

# 2012 Annual Report



## First Presbyterian Church of Champaign

The Apostle Paul's letter to the Philippians sets the tone for our life together, "I thank my God every time I remember you. In all my prayers for you, I always pray with joy because of your partnership in the gospel" (Phil. 1:3-4).

2012 was a most significant year for our church. For five years, we ran a "one church on two campus" model. Increasingly the Session and pastoral leadership found that model difficult to administrate. Session deliberated for nearly four months and then recommended that we discontinue this ministry model and instead to give birth to a new congregation in SW Champaign. This new church chose the name "Copper Creek Church." So we are now two distinct congregations.

I believe that God has blessed this decision on both campuses. Chuck and I are now able to give much more specific focus to our downtown church. Additional leaders have stepped forward. Giving and attendance are up significantly. And we sense a cohesiveness and unity that we did not have with the former model.

So I warmly thank our dedicated staff members for their long hours and hard work in making these transitions. We have an extraordinary Session, who have helped create new structures, organizational charts, and job descriptions. And I thank the members of the Move Forward Team who developed and implemented a most comprehensive, bottom-up planning process to flesh out our goals and dreams. You shared over 1200 ideas.

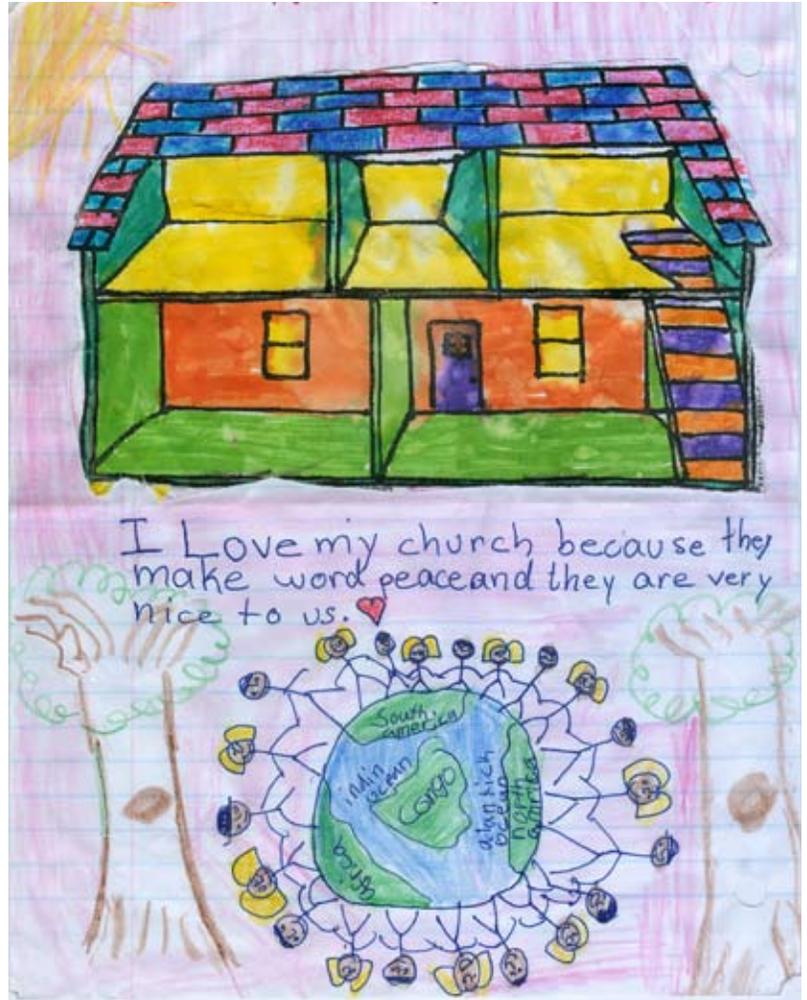
So many things are happening: We've signed a formal covenant with the Luyano Presbyterian Church in Cuba; we raised over \$26,000 for a computer center at the Sangala Hill Girl's School in Lahore, Pakistan; we have welcomed nearly 25 immigrants to our worship services, and we've begun a 10:30 a.m. contemporary service. We're finishing a major re-design of our web-site. We began middle-school and senior-high Sunday School. We've hired **Tracy Dace** as our Mission Coordinator, **Dave Plemons** as our Contemporary Worship and Technology Director, and increased **Cassie McConkey's** hours to full-time. The list could go on and on.

I also give thanks for our Care Deacons and Presbyterian Women, for teams that have gone to Cuba, for Community Mission Deacons, Amateur Preachers, and Stephen Ministers, and the leaders of our small group ministries. Thank you for being ambassadors of Jesus Christ.

Session is now looking at a possible capital campaign. We are creating Fellowship and Technology & Communication committees. We are actively exploring the expansion of Adult Education and small groups. And we are envisioning how to expand our ministry of English as a second language. Again the list could go on and on.

Paul adds to the commendation of the Philippian Church by saying, "I am confident of this, that he who began a good work in you will carry it to completion until the day of Christ Jesus (Phil. 1:5-6). May this be our charge and mandate in 2013.

Grace and peace,  
Rick



## From Chuck Carlson...

God is active and present. Enfolded into Christ's redemptive work, we affirm the Psalmist's reflection; "Your way, O God, is holy. What god is so great as our God? You are the God who works wonders; you have displayed your might among the peoples." (Psalm 77:13-14)

Looking back over the past year, we witness the ways God has displayed his might among us. An easy journey? No. One displaying courage, wisdom, discernment, patience, love and faith? Yes. We can certainly agree what Isaiah writes, "For my thoughts are not your thoughts, nor are your ways my ways, says the Lord." (Isaiah 55:8)

Our job is to pay attention to what God is going and get on board. Proverbs 16:9 says it well, "The human mind plans the way, but the Lord directs the steps." God is always surprising us. Last year was no exception. Through it all we kept pace with the day-to-day challenges and opportunities of Christ's ministry.

For me that has meant training six new Stephen Ministers and the monthly supervision and continuing education modules. We continue to pray God's leading to match Stephen Ministers with care receivers.

I worked with the Outreach Committee and participated in leading three New Member Inquiry classes. I want to commend **Beth Hutchens** for the outstanding leadership that she is providing this ministry.

We trained another six ChristCare small group leaders. **Ritchell Yau** does an incredible job overseeing and administering this ministry. I helped lead monthly continuing education and supervisors sessions for the small group leaders and participated in the Equipper's group which guides and directs this ministry. I also have participated in the Cameroon and Neighbor's groups.

Community Care Deacons meet monthly with me alongside as staff. This past year we have scheduled with Windsor and Clark Lindsey quarterly communions. In addition, I co-operate with their home-bound members they are assigned to visit.

Mission continues to be active. We hired **Tracy Dace** to be our new Mission Coordinator. I staff Mission Team, World Mission and the Community Mission Deacons. This past year I participated in two trips to Cuba, one April 24-May 1, and December 1-11. I also participated in the Mission Possible work week in May.

**Leslie Barr** and I led the Confirmation Class of 22 8th graders from January through April. As always, it is a joy to be part of the faith formation of these middle-schoolers. I learn and grow as much as they do.

Of course, there is that category of "other duties as assigned. I preached once a month, led the Disciple Bible Study on Wednesday evenings, visited the hospital and participated in staff meetings as well as performing funerals and weddings as requested.

Indeed, God is holy and great, working wonders among us, and directing our steps.

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## *We Remember Those that Died this Past Year*

Patricia Campbell  
Eugene Daniels  
Euline Eilbracht  
Harlan Failor  
Jo Anne Fletcher  
Georgia Harthon  
Richard Karch  
Patricia Phillips  
James E. Smith  
George Sodeman  
Mary Lou Staerkel  
Gene Vance  
Irene Whitman  
Virgil Wikoff

# Worship...

## Contemporary Worship

BY DAVE PLEMONS

On November 11, 2012 at 10:30 AM, First Presbyterian Church began a new worship contemporary service entitled *The Gathering*. The Gathering's mission is to present the timeless truth of the Gospel in a format that differs from traditional worship.

Traditional worship at First Presbyterian includes our magnificent pipe organ, our wonderful Steinway grand piano, and our stellar choir. The worship at *The Gathering* incorporates acoustic guitars, keyboards, drums, and a smaller vocal group. *The Gathering* also incorporates other multimedia elements such as movie clips, electronic display of lyrics, and images to add an extra dimension of engagement during the sermons.

There is a great sense of excitement that First Presbyterian is able to offer two styles of worship allowing people to choose a worship style that is most meaningful to them. Please continue to lift each of our worship services up to our awesome God; that He would use them to bring others to the saving knowledge and hope found in His Son Jesus Christ.

## Move Forward Update Worship

### Goal:

*To worship with our hearts as well as worshipping as a duty or habit. To incorporate worship into the rhythms of our daily life.*

### What we have done:

- Created the contemporary service
- Included more contemporary, "up-beat" hymns
- One of our section leaders lead the hymns at 8 AM
- More intentionally included children and youth in worship
- Same pastor and message is offered at each service
- Incorporated weekly communion at the contemporary service
- Incorporated some use of video at the traditional services, such as the introductions to the Advent Candle Lighting during Advent

### What could happen:

- With a music fund, we could have greater involvement of brass, etc.
- Have members briefly share their "testimony," or faith journey
- Project the words of hymns as well as use hymnals so that people's eyes and voice are raised
- Images can accompany the sermon, as we do at the contemporary service
- Work to develop a children's and youth choir program as an outreach to the community
- Offer the congregation resources for their daily quiet time/devotions
- Improve the quality of the projectors

## Prayer Ministry

BY MIDGE MILLER

The purpose of the Prayer Ministry Team is to help create and sustain a culture of prayer in response to Jesus' teaching, "My house will be called a house of prayer for all nations." (Mark 11:17)

In 2012 the Prayer Ministry Team prayed for each family listed in the church directory for one week. Each family was notified by mail and asked if there were any specific prayer requests.

We maintained a prayer email and voice mail hot line for prayer requests that were kept strictly confidential among our small group of members.

Once a month we met to pray together for our church, for church members and other needs.

An article on prayer was supplied for each issue of the church newsletter.

We do these things because we believe that God wants to communicate with each of us through prayer and that God really does answer prayer in his way and his timing.

## Membership Statistics

Membership 12-31-2011	873
Gains	
Communicants	20
Other	20
Losses	
Transferred	111
Deaths	14
Other	42
Membership 12-31-2012	746
Baptisms	7
Average Attendance	326



Youth act out parts in an "instant" Christmas pageant in worship on Sunday, December 23.

# Connect...

## Children, Youth, and Family

### Ministry

By CASSIE McCONKEY

#### Lighting Up Our Community and Our World

Have you ever visited the website, Google Earth? It is an interactive map that allows you to cruise around the world and zoom in and out of different places, including your own city, street, and backyard!



Imagine if you looked at our church on Google Earth. I would imagine there would be a beam of light, of hope, of love shining out of our church. You would look at our church from high above the city and see this marvelous beam, lighting up our neighborhood at the corner of Church and State Street.

But what if...what if that light from the church was placed into each family's home? What would our Google Map look like then; if each home projected this ray of hope, God's love, and their faith? Imagine every Christian home projecting this light, and "zoom out" on your map. The light would not only beam from one place, it would beam from thousands of places. And combined, those lights will not only brighten our city, but the entire world!

#### Fuel Passion in the Heart of Every Student

This year has been a big year for rebuilding in our youth ministries. Mid-way through 2012 we decided that the best way to move forward and build the foundation for a youth program here at First Presbyterian of Champaign would be to start our own programming, separate to that of Copper Creek's youth group.

We hired a Youth Coordinator, **Shelby Faullin**, and got started! Shelby is an alumni of FPCC and has a passion for children and youth. She desired to not only bring back some of our past traditions but

to "move forward" as this ministry grows. Her primary motivation this year is to continue to build and nurture relationships with the students through Sunday morning bible study and other various activities through the month.

As we look ahead, we are excited about all of the opportunities for our (nearly 20 students) to experience a passion for serving their communities and neighbors. Because we know we can make students feel significant by giving them something significant to do.

Here's a recap of what we've been up to in 2012:

June – Go and Serve trip to Pittsburg, PA with Copper Creek Church.

September – Started Sunday School classes for middle and high school students.

October – Participated in Trunk or Treat as a fun way to reach out to the younger children in our church and our church neighborhood.

November – Thanksgiving Basket Scavenger Hunt and Assembly; Assembled and delivered 50 baskets to families in need!

December – Baked Christmas Cookies and sold them to benefit future youth programs, trips, and/or missions.



#### Provoke Discovery in the Heart of Every Child

Our Elementary Program serves nearly 40 children. As these children transitioned from preschool to Kindergarten and beyond, they've learned about stories from the Bible.

In our elementary classes, we focus on key Bible Stories that help kids discover Jesus and reflect on His character. We also incorporate mission projects to help kids build up their own character and begin to experience serving their communities (and world) first hand!

Here are a few of the mission projects we did in 2012:

- Thanksgiving Basket Project
- Pennies for Panzi Mission Project (We collected 3,253 pennies!)
- Collection for Hygiene Kits

Although we have lots of fun in Sunday School, we have a blast at other times too! Here's what we've done outside of Sunday School this year:

- Pizza and Movie Nights
- 3<sup>rd</sup> Grade Bibles
- Vacation Bible School
- Sunday School for All Ages
- Childcare and Activities at 3<sup>rd</sup> Service/ESL Classes
- Trunk or Treat
- Christmas Craft Night

#### Incite Wonder in the Heart of Every Preschooler

Our nursery, toddler, and preschool ministry has grown so quickly in the last six months! We currently serve over 20 children from Birth through 5 years! Our nursery had so many "toddlers" in it, that we opened the room next door for them to have more space to play. We can't help but be excited about God asking us to play a role in these children's first church experiences. Our childcare workers are passionate about infants and toddlers, and play an important role in caring for various age groups during our 10:30 childcare hour.

Preschool teacher, **Jen Grill**, has mentored our 3-5 year olds for the past 2 years. Jen is an alumni of FPCC, growing up in the ministry, and this is a way for her to play a key role in the life of her own

church. She is an amazing role model and compassionate leader.

Our curriculum, *First Look*, for children under 5 brings stories of the Bible to life. This group learns memory verses each month, which are set to actions, to help the kids learn and remember these important scriptures. *First Look* gives young children a first impression of their loving heavenly Father. Our take-home materials encourage families to transform everyday, regular moments, into something more! We want to incite wonder about God in the hearts of our toddlers and preschoolers.



- Educational Classes for Parents/ Grandparents/others
- Faith in the Home Bulletin Board Info

At First Presbyterian Church, we believe that parents are the primary faith teachers, mentors and role models for their children with the church equipping and supporting, not replacing them in their

### Faith in Every Home

We've had the privilege of serving over 35 families this year with various resources and activities. Some of the fun things we did this year were:

- Make your own pizza and movie nights
- Date nights for parents
- Family friendly services with involvement by children, youth, and families
- Illinois Marathon Cheer Team
- Vacation Bible School
- Road Rally Family Fun Night
- Watermelons and Water Balloons at the Park
- Trunk or Treat
- "Full-Nesters" Potlucks
- Christmas Craft Night
- Advent in the Home Resources and incorporating families into Advent festivities at church



God given responsibility to pass along the faith to every generation.

We know that with the hustle and bustle of our everyday lives, that this is not easy! Our Family Ministry team provides families with simple resources and fun events to encourage families to build their faith together and in community with the larger congregation.

From the weekly activities and prayers displayed on our Faith in the Home bulletin board, to the take home cards that kids bring home from Sunday school, to the weekly emails that our team sends to parents during the week – we want to provide easy ways for you to connect with your kids by practicing Faith in the Home each and every day.

### Our Values

1. We believe that parents are the most important faith influencers in the life of their child.
2. We believe that children grow spiritually in an environment where kids feel loved and valued.
3. We believe that through serving in Family Ministry, a person will grow in their relationship with Jesus and their leadership skills.

## Move Forward Update Children, Youth, Families

### Goal:

To restore Christian education so that parents are the primary faith teachers, mentors and role models for their children with the church equipping and supporting, not replacing them in their God given responsibility to pass along the faith to every generation.

### What we have done:

- Cassie hired as full-time Director to oversee CYF Ministries
- Developed middle and high school Sunday School classes
- Established a yearly calendar of events
- Include CY in weekly worship services and extended the length of the Sunday School classes (9:15-10:15)
- Presented the CYF philosophy and tools through Minute for Missions, bulletin boards, and other presentations.
- Sponsored Family Ministry Leadership Summit to communicate the Faith in the Home philosophy
- Monthly Family Worship Sundays with CYF participation
- Included Cassie as a part of the Senior Leadership Team
- Hired part-time Youth Coordinator to plan youth events and lead the HS Sunday School class.
- Provide intentional ways for CYF to be involved in Advent and Christmas in the church and in their homes
- Monthly get-togethers coordinated by volunteers to gather families for fellowship in homes
- Offer spiritual development classes and celebrations at different milestones (Entering Kindergarten, 3<sup>rd</sup> grade Bibles, Confirmation, HS Graduation)
- Equip parents via Faith in the Home resources, classes/events

### What could happen:

- Create music programs for CY
- Weekly gathering time for youth outside of Sunday School
- Children's Church program/expanded CY programming on Sundays at 10:30
- Youth mission trip to Cuba
- Possible childcare for daily ESL classes
- Weekly intergenerational gathering time for fellowship, education, and small groups
- Electronic check-in and out system
- Updating all educational spaces

## Outreach for New Members

BY BETH HUTCHENS

The mission of Outreach has remained the same, to be a welcoming presence to our visitors and guests and to offer opportunities to become active members of FPCC. Downtown Outreach changed its name to Outreach during the fall of 2012.

During 2012 we

- were excited to begin using the Welcome Center area in Westminster,
- continued to provide bags to our guests with letters from pastors, information about church activities and small groups, community information, and an inspirational gift book
- studied a chapter in a book, *The Practice of Radical Hospitality, from Five Practices of Fruitful Congregations*, by Robert Schnase
- transitioned into two separate churches and supported and facilitated the answering of the congregation's questions for the Move Forward Team
- set up a 'Random Acts of Kindness' program for members to use when out in the community
- made efforts to unite with our Greeters and Coffee Makers with the advice and input of **Judy Cotter** and **Linda Tichenor**
- held three Membership Inquiry Sunday morning classes, led by Pastor **Chuck Carlson** with luncheons that followed
- continued to collect and respond to Friendship Pad information each week
- supported the Hospitality area of the Move Forward Retreat
- welcomed **Linda Peterson** in September as our volunteer to organize and maintain the database of Friendship Pad information; **Betty Hollister** assists with the database when needed
- supported 40 new members (including 20 confirmands) who joined our church in 2012.

**Pastor Chuck Carlson** is our main staff leader with **Pastor Rick Snyder** also being present with us at our meetings. Elder **Beth Hutchens** organizes the group, and committee members in 2012 have been **Gary and Linda Peterson, Marge Olson, Betty Hollister, Margaret Martin, Judy Cotter, and Bob Kirby. Midge Miller** has provided prayer support.

Anyone interested in joining our Outreach would be invited to attend our meetings at the church on the third Tuesday evening of the month at 6:30 PM.

## Move Forward Update Hospitality & Outreach

### Goal:

*Become an inviting "contagious" congregation by preaching, teaching and modeling the love and hospitality of Jesus*

### What we have done:

- Created the Welcome Center
- Changed the name back to "First Presbyterian Church"
- Lengthened the Passing of the Peace
- Moved the Act of Friendship at 9 to later in the service
- Instituted monthly "Welcome to Newcomers" luncheon
- Created the Connection Card at the Contemporary Service
- Created and are passing out the welcome bags
- Become more intentional about follow up on guests
- Illuminated the North Side of our Building
- Redesigned the Act of Friendship pad to make it more user-friendly
- "Welcome to First Presbyterian Church" in Korean, French and Spanish in the bulletin

### What could happen:

- Improved Signage
- Handicapped Accessibility to Centennial and Education Building
- Quarterly dinners as Outreach Events
  - one could include faith sharing
  - one could highlight our local and global mission
  - one could highlight our ministry of small groups
  - one could be our annual meeting
- Re institute dinners for 7, 8 and 9 for the inclusion of new members and to challenge groups to include 1 or 2 guests
- Improve printed materials for guests
- Keep creating new groups

## Stephen Ministry

BY LINDA SANDQUIST

Since we became a Stephen Ministry Congregation in 2007, we have trained 34 Stephen Ministers and have had 2 persons attend a week-long Stephen Ministry Leadership training session. In 2012 we had a class of 6 persons.

Statistics of note are:

- Two of our trainees have been from other congregations (one from 1<sup>st</sup> Pres Urbana, one from Canaan Baptist, both as a courtesy to their home churches).
- Two of our Stephen Ministers winter in Florida and took their training at the church they attend there and participate in our group when in Champaign
- Four of our Stephen Ministers now attend Copper Creek. Chuck and I feel that we are willing to help them, but as a separate congregation they need to establish their own Stephen Ministry as is called for by Stephen Ministries /St. Louis
- We currently have about 50 active Stephen Ministers, with some of those inactive willing to be called back to service if needed.
- We have an estimated number of current care receivers at 15. In total we have served about 40 persons.

In March of 2012, **Pam Grubb** resigned from Stephen Ministry and her role as a leader in our program. Since then I have been the only lay leader, with Chuck and Rick as trained clergy leaders. We are in need of 1 or 2 additional lay leaders to attend Stephen Ministry Leadership training and hope that funds will be budgeted for that purpose.

Several months ago I was asked to consult with a group from Wesley United Methodist in Urbana regarding their desire to start a Stephen Ministry program in their congregation. I was happy to be able to provide that service to them.

Stephen Ministry is an important ministry in our congregation and deserves our prayerful consideration.

## Move Forward Update Spiritual Formation of Adults

### Goal:

To see spiritual growth and formation as a lifestyle, as a normative expectation for all of us as disciples

### What we have done:

- Established a strong, small-group, Christ-care ministry
- Created an adult education committee
- Begun a strong men's group
- Defined traits of a disciple of Jesus Christ. A person having:
  - a heart for Christ alone,
  - a mind transformed by God's word,
  - hands that serve,
  - knees that bend in prayer
  - a voice that speaks good news, and
  - a spirit of sacrifice and stewardship
- Used Stephen Ministry as an important vehicle for spiritual growth
- Send Su Voz, the Cuban devotional, to 90 families

### What we could do:

- Establish a strong Sunday morning education program
- Target small group ministries that need to be offered, secure and train the leadership, and use these groups for outreach (i.e. divorce recovery, cancer support, etc.)
- Have a weekend retreat with a theologian
- Develop on-line resources for people
- Mid-week academy for Christian discipleship
- Offer an adult curriculum based on topics such as Scripture, prayer, the Holy Spirit, worship, etc.
- Develop a congregational prayer strategy for wider participation
- Re-establish "Faith in the Real World"
- Covenant as a Session or as Deacons to engage in study/reflection

## ChristCare Ministry

By RITCHELL YAU

The ChristCare small group ministry at First Presbyterian Church is based on a model of small groups developed by the Stephen Ministry. Information from the group leaders shows 158 people, both members and nonmembers, participated in the 11 ChristCare small groups in 2012. Some individuals participated in more than one group. Topics, schedules, formats and duration of the groups varied according to the interests and availability of the group leaders and participants. The Equip- pers Team, comprised of pastors and lay members, provided coordination, training, support, and prayer for ChristCare lead- ers and information to the congregation.

Training and ongoing support is a key feature of the ChristCare ministry. Twenty- nine people participated in training workshops and/or the monthly SEA meetings led by **Chuck Carlson** and **Rick Snyder**. Introductory training workshops were offered twice 2012, one in the spring and the other in September. Monthly SEA groups (September through June) provided mutual support, encour- age- ment, ongoing education and resource sharing for ChristCare leaders.

The groups, training and SEA groups were, and continue to be, open to all of the congregation.

### Observations from Participants

When asked for comment, the Equip- pers and ChristCare leaders expressed thanks and appreciation for the office staff and the facilities staff. Office staff provided assistance with scheduling, materials,

creating brochures and disseminating in- formation. Facilities staff provided ongoing, practical assistance in set up of rooms and equipment and by making the buildings available and habitable.

Group leaders and group members com- mented on the ways that participation in the groups impacted them. Comments included ways they have grown in appre- ciation for one another; in finding ways to learn and serve together; in deepening their relationship to God; finding joy in being together; in expressing thoughts and ideas; in offering encouragement, and in prayer. One person noted that "learn- ing and exploring together brings about a sincere and collective feeling God's Spirit being with us to use our talents and ener- gies".

### Plans for 2013

The ChristCare ministry wants to con- tinue to provide the kinds of support for group leaders and groups to that encour- ages the learning, exploring and serving together noted above.

The Equip- pers Team plans to continue to host monthly SEA meetings throughout the school year and to offer introduc- tory training sessions in August 2013. The groups, training and SEA groups will continue to be open to all in the congre- gation. We plan to include articles in the newsletter and provide current informa- tion for the bulletin and website in an effort to communicate frequently with the congregation about opportunities to participate in the ministry.

While some groups may complete their purposes and close, some plan to contin- ue in 2013. We hope new groups will form and new leaders emerge in 2013.



Men's Bible Study.

# Serve...

## Mission

BY TRACY DACE

*Mark 16:15*

And he said to them: "Go into all the world and proclaim the gospel to the whole creation."

Mission is a strong and integral ministry at First Presbyterian Church of Champaign. As passionate partners in Christ's service, Mission at First Presbyterian offers a vast array of mission opportunities to motivate and engage church members to serve and do Christ's mission, bringing together congregants, immigrant communities, and interfaith networks.

Mission team leaders in the church are passionate and committed to ensuring that First Presbyterian's historical dedication to mission and social justice is preserved and carried out in Champaign-Urbana. Through mission and outreach, many lives are impacted in the local community and worldwide because First Presbyterian believes in doing the necessary work to making a difference and to bringing others to Christ.

Through community mission, First Presbyterian supported 13 community-based agencies with funding, volunteer support, and prayer. The Immigration Task Force expanded its programs and services in English language instruction, awareness of immigration issues, and resettlement of immigrant families. First Presbyterian achieved the status of an "Earth Care Congregation" due to the leadership and vision of the Environmental Stewardship Committee. Amateur Preachers had another good year of serving congregations with sermons and Christian fellowship across Central Illinois.

World Mission, along with the church, celebrated the signing of a three-year official congregational partnership with both pastors and session representatives during a congregational visit to Havana, Cuba in November. Mission Possible was very active in mission trips to Camp Carew and another Presbyterian Church camp and assisted with building improvement projects at the church.

Presbyterian Women continued to assist with providing cribs, hats, and scarves to meet the needs of children in Champaign-

Urbana and beyond our county borders. Through collective efforts and Christian love, First Presbyterian has made a tremendous impact through spreading the good news of Jesus Christ in word, kind donations, and service.

First Presbyterian welcomed Mission Coordinator **Gabriel Walder** in the latter part of 2011; he resigned in mid-2012 to pursue graduate studies and his educational goals. Despite not having a Mission Coordinator for several months, the Mission Team continued to serve and work together to coordinate a high quality mission program.

Session approved a hiring process to recruit and identify a qualified candidate to fill the Mission Coordinator position. **Tracy Dace** was selected as the Mission Coordinator based on his professional background in volunteer coordination, program management, and community relations. In addition, Tracy exemplified a deep commitment to faith-based, mission-centered servant leadership and working for Christ.

### Mission Highlights

#### *Community Mission Deacons*

- A new Mission Directory was published and made available to the congregation
- Three "Make-a-Difference Day" events were held in collaboration with *empty tomb*, Eastern Illinois Food Bank, and Jesus is the Way Prison Ministry
- A tour of local missions was organized to connect with *empty tomb*, Salt & Light, Eastern Illinois Food Bank, and Canaan S.A.F.E. House

- A weeklong Vacation Bible School was held at Restoration Urban Ministry

#### *World Mission*

- Organized an eight-week Cuba study to educate and prepare the congregation for a visit to the partner church in Havana
- Hosted four (4) visits from world missionary partners from Central Africa, Cuba, South Korea, and Pakistan
- Raised \$26,346 through an advent offering designated to furnish a computer laboratory at Sangla Hill School for Girls in Pakistan
- Organized four (4) successful visits to Cuba, including a congregational visit and a delegation attended the 90<sup>th</sup> anniversary celebration at Luyano', Havana

#### *Mission Possible*

- Held an annual work week at Camp Presmont in Piedmont, Ohio (a Presbyterian Church camp) and 26 church members volunteered
- Installed fence/netting around basketball court to protect the windows
- Several members made 3-5 trips to Camp Carew to finish work on a storage shed volunteers built in 2011 along with working on some new sleeping quarters.
- We built 27 children's rocking horses which were decorated by church members for Angel Tree youth. In addition, several rocking horses were also donated to the Jesus is the Way Prison Ministry for children with incarcerated parents.



Mission Possible group.

### Environment Stewardship Committee

- Church members picked up trash four times on State Street between Bradley and Springfield in partnership with the City of Champaign's Adopt-A-Highway (ongoing partnership since 1996)
- Church members volunteered their time and donated items in partnership with Savoy United Methodist Church's 7th Annual Garage Sale, October 25, 26 & 27, 2012. On Friday, the 26<sup>th</sup>, First Presbyterian was responsible for feeding volunteers. Half of the garage sale proceeds in the amount of \$5,200 were given to First Presbyterian's local community missions.
- Implemented an environmental campaign to encourage church staff and the congregation to minimize the use of disposable products. "Please Recycle" signs and recycling bins are located in Mae Chapin Kitchen, Deacon's Kitchen, Westminster Hall, Centennial Hall, Youth Lounge/Kitchen and staff office.
- Environmental themed books were donated to both the adult and children's libraries with monies collected from recycling aluminum cans.

### Immigration Task Force

- Collaborated with Parkland College to provide English as a Second Language (ESL) class on Tuesday, Thursday, and Friday mornings and an ESL Bible study on Sunday mornings

- Nine (9) volunteer teachers are actively involved in the ESL Program
- In collaboration with the East Central Illinois Refugee Mutual Assistance Center (ECIRMAC), the congregation successfully resettled two families (total of 11 people) last year in their own homes in Champaign-Urbana
- Collected over fifty winter clothing items for ECIRMAC through the Warm a Neighbor Winter Outerwear Drive

### Amateur Preachers

- Amateur Preachers served churches in Leroy, Rantoul, Piper City, Westminster Church, Hoopston, Ashmore, Shelbyville, Homer, Gibson City, Paris, Clinton, Paxton and Philo
- The total number of pulpits filled was 34. Twenty three (23) people participated either as a liturgist or preacher and most served as couples.
- Additionally, Amateur Preachers are used to speak at Salt & Light at noon on the second Wednesday of every month.

### 2013 Goals

In 2013, the Mission Team will focus on the following overall goals to advance and strengthen successful outcomes of mission activities:

- Plan and host an overnight strategic planning retreat at Camp Carew
- Increase publicity and focus on mission opportunities

- Create opportunities for church members to volunteer and connect with community mission agencies
- Develop mission opportunities for youth and families in collaboration with the Youth and Family Department
- Improve communication and collaboration across mission teams, organizations, and with missionaries

Thanks for a great year of mission! We can expect great things in 2013, because we have collective faith, passion, and energy. Please check out the church's website for more mission information.

## Move Forward Update Mission

### Goal:

*Integrate a missional dimension to all that we do, so programs and activities are externally-focused*

### What we have done:

- Placed general mission back in the operating budget
- Raised \$26,000+ for a computer center at Sangala Hill
- Signed the covenant with the Luyano Presbyterian Church
- New Mission Coordinator has been hired

### What we could do:

- Set up a yearly calendar of mission interpretation for thorough reporting
- Conceptualize a ministry like ESL as a major focus of local mission
- Discover ways to engage our neighborhood
- Find ways to partner with U of I students in missional activities
- Bring Kitchen up to code and discern ways to use our assets
  - our sacred spaces
  - our gym
  - our classrooms
  - our woodshop
  - our sanctuary for concerts, etc.
  - our meeting rooms
- Discern ways to serve college, graduate or international students
- Better communication re: PCUSA mission



Mission members hosted a dinner for our Cuban visitor, Maria Isabel, in July 2012.

## Presbyterian Women

BY ANNILEE SHAUL

Presbyterian Women is open to all women in our congregation and offers many opportunities for participation. Presbyterian Women determines its own leadership, program and budget.

Three circles, with a total of 86 members, meet on the fourth Thursday of each month, September through May (except December), for Bible study and fellowship. Sixty-five affiliate members contribute through service, prayer and gifts. In 2012 – 2013 the Horizons Bible Study, "Dispatches to God's Household, The General Epistles" is being used.

Four Gatherings, general meetings of all Presbyterian Women, were held.

At the All Women's Spring Luncheon, held on May 6, senior girls were honored and **Ginny Holder** and **Joan Sensenbrenner** presented a program on weddings.

At the June 7 Spring Gathering, members of Mission Possible presented the program describing their recent work in Ohio. PW officers for 2012 – 2013 were installed.

At the Fall Gathering, October 4, a program on the Special Olympics was presented by Jackie Walk, Eastern Prairie Area Director for Special Olympics.

At the Christmas Tea, December 6, John Paul Buzard, internationally known organ builder, presented a slide show and recital to increase our appreciation of pipe organs.

The PW Coordinating Team enjoyed hosting an appreciation luncheon for the church staff in February. In honor of the staff a \$300 donation was given to *empty tomb*.

A number of standing committees are established to carry out the work of PW in the church and community:

**Missions** took charge of a number of projects, including collecting soup labels and General Mills boxtops for Kemmerer Village and collecting and packaging components for Health Kits, which are distributed through Church World Service.

**Mother's Day Cards** were sold for \$10 each, resulting in \$1651 donated to purchase mosquito netting to prevent malaria in Malawi.

More than 60 **cribs and layettes** were donated to needy families through *empty tomb* at a total cost of \$3744.

**Helping Hands** coordinated delivery of meals to church members needing help following hospitalization or other family emergencies.

**Memorial Receptions** were held for eight members of the congregation.

The **Flower Committee** arranged for sanctuary flowers each Sunday and decorated the church for Easter, Christmas and other special occasions.

The **Prayer Committee** channeled

also corresponds with a group of knitters in our partner Presbyterian church in Luyano, Cuba, sending supplies such as needles and yarn.

Three free will offerings are collected during the year.

The Birthday Offering supports projects chosen by a committee of the national PW. In 2012 donations of \$167.94 were received.

The Thank Offering supports creative and health ministries selected by national PW. In 2012 the thank offering was \$909.39.



Monday night ladies Bible Study.

prayer requests through an e-mail list.

The **House Committee** conducted an inventory of all the church kitchens and the silver closet.

**Community Service** serves as liaison with First Presbyterian Church's Congregational Care Deacons to organize the preparation and packaging of cookie containers for the homebound at Christmas. In relationship with Church Women United, PW members attended the CWU Interfaith Gathering, the World Day of Prayer, and May Friendship Day.

**Karin Vermillion** from First Presbyterian was recognized as an outstanding young churchwoman at the Friendship Day gathering.

The **Meals on Wheels** chair organized teams from the church to deliver meals as part of the larger, community wide effort. Our teams serve four to six weeks.

The **Knifty Knitters** gather monthly to participate in a shawl knitting ministry. The shawls are distributed by parish nurses, care deacons and ministers. In addition they knit scarves, gloves and hats for the children at Kemmerer Village as well as hats for children served by The Best Interest of Children. Knifty Knitters

The Fellowship of the Least Coin is an interdenominational offering and is dedicated at the Fall Gathering. This year \$58.11 was collected and forwarded to Church Women United. Together with least coin offerings from all over the world, this offering is used globally for projects.

Income from pledges, endowment fund interest and special gifts funded the various mission projects for a total of \$13,782 income. An itemized list of projects and contributions is included in the PW Treasurer's 2012 Annual Report, which is available upon request. Copies of the Annual Report are also in the PW drawer at the Welcome Desk in Westminster Hall.

# Other Business...

## 2013 Church Officers

The following list shows the church officers along with their year of retirement.

2015

2014

2013

### Session Elders Moderator: Rick Snyder

Ruth Craddock  
Brandi Lowe  
Peter Yau  
Rob Vermillion

Robert Driver  
Claudia Kirby  
Sarah Laufenberg  
Bill Metcalf  
Marc Miller

Jeff Brunson  
Dick Foley  
Beth Hutchens

### Community Mission Deacons Moderator: Mark & Kathy Schoeffman

Phil Brunson  
Jeff Henderson  
Freddie Mkiambi  
John & Jean Murray  
Elsie Mushengezi  
Mark & Kathy Schoeffman  
Jean Seibold

Dick Arnould  
Ron Deering  
Maryln Erwin  
Jan Holmes  
Jodi Kirby  
Bill & Ann Stout

Joann Anderson  
Miriam Chenault  
Martha Henderson  
Leslie Neitzel  
Gary & Linda Peterson

### Congregational Care Deacons Moderator: Barb Barker

Jim Dey  
Nancy MacGregor  
Pat Mitchell  
Holly Nordheden  
Bob & Linda Tichenor

Stu Clark  
Kristie Cozad  
Karen Kaplan  
Chuck & Joanne Kelly  
Katie Parkhill

Barb Barker  
Sue Fischer  
Katharine Jones  
Nicole Miller  
Judy Nicolette  
John & Jane Seiler  
Julia Ulen

## 2013 Budget

### Revenues

Contributions	\$948,656.
Other \$	64,500.

**Total Revenues** \$1,013,656.

### Expenses

Clergy	\$244,777.
General Assembly Per Capita	35,000.
Human Resources	11,000.
Music	107,635.
Worship	1,200.
Missions	122,000.
Children & Youth Education	77,000.
Adult Education	11,350.
Administration	177,694.
Building & Grounds	220,000.
Congregational Care	1,500.
Hospitality	4,500.

**Total Expenses** \$1,013,656.

## Move Forward Update Technology & Communication

### Goal:

*To be up-to-date and ahead of the curve in using technology to spread the "Word."*

### What we have done:

- A Task Force is working on up-dating the Web-Site
- We have returned to a monthly newsletter
- We have hired a 12 hour a week technology person
- External and internal communication is part of the job description of the hopefully soon to be hired Operations Director
- A volunteer chart for The Gathering in now on-line
- Additional pictures will be on the web-site

### What could be done:

- Updates of church sound system to make it more user-friendly
- Several staff need updated or new computers
- Publication of a new pictorial directory
- Volunteer chart for the whole church on the web-site
- Computer courses for the newbie to computers

## Balance Sheet December 31, 2012

### Accounts

#### Cash In Bank

101000 - Operating Hickory Point	\$301,222.03
101111 - Busey Checking	\$14,201.43

#### Total Cash In Bank

\$315,423.46

#### Investments/Insurance

301000 - Cash Value Life Insurance	\$6,120.58
301010 - Marketable Securities	\$1,637,529.70

#### Total Investments/Insurance

\$1,643,650.28

#### Total Assets

\$1,959,073.74

### Assets

### Liabilities, Fund Principal, & Restricted Funds

#### Liabilities

##### Other

102200 - Prepaid Pledges	\$133,253.73
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#### Total Other

\$133,253.73

#### Total Liabilities

\$133,253.73

#### Unrestricted Net Assets

103000 - Operating Fund Balance	(\$35,709.76)
303021 - Session Designated Funds	\$1,053,222.44
Excess Cash Received	\$50,461.47

#### Total Unrestricted Net Assets and Excess Cash Received

\$1,067,974.15

#### Restricted Funds

Total Temporarily Restricted	\$214,640.87
Total Permanently Restricted	\$543,204.99

#### Total Restricted Funds

\$757,845.86

#### Total Liabilities, Fund Principal, & Restricted Funds

\$1,959,073.74

### Minutes of Congregational Meeting December 16th, 2012 – 9:55 am

The Rev. Dr. Eric J. Snyder called a congregational meeting to order on Sunday, December 16th at 9:55 a.m. A quorum was present. Dr. Snyder opened the meeting with prayer and then read the call to the meeting, "This meeting of the congregation of First Presbyterian Church of Champaign is for the purpose of electing ruling elders, congregational care deacons, community mission deacons, and members of the congregational nominating committee. He then introduced Midge Miller, chair of the Nominating Committee.

Elder Miller placed in nomination the following names for ruling Elder. The motion was seconded.

1 year term: Jeff Brunson

3 year term: Ruth Craddock, Brandi Lowe, and Peter Yau

There were no nominations from the floor. The congregation voted unanimously for the motion.

Elder Miller placed in nomination the following names for Community Mission Deacon.

1 year term: Miriam Chenault, Leslie Neitzel

3 year term: Phil Brunson, Jeff Henderson, Freddie Mkiambi, John & Jean Murray, Elyzee Mushengezi, Mark & Kathy Schoeffmann, Jean Seibold

The motion was seconded. There were no nominations from the floor. The congregation voted unanimously for the motion.

Elder Miller placed in nomination the following names for Congregational



Group of guys from a local mission use our gym regularly to play basketball.

Care Deacon.

1 year term: Judy Nicolette, John & Jane Seiler

3 year term: Jim Dey, Nancy MacGregor, Pat Mitchell, Holly Nordheden, Bob & Linda Tichenor

The motion was seconded. There were no nominations from the floor. The congregation voted unanimously for the motion.

Elder Miller placed in nomination the following names for the Nominating Committee.

2 year term: Midge Miller

3 year term: Allen Chouinard

The motion was seconded. There were no nominations from the floor. The congregation voted unanimously for the motion.

There being no other business the meeting was closed in prayer by Dr. Snyder at 10:04 a.m.

Rick Snyder

Moderator

### **Minutes of Special Congregational Meeting July 29, 2012**

A special congregational meeting was held in the sanctuary on July 29th, 2012. The Rev. Dr. Eric J. Snyder opened the meeting in prayer at 10:06 a.m.

The call to the meeting was read, "To dissolve the pastoral relationship with the Rev. Scott Keeble on September 9th, 2012, pending his reception as pastor by the Copper Creek Church (now a new church development of The Presbytery of Southeastern Illinois)."

The motion was made and seconded. The motion carried.

There being no other business, the Rev. Snyder closed the meeting in prayer at 10:09 a.m.

Rick Snyder

Moderator

### **Minutes of the Special Congregational Meeting June 17, 2012**

The Rev. Eric J. Snyder opened a special congregational meeting at 10:01 a.m. on Sunday, June 7th in the sanctuary with prayer. He read the call to the meeting, "To elect 5 additional ruling elders to the classes of 2013 and 2014." The current Session has seven downtown and seven southwest elders. With the launch of the Copper Creek Church in September, there will be the need for 12 elders downtown. Five additional elders are being nominated.

Liz Brunson from the Nominating Committee submitted the following nominees and moved that they be accepted: Bill Metcalf and Marc Miller to serve in the class of 2013, and Claudia Kirby, Rob Vermillion and Sarah Laufenberg to serve in the class of 2014. Jim Berger seconded the motion. The motion carried.

There being no other business, the Rev. Snyder closed the meeting in prayer at 10:05 a.m.

Rick Snyder

Moderator

### **Minutes of Special Congregational Meeting March 11, 2012**

A "rolling" congregational meeting was held after each service on Sunday, March 11th for the purpose of voting on a recommendation by the Session to begin a new PCUSA church in southwest Champaign.

The Rev. Eric Snyder began the downtown portion of the meeting with prayer at 8:41 a.m. Ballots were included with the bulletins. Voting continued following the 9:00 a.m. service, and at the beginning of Worshipful Conversations at 10:30 a.m. Voting was also conducted at Barkstall School after the 10:30 a.m. service.

The results are as follows:

DT Campus	Yes	No
Member	165	36
Attender	9	4
SW Campus		
Member	84	14
Attender	24	6

The Rev. Scott Keeble closed the meeting with prayer at 11:42 a.m.

### **Minutes of the Annual Congregational Meeting February 26, 2012**

The downtown portion of the annual congregational meeting of FPCC was opened by the Rev. Eric J. Snyder at 10:01 a.m. A quorum was present, and the call to the meeting was read.

The following ministry reports were given: Confirmation by Leslie Barr, Stephen Ministry by Clemmie Ackermann, Small Groups by Beth Hutchens, Cuba by Jodi Kirby, Sunday School and Vacation Bible School by Cassie McConkey, and the Refugee Center by Bob Kirby.

Elder Scott Whitmer addressed the process Session used to reach their recommendation of beginning a new PCUSA church in SW Champaign. Congregational members shared their feelings and posed questions.

Pam Knox reported on behalf of the DT facility and concept team.

Jeff Brunson gave the financial review for 2011, presented the budget for 2012 and presented the pastoral terms of call. He called for the motion. The motion was seconded and approved.

There being no other business for the good of the congregation, the meeting was closed in prayer at 11:27 a.m. by the Rev. Chuck Carlson.

The rolling meeting (which was called to order and opened with prayer at the DT Campus) was reconvened and called back to order prior to the benediction at the southwest campus.

The band led us in a song of worship.

Associate Pastor Scott Keeble presented a pastor's report entitled, "Celebrating 2011, Re-envisioning 2012"

Elder Jeff Brunson presented the 2012 budget as information for the congregation. Elder Jeff Brunson presented the minutes from the 2011 congregational meetings. The motion to approve the minutes was seconded and approved by the congregation. Elder Jeff Brunson presented the 2012 pastoral terms of call. The motion to approve terms of call was seconded and approved by the congregation.

Elder Scott Whitmer shared a "testimony of experiencing God's leading" that explained how Session got to the point of recommending we become 2 distinct churches.

Elder Mark Allender presented the details about the congregational vote (to be held on March 11 at both campuses) and explained the rationale behind the details for how we will vote.

Associate Pastor Scott Keeble described the process that a newly appointed "Discernment Team" will follow in defining all the details of what a new church might look like.

Elder Dave McCourt introduced the members of the Discernment Team. They are Alli Culp, Lanee Reichert, Dave McCourt, Mark Allender, Melody Kane, Josephine Underwood, Abby Hobbs, Scott Whitmer, Dan Ryan, Brian Mercer, Marty Kane, Lina Mongwa, Sybil Anderson, Dave Thomas, Pam Scott, Scott Keeble.

Elder Tim Larson presented a tentative timeline for the process of developing a new church, should the congregation vote to move ahead.

Melissa Keeble presented the members of the Prayer Team who will be meeting regularly throughout the discernment process. They include Melissa Keeble, Joyce Wittler, Dave Bernthal, and Nikki Mercer.

Scott Keeble described the intention of both campuses continuing to work together even if we become two churches. He introduced Cassie McConkey to talk about VBS as an example of something we intend to do together in partnership.

Mark Allender moderated a time for questions and comments. Elders and pastors together responded to those comments and questions.

Scott Keeble closed the meeting in prayer.

Rick Snyder  
Co-Moderator

Scott Keeble  
Co-Moderator

### **Minutes of Special Congregational Meeting January 8, 2012**

A special congregational meeting was held on Sunday, January 8th at 10 a.m. in the sanctuary of the DT Campus and at 11:30 a.m. in the cafeteria at Barkstall School for our SW Campus. The purpose of the meeting was to elect elders, care deacons, community mission deacons, and members of the nominating committee.

Both meeting portions were begun with prayer. Scott Whitmer represented the Nominating Committee. At both campuses, he presented the following slate for elders:

Mark Allender  
Don Dodds (1 year term)  
Robert Driver  
Tim Jefferson  
Tim Larson  
Dave Seiler (2 year term)

There were no nominations from the floor. The motion was made and seconded to accept these nominees and the motion carried.

The following slate was presented for community mission deacons:

Dick Arnould  
Ron Deering  
Maryln Erwin  
Jan Holmes  
Jodi Kirby  
Ann & Bill Stout (1 position)

There were no nominations from the floor. The motion was made and seconded to accept these nominees and the motion carried.

The following slate was presented for care deacons:

Barb Barker  
Stu Clark  
Kristie Cozad  
Karen Kaplan  
Joanne & Chuck Kelly (1 position)  
Katie Parkhill  
Hilary & Harry Rouse (1 position)  
Jean Smith (Mrs. Michael)  
Linda & Bob Tichenor (1 position)

There were no nominations from the floor. The motion was made and seconded to accept these nominees and the motion carried.

The following slate was presented for the nominating committee:

Carol Tyler  
Cheryl VanHoy

There were no nominations from the floor. The motion was made and seconded to accept these nominees and the motion carried.

There being no other business, both sections of the meeting were closed in prayer. Respectfully submitted,

Rick Snyder  
Moderator