

The Heart of Missions: First Presbyterian Church of Champaign's Missions Magazine

April Missions Events and Meetings

Sundays: ESL Bible Study

10:30am in Room 204

Mondays and Wednesdays: Beginning English ESL

9:00am to 11:00am in Room 204

Mondays-Thursdays: ESL

1-3pm on Second Floor of Education Building

Wednesdays in April: Pakistan Study

10:30am in the Parlor

April 8 and 9: Boneyard Arts Festival

5pm on the Patio

with Jean Rene Balekita

April 11: Knifty Knitters

1pm-3pm in Westminster Hall

April 12: Mission Team

Noon in Westminster Hall

April 17: Congregational Potluck

11:45am in Centennial Hall

April 18: Environmental Stewardship Committee

3:30pm in the Parlor

April 18: World Mission Ministry

5:30pm in the Parlor

April 26: Community Mission Deacons

6:30pm in Westminster Hall

April 28: Cuba Steering Committee

5:30pm in the Parlor

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March 2016

Friends,

As the 2015 books close, it is time to celebrate the ways your congregation has joined thousands of others in Christ's mission in the world through the four churchwide Special Offerings: One Great Hour of Sharing, Pentecost, Peace & Global Witness, and Christmas Joy.

This past year, your efforts have assisted churches in New England as they dug out from record snowfall; placed Young Adult Volunteers (YAVs) in New York, Miami, and Chinook, Montana, as well as in Peru, South Korea, and Zambia (among others); assisted in the education of Syrian refugee children; and made life-changing gifts to church workers and their families experiencing hardship. Thank you! Not only for the impact your participation and support have made but also for your time and energy devoted to inviting members of your congregation to participate. We at the Office of Special Offerings know there are many claims on your time and many opportunities to participate in mission. We are so grateful for your continued engagement with this form of connectional, Presbyterian ministry.

In 2016, our prayer is that every gift and every act of giving will be known and acknowledged for what it is, a gift from God (James 1:17). Our office is available to assist you in any way we can, so that the transformative work accomplished through the shared generosity of congregations like yours will be known and celebrated by all.

Thank you,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Bryce Wiebe".

Bryce Wiebe
Director, Special Offerings and Appeals



Presbyterian Mission Agency | 100 Witherspoon Street | Louisville, KY 40202-1396
800-728-7228, ext. 5047 | specialofferings@pcusa.org | presbyterianmission.org/specialofferings



THANK YOU

The 221st General Assembly (2014) affirmed a bold goal for Special Offerings of \$20 million a year by 2020 and challenged each congregation to begin receiving a new Offering and/or increasing current offering support by 10 percent. We hope this statement helps you track progress of these goals and provide transparency on direct giving to the Mission Agency. The local portions of the offerings (*Pentecost* and *Peace & Global Witness*) will be remitted to your congregation after the books are closed for the fiscal year.

2016 OGHS

So far, our
One Great Hour of
Sharing proceeds
total \$5,346.00.

	Your congregation		Nationally	
	2014 (end of year)	2015 (end of year preliminary, subject to audit)	2014 (end of year)	2015 (end of year preliminary, subject to audit)
Christmas Joy Offering	\$2,592.00	\$4,953.32	\$3,566,172	\$3,270,701
One Great Hour of Sharing	\$3,200.00	\$8,396.00	\$6,330,514	\$5,998,872
Pentecost Offering	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$705,843	\$656,886
Peace & Global Witness Offering (includes Peacemaking Offering gifts)	\$0.00	\$66.00	\$905,844	\$872,573 *
Presbyterian Giving Catalog (includes Special Offerings events)	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$500,654	\$615,714

* Peacemaking Offering receipts are reported under the Peace & Global Witness Offering. Gifts designated to the Peacemaking Offering are credited as such and will be disbursed to the Peacemaking Program. These gifts do not include the percentages retained by congregations and mid councils for the Peace & Global Witness and Pentecost offerings.

Session voted to participate in
the Pentecost Offering in 2016.
40% of the offering will stay
within our congregation to be
distributed for youth programs.

Funds to be remitted to your congregation after 2015 books close

Pentecost Offering (for youth programs)	\$0.00
Peace & Global Witness Offering (includes Peacemaking Offering gifts)	\$0.00
Presbyterian Giving Catalog (includes Special Offerings events)	\$0.00



OUR COMMUNITY

Restoration Urban Ministries

Ervin Williams, Executive Director of Restoration Urban Ministries (RUM), reported on the state of the ministry in RUM's March newsletter. Some highlights are:

1. RUM finished 2015 in the **black** rather than the **red**!

2. Building A is now completely renovated.

3. Plans are to renovate Building B that houses half of the residents. Currently, there are **123 residents**.

Estimate for the repairs is around **\$10,000**.

Volunteers are needed to finish the projects, and work is expected to start by June. Groups are welcome to sponsor rooms or help with a project.

Just let RUM know of your desire to help.

4. There is an **urgent need** for the following items:

Resident Needs: crock pots, microwaves, refrigerators, Twin and Full sheet sets, shower rods, shower liners, toiletries for men and women (shampoo, body wash, razors, deodorant, etc.)

Organizational Needs: wire shelving (closet type), dressers and chest of drawers, donations to repair resident room heat/air units (\$160 per room), heavy duty carpet shampooer, bagless vacuum cleaners (new or gently used), coin operated washer and dryer.

5. RUM is **in need of sponsors** to help residents complete a GED. The cost is \$150 per student, which includes both the test and the preparation materials.

SAFE HOUSE CONCERT RESULTS

Thanks to so many who participated in the 2016 SAFE House concert. The concert netted \$5,800.

Thank you!

Boneyard Arts Festival

Jean Rene Balekita

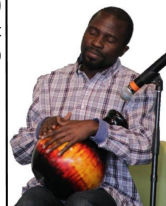
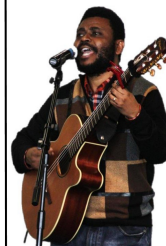
with a Christian music ensemble featuring Congolese rumba with a flavor of gospel, jazz and African rhythm. Well known in the Congo, they have performed in Africa and Europe, and are gaining recognition in the U.S. They sing in English and five other languages.

April 8th and 9th, 2016

5:00pm-6:00pm on the Patio of

First Presbyterian Church of Champaign

(Downtown Champaign,
at the corner of Church St. and State St.)
302 West Church Street
Champaign, IL 61820





A Big "Thank You!"

Presbyterian Women wish to thank the congregation for their support of the DREAAM House. This year, PW Mission decided to keep monies in our community. We looked into the needs of different community support services and found the DREAAM House project right under our roof.

You, the congregation, heard our plea and supported us. Bongo drums, ant farm, snacks, and other needs have been met.



**CANAAN
S.A.F.E. HOUSE**

I have been visiting with our Community Mission agencies this year, and will continue to do so throughout the year, visiting with Community Mission Deacons (CMD) whenever possible. After visiting CANAAN S.A.F.E. HOUSE several weeks ago with the CMD, Don Fischer, an exciting development occurred. Since grant monies for classes are now gone, the program is in need of self-development classes for the residents. Because of my background as an undergraduate psychology teacher, I was asked if I could teach academic psychology concepts which would relate to long term recovery for the residents. S.A.F.E. House leadership and I are working together to develop a short positive psychology course for the residents and staff. The course is planned to occur at our church over the course of four weeks this spring.

If **you** have skills or concepts you would like the opportunity to teach for the self-development of S.A.F.E. House residents, please let me know. Topics related to getting a job are particularly in need (resume writing, applying for jobs, interviewing skills, etc.).

S.A.F.E. House was created in partnership between Canaan Baptist Church and First Presbyterian Church of Champaign in the 1990s as a Christ-centered program to help those struggling with addiction to recover. Twenty-five percent of our CMD funds this year go to S.A.F.E. House.

Kristi Corbin, Missions Coordinator

East Central Illinois Refugee Mutual Assistance Center

302 South Birch Street, Urbana, Illinois 61801

Phone (217) 344-8455

March 11, 2016

First Presbyterian Church
302 W. Church St.
Champaign, IL 61820

Dear Kristi:

Please thank the congregation of First Presbyterian for their very generous gift of \$939. Words can't express how vital this donation is to the Refugee Center. The current fiscal situation within the state means that the Center must increasingly rely upon your gifts to fulfill our mission to aid in the resettlement and assimilation of immigrants and refugees in East Central Illinois.

We have compiled our figures for the first half of FY16 (July – December) and we served over 1600 unduplicated individuals which was up almost 18% for the same period last year. We also are continuing to serve a growing number unaccompanied minors who were relocated to the area by the Office of Refugee Resettlement. Currently we have at least 35 unaccompanied minors within the area.

The Saturday Morning Tutoring Program resumed October 3rd with approximately 40 students and an equal number of tutors. The first semester we had two students from an education class introduce our students to money and the concepts such of wants and needs, budgets, and waiting versus instant gratification. Everyone needs to understand these concepts to be a better money manager.

Our annual fundraising dinner is scheduled for April 16th, 2016. The day after normal tax day. Hope to see you there.

Again thank the congregation for their generous donation and know that it is increasingly essential for the agency's well-being.

Sincerely,

Deb

Deborah Hlavna



The Ninth Annual Fundraising Banquet to benefit the work of the
East Central Illinois Refugee Mutual Assistance Center will be held on

***Saturday Evening, April 16, 2016, at the Round Barn Banquet Centre at
1900 Round Barn Road, Champaign.***

Tickets, **at \$65 each**, are available at the ECIRMAC offices at 302 South Birch, Urbana.

Tables of eight may be purchased for \$500.

With no state budget, we are operating without approximately \$40,000 in state funding which represents over 20% of our annual budget. So, more than ever, we are depending on the generosity of individual supporters in order to provide these services.

For more information, **call ECIRMAC at 344-8455 or Board President John Muirhead at 398-1048.**

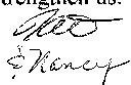
A note from Mission Aviation Fellowship (MAF), an agency World Mission supports. MAF pilots fly medicine, doctors, disaster relief, Bible translators, food supplies, and more to hard-to-reach locations around the globe.

Dear Friends,

We are heading to Africa, March 19th to April 18th to facilitate the Inside-out Safety seminar for MAF staff. We will be visiting four MAF bases in three countries; Mozambique, Lesotho, and Democratic Republic of the Congo. The map gives you dates when we will be in each country. The goals of the seminar are to increase physical, mental, and spiritual awareness of internal conflicts within pilots/mechanics and their spouses, to assist in reducing possible risks to safe operations, and support Christian discipleship of individuals within each person's sphere of influence.

We would appreciate your prayers! Please pray for safe travel, health, and for God to use us for His glory. We pray that we will be an encouragement to MAF staff living and serving Christ in remote regions of Africa. Look for our most recent newsletter, which should arrive soon, for a more detailed description of our trip and these three countries.

Thank you for your prayers, they uphold and strengthen us.



EARTH DAY

A Story Garden will be planted outside the Education Building at 10:00 am on Friday, April 22nd by the Environmental Stewardship Committee.

After learning that a group of committed donors offered to match all gifts sent PC(USA) Headquarters for Mission Personnel Support, we took action. Before the deadline, and after a few phone calls to Headquarters and Presbytery, we sent in our first quarterly support to Mission Co-Workers via the process required to be eligible for the matching fund.

Thus, our first quarter's support to our Mission Co-workers was doubled!

To read Mission Crossroads, a Missions magazine published by the Presbyterian Mission Agency, go online to

missioncrossroads.epubxp.com/i/650910-spr-2016



CONGREGATIONAL POTLUCK

**APRIL 17, 2016
11:45 AM
CENTENNIAL HALL**

**AN ALL-CHURCH
ALL-AMERICAN FRIED
CHICKEN PICNIC.**

**PLEASE BRING A
SIDE, SALAD, OR
DESSERT TO SHARE.**

**FILL YOUR STOMACH AND YOUR HEART IN
FELLOWSHIP WITH OUR CONGREGATION
AND OUR BROTHER AND SISTERS FROM
CUBA.**



**FIRST PRESBYTERIAN
CHURCH** OF CHAMPAIGN



MISSION POSSIBLE TRIP

FORMS ARE NEEDED BY APRIL 15

The trip will be to Camp Wyoming in Iowa, May 22-28!

Join us for fun, fellowship, work and daily devotions.
No special skills needed. You will only be asked to do
tasks with which you feel comfortable.

**PLEASE RETURN COMPLETED FORMS TO
HARRY BREMER**

BY APRIL 15

217.352.0961 OR HLBREMER@YAHOO.COM

Forms available in Westminster or from Harry Bremer

Questions? Ask Harry Bremer, Gene Morgan, Dave
McNattin, John Braden, or Dale Tutje