



# FIRST PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH OF CHAMPAIGN

The Heart of Missions: June 2015

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## Notes from Kristi

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### **Kristi Corbin, Missions Coordinator**

*June is a very busy month for missions! With so many wonderful events going on, I am unable to fit it all in a usable calendar page. I hope you find this list helpful to use to easily transfer the dates to your personal calendar. –Blessings--Kristi*

#### **June 2:**

*Mission Team*

noon in Westminster

*Interfaith Conversation about Racial Reconciliation*

5:30pm-8:00pm at Champaign Library (see page 3)

#### **June 7:**

*Raindrop Project*

Morning Services in Westminster

#### **June 14:**

*Raindrop Project*

Morning Services in Westminster

#### **June 15:**

*Environmental Stewardship*

3:30pm-4:30pm in the Library

*World Mission*

5:30pm at the Stout Home

#### **June 16:**

*Compassion, Peace and Justice Committee*

7:30pm in Westminster

#### **June 23:**

*Community Mission Deacons*

6:30pm in Westminster

#### **June 24:**

*Ofelia Ortega with FPCC Cuba Partners*

5:30pm in Mae Chapin

#### **June 25:**

*Presbyterian Women Tea for Ofelia Ortega*

1:00pm in Westminster

#### **June 27:**

*Adopt a Highway*

8:00am-10:00am on State Street

*Pancake Breakfast to Benefit Mission Trip to Cuba*

8:00am-10:00am at Applebee's in Champaign

(see page 5)

*Cuba Roundtable with Ofelia Ortega*

1:00 pm in Sanctuary (see page 4)

*Evening Praise and Prayer Service with*

*Ofelia Ortega*

6:00 pm in the Chapel

***Don't forget to register for  
Big Tent this year (see page 5)!***

# The 2015 Raindrop Mission Project

Steve Gritten



Jesus is the Way Prison Ministries in Rantoul, Illinois

As it is with rain drops, one drop makes little difference in sustenance to the earth. Our congregation's support for mission work is similar to the rain drop. Individually, we may think that our contribution is of little value; but combined with others, our individual contributions have had a tremendous impact on the community. Often an agency will tell us that we are

one of their primary supporters. These agencies that we support (even with our regular annual support) often exist on a "shoe string." At the end of the year, they have little, if any, funds left to make needed improvements. Our Rain Drop project addresses that need. Each year we select the needs of one agency for a one-time infusion of resources to help one of their greatest needs.

## Our 2015 Project

The selected project for 2015 is the replacement of a dilapidated lien-to structure that houses the refrigeration for the kitchen at the Jesus is the Way Prison Ministries facilities. The estimated cost is \$6,000 for materials. Our Mission Possible volunteers have agreed to supply the labor.

## Why "Jesus is the Way Prison Ministries?"

With Jesus is the Way Prison Ministries (JWPM), it's all about saving the lives of men who have just been released from prison. Approximately 47% of all paroled prisoners eventually return to crime and to prison. Some have little desire to change. Others want to change, but do not have the skill set to live a normal productive life or the skills to obtain and keep a job. Individuals in this latter group are encouraged to complete applications to JWPM. **Only 17% of the JWPM graduates return to crime, far better than the typical 47%.**

The recruits enter a new environment of Christian values and what it means to love. In addition, there are other mandatory classes on anger management, domestic violence, and money management. Volunteering opportunities are another important aspect. Learning how to get and keep a job is another practical need. Many of the area businesses support the program by providing jobs before they leave the program. Our church has supported this program for several years.



The structure (with a leaking roof, crumbling floor and undersized wiring) to be replaced via The Raindrop.

***Support is simple. On June 7th or 14th, select from the board in Westminster Hall a raindrop that matches the amount of your contribution and hand it with a check to the smiling faces waiting at a table nearby. A check for any amount (whether it matches a raindrop amount or not) will also be welcomed.***

### ***Rev. Dr. Ofelia Ortega's Schedule***

Rev. Dr. Ofelia Ortega is an immediate past President of the World Council of Churches and a current elected member of the Cuba National Assembly. A former Rector of the Ecumenical Protestant Seminary in Matanzas, she is also a current professor there. She is the first woman ordained as a protestant pastor in Cuba and Latin America, as well as a world-renowned pioneer in the field of feminist theology. More recently, Rev. Dr.

Ortega was involved in the formation of an organic farming cooperative of thirty families near Matanzas. She continues active engagement with them -- truly a woman for all seasons.

**Wed., June 24, 5:30 pm, Mae Chapin:  
FPCC Cuba Partners**

**Thurs., June 25, 1 pm, Westminster:  
Presbyterian Women Tea and Discussion of  
Gender Equality\***

**Sat., June 27, 1 pm, Sanctuary:  
Cuba Roundtable with Rep. Rodney Davis  
and Paul Johnson**

**Sat., June 27, 6 pm, Chapel:  
Preaching (in French) at the  
Praise and Prayer Service**

**Sun., June 28,  
Preaching 8, 9 and 10:30 Services**



*\*childcare available with RSVP to  
Kristi.Corbin@FirstChurchChampaign.Org*

### ***Interfaith Conversation about Racial Reconciliation***

You are invited to an "Interfaith Conversation about Racial Reconciliation" on **Tuesday, June 2nd** at Champaign Library from 5:30pm-8:00pm. A light meal will be served from 5:30pm-6:00pm.

In March, FPCC had a "Courageous Conversation" on race, reconciliation, and ways to move forward after Ferguson. The speaker, Rev. Dr. Andre Johnson, a pastor and professor from Memphis, discussed research on racial implicit bias and its effects on our interpretation of events such as Ferguson. Additionally in March, Canaan Baptist Church held a program with a guest speaker, a pastor from Ferguson, Missouri.

Building on what we learned, FPCC is sponsoring a follow-up opportunity for the faith community to continue unpacking the issues of race and racial reconciliation in Champaign-Urbana. Your attendance will deepen and widen this interfaith, racially diverse conversation.

**Tuesday, June 2, 2015  
5:30pm – 8:00pm  
Champaign Library, Robeson Pavilion  
Room A&B**

## Cuba Round Table

You are invited to participate in a very special event on Saturday, June 27 at 1 p.m.: a Cuba Round Table featuring the Rev. Dr. Ofelia Ortega, Congressman Rodney Davis (13th Congressional District), and Paul Johnson, President of the Illinois Cuba Working Group.

The three will comment and exchange ideas, each from their own unique personal and professional perspective, on the dynamic changes in Diplomatic and Trade relationships now occurring between Cuba and the United States. Following their comments, questions will be welcomed from the floor.

We will be blessed by the presence of the Rev. Dr. Ortega, a professor of theology at the Evangelical Protestant Seminary located in Matanzas, Cuba. She is an immediate Past President of the World Council of Churches and in her second term as an elected member of the Cuban National Assembly.

I hope that you will join us for this special occasion.

—Pat Metcalf



The deadline for submissions for the church-wide newsletter AND for the Heart of Missions is now the last Monday of the month for the next month's publication.

This helps to ensure the publications are out in a timely fashion.

Thanks! Kristi

## Pancake Breakfast to Benefit

### July's Mission Trip to Cuba

Saturday, June 27, 2015 - 8:00am to 10:00am



Get your tickets for a Pancake Breakfast at Applebee's on North Prospect in Champaign. The restaurant is reserved just for this event and is a great time for fun, fellowship, and a great way to support the those going to Cuba in July! Tickets are only \$5 and includes all you can eat pancakes and sausage or bacon, and a drink!

Mission Trip members will be your servers, hosts, and dishwashers!

## Big Tent is Here!

Big Tent is coming July 30-August 1! This year's event will be on the University of Tennessee (at Knoxville) Campus.

Fees are very reasonable, at only \$395 per person. Fees include accommodations, seven meals, campus parking and programming. Fees for children and youth are up to \$150 each. There are even pre-conference events!

Notable topics covered include: multicultural/intercultural ministry, ministries for poverty and hunger, training ruling elders, congregations that thrive, connecting with young adults, faithful living in an era of climate change, inclusion of people with disabilities in a congregation, and calling a pastor.

**Go to [pcusa.org/bigtent](http://pcusa.org/bigtent) for more information and a full downloadable brochure of events.**