

September 2019



FIRST PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH OF CHAMPAIGN

An Amazing Day with
John Williams &
The Austin College Activators
Sunday, September 15, 2019

9 AM

WORSHIP

Sermon: Zombies, Halitosis, & America

John 20:19-29

Rev. Dr. John Williams and thoughts about Doubting
Thomas

10:15 – 11:15 AM

SUNDAY SCHOOL/LECTURE

Lessons from Chadswick Mill:

Being Presbyterian in 2019

Featuring Jason Pope & The Contemporary Band,
coffee & donuts, a few hymns followed by a continental
breakfast and conversation

4 – 5:30 PM

STORY TELLING

Not Like Us: The Book of Jonah for Today

An event for congregation, youth, area youth and college
groups, and all comers presented by the Austin College
Activators. Outside groups/churches/ministries and
community invited.

This event kicks off with an ice cream social!

September (Remembering 9/11/01)

BY MATT MATTHEWS

MATT@FIRSTPRES.CHURCH

September comes.
Summer's haze has been lifting.
The hot days give way
to the sighs of the fall.

The skies are clear blue
above ashes still shifting.
Eight stories of rubble
crane crews lifting it all.

Too busy to notice
the season is changing.
Frost in the meadow,
summer is gone.

September comes.
Summer's haze has been lifting.
The season is changing—
summer is gone.

[The terrorist attacks] were designed to undermine our spirit, unhinge our reason, and fog our vision. Whether they will prove to have succeeded or failed is beyond the terrorists to decide. It is entirely up to us.

--- Hendrik Hertzberg and David Remnick
October 1, 2001, *The New Yorker*

Adult Ed Classes Return

BY BETTY HOLLISTER, CHAIR SPIRITUAL FORMATION
B.HOLL@MCHSI.COM

The kids are back in school; now, it is our time. Yes, Sunday Adult Ed returns at our normal 10:15 time slot starting in September with more Faith in the Real World speakers.

Your team also has Sunday morning offerings planned for you with November pre-Advent activities, a Bible Study focusing on Luke taught by **Pastor Matt**, and an Advent study led by **Judi Geistlinger** in December.

We are so excited to announce a study based on Barclay's commentaries on the Ten Commandments, which will be held on four consecutive Wednesdays from 3-4 PM beginning October 16 led by **Cliff Dykstra**.

So, stay tuned. Check your bulletin for details and get on board. We'd love to see you at one of the sessions or hear from you with suggestions for something you'd like to study.

September is here and **Choir** reconvenes NOW! This is an open invitation to you who have sung before to rejoin or to come sing with us for the first time. There were lots of strong voices at the summer hymn sings, so come join us on Wednesdays at 7 PM for rehearsal and let's *Make a Joyful Noise!*

Favorite Hymns

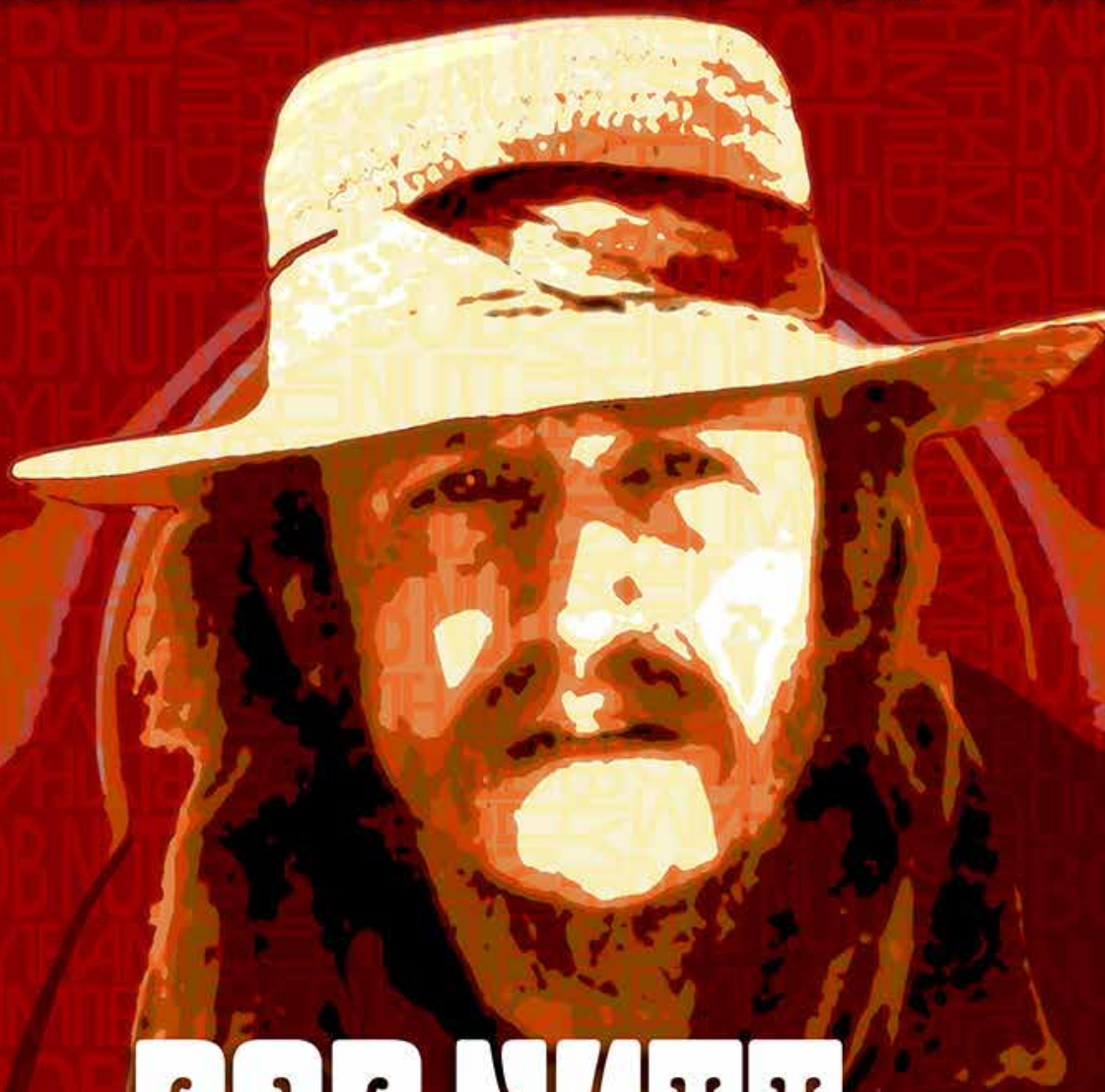
Matt has been collecting hymns this summer. Here are some of your favorites...

*Amazing Grace**
A Mighty Fortress Is Our God
A Mighty Fortress Is Our God (but w/lyrics by Martin Luther only)
Beautiful Savior
Be Still My Soul
*Be Thou My Vision**
Blessed Assurance
Blessed Be the Tie That Binds
Christ the Lord is Risen Today!
Come Thou Fount
Crown Him Lord of All
Crown Him With Many Crowns
*God of Our Fathers**
Good Christian Men, Rejoice
Fairest Lord Jesus
For the Beauty of the Earth
For All the Saints
He Leadeth Me
He Lives
*Here I Am**
His Way, Mine (1955, BO Baker and Richard D. Baker)
Holy, Holy, Holy! Lord God Almighty!
I Come to the Garden
I Love to Tell the Story
I Sing a Song of the Saints of God
It is Well With My Soul
Jesu, Jesu
Just a Closer Walk With Thee
Just As I Am
Let All Things Living Praise the Lord
Morning Has Broken
*Oh For a Thousand Tongues**
Oh How I Love Jesus
*Onward Christian Soldiers**
O (Our) God, Our Help in Ages Past
Praise the Lord, the Almighty, the King of Creation
Simple Gifts
Somos El Cuerpo de Cristo
This Is My Father's World
To God Be the Glory
Turn Your Eyes upon Jesus
We've a Story to Tell to the Nations
*What a Friend We Have in Jesus**
When In Our Music God Is Glorified
When Morning Guilds the Skies

(& lots of Christmas stuff)

*listed more than once

SATURDAY :: SEPTEMBER 28 :: 2019 :: 7-11 P.M.



**BOB NUTT AND
BLYTHAM LTD.**

**A TRIBUTE CONCERT AT THE VIRGINIA THEATRE
FEATURING BANDS AND MUSICIANS WHO WORKED WITH UNCLE BOB**

Congregational Life

Face to Face



Sean, Debra and Miriam Miller

Why can't I wear my robe? The pastor wears his every week?

What brought you to First Presbyterian Church?

We had been church shopping when Linda and Don McKay suggested we try this church. We liked the diversity. Debra loves the ESL program where she volunteers. Debra's dad was a pastor of a nondenominational church and Sean grew up Mennonite. So we have had some fun getting used to infant baptisms and robes. Miriam thought it would be fine for her to wear her bathrobe to church since the pastor does. But we are now members and we are happy in this congregation.

What has been the highlight of your church experience?

We have all enjoyed making new friends. Miriam has particularly enjoyed making new friends who are also from Africa!

Tell me about your family.

We adopted Miriam from Ethiopia when she was 8 months old. She loves sports, animals, eating tacos, science, and summer. As a family, we love to travel, try different foods, and read books together. And we enjoy playing and watching sports. For

work, Sean is the Senior Ethanol Trader at ADM. Debra teaches English and history at Campus Middle School for Girls.

What are your favorite Bible characters?

For Sean, it's Moses. He was a strong leader for his people. Debra likes Esther, and Miriam likes? Who do you think? Miriam likes Miriam.

How can the church best be the church?

Serve the community. That's what we do here, helping our neighbor in need.

Debra was elected this year to the Session where she serves as liaison for mission.

Men's Ministries

No appointment needed. No preparation necessary. You are welcome.

Presbyterian Men pray together Fridays at 8:30 AM in the chapel. Men's Breakfast bible study meets Tuesdays at 7-8 AM in Centennial Hall. We make a hot breakfast and study the bible using a study guide. A second Men's Bible Study meets Thursdays at 7:30 AM in Mae Chapin Parlor.

Easy English Fellowship

Worship God, make new friends and learn English - or help others learn English. We meet Sundays at 10:00 AM in room 204 and you are welcome.

Employee Highlights

BY ANN STOUT, CO-CHAIR HUMAN RESOURCES
MRSAS2003@GMAIL.COM

Lizz Pippin, the associate director of Children, Youth, and Families, has served in this position for one year. She primarily works with the middle school and high school youth and their families, focusing on their spiritual formation and group activities. Lizz says that she is very grateful for the "amazing volunteers" who help to make this ministry a success and for the "amazing young people" with whom she works.

When she is not working on her church duties, she is working on completing graduate school, reading, and doing yoga. She also loves to travel and she has traveled to Cuba and to Pakistan to visit and support our partners in those countries.

Some of her favorite things include: ice cream, 80s and 90s "Rom-Com" movies, Bluegrass and modern Folk music, and her Calico cat (Stella) who she describes as "a nutcase". An interesting piece of trivia about Lizz: she played trumpet for about ten years and might like to take it up again sometime.

Lizz is a wonderful presence in the church and a wonderful addition to our staff. When you see her around, be sure to give her a high five in appreciation for her important contributions to our ministry.

September Is Welcoming Week

Welcoming Week, coordinated by University YMCA is a time to welcome newcomers to our community. There will be a Welcoming Week Kick-Off on Friday, September 13 from 4 to 7 PM in the Orpheum Theater parking area downtown.

A sample of free opportunities are listed below. You can see the full schedule at <https://universityymca.org/welcome/ww19/>.

Tales from Eastern Europe is Wednesday, September 18 from 9:45 to 10:30 AM at the Champaign Public Library. Immigrant/Refugee Art Exhibit on Thursday, September 19 from 9 AM - 5 PM at EnterpriseWorks, 60 Hazelwood, Champaign and on the same day attend an International Potluck at Hessel Park Pavilion from 3-8 PM. One World International Music and Food Festival is Saturday, September 21 from 3-6 PM at The Channing Murray Foundation. Hessel Park Christian Reformed Church will host All Nations Heritage Sunday on September 22 from 10:30 AM to 1 PM and a Chamber Music Concert is scheduled for Saturday, September 28 from 2- 3:30 PM at the Krannert Art Museum. Finally take the family to The Museum of the Grand Prairie for ice cream making on Monday, September 30 from 1-3 PM.

Guns In Society

WESLEY ANNUAL SEMINAR

Americans are 25 times more likely to die from guns than people living in similar western countries. Guns account for 51% of suicides. Over 4.6 million American children live in homes with loaded and unlocked guns. Gun deaths continue to increase.

A panel of experts will lead discussion of our gun violence epidemic. Included are Andrew Leipold, Professor of Law on "How Much Does the Second Amendment

Matter?"; Tracy Parsons, Community Relations Manager on "Addressing Our Community Gun Violence Issues Together"; Ruby Mendenhall, Associate Professor of law on "Parenting in the Midst of Violence and Fear". They join other distinguished leaders from the medical and scientific community as well as gun violence victims to address the issue.

Let's come together Sunday, September 22 from 2-4:30 PM at Wesley Foundation at 1203 W. Green St., Urbana.

Presbyterian Legends

ELIJAH LOVEJOY 1802-1837

David used a sling shot. Rahab changed history with a crimson rope. For Elijah Parish Lovejoy it was a printing press.

Lovejoy was a Presbyterian Pastor. He was murdered at the age of 35 in Alton, IL. Educated at Princeton Seminary, he was a husband, a father of two and the publisher of the Alton Observer. The Observer was a religious newspaper which preached the Bible and the abolition of slavery.

His printing presses were repeatedly destroyed but Lovejoy refused to be silenced. He believed free speech to be a constitutional right. Ultimately he and his followers were attacked by an angry, armed, drunken mob. Lovejoy was shot five times. The shooters were acquitted of the crime.

A national outrage ensued martyring Lovejoy and bolstering national sentiments for abolition.

Abraham Lincoln was a representative in the Illinois general assembly at the time of Lovejoy's death. Some believe that Elijah Lovejoy's life influenced Lincoln's thinking on announcing the Emancipation Proclamation. Paul Simon, Illinois journalist, politician and author writes that "Lovejoy's fight was a struggle to make his faith something more than a repetition

of words.... well placed bricks and stained glass windows and comforting sermons meant not to disturb."

Simon ends his biography citing examples of people who have taken unpopular positions to promote the common good. His last words are these: "There is no scarcity of people who are oppressed. There is only a scarcity of men and women with eyes clear enough to see and hearts big enough to act."

Freedom's Champion- Elijah Lovejoy, Paul Simon, Southern Illinois University Press, 1994

Tales and Trails of Illinois, Stu Fliege, University of Illinois Press, 2002.

Children, Youth & Family

Children, Youth & Family Update

BY MINDY WATTS-ELLIS, DIRECTOR OF CYF
mindy@firstpres.church

Sunday School starts September 8. Children, Youth, and Family Ministries needs your HELP!!! Our academic year is about to start, and with it begins our Sunday School and youth programs. We have many children eager to return to learn God's word while participating in fun activities, but we can't have programs without adult volunteer leaders. We need teachers, helpers, door greeters, and youth group leaders. Please contact **Mindy Watts-Ellis** at mindy@firstpres.church if you are interested in being part of our ministry team to these vibrant young people.

Our preschool and Kindergarten classes will be learning that God made plants and animals and we are to care for them. The elementary classes will be learning about Abraham and Sarah. The Middle School will be learning how we got the Bible. The Confirmation Class will begin, and the High School Class will be learning what Canon means and how it pertains to the Bible.

The Austin Activators are coming September 15! They will be doing a special presentation for our Sunday School learners.

Youth Group

LIZZ PIPPIN, ASSOCIATE DIRECTOR
LIZZ@FIRSTPRES.CHURCH

August was a quiet month for us. We ended the summer the way we began it, with an opportunity for service. A small number of us helped First Presbyterian Church in Urbana's Twice is Nice Thrift Shop in setting up for the annual garage sale and then joined some other friends from our church at Taste of C-U to enjoy some good food and be present at our booth and meet our

neighbors from around the city. We had a small turnout but had a good time.

Our youth are starting back to school. Please join me in sending prayers and blessings for them, their peers, and the faculty and staff at their schools for the year ahead.

Here in September, Sunday School and Youth Group will be starting up again on September 8. We will be holding Confirmation again this year for students in 8th and 9th grade. If you have a child in one of these grades let us know if they plan on being a part of the class.

This year for youth group we will be having times for both middle school and high school. Middle School youth group will meet on the first and third Sundays of the month while the High School youth group will meet on the second and fourth Sundays. For those rare months when there is a fifth Sunday we will be hosting a combined youth event.

We are in need of two adults to help me lead Sunday night youth group. We also need people to help in transporting students to and from youth group and help provide dinners.

If any of these support your talents or something that appeals to you let **Lizz Pippin** know by emailing lizz@firstpres.church or contacting the church office!

Transportation Team Needs Drivers!

September brings the beginning of Sunday School which means that we have a number of children and adults who would like a ride to church. We bring riders for the 9 AM service and almost all stay for Sunday School which ends at 11:05.

Each week during the school year, our transportation team brings 25 persons or more to church and Sunday School. Our church van will carry 14 passengers so you can see there is a need for more help. For the past few years a number of volunteers have given rides to church in their own cars.

We have riders from the eastern edge of Urbana to the far west of Champaign. The way things work is that a person or family picks up a rider or two or three on their way to church. After Sunday School they give a ride home. Some drive only one way but that is a big help.

This is a wonderful service and we could use more helpers to drive children and/or adults to church. If you would like to know more or are ready to volunteer please contact **John Muirhead** or **Mindy Watts-Ellis**. We will be happy to talk with you!



Jeremiah 29:7 says, "Seek the peace and prosperity of the city to which I have carried you into exile. Pray for it, because if it prospers, you too will prosper."

Ask God to show you how you and your church can seek the welfare of the community in which you live, and how to pray more precisely for your nation, its leaders, its spiritual life and your personal concerns.

Su Voz

Su Voz means "His Voice". It is a short daily devotion written by the people of the Presbyterian Reformed Church in Cuba. To receive an English translation by email contact the church office.

Cathedrals, Castles & Colonies

FEATURING THE EIU CHORAL ENSEMBLES AND EARLY MUSIC ENSEMBLES

RICHARD ROBERT ROSSI & JULIANE SHARP, CONDUCTORS

From the Gothic cathedrals and the majestic castles of Europe to the shores of the Americas, the EIU Choral Ensembles and Collegium Musicum will perform a wide variety of works by English, French, German, Italian and American composers.

Church Musician **Richard R. Rossi** will co-conduct this presentation on Sunday, October 6, 2019 at 4 PM at the Doudna Fine Arts Center at Eastern University in Charleston, IL.

For tickets and information visit the Doudna Fine Arts Center Box office: M-F at 217.581.3110, dounatix@eiu.edu or check out their website at <http://www.eiu.edu/doudna/>

Jays & Concerns

We rejoice with...

- **Carole Ann and David Hunter** who celebrated their 69th wedding anniversary on September 2.
- **Gwen and John Pollard** who celebrated their 64th wedding anniversary on September 3.

We express our sympathy to the family and friends of...

- **Sue Manley** who died August 28, 2019. A Memorial Service will be held September 21, 2019, in Champaign.
- **Dave Penicook** who died August 31, 2019. Memorial Service at the church on Wednesday, September 18, at 1 PM.
- the **Vernon Snoeyink** family on the death of Vern's brother, Ben in August.

Mission Updates

Mission News

BY RACHEL MATTHEWS,

TEMPORARY MISSION COORDINATOR

RACHEL@FIRSTPRES.CHURCH

Notes from our mission agencies for
Newsletter – Mission – September:

Canaan Safe House and Jesus Is the Way: Thank You for your support of these two mission agencies who had their fundraisers in August!!! First Presbyterian Church members were seen enjoying the Safe House Jazz Concert at Hessel Park Sunday. It was a large family friendly crowd that enjoyed food, fellowship and music. And, First Presbyterian Church sponsored a banquet table at Jesus is the Way. Both of these agencies support substance abuse recovery in our community. We are grateful for their work!

Courage Connection...Carol Arnould and **Rachel Matthews** visited Courage Connection recently and met **Osajuli Cravens**, Outreach and Volunteer Specialist.

Here are Carol's notes:

The Courage Connection uses some volunteers, who must all go through their training and security checks. Confidentiality is of high importance. The volunteers help the clients get involved in jobs, counsel clients, teach how to fill out job applications and use computers. These are just a few of the skill needs. Volunteers also can answer calls, supervise children and tutor for school work. The clients have many needs when they arrive or leave such as toiletries, over the counter medicines for adults and children. These are only a few.

Immediate needs at the Courage Connection are:

- Underwear (male and female adults

- and children)
- Socks for all ages
- Towels,
- Wash cloths
- Twin sheets and pillow cases
- Gift cards
- Baby Wipes and disposable diapers

An easy way to buy these would be to go to courageconnection.org/wish-list to have any of these items delivered directly to their office.

Courage Connection provides a temporary home for the abused women and children and a few men and boys for shelter. The clients receive help to get involved in the community by getting jobs and developing other capabilities. They are free to come and go. They are responsible for their own meals. Courage Connection is in a time of transition and working on a brochure to explain what they are doing. Rachel and I highly recommend our church to give continuous support. This is a very definite need in our community.

Crisis Nursery...Golfers might want to note that Crisis Nursery is having a fundraiser. September 27, Stone Creek Golf Course will host the 5th Annual Zach McNabney Memorial Golf Outing benefiting Crisis Nursery. For more information contact **Barbara Clark**, our Community Mission Deacon for Crisis Nursery.

Faith in Action has enlisted First Presbyterian Church volunteers this summer who have worked about 48 hours over 6 days to help two families in need of yard work and household cleaning and repairs. We are grateful for your service!

Opportunity International is hosting a benefit for families living in extreme poverty, October 4, 6-9:30 PM at the Adler Planetarium in Chicago. Opportunity

International is one of the World Mission agencies that FPCC supports.

"This extraordinary evening at the Adler Planetarium will change your perspective on the progress we have made against extreme poverty, the challenge ahead, and the solutions available to help people living in poverty earn a living, provide for their families, educate their children, and escape poverty forever."

"Keynote speaker and New York Times bestselling author Steven Levitt will join Opportunity's Chief Executive Officer Atul Tandon to discuss high stakes of battling extreme poverty and the power we have to change the world."

If you are interested in attending, there are a group of First Presbyterian Church members who are planning to go. Please contact Rachel Matthews, Mission Coordinator for more information or go to getinfo@opportunity.org

Restoration Urban Ministry is looking for volunteers. **Barbara Fuller-Curry**, **Rachel Matthews** and **Matt Matthews** recently took a tour of this mission agency and its facilities. If you would like to volunteer, please let **Barbara Fuller-Curry**, the community mission deacon for R.U.M., or **Rachel Matthews**, our mission coordinator, know and they will be glad to connect you. They have periodic volunteer trainings and are currently asking for two volunteers from FPCC.

R.U.M. has been "giving hope to the hopeless in Champaign County, Illinois for nearly 25 years," says their Facebook page.

"Since 1993, Restoration's programs – a hotel-turned-residence, a food and clothing pantry, counseling and classes,

and ministry – have been turning countless lives around, putting single parents, families, and couples back on track and embracing Jesus.”

“Restoration welcomes individuals of all backgrounds and stations in life. Once in the program, Restoration provides temporary support to residents while providing them with educational, spiritual, and emotional opportunities for growth. Our work is helping to lead people to independent and self-sufficient lives through the love of Jesus Christ.”

Salt and Light... You may have read in the paper or seen on the WCIA Morning Show that Salt and Light is trying to raise \$450,000 before the end of the year. We have the full press release on our mission kiosk in Westminster Hall. FPCC is in active conversation with Salt and Light through your community mission deacons. **Linda Tauber-Olson, Mike Havey and Rachel Matthews** have visited with **Nathan Montgomery** and **Lisa Sheltra** to see how First Presbyterian Church can help. Many of our local mission agencies as well as First Presbyterian Church Champaign utilize Salt and Light for job skill training as well as groceries. Anybody can shop at Salt and Light to raise credits for people who need assistance. We have included the August 13 press release for those who might not have read it. You can also see Nathan's interview at <https://www.wcia.com/the-morning-show/salt-and-light-funds/>

Press Release...

Salt and Light needs help from the community to raise at least \$450k by the end of the year. In November 2017, when we launched our Urbana location, we were seizing a tremendous opportunity to bring our unique programming to an area of our community desperately in need of it. After spending time evaluating the potential of such an expansion, then developing a plan

for moving forward, we took this leap. Since the launch of our Urbana location our impact has grown significantly:

The number of households participating in our programming has grown from just under 200 households per month to over 350.

Since January 2018, our participants have earned and spent almost \$420,000 in store credit on groceries, clothing, and household items.

We have been able to enter into more than 20 new community partnerships, providing GED classes, children's story times and music lessons, voter registration, mobile medical services, and much more. Our ability to undertake this kind of expansion rested on the belief we would be able to offset the expenses of the project with contributions as part of a capital campaign, and that revenue from the community shopping in our grocery and thrift stores would offset the increase in operating costs. Though we have seen an increase in support from the community, neither of these has happened to the degree we needed them to.

Over the past year and a half, we have cut every non-operationally critical expense to bridge the gap between our hoped-for and our actual contributions and retail revenues. Currently, 80% of our budget is met through people shopping in our stores and revenue from recycling unusable items, with another 16% met by donations from individuals, churches, and businesses. Clearly, we have realized levels of self-sustainability unheard of for nonprofits, but still have another 4% we need to make up through

increased sales and ongoing giving.

Even though we now find ourselves in a much more sustainable position, the unresolved shortfalls of the past year and a half have made our current financial situation unsustainable, and have forced us into a fight just to keep our doors open. To ensure we can continue working with those who are vulnerable and in poverty in our community we need to raise at least \$450K by the end of the year.

Individuals can donate in one of three easy ways:

Online at saltandlightministry.org

Texting your amount to 217.600.2232

Drop off or mail a check to: Salt and Light
1819 S Philo Road Urbana, IL 61802

ESL Program Update

BY JEANETTE PYNE, ESL COORDINATOR

JEANETTE@FIRSTPRES.CHURCH

Start of the Fall Semester

We began ESL classes for the fall semester on August 19th. Many of our veteran students returned from traveling or taking care of their children in the summer. Additionally, six new students have registered for classes for this semester. We hope to continue to grow our ESL Program throughout the semester by adding another



NOTE: A couple of our ESL students have asked to not have their picture distributed, that is why we have obscured their faces.

course. In the above class picture we have our Tuesday tutors: **Lois Wilken, Vern Snoeyink, Mike Havey, Kim File, Donna Read, and Mary Ellen Dörner.** Typically, we have about 30 students who come every day. In this picture we have students from South Korea, China, Mexico, Brazil, Albania, Kyrgyzstan, Democratic Republic of Congo, Colombia, Iran, Spain, and Belarus.

Interested in Tutoring?

Volunteer tutors are the backbone of the First Pres ESL Program. Without them, we would not be able to serve the many students who attend our classes every week. We are always looking for more open-minded and servant-hearted volunteer tutors. If you are interested in learning more about how to volunteer tutor and positively impact a student's life, contact **Jeanette Pyne**, the ESL Coordinator, jeanette@firstpres.church.

Saturday September 28. Senior High "Youth Club" Alumni (1965-1985) are having a reunion! We're meeting for dinner at 4 PM in The Café (the old 2nd floor Youth Lounge), then walking over to the Bob Nutt Memorial Concert at The Virginia Theatre. This concert is being underwritten by First Pres. Learn more about the concert at [Facebook/bobnuttconcert](https://www.facebook.com/bobnuttconcert). Tickets for the concert must be purchased through the Virginia Theatre box office (\$15 and \$25). **Carol Arnould** is the registrar for the Youth Club event (caarnould@yahoo.com). Please notify her if you plan to attend and/or want learn more about the reunion. When you respond provide her with your email. Please spread the word and reserve your place at this event.

The "Story Garden's" Story

BY CLEMMIE ACKERMANN
COLETTA.ACKERMANN@GMAIL.COM

In partnership with Faith in Place and the Park Districts of Urbana and Champaign, First Church and the Green Team, joined nine other churches in the community to develop Story Gardens. Each garden was to have common elements such as four "anchor" plants and a sign with "Our Story Garden." The gardens would provide a common thread throughout the C/U faith community. In addition, each Story Garden will contain unique plants and elements that told their own church's story. Planning, creating, and maintaining the garden was the goal for 2016.

The participating churches all had plants that created the common thread that included:

- * Swamp Milkweed
- * Butterfly Milkweed
- * Purple Coneflowers
- * A native Illinois grass such as Prairie Dropseed, Little Bluestem or Switch grass

Each garden was to have a sign designating it a "Story Garden" and all signs would be designed to look alike. At the same time, the gardens would have elements that told the congregation's personal and unique story.

First Presbyterian Church chose ancient



plants referred to in the Bible and found around the world to represent our multicultural congregation, the age of our church and our global mission. Placed in

three different pots, the plants include lavender, mint and dill weed and are attractive to pollinators.

To represent the diversity of our congregation, mixed Zinnias planted from seed were used as a backdrop. Finally, a bird bath was added to provide water for insects and birds, God's smallest creatures.

Our current Story Garden includes the three "ancient" plants in the pots (lavender, mint and dill), butterfly milkweed, purple cone flowers and prairie dropseed grasses. The Story Garden sign is mounted on a cross, reflecting our Christian faith and the three pots represent the Trinity, the foundation of our church.

Missing from our Story Garden this year are the zinnias and swamp milkweed. (The



butterfly milkweed didn't come back this year.) Because rabbits feast on the young zinnia plants, we didn't include them in this bed, but they are in our Pollinator Pocket on the south side of the church building.

Please, take a walk around the summer/fall gardens and pray that the environment has received a benefit from our small piece of God's earth.

A Walk in the Park

BY GINNY WAALER (AUGUST 30, 2019)

A walk in the park is a wonderful way to talk with God. As we enjoy nature, we

think about the creative plants and birds and animals that God has created since the beginning of time. Every one is unique with beauty. As I sit in the park and enjoy these plants and trees and birds, I am reminded of the common life we share as humans. A plant grows from a seed and is nourished by sun and rain and soil. As it grows, it may suffer some unhappy experiences, like a furious rain storm that knocks it over. But, it usually recovers with some sunshine. Humans have similar experiences...someone has unhappy experiences and sunshine in the form of family and friends helps heal. Sometimes, we need to have a drought to appreciate life.

As I contemplate the similarities of people and nature, and look around in the park, I look at the nests, where there is care for the young ones. I see a broken branch, but eventually, new growth will occur. I see many varieties of grasses, flowers, birds, and then observe the variety of humans who are walking on the pathways.

In my favorite park, there are many wonderful people-made sculptures. However, the art in the park, created by God, is by far, the most prolific and beautiful!

Adopt-a-Highway

On Saturday, September 28, at 8 AM, members of the Green Team will gather to once again clean up one mile of State Street. The team will collect trash and recyclables that have accumulated along the roadway since the June clean-up. If there are enough volunteers, the church grounds will also be spruced up.

The Green Team does this Adopt-a-Highway project three times a year and everyone is invited to join in. You must be 18 years old to help and sign a waiver that will be available that morning. (Children younger than 18 can participate with an adult, but will need to work on the church grounds or in Westside Park.)

For more information, please contact **Liz Miley** at 217-979-6195 or ebmiley@aol.com.

Finance

Financial Update

BY MARK SCHOEFFMANN, CHAIR FINANCE

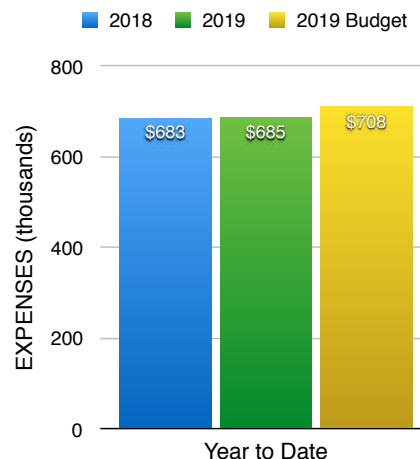
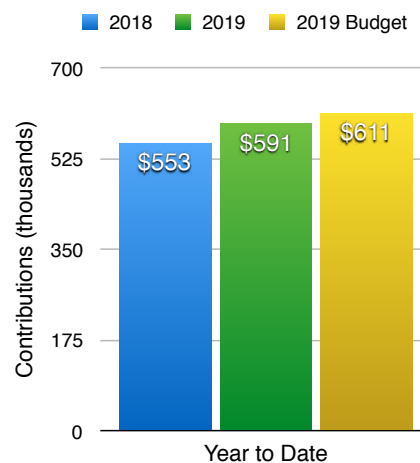
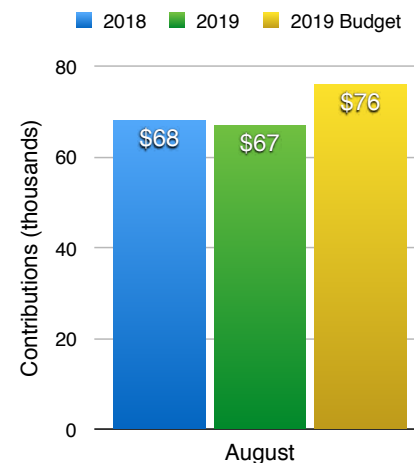
MSCHOEFFMANN@MCHSI.COM

Contributions

Contributions in August were \$1K less than in 2018 and \$9K below the budget at \$67K. The Year to Date total is above last year by \$38K but below the budgeted amount by \$20K. These figures include prepaid pledges (those paid in the year prior to the budget year) that are prorated over the year with 1/12 added to each month's contributions. Including all revenue sources, at 66.7% through the year, we have received 66.8% of the expected 2019 revenue.

Expenses

Year to Date expenses are \$23K below the budget at \$685K but \$2K above 2018. Considering all sources, revenue exceeds expenses by \$3K which is \$14K better than at the end of August in 2018. This figure includes \$32K less in prepaid pledges than in 2018. At 66.7% through the year we have experienced 64.6% of the expected 2019 expenses.



DREAAM Shares Their Enthusiasm at the Big Tent Workshop This Summer



DREAAM participants, parents and staff traveled from Champaign, Ill. to participate in Big Tent on August 2, 2019. Photo by Angela Stevens.

Fifty-two young people, staff and parents from Champaign, IL, traveled to Baltimore to be a part of the Big Tent workshop *Loving our Neighbors: Reviving our Witness to Young People by Supporting our Public Schools*.

The individuals were there to represent the organization Driven to Reach Excellence & Academic Achievement for Males (DREAAM). DREAAM is a partner of the Presbyterian Church (U.S.A.)'s Educate a Child Initiative launched at the 2016 General Assembly.

The session began with a presentation from the DREAAM students. Children gathered into their "huddle" to perform a highly energized good morning chant followed by their welcome chant and their tribe chant. The chants are daily rituals practiced by the student participants to build positive affirmations and collective responsibility and to get them excited about their day.

The students also recite five exhortations each day. They say dreamers are: respectful, leaders, work hard, use appropriate words and are positive brothers. Additionally, they say a prayer to remember the

children separated from their parents at the border.

Tracy Dace, founder and executive director of DREAAM, is a member of First Presbyterian Church of Champaign. He has worked in nonprofit organizations and served as an adjunct professor at Parkland Community College.

"God gave me a vision to address the plight of African American boys," said Dace. "First Presbyterian heard my vision in 2015 and decided to support the vision." Dace says the church has stood beside him and the program since the beginning.

"Churches have opened their doors and given us space to meet. First Pres has allowed us to use their van and supplied volunteers. But what is really exciting is to see the relationships established between the kids and the volunteers," he said.

The DREAAM program adopts an early intervention model. They began working with children at age five and they remain in the program until age 24. "We use evidence-based practices from research to build the program components, but we also include the culture aspect related to

our children," he said. Dace says they also consider how trauma may play a role in the students' lives.

DREAAM works to deter the school-to-prison pipeline. "We work to create a school to college pipeline," said Dace. The program is a year-round program that meets with participants at least five times a week.

Why black boys? Statistics say:
— Slightly under half of black male high school students graduate on time.
— Black men make up 4.3% of those enrolled in colleges and universities.

There are five key components to the DREAAM program. They include:
— Jumpstart to school. The program has a primary focus on kindergarten readiness and helps prevent summer learning loss. The program also helps develop soft skills like conflict resolution and communications.

— Dream Big! is the youth development part of the program.
— Youth Excel is for students 16-24.
— Motivating more males is all about mentoring the students.

— Parent Learning Community provides parent strengthening.

At the conclusion of the workshop Dace provided concrete ways Presbyterian churches can support the efforts to get involved with educating and improving the education attainment for all children. Dace's recommendations include such activities as:

— Direct service: Fill backpack with school supplies at the beginning of the year and provide extras for new students who move in during the school year.

— Consciousness-raising: Attend school board meetings to learn more about policies with the school system.

— Systemic change: Write letters to the editor presenting informed and rational arguments for affordable, accessible and quality public education.

— Christian practices: At least quarterly, incorporate children into your congregation's worship in ways other than the children's sermon.

Nurture Fellowship, Hospitality, Membership

BY GARY PETERSON, CHAIR
AMER_SWEDE@YAHOO.COM

Fellowship...August 11th was Sholem Fest at Centennial Park and Sholem Aquatic Center. Our committee provided fried chicken and hot dogs. Those that attended brought great side dishes and delicious desserts. We estimated that around 120 people attended and around half of those went swimming or watched. It was enjoyed by all. Thanks to everyone who came and helped in many ways.



On September 15, we will be helping with the John Williams and Austin College Activators presence at our church with a brunch and an afternoon ice cream social. Mark your calendars and plan to attend.

We are entering our final quarter of dinners for 7, 8 or 9. If you were assigned as host, please schedule your dinner during Sept., Oct. or Nov.

Hospitality...On August 16 and 17 we set up a booth at the Taste of C-U. Our theme this year was, *Reaching Out-Across the Street-Across the Ocean*. Our booth highlighted the many missions that our church is involved with.

Thanks to all that volunteered for a two hour stint at the booth. Other than the rain that delayed our start on Saturday morning, we thought our presence was

a worthwhile "Outreach" to the community. Several have suggested ideas for next year to make it even better.

Membership...We are excited to welcome **Jose Bilendo Pukuta, Emilie Judika Panzu and Ginette Mukoko Dikombo** as new members to the congregation. Please greet and welcome them when you see them at church or elsewhere.

Did You Know...

In 2013, the Champaign County Health District and local hospitals formed an executive committee to independently conduct Community Health Assessments and a Community Health Improvement Plan?

Their vision is Champaign County will be the healthiest, safest and most environmentally sustainable community to live, work and visit in the state of Illinois?

Their priorities are behavioral health, reducing obesity and promoting healthy lifestyles, and reducing violence?

Champaign County in 2017 had 174 primary care physicians, 120 dentists, and 444 mental health providers?

To access a complete copy of the Champaign County Health Improvement Plan, visit www.c-uphd.org





**FIRST PRESBYTERIAN
CHURCH OF CHAMPAIGN**

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Sunday:

- 9 AM Traditional Service
- 10:15 AM Sunday School and Adult Education
- 11:15 AM Contemporary Service

Saturday:

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

Pastors:

Matt Matthews Senior Pastor/Head of Staff, Ext 213
Eric Corbin Associate Pastor, Ext. 214

Staff:

George Almasi Facility Assistant
Ritchie Drennen Facility Manager, Ext. 237
Patty Farthing Receptionist, Ext. 211
Robert Ferrer Audio-visual Technician
Marcia Franks Administrative Assistant, Ext. 210
Joe Grant Director of Music
Rachel Matthews Temporary Missions Coordinator, Ext. 219
Blaise Pascal CYF Connections Assistant, Ext. 216
Ann Petry Accounting, Ext. 224
Lizz Pippin CYF Associate Director, Ext. 216
Jeanette Pyne ESL Coordinator, Ext. 235
Richard Rossi Church Musician
Mindy Watts-Ellis .. Director Children, Youth & Family, Ext. 212

All staff email addresses are the person's first name followed by
@firstpres.church. For example, eric@firstpres.church.

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Send submissions to marcia@firstpres.church.**