



# OPEN DOOR

Volume XXXIV, No. 1, January 11, 2017

## From the Intentional Interim Minister

Happy New Year!! It is good to be back in Illinois after vacation, although I really enjoyed the warm weather of Florida. On January 1 I had an interesting experience of worship in an ecumenical setting. The majority of people present were non-denominational with a sprinkling of Baptists and Methodists. No other folks from a Presbyterian church. It was still good to be with fellow Christians as we welcomed in the New Year.



On Sunday, **January 15** we will celebrate the **Week of Prayer for Christian Unity**. This is a hallmark week for mainline denominations, but is gaining attention among other Christians as well. We are honored to have with us in worship for the 9:30 a.m. service Pastor and Overseer Charlotte Blissit from Truth Pentecost Christian Church in Champaign. In addition to her pastoral duties, she is also the President of the Ministerial Alliance.

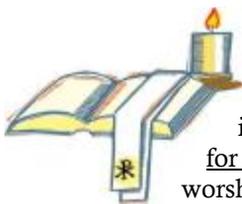
On Sunday, **January 22** we will have the opportunity to hear the pastoral candidate for the called and installed minister's position. Following the 9:30 a.m. worship, there will be a called congregational meeting to vote on the candidate. Please make every effort to be present. There will be NO 11:30 a.m. chapel service on January 22 in order to give full attention to the candidate.



In the midst of praying for unity and for the pastoral candidate, I ask you also to pray for our nation as a new president takes office. We are privileged to live in this country. We must continue to live out our faith each and every day constructively serving one another.

Blessings,  
Deborah

## Congregational Meeting



The Session, at the request of the Pastor Nominating Committee, has called a **congregational meeting for January 22, 2017**, immediately after the 9:30 a.m. worship service, in the Sanctuary. The purpose of the meeting is to vote on a call to a candidate put forth by the PNC for Pastor of our congregation. The candidate will have preached at the 9:30 worship service. Further information about the candidate will be mailed to members of the congregation this week.



**The Annual Meeting of the Corporation** will be Sunday, January 29 after the 9:30 a.m. worship service. This meeting includes the annual review of church financial matters, the report of the Membership Rolls for 2016 and other appropriate business matters.

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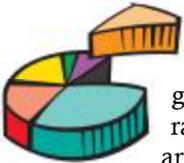
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# Special Features

## Notes from the Session Meeting of December 20, 2016

1. Presbytery Report – Marilyn Dewey was our acting commissioner and reported that the Presbytery continues to have budget issues. Camp Carew loses money and the director will be cut to a ¾ time position. The Presbytery is also closing its physical office to save money.
2. Current budget year – No surprises. The current year will probably end with a small surplus.
3. 2017 budget – Pledges are running somewhat below 2016 levels and several budget line items will be reduced to balance the budget. The full budget will be presented to the congregation at the Annual Meeting of the Corporation scheduled for after worship on January 29, 2017.  

4. The Session voted to continue sponsoring Boy Scout Troop 6 for another year and voted to sponsor Cub Scout Pack 12 (previously sponsored by Leal School and meeting at the First Methodist Church in Urbana). Jamie Ellis will be our institutional representative to both units.  

5. Holy Communion was approved to be served the first Sunday of each month plus extra servings at Easter time.  

6. The Session wants to spend some dedicated time in early 2016 to discuss different approaches to long range planning. It is likely that in the future there will be budget and programming challenges, and the Session wants to be prepared for those possibilities rather than reacting to them after the fact.
7. The Session will be having discussion with the Adult Ministries Committee concerning any educational needs of the congregation in the LGBT area.

—Don Greeley, Clerk of the Session

## PYC and GLU Schedule Middle and High School Youth Every Other Sunday, 6:00-7:30 p.m., Youth Center

- January 15 – Hide and Seek
- January 29 – All Church Board Game Night
- February 5 – Laser Tag
- February 19 – PYC/GLU Olympics



## Game Night Sunday, January 29 6:00 – 8:00 p.m. Fellowship Hall

Come and enjoy some friendly competition playing your favorite games. Pizza will be served. You are invited to bring card games, board games, etc. and a snack to share. This event is for all ages!



## CoYA and Game Night

CoYA (Community of Young Adults) will join other church members for the Game Night on Sunday, January 29, from 6:00-8:00 p.m. in Fellowship Hall.

## Souper Bowl of Caring

PYC (Senior High Youth) encourage you to support this year's Souper Bowl of Caring! "Lord, even as we enjoy the Super Bowl football game, help us be mindful of those who are without a bowl of soup to eat." More than 20 years ago, this simple prayer inspired the initiation of a youth-led movement to help hungry and hurting people around the world. Since that time, young people from across the country have generated over \$100 million for soup kitchens, food banks and other charities.



**On Sunday, February 5, PYC youth will be collecting \$\$'s in soup pots after the worship service;** all proceeds will be given to TIMES Center. This will be PYC's 18<sup>th</sup> year of participation! Thanks for your continuing support of this effort.

The Rev. Owen also encourages the congregation to bring our favorite **cans of soup for our Food & More Partnership Program** that Sunday. Let's get at least 100 cans and see how much variety we might have.



## Food & More Program Donation Request for January: BEEF STEW

## Sunday Seminars 10:45 a.m., Fellowship Hall



“Introduction to the Gospel of Matthew” – Warren Hapke will lead a four-part seminar on the Gospel of Matthew, based on curriculum from *The Thoughtful Christian*.

**January 8: The Old Testament Background:** Matthew is often considered the most Jewish of the four gospels. Part of this is shown in his emphasis on Jesus as the fulfillment of promises recorded in the Old Testament. It is also shown in Matthew’s emphasis on ethical concerns and on the laws of Judaism.

**January 15: The Kingdom of Heaven:** Matthew uses the term “kingdom of heaven” thirty-one times, while using the term “kingdom of God” only five times. The term “kingdom of heaven” is not found in the other gospel. This session will focus on Matthew’s use of the term, with discussion of what is meant by “kingdom of heaven.”

**January 29: Who Do You Say That I Am?** This session will focus on the titles for Jesus and the roles of Jesus in the Gospel, with a focus on how we understand those titles and roles today.

**February 5: Jesus’ Teaching about the Church:** Matthew is the only evangelist to use the term “church” in a gospel. (Luke uses the term only in Acts.) This final session will explore the passages in Matthew that show Jesus teaching about the church.



## Adult Bible Study

Sundays at 8:15 a.m. in Meeting Room B (Jonathan’s office) which is next to the church office on the main floor. We are currently studying the book of Colossians.

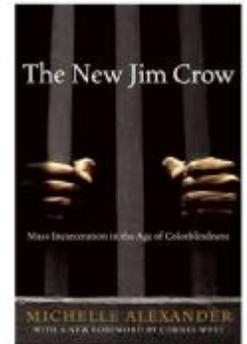
## CoYA and Spring Break

Alternative multi-generational spring break mission trip to Mississippi: March 19-26, 2017. Mission money is available to assist with the cost of the trip. Please see Rev. Owen.

## Book Study on *The New Jim Crow*

A book study is starting on **Friday, January 27 from 5:30 to 6:30 p.m.**

in the church library. Some weeks ago Deborah mentioned from the pulpit the book, *The New Jim Crow* by Michelle Alexander, as an important book related to issues of race. We will be reading and studying this book together with anyone who is interested. At the first gathering we will decide how often people want to meet (weekly, monthly, biweekly). It is open to anyone who is interested in attending. People will need to get their own copy of the book and plan on reading the first chapter by the 27<sup>th</sup> so our discussion will start that night. If you have any questions, feel free to call the church office to get Susan Silver’s phone no.



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## Thanks, Thrift Shop Volunteers!!

Preparation of Christmas merchandise and an increase in goods donated to the shop have required many extra volunteer hours in December. We are grateful to U. of I. Pre-Med Fraternity members who assembled and displayed Christmas trees; to Kim Fraser who hauled overstocks to Salvation Army; and to Nadja Altstetter, Mary Lou Bauer, Camille Caldwell, Lucille Carlyle, Beth Chato, Harold Guither, Linda Lorenz, Deborah Owen, and MaryE Yoemans who sorted, priced, and displayed donations. We are also grateful for the volunteers who are staffing the shop during this busy season. All these volunteers are making a difference for people who shop at *Twice Is Nice* and for the Champaign-Urbana social service agencies our congregation is able to support with income from the shop.



On January 4, Pat Jensen and David Mies braved very chilly weather to haul bags of thrift shop overstocks to the Salvation Army and USAgain. Camille Caldwell, Linda Lorenz, Rusty Halberstadt, MaryE Yoemans, and Berta Wendel stored Christmas inventory and sorted newly arriving donations. This work is critical to the success of the shop, and we thank them for doing it.

**We invite YOU to join our next sorting day, on Saturday, January 21 from 9:00 to Noon.** The post-holiday period brings many donations to the shop. Please help ready them for sale.

# Church Family



## In the Church Family

Let us remember in our prayers:

- Bill Hall, at Presence Hospital
- Amanda Pellett
- Marilyn Dewey, home after hospitalization

**With sadness we share the news that** Myron Feitshans passed away on Friday, December 16. A celebration of life will be held at a later date. Please be praying for his wife Marjorie and their family.

**Our love and sympathy** to the family of Nadine Neucks, long time member who died near San Luis Obispo, CA on January 10, 2017. Services are pending, but most likely will be on Saturday, January 21 in the church chapel. Please keep the family in your thoughts and prayers.

## Welcome, New Members

**Guy and Youngsun Williams** will be received as new members during worship on January 15.



## Church Office

The church office will be closed on Monday, January 16 for the Birthday of the Rev. Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr.



## Presbyterian 101

**Question from December:** What is the Book of Confessions which Presbyterians use?

**Answer:** Its creeds and confessions are statements of doctrine which express the beliefs of a church/congregation

**New Question:** What two books are essential tenets for Presbyterians?

Look for the answer in the February Open Door

## Library Courtyard Update

With the growing season ended, thanks are due to the volunteers who maintained the courtyard this summer and prepared it for the coming year. Eva Steger faithfully battled weeds all summer. Don Hunt sprayed boxwoods infested with insects. Ellis Sanderson trimmed the old crab tree. John Dewey donated canna lilies to brighten the west border. Steve Johnson took steps to remedy the flooding problems which have plagued the garden. Pat Jensen and Nadja Altstetter helped keep plants watered. To prepare the area for planting a new red maple next spring, Gary Jackson shopped for pavers to raise a bed, Ellis Sanderson sawed the pavers to fit the space, Don Hunt calculated the amount of soil needed to fill it, and Dave Sherwood, David Mies, Ralph Trimble and Gary Jackson shoveled the soil in place. Volunteers will be needed to maintain the garden next year. Please contact Dixie Jackson if you can be among them.

## Sunday Assisting Schedule

	January 15	January 22	January 29	February 5
<b>Worship Leader</b>	Jean Clarkson	PNC Member	Barb Mann	TBD
<b>Acolyte</b>	TBD	TBD	TBD	TBD
<b>Head Usher</b>	Harold Guither	John Dimit	Don Wendel	Jason Harris
<b>Ushers</b>	Lois Guither Pam Santic Joseph Santic	Bob Burger Ann Burger Gary Jackson	Ann Ricker Susan Silver Darryl Silver	Dave Bullock Two more TBD
<b>Greeter</b>	Shari Hall	Dixie Jackson	TBD	TBD
<b>Steward</b>	David Mies	Jamie Ellis	Barb Mann	Nancy Uchtmann
<b>Coffee Maker</b>	Nancy Uchtmann	Liz Greeley	Beth Chato	David Kay
<b>Cup Washer</b>	Nancy Uchtmann	Liz Greeley	Beth Chato	David Kay
<b>Communion Table</b>	Flowers: Champions	Flowers: Jacksons	<i>Flower dedication available</i>	Communion

## Christmas Photos



*Our Children and Youth Present "The Epic Christmas Quiz Show" during Worship on December 18, 2016*



*The Congregation Sings with Lit Candles on Christmas Eve*



*The Thies Family Lights the Advent Wreath Candles on Christmas Eve*



*Our Tree, Poinsettias and Nativity Set Grace the Chancel on Christmas Eve*

# Community Events



## Help the Homeless in Our Community

What would it take to survive? How would you stay warm? Would you even be able to sleep at all?

C-U *at*Home One Winter Night will take place on **February 3, 2017**, in downtown Champaign. This is our sixth time to hold this signature community event to raise awareness and funds to help the homeless in our community.

At One Winter Night we ask community leaders and members of all walks of life to spend all night, 12 hours, outside in a cardboard refrigerator box. It's merely a simulation of what some folks unfortunately experience night after night. Each person willing to take on this challenge, called a box dweller, is asked to **raise at least \$1,000 for C-U *at*Home** to support your experience. **Church member Dave Mies and Church staff member Ed King are participating as Box Dwellers. Contributions from church members will be appreciated.** Please see them to share your financial support.

## Habitat for Humanity Community Open House



Please join us in celebrating the kickoff of our 25<sup>th</sup> Anniversary in Champaign County 1992-2017. **Thursday, January 19, 6:00-7:00 p.m. at the Habitat Restore 119 E University Ave in Champaign.** We will be presenting the George Kieffer Award—Living the Spirit of Habitat for Humanity—and celebrating the work of our committees, volunteers and Habitat Home owners! Light refreshments by Dish Passionate Cuisine

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*In our community and around the world, Habitat believes everyone deserves a decent place to live. Our mission continues to help build strength, stability and self-reliance through shelter. Please join us!*



## Jubilee Farms CSA

Looking for fresh veggies next year? Jubilee Farms' CSA, community supported agriculture, provides members of the community the opportunity to support a

local farm and in return receive a weekly share of the harvest. Cyndy Ash, owner of Jubilee Farms is working closely with Faith in Place, and faith communities in Champaign, Bloomington, and Decatur.

Full share (3-4 people) cost \$300 and a half share (1-2 people) only \$150. Payments made by March 1 will receive a 10% discount. The CSA lasts for 12 weeks and the typical weekly bounty consists of 6 to 8 different offerings: vegetables, fruit, and eggs.

CSA Shares may also be purchased and donated. Donated shares will be given to local non-profits in those communities. Drop off locations will include Bloomington, Decatur, and Champaign.

Read more and get fresh veggies here:  
<http://jubileefarmsclinton.com>

## C/U Vigil: Keeping Watch on Our Common Home *A Faith in Place Event*



Faith Partners and friends of Earth will sponsor a vigil Sunday, **January 22, from 5:30-6:30 p.m.** Our vigil will be at the bandstand in **Westside Park, Champaign.**

This is one of 100 events taking place across the country during the first 100 hours of the new administration. It is a chance for us to connect, educate and advocate for the healthier communities.

Inspiring speakers, great music, networking opportunities and positive, forward leaning actions will be part of this **NOT TO BE MISSED EVENT.**

Register at <https://www.faithinplace.org/events/cu-vigil-keeping-watch-our-common-home>

Speakers will include Rob Kanter, Prince Robertson, Environmental Justice chair for the Ch. Co. NAACP, and Rabbi Alan Cook.

After the vigil, we'll have hot chocolate at First Presbyterian Church Champaign and see the Men's Emergency Shelter space there.

# MLK Jr. Events

## Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. Commemoration U of I Events for the Community

### 16<sup>th</sup> Annual Countywide Dr. MLK, Jr. Celebration

**FRIDAY, JANUARY 13, 4:00 p.m. to 6:00 p.m.**

Parkland College “U” Building  
2400 West Bradley Avenue, Champaign

This celebration brings together community members to celebrate the mission, teachings, and legacy of Dr. King. This year, Dr. Christopher Benson, Associate Professor of African American Studies & Journalism at the University of Illinois will be the keynote presenter. Contact: Tracy Kleparski ([tklepars@illinois.edu](mailto:tklepars@illinois.edu)).

### 32<sup>nd</sup> Annual Dr. MLK, Jr. Service of Celebration

**SUNDAY, JANUARY 15, 5:00 p.m. to 7:00 p.m.**

Krannert Center, 500 South Goodwin, Urbana

Since 1988, the Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. Advocacy for Justice Committee has awarded over 200 scholarships to local students attending colleges such as Parkland, University of Illinois, and Historically Black Colleges and Universities. This year we honor the memory of Dr. King with Rev. Dr. Allan Boesak as the keynote speaker. Contact: Tracy Kleparski ([tklepars@illinois.edu](mailto:tklepars@illinois.edu)).

### 32<sup>nd</sup> Annual Unity Breakfast

**MONDAY, JANUARY 16, 8:30 a.m. to 10:30 a.m.**

The Vineyard Church, 1500 North Lincoln, Urbana

The 2017 Martin Luther King, Jr. Advocacy for Justice Committee and Vineyard Church welcomes community members to join in celebrating the birthday of America’s preeminent advocate of nonviolence and one of the greatest nonviolent leaders in world history at the 32<sup>nd</sup> annual Unity Breakfast. Contact: Tracy Kleparski ([tklepars@illinois.edu](mailto:tklepars@illinois.edu)).

### MLK YOUTH Commemoration and Afternoon of Service

**MONDAY, JANUARY 16, 10:30 a.m. to 3:00 p.m.**

Urbana High School Commons, 1002 S. Race Street,  
Urbana (parking available off of Washington Street)

Join high school youth for a celebration of the legacy of Rev. Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. The event includes performances, a keynote speech, guided discussion, and afternoon on-site volunteer activities. Contact: **Libby Tyler** ([eh Tyler@urbanainillinois.us](mailto:eh Tyler@urbanainillinois.us)).

### For U of I students: MLK Day of Service

**MONDAY, JANUARY 16, 1:00 p.m. to 4:00 p.m.**

Illini Union I-Rooms, ABC, 1401 W Green, Urbana

Learn about the impact Dr. Martin Luther King Jr. had on the world and complete a hands-on service projects that will be donated to community organizations.

Pre-register at <http://go.illinois.edu/mlkday>

### Krannert “Uncorked”

**THURSDAY, JANUARY 19, 5:00 p.m. to 7:00 p.m.**

Krannert Center for the Performing Arts  
500 South Goodwin, Urbana

Join us as we network and engage through a mixture of musical genres and spoken word. Performances by Nfinite Soul along with community and student performances will offer a setting to encourage Pursuing the Dream in Challenging Times through the legacy of Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. Contact: Tracy Kleparski ([tklepars@illinois.edu](mailto:tklepars@illinois.edu)).

### Poverty Simulation

**FRIDAY, JANUARY 20, 1:00 p.m. to 3:00 p.m.**

Room 2027, School of Social Work  
1010 West Nevada Street, Urbana

Of all Dr. King’s messages, one of his most prominent was the issue of poverty. The U of I School of Social Work will host a poverty simulation to help us to better understand the issues, hurdles, and roadblocks faced by those living in poverty. The simulation will allow participants an opportunity to debrief their experiences and think about how they can begin to tackle the challenge of poverty in Champaign County. To Register: <https://illinois.edu/fb/sec/9937424>  
Contact: Katie Harmon ([ksharmon@illinois.edu](mailto:ksharmon@illinois.edu)).

### Community Celebration

**SATURDAY, JANUARY 21, 10:00 a.m. to 12:00 p.m.**

Krannert Center for the Performing Arts, Stage 5  
500 South Goodwin, Urbana

This event marks the culmination of the week of events surrounding Dr. King’s legacy. The keynote speaker will be Dr. Eric McDuffie with the African American Studies Department. The program will include a presentation by Wrapsody, and a performance by the Banks, Bridgewater, and Lewis Drum Corps. The event will have entertainment for all ages and is free of charge. Contact: Tracy Kleparski ([tklepars@illinois.edu](mailto:tklepars@illinois.edu)).

## Family Fun Concert at Krannert

Instantly magnetic and beautifully original, high-energy reggae artist Aaron Nigel Smith brings a global sensibility to music making for children. On Saturday, February 4, Smith arrives at Krannert Center with his lively and engaging troupe of musicians for a free, 10:00 a.m. performance that will take place in the Center’s expansive Lobby. Doors open at 9:00 a.m. with free craft activities throughout the morning. <https://krannertcenter.com/events/family-fun-concert-aaron-nigel-smith>

## Church Staff

Interim Pastor – Rev. Deborah Owen  
[deowen@FirstPresUrbana.org](mailto:deowen@FirstPresUrbana.org)

Financial Administrator – Rachel Gladden  
[rachel@FirstPresUrbana.org](mailto:rachel@FirstPresUrbana.org)

Office Manager – Tracy Weddle  
[office@FirstPresUrbana.org](mailto:office@FirstPresUrbana.org)

Sexton – Steve Johnson, [sjohnson@FirstPresUrbana.org](mailto:sjohnson@FirstPresUrbana.org)

Director of Music / Organist – Jonathan Young  
[jyoung@FirstPresUrbana.org](mailto:jyoung@FirstPresUrbana.org)

Media Support Specialist: Nani Baker  
[nbaker@firstpresurbana.org](mailto:nbaker@firstpresurbana.org)

Children's Choir & Junior Handbell Choir Director –  
Jennifer Immke, [jenykate14@hotmail.com](mailto:jenykate14@hotmail.com)

Guitarist – Chris Beyt

High School Youth Fellowship Leader – Brian Summers

Toddler/Preschool Caregiver – Madhu Pradhan

AV Technician Coordinator – Ed King

Tenor Section Leader: Alpie Kiu

## OUR KEY MESSAGES

Welcome to our church family!

God is doing *exciting* things here!

Choose a path: **Have an impact & feed your soul!**

**Thanks** to Joe and Alice Long for preparing this Open Door for mailing.

**Open Door Deadline:** For inclusion in the next Open Door, items should be submitted by **Thursday, February 2** to [office@firstpresurbana.org](mailto:office@firstpresurbana.org). The Open Door will be mailed on **Wednesday, February 8**.

**First Presbyterian Church of Urbana**

602 W Green St, Urbana, IL 61801

(217) 367-8357

[www.FirstPresUrbana.org](http://www.FirstPresUrbana.org)

**Find Us on Facebook**

**Church Office Hours**

Monday – Friday, 9:00 a.m. – 4:00 p.m.

Address Service Requested

First Presbyterian Church  
602 West Green Street  
Urbana IL 61801