



FIRST PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH OF CHAMPAIGN

The Heart of Missions: Second Edition: April 2015

Notes from Kristi

Kristi Corbin, Missions Coordinator

I hope you enjoy this second edition of the Heart of Missions! This month, there is an added Missions-only calendar as the last page of this publication. It is in an easily printable format if you want to print that page only and keep it for easy access. Blessings! Kristi



ECIRMAC

By Kathy Schoeffmann, Community Mission Deacon

*I was hungry and you gave me food, I was thirsty and you gave me something to drink,
I was a stranger and you welcomed me. Matthew 25:35*

Imagine you are a young family fleeing your war-torn country. You arrive in Champaign/Urbana speaking little or no English and without a place to stay. You don't have any food, very little clothing for yourself or your children and you don't know where to turn. You hear about a wonderful organization commonly known as "The Refugee Center" (*East Central Illinois Refugee Mutual Assistance Center or ECIRMAC*). You've been told that they will have someone who speaks your language and will help you get settled. They will help you find a home, translate for you when you speak with landlords, doctors, teachers, and job placement services. They will advise you about the importance of learning English and where classes are available for free. You realize how helpful the staff at the Refugee Center is as you adjust to the American culture.

ECIRMAC provides all of these services and many more for over 2,000 refugees and immigrants each year, with a very limited staff and even more limited budget. In addition to helping newly arrived clients, the staff provides ongoing assistance in many ways, including completing a myriad of forms such as tax returns and citizenship applications. They are supported by small federal, state and local grants, but also rely heavily on generous gifts from individual supporters and their annual fundraiser.

The ECIRMAC Eighth Annual Fundraising Banquet will be held on Saturday evening, **May 2, 2015**, at the Round Barn Banquet Centre (1900 Round Barn Road, Champaign). The evening's activities begin **at 6:00 PM** and include a silent auction, entertainment and a **7:00** buffet dinner.

Tickets are available from John Muirhead or Mark/Kathy Schoeffmann at \$65 each or a table of 8 for \$500.

As ECIRMAC is a 501(c) organization, your donation, less the value of the meal, is tax deductible.

CAMP CAREW

Where Youth and Adults Feel Surrounded by God: By Steve Gritten

Nestled along the shores of Little Grassy Lake about 8 miles south of Carbondale and among a forest preserve woods, lies a beautiful camp known to hundreds of youth, both past and present where they are all united in their belief that God is truly present during their camping experience. This place is called Camp Carew, the one camp in our Presbytery where 4th graders through high school play, worship, learn and make new friends. Adults, families and church groups also find this to be a great place to retreat during times when the camps are not in session.



Many of the rural, small churches in southern Illinois rely heavily upon Camp Carew for their ministry to their youth as the youth in their congregations are often few in numbers, if any at all. Camp Carew fills that gap big time. Two issues always face camps such as this: old buildings needing repair or replacement and lack of funds to do so.

Enter Champaign First Presbyterian Church

About 2004, members of our Mission Possible group learned that volunteers were needed to repair some of the structures that had fallen into disrepair, and to complete

the bath house for the campers. On two separate trips we first made the requested repairs and on the second trip, completed the construction of the bath house.

While there, we noticed two concrete slabs very close to the bath house. The slabs had been poured years earlier and the Executive Presbyter informed us that, due to a lack of funds, they had prayed that somehow these two buildings could be constructed. Each building was to be a retreat center complete with bathrooms, showers, a kitchenette, sleeping and meeting spaces. Members of our Mission Possible group agreed to take on these two projects, separate from regular yearly trips to neighboring states to work on Presbyterian camps.



Truly, our church is well known and appreciated by members of the Presbytery for the work and improvements and additions to the camp that we have provided.

Following that, a two car garage where they sheltered their vehicles and maintenance equipment collapsed. We offered to construct a much larger facility to house not only their vans, but to provide a shop area and storage area for the camps dry goods and outdoor program materials previously stored wherever space could be found. *(continued on next page)*

(continued from previous page) Next, a large tree fell on and collapsed a hogan [an 8' by 16' raised platform with four corner posts holding up a roof with canvases draped around the sides for walls]. Each of the 16 hogans sleeps four campers. We are replacing those hogans that collapsed with a slightly larger, all-weather building that can be air conditioned in the future. The hogans are grouped in settings of four at four different locations in the camp for junior boys and girls, plus senior boys and girls. Each hogan has 10 window openings to maximize the air that can blow through the building during those hot July summer nights. The plan is to replace all 16 hogans. Materials for each cost approximately \$4,500 and six have been completed, two by our group. Our men made and installed the required 60 windows last summer.

This year, we plan to run electricity to each of the 4 camp sites. All of the buildings have electric exhaust fans to help bring air into the building during hot summer nights. Eventually, small air conditioners are planned as many of the summer nights are unbearable. In addition to the construction, our group has prepared the plan specifications for each of the projects named above.



The summer of 2013, Mission Possible selected Camp Carew as their annual trip at which time we constructed the sixth hogan. Since the building was near an existing electrical line, the interior was insulated, paneled and heating and air conditioning were installed. The Camp Director hopes to have a few of the hogans air conditioned for families that may wish to utilize one of them during the off season when the weather is very hot or cold. In addition to the hogan construction, the interior of the maintenance building was painted and a ramp for a pontoon boat was constructed. During our Camp Carew trip, several in our group made curtains for some of the buildings.

Truly, our church is well known and appreciated by members of the Presbytery for the work and improvements and additions to the camp that we have provided. While we provide the labor, and some materials, other churches have joined us in providing the materials. **Camp Brochures and Registration forms are available for 4th grade through senior high youth. We encourage all families with children/youth in this age range to consider this experience. Scholarships are available for those who desire financial aid.**

We encourage additional and younger volunteers to join us this year as we travel to Pinecrest camp, Moscow, TN on May 17 through 23. **No experience is required. We will train.** For additional information about this ministry and questions regarding the upcoming trip, call Harry Bremer [352-0961] or Gene Morgan [352-0936]



Save the Date: Forward 150 Mission Fund Reception

Tuesday May 5, 5:30 pm Mae Chapin Parlor

Lillian Covington from Opportunity International will be sharing information about the Opportunity International Education Microfinance Program and how our Forward 150 World Mission funds can change lives of children who are living in poverty in a developing country. Questions will be very welcome. Anyone interested in missions is welcome.

Upcoming Fundraisers

- **April 19: Cuba Pig Roast at 11:30 in Centennial Hall and the Patio** Eat wonderful food prepared by Peter Yau and Support Go and Serve! Tickets are \$10 per person or \$25 per family (suggested donations). Menu: cabbage salad, black beans, roasted pork, and dessert.
- **April 23-25: Run for Salt & Light in the 2015 Illinois Marathon.** Sign up at saltandlightministry.org
- **May 2: 6 pm ECIRMAC (Refugee Assistance Center) Fundraising Banquet with Silent Auction.** Tickets are \$65 each and available at the Center (302 South Birch, Urbana). RSVP by April 23.
- **May 2: Hustle to Havana** Support July Mission Trip to Cuba. 5K Fun Run, 1K Kid's Run, 1K Dog Walk. Go to hustletohavana.weebly.com to register.

I'm late! I'm late,
but not too late to
join Mission
Possible. The trip to
Pinecrest Conference
and Retreat Center,
Moscow, TN, will be
May 17-23. The
preview trip will
have been
completed, and we
will know what work
there is to do. Join
the group for fun,
fellowship, and a bit
of work. We have
daily devotions for
breakfast, and will
use the book
"Tattoos on the
Heart" by Gregory
Boyle. Then off to
work we go, heigh-
ho, heigh-ho. Please
call Gene Morgan
(352-0936) or Harry
Bremer (352-0961)

Missions: April 2015

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
			1	2 <i>Pie Deliveries 7:45 pm, Westminster</i>	3	4
5 <i>Pie Deliveries: 8:30 am, Westminster</i>	6	7 <i>Mission Team: 12:00 pm, Westminster</i>	8	9	10	11
12	13 <i>Compassion, Peace and Justice: 4:30 pm, Westminster</i>	14	15	16	17	18 <i>Cleanup of Boneyard Creek: Morning, Boneyard Creek Environmental Stewardship: Urbana Parks Open House: 2-4 pm, Anita Purvis Center</i>
19 <i>Cuba Pig Roast: 11:30 am, Centennial and the Patio</i>	20 <i>Environmental Stewardship: 3:30 pm, FPCC Library World Missions: 5:30 pm, Stout's Home</i>	21	22	23	24	25 <i>Reception to hear and meet Rebecca Barnes, Associate for Environmental Ministries PC(USA): 7:30 pm, Urbana Presbyterian</i>
26	27	28 <i>Community Mission Deacons: 6:30 pm, Westminster</i>	29	30		