledges (those paid in the year prior to the pledge year) for 2017 compared to 2016 but the contributions have dropped below the amount budgeted for the year. These prepaid pledges are prorated over the year with 1/12 added to each month's contributions.

### Expenses

Year-to-Date expenses are \$36K below budget at \$633K and \$40K below 2016. Considering all sources, revenue exceeds expenses by \$42K which is \$52K better than at this time in 2016. This figure includes a \$29K transfer from other funds that was not made last year.



## Cuba Calling

BY BOB KIRBY  
(rwk3213@gmail.com)

The Cuba Study will be offered for eight consecutive weeks from 6:30 to 8:30 PM beginning Wednesday, October 18, at the home of **Bob and Claudia Kirby**.

The study will be facilitated by **Pat Metcalf, Liz Pippin and the Kirbys**. The Cuba Study is for anyone interested in learning about the culture and the Presbyterian Reformed Church of Cuba. Our trip to Cuba is limited to those who have completed the study, are members of our staff or members of a Presbyterian Church.

To enroll in the study contact Bob or Claudia at [rwk3213@gmail.com](mailto:rwk3213@gmail.com) or phone 217-356-5915.

## 6th Annual Cuba Forum

BY LIZZ PIPPIN  
(elizabeth.m.pippin@gmail.com)

Every fall we like to take some time to learn more about God's work in Cuba through the annual Cuba Forum.

This year we are honored to welcome **Rev. Jo Ella Holman, PC(USA)**'s regional liaison to the Caribbean to present our interactive program. She will spend time helping us to learn more about Cuba. We will learn, sing, and pray together. The forum is Saturday, September 23, 9:30-12. Rev. Holman will also join us on Sunday, September 24 to preach.

Any questions about the forum, please contact **Bob Kirby** by email [rwk3213@gmail.com](mailto:rwk3213@gmail.com) or phone 217-356-5915 or **Lizz Pippin** by email [elizabeth.m.pippin@gmail.com](mailto:elizabeth.m.pippin@gmail.com) or by phone 314-620-5901. We hope to see you all there!

### Champaign Immigrant Conference & Benefits Fair

Saturday, September 16, 10 AM-2 PM  
Champaign Public Library

*How do I get a green card? Am I eligible for a fee waiver? What are the requirements to become a U.S. Citizen? What is the naturalization interview like?*

Learn about these topics (and more!) from a U.S. Citizenship and Immigration Services Representative. Come ready with questions about immigration for the panel of experts. You will also have an opportunity to meet local social service providers.

This event is free and open to the public; child-care will be provided.



**FIRST PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH OF CHAMPAIGN**

302 West Church Street  
Champaign, IL 61820

Change Service Requested



**FIRST PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH OF CHAMPAIGN**

**Pastors:**

Chuck Carlson..... Interim Head Pastor, Ext. 213  
Eric Corbin..... Covenant Associate Pastor, Ext. 214

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**Sunday:**

- 8 AM Contemplative Service
- 9 AM Traditional Service
- 9:15 AM Children’s Sunday School
- 10 AM Children’s Choir
- 10:10 AM Adult Education & High School Class
- 11 AM Contemporary Service

**Saturday:**

- 6 PM Praise & Prayer Gathering  
(French-English Service) Centennial Hall

**Staff:**

Kristi Corbin ..... Missions Coordinator, Ext. 219  
 Ritchie Drennen ..... Facility Maintenance  
 Patty Farthing..... Receptionist, Ext. 211  
 Robert Ferrer ..... Audio-visual Technician  
 Marcia Franks ..... Administrative Assistant, Ext. 210  
 Joe Grant ..... Director of Music  
 Debra Miller..... ESL Coordinator, Ext. 235  
 Blaise Pascal ... Asst Director Children, Youth & Family, Ext 216  
 Chris Penny ..... Facilities Manager, Ext. 237  
 Ann Petry ..... Accounting, Ext. 224  
 Andrea Pope..... Contemporary Worship Director, Ext. 215  
 Richard Rossi ..... Church Musician  
 Mindy Watts-Ellis .. Director Children, Youth & Family, Ext. 212

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