

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

March 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

March 13: *Compassion Peace and Justice*

4pm in Westminster Hall

March 14: *Mission Team*

Noon in Westminster Hall

March 20: *World Mission*

5:30pm in Westminster Hall

March 28: *Community Mission Deacons*

6:30pm in Westminster Hall

Inside this issue:

| | |
|---|------------|
| Become a Faith in Action Volunteer | 8 |
| Canteen Run Volunteer Needs | 7 |
| Cuba Café Salsa and Dessert | 4-5 |
| ECIRMAC Fundraiser Banquet | 2-3 |
| FPCC Children make a Blessing Quilt for Someone in Need | 7 |
| Thanks for the Men's Shelter and Shelter Statistics | 6 |
| Travel Opportunities with Partner Agencies | 3 |

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 feel free to share this message and attachment!

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

Travel Opportunities with Partner Agencies

Marion Medical Mission is now taking applications for the 2017 shallow well teams. Please visit www.mmmwater.org for more information.

Explore and see what great things are happening in Pakistan! Tour and explore the PEB schools and classrooms, meet the students and staff, and experience the surroundings and culture of Pakistan. This is a wonderful opportunity to see how your generosity is being put to good use. The 2017 trip is planned for November 9th-20th. For more information, please contact Margy Trimble at margy.trimble@friendsofpeb.org or [320.493.6243](tel:320.493.6243).

CUBA

CAFÉ

Salsa & Dessert

BRING YOUR FRIENDS AND NEIGHBORS AS WE CELEBRATE OUR
RELATIONSHIP WITH OUR SISTER CONGREGATION IN CUBA.

YURI SOHN WILL BE TEACHING A FEW DANCE MOVES.
COME AND RELAX WITH FLAN, MOJITOS, AND CAFÉ CUBANO.

All proceeds go to finishing the construction of the tourist guest house in Cuba. The guest house will generate money needed by the church, which is serving a community where monthly income is \$30 per family.

Please memo your checks "Cuba Partnership"
and leave them at the office or the basket in Westminster Hall.

PLEASE CONSIDER A
\$20 DONATION FOR
A CUBA CAFÉ TICKET

DONATIONS OVER \$20 ARE TAX DEDUCTIBLE

MARCH 12
2PM

FIRST PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH
CHAMPAIGN

Café Cuba is another fund raiser for the Cuba Partnership but why are we contributing to “*guest house*” construction at Luyanó? Is that a mission project?

Yes! Resources will continue to decline for support of mission projects of the Presbyterian Reformed Church in Cuba as Cuba reforms its dual currency economy. That is because foreign support is expected to drop dramatically in buying power.

Why is that important?

The internal life of each Cuban congregation is funded fully by its congregants in communities where the **average family income is between the equivalent of 20-30 American dollars a month.** On the other hand, although churches provide the mission project work and sites, community mission projects are almost fully supported by hard currency donations of U.S. partners. Under the U.S. embargo, “humanitarian projects” are the only legal way our gifts can be used there. Projects like feeding programs, community gardens, potable water, laundry for the elderly etc. are among just a few of the local projects. (Some Korean and European churches also help the Cuban Church Synod more broadly).

What are Cuban Presbyterians doing to address this possible collapse of mission project support?

Every Cuban congregation is scrambling to find a sustainable source of funds to make themselves less dependent on external support. Anything they do must fall within rigid guidelines of the Cuban Government for “religious associations” which protestant churches are deemed to be. Options are limited and government permission is required.

Luyanó’s first effort is a printing press which is up and running. (It prints materials for other churches for a small fee). **The guest house is being constructed in the church parking area.** With the heavy increase in travel to Cuba since the U.S. relaxation of relations, Cuba has found itself without enough tourist lodging. Luyanó took advantage of that, gained government permission for construction, and expects to receive from the guest house a sustainable source of community mission funds.

Can we help in this monetary crisis for the churches?

Absolutely! American hard currency has not yet lost its value relative to the national peso. Construction supplies are bought with the national peso. Dollars that we spend now to support their construction will be more valuable than after currency reform, and through the guest house, our gifts will **“keep on giving.”**

McKinley Memorial Presbyterian Church
809 South Fifth Street
Champaign, IL 61820
February 11, 2017

Faith United Methodist Church
1719 S. Prospect Ave.
Champaign, IL 61820

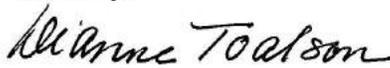
First Presbyterian Church
302 W. Church St.
Champaign, IL 61820

To Faith Church and First Presbyterian Church:

We are writing to applaud your efforts in providing a men's emergency shelter this winter. We know it takes tremendous effort on the part of many members of both your congregations – time, energy and dedication to providing a much needed service to the community. We wanted to acknowledge your efforts and express our appreciation.

On behalf of the Session of McKinley Memorial Presbyterian Church,

Sincerely,



Dianne Toalson
Clerk of Session

Here are some statistics from a report submitted by Joshua Fourman, the Director of the Men's Emergency Shelter. The following statistics are from the first 38 nights (January 6 through February 12).

January 6th-31st

Total individuals served: 62 men

Average per night: 19 men

FUMC: 148 beds

FPCC: 346 beds

February 1st-12th

Total individuals served: 43 men

Average per night: 19 men

FUMC: 85 beds

FPCC: 143 beds



FPCC kids made a blessing quilt to be donated to someone in need! Charlene Bremer sewed the pieces together (many thanks to her). The quilt was donated to Canteen Run.

Canteen Run needs deodorant, medium to 2XL men's underwear, and trial sized toothpaste. They also need volunteers and volunteer drivers. Even more volunteers are needed in warmer weather.

Volunteer to make a difference.

You can change a life and help your neighbors by becoming a Presence Health Faith in Action Volunteer.



Show your faith and choose your action.

Faith in Action needs your time, talent and spirit with volunteer opportunities that are flexible to meet your busy lifestyle.

- Drive people to the doctor or pharmacy
- Help with grocery shopping
- Make home and phone visits
- Do minor home repairs, chore days and special projects
- Be a counselor for S.H.I.P. - Senior Health Insurance Program
- Assist with health screenings
- Help with health education workshops geared towards seniors 55 and older



Presence
Covenant Medical Center

Call us to schedule an orientation.

217.337.2778

Presence Covenant Medical Center
1400 W Park Street, Urbana IL 61801