

COMMUNITY OF CHRIST
ELGIN, ILLINOIS CONGREGATION
(Chicago Mission Center, U.S.A.)

Historian's Annual Report, 2013
January, 2014

Historian: Janet Bollow



The **Elgin Community of Christ** is a friendly congregation of people from all walks of life. A spirit led atmosphere is prominent among those who worship together.

Goals of the congregation are to...

- Increase Spiritual Development by providing opportunities that will improve our spiritual awareness, guide our spiritual journey, and cultivate the disciplines of spiritual life.
- Participate in activities that will provide resources and support the community both locally and internationally.
- Provide opportunities for diverse groups and individuals to expand their understanding of church functions and goals.
- Provide communication, personal contact and pastoral care to all members and friends of the church community.
- Create more loving and solid homes by becoming an extended family, develop community among the youth of the church, affirm the worth of the elderly in our community, and provide an atmosphere of fellowship in the adult community.

Worship Service Time

Traditional Worship Service

Sunday at 9:00 a.m.
September thru May

Sunday at 10:30 a.m.
June thru August

Contemporary Worship Service

Sunday at 11:15 a.m.
September thru May

Classes

Children's Classes

Sunday at 10:15 a.m.
September thru May

Adult Classes

Sunday at 10:15 a.m.
September thru May

ELGIN LEADERSHIP

PASTOR

Jean Hedrich

Associate Pastors of Worship: Contemporary Service:

Worship Leader
Audio/Visual Leaders

Lisa Ackley
David Lai

Traditional Service:

Worship Leader
Audio/Visual Leaders

Sylvia Elrod
Robyn Meyer/ David Lai

Associate Pastor of Fellowship:

Greeter Team
Women's Fellowship
Adult Fellowship

Unfilled
Ralph Wineman
Nancy Naber
Arlene Wineman

Associate Pastor of Discipleship:

Bill Howard

Associate Pastor of Service:

Church Directory
Community Care
Community Service Outreach
Crisis Center Support
Military
Outreach International
Pastoral Care

Linda Meyer
Jean Hedrich
Linda Meyer
Linda Meyer
Linda Meyer
Robyn Meyer
Jim and Barbara Wertz
Arlene Wineman

Associate Pastor of Outreach:

Young Peacemaker's Club

Kate Kent
John and Kate Kent

Associate Pastors of Youth:

Mark and Nancy McClellan

Associate Pastor of Support:

CFO (appointed position)
Auditors
Librarian
Secretary
Newsletter MC
Web Design
Building Committee

John Kent
John Kent
Rita Faunce and Sheryl Sawyers
Lisa Jauch
Lisa Jauch
Jean Hedrich
Bill Howard
Jean Hedrich, Pastor
John Kent, CFO

Milford Burgess
Bill Hedrich
Bill Howard

Sustain (appointments made by World church or Mission Center)

Historian
Recorder

Janet Bollow
Jessica Moody

ELGIN COMMUNITY OF CHRIST 2013 STATISTICS

Beginning Membership – information unavailable

Ending Membership – information unavailable

Withdrawals-

Transfers Out-

- Sheri Oberle
- Niya Ransom

New Attendees-

Baptisms –

- 5/27/(12) Garland Mann-Lamb

Confirmations-

- 5/27/(12) Garland Mann-Lamb

Weddings-

- 6/8- Michelle and Kevin Henrickson
- 6/30- Robin (Henrickson) and Terry Yancy

Ordinations-

Deaths-

- 5/29- Chuck Franz

Births-

- 9/9- Benjamin Clayton Lai

Blessings-

- 12/8- Benjamin Clayton Lai

ELGIN PRIESTHOOD

Evangelist

Bill Howard

Seventies

Kevin Henrickson
Derek Sanders

High Priests

Glenn Kreuzscher
Harold Smith

Elders

Milford Burgess
Sylvia Elrod
Rita Faunce
Bill Hedrich
Jean Hedrich
Robin Yancy
Mark McClellan
Nancy McClellan
Ginger Sanders
Sheryl Sawyers
Linda Smith
Jim Wertz

Priests

Jayne Ackley
Lisa Ackley
John Kent
Linda Meyer
Kelly Montana
Jessica Moody
Nancy Naber
Richard Schulz

Teachers

Lisa Jauch
Kate Kent

Deacons

Troy Faunce
Debby Nelson
Ralph Wineman

WORSHIP MINISTRY

SUNDAY WORSHIP SERVICES

- The Traditional service begins at 9:00 a.m. with traditional hymns by an organist, pianist or recordings, inspiring sermons from the pulpit, ministry of music, prayers and scripture lessons.
- Church school classes begin at 10:15 a.m. for ages Nursery through Adult. Classes help the members grow in their relationship with Christ and one another through study and fellowship.
- The Contemporary service begins at 11:15 a.m. with AV praise music followed by dramas, videos, prayer, teaching, preaching and fellowship using less formal approaches in worship

MINISTRY OF MUSIC

- Music plays an important part of worship in the Elgin congregation. We have truly talented musicians who use their talents to provide praise and worship music to help bring us closer to God. Our organist or pianist may support the worship by playing while we gather in the sanctuary and for meditation. When available, they also accompany the hymns as we joyfully praise the Lord in song. We often have instrumental music as well as volunteer soloists, both young and young at heart. The Contemporary service uses more recorded music from CD's or DVD's to praise, worship, or show commitment to God. Our audio/visual teams add to our services with recorded songs and video presentations.

SUNDAY SCHOOL PROGRAM

- Our Sunday school program begins in September and runs through the school year. In preparation for the start of a new year, we all gathered at 10:10 a.m. on September 8th in the gymnasium. Class promotion certificates were awarded by Ralph Wineman for those students changing classes. They were:
 - Trey Faunce
 - Ki Henrickson
 - Kayla Kent
 - Michaela Faunce
- A class picture was taken and a prayer of blessing was given. Sunday school classes this year are organized as:
 - Nursery/Preschool (Infant to 4 years old) Teachers Debby Nelson and Nikki Koessl
 - Junior Middle Class (Kindergarten thru 6th grade) Teachers Linda Meyer and Katie McClellan
 - Teen Class (13 thru 18 years old) Teachers Mark McClellan and Nancy McClellan
 - Adult Class Teacher Bill Howard

KID'S KAMP

- During the summer, Kid's Kamp was offered twice a month during the 10:30 a.m. worship service. The theme was: "Living the Life of a Disciple." Linda Meyer organized this worship for children ages 5-15. A fun-filled Kid's Kamp Carnival was held on August 25th. See information about this in Youth Ministry.

CONTEMPORARY WORSHIP

- There are many exciting things to report about the Contemporary worship ministries. We continue to focus on scriptural literacy, prayer, and intimacy with God and others in our church family. Speakers are challenged to bring the point of their message around to what it means for us here today.
- Technology and media is often used in the services with an experienced and active a/v team.
- People of all ages are involved in leading praise, praying, reading scriptures, drama, ministry of music, planning and presiding over worship and even preaching!
- We have seen miraculous growth among the members who participate in Contemporary worship at the Elgin church. Before our eyes each week, lives are changed for the better through the grace of our Heavenly Father.

TRADITIONAL WORSHIP

- The Traditional service has again done an excellent job bringing in guest speakers to provide a diversity of ideas in worship and fellowship with the congregation. Priesthood, members, and friends have freely accepted and served, providing exceptional spirit filled services.
- The Traditional service uses the Bible, Book of Mormon, and Doctrine & Covenants, as authorized by The Community of Christ Church, along with testimonies of how Jesus Christ, our Savior, has influenced our lives.
- The Traditional service encourages each of us to reach out to the community where we live, work, and play to share our testimonies and our love for each other. With a willingness to serve our Heavenly Father, each member and friend(s) attending has felt the Holy Spirit encouraging them to study and witness with everyone they come in contact.

LEADING CONGREGATIONS IN MISSION

- The monthly pastor's meeting was combined with the Leading Congregations in Mission meetings. Lisa Ackley, Bill Howard and John Kent represent the Elgin congregation for LCM. The LCM program is designed to help any size congregation discern, experiment, and engage in missional ministries oriented around the unique giftedness of its people. The meetings include worship, reports from Associate pastors, ongoing ministries, concerns, upcoming events (Kid's Kamp, Sunday school classes, Easter and Christmas planning) worship schedules, Young Peacemaker's Club, etc.

FELLOWSHIP MINISTRY

ELGIN WOMEN'S AUXILIARY

- The purpose of this group is to discover and magnify the divine purpose of each woman through study, fellowship and service. Membership is made up of all the women in the Elgin congregation. The Women's Leader is Nancy Naber. Linda Meyer is Secretary and the Treasurer is Barbara Wertz. The Women's Auxiliary meets in a member's home on the second Thursday of each month from March through December at 7:15 p.m. The meetings consist of devotion, prayer, study, church business, refreshments and fellowship. The women share by teaching the lesson month to month.
- The book, *The Helper*, by Catherine Marshall, was studied this year. The book offers forty inspirational "helps" or readings, containing scripture, a prayer, and insight into the provocative third person of the Godhead.
- Our Women's Auxiliary purchased Easter lilies which were used to decorate the church for the Easter season.
- Our group saw the need for additional lighting at the end of the church driveway for night safety. They funded this project to install a light post at a cost of almost \$700.00. Night attendees are very appreciative of our new, brighter and safer driveway.
- A special Christmas meeting was held in Jean Hedrich's home in December. The women enjoyed a delicious meal as well as worship given by Sylvia Elrod. A grab bag gift exchange game was played and enjoyed by all. Barbara Wertz was having cataract surgery the following day and requested administration by Sylvia Elrod and Jean Hedrich. A prayer shawl, made by Nancy McClellan was presented to our pastor, Jean, which was blessed through prayer given by Nancy Naber.

WELCOMING MINISTRY

- Elgin congregation is blessed when first-time visitors come to worship with us. Jean Hedrich sends notes to our visitors to thank them and to let them know that their presence was truly appreciated and encourages them to worship with us again.

GREETER TEAM

- The Elgin congregation has developed a ministry of welcome for all who enter into our house of worship. Warm genuine Christian hospitality is offered by Greeters to all who join us for fellowship, whether a new visitor or a long-time member. The Greeter stationed at the church door welcomes visitors and regular attendees with a smile, answers questions and offers kind words. Ralph Wineman is instrumental in the success of this ministry.

ADULT FELLOWSHIP

- The adult fellowship is a vibrant and active ministry. This well planned and attended ministry consisted of social activities that teach about God and glorify His name through fellowship with friends and others.
- Each month a meal and activity were planned for the group by Ralph and Arlene Wineman. Usually a meal at a favorite restaurant was followed by a play or Christian presentation. Some of the activities were:
 - 1/15 – Nick’s Pizza in Crystal Lake was the location for a meal and fellowship with our former organist, Marcia Geike.
 - 2/23 – A meal and fellowship was enjoyed by all at Burnt Toast Restaurant in Elgin.
 - 3/2 -The Living Hope Church in Elk Grove Village, held the story of “Pilate, A Divided Man” by Overshadowed Productions. Dinner followed at Bread & Butter Restaurant.
 - 4/27 -Breakfast and fellowship was enjoyed by all at Richard Walker’s Pancake House in Schaumburg.
 - 7/20 -The play, “Annie” by Overshadowed Productions was held in the Living Hope Church in Elk Grove Village. Dinner at the Bread And Butter Restaurant was enjoyed following the play.
 - 8/3 -An enjoyable breakfast was had at the Blueberry Hill Breakfast and Pancake House.
 - 10/5 -The Living Hope Church held a production of “Release” by Overshadowed Productions. Prior to the show we had a delicious and fun dinner at Pilot Pete’s.
 - 11/17 - “Christmas Around the World” was presented by the Spirit of Life Chorus at St. Mary’s Catholic Church in Huntley.

PRIESTHOOD MEETINGS

- Our priesthood meetings are usually held on a Saturday morning for the purpose of study, worship and fellowship. We begin with breakfast in the Fellowship Hall followed by our priesthood meeting in the sanctuary or adult classroom. We met in March where the focus was on having a visiting program for the branch.

SPECIAL FELLOWSHIP ACTIVITIES

- The Elgin Saints have a rich tradition of fellowship activities. One of the ways to honor this tradition is by enjoying a meal or dessert with worship services or other celebrations. While many individuals in our congregation help with these activities, Jean Hedrich was instrumental in organizing many of the meals.
 - Each Sunday, treats are served in the adult Sunday school class. Arlene Wineman is responsible for scheduling individuals to bring a treat to share. When necessary, Arlene will also make coffee and she and Ralph Wineman take care of the clean-up.

- After the Jan. 27th Congregational Business meeting we all convened to the Fellowship Hall to enjoy a delicious and abundant continental breakfast.
- A moving Ash Wednesday service was held on Feb. 2nd, with 19 people attending and many worshipers reading, praying, singing and sharing.
- Good Friday Worship with two services was held on the evening of Mar. 29th. The two services depicted the last hours of Jesus' life through movies, music and drama.
- A delicious Easter Breakfast was held after the Sunrise Worship Service on March 30th. An Easter Egg Hunt was held during the breakfast for our young and young at heart.
- We joyously welcomed the Graceland Players Improv Group to perform for us at our church on May 25th. They entertained us with a series of comedic improv games. We were so thankful for this unique fellowship.
- On July 12th a very special Sending Forth was held for our friends and members, Sheri Oberle and Niya Ransom, who are moving to the Houston, Texas area. They were members for many years and were thanked for their years of service in our congregation. Friends shared their favorite memories and gifts were presented. After dessert and snacks a special sending off prayer and blessing was given by Bill Hedrich.
- A 50th birthday for Lisa Ackley is big news and was celebrated by the congregation, family and friends on July 13th. A very special party and variety show was planned by Lisa's family and attended by almost 100 people.
- We all enjoyed a delicious Country and Western potluck after the country themed service on July 28th. The menu of pulled pork, sloppy joes, fried chicken with baked beans, corn on the cob, corn bread and all the trimmings was greatly enjoyed by all who attended.
- Mark and Nancy McClellan hosted a baby shower for Tiffany Krause and David Lai at their home on August 4th. The congregation came out to support this precious gift of a baby with food, gifts, and wisdom.
- Immediately following the worship service on August 11th, a joyful party was held to honor the high school graduation of Rickie Schulz and the 8th grade graduation of Kelly Jean Schulz. Fun, fellowship and good food was enjoyed by all who attended.
- On Sunday, August 25th, Linda Meyer and the Kid's Kamp presided at the 10:00 worship service. A potluck dinner was held followed by a Kid's Kamp Carnival. There was face painting, puppet making, a puppet show, an inflatable moonwalk, games and much more. This was a wonderful day of fun and fellowship. More information about this can be found in the Youth Ministry section.
- A delightfully unusual space themed black light party was held for Katherine Ackley's 16th birthday celebration! At least 100 friends and

family attended this party which was held on November 2nd in the church gymnasium.

- A delicious Thanksgiving potluck dinner was held in the fellowship hall after the November 24th joint traditional worship services. We celebrated our abundant blessings with our church family.
- A service of blessing was held on December 8th during the contemporary worship service for Benjamin Clayton Lai, the son of David Lai and Tiffany Krause. Seventy Derek Sanders blessed baby Benjamin and was assisted by Evangelist Bill Howard. The family provided a delicious meal following the service.
- "My Gifts I Bring", was a beautiful and moving Christmas service on the evening of December 15th. The service of drama, song and scripture was directed by Mark McClellan. Following the service, appetizers, Christmas cookies and desserts were served in the Fellowship Hall.

OUTREACH MINISTRY

SCRIP GIFT CARD PROGRAM

- For the past six years, Elgin congregation has continued to participate in the Scrip program which supports the congregational operating fund. Gift cards are available for purchase from restaurants, grocery stores, department stores, and much more! The first Sunday of each month, members of the congregation place their gift card orders with Lisa Jauch. Each card has its own percent of return. This year the profit earned from this program totaled \$666.08.

YOUNG PEACEMAKERS CLUB

- Our active Young Peacemakers Club started out the year on January 12th at the church. They have been active throughout the year, meeting twice a month September thru May. There has been an increase of children and even their parents attending the activities. Lisa Ackley, Blake Smith and John Kent represented the YPC at the annual meeting of the Streamwood Chamber of Commerce.
- They participated in the 2/23 Streamwood Park District "Family Health and Wellness Fair". Bill Howard, the Kent Family and David Lai attended and passed out YPC key chains and bracelets as well as flyers inviting them to YPC activities. The Streamwood Summer Celebration table was well staffed and attended by the Kent Family, Katherine Ackley, Fred and Linda Meyer and Jean Hedrich. During the event participants were able to enter a raffle for Build-A-Bear. YPC key chains and bracelets were handed out to youth. The Streamwood Park District Annual Halloween party was attended and enjoyed by all!
- In conjunction with the Kid's Kamp, youth from the Young Peacemaker's Club planted a Youth Community Garden located on the east side of the church.

Milford Burgess constructed a 4' x 8' garden box where carrots, peas, green beans and peppers were planted. Next to the box in a 4' x 6' plot on the ground, zucchini, squash, tomatoes and melon were planted. The youth maintained the garden throughout the summer. Everything grown was shared with the congregation and extra produce was donated to local soup kitchens or pantries in Elgin as Outreach through Community of Christ.

ELGIN LOVE DAY

- This year our branch again joined together with other local churches to support Love Elgin Day. This is an outreach to bless families and individuals who need physical resources and spiritual encouragement. Hundreds of churches, schools, businesses and individuals partnered with donations of food, clothing, and money as well as time to show love like Jesus does to the community. Community families were invited and over 1700 came to receive food, clothing, personal prayer, professional services, medical and dental attention, legal counsel, biblical materials and the Gospel message. It was an all-out-effort, an all-hands-on-deck affair to give help and hope to those who most need it. This fall, our Young Peacemakers Club had a booth staffed by John Kent and Jean Hedrich. Invitations were given out as well as YPC key chains, bracelets and flyers for upcoming Young Peacemakers Club meetings. We are blessed that one family that was invited there has been coming regularly to our activities.

HAVE A HEART COMMUNITY DINNER

- A local establishment in Elgin, In the Neighborhood Deli, started serving Thanksgiving Dinner in 2009. Everyone was welcomed and many people from all walks of life have become friends. It was a time to get together, meet others and share a meal. The organizers' dream was for these dinners to grow into community wide "family" dinners just like you would have in your own home...just a bit bigger, where everyone does their part and then sits to enjoy each other and the food at the same time. The 2013 Have a Heart Annual Community Dinner was held Saturday, February 9th from 11 a.m. to 3 p.m. at the United Methodist Church at 216 E. Highland Ave., Elgin. The organizers needed help for set up and prep, service and clean up and break down. They appreciated cash donations as well as dessert donations. Several of our members and family helped throughout the day, including Grace Kent, John Kent, Allen Kent and Laurie Faith Gibson.

SERVICE MINISTRY

COMMUNITY SERVICE OUTREACH

- Compassion International consists as a Christian child advocacy ministry. The Elgin Branch sponsors Peter, a seventeen year old boy from the coastal community of Urbanizacion El Bosque, Peru. Compassion International has helped us develop a meaningful relationship of encouragement to help Peter develop physically, spiritually, socially and economically. Money is collected once a month during the worship services and sent to Compassion International. This collection is spent on essentials to help Peter become a responsible fulfilled Christian adult. The congregation, also, supports Peter by writing letters to him often and sending him postcards, bookmarks and other items so he may learn about us and our love for God. Peter writes to us often to express his appreciation for our support. Peter moved out of the area in September so we ended our sponsorship earlier than we expected. Our prayers go with this young man.

MILITARY OUTREACH

- The month of March is set aside to recognize and support the Wounded Warriors Fund. Our members donated generously and a check was sent with our heartfelt thanks to those who serve us in the military. A gift card was also sent to a member's friend who serves in the military.

PASTORAL CARE

- Arlene Wineman remains very busy throughout the year providing support during all aspects of life. Electronic birthday cards are sent to members as well as cards to help celebrate wedding anniversaries. When our members are ill and hospitalized, they are visited by our priesthood and a get-well card and flowers are brought to them to brighten their day and to remind them that our healing prayers are being offered. Limited home visiting is part of this ministry also.

LEADERSHIP AND MEMBERSHIP DIRECTORY

- Each year an Elgin Congregation Directory is updated and made available to all members and those who attend our branch regularly. Jean Hedrich is the person who takes on this responsibility.

FOOD PANTRY FOOD DRIVES

- The Elgin Congregation is committed to supporting the local crisis center's mission to advocate for a healthy non-violent environment for all people and the support, if necessary, to help individuals through crisis develop and pursue their own goals. Linda Meyer organized the donations for the crisis center food pantry. In May and November there were food and supplies collections generously supported by our members. These collections were donated to the

Elgin Interfaith Food Pantry to support people who need emergency assistance in our community.

OUTREACH INTERNATIONAL

- Our congregation contributes to Outreach International to support sustainable goods for children and their families living in poverty. Our congregation sent \$688.27 to the Campaign for Caribbean Kids Fund, raising money for schools in Haiti.

CAMP QUARRYLEDGE SUPPORT

- A special collection to support Camp Quarryledge is taken each month that has a 5th Sunday in it. Our CFO reported that \$316.00 was collected in March, June, September and December and in personal envelopes throughout the year.
- In February the Quarryledge campers sold Peanut Butter Balls to earn money for the camp program. We had the chance of not only supporting our campers with our monetary offerings but enjoyed delicious snacks as well.
- A call for monetary help was answered! Camp Quarryledge was given an in-line dishwasher by the Cedar Valley-Nauvoo Mission Center campgrounds. They received this dishwasher the summer of 2011 and were ready to have it installed this winter. To date, through the generous donations of members, they had a total of \$6,400 on hand. That left about \$3,100 short of the amount needed. Our members answered the call and gave generously to the fund.
- Women attending the retreat at Camp Quarryledge during March were welcomed with small baskets of toiletries and luxuries which were placed into each bathroom. Lisa Ackley organized and distributed these toiletries which had been generously donated by our church members.
- Camp Quarryledge scheduled a special workday on June 8th to prepare the building and grounds for the camping season. Our members answered the call and worked on various tasks.
- Milford Burgess has been a key supporter of the campgrounds. He repaired several windows and worked on the pump house. His behind the scene work over the years is truly appreciated.
- John Kent is a Camp Quarryledge board member. Over the years Elgin members have been leaders on this board.

LOVE BOXES

- Thanks to all who contributed to our Love Boxes. Six boxes were sent out filled to the brim to our college students Katie Sanders, Tyler Betancourt, Andrew Sawyers, Audrey Lai, Jacob McClellan, and Joshua Naber in time for Valentine's Day.

NATIVE AMERICAN SUPPORT

- In November, school supplies as well as toiletries, winter wear and small toys were collected for 4th grade children who live on the Macy Native American

Reservation. The entire Elgin congregation collected and donated supplies. The 22 large shoeboxes were filled and prayed over during the November 3rd Contemporary service. Derek Sanders delivered the boxes.

EASTER BASKETS

- During February and March we collected various toys and candy suitable for Easter baskets. Our Sunday school classes helped fill 20 baskets which were delivered to the Elgin Crisis Center on Palm Sunday.

CRISIS CENTER COLLECTION

- Linda Meyer organized a collection of school supplies during the summer months. A generous collection of pens, pencils, crayons, paper, folders and other supplies were donated to the Crisis Center just in time for school to start.
- Nancy Naber organized a collection of coats for men, women and children during the month of September. As usual, the congregation generously donated and a large amount of coats, hats, scarves and gloves were taken to the Crisis Center before the cold weather arrived.

COLLECTIONS FROM THE HEART

- In celebration of Mother's Day and to honor a special mother from another congregation, Lisa Ackley organized a baby shower for her. This adopted mother and her young children received an abundance of love and gifts from our loving families. The young mother was extremely appreciative of the outpouring of generosity. She received gift cards as well as many new and good used clothes for her two daughters.
- As we try to live Christ-like lives, we believe in supporting families with acute financial needs. In June we supported a family from our congregation with a monetary donation of \$352.00 to help them with their immediate needs. We continue support for them with our prayers.
- Especially during the Christmas season our congregation helps to provide spiritual and financial support for needy church families through their generous giving. This year we were able to help two families with a monetary Christmas gift.
- In the spirit of Christmas and under the leadership of Lisa Ackley, we adopted a struggling church family from another congregation. Generous gifts of clothing, toys and gift cards were collected for the family.

CARING SUPPORT

- Our congregation responded with support and willing service to the needs of the Franz family during their time of loss. Chuck and his family were long-time members of our congregation many years ago. Following the memorial service for Chuck Franz, held at the church on June 22nd, his family and friends were invited to a lasagna dinner in the fellowship hall organized and donated by our congregation.

YOUTH MINISTRY

KID'S KAMP

- This ministry for children was offered during the 10:30 a.m. worship service beginning June 16th. Classes were held twice a month during the months of June, July and August. Linda Meyer accepted the leadership for the ministry. The theme, "Living the Life of a Disciple", included bible study of characters that students choose from the bible. All summer the kids worked on making their own puppets. The characters they picked from the Bible were, Jesus (Kayla Kent), Joseph and his coat of many colors (Sarah Godwin), Priscilla (Mary Godwin), Mary & Martha (Kate Kent) & Kiara, (a friend of the Kent girls), Lydia (Gracie Kent), and Mary the mother of Jesus (Jayna Kent). A narrator read the Bible story from each character while the children worked their puppets.
- On Sunday, August 25th, Linda Meyer and the Kid's Kamp presided at the 10:00 worship service. A potluck dinner was held from 12-12:30 followed by a Kid's Kamp Carnival. There was face painting, puppet making, a puppet show, an inflatable moonwalk, games and much more. This was a wonderful day of fun and fellowship.

DISCOVERING NEW FRIENDS, FELLOWSHIP AND FAITH

- Our youth are the future leaders of not only our church but of the world. Our mission is to equip children and youth for the journey. Youth Leaders, Mark and Nancy McClellan planned activities as we pursue how to serve God and others, and how to reach out to connect with God's love. Various activities were planned in the Elgin Branch and with the Chicago Mission Center for our youth and their friends:
 - 1/18- Junior High retreat at Camp Quarryledge
 - 2/8 -Senior High retreat at Camp Quarryledge. The theme "What road are you on? What direction are you traveling and what direction do you need to be going?"
 - 3/9 –Junior and Senior High Lock-In at the church
 - 4/5 – Senior High retreat at Camp Quarryledge
 - 4/28 –Youth pancake breakfast fundraiser at the church was held to help youth with their camp fees. A total of \$239.00 was raised.
 - 5/10 – Senior High Retreat at Camp Quarryledge
 - 5/17 –Junior Retreat at Camp Quarryledge
 - 6/9 –Junior High Camp at Quarryledge
 - 6/16 –Junior and Senior High youth went to Six Flags Amusement park with about 20 or more attending and had fun.
 - 6/23 -Senior High Camp at Quarryledge
 - 8/4 –Junior Camp at Quarryledge
 - 9/13 –Junior High retreat at Camp Quarryledge
 - 9/27 –Senior High retreat at Camp Quarryledge

- 10/20 –Fellowship, pizza and volleyball were enjoyed after church.
- 11/1 – Junior and Senior High attended a camp at Quarryledge with the theme of “Take Me As I Am”.
- 11/17- A delicious pancake breakfast with all the trimmings was held after church with a free-will offering taken. We are proud to announce that \$625.00 was raised to support our youth at Graceland SPEC.
- 12/29- Yuletide Junior and Senior High Event at Camp Quarryledge
- The Young Peacemaker’s Club met twice a month from September thru May at the church. This was led by Kate Kent with support by John Kent and other adults. See report in Outreach Ministry.

THANKSGIVING FOOD DRIVE

- As an outreach project with the Service Ministry Linda Meyer and Katie McClellan’s Junior/Middle Sunday school class collected non-perishable food items during the months of October and November. During the Sunday school hour, the children and teachers went to the surrounding neighborhood and collected food items. This collection, along with that from the congregation was delivered to the All People’s Interfaith Food Pantry on November 19th. As a result of the generosity of our church family and neighborhood, two large boxes of food were donated to the food pantry.

MINISTRY OF SUPPORT

OFFICERS

- The CFO for Elgin congregation is an appointed position within the Chicago Mission Center. Once appointed, the CFO then receives a sustaining vote by the congregation. John Kent serves in this position for our congregation. His responsibilities include contribution processing, oblation requests, creating financial reports, and reporting to auditors. Additional duties may include managing the branch finances/checkbook/paying bills, creating budgets, negotiating and signing contracts, hiring people, building committee, and fund raising projects. He works closely with both the pastor and the Mission Center CFO to achieve the financial goals of the congregation.
- Rita Faunce and Sheryl Sawyers are the congregation Auditors. The general purpose of the audit is to validate the correctness of the Chief Financial Officer. They validate the contributions reported on the tax forms to the deposit made to the bank. In addition, they look at all large dollar expenses to check for back-up indicating the proper amount was paid for product or for work performed for the church. They also check several smaller payables to confirm they were recorded against the proper line item in the budget. Once they have been satisfied the profit and loss statement and the bank statements are correct, then they issue a brief report to World Church indicating the work they performed and our statement that the Elgin Congregation’s books are in order.

- Serving as both Librarian and Secretary was Lisa Jauch. The position of Secretary requires Lisa to take accurate minutes at each branch business meeting. These minutes are read and approved at the following meeting. As Librarian, she takes the time to periodically organize the books if they are misfiled. She also purchases new books that would be beneficial to the congregation.
- Bill Howard has designed our Elgin church web page and updates it as needed. It is found at www.bymyspirit.us/elgin.
- The Chicago Mission Center's newsletter is a wonderful way to reach our membership with current information. Pastor Jean Hedrich submits current news to be included in the Beacon.

IMPROVING GOD'S HOUSE

- Our deepest thanks go out to Lowell and Nancy Naber for seeing a need and acting upon it. Lowell and Nancy had our driveway and parking lot removed and replaced with new asphalt. They, also, had the parking lot striped. We are so appreciative of people like Lowell and Nancy who observe the need for maintenance and respond so generously.
- In November Milford Burgess painted the Fellowship Hall. This much needed task makes our fellowship hall much more welcoming for special activities.
- Nancy Naber had the rooms behind the sanctuary cleaned, organized and painted. In addition, she had Fred Meyer and Milford Burgess build and install cabinets in those rooms. Nancy Naber, also, had bookshelves added to the pre-school classroom.
- In November our building needed more than the usual cleaning; it needed a deep cleaning. Members of the congregation volunteered for this huge task and signed up to clean and organize rooms. Ralph and Arlene Wineman and Fred and Linda Meyer completely cleaned and straightened the sanctuary as well as the Library. The kitchen was cleaned by Nancy Naber, Nikki Koessl and Blake Smith. Nancy Naber and Nikki Koessl, also, cleaned and organized the Nursery and Pre-school classroom. Jean Hedrich cleaned out and organized the cabinet in the church foyer, the church file cabinet and cleaned out three large storage closets.
- Milford Burgess provides valuable service and significant ministry in caring for the church. His talents and dedicated service help keep our church property in good repair. In the winter he often clears the sidewalks of ice and snow for our safety. Milford comes to church very early before services begin to adjust the furnace or air conditioning so it will be comfortable for all who enter to worship and fellowship. He not only makes repairs when needed but, also, takes on the responsibility of cleaning the building. In addition, he makes sure the fire extinguishers have their annual inspection, he replaces light bulbs, keeps the outside church sign current and he cleans and waxes the lower level floors. He is truly a blessing to our congregation.

CHICAGO MISSION CENTER

The Chicago Mission Center

- Eleven Community of Christ congregations in the greater Chicago area make up the Chicago Mission Center. Their mission is to proclaim Jesus Christ and promote communities of Joy, Hope, Love, and Peace. The mission center provides youth ministry and opportunities for fellowship, spiritual growth, and ministerial training for all the congregations as well as Camp Quarryledge. Numerous opportunities for fellowship with Christ and our brothers and sisters were provided through various activities.