One of my favorite characters in the Bible is Joseph. You might remember that we talked about him a lot towards the end of our Genesis sermon series in August. Joseph ends up sold into slavery by his brothers because they are jealous of his gifts and the favoritism showed to Joseph by their father, Jacob. However, God uses this incident to save Joseph’s family from starvation. You see, Joseph eventually rises to power in Egypt, allowing him to store up food during the years of plenty so that everyone can survive during the years of famine. Joseph was in the right place at the right time and he ended up doing a lot of good for a lot of people.

For the last year, I have been waiting to tell you about the new vision for the church. I had this vision formulated from the time I arrived in September 2013. I alluded to that vision here and there during my sermon series on Genesis, but I knew I needed to wait to disclose the entire vision to you until now. Why? Because, like Joseph’s story, timing is everything. If I told you about the vision too soon, then some of the elements of that vision would seem out of place and not everyone would support it. If I waited too long to tell you about the vision, it would be too little, too late. The question I have been praying about often is whether this is the right place and the right time so that we too can end up doing a lot of good for a lot of people. I believe that the time is now. We have had a year together. A year of getting to know one another. You know who I am as a pastor and I know your potential as a congregation. I believe we are ready to follow Our Dreams and God’s Plan. I also believe many of you realize that the roadmap I have laid before you is going to be challenging, but that if we are successful, it will transform our church into a beacon of hope for many in our community.

We are at the beginning stages of this new vision, and I believe that for it to be successful, we all need to know what is required to take this church to new levels. In the same way that I was very transparent with you when we discussed the vision for the church, I believe in being transparent about exactly what our financial needs are at First Pres. I start with one number: 29. If you and I give $29 per week, our community thrives. If every worshiping adult member of our church can give $29 per week, we will be able to make our 2015 budget goal of $1.3 million. In case you are wondering, $29 a week is about $1,500 per year. Therefore, if you are a couple, then you would give twice that amount—$58 a week, or $3,000 per year. If you can give more than that, I highly encourage you to do so. However, $29 a week is the minimum that will ensure our community achieves its goals.

When you write down your financial contribution for Commitment Sunday on November 9, I ask that you reflect on how you are not only supporting your church family, but on how you are also ensuring the vision for our church will become a reality. I want you to reflect on how your hard-earned dollars are going to fund something that is vitally important for yourself and for other people. But most important, I want you to realize that, like Joseph, we are in the right place, at the right time for God to use us to do a lot of good for a lot of people.
The deadline for the December 2014 / January 2015 issue of The Chimes is November 10 at 9:00 am. Submit articles to Kris Mainellis, director of communications, at krismainellis@fpcah.org.

**Session Highlights**

by Tom Pardo, Clerk of Session

From the October 13, 2014, meeting:

- Agreed to defer consideration of the measure permitting same-gender wedding ceremonies to be conducted at First Presbyterian Church until after the Presbytery of Chicago has taken action on the ratification of the redefinition of marriage constitutional amendment approved at the General Assembly in June.

- Approved a written response opposing the General Assembly action taken in June to divest from Caterpillar, Hewlett-Packard, and Motorola Solutions.

- Approved an addition to the General Personnel Guidelines permitting employees to work from home up to 40 percent of their hours if approved by the pastor/head of staff and if their presence is not required in-house to perform all of their duties.

- Approved 16 people for membership in First Presbyterian Church. This is the largest new member class since before the transition time.

- Learned that the Mission and Outreach Committee has sent out the first issue of Mission Happenings, a quarterly e-mail newsletter focusing on mission activities and opportunities. This first issue was sent to an interest group defined by the 2014 stewardship campaign responses.

- Learned that the church’s cost for the August flooding in Fellowship Hall will be $5,000, the amount of the insurance deductible. The remaining amount will be paid by the insurance company.

For additional Session information, please see the “Session Meeting Highlights” report in the Narthex literature rack.

**Filmology: The Intersection of Film and Theology**

Wednesday Evenings in the Chapel

If you enjoy watching movies, this class may be right up your alley. Pastor Alex Lang is leading an exploration of movie themes and how they connect to theology.

**Film: Life in a Day**

(October 29 – Nov. 19)

The movie will be presented at 7:00 pm on October 29, followed by three Wednesday evenings of discussion, each beginning at 7:30 pm. *Life in a Day* is a documentary created entirely by footage uploaded by YouTube users from all over the world. The film serves as a time capsule of what it was like to be alive on July 24, 2010 (95 min.).

**POSTPONED:**

**What It’s Like to Be Muslim in America**

Originally scheduled for October 26 – November 16, this class will be postponed to a later time. Imam Abdur Rahman Khan is recovering from an accident. Please keep him in your prayers.

**Advent Devotional**

The 2014 Advent Devotional, a booklet filled with reflections by First Pres members of all ages, will be available the First Sunday of Advent, November 30. The theme is “Let the Light Shine.”

**History of the Early Christian Church**

Sundays, October 26 – December 7
(no class November 30)

9:45-10:45 am, Chapel

Dr. Ken Sawyer will lead participants on a sweeping tour of the early Christian church, including its roots in Judaism, the movement’s major proponents, and the fascinating interaction between the growth of the church and its social and political contexts, and how these interactions reach into our contemporary lives.

**Planting Seeds of Learning**

Growing in Faith and Spiritual Understanding

Catch these ongoing classes! It’s not too late to join in. Visit fpcah.org/adult_education to learn about more opportunities for growth.

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Welcome, New Members!

The following newest members of the family of faith at First Pres were received into the congregation Sunday, October 19. Welcome!

**Michael Cooper** — Michael grew up in Arlington Heights and recently returned to the area. He has three daughters and eleven grandchildren and is the “GluGuru,”—the owner of a wholesale distributor of specialty adhesives. Michael enjoys sports, reading, exercise, and helping others. He appreciates the “various avenues to help in the community, plus the warm, friendly people” at First Pres. Michael has served in many mission activities at First Pres, including Habitat projects, the First Pres PADS (Public Action to Deliver Shelter) ministry, Service Day, and the Dominican Republic mission.

**Amy DeBolt** — Amy recently moved to the area and is happy to be joining First Pres. She enjoys going to museums and playing games. What Amy enjoys most about First Pres is the people.

**Meribeth and Chris Cassidy** — Meribeth and Chris have been married for seven years and they have three children. They have lived in the area for six years. Chris teaches at a high school and is a soccer coach. He enjoys rock climbing, running, and soccer. Meribeth is an occupational therapist. She enjoys running, working out, and caring for the couple’s children. Meribeth appreciates the friendly, welcoming people at First Pres, and Chris adds: “The community seems centered on making members their personal best, and having a community that is youth- and family-oriented.” They really like the finding grace worship service. Chris is interested in getting involved in children’s ministries.

**Currie Gasche** — Currie has been married to Mark for twenty-two years and they have a son, Chris, in eighth grade. The family has lived in the area for four years. Currie works in admissions and corporate accounts for Lake Forest Graduate School. She likes music, gardening, and cooking. Currie enjoys the people, worship, and music ministry” at First Pres. She is looking forward to getting involved in adult education and mission opportunities.

**Bill Hamilton** — Bill has been married to Marilee for forty-two years. They have two cats and have lived in the area for thirty-five years. Bill worked for United Airlines for many years and is retired. He has a variety of hobbies and volunteer interests, including the Buddy Foundation (no-kill animal shelter); Arlington Trotters Running Club; Boy Scouts; Friends of Arlington Heights Memorial Library; walking, cycling, travel, and gardening; and mission work.

**Robert Hoff** — Bob grew up at First Pres. He has two grown children. Having recently moved back to the area, he is looking forward to getting reacquainted with his church family. Bob does furniture repair and enjoys fishing and softball. He especially enjoys the sermons and the people of First Pres.

**Cathy and Larry Martin** — Cathy and Larry Martin have been married for nineteen years and they have two children, Jack (15) and Grace (14). The family has lived in the area for eighteen years. Cathy is a nurse and Larry is an administrator. Cathy is interested in interior design, gardening, wellness, and music. Larry enjoys photography, reading, working out, and World War II history. Larry and Cathy value the “friendly, welcoming community” of First Pres. Two areas they are interested in are the PADS ministry and children’s ministries.

**Malorie and Scott Ninemeier** — Malorie and Scott have been married for four years, have lived in the area for close to two years, and are excited to be expecting a baby in December. They both work for a private country club—Malorie, as an accountant, and Scott, as a manager. They enjoy traveling, golf, hospitality, and watching college sports. Scott also rows and plays hockey. Scott and Malorie are looking forward to serving others through First Pres and getting to know others in this faith community. “We know this is the place for us to raise a child in the church. First Pres is very welcoming and is in line with our beliefs and values. We look forward to becoming active participants in the church!”

continued on page 4
Celebrating Committee Members

by Kris Mainellis

First Presbyterian Church has nearly a dozen committees, made up of volunteers who bring the mission and ministry of this church to life. The Session and church staff are very grateful to all who give so freely of their time and talents to be the hands and heart of Christ, including the following individuals exiting committees in 2014. Also included here is an abbreviated version of each committee’s mission. Not all committees are represented.

Adult Education: Bill Ginnodo
**Mission:** To foster lifelong spiritual growth for church members as well as the surrounding community of all faiths who are interested in spiritual inquiry.

Administration and Personnel: Sue Tharp, Mike Campbell
**Mission:** To provide appropriate management, support, and counsel to the employees of the church and to the Session regarding personnel issues.

Children’s Ministries: Susan Schuffer
**Mission:** To provide for and supervise children’s Christian education in order to nurture and develop the faith and spiritual growth of children and families in the church and community.

Communications: Richard Scott
**Mission:** Responsible for all external and internal church publications, e-mail messaging, social networking, website management, webcasting, and digital signage.

Congregational and Community Life: Sheila Hall, Edie Jolly, Gary McClung, Cathy Dillon
**Mission:** To oversee activities that promote the fellowship and growth of the church.

Mission and Outreach: Nancy Ashe, Robert Blonn, Tom Carroll, Susan Kogan, Sue Minarik, Earl Oak
**Mission:** To develop and encourage support for mission and outreach programs of a Christian character.

Stewardship: Ingrid Kaufman, George Economos
**Mission:** To promote year-round Christian stewardship at First Presbyterian Church by raising awareness of how our commitments of time, talent, and treasure can touch and change the lives of others.

Youth Ministries: Patti Noble, Doug Hiskes
**Mission:** To support programs to minister to the youth (grade 6 – college age).

Learn more at fpcah.org/session, or contact Kris Mainellis at krismainellis@fpcah.org or 847-255-5900.

Many thanks to these special volunteers who have served so faithfully on church committees.

New Members
continued from page 3

Karin and Kerry Richardson — Karin and Kerry have been married for twenty-five years. They have a grown son. Karin was raised in the area, and the couple moved back a year ago. Kerry’s career is in supply management and operations. Karin was a meeting planner, an author, and a teacher. Kerry enjoys hiking and reading, while Karin likes tennis, writing, baking, and crocheting. First Pres holds a lot of family memories for Karin, whose parents were members. Kerry enjoys the people, the CROSSROADS worship service, and special events, and is interested in mission and care opportunities.

Brent Werner — Brent has lived in the area for about three years. He is a research associate with a molecular diagnostics company. His interests include downhill skiing and drumming. Brent enjoys worship and the fellowship he experienced during a First Pres Habitat for Humanity work project. He is looking forward to more Habitat projects.

Lori Wissinger — Lori has been married to Ray for thirty-one years and they have three grown children. Lori is a physical therapist in a school setting. She enjoys piano, crocheting, walking her dogs, sewing, and bicycling. She likes that the people at First Pres “come from varied backgrounds and are friendly.”

Betty Williamson — Betty was a member of First Pres years ago, moved away, and is now back among us. She has lived in the area for a total of about twenty-five years and is semi-retired from being an executive assistant. She has two grown children and seven grandchildren. Betty enjoys knitting and walking. She feels the teaching at First Pres is exceptional because it makes her “think outside the box.” She finds the church staff exciting and feels a sense of community at First Pres.
What’s Coming Up

**Trendsetters Event**
Saturday, November 1 / 6:00 pm
Fellowship Hall and Chapel
Join the Trendsetters (adults 50+) for a potluck dinner followed by an evening of comedy. The program will be a DVD presentation of side-splitting humor and hilarious storytelling by Ken Davis and Bob Stromberg in their sold-out show in Shipshewana, Indiana—*Together Again, For the First Time*. Please bring a main dish, side dish, or dessert to share, along with your table service. **RSVP**: Rosalie Stoike, 847-259-2367, or Jo Christian, 847-259-4617

**Pathways Gathering**
Friday, November 14 / 8:00 pm
Pathways (young singles, couples and families) is hosting an Adults Only Night Friday, November 14 at 8:00 pm. Join them for appetizers and desserts at the home of Chris and Jenny Dunn. Please bring an appetizer, dessert, or drink to share. **RSVP by November 9**: Courtney Childs, cechilds@gmail.com

**Advent & Christmas Decorating**
Saturday, Nov. 29 / 9:00 am
Come join the fun of transforming First Pres with festive decorations for Advent and Christmas. Any amount of time is appreciated, and there are jobs for all ages. Meet in the Narthex.

**Christmas Flowers**
You are invited to stop by the Narthex between services on Sundays, November 9 and 16, to order flowers and Christmas greens to beautify the church and Christmas worship. Checks should be made payable to Presbyterian Women (*suggested donation*: $20). The Flower Committee will accept orders until December 1. The order form is also available at fpcah.org/forms.

**Thanksgiving Food Collection** — During the month of November, Presbyterian Women will collect nonperishable food items for families served by Christopher House and Firman Community Services in Chicago. Please place your donations in the labeled containers in the Narthex. Thank you!

**Christopher House Family to Family Program**
On Sundays, November 23 and 30, please stop by the Forum at 9:30 am or the Narthex at 10:30 am to sign up for this program, which serves more than 350 families. Donors sponsor a family by buying gifts and other essentials to meet their needs and ensure a special holiday season. Please consider participating individually, as a family, or together with friends. **Questions?** Contact Denise Poy at 847-259-0728

**Thanksgiving Pie Drive**
The deacons are continuing the First Pres tradition of providing pies for the Good News Partners Thanksgiving Dinner at the Jonquil Hotel. This is our 27th year collecting pies for those in need.

Please drop off homemade, frozen, or purchased pies on Tuesday, November 25 from 8:30 am to 4:00 pm. Frozen pies should be baked and cooled and then put back into their original box for delivery. The pies will be delivered on Wednesday, November 26.

Thank you!

**Time Change Reminder**
Daylight Saving Time ends Sunday, November 2.
Remember to turn your clocks back one hour on Saturday, November 1, before bed!

**Happy Thanksgiving**
November 27, 2014
The church office will be closed November 27 and 28.

**SAVE THE DATE:**
**Men’s Christmas Breakfast**
Saturday, December 13
8:30-9:30 am / Fellowship Hall
Men, mark your calendars and plan to attend this great celebration! Welcoming coffee begins at 8:00 am.

**New Life for Old Bags!**
New Life for Old Bags is a great mission in which sleeping mats are crocheted from plastic shopping bags. Residents of The Moorings of Arlington Heights recently donated six sleeping mats for the First Pres PADS (Public Action to Deliver Shelter) ministry. Completing just one mat involves many persons and many, many hours. We are thankful for these beautiful and amazing gifts from the wonderful Moorings residents!
Music & Worship

2014-2015 Concert Series

November 9, 2014:
Grant Street Quartet
4:00 pm in the Sanctuary
The Grant Street String Quartet is an engaging and refined ensemble that has delivered exquisite performances in and around Chicago since its formation in 2010. The four musicians of the quartet bring a wealth of professional solo, chamber music, and symphonic experience to the group, having performed with the Milwaukee, Elgin, Sydney, and Melbourne Symphonies and many other ensembles. This program is partially supported by a grant from the Illinois Arts Council Agency. Free child care is provided at all concerts.

Wednesdays @ Noon Recitals
First Wednesday of the Month
12:10-12:45 pm in the Sanctuary

November 5
Mario Duello, organist from Italy

December 3
Chuck Beech, piano; Christopher Urban, organ

Most concerts and recitals will be webcast at fpcab.org/webcast.

Celebrating Stewardship Sunday Through Music

“We Will Rock You” on November 2, Stewardship Sunday, during the finding grace service. That's right! The 8:30 am service will feature music from the band Queen. We need to “champion” the new vision that Alex, Tai, and Barbara have been presenting to us, so we will close the worship service with a rousing rendition of “We Are the Champions.” Come join us as we worship God through the music of the band Queen!

At the 9:30 am CROSSROADS service over the past several weeks, Adam Hendrickson, director of music programs, has introduced a new verse each week of a hymn he composed. Each verse corresponds to one of the three pillars of our new vision: Relational, Missional, and Caring Ministries. On November 2, the CROSSROADS congregation will join in singing this new, inspiring hymn together.

Worship Schedule

November 2  Season of Pentecost / Stewardship Sunday
Note Time Change: Fall Back 1 Hour!
1 Kings 3:3-15
preaching: Alex Lang
“The Dream Manager”
music:
8:30 am: Led by Compass, featuring the music of Queen
9:30 am: The Chancel Quartet
11:00 am: The Chancel Choir

November 9  Season of Pentecost / Commitment Sunday
Mark 2:1-12, 13-17
preaching: Alex Lang
The Black Swan Series: “The Sickness”
music:
8:30 am: Led by Compass
9:30 am: Men’s Chorus
11:00 am: The Chancel Choir

November 16 Season of Pentecost
Mark 2:23-28
preaching: Alex Lang
The Black Swan Series: “The Fence”
music:
8:30 am: Led by Compass
9:30 am: Chamber Singers
11:00 am: The Chancel Choir

November 23  Season of Pentecost / Middle School Youth Sunday / Celebration Sunday
Mark 3:1-6
Preaching at 8:30 and 11:00:
Middle School Youth
9:30: Installation of Officers
music:
8:30 am: Led by Compass with Middle School Youth
9:30 am: hymn favorites
11:00 am: Middle School Youth

November 30  First Sunday of Advent
Exodus 4:10-17; Matthew 7:24-29
preaching: Adrienne Trevathan
Advent Series: “Jesus as Moses”
music:
8:30 am: Led by Compass
9:30 am: Chancel Quartet
11:00 am: The Chancel Choir
Church Life

Celebrations
BIRTHS
Myrtle Jessogne is celebrating the birth of her sixteenth great-grandchild, Cole John Jessogne, born October 4, 2014.

Scott and Mary Hebden are celebrating the birth of a great grandson, Everett Michael Taylor, born Friday, October 17.

WEDDING — Rachel Bennett and Joseph Stryffeler were united in marriage on Saturday, October 4, 2014, at First Pres. Congratulations to the happy couple and to Rachel’s grandparents, Marcia Bennett and Edie and Bob Jolly!

Sympathy
Please join in extending sympathy to:
The family of Jim Freyer

Staff Update
Ellen Brault is now working part time. The receptionist duties will be shared by Ellen and another part-time employee, soon to be hired. The new e-mail address to reach both Ellen and the new employee is receptionist@fpcah.org.

Parents’ Day Out Book Fair
Just in time for the Christmas shopping season: Avoid the crowds and find some exciting reading for the children in your life. Stop by the Christian Education Wing for the Usborne Book Fair Sunday morning, November 9, between worship services. You can also view and order all 1,500 titles online at usborneil.com through November 14. Be sure to click on “PDO” before shopping. Proceeds benefit the PDO program. Questions? Contact Courtney Childs at cechilds@gmail.com.

Mission Spotlight: Christopher House
Agency Moves to New Location
by Lois Hartung

After 108 years at its founding location in Lincoln Park, Christopher House has moved. The neighborhood surrounding the Greenview Avenue site has become highly gentrified. As purchase prices of homes skyrocket, clients of Christopher House have moved westward, to the Belmont Cragin neighborhood, an area in Chicago whose disadvantaged population is sorely underserved.

Through a contract agreement with the Chicago Public Schools, Christopher House secured property in this neighborhood and has constructed a new building that houses school and after-school care for infants through second graders. The long-range plan is to provide the entire grade-school experience for young people in that area.

Along with the expansion into Belmont Cragin, on the city’s West Side the agency has increased its presence in Uptown and Logan Square. With this growth, Christopher House is now serving 25 percent more low-income children and families, more than 5,000 each year. While locations have changed, the mission of Christopher House remains the same—Helping Families Thrive.

American Presbyterians concerned about the people of the Democratic Republic of Congo (DRC) gathered in early October in Great Falls, Montana, to discuss ways to promote peace, justice, reconciliation, quality education, and good health in the DRC.

Participants in the Congo Mission Network’s (CMN’s) annual meeting engaged in prayer and conversation with leaders of the Presbyterian Church (USA)’s Congolese partner churches and PC(USA) mission personnel serving in the region. First Pres member Phyllis Green, convener of the CMN Advocacy Task Team, reported on the CMN’s efforts to urge Congress to adopt H.R. 131, which calls for an end to gender-based violence and the recruitment of child soldiers, and to reintroduce and enact the International Violence Against Women Act.

In June 2014, the General Assembly of the PC(USA) overwhelmingly endorsed a resolution mandating the church to support efforts to hold security and paramilitary forces in the DRC accountable for acts of sexual violence and child recruitment, to promote transparency in extractive industries, to strengthen the educational system in the DRC, and to build collective security mechanisms in the region.

First Pres has financially supported the building of schools in Congo.

Making Progress for Human Rights in Congo

In June 2014, the General Assembly of the PC(USA) overwhelmingly endorsed a resolution mandating the church to support efforts to hold security and paramilitary forces in the DRC accountable for acts of sexual violence and child recruitment, to promote transparency in extractive industries, to strengthen the educational system in the DRC, and to build collective security mechanisms in the region.

Christopher House has long been supported by the Mission and Outreach Committee of First Pres. Presbyterian Women has had an active personal connection. Our congregation has been supportive, providing donations of food, clothing, and money. To find out how you can donate or be more involved, contact Lois Hartung 847-255-9223 or visit christopherhouse.org.
Missions

Dominican Republic Mission: Medical Supplies Collection
by Roger Bertelson

Preparations continue for the 2015 Mission Trip to the Dominican Republic (DR). Thanks to all of you who contributed to the school supplies drive in September, we are in good shape for the Christian education team to conduct classes for about 400 children at a total of five locations. It should be exciting!

In November, we will begin to collect medical supplies at First Pres for our clinics. Last year, we held three clinics in two locations and for the first time, Pastor Osvaldo Valero wanted us to have a dedicated clinic for Haitians living in the hills surrounding Gaspar Hernandez who, in the past, have been reluctant to attend one of the clinics because of their questionable status in the country. It was interesting to see the looks on the faces of the children who were about to have their first fluoride treatment at the clinic.

The DR collection barrel will be in the Narthex from November 2 through December 14 to collect over-the-counter medicines for the mission. Items that we can purchase in the United States to be hand carried by the mission team include: cough medicines; antacids (liquid and tablets); calcium (tablets and liquid); vitamins (tablets, capsules, syrup); children’s vitamins (tablets; no gummy bears, please); antifungal (cream and tablets); arthritis tablets; allergy medicine (syrup and tablets); adult, infant, and children’s acetaminophen (Tylenol) or ibuprofen (Motrin) (no aspirin); burn cream; and reading glasses (+1.25 and +1.50 preferred). There are no limits to the quantities of any of the above. The team also welcomes donations to allow the purchase of the following items in the DR: medicines, topical creams, soaps, and antibiotics. Stop by the Giving Tree in the Narthex in November and December to purchase a “leaf” of varying value.

The clinic portion of the D.R. Mission has always been an important part of the outreach to the Gaspar Hernandez community. What medicines that aren’t used up in the clinics while we’re there are used in clinics conducted in the remote villages. Not to worry, the medicines that you drop into the blue DR barrel in the Narthex will find good homes! Thank you for your generous support.

South Dakota Mission:
Do They Have Enough Warm Winter Clothing?
by Michele Holifield

The colder weather is beginning to move in, and we are beginning to take inventory of our cold-weather gear. As you see what still fits, and make those trips to purchase new winter coats, boots, snowpants, scarves, hats, and mittens, please consider remembering the children in Sisseton, South Dakota.

Over the past several years our congregation has generously provided new and gently used winter coats to the children of Sisseton. Each December, representatives of the Dakota Partnership drive a truck full of Christmas presents and winter gear to South Dakota to share with the children who attend our Vacation Bible School (VBS) during our summer mission trip. This past summer saw record attendance at VBS, with more than 300 children attending. That means we are looking for many warm coats.

Collection boxes will be in the Narthex and near the Chapel entrance. Please leave your donations in these boxes between November 23 and December 14. In addition to children’s outdoor cold-weather items we are also accepting gently used or new adult-sized coats. If you have questions, please contact Michele Holifield at mhholifield@yahoo.com.

Special Offerings This Month
The special offering on November 2 will be designated for the Deacons’ Assistance Offering, used to support many different missions and programs, including congregational care ministries and local community social service organizations. The special offering on Sunday, November 30, will support the mission to the Dominican Republic.

Mark Your Calendars...
2015 South Dakota Mission Trip
Next year’s trip to Sisseton will take place June 20-26, 2015. To learn more about this wonderful opportunity to be the hands and heart of Christ, contact Richard Scott at rsclott1430@comcast.net or visit the Mission page at fpcah.org.
Youth Ministries
by TC Anderson, Director of Youth Ministries

Stockholders’ Luncheon
On Sunday, October 12, the youth hosted the Stockholders’ Luncheon to thank all of the members who had bought stock in the youth mission program last March. The youth served delicious pasta and salad for the main course, entertained the guests with stories from their mission experiences, and served cookies for dessert! All in all, the luncheon was a well-attended, well-fed, much-enjoyed event! Youth Ministries would once again like to thank all of you who supported us last year. We wouldn’t be able to help serve without you! Thank you so much!

Confirmation Fall Retreat
Confirmation is off and running! We had our first big event, a day retreat to YMCA Camp Duncan, in October. There were icebreaking games, mind-puzzling activities, low-ropes-course events, radioactive ooze, team-building initiatives, archery lessons, and a whole lot of fun! This trip helped our confirmands grow closer and laid the ground work for a wonderful year. Look for more information to come soon.

Middle School Youth Sunday
Mark your calendars for November 23 at finding grace and Heritage worship! The middle school youth will be in charge of the whole service—preaching, readings, sermons, everything! Come out and support our youth!

2014 Anniversary Speaker
A Conversation About Life and Death in Rwanda by Bill Ginnodo

His name is pronounced: ru-se-sa-ba-gi-na. It means, “He who disperses enemies.” And he did just that, saving 1,268 lives in the process.

Paul Rusesabagina was the First Pres 2014 Anniversary Speaker on Sunday, September 28. The 400+ people present were enthralled with his story. If you missed it, you can see it on the Webcast Archives page at fpcah.org (click on “9-28-14 Rwanda Program”).

After the presentation, 70 attendees lined up to purchase Paul’s book and the DVD of the movie Hotel Rwanda, which Paul was happy to autograph. A pre-event reception was held in the Parlor to welcome guests, including approximately 35 community leaders, international dignitaries, and individuals involved in international mission. Church member and professional photographer John Welzenbach was on hand to take some portraits, including a stunning portrait of Paul (shown left).

In a seated interview conducted in the Sanctuary by First Pres member George Drost, who is a local lawyer with an international focus, Paul told of the three months in 1994 when he was manager of the Hotel Mille des Collines. About one million people were killed with machetes in a genocide mostly of the Tutsis by the Hutus. His comments included details on:

- The mayhem in the streets of Kigali, the Rwandan capital, and the surrounding countryside, where 10,000 people were killed every day;
- The ineffectiveness of the United Nations peacekeeping force and of the churches;
- How he convinced higher-ups in the military to keep the hotel property off-limits to roving bands of killers (the hotel’s liquor supply was a helpful inducement);
- How 40 people per hotel room survived on corn and beans, and on rationed swimming pool water when the hotel’s water and electricity were shut off;
- How it is important to “bring about reconciliation through words” wherever genocide occurs in the world.

This free, well-received anniversary program was sponsored and run by the Adult Education Committee as a community outreach. Planning team members included George Drost, Tai Magette, Kris Mainellis, and Bill Ginnodo from First Pres, and Sean Tenner and Kitty Kurth from the Hotel Rwanda Rusesabagina Foundation.

Watch the movie, Hotel Rwanda, and read Paul’s excellent book, An Ordinary Man: An Autobiography, for a full description of his harrowing experience.
One morning last summer, a young man by the name of Nikolas dropped in on the 6:30 Monday morning Men’s Bible Class. He is one of a number of people who are homeless who spend some of the summer nights sleeping outside the St. James Street door of our church. He appeared to have autistic characteristics. Nikolas shared with us that he has a full-time job at a Jewel Food Store in Park Ridge, where he earns the minimum wage. By my calculation that’s less than $17,000 a year. He bemoaned that earnings from the job were insufficient for him to afford a place to live.

Since meeting Nikolas, I dream of solving the dilemma facing Nikolas and others in adverse situations. Hearing Alex Lang’s inspiring vision for First Pres intensified my dreams of what could be. I wonder if we as a corporate body called First Pres could do more to help Nikolas and others desperately in need of help. Should we? Will we?

As a congregation, we are deeply committed to the care of people who are homeless. Our commitment to them makes their life more bearable. Through the First Pres PADS (Public Action to Deliver Shelter) ministry we compassionately give significant resources of time and money to the care of those without homes. From October to April we house them one night a week. From October to April we provide them with a hot dinner, a hearty breakfast, and a bag lunch. From October to April, at 7:00 am we usher them out of the church to fend for themselves during the day. And during the warmer months from May to September, they face the challenge, “Where will I sleep? Where will I get food?”

I dream of an expanded program for people without homes that cares for them all day, all year. No longer during daylight hours will they have to wander about the community, hanging out in places such as the library and train station. No longer will they have to sleep outdoors in places like the entrance to our church. Should we do more? Can we do more?

Will we do more?

Journeys: The Road Home is another organization we help with financial and human resources. It provides free daytime services to those who are homeless and those at risk of becoming homeless. But Journeys is resource-limited. It can’t meet all needs. I dream of Journeys having ample resources to fulfill all needs of its clients. Should we help make that possible? Can we do more? Will we do more? And Faith Community Homes (FCH) strives to help working families become financially stable, offering housing assistance and mentoring. Our congregation gives more money to FCH than any other church. Three church members serve on its board and give their time and talents. First Pres provides an office for the staff. The organization serves a dozen families at one time. Human and dollar resources set the limit. I dream of Faith Community Homes having all of the resources to serve all in need. Should we do more? Can we do more? Will we do more?

Paul’s letter to Timothy states that we should do good, be rich in good deeds, and be generous and willing to share. Yes, members and friends of First Pres are doing good deeds, are generous, and are willing to share. But consider: Should we do more? Can we do more? Will we do more? Mull on my dreams and those you may have as we begin to implement Alex’s vision for First Pres. His vision demands that we think outside the box. His vision demands more of our time, our talent, our money. Let’s resolve to do so in 2015 and beyond.
Children’s Ministries

Children’s Mission Sunday
On Sunday, October 12, the preschool through fifth grade classes participated in many creative, hands-on activity stations for Mission Sunday. With the leadership of Michele Holifield, the kids organized and prepared food donations for WINGS (Women In Need Growing Stronger), played educational games related to food, and made cards for the students supported by First Pres CollegeCARE Ministries. Thank you to all of you who gave food donations to support this fall mission project! Look for pictures from Mission Sunday in the December issue of The Chimes and on Facebook!

Bible Sunday
On Sunday, October 26, members of the third grade class received new Deep Blue Children’s Bibles. These Bibles are written in the Common English Bible translation, which is easier for kids to read and understand. We are thankful for our third graders, and pray that they enjoy exploring Scripture and growing in their faith.

Join Us for the Family Christmas Eve Service: A Mary Carol

This year, the Family Christmas Eve service will feature a fun and creative story called A Mary Carol!

A tribute to A Christmas Carol, by Charles Dickens, A Mary Carol unfolds on the night of the Anunciation. Gabriel shows up with big news. Mary is perplexed, and so the angel whisks her off to visit known and loved figures from her past, present, and future.

Mary’s contagious amazement and understanding deepen with each encounter until she is ready to say, “Here am I, the servant of the Lord; let it be with me according to your word.” This creative retelling of the Christmas story is written by Katherine Pershey.

All-Ages Christmas Caroling
Join First Pres children and families on Sunday, December 7 for Christmas caroling and pizza!
4:00 pm: Meet in Fellowship Hall for instructions; 4:15-5:45 pm: Carol in small groups throughout the community; 6:00 pm: Enjoy a pizza dinner back in Fellowship Hall. Please register with the church office at 847-255-5900 or receptionist@fpcah.org.

Family Christmas Eve Service:
4:00 pm

Participant Guidelines
Preschool and Kindergarten: Sheep
Kindergarten–Grade 2: Angels
Grades 2 & 3: Magi
Grades 3 & 4: Shepherds
Grades 4 & 5: Liturgists and acolytes
Grades 3 and up: Parent/child usher teams

For more information, contact Adrienne Trevathan, director of children’s ministries, at adrienne.trevathan@fpcah.org or 847-255-5900.

Give Someone Hope This Christmas!
Children’s Ministries’ Living Gift Market to support Heifer International
Sunday, November 16
9:15 am – 12:15 pm
Church Narthex and Parlor
For each $10 donation, receive a gift card to share with someone special. Stop by and learn about the mission work of our Sunday school children.
Thanksgiving Dinner for the Wise and Sage

A Gift From the High School Youth

to the Senior Citizens of First Presbyterian Church of Arlington Heights

Sunday, November 23
5:30 pm in Fellowship Hall

RSVP by Sunday, November 16:
TC Anderson, tcanderson@fpcah.org or 847-255-5900