

Southeastern Illinois Connection

Connect, Equip, and Inspire Presbyterians as we walk with Jesus Christ

MISSION TRIPS

La FLOR, NICARAGUA

Ruling Elder Mary Simon, Philo

A team from the Just Hope Program took a mission trip to La Flor Nicaragua March 12-18, 2016. The team from the Philo Church were: A.J. Bailey, Barb Grigsby, Mary Simon, Jane Mumm, Kirk Kirkland, Madeline Clabaugh, and Chris Berger. There are 55 families living atop one of the mountains in the rainforest where there is no electricity, water, or health and social services. It costs about \$1,000 a year for a child to attend school, but most of them drop out after the sixth grade because they can't afford high school. The most important thing the residents want to do is to send their children to high school. Over 70 books were donated to the school. Please give to Just Hope in support of the children in Nicaragua getting a better education.



PORT AU PRINCE, HAITI

In 2011, Frank and Carol Allbright, Pana, United in Faith, helped with building a school in Port Au Prince, Haiti, that is run in connection with the Kid's Vision Orphanage located nearby. The Allbrights would like to seek a \$200 a year donation from the churches in this presbytery for the operation of the school and the nearby orphanage. The Allbrights provide peanut butter sandwiches each day for their mid-day meal. They will send a letter to the churches of this presbytery about the mission in hopes of receiving donations. All donations will be sent to Haiti.

MOSAIC OF PEACE CONFERENCE VISITS ISRAEL & PALESTINE

Rev. Janice West, Carbondale, First shared with the presbyters her experiences while traveling throughout Israel and Palestine with the Peacemaking Program's 2016 Mosaic of Peace conference. The trip lasted 10 days and she truly had a meaningful and enlightening trip. The Peacemaking Program offers opportunities for those interested in going on a religious tour and Janice encouraged the presbyters to go on a trip such as hers. There will be two trips in 2017 focused on Climate Change and Peacemaking – one to Guatemala and Costa Rica and one to Madagascar. Janice is available to visit churches in the presbytery to share her experiences.



REV. PATRICK CHIRWA VISIT FROM SYNOD OF LIVINGSTONIA

Submitted by Rev. Chris Williams, Sparta, Westminster



At the May Presbytery Meeting, Rev. Patrick Chirwa of the Church of Central Africa Presbyterian (CCAP) brought greetings to us from the country of Malawi. Rev. Chirwa has been a guest of Westminster Presbyterian Church in Sparta this month, and has been preaching in a number of our congregations this month.

During his address, Rev. Chirwa mentioned that there are a number of congregations in his Presbytery who would love the opportunity to create a sister church relationship with congregations in our Presbytery. We already have a number of congregations who have created sister church relationships, and we would love to encourage you to prayerfully do the same.

Currently Malawi Congregations looking to partner with us include the: Nkhunga CCAP Congregation; Dwambazi CCAP Congregation; Bua CCAP Congregation; Mazembe CCAP Congregation; and Nkhata Bay CCAP Congregation.

REV. DAVID McNABB HONORED

Camps and Conferences Board of Directors honored Rev. David McNabb with a clock for his outstanding service at Camp Carew. Rev. McNabb has served as a faithful member of the Camps and Conferences Board of Directors for the past 46 years.



Eagle Scout Project Aids Argenta Presbyterian Church

submitted by RE Robert McNabb, Monticello, 1st

After clearing the sod and laying a fiber barrier, members of Boy Scout Troop 202 add roses and mulch to a meditation path at Argenta Presbyterian Church. Will Mallard, a senior at MacArthur High School is building the path at the church for his Eagle Scout Project.

KEMMERER VILLAGE 5KV Run/Walk

Submitted by Schales Nagle

Kemmerer Village will host it's third 5KV run/walk on Saturday, July 16th. Race day registration will be at 7am, with the race starting at 8am. Race day registration is \$20 per person. Race day registration for families is \$20 for first family member and \$15.00 for additional family members. Proceeds from the race will benefit the children and families with whom Kemmerer Village works. Attending the race is an excellent opportunity to visit KV's wonderful campus and learn about the work they do.

**Stated Meeting
August 18
Danville, First
10-3**

When to Stop Praying

By TE Steve Shoemaker, HR

*No kneeling after knee replacement,
But can still sit and bow my head--
So not yet*

*Prayers unanswered for another:
Disease, decline, and death--
But not yet*

*Aged, depressed, diminished,
But want to see tomorrow's sunrise--
Still not yet*

*But when cancer has taken body and mind,
Life is lifeless, no pleasures are left:
Please pray for my peace, not my life.*

FREE CONFERENCE CALLING



The Presbytery has an account with **TOTALLY FREE CONFERENCE CALLS**. The conference call service is FREE and can be used by any committee/task force of the Presbytery. For more information, please call the Presbytery office at 1-800-456-7734.

VACANCIES FILLED

The Presbytery of Southeastern Illinois voted to elect the following to serve on its Presbytery Committees.

COMMITTEE ON MINISTRY

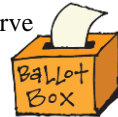
East Central Region John Morris (RE), Kansas, United 2018

PERSONNEL COMMITTEE

Moderator Stacy Tate (TE), Member at Large 2016

The Bridge Region Sam Foskey (TE), Murphysboro 2018

If you or someone you know is interested in serving on a Presbytery committee, please contact Dennis Hamilton, Committee on Representation Moderator at tildenpc@frontier.com



Earth Care and Paris Pledge at Urbana, First

Submitted by TE Deborah Owens, Urbana, First



Co-Chairs David Bullock & David Sherwood

First Presbyterian Church of Urbana has taken the Paris Pledge to become carbon neutral by 2050. The church has been reviewing plans for solar panels as one of the steps toward become carbon neutral.

They have been invited to share briefly at the August Presbytery meeting

Camp Carew 2016 Summer Camp Schedule



The 2016 Camp Carew camping season began June 27 and will end August 6th. A Family Camp will be held September 23-September 25.

For more information and/or to obtain a registration form, contact Camp Carew Registrar Marsha Mower, Monday – Wednesday (9am – 4pm) at office@psei.net or 217-423-1396.

SESSION RECORD READINGS DATES

The following dates have been set for the 2016 Session Records Review
All dates are Sunday afternoons from 3:00-500 p.m.

REGIONS

River to River

Salt Fork

Greater Decatur

ALL REGIONS

First Capital

East Central

DATE

September 11

September 18

September 25

October 2

October 16

October 23

LOCATION

Norris City, Union Ridge – 107 County Rd 300 N, Norris City IL

Champaign, Westminster- 1700 Crescent, Champaign

Sullivan- 4 W. Jackson, Sullivan

Effingham- 600 W Temple, Effingham

Greenville- 501 Idler Lane, Greenville

Arcola- 311 E Jefferson, Arcola

The **GENEROSITY TASK FORCE** website has been updated with a couple of videos on building churches of generous givers.

The website can be found at

<http://pseigenerosity.wordpress.com>.

Submitted by TE Beau Brown, Olney

**PRESBYTERY OFFICE
CLOSED**

**Labor Day
Monday, September 5th**

Pre-register for meetings by calling the Presbytery Office at 1-800-456-7734, or sign up via the website:

http://www.psei.net/page/preregister_for_session_records_review

COMMISSIONING OF GA COMMISSIONERS



At the May 12th Presbytery meeting Lynn Neal, CRE for the Presbytery and Rachel Helgeson, TE, Mt. Vernon were commissioned to the 222nd General Assembly as Commissioners. The Assembly will meet June 18 – 25, 2016, in Portland Oregon.

ILLINOIS PRESBYTERIAN HOME

submitted by Mike Orr

Illinois Presbyterian Home, 2005 W. Lawrence, Springfield, IL. Founded in Faith, Focused on Community. The Home provides senior living in a Christian surrounding. It consists of the Fair Hills Residence and Fair Hills Apartments - **Fair Hills Residence** is an assisted lifestyle community that provides comfortable and private living accommodations. **Fair Hills Apartments** is an independent community that provides enough amenities to help keep seniors safe and engaged with others.

Some individuals who come to the Fair Hills Residence or Fair Hills Apartments see noticeable improvement in their health and well-being within six month of arriving.



Healthy Mind, Healthy Body, Healthy Spirit

Healthy aging supports the mind, body and spirit of older adults. Aging is a gift. It is part of God's plan for us. It is through serving God's purpose while aging that we find a deeper personal relationship with God.

Celebrations of faith include:

- Sunday morning worship & fellowship
- Thursday afternoon chapel services
- Weekly Bible study
- Monthly Communion service
- Special event programming & groups



Rev. Joanne Hinds,
Spiritual Director

PRESBYTERIAN WOMEN

*submitted by Jane Hopkins, Co-Moderator
Presbytery PW Coordinating Team*

Planning Meeting will be Saturday, August 6 at 10:00am to 1pm at Mt. Vernon, First, 2424 Broadway. Bring your lunch.

Presbyterian Women's Fall Gathering will be Saturday, September 24 at Mt. Vernon, First. We are planning to put together 100 hygiene kits. Anne Brownson from Charleston will speak about her missions trip to Nicaragua, Chrisy Ennen from Greenville will lead worship, Rev. Cindy Shepherd will talk about the Earth Care Program, and representatives from the Lifeboat Alliance Family Shelter in Mt. Vernon will report on the Thank Offering grant they received in 2013 to remodel their kitchen. The program will also include the Thank Offering Dedication and an introduction to the new Horizons Bible study. For more information contact Phyllis Warnick at warnickfarm@gmail.com



Race Relations

Submitted by INT Deborah Owens, Urbana, First



Urbana, First Presbyterian Church hosted Evangelist Eloris Nash, President of Church Women United to talk about the church and race relations. The congregation also hosted several adult seminars on the topics of race, racism, and white privilege.

Ministerial Changes

taken from last Stated Meeting minutes

TE Charles Walden transferred to Mission Presbytery, March 1st
TE Thomas and Jan Hawkins, Charleston, First transferred to Southern New England, April 17th
TE Jimmy Hopper, Danville, First transferred to Huntingdon Presbytery, May 22nd
Rev. Stan Martin received from Presbytery of Grand Canyon, June 1st. Rev. Martin was called to Centralia, First
Rev. Karen Russell was installed as the TE at Palestine, First on March 13th

Inquirers and Candidate

taken from last Stated Meeting minutes

Joannie Naraghi, Centralia, First, Inquirer for TE, 03/22/2016
Peter Alexander, Carbondale, First, Inquirer for CRE, 11/5/2015.
TE Rachel Riggle, Danville, First was certified ready to receive a call as of April 28th.

Keilman Foreign Mission Trust

Shelbyville, First Presbyterian Church has closed its transportation grant requests for 2016. A budget for 2017 grants will be prepared in December 2016. If you are planning a mission trip you are wishing us to provide transportation for in 2017, please have your requests in by November 30, 2016. Questions may be directed to Patricia Peterson, Chr. Of KFMT committee at russpatpeterson@hotmail.com fpctreasurer@consolidated.net

PROVIDING MUSIC AT WORSHIP SERVICES

Submitted by RE Katharine Jones, Champaign, First

Jean Rene Balekita (singer and guitarist) and his musicians, Laetitia (singer) and Victor (drums) are available to provide music at Sunday worship services. They can provide music from their homeland, the Democratic Republic of the Congo, or familiar Christian music in English. Currently they perform the third Sunday of each month at First Presbyterian Church, Champaign, where their music is much appreciated by the congregation.

They will do worship music for free, their gift to God. If the congregation wants to take a special offering for them, then this is o.k. and appreciated.

To arrange a date for their visit to your church or to request further information, contact Dr. Robert Kirby, 217-621-5915 or rwk3213@gmail.com



Syrian Refugees in Turkey Receive Aid

Submitted by RE Jan Mandernach, Decatur, 1st



Decatur, First joined the Islamic Center of Greater Decatur to collect sleeping bags, socks, shoes, infant formula, diapers, rice and pasta to aid Syrian Refugees in Turkey. On May 7th, 47 persons (half from each congregation) collected a truckload of goods while sharing with one another as they packed boxes for shipment. This joint mission project grew out of a Sunday exchange between the congregations last year.

Decatur, First also celebrated the beginning of summer with a choir sponsored lunch and concert of *Sum, Sum, Summertime* songs on June 4th. The fellowship event included patriotic songs, a mother-daughter piano duet, a *Summertime* solo from *Porgy and Bess*, a bell choir rendition, and various combinations of the choir singing songs to welcome the season.

Focusing on Ministry and Mission to Children

Submitted by RE Janet C. Procter, Golconda, First

Golconda First just completed another school year of

PresbyKids on May 17, 2016. This one day a week after-school program originally was intended for kids 5-10, but this year expanded to include two different groups. The children from PreK through Second Grade met at the church building, and the 3rd through 5th graders met at the manse. Children are encouraged to include friends who may go to other churches or not attend a church. Arrangements have been made for parents to be able to request transport on the same school bus on the day of the meeting, and adult leaders meet the school bus at the stop nearest the church and walk them to the church and then with older students on to the manse. Each week, as parents and grandparents come to pick up the children there is time for some interactions with the adult leaders to share what the children have been learning. In addition, since the younger group includes non-readers, at the end of the year each child was sent home with a picture summary of the 8 different Bible stories studied. The children also took part in a special Christmas program and the Maundy Thursday Service.

This group of children have energized us to offer Vacation Bible School the last two summers. Before this, the church joined with the Methodist Church in Golconda to assist in their VBS. Now children can attend both theirs and ours. In 2014, the children traveled with Paul in our VBS, and last year they escaped from Egypt with Moses. This summer, they will be back in Egypt with Joseph. Last summer 34 different children attended, and 15 different adults and older teens helped.

As part of its mission to the community, First Presbyterian of Golconda also continued to provide weekend snack bags for children in grades K through 5 in families where their school lunches are subsidized. The church decided to target these children of the "working poor" when the program began midyear 4 years ago. The school tells us how many bags should be prepared without revealing names of the children, and church members bring the recommended food items. Five different volunteer coordinators have organized the program, and volunteers from ages 3 to 92 have helped fill the bags on Sunday mornings. One couple has taken the bags to school each week where the school then labels them and on Friday afternoons puts them in the children's backpacks to go home. The number of bags per week has varied from 37 to 47 during the life of the program, and when a teacher has made a special request to the school coordinator, another bag has been added.

Last year, we received one of the Presbytery's Mission Grants, and funds were used to send summer food boxes to the families served by the weekend program. This spring, the cash donations from congregants for the weekend program have accumulated to help us meet the need for summer food boxes identified through a survey of program participants. So the Mission Grant bump-started an expansion of this already existing mission of the church.

God is able to do mighty things through the 37 members of the Golconda church!

Southeastern Illinois Connection will be published during the month of January, April, July, and October. All articles for the newsletter must be submitted to the Presbytery office three weeks prior to the published month. Send your articles to office@psei.net, or 132 S Water, Suite 352, Decatur, IL 62523.

Bill McLean and Cindy Bean will approved all articles before they are inserted in newsletter.

Historic Church to Preserve Stained Glass

By: Nancy Zeman nzeman@prairiepress.net

KANSAS — The tiny congregation of the historic Kansas Presbyterian Church is hoping to raise enough money to install storm window protection on the building's stained glass windows.

The building, constructed in 1909 and dedicated on Nov. 28 of that same year, is home to "the church that will not die," according to John S. Morris, the layspeaker for the congregation that meets twice a month.

Morris, whose family has attended the church for generations, said the larger windows for the church are protected by exterior glass. "The storm windows protect these heavy leaded glass windows from the elements and other damage," he said.

The congregation's most recent project was to install the glass protective windows on the bottom tier of stained glass windows. These rectangular windows are now all protected, Morris said.

"The bigger job is to cover and protect the 25 windows on the second story," Morris explained. These windows, he noted, include windows that are arched as well as circles. "They are much more expensive to cover," he said.

The cost for the glass alone — without labor — is well above \$20,000. "We've raised about \$4,000, so we're a long way from making this project happen," he said.

Since one of the arched windows on the second floor imploded — and with the hail storms that have moved through the area this spring and summer — the project has taken on a greater urgency.

The congregation "hit a few rough spots" in the last couple of years with attendance on the first and third Sundays of the month dropping to two or three people.

Recently, however, attendance has improved with 21 in church during the most recent service, he said. "We're now averaging about 19-21 a Sunday when we meet," he said.

According to Morris, longtime members has reported at its peak the church had about 40 members. The Sunday School room, just south of the sanctuary, is used for in the winter months to cut down the cost of heating the entire building, he said.

The church is able to continue thanks to CIPS/Ameren stock left to the congregation by the estate of the late F.B. Weaver, a longtime member and local physician. "The dividends from the stock make it possible for this church to continue," Morris said.

But the dividends aren't enough to cover the repair and preservation of the windows, he said.

Richard Taylor of Glass FX, a specialty company in Champaign, cleaned and restored the windows a couple of years ago, Morris noted.

"He came in and erected scaffolding and cleaned and stabilized the windows. He was very meticulous," Morris said. Taylor told Morris the church once burned coal for heat because he found a buildup of coal dust inside the windows.

Taylor noticed the square American flag window at the entrance of the church had a small hole where a BB had been shot through it.

"He said he walked by the window every day and finally had to do something," Morris explained. Taylor told Morris "this one's on me." "I defy you to find the pane of glass that was repaired," he said.

Extraordinary projects and repairs are tough for the small congregation to manage, Morris admitted.

"We're hoping people — not just in Kansas — who recognize the importance of this church to help us raise the money to protect the windows," he said.

The congregation has been trying to space out the projects so money could be raised, Morris noted.

The church building is unique in the county, he said, in that it looks more like a temple than a Midwestern country church. "There's not a bell in town or spire."

Morris praised those members who have served as the church's treasurers in the past. "They have protected the assets of the church like the money was their own."

Anyone who is interested in donating for the window project may send a check to the current treasurer, Sue Anne Casey, 1211 N. High Street, Paris, Ill., 61944. Further information may be obtained by calling Morris at 217-463-6375.

