

August 2016



# FIRST PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH OF CHAMPAIGN

## Pastor's Pen

BY ERIC CORBIN, ASSOCIATE PASTOR

(eric.corbin@firstchurchchampaign.org)

As I write this early in the morning, **Chuck** is scheduled to return to the office today after his month's sojourn in Montana. Our prayer is that he and **Betty** had a restful and replenishing time away and return ready for the joys and challenges of ministry together here at First Presbyterian Church.

The month of July has been an eventful one, with visits from mission co-workers (**Bob & Kristi Rice**, and **Bernie & Farsijana Adeney-Risakotta**), the three-day conference of the Praise & Prayer service, Presbyterian Youth Triennium, a Courageous Conversation on the "School to Prison Pipeline," the Rain Drop offering for the work of **Bernie and Farsijana Adeney-Risakotta** in Indonesia, the school supplies drive for Salt & Light, a book study of *Tattoos on the Heart*, the Faith in Place "Story Garden" tour, and the Spiritual Formation team's weekly Bible studies and reflections, on top of the regular schedule and I'm sure there are others I've left out! What a month! Plus, July had FIVE Sundays, so we've worshipped quite a bit – counting the conference, regular worship services, and memorial services, we've worshipped God together well over 20 times in the month of July. So much wonderful ministry takes place here and extends far beyond the walls of this church, and I am grateful for the efforts you all undertake on behalf of the kingdom of God.

In the midst of all of these wonderful celebrations, we have experienced challenges, as well. As mentioned a couple of weeks ago, our pastoral search process has undergone a setback, with the disappointing loss of a candidate who was in the latter stages of the process. Your Session has met three times during the month, as we process what happened and how to move forward together. Session is diligently and faithfully seeking God's wisdom in strengthening the process, so that our pastoral search can resume with the church more ready than ever to move forward with God's chosen candidate for this church. In the meantime, we are grateful for Chuck's steady and loving pastoral leadership.

Thanks to you all for how you seek God's will as we minister together in God's name. I'll leave you with this verse from *1 Peter 3:8*, which has been on my mind: "Finally, all of you, have unity of spirit, sympathy, love for one another, a tender heart, and a humble mind."

Grace and peace,  
Eric



# YOU'RE INVITED!

Sholem Summer Festival  
Food, games, swimming and musical entertainment  
Centennial Park August 14  
Invite your friends, extended family and neighbors

Potluck at the pavilion north of Sholem Pool at 6:30 PM with music. Bring a salad, side or dessert to share and a folding chair if you wish.

Some of us will continue to relax while others will have free access at 7:30 PM to the water park.

## Mid-Year Report

BY BYRON KEMPER, FINANCE CHAIR  
(byronkem@life.illinois.edu)

**Operating Budget:** As presented in Table 1, both revenue and expenses were less than budget projections with the net result a \$19,000 positive balance but about \$24,000 short of the projected balance for the first half. First half revenue is inflated by pledges of \$137,000 for 2016 paid in 2015. Total revenue for the first half of 2016 was \$21,600 less than in 2015 and expenses were \$38,000 less. Both pledged contributions and non-pledge contributions (plate) are trailing contributions in 2015 with the latter substantially trailing 2015 by \$15,000.

**Restricted Cash Accounts:** As shown in Table 2, funds in cash accounts for both endowment and other restricted accounts increased slightly in the first half of the year. Non-endowment funds include \$84,851 in the F-150 Mission account at the end of June.

**Investment Portfolio with Busey Wealth Management (BWM):** Investment gains of 2.8% were realized in the first half for the BWM investment pool. During the period, contributions of \$916 were received, endowments distributions of \$4,003 were made, and fees of \$6,928 were paid resulting in the gain shown in Table 2. Endowment principal is invariant and changes in the other components in the investment pool are shown in Table 2.

**Forward 150:** At the end of June, contributions of \$1,586,924 had been received, which is about 80% of the total pledged, and total expenses were \$973,889. Expenses include a total of \$130,000 that has been transferred to Missions. Major projects (>\$200K) completed or near completion include the fire sprinkler system, the organ, and technology upgrades. The major remaining project is the stained glass windows and a number of smaller projects, including a new outdoor sign.

**Other:** A final payout of \$14,406 was received from the Creamer trusts which was placed in an account for expenses related to the search for a new senior pastor. A bequest of \$9,160 from the George Leonard trust was received, which was included in annual operating income to reduce the deficit for this year.

**2016 Projections – Second Half:** Expenses are likely to be higher in the second half with the salary of the new CYF director coming on-line. To meet our projected revenue in the budget, it will be important for contributions in the second half to increase, particularly non-pledged plate contributions which are only 35% of projected in the budget which was based on 2015 contributions. Overall, the original projected deficit in the budget of about \$40,000 is still a reasonable, but quite soft, estimate taking first half results into account.

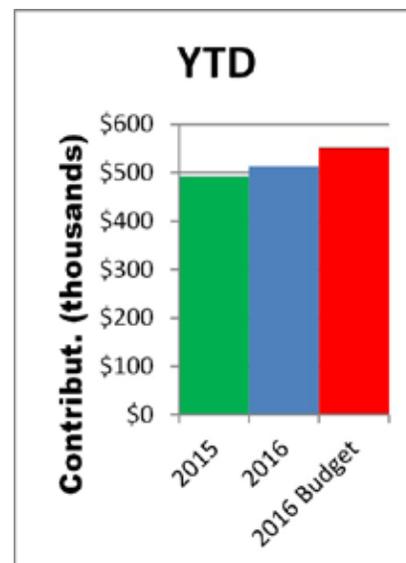
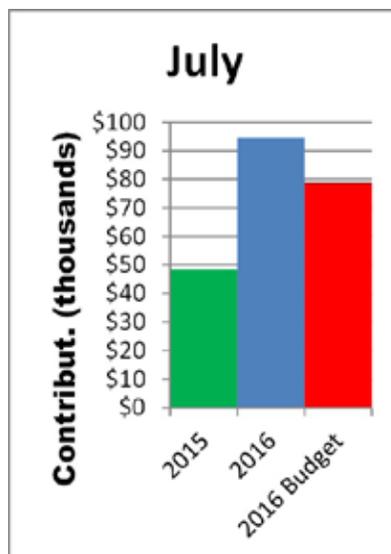
**Monthly Contributions:** I missed the July newsletter but in June (not shown), contributions were slightly higher than in 2015, but substantially lower than projected in the budget. July was a very strong month exceeding a weak July 2015 by \$46K – a good start to the second half. 2016 YTD is \$21K ahead of 2015, but about \$39K less than the YTD budget projection.

**Table 1. Operating Budget**

	Jan-June Actual	Jan-Jun Budgeted
Contributions	\$486,754	\$537,350
Total Revenue	\$543,426	\$579,290
Expenses	\$524,376	\$536,104
Balance	\$19,050	\$43,286

**Table 2. Restricted/Endowment Funds (2015)**

	Jan 1	June 30
Restricted Funds (Cash) Non-Endowment	\$193,319	\$195,615
Endowment	\$21,440	\$21,953
Invested Funds	\$1,875,566	\$1,918,166
Session Designated	\$1,210,335	\$1,245,722
Endowment Principal	\$543,205	\$543,205
Endowment Earnings	\$44,667	\$49,944
Other	\$77,359	\$79,246



## Prayer Corner



### Enjoying Prayer

Sometimes we see prayer as a duty, but God wants us to enjoy praying. Prayer refreshes and draws us closer to God. Psalm 100 begins "Shout for joy to the Lord, all the earth. Worship the Lord with gladness; come before him with joyful songs."

Sometimes circumstances make this difficult until we remember that God's love and mercy, which have helped us in the past, will endure forever.

This whole short psalm is a song of praise which we can use as a prayer.

## Facebook and the Church

First Pres uses two different Facebook features in communicating about our ministries. One is a Facebook "group" (<https://www.facebook.com/groups/178985195497481/>). The intention of a Facebook group is to provide a way for members to interact with one another. Any member of the group can post something there to be seen by the other members of the group. This can be used for discussions, sharing news, or just saying "hello" to church friends. By going to the link above, you can join the group and then posts from the group will appear in your Facebook news feed.

The second Facebook is at (<https://www.facebook.com/firstchurchchampaign/>). The page is the "official" Facebook presence for the church. Whereas the group is used for discussions among members and friends, the Facebook page is more like the church newsletter. Only designated staff and Outreach members can publish posts and create events on that page. Once a post is published or an event is created, anyone can comment on it or share it with their Facebook friends. In fact, it is a big help in getting the word out if you will share posts and events from the church page to your own. The more you share what is going on at your church, the more people will be impacted by the ministry going on here, and some of your friends might even be looking for a church home, as well!

So, please "Like" the church's page and join the group to stay up-to-date, then share, share, share about the ministries of your church! If you have any questions, feel free to contact [eric.corbin@firstchurchchampaign.org](mailto:eric.corbin@firstchurchchampaign.org) or call the church office.

## *Jays & Concerns*

We extend our sympathy to...

- the family of **Jeffrey Pribble** whose mother, Marcia, died recently.
- the family and friends of **Faye Anderson** who died July 22, 2016.
- the family and friends of **Jeff Daniels**, son of **Edith Daniels**. Jeff died July 24, 2016. A Memorial Service will be held at a later date.

# Your Church

## Calling All Christians

Would you like to be renewed in your faith with studies, discussions and fellowship? Please consider joining one of our many classes, small groups and fellowship opportunities this coming fall. Sign-ups will begin August 28, September 4 and 11.

We have two new classes this fall. **Peter Yau** will teach a four week class based on C.S. Lewis' book, "Surprised by Joy," starting October 9. **Judi Geislinger** will begin her three-week class, "What It Means to Be Presbyterian" starting November 6. These classes will be on Sunday mornings at 10:30 AM.

Don't forget that we still have three weeks left of our drop-in Summer Sunday School Classes in Mae Chapin Parlor at 9 AM. Hope to see you there.

- August 7 **Judi Geislinger**  
*Simplicity as a Spiritual Discipline*
- August 14 **George Miley**  
*Science and Faith*
- August 21 **Betty Hollister**  
*Connecting with Women in the Bible – a repeat*

Movie nights coming soon to the chapel near you:

- Friday, September 16 6:30 PM  
*Phoenix Rising* a film from CU at Home
- Thursday, October 13 6:30 PM  
*Girl Rising*
- Thursday, November 10 6:30 PM  
*The House I Live In*

## Face to Face

FACE TO FACE INTRODUCES YOU TO YOUR FRIENDS IN THE FIRST PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH COMMUNITY. THIS MONTH WE HIGHLIGHT LOWELLA BIDDLE.

### What brought you to First Presbyterian Church?

We became Presbyterians after our neighbors invited us to the Presbyterian Church



Lowella Biddle in her quilting studio

stayed with it. Before, I was a Campbellite (Christian Church) but now I am Presbyterian through and through.

### What has been the highlight of your church experience?

I have loved all our ministers, choir, bells, vacation bible school, Sunday school. I loved it all. Now my body is not so reliable. I helped with the garage sale two years ago but I may not be able to do it again. But really, you just cannot depend on me any more. After all, I will be 90 this month. What I can do is give what I have.

### Tell me about your family and work.

I moved from Evanston to Newman when I was in the sixth grade. After high school I married Fred and we farmed a small acreage. After my children grew up I went to the University of Illinois at age 38 and became a teacher. Then I taught art, physical education and did some work as a school librarian. We started Biddle Lawn Care when we moved to Champaign. I have three children and four grandchildren.

### What do you do in your free time?

I have a lot of that! I play serious bridge and I quilt. I would love to attend worship but I am afraid of the parking and I am never sure how I will feel. I would love to

have someone from the church visit with me.

### What are your favorite Bible characters?

My favorite verse is *John 3:16* and of course my favorite character is Jesus. He is the model of how we should live our lives. When I watch the Jesus movie I turn it off before the crucifixion because I cannot bear the pain.

### How can the church best be the church?

I think you have it all right. I have no advice on that. OK, maybe easier parking.

## Happening the Last Sunday In August!

BY JEANNIE SNOEYINK  
JEANNIE.SNOEYINK@GMAIL.COM

August 28, 2016 from 3-7 PM in beautiful Hessel Park of Champaign the 19<sup>th</sup> consecutive fund raising effort for the **Men and Women's Safe Houses** here in Champaign-Urbana.

We solicit your prayers, ideas, etc. for making this a banner year spiritually and financially. Please send your suggestions to **Jeff Johnson** or **Jeannie Snoeyink**, asap. August 28, is just around the corner. We are accepting additional volunteers to help in this year's effort; and please let us know of any successful grant writers to assist us in this great venture.

## Rendezvous with God

**Jean René Balekita and Bomoyi** join internationally popular recording artist **Carlyto Lassa** in a concert featuring traditional Christian music, new arrangements and new compositions.

The concert will be held on Sunday, August 7 at 3 PM in the sanctuary.



**Carlyto Lassa** was raised in Matadi, a port in the south of Congo. He worked as a tailor before finding his call in music. Lassa’s conversion to Christianity was profound. His is said to be “the most beautiful voice of Congo, genuinely inspired.” Carlyto is one of the great figures of Congolese music .



**Jean René Balekita and Bomoyi** are a Christian professional musical ensemble featuring African rhythms with Congolese rumba and flavors of gospel and jazz. Bomoyi means “life” in the native language of Lingala. In addition to Lingala they

sing in English, French, Kikongo, Swahili and Tshiluba. Well known in Congo, **Jean René Balekita and Bomoyi** have recently gained enthusiastic audiences in the United States. **Jean René and Bomoyi** includes vocalists **Laeticia Kyungu, Joyce Nkama** and **Victor Matondo** on bass guitar and Ibo. They are members of First Presbyterian Church.

A love offering for the musicians will be taken. Ten percent of proceeds will go to subsidize the costs of bible in Congo so that they are available to the people. This is a program coordinated by our mission co-workers in Congo, **Jeff and Christi Boyd**.

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 : **Sunday September 11** :  
 : **4 PM** :  
 : **Centennial Hall** :  
 : **Cuban Pig Roast** :  
 : **Menu** :  
 : **Mojitos** :  
 : **Roast Pork** :  
 : **Cuban Cabbage Salad** :  
 : **Black Beans and Rice** :  
 : **Dessert** :  
 : **A free will offering will help support the** :  
 : **neighborhood outreach programs of our** :  
 : **sister church in Cuba.** :  
 : .....  
 : .....

The 2016 Raindrop Project supporting microfinance in Indonesia has raised \$2,277.00. **THANK YOU!**

The program being supported is associated with Farsijana Adeney-Risakotta, one of our PC(USA) Mission Co-workers this church regularly supports.

The goal for this year’s Raindrop was \$4,000. If you would still like to donate, but have been unable to do so, you can still donate this first week in August. Just make sure to put “Raindrop Project 2016” in the memo of your check.

# Children, Youth and Family Ministry

## We Want You!

We are still looking for new volunteers to train with us this summer in preparation for the 2016-2017 school year. Have you been looking for a way to get involved with Children/Youth ministry but don't feel like you have the experience to teach a class? Well, summer is the PERFECT time to train with one of our seasoned teachers in their class. If you would like to know more please email **Kristen Plemons** ([kristen.plemons@firstchurchchampaign.org](mailto:kristen.plemons@firstchurchchampaign.org))

## Noisy Offering

This summer on August 14 our kids Preschool-5<sup>th</sup> grade will be collecting a separate offering to support Restoration Urban Ministries. The kids will be collecting this offering in coffee tins they have decorated, which is what makes it noisy. Our kids have already raised \$353 out of their \$250 goal for the summer. We are trying to hit double our goal! This donation will help with the renovation of one whole room at the Restoration Urban Ministries facility. How can YOU help? Bring your loose change on the listed Sundays and drop them in the containers the kids will be coming around with. Your extra change will help the kids make a joyful noise for the Lord in the form of an offering.

## High School/Middle School Summer Series

This summer our youth have been working with **Sabrina Hwu** in a wonderful series on the Parables for our High School and Middle School students. Our High School and Middle School students will resume regular Sunday School classes on September 11 with our Fall Kickoff. Thank you Sabrina for a great series!

## Presbyterian Youth Triennium 2016

This past July, 4 high school boys from our church attended Presbyterian Youth Triennium for the first time. We spent the week at Purdue University Campus learning, laughing and loving together. We had the opportunity to hear from multiple world-class speakers, explore a Christian college fair, learn about many different ministries from around the country, worship with 4,500 other Presbyterian youth and of course make lots of new friends!



## Transportation Team

Are you looking for a way to support our Children, Youth and Families but haven't quite found the best place to volunteer? Have you considered becoming one of the drivers or ride along adults who serve on the transportation team? These dedicated individuals help get families to church on Sundays, get students to youth group on Sunday nights, and help kids get to various midweek events. If you are interested in serving Families in this way, please email **John Muirhead** at [j.muirhead@comcast.net](mailto:j.muirhead@comcast.net) for more information



Our own **Jason Kabeya** on his graduation from DREaaM House with brother David and mom, Nene. Be sure to tell Jason you are proud of him!



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CHURCH OF CHAMPAIGN**

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Change Service Requested



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**Sunday:**

- 8 and 9 AM Traditional Worship
- 9 AM Children and Youth Education
- 10:30 AM The Gathering  
(Contemporary Worship)

**Saturday:**

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

**Pastors:**

- Chuck Carlson..... Interim Head Pastor
- Eric Corbin.....Covenant Associate Pastor

**Staff:**

- Kristi Corbin .....Mission Coordinator
- Ritchie Drennen .....Facility Maintenance
- Patty Farthing.....Receptionist
- Marcia Franks ..... Administrative Assistant
- Joe Grant ..... Choir Director
- Chris Penny.....Facilities Manager
- Ann Petry ..... Accounting
- Kristen Plemons .....Assistant Children, Youth & Family
- Andrea Pope..... Contemporary Worship Director
- Richard Rossi..... Church Musician
- Linda Sims .....ESL Coordinator
- Mindy Watts-Ellis .....Director Children, Youth & Family

**The newsletter is published monthly. Deadline is the last Monday of the month for the following month's publication. Send submissions to [marcia.franks@firstchurchchampaign.org](mailto:marcia.franks@firstchurchchampaign.org).**