

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

Historian's Annual Report, 2015

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
Contemporary Worship Service	Sunday at 11:15 a.m. September thru May
Blended Worship Service	Sunday at 10:00 a.m. June, July and August

Classes

Children's Classes	Sunday at 10:15 a.m. September thru May
Adult Classes	Sunday at 10:15 a.m. September thru May

1675 E. Chicago Street, Elgin, Illinois 60120 847.741.1366

ELGIN LEADERSHIP

CO-PASTORS

Jean Hedrich and Mark McClellan

Associate Pastors of Worship: Contemporary Service:

Worship Leader
Audio/Visual Leaders

Lisa Ackley/Lisa Jauch
David Lai

Traditional Service:

Worship Leader
Audio/Visual Leaders

Jayne Ackley
Robyn Meyer/David Lai

Associate Pastor of Fellowship:

Greeter Team
Women's Fellowship
Adult Fellowship

Glenn Kreuzscher
Ralph Wineman
Nancy Naber
Glenn Kreuzscher

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
Co-Pastor Jean Hedrich
Linda Meyer
Linda Meyer
Linda Meyer
Robyn Meyer
Jim and Barbara Wertz
Jean Hedrich

Associate Pastor of Outreach:

Young Peacemaker's Club

Kate Kent
John and Kate Kent

Associate Pastor of Youth:

Nancy McClellan

Associate Pastor of Support:

CFO (appointed position)
Auditors
Librarian
Secretary
Missionary Coordinator
Communications CMC
Web Design
Building Committee

John Kent
John Kent
Sheryl Sawyers and Lisa Jauch
Lisa Jauch
Lisa Jauch
Cloyd Dowell
Jean Hedrich
Bill Howard
Jean Hedrich and Mark McClellan,

Co-Pastors
John Kent, CFO
Bill Hedrich
Bill Howard

Sustain (appointments made by World church or Mission Center)
Historian Janet Bollow
Recorder Jean Hedrich

ELGIN COMMUNITY OF CHRIST 2015 STATISTICS

Beginning Membership – information unavailable

Ending Membership – information unavailable

Withdrawals-

Transfers Out-

- Katie King
- Will King

New Attendees-

- Scott Brown
- Will King
- Dawn Provost

Baptisms –

Confirmations-

Weddings-

- 5/15- Katie McClellan and Will King

Ordinations-

Deaths-

Births-

Blessings-

WORSHIP MINISTRY

SUNDAY WORSHIP SERVICES

- The Traditional worship service begins at 9:00 a.m. with traditional hymns by a 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 worship 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 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 worship 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.
- Training on the Audio Visual equipment, led by David Lai, was held in late May for all people involved with AV. Presiders and anyone interested in helping with this important ministry were encouraged to attend.

SUNDAY SCHOOL PROGRAM

- Our Sunday school program begins in September and runs through May. In preparation for the start of a new year, we all gathered on September 13 at 10:10 a.m. in the sanctuary. Mark McClellan and Nancy McClellan presented a puppet show encouraging attendance in Sunday school. Ralph Wineman, Christian Education Director, presented Gracie Kent with a certificate of promotion to the Jr. High Class. A class picture was taken by Linda Meyer and a prayer of blessing was given by Bill Hedrich.
- Sunday school classes this year were organized as:
 - Nursery-Preschool Class is available on a weekly basis as needed but has no children on the class roll.
 - Primary-Junior Class (Kindergarten thru 5th grade) Teacher Linda Meyer
 - Junior High Class (6th thru 8th grade) Teachers Sheryl Sawyers and Mark McClellan
 - Senior High Class (9th thru 12th grade) Teacher Nancy McClellan

- Adult Class Teacher Bill Howard
- The Primary-Junior class studied Jack and Jenn and the “Not So Secret Mission”, an introduction to the Mission Initiatives for Children. They also made their own film strip covering the five initiatives and worked on thankfulness and preparing the way for Jesus.
- The Junior High Class is using Seasons of the Spirit with themes and lessons which line up with the focus of the Sunday worship services.
- The Senior High Class uses the Temple School material in their studies.
- The Adult Class focused on the concept of the Kingdom of God as conveyed in our study of the life of Jesus. Special emphasis was placed on the Sermon on the Mount and how Jesus placed emphasis on how God’s will is to be done on earth as it is in heaven.

KID’S KAMP

- During the summer, Kid’s Kamp was offered twice a month during the 10:00 a.m. worship service. The theme was: “Putting on the Full Armor of God”. Linda Meyer organized this class for children ages 5-15. A fun-filled Kid’s Kamp Carnival was held on August 23rd. See information about this in Youth Ministry.

CONTEMPORARY WORSHIP

- The Contemporary worship ministries focus on prayer and intimacy with God and others in our church family.
- We allow ourselves to go where the spirit leads us; whether it be a personal need for prayer or perhaps sharing a testimony.
- We are using the Community of Christ lectionary-based worship resources and themes to guide our worship services, but presiders are encouraged to choose whatever elements they feel will be most beneficial in meeting the spiritual needs of the congregation.
- People of all ages are involved in leading praise, praying, reading scripture, drama, ministry of music, planning and presiding over worship and even preaching!

TRADITIONAL WORSHIP

- The Traditional worship 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 worship 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 worship 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.

- The Visiting Vase - In an effort to be invitational, our Missionary Coordinator, Cloyd Dowell, introduced "The Inviting Vase". Each Sunday, before we begin our worship, anyone who has invited someone to church (even if they did not attend) comes forward to place a stone into a glass vase for each person invited. If you invited three people to come to church, you would place three blue stones in the vase. If you enabled someone to attend church, you would place a maroon stone in the vase for each person you enabled to attend church. Enabling would mean if you drove them to church or paid transportation expenses for them to attend.

LEADING CONGREGATIONS IN MISSION

- The bi-monthly pastor's meeting was combined with the Leading Congregations in Mission meetings. Lisa Ackley, Co-Pastor Mark McClellan, Nancy McClellan, 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.

ELGIN RETREAT

- From January 23 thru January 25, we were blessed to have Apostolic Assistant Michele McGrath lead our congregation in a retreat using the theme: "Receive It: A Journey of Trust". Our weekend began with a "Meet and Eat" gathering by sharing in a Chinese Hot Pot meal supervised by Lisa Ackley. Kevin Henrickson led us in song throughout the weekend. The retreat involved missional practices of dwelling in the word, prayer, and hearing Michele's personal testimonies where Christ has led her in new directions. We were challenged to seek God's spirit by using the Mission Prayer: "God, where will your Spirit lead today? Help me be fully awake and ready to respond. Grant me courage to risk something new and become a blessing of your love and peace. Amen".

SHARE AND PRAYER

- A new ministry "Share and Prayer", where we share our concerns, joys and prayers for one another, was hosted and led by Jayne Ackley each Wednesday evening during the summer months. Some of the themes used for this worship were "Seeing thru God's Eyes" and "Broken to Serve". With a desire to continue this ministry, Bill and Jean Hedrich hosted and led a meeting in September and Kevin and Michelle Henrickson hosted and led in October.

FELLOWSHIP MINISTRY

WOMEN'S FELLOWSHIP

- The purpose of this group is to discover and magnify the divine purpose of each woman through study, fellowship and service. We study scriptures from the Bible but also, we share with our Christian sisters praise reports, prayer requests and the many concerns of our lives. We pray together, laugh together, and sometimes cry together. We share the love of Jesus Christ. 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 Fellowship 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.
- Our study this year was the book, *Navigate*, by Norman Vincent Peale. It examines how the Bible can help us in every aspect of our lives including how to keep growing in our faith, how to trust in God and be at peace with ourselves and others and how to rest and recharge our spiritual batteries.
- In January Sylvia Elrod organized a fundraiser through Rada Cutlery. Our profit from this very successful project was \$252.00.
- Our Women's Fellowship purchased Easter lilies which were used to decorate the church for the Easter season. We were also in charge of the special Easter breakfast. Many members and visitors enjoyed a delicious meal.
- We hosted a Tea Party and Bridal Shower for two couples from our congregation. Will King and Katie McClellan and Olivia Finger and Jacob McClellan were honored at this April 11th event. Our hostesses were Linda Meyer and Lisa Ackley. Twenty-five people supported these two couples with gifts as they plan their lives together.
- The annual summer meal out was held at Biaggios Restaurant in Algonquin on June 12th.
- Per the suggestion of our Women's Fellowship leader, Nancy Naber, we decided to clean out and organize the church storage room which had become cluttered with many items we no longer use. On September 22nd, seven women gathered in the morning, took a lunch break and then returned in the afternoon to finish the job. Almost \$90.00 was spent compliments of our Women's Fellowship treasury to purchase plastic bins for better organization. The storage room looks amazing and is able to serve the needs of the church better.
- A collection is taken at each monthly meeting so we are able to fund activities and to buy needed items. We were very happy to donate \$100.00 each to two single moms from the Community of Christ On Edge group who were experiencing financial challenges. Our Treasurer, Barbara Wertz, reported that we have \$1,793.47 in our account.

- 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 Linda Meyer. Everyone was invited to bring a \$20.00 grab-bag gift.

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 following worship services or other celebrations. While many individuals in our congregation help with these activities, Co-Pastor Jean Hedrich was instrumental in organizing many of the meals.
 - Each Sunday, treats are served in the adult Sunday school class. Sylvia Elrod is responsible for scheduling individuals to bring a treat to share.
 - 1/23- A Chinese Hot Pot meal and fellowship was held to open the weekend retreat with Apostolic Assistant Michelle McGrath. More information about this retreat is found in the Worship Ministry.
 - 4/5- Easter Sunday was full of worship experiences with the 9:00 a.m. "Son-Rise" service, followed by a delicious Easter breakfast and Easter egg hunt for our youth. The combined worship service was moving and inspirational with Seventy Blake Smith speaking.
 - 5/23- Many congregants attended an Open House to celebrate Allie Sawyer's high school graduation. We strive to support our congregational youth whenever we can.
 - 6/5- A very special celebration was held to honor John Kent's 50th birthday. This birthday celebration was hosted by Kate Kent in which she invited the congregation and many friends and family. Dinner, a cake and open gym was held for all. Any monetary gifts received were donated to Outreach International.
 - 8/2- We had a very special "Sending Forth" for Katie and Will King to wish them well on their move to Springfield, Missouri. After Will preached at the traditional worship service, everyone enjoyed a potluck luncheon and shared great memories of Katie and Will's ministry and friendship.
 - 9/23- A congregational barbeque was enjoyed by all after the contemporary worship. Glenn Kreuzscher planned the delicious food, games and sing-a-long.
 - 12/13- Co-Pastor Mark McClellan organized a delightful Christmas program which was enjoyed by all. The theme was "Bring Your Gifts to the King". Co-Pastor Jean Hedrich began the evening of talent and fellowship with a Call to Worship by sharing some inspirational readings from Christmas cards. A number of people participated in the entertainment including the very entertaining "name that tune" guessing game with John Kent on his viola. Samantha Hey sang a Christmas song and joined in a skit with Kayla Kent and Sheryl Sawyers. Gracie Kent played a beautiful song on the piano. A special poem was written and shared by Linda Meyer. Dario Perkins shared his talents with a Christian themed "rap" song. Tamiyah

Amos entertained us with an interpretive dance. Jim Wertz once again shared a special reading of "Twas the Night Before Christmas". Thanks to Bill Gillaspey for being the pianist and Kevin Henrickson for his guitar playing and the Christmas carol sing-a-long at the end of the program. Co-Pastor Mark McClellan ended the program with a benediction and a blessing on the appetizers and Christmas cookies which were being served in the Fellowship Hall. A great evening of worship, fun and fellowship was enjoyed by all.

WELCOMING MINISTRY

- Elgin congregation is blessed when first-time visitors come to worship with us. Co-Pastor 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. Glenn Kreuzscher has taken the responsibility of organizing these activities.
 - 2/22- Elgin Symphony presented "A Night at the Oscars" at the Hemmens Auditorium. Al's Café shakes were enjoyed after the outstanding symphony presentation.
 - 4/24- A Sweetheart Dinner and Game night was held at the church. To honor the ladies in the congregation, the men served the food, set up and cleaned up after the delicious meal. The game, Sequence, was played by all with humorous results!
 - 5/5- A large group of enthusiastic fans attended the Schaumburg Boomers Baseball game on Harry Potter and fireworks night!
 - 8/17- Broadway In Chicago Concert was presented at the Jay Pritzker Pavilion, offering a sampling of the best of Broadway in the heart of Chicago, headlined by the casts of upcoming Broadway In Chicago shows.
 - 8/29- A fabulous Summer Breeze Concert featuring Frank Winkler and the Symphonic Pops was held at Prairie Center. A wonderful mix of Broadway favorites and light classics were presented with a top-notch 35-piece ensemble and guest vocalist.

- 9/11- The world famous Lyric Opera of Chicago held a review of the coming opera season at Millennium Park.
- 11/8- A beautiful concert by Spirit of Life Chorus was held at St. Elizabeth Ann Seaton Church in Crystal Lake.

OUTREACH MINISTRY

SCRIP GIFT CARD PROGRAM

- For the past eight 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 \$527.00

YOUNG PEACEMAKER'S CLUB

- Young Peacemaker's Club started 2015 with a meeting on January 10th at the church. Meeting once or twice a month there has been an increase of children and even their parents attending the activities. The activities and themes were interesting and varied this year.
 - 1/10 -Nutrition/ Healthy Eating Taking Care Of Ourselves From The Inside Out
 - 1/31 -Meditation And Mindful Movements
 - 2/7 -Fear And Anxiety And Worry, Oh My!
 - 2/28 -Laughter May Very Well Be The Best Medicine
 - 2/7 -Don't Be An Angry Bird: Anger Management and Accountability
 - 4/11 -Everything Old Can Be New Again, Recycling Projects
 - 4/25 -You Hold The Keys To Unlocking Peace/ World Peace
 - 5/9 -Growing In Peace - Planting Our Youth Garden, Adding A Peace Pole
 - 9/12 -Keep Calm And Use An Affirmation
 - 9/26 -How Can I Find Peace in My Life?
 - 10/10 -Trusting Our Divine Inner Wisdom
 - 10/24 -Learning From Each Other Through Celebration and Games
 - 11/14 -Journey Through Our Energy Centers: Introducing The 7 Chakras
 - 12/12 -Holiday Party
- YPC participated again this year at Streamwood Summer Festival. We had a table promoting Community of Christ's youth program/Sunday school and our YPC classes. This September we gained a new family with four children who have now become regular attendees to the YPC program and have come to some of our church events as well.
- We are members of the Streamwood and Elgin Chamber of Commerce now. We attend events for networking and send out eblasts (promotion flyers for YPC) to

members of the chamber and have received new inquiries from these emails. There is a new member who is scheduled to begin in January.

- We are working with the Contemporary Service on some combined service projects with YPC for the coming year.

ELGIN LOVE DAY

- This year our branch again joined together with other local churches to support Love Elgin Day in September and April. 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 the community. Community families were invited and over 2000 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 spring and fall, our Young Peacemaker's Club had a table. We have picked up many new YPC members from this event and feel it is a worthwhile activity in which to participate.

FEED MY STARVING CHILDREN

- This non-profit Christian organization is committed to feeding God's children hungry in body and spirit. Kate Kent organized members to meet in Libertyville on October 17th to hand-pack meals specifically formulated for malnourished children. These meals were shipped to FMSC distribution partners. FMSC meals have reached nearly 70 countries around the world.

COMMUNITY OUTREACH

- On January 17th, Cloyd Dowell had an Outreach Meeting at church to discuss methods of outreach to the community surrounding the Elgin congregation. Dale Serig came and shared some of the amazing ways the Lord has opened doors for him in the past. The other attendees, Blake Smith, Gill Sprage, Jim Wertz, Bill Howard, John Kent, Mark McClellan and Bill and Jean Hedrich, were also invited to remember and share their own experiences on how the Lord opened outreach opportunities for them.

SERVICE MINISTRY

LOVE BOXES

- Thanks to all who contributed to our Love Boxes. Thirteen boxes were sent out filled to the brim to our college students in time for Valentine's Day. Linda Meyer organized this much appreciated ministry.

MILITARY OUTREACH

- The month of March is set aside to recognize and support the Wounded Warrior Project. A generous check of \$425.00 was sent with our heartfelt thanks to those who serve us in the military. Many thanks to Robyn and Linda Meyer for their work in this worthy cause.

PASTORAL CARE

- 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

- Co-Pastor Jean Hedrich is responsible for updating the Elgin Congregation Directory which is made available to all members and friends who attend our congregation on a regular basis.

HELPING OUR COMMUNITY

- During March Linda Meyer organized and collected various toys and candy suitable for Easter baskets. Our Sunday school classes helped fill the baskets on Palm Sunday. The 15 baskets were delivered to the Elgin Crisis Center after church on Palm Sunday.
- 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.
- Our congregation gave generously to the two food drives organized by Linda Meyer. The All Peoples Interfaith Food Panty were given donations in the spring and again in the fall.
- A very successful toy drive was held in December by Linda Meyer for the Elgin Crisis Center in which we received generous donations from our congregation. Linda Meyer took the toys to the center along with a \$50.00 cash donation for them to buy anything else that might be needed for the children.

OUTREACH INTERNATIONAL

- Our congregation contributes to Outreach International to support sustainable goods for children and their families living in poverty. Barbara and Jim Wertz organized this collection. Our congregation sent \$1008.42 to Haiti Schools and Nutrition raising money for the needy in Haiti.

COLLECTIONS FROM THE HEART

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 three families with a monetary Christmas gift.

CAMP QUARRYLEGE SUPPORT

- A special collection to support Camp Quarryledge is taken each month that has a 5th Sunday in it. Our CFO reported that \$1991.40 was collected in March, May, August and November and in personal envelopes throughout the year.
- Camp Quarryledge is showing her age so the Mission Center held three work days to complete various necessary projects ranging from outside yard work, replacing the playground surface, taking down and rebuilding the pump house, to sorting and cleaning inside. Thanks to John Kent and Blake Smith who represented our congregation.

YOUTH MINISTRY

KID'S KAMP AND CARNIVAL

- Under the leadership of Linda Meyer, this ministry for children was offered during the 10:00 a.m. worship service beginning June 7th. Classes were held twice a month during the months of June, July and August. The theme, "Putting on the Full Armor of God" included lessons about why all six pieces of the armor are important and how it is crucial for successful lives. They learned why it is important to put on the Belt of Truth, Breastplate of Righteousness, to have Feet fitted with Readiness, a Shield of Faith, Helmet of Salvation and a Sword of the Spirit. Linda Meyer explained the practical military purpose of each article and explained the warfare application of each. On August 23rd the Kid's Kamp children were in charge of the worship service around the theme. The children dressed Kayla Kent with each article as Linda Meyer explained them. A big thanks to Fred Meyer for making each piece of the suit of armor.
- After the service, a pizza and pop lunch was served courtesy of Co-Pastor Mark McClellan and Jan Dowell followed by the Kids Kamp Carnival. There was a bag decoration booth run by Sheryl Sawyers and a fun craft table with Nancy McClellan. The ring toss and ever popular toilet paper toss booths were led by Ralph Wineman. Allie Sawyers was in charge of the fishing game and the lollipop tree and moonwalk was headed by Glenn Kreuzscher. Fun was enjoyed by all who participated in the bean bag toss with Cloyd Dowell. The Kent sisters did a wonderful job at the face painting booth and made beautiful art for the children. Co-Pastor Mark McClellan was in charge of the piñata. Everyone took a chance at the candy! Robyn and Fred Meyer handed out prizes at the prize table. Linda Meyer took pictures of all the fun. Many thanks to Linda and Fred Meyer who not only organized the Carnival but set up all the games and tables in the gym. It 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. Associate Pastor of Youth Nancy McClellan and the youth team planned activities in their pursuit to serve God and others in our local community, and to reach out to connect with God's love. Various activities were held in the Elgin congregation and with the Chicago Mission Center for our youth and their friends:
 - 2/14 Love Boxes to our college students
 - 2/27- Jr Hi/Sr Hi Retreat at Camp Quarryledge
 - 3/13- Spring Youth Retreat at Elgin congregation
 - 3/20- Jr Retreat at Camp Quarryledge
 - 4/12- Youth Pancake Breakfast – Fundraiser for Outreach International
 - 6/1-8/23- Kid's Kamp (twice per month summer youth program)
 - 8/30- Kid's Kamp Carnival
 - 6/27- Jr Hi/Sr Hi Pre-camp overnight Lock-in at Elgin congregation
 - 7/27- Jr Hi/Sr Hi Camp at Quarryledge
 - 8/2- Pri/Jr Camp at Quarryledge
 - 9/20- Laser Tag at LazerMaxx in Elgin
 - 10/9- Jr Hi/Sr Hi Retreat at Camp Quarryledge
 - 10/11- Love Boxes and cards to our college kids
 - 11/6- Jr Retreat at Camp Quarryledge
 - 12/13- "Bring Your Gifts to the King" – Christmas Talent Program
 - 12/29- Jr Hi/Sr Hi Yuletide Retreat at Camp Quarryledge

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.
 - 4/12- A congregational business meeting was held to discuss and approve the establishment of an Affiliate Investment Pool fund. This pool is combined with the World Church's endowment and reserve funds to create a portfolio that is professionally managed under the direction of the Presiding Bishopric with assistance from the World Church Investment Committee. Our initial deposit was \$1,000.00 but at the 10/25 business meeting to approve the 2016 budget, an additional \$4,000.00 was approved for deposit.

- Lisa Jauch and Sheryl Sawyers are the Elgin 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 congregational 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 congregation web page and updates it as needed. It is found at www.bymyspirit.us/elgin.
- Co-Pastor Jean Hedrich serves as the Recorder and is responsible for the accurate reporting of congregational statistics such as births, ordinations, withdrawals, blessings, deaths, and transfers in and out.
- The Historian is Janet Bollow who tells the story of persons, events and developments in the life of the congregation and submits the congregational history to the World Church.

CHICAGO MISSION CENTER

The Chicago Mission Center

- Ten 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. Blake Smith currently serves as our Mission Center President and Financial Officer. His two Counselors are Madison Parker and John Kent. 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.