



CLERK OF SESSION

Record Reviews

All Sundays: 3:00pm to 5:00pm

September 16 – Cobden

September 23 – Decatur, Westminster

September 30 – New Haven

October 21 – Charleston

October 28 – Paxton

November 4 – Butler

The person who does good for God's glory seeks neither praise nor reward but is sure of both in the end.

PSEI Committee on Ministry Report

Revs. Anne Jones and Drew Holloway retired May 1, 2018

Rev. Matt Matthews was installed as Head of Staff at Champaign, First on April 8th

Rev. David Oliver-Holder was installed as Pastor at Urbana, First on March 11th.

Rev. Jeff Grote was approved as Temporary Pastor at Effingham, First.

Rev. Janice West and the Carbondale, First Church dissolved the pastoral relationship.

Rev. Cindy Harris transferred from the Presbytery of Transylvania. She will serve as Chaplain at the Veteran's Administration facility in Danville, IL.

\$125 Grant Reports

If you have NOT done so already, the Presbytery would like to hear how you used the \$125 grant to be the hands and feet of Christ. The Presbytery has already heard from a few congregations. We are hoping to hear from all 81 congregations and share the various ways the money was used in hopes that your creative ideas inspire another congregation.



Presbyterian Women

CHURCHWIDE GATHERING

August 2-5, 2018 in Louisville, KY.

PSEI's PW is offering four \$150 scholarships to assist with registration. For more information, contact Jane Hopkins at 618-664-4616 or jhopkins4616@sbcglobal.net.

FALL GATHERING

Saturday, September 29 at 10am
Centralia First United Presbyterian Church

Faith is: Forsaking All, I Trust Him

2018 Presbytery Meetings:

Thursday, August 23 ~ 10am
Sparta, Westminster

Thursday, November 15 ~ 10am
Champaign, First



REMINDER:

*The PC(USA) Stated Clerk
Rev. Dr. J. Herbert Nelson, II
will be at the November Presbytery meeting.*

CHURCH CHANGES

Please remember to notify the Presbytery at office@psei.net if **anything** changes from the church annual report you submit early each year. We need to keep our records up-to-date regarding addresses, telephone numbers, email addresses, website information, Ministers, Clerks of Session, Ruling Elder Commissioners and any other staff. Thanks for your help!



Presbyterian Church (U.S.A.)
Presbyterian Mission

Sabbath Rest, Holy Surrender, Full Life

2018 Evangelism Conference, Oct. 15–19 in Lake Tahoe

Register at <https://events.pcusa.org>

Onsite registration will open 10/15 at Zephyr Point, Lake Tahoe

Per Capita Rate Increase

GA Per Capita will be increased from \$7.73 to \$8.95. The increase will be in effect for the next two years.

Approved at the
223rd General Assembly.



To feel
sorry for
the needy
is not the
mark of a
Christian
– to help
them is.



Real Tools for Real Ministry

September 24 - 26, 2018

St. Louis, MO

Hilton St. Louis Frontenac



Keynote
Diana Butler Bass
Author of "Grateful: The
Transformative Power
of Giving Thanks" due
out April 2018.



Keynote
Chick Lane
Author of "Ask, Thank,
Tell: Improving
Stewardship Ministry in
Your Congregation"



Worship Leader
Larissa Kwong Abazia
Vice Moderator
of the 221st
General Assembly of
the PC(USA)

Plus over 30 workshops covering topics such as annual stewardship, planned giving, theology of giving, current trends in stewardship, capital campaigns, and generosity

To register and for more information visit:
www.stewardshipkaleidoscope.org

Presbytery Elections

The following were elected at the May Stated Meeting:

Commission of Trustees

Salt Fork Region Stephen Kolderup (M), HR 2019

Camps & Conferences Board of Directors

River to River Region Judy Dawson (RE), Carbondale, First 2020

At Large Dwain DePew (M), HR 2019

Commission on Ministry

The Bridge Region Pam Laing (M), Olney, First 2019

Permanent Judicial Commission

Heidi Weatherford (M), Champaign, McKinley 2019

Marc Miller (RE), Champaign, First 2021

Cindy Shepherd (M), Faith in Place 2023

Personnel Committee

River to River Region Dan Selock, (RE), Marion, First 2020

Committee on Preparation for Ministry

East Central Region Ann Brownson (RE), Charleston, First 2018

First Capital Region Beth Lloyd (RE), Centralia, First 2018

Response Team

Rachel Matthews (M), At Large 2019

WORLD COMMUNION SUNDAY October 7, 2018

World Communion Sunday is a celebration observed by several Christian denominations, taking place on the 1st Sunday of every October, that promotes Christian unity and ecumenical cooperation.



**There is still time
to register for
SUMMER CAMPS**

Register at:
campcarew.org



The background of the poster is a scenic photograph of a sunset or sunrise over a body of water. The sun is low on the horizon, creating a bright orange and yellow glow that reflects on the water's surface. The sky is filled with soft, wispy clouds. The text is overlaid on this image.

Camp Carew Youth Event

Youth Grades 7th – 12th

Friday, August 31 – Sunday, Sept. 2

Experience Camp Carew

Canoeing

Archery

Campfire

Kayaking

Games

Much More!

\$50 per person covers lodging and food

- Register on-line at www.campcarew.org -

Youth Leaders Encouraged to Attend

Questions: Contact Sheri Moberley at sherimo1@aol.com



Bike & Build

Pedaling for Affordable Housing since 2003

The members of the First Presbyterian Church of Harrisburg hosted 24 cross-country bicyclists overnight in support of the Bike & Build organization. Bike & Build engages young adults in service-oriented cycling trips to raise money and awareness for the affordable housing cause. It is a once-in-a-lifetime experience that fosters a sustained connection to community. They advocate for the need for affordable housing in thousands of communities across the country. The cyclist began their trip in Yorktown, VA on May 29th and will finish in Seaside, OR on August 11th. The Bike & Build routes offer riders a wide variety of options. From regionalized routes to cross-country excursions, every rider will get the chance to experience some of the finest views in the nation.

The Riders arrived in Harrisburg on June 20th. The church allowed them to store their gear overnight in the church's basement. From there a van shuttled them to the Harrisburg Elks Lodge for dinner and fellowship. After dinner they were shuttled back to the church for dessert and a community presentation by bikers about their program including a bike clinic for young biker's scouts. The community was invited.

They departed from Harrisburg June 21 on the road to Carbondale.

Since the founding of this cause in 2003 the following statistics apply: 11+ million miles biked; 3,500+ riders engaged; 236k+ building hours volunteered and 6.4 million dollars donated.



Presby Hall

suite-style residences at University of Illinois

Grace and Peace to you through our Lord Jesus Christ!

As many of you already know, The McKinley Presbyterian Church and Foundation is your PCUSA campus ministry at the University of Illinois at Champaign/Urbana. We provide not only reformed worship and Bible Study opportunities tailored for college students, but we also provide student housing as a part of the Certified Private Housing Program at the University.

Presby Hall, a 262-bed suite style residential hall strives to offer the best living environment available to University of Illinois students. Comprised of a living room, kitchen, two bathrooms, and either five or six bed suites, layouts provide a great combination of social and private areas, as well as opportunity for on-site parking garage.

Presby Hall is a leader in alcohol-free student recreational programming, as well as offering opportunities for community service and interesting educational mini-workshops to help students better navigate life and learn more about the word.

In the month of July, we are offering some great housing scholarships that make Presby Hall a little less expensive than dorm living on campus. Please feel free to contact me or have families contact me at (k-harris@mckinley-church.org) or Marc McConney, the Presby Hall Manager (marc@presbyhall.com) if you have any students that might be interested or have any questions.

Thanks for your prayers and consideration

God bless!

Rev Keith Harris

Associate Pastor for Campus Ministry

McKinley Presbyterian Church and Foundation



THE BOARD OF PENSIONS
OF THE PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH (U.S.A.)

Employers can review, update, and submit their 2019 Employer Agreements beginning **July 16** on [Benefits Connect](#).

As we approach mid-July, consider these other key dates:

- **October 12:** This is the last day to submit your final 2019 Employer Agreement on Benefits Connect.
- **October 29-November 16:** Annual enrollment is open for employees to elect their 2019 benefits.

Get ready

Remember to review your benefit groups in the Employer Agreement to make sure you have selected the benefits you intended for all employees. During annual enrollment, employees will only be able to elect benefits from the selections you choose. Read [Importance of Benefit Groups](#) in the May edition of *Employer News*, and don't forget to check pensions.org/selectingbenefits for details about the Benefits Plan changes.

Watch [the Board's newsletters](#), your email, and your U.S. mail for more information about Employer Agreements and annual enrollment. If you have questions about the Benefits Plan or the benefits selection process, call the Board at 800-773-7752 (800-PRESPLAN).

SYNOD OF LINCOLN TRAILS Funding Opportunity For 2018 MISSION INITIATIVE GRANTS

Mission Initiative Grants are one-time grants of 'seed' money designed to help begin new congregation based missional activities. These one-time grants are for dollar amounts up to \$1,500 and grant recipients will be able to share their stories and progress six months and one year after receipt of the grant.

Trees need three essential things to grow strong:

AERATION - digging the dirt around the roots, loosening of soil so nutrients can get to the roots;
IRRIGATION - water, transport of nutrients; and,
FERTILIZATION - nutrients.

Using this metaphor, the Synod is supplying the seeds or seedlings in the form of grant funds. In the application you will have the opportunity to relay the ways that you will be supplying the three essentials while growing a strong new mission through your congregation.

If you have any questions concerning the new Mission Initiative Grants, please contact Judy Johnson judy@lincolntrails.org at the Synod office. **Please note application deadlines: October 8th for consideration at the October 19-20 Synod Assembly.**

Synod of Lincoln Trails YMCP Cohort

The Synod of Lincoln Trails and The Youth Cartel are excited to sponsor a Youth Ministry Coaching Program cohort for youth workers within the synod. The cohort will begin in August or September of 2018 and will meet for two days at a time every other month, a total of six times. The Fourth Presbyterian Church of Chicago (126 E Chestnut) will host all gatherings.

Questions about the cohort and registration should be directed to Rocky Supinger at rsupinger@fourthchurch.org

SAVE THE DATE

Presbytery Wide STEWARDSHIP DAY

Saturday, October 13
10am - 3pm

First Presbyterian Church
10 Charleston Ave., Mattoon, IL

The event will be prepared by the
Presbyterian Foundation's Lisa Longo

If God gives himself to us in promises,
we must give ourselves to him in duties.



SCOPE AND BOUNDARIES

Project Regeneration is a ministry of the Foundation for congregations who are considering reinvention, a merger with one or more other churches, or dissolution. The congregations with whom we work possess land, buildings, or furnishings which can be sold for the funding of new ministry or for the creation of permanent legacy funds so that the mission outreach of the worshiping community may continue.

PROGRAM OBJECTIVES

- To assist in a “new birth” of a congregation through re-invention, merger, or dissolution.
- To assist in the establishing of a legacy that effects perpetual ministry impact.

THE FOUNDATION WILL:

1. Serve as an advisor, sounding-board, and coach to congregations in this process.
2. Act as an unbiased third party in assisting the congregation as it discerns its future, asking questions and supporting church leaders in a careful and objective assessment of the present circumstances and the resources available for use.
3. Assist in the analysis of financial metrics to foster candid conversation about congregational viability and future potential.
4. Partner with the presbytery of jurisdiction in facilitating the successful conclusion of the project while observing the polity and governance of the Presbyterian Church (U.S.A.).
5. Remain neutral as to the various pathways under consideration.
6. Seek to steward assets which result from the sale of land, buildings, furnishing, or the accumulated assets of the congregation.

THE FOUNDATION WILL NOT:

1. Seek to steer church leaders to a specific conclusion or path of action.
2. Position itself in an adversarial role with any governing body of the Presbyterian Church (U.S.A.).
3. Offer unrealistic expectations of likely success or failure of any contemplated scenario.
4. Offer answers so much as facilitate the asking of questions.
5. Broker the sale of real estate nor accept title to any property.
6. Assume the expense of a project without a realistic expectation of being considered for stewarding investable assets.

For more information, please contact Paul H. Grier, Vice-President/Institutional Services, via e-mail at Paul.Grier@PresbyterianFoundation.org or by telephone at 1-800-843-9547.



Old Church...1868-1920



New Church...1921 to present

First Presbyterian Church, Bement, Illinois Celebrates 150th Anniversary in Ministry

“By an appointment of the Bloomington Presbytery held at Lincoln, Illinois, September 1867, the Rev. T.P. Emerson met an audience at the M.E. church in the Village of Bement, Piatt County, Illinois, August 29, 1868, to ascertain if the way be clear for the organization of an Old School Presbyterian Church in that Village. Present also Rev. Thomas M. Chestnut, member of the Presbytery of Cincinnati, Ohio. Rev. T.P. Emerson moderated the meeting, of which William Newton, Esq. was appointed secretary. It being ascertained that the way was clear, an organization was effected....

The “birthday” of the First Presbyterian Church of Bement, Illinois occurred shortly after the end of the Civil War. In August of 1868, two men and six women became charter members of the church. Four of them were from the Camp family that, for many years contributed a great deal in time and substance toward the growth of the church.

For about a year and a half, meetings were held in the homes of the members, but it was soon recognized that, if the church were to grow, a building was needed. In January 1870, six trustees were assigned the task of “raising funds for, and proceeding to, the erecting of a house of worship”, and unless they were able to obtain pledges amounting to \$4,000 by May, the pledges would be cancelled. Their success in achieving this goal was very evident when, by February 9, they had a subscription list that amounted to \$4,838.

Construction began in 1870, and in 1871 meetings were held in the new building where they continued until the upstairs sanctuary was completed. A separate fund was set up to cover the purchase of a church bell and 82 contributors are listed. The bell purchased in June 1871 from Buckeye Bell Foundry in Cincinnati, Ohio is the same one still in use today. The original warrantee issued when the bell was purchased states that “the bell is of genuine bell metal, of good tone, and is guaranteed against breaking when rung or tolled for one full year.”

The old church served the members well for 50-years. In 1919, the matter of building was discussed, and a committee was appointed to make plans. The last service in the old building was held on August 8, 1920, and the cornerstone for the present building was laid on October 24, 1920.

In 1921, plans were expanded to include a new pipe organ, which is still in use today. The entire project was completed with a dedication program on May 14, 1922.

The First Presbyterian Church members and friends are planning to celebrate their ministry in Bement with several activities. Beginning Sunday, June 24th there will be A Moment in History presentation during the worship service. Presentations were written by Clerk of Session Nancy Ard, whose family represents six generations of members in the church. Subjects include The Founding of the Church; The Old Church; The New Church; The Church Bell; The Stained-Glass Windows; The Ministers, Missionaries & Officers of the Church; Organizations of the Church; Church Trivia. Also,

a model of the Old Church, constructed by Nellie Alvord in 1921 and preserved in a special case, will be on display throughout the celebration year.

On July 4th the church will have a float in the parade, organized and implemented by elder GloAnn Walsh with help from church members.

Members are being encouraged to bring memorabilia to be displayed throughout the weeks leading up to the main celebration. They are also being asked to submit a “special memory” of their life in the church which will be printed and given to those attending the worship celebration. One special memory submitted is from Joanna Warner (92) who is an 80-year member of the church.

The Church History (1868-2018) is being updated and copies will be made available to members following the celebration. Old pictures are being scanned by elder John Marker and will be put on a DVD for members and a REMEMBER WHEN book is being put together with old articles and interesting facts about the church for display. Parents and youth (babies-high school age) are submitting pictures for Our Children—Our Future collage. On Sunday, September 9th a Rally Day Potluck Picnic at the church is being planned by elder Pam Vaughn with games and fun activities for the children.

Celebration Sunday is August 19, 2018. CRE Marsha Frederick will give the message “Our Heritage—Let’s Pass It On”. Following a special worship service at 10:00 a.m., a Keepsake Photograph of members and friends will be taken on the front steps of the church. From there the celebration will move to the fellowship hall for a catered luncheon organized by elder Tammy Dallas.

CRE Marsha Frederick says, “The people of this church are proud of their rich heritage and will forever be indebted to those who have gone before. This celebration time reminds us, though, that we have much to do now and in the future to share our faith in Christ and bring others to know Jesus. God has richly blessed the people of this church with talents and spiritual gifts that sometimes amaze and astound me. They are a strong, welcoming family of faith and people who come here feel that immediately. This church has always been a tremendous blessing to the community of Bement. I know that if we are faithful in service, God will continue to use the people to make a difference.”

A GODLY LIFE IS ALWAYS THE BEST ADVERTISEMENT FOR CHRISTIANITY.

A Little Kindness Makes a World of Difference

The movie Won't You Be My Neighbor? Takes an intimate look at America's favorite neighbor, Mister Fred Rogers. A portrait of a man whom we all think we know, this emotional and moving film takes us beyond the zip-up cardigans and the land of make-believe, and into the heart of a creative genius who inspired generations of children with compassion and limitless imagination. It has a 99% Rotten Tomatoes score (certified fresh) and will be shown at the Art Theatre in Champaign from June 29 to July 12th. I'm hoping people from our Presbytery can watch it and enjoy seeing a well-made film on this man's legacy. A couple of quotes from Fred: "Love is at the root of everything – all learning, all parenting, all relationship. Love or the lack of it. And what we see and hear on the screen is part of who we become." "The greatest thing that we can do is to help somebody know that they are loved and capable of loving."

BICENTENNIAL CELEBRATION

We here at the First Presbyterian Church in Golconda are very excited as we begin to prepare for our Bicentennial celebration in October 2019. Though we were not the first Presbyterian Church established in Illinois we are the oldest continuous congregation in the state of Illinois.

On Saturday, October 23, 1819, a number of Presbyterians convened at the Pope County Courthouse for "examination preparatory to planting a church in this place". On Sunday, October 24, 1819, the church was official when they made Confession and Covenant. Proclamation was signed by Nathan B. Derrow, VDM Missionary for Connecticut.

Although plans have just begun, we look forward to a weekend celebration on October 26 and 27, 2019. We would love for you to celebrate with us next year, in your prayers, in your church or with us in Golconda.

**The fire of God in your heart
will melt the lead in your feet.**



**Celebrating 150
years at First
Presbyterian
Church of
Harrisburg,
1868 - 2018**

Join us in
September as we
celebrate this
milestone in our

congregation's history. The festivities begin on Thursday afternoon, September 20 with our entry in the Harrisburg Homecoming Parade. Following the parade, come to the Annex Building at 21 W Locust Street, Harrisburg for our Annual Chili Supper. The celebration continues Saturday evening when we will have a special service in the sanctuary of the church at 34 W Poplar Street. Photos, newspaper articles, vintage bulletins, hymnals, bibles, and archive copies of The Presbyter monthly newsletter will all be on display in our History Room at the back of the sanctuary. We welcome all to come to Harrisburg, and share our memories and history of First Presbyterian Church.

NEW MINISTRY!

First Presbyterian Church, Charleston is starting a new Ministry.

They learned that the summer meal program for school kids is served only Monday thru Thursday. So, the church is now serving a meal to the youth on Fridays. They had to do a lot of prep, including sending someone to food safety class with the health department.

Please keep them in your prayers.

Mission Team from FPC, Charleston

poses in their Presbyterian Disaster Assistance shirts during a break. They spent a day working on one home, and then 4 days on painting the entire interior of another home that had 5 feet of water in it during the 2016 flood. The team stayed at the PDA volunteer village at University Presbyterian Church, on the edge of the campus of LSU. They highly recommend this experience. Learn more by contacting the PDA National Call Center at 866-732-6121 or pdacallcenter@pcusa.org.



Pictured are Andy and Paula McNitt, Kathy Cerven (team leader), Sue Dunifer, Paul Johnston, Gail Bower, Tom Over, and Mary Wright.

*Just as it is
not good to
eat too
much
honey, it is
not good
for people
to think
about all
the honors
they
deserve.*

*Proverbs
25:27*

Dear Presbytery of Southeastern Illinois,

As I worked on this newsletter, it occurred to me this will be the last one I do for the Presbytery. I will officially end my tenure on July 31, 2018, after 25 awesome years. The newsletters were one of the things I was very passionate about and I hope each one touched you in a very special way.

With my life with the Presbytery coming to an end I think about the relationships I've formed with some of you, and the conversations that will stick with me forever. I've enjoyed working with you and I thank God for the opportunities afforded me. This Presbytery has been a blessing to me and I will cherish it forever.

I've witnessed a lot of changes during my 25 years of employment, some of which included Administrative changes, polity and procedure changes, along with a few Presbytery office location changes. Each change brought about new opportunities and possibilities. Those who are in the leadership roles are forever thinking of ways to increase the goals of this Presbytery all while inspiring and motivating each member to grow and flourish in their gifts. So, ask the Lord to guide and direct your path in this Presbytery and when He does you will witness a renewed spirit within. Remember, God does not call the equipped, He equips the called. This is a great Presbytery that's bursting with energy, drive, and potential and I'm encouraging each of you to embrace the changes so you can help this Presbytery to grow.

As I journey into the next chapter of my life, I may not be certain of what the future holds for me, but my faith tells me God will lead me down a path that He specifically chose for me. Although it's time for me to take this leap of faith it will be a bittersweet ending knowing I may never see or talk with you again.

As I prepare to say my final farewell to the Presbytery of Southeastern Illinois, I pray that my work in this Presbytery was appreciated by all.

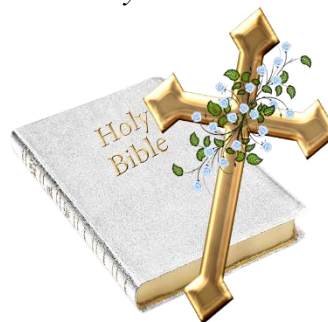
I close my letter using the words in Paul's final greeting:

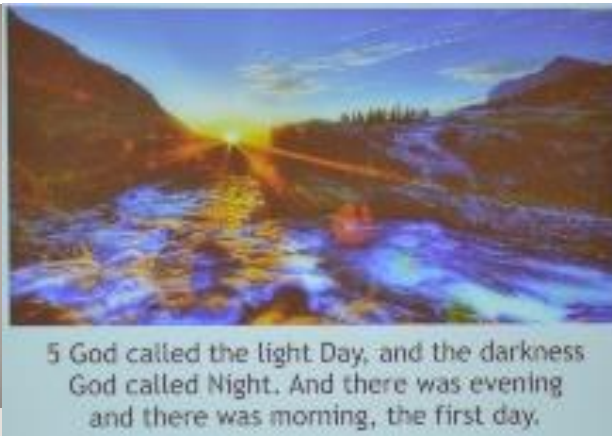
Finally, brothers and sisters, rejoice! Strive for full restoration, encourage one another, be of one mind, live in peace. And the God of love and peace will be with you.

2 Corinthians 13:11.

Praising Only Christ
His servant,

Brenda Garry





Brenda Garry's Retirement Celebration

