The Heart of Missions:

First Presbyterian Church of Champaign's Missions Magazine

September Missions Events and Meetings

September 1: Mission Team Noon in Westminster
September 14: Compassion, Peace and Justice
Ministry
4:00pm in Westminster
September 15: Working Together for Racial
Reconciliation and Justice: A Courageous
Conversation
5:30pm-5:50pm Prayer in the Park
6:00pm Keynote in Sanctuary
7:30pm-8:00pm Reception
September 17-19: 10th Annual Giant Garage Sale
(Savoy United Methodist Church)
details on page 16
September 21: Environmental Stewardship
3:30pm in the Parlor
September 21: World Mission
5:30pm at the Stout Home
September 22: PW Coordinating Team
9:00am in Westminster
September 22: Community Mission Deacons

6:30pm in Westminster

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Marion Medical Mission

By: Harry Bremer



Once again, I will be volunteering with Marion Medical Mission this fall. There are two groups that go, each for three weeks. I will be in the first group, leaving the states September 18, and returning October 12.

Although I fly into Malawi, I may be sent to Zambia or Tanzania.

Carrying parts to the well location

The American volunteers work in pairs, and help with:

- Loading and unloading the trucks with hand pump parts
- Picking up workers who install the hand pumps
- Driving the trucks to the wells
- Recording information about each well (GPS location, builder, etc.)
- After the hand pump is installed and working, having a ceremony including telling the villagers that a Christian in America heard about the need for clean water & donated money for this well

Angola

Zambezi

Zamb

Each cement well cap has inscribed on top:

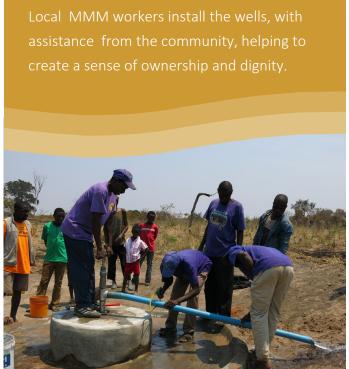
Uchindami Kwa Chiuta (Glory to God)

Each well provides water for up to 125 people.

This year Marion Medical Mission hopes to complete 2,500 wells. They installed 2,650 wells last year.

Keep me in your prayers for a safe and successful trip.

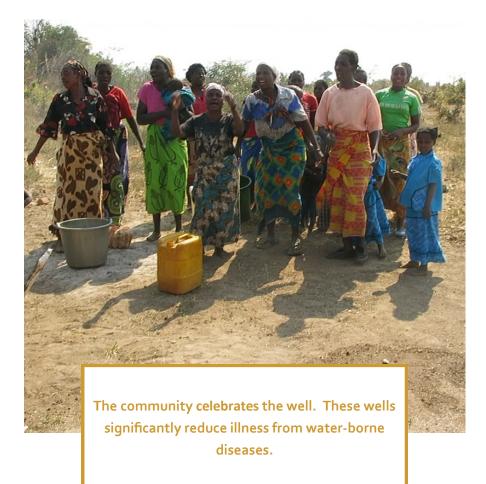
In Matthew 25:35, Jesus says: "I was thirsty and you gave me something to drink."





Residents of these remote villages bring gifts of hospitality and gratitude







Inscription on the wells

Would you like your heart to smile?

By: Linda Sims, English as a Second Language Coordinator

Would you like your heart to smile? Here's a tip: Turn off your radio. Put down the newspaper. Close the news app on your phone. Give yourself a break from the incessant bad news of our troubled world. Instead, spend a few minutes observing the ESL scene on any Monday—Thursday between 1:00—3:00 in the Education Building at First Presbyterian Church. You will see love and community and caring in action. And there's a good chance you will hear laughter...because English as a Second Language classes are joyful (and often hilarious).

"Who would like to tell us about something they did this weekend?"
"My friends and I used a grill and cooked some kittens. They were delicious. Wait. Kittens? No!
....CHICKENS!"

Hi. I'm Linda Sims, the new coordinator of the ESL program at First Presbyterian Church. I've enjoyed a long career in education that includes elementary classroom teaching, university teaching and research, curriculum development, and consulting – but I can loudly proclaim that there's nothing quite like being part of a program that transports you to faraway worlds and fascinating people every day...Where you can walk into a classroom of 35 students and take a poll of the countries represented to discover that you are no longer just a classroom in the Education Building. You are among the wonderful people of Poland, Korea, Brazil, Turkey, Somalia, Congo, Iran, Austria, Cameroon, Azerbaijan, Cuba, Taiwan, India, Colombia, Pakistan, and more. All right there, a few feet from you, in an ordinary room turned extraordinary by the beauty of people coming together to learn a language, to share their lives, to make new friends, to open their hearts to new cultures, foods, and experiences. Just try to keep your heart from smiling.

We are blessed to live in such a marvelous, diverse community, and doubly so that First Presbyterian plays such a vital role in reaching out to others.

Here's more information about the program:

ESL CLASSES AT FIRST PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH, CHAMPAIGN

We welcome people from all nations, speaking all languages, and representing all cultures and religions.

The ESL program of the First Presbyterian Church of Champaign offers both morning and afternoon classes for adults 18 years and older. Classes are led by dedicated volunteers. All classes are free.

Our morning classes meet Monday and Wednesday only, from 9:00 am – 11:00 am. These classes focus only on beginning "Survival Skills" English. Childcare is NOT available during the morning classes.

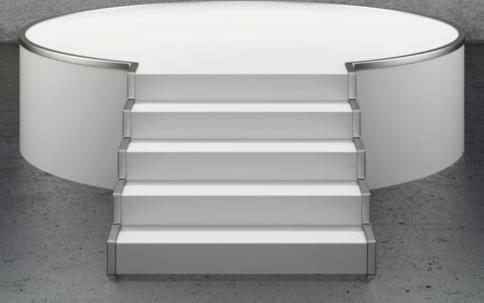
Our afternoon classes meet Monday through Thursday, from 1:00 pm – 3:00 pm. Free childcare is provided for children age 5 and under. The afternoon program is our larger program, offering English tutoring for all levels.

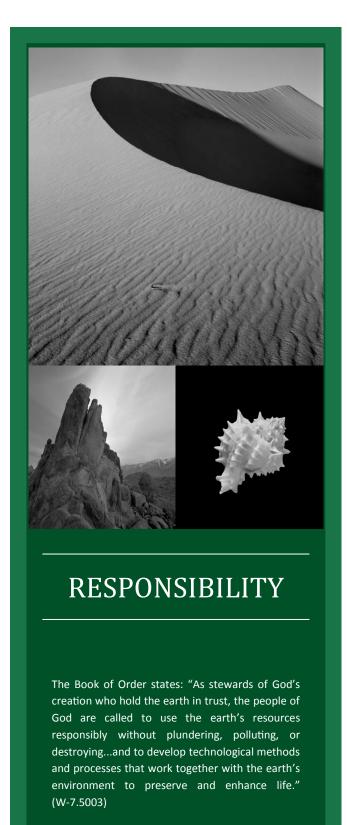
Interested students can attend classes as their schedules and commitments allow. Some students attend every day, others less frequently. Our daily attendance varies but recently has averaged about 35 people each afternoon. Our morning classes are usually much smaller.

Would you like to visit or find out more about ESL at First Presbyterian Church? Please contact Linda Sims, ESL Coordinator, via email at linda.sims@firstchurchchampaign.org, or call the church office at 217-356-7238.

Saturday, September 12 3:00pm-4:30pm Crystal Lake Boat House in Urbana

The Champaign Urbana Immigration Forum is recognizing First Presbyterian Church of Champaign's ESL Program with an Organizational Award. Also honored is Bob Kirby, who will be receiving the Distinguished Service Award. The CU Immigration Forum started this award program in 2014 to recognize the contributions of individuals and organizations that have created a welcoming atmosphere for immigrants in the C-U community. Congratulations to all of the present and past leadership and volunteers of this program!





Do you want to help the Earth? Here is an easy list of local resources for Reducing, Reusing, Recycling, and Repurposing in the Champaign-Urbana Area, provided by our Environmental Stewardship Committee Chair, Barbara Fuller-Curry.

Reduce

Shorter showers, use a dishwasher rather than washing by hand, bring your own water or coffee cups (no plastic or Styrofoam), take your own bag into all stores (no plastic)

Reuse/Repurpose

Take newspapers and tennis balls to Humane Society, get a coffee discount by using own cup, use old clothes as cleaning rags

Recycle

Take dead Batteries to Anita Purvis, Phillips Rec/ Urbana (ends taped), or Interstate Batteries who will even take car batteries (N. Mattis). Take electronics and metals to Mack's Twin City Recycling on N. Lincoln (check for restrictions). CFL light bulbs can be taken to Home Depot, Springfield Elec., or Tepper Elec. Flourescent lightbulbs can be taken to Springfield or Tepper (small fee).

Repurpose

For furniture, household items, kitchen items call Bob Kirby (Relocation Ministry), Empty Tomb, Salt & Light, Salvation Army, Habitat for Humanity Restore, Twice as Nice (Urbana Presbyterian), Connections (Lincoln Square), ECIRMAC (contact church for reference #).

The IDEA Store takes many items that may seem "useless." See ESC Bulletin Board in Westminster Hall.

The Threat From Toxic Dumping Is Not Over

Community Meeting on the Mahomet Aquifer

Saturday, September 19, 2015 10:30 a.m. - 12:30 p.m. Champaign Public Library

200 W. Green St., Champaign

Free parking | Near CU-MTD bus lines | Wheelchair accessible | Light refreshments

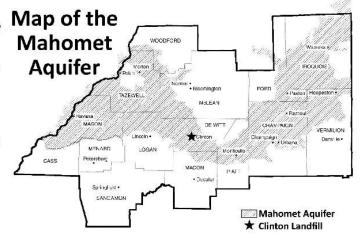
The Mahomet Aquifer is our community's Sole Source of water. Over 750,000 people in 14 counties rely on the Mahomet Aquifer's water for our drinking, cleaning, agricultural, and industrial needs.

Despite recent victories over the past year, the Mahomet Aquifer is still under threat of contamination from toxic waste. The Clinton Landfill, owned by PDC/AREA Disposal, sits directly above the Mahomet Aquifer. Clinton Landfill has created a new kind of dump in order to receive toxic forms of waste. Clinton

Protec

the

Nahomet



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ahomet

the

Landfill says they are willing to give up becoming a repository for toxic Manufactured Gas Plant (MGP) and polychlorinated biphenyl (PCB) wastes, <u>but now they are intent on becoming the landfill for other forms of toxic waste from a multi-state area.</u>

Please attend this Community Meeting to learn more and to get involved!

Cosponsored By: City of Champaign, Champaign County Health Care Consumers, Mahomet Aquifer Protection Alliance, Faith In Place, W.A.T.C.H. Clinton Landfill, Earth Care Team of Urbana First Presbyterian Church, and Green Team of Wesley United Methodist Church.

For more information please contact:

Champaign County Health Care Consumers
44 East Main Street, Suite 208 • Champaign, IL 61820
(217) 352-6533 • cchcc@healthcareconsumers.org
healthcareconsumers.org

Upcoming Events About Race and Justice

By: Bill Stout, Compassion, Peace and Justice Ministry Team Member

Our Compassion, Peace and Justice (CPJ) Ministry Team several months ago chose Race and Justice as an issue to be seriously addressed, with a goal of advocacy and action. At the same time, race and justice became a major emphasis of our quarterly Courageous Conversations that Tracy Dace developed while he was our Mission Coordinator. Clearly, horrific events from Ferguson, Charleston SC (twice), Baltimore, NYPD, and on and on, and, yes, Champaign, add urgency to this. First Pres. has two important race and justice events coming up *very soon:*

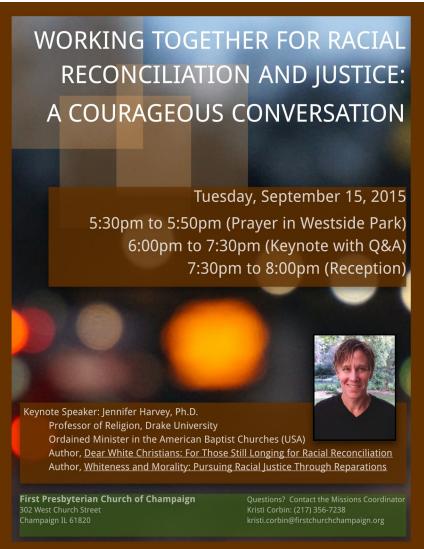
1. Dr. Jennifer Harvey, Professor of Religion, Drake University, is visiting with us on Tuesday September 15 to address "Working Together for Racial Reconciliation and Justice: A Courageous Conversation."

She will facilitate an afternoon workshop in Westminster Hall from 1-3, where she will explore how "whiteness" (as she carefully defines it) hinders genuine efforts at interracial connections and coalitions. Although seating is limited for this, please sign up ASAP at the Welcome Desk if you have a desire to learn more and participate positively in this so very upsetting and important challenge that America faces.

She will lead a series of public events in the evening from 5:30 to 8 (see flyer, right). Her central message is easy to state yet troubling to deal with: start with the belief that you (Dear Reader) and others at 1st Pres. truly believe in racial reconciliation. So let's get to it, right?! Well, no, according to Dr. Harvey! She states: "Reconciliation has failed" [in Christian communities earnestly seeking to implement it]. Why has it failed?: "Reparations" must come first: defined as the "repair of unjust structures" [in American society and governance]. The justification for this strong thesis is simple: the damage done by racial

injustice in the past in America is so pervasive and deep and extends so strongly into the present that true racial justice (including "repair") has to be occurring before true reconciliation can begin to occur. Interestingly, the PC(USA) Reparations Task Force has come to the same conclusion. Jennifer will present this thesis not only in the context of the searing events we have experienced in America lately, but also will draw heavily from events years ago occurring during the Civil Rights Movement.

Come and hear Jennifer Harvey's message to Christians on how we might deal constructively with this issue and be "part of the solution and not part of the problem", as 60s activists used to say.



2. Workshop on Race and Justice for our congregation: Tuesday October 6. About 35 of us in our congregation will participate in a facilitated workshop aimed at effective understanding and reconciliation (including a focus on reparations perhaps!). Please consider coming if you have an interest and a desire to contribute to this difficult and challenging issue. This is our chance as a church to be constructively involved.

"All this emphasis on race and justice at our church is simply to help us learn how to act genuinely and responsibly on race and justice."

C. Follow-up (to the June 2 workshop) Community Workshop on Racial Reconciliation on August 31, 2015 at New Hope Church where "The Danger of a Single Story" was shown, followed by whole session discussion and then breakouts into small group discussions.

Back in the 60s an activist speaking to a UIUC audience cleverly said that when the finger (of justice) is pointed at the University, its response is to study the finger. Well, we Presbyterians also like our studying. So, the real challenge here for us is to use our study positively to become informed on perhaps our most important social issue currently so that we can then move beyond study and advocate and act in a responsible and effective way, consistent with Paul's Galatians message that "we are all one in Christ Jesus" [rather than being separated into various groupings]. All this emphasis on race and justice at our church is simply to help us learn how to act genuinely and responsibly on race and justice. If you yearn to be involved with this, or if you just need to learn more, come to one or both of these upcoming events on September 15 and October 6!

We have facilitated several events that led up to this workshop, including Dr. Harvey's presentations.

A. The March 3, 2015 Courageous Conversation by Dr. Andre Johnson dealt powerfully with "implicit racial bias", defined as our unconscious views on race, which can be in opposition to our conscious progressive views on race and justice, and as such shape our actions in detrimental ways little understood by the general public.

B. The June 2, 2015 Interfaith Interracial Community Workshop on Racial Reconciliation Dialogue at the Champaign Library was held and was organized by Tracy Dace and CPJ. It was attended by several 1st Presbyterians as well as many from the black faith community and from community organizations concerned with race and justice. It was powerfully facilitated in ways that encouraged honest and cooperative dialogue.

DREAAM Summer Pre-K Academy Outcomes Fact Sheet

By: Tracy Dace

Held July 13 – August 7, 2015 from 8:30am – 3:30pm at Garden Hills Elementary School Enrollment:

15 students registered; 3 students did not attend and were dropped from the roster

10 students completed the DREAAM Summer Pre-K Academy (nine are 5 years old and one is 4 years old)

Four students will attend Stratton Elementary School

Three students will attend Booker T. Washington Elementary School

One student will attend Southside Elementary School

One student relocated to Rantoul during the summer and will attend school in Rantoul

Four year old student is expected to enroll in the Tap In Pre-K Academy

3 of the 10 students who completed are Congolese

7 of the 10 students who completed have their father in their lives

Program Activities:

Instruction in reading, math, and social emotional learning

Field trips to Orpheum Children's Museum, Parkland Planetarium, Champaign Fire Department, Prairie Fruits Farm, and Miller Park Zoo

Weekly swimming outings to local water parks

Free breakfast, lunch, and two snacks (provided by Unit #4 Summer Food Program and volunteer donations) Experienced staff and volunteers (many are current or retired teachers)

Program Curricula:

Jan Richardson's Guided Reading Instruction (used by Unit #4)

Math lessons developed by an Urbana kindergarten teacher

Second Step Program for Social Emotional Learning (used by Unit #4)

Assessment Findings:

Preliminary analysis of pre and post assessment data indicates all of the nine DREAAM Learners entering kindergarten increased in reading and math

Reading assessment categories were identifying uppercase and lowercase letters and print concepts (title of book, reading from left to right, etc.)

88% increased their ability to identify uppercase letters

One student identified all 26 letters at pre-assessment and is not factored in the above percentage

100% increased their ability to identify lowercase letters

77% increased their understanding of print concepts

Math assessment categories were identifying shapes, counting, 1:1

correspondence, and reciting and writing numbers

71% increased their ability to count beyond the number 10

One student was able to count to 100 by week 4

Two students were able to count to 29 by week 4

88% increased their ability to recite numbers above 10

33% increased their understanding of 1:1 number correspondence

78% increased their ability to write numbers

No significant improvement in the area of identifying shapes

At pre-assessment, 66% knew four out of six shapes



DREAAM is a pilot project supported in part by First Presbyterian Church of Champaign's Forward 150 Mission Fund. DREAAM targets young African American boys in the Champaign-Urbana area who haven't attended preschool. The program intervenes early, before Kindergarten. DREAAM will continue to work with these children as they age, targeting academic and social/emotional learning.

Opportunity to Support a Mission Project of the Southeastern Illinois Presbytery

The Southeastern Illinois Presbytery Presbyterian Women's Fall Gathering is requesting food items for the Blessings in a Backpack project which provides children in impoverished areas in the Effingham School District with food to take home on the weekends. Food should be non-perishable and in individual containers easy for children to prepare. Suggested items are: individual macaroni and cheese cups, Slim Jims (or generic version), canned ravioli/spaghetti/tuna/chicken/fruit/veggies, flavored oatmeal packets, granola bars, lowfat pudding cups, and real fruit snack packs. Items may be left in Westminster or the church office during the month of September. Items gathered will be taken to the Presbyterian Women Presbyterian Gathering at the Shelbyville Presbyterian Church on Saturday, October 3rd.

All women are invited to attend.

Previous mission projects of Southeastern Illinois Presbytery Presbyterian Women include a collection of purses in condition filled with toiletries which

were given to women who had lost their jobs and were in dire circumstances. Modern Presbyterian Women are living out Christ's call to love their neighbor with these mission projects. They mirror the over 200 years of rich mission tradition of the Presbyterian Women who came before them. Praise be to God!

Moving Time in C-U

By: Bob Kirby, Relocation Ministry

It's moving time in Champaign-Urbana and the relocation team is on the move. There are sofas on the curb...dressers, tables, desks and mattresses too. It's a time of new beginnings and high expectation.

New American families look forward to moves from their host families to their own American home. First, however, they must learn some English, get a job, pay some debt and save some money. It is an exciting day of emancipation when they can sign a lease complete with deposits and rent. However, by then, resources are often exhausted. An empty new home is not as exciting as anticipated-nothing on which to sleep and sit and nothing with which to cook or eat.

The New Americans relocation team helps members and guests of the congregation or families referred by the Refugee Center (ECIRMAC) settle in their first

American homes. We try to receive and store donations to provide a mattress, table and chairs, cookware and tableware. Children Youth and Family Ministries delivers a laundry basket of cleaning supplies and a welcome note, sometimes with a small game and a Bible. The relocation team, using volunteer trucks and trailers, moves donated household furniture and kitchen items to new homes with the family's help. We pray together and we welcome families to their new homes. Recently we have collaborated with New Day Church in Decatur. Through their SHED ministry, used mattresses are provided by universities and hotels across the state, then stored and delivered to those with need.

Want to serve people through this ministry? You are needed and your

gifts will be valued. We are happy to receive charitable donations to the church (memo: New Americans Restricted-Relocation). This helps to pay for our storage

space and to purchase some basics if not available from item donations.

Some additional ideas: Shop garage and estate sales. Tell others about this ministry. Donate an hour or two on a Saturday morning to drive your truck or trailer or help to lift and push. Help repair broken furniture or help clean or launder donated items.

Have a group looking for a service project? How about collecting and assembling home tool kits or hygiene kits for new Americans?

Most important, pray for us and for families moving to their first American home.



L to R Tony, Erwin, Audry, Bob, Denis, Amany, Elysée, Joe, Tresor, Anita, Dave, Guylain. Front is Riley. Not pictured Mike Kirby, photographer.

Up in the Wild Blue Yonder

By: Ann Stout, World Mission

Thanks to your generosity, our church is able to support as First Presbyterian Church of Champaign. two organizations that use airplanes to minister to people in need.

LIFELINE PILOTS was founded in 1981 by our own Wanda Whitsitt. Their mission is to provide free air transportation (using volunteer pilots) for financially distressed passengers with medical and humanitarian needs. LifeLine Pilots began as a small group of pilots in Illinois who used their special skill of flying to help people with emergencies to reach medical centers. In the beginning, they limited themselves to trips in Illinois. Since then, the service area has grown to include free air transportation to those traveling between the Rocky Mountains and the East Coast and to date, over 7500 missions have been flown by LifeLine Pilots' Volunteer Pilots.

The generosity of 550 volunteer pilots makes the mission of LifeLine Pilots a reality. Their decision to donate their time and resources to those with transportation needs has resulted in over 2,000,000 charitable nautical miles flown. The Volunteer Pilots come from all walks of life, and have a willingness to donate 100% of flight expenses. LifeLine Pilots' passengers must have financial need, be able to sit upright, be ambulatory and be willing to fly in a small unpressurized aircraft. These individuals have exhausted resources in their own community and need to travel a great distance to continue lifesaving treatments. LifeLine Pilots does not limit the number of times a passenger can utilize the service. LifeLine Pilots has also participated in relief efforts for natural disasters by transporting volunteers and supplies to areas of need. This not-for-profit organization is privately funded by individuals and organizations such

MISSION AVIATION FELLOWSHIP (MAF) operates a fleet of 52 light aircraft from 15 bases in six countries in Africa, Asia, Eurasia, and Latin America. Their pilots cover seemingly impossible distances in minutes or hours compared to days by foot, road, or river. Each year, they fly over two million nautical miles to speed the work of some 600 Christian and humanitarian organizations. MAF flights support indigenous churches and local evangelists, create access to medical care, provide disaster relief, and make community development projects possible in some of the most remote places on earth. They were very pleased to return to the Democratic Republic of Congo last year after a twelve year absence.

Their technology resources help indigenous church leaders and evangelists living in remote areas who are passionate about reaching others with the good news of Jesus Christ. By creating various digital solutions, they make it easy for isolated Christians to receive theological training and then pass it on — with or without an internet connection.

In addition to aviation and technology, MAF's work involves providing training in the places they serve. They train people in a broad array of areas; from technical instruction to sharing biblical story-telling principles and providing theological education opportunities for national pastors.

The Community Corner

News From Community Agencies

Agency	Agency Description	News
Salt & Light Ministries	Programs aim to allow opportunities for	If you shop at Meijer, now through
1512 West Anthony Drive	those living in poverty to create lasting	September 12, you can purchase a
Champaign IL 61821	change in their own lives and the lives of	\$10 donation card to benefit Salt &
217-355-5654	others around them. Programs are varied	Light. Meijer will match that, and
saltandlightministry.org	and include: Two Trees Thrift Store,	your \$10 will be turned into a \$20
	Financial Literacy program, Gleanings	Meijer (food only) card. Proceeds
	Food Co-op, Jobs for Life program, the	will help stock the food co-op
	Advocacy Program, and a Computer Lab.	shelves at Salt & Light.



CarX Crazy K Race!

Saturday, September 19

Champaign County Fairgrounds

Walk or run to raise money for Community Elements as your charity of choice! 5K walk, run, or obstacle course, and Kid's Race too.

For more info and to register online go to Carxcrazyk.com



THANK YOU!

Name Community Elements as your charity of choice and support vital mental health programs and services: 24-hour Crisis Line and Crisis Response Services, TIMES Center for homeless men, TIMES Center public Community Kitchen, Roundhouse Shelter and Homeless and Runaway Youth Programs, Youth and Family Counseling, and Supportive Residential Programs.



Family Service Senior Transportation Needs Your Support

Can you volunteer to drive at least one ride a month?

Or could you make a gift to help

us reimburse our

volunteers for gas?

Can you help? Call Terry Goode, our Development Director and Volunteer Manager at 217-352-0099.

You can make a donation online at www.famservcc.org

Jesus is the Way Raindrop Project

By: Gene Morgan

The objective at Jesus is the Way Prison Ministry was to remove an old storage room that wasn't worth repairing. It was attached to the main building. The team then rebuilt a replacement room on the same location.

The project started on July 9th and ended on August 26th. It was quite a large project! It took about three days to demolish the old room. We built the outside walls and rafters in another three days. The roof work was contracted out to Bash/Pepper Roofing Company, as we had no one with sufficient knowledge to attach the new roof to an existing old metal roof in need of repairs. After the roof was installed, we finished the siding and installed a new exterior door and soffit.

As the building took shape, our group installed new electrical wiring and insulation in the walls and ceiling. We contracted the hanging and finishing of the drywall interior. We painted all interior walls and the floor of the room.

With God's assistance and the dedicated volunteer church people, listed below, who gave of their time, we were able to complete this project. The dedicated volunteers were: Jim Andrews, Harry Bremer, Jim Berger, Bill Gamble, Steve Gritton, Itch Jones, Byron Kemper, Dave McNattin, Jennette Moline, Gene Morgan, Mark Schoeffman, and Dale Tutje.

The entire project came in under budget. The mission funds were well spent.

Missions Official Business

Mission Team changed the normal meeting time from first Tuesdays at noon to second Tuesdays at noon, beginning in October.



\$5,000 HISTORICALLY

The Annual Garage Sale is a very valuable tool to help our church help others locally.

Generally up to \$5,000 for local missions is raised through the sale.

Annual Garage Sale is Around the Corner! We Need Your Help!

We are partnering with Savoy
Methodist Church on the Annual
Giant Garage Sale, and proceeds
benefit local missions. The sale is at
Savoy Methodist, 3002 W. Old Church
Road, on September 17-19.

There are many ways you can help:

- *Donate gently used items on September 7 from 6:30-
- 8:00 pm at Savoy Methodist Church, or by appointment
- *Help with the drop-offs on Monday, September 7
- *Set up and price items on Wednesday, September 16 and Thursday, September 17
- *Help during the sale
- *Donate individually wrapped baked goods

If you can help, please sign up in Westminster Hall or contact Judy Hendrickson at mjtkh@comcast.net