

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

Historian's Annual Report, 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
Contemporary Worship Service	Sunday at 11:15 a.m. September thru May
Blended/Alternating Worship Service	Sundays 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  
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 and Janet Bollow  
Arlene Wineman (until 3/3)

**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 (until 3/3)

**Associate Pastor of Outreach:**

Young Peacemaker's Club

Kate Kent  
John and Kate Kent

**Associate Pastors of Youth:**

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 and Mark McClellan,  
Co-Pastors  
John Kent, CFO  
Milford Burgess

Bill Hedrich  
Bill Howard

**Sustain** (appointments made by World church or Mission Center)

Historian

Janet Bollow

Recorder

Jessica Moody

## **ELGIN COMMUNITY OF CHRIST 2014 STATISTICS**

Beginning Membership – information unavailable

Ending Membership – information unavailable

Withdrawals-

Transfers Out-

- Joan and Milford Burgess

New Attendees-

- John and Donna Doan
- Cloyd and Jan Dowell
- Glenn and Trolly Kreuzscher
- Dale and Nikki Serig
- Dave Kent

Baptisms –

- 8/3- Jayna Kent

Confirmations-

- 8/3- Jayna Kent

Weddings-

Ordinations-

Deaths-

- 3/3- Arlene Wineman
- 6/20- Vince Montana

Births-

Blessings-

## **ELGIN PRIESTHOOD**

### **Evangelist**

Bill Howard

### **Seventies**

Cloyd Dowell  
Kevin Henrickson  
Derek Sanders

### **High Priests**

Glenn Kreuzscher  
Harold Smith

### **Elders**

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

### **Priests**

Jayne Ackley  
Lisa Ackley  
John Doan  
Dave Kent  
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 May. In preparation for the start of a new year, we all gathered on September 7 at 10:15 a.m. in the fellowship hall. The program included a continental breakfast and Sunday school orientation and a youth program planning meeting.
- A class picture was taken and a prayer of blessing was given by Ralph Wineman, Christian Education Director. Sunday school classes this year were organized as:
  - Nursery/Preschool (Infant to 4 years old) Teachers Debby Nelson and Nikki Koessl
  - Junior Middle Class (Kindergarten thru 6<sup>th</sup> 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
- The K thru 6<sup>th</sup> grade will be studying Jack and Jenn and the “Not So Secret Mission”, an introduction to the Mission Initiatives for Children. The Teen Class is studying Seasons of the Spirit and Christian lessons authored by Rob Bell. The adult class will be using the theme: “The Good Life”.

### **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: “Keeping Your Space Clean and Green” Linda Meyer organized this class for children ages 5-15. A fun-filled Kid’s Kamp Carnival was held on August 24<sup>th</sup>. 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 are using the Community of Christ lectionary-based worship resources and themes which allow us to focus on the word of God in scripture.
- People of all ages are involved in leading praise, praying, reading scripture, drama, ministry of music, planning and presiding over worship and even preaching!
- Although our numbers are small we have seen miraculous growth among members who participate in the Contemporary worship in our Elgin congregation.

### **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.
- 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, 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 FELLOWSHIP**

- 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. (Janet Bollow acted for Nancy Naber for the latter half of the year.) 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.
- In April, it was suggested that a different name for our group might be more meaningful and fully reflect our purpose. Suggested names were Bible Babes, God's Gal Pals, Women of Faith, Women's Fellowship and others. At the July meeting we voted for a new name and it was changed from Women's Auxiliary to Women's Fellowship.
- The book, *The Helper*, by Catherine Marshall, was studied for the first part of this year. The book offers forty inspirational "helps" or readings, containing scripture, a prayer, and insight into the provocative third person of the Godhead. We finished the book in May and began our studies in our new book in July. The new book, *Navigate*, by Norman Vincent Peale, 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.
- 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.



- A collection is taken at each monthly meeting so we are able to fund activities and to buy needed items. Our Treasurer, Barbara Wertz, reported that we have \$1779.10 in our account. It was discussed and decided that we will take on some projects to utilize some of our funds. It was decided that our church kitchen could use some items including dish towels, dish clothes, can opener and cutting boards. Some of our women took care of some of the items needed.
- A special Christmas meeting was held in Linda Meyer's home in December. The women enjoyed a delicious meal as well as worship given by Nancy Naber. 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, Jean Hedrich was instrumental in organizing many of the meals.
  - Each Sunday, treats are served in the adult Sunday school class. Jean Hedrich and Sylvia Elrod are responsible for scheduling individuals to bring a treat to share.
  - 3/9- A delicious pancake breakfast was served by our youth to the congregation where a free will offering of \$562.00 was collected for Outreach International.
  - 4/6- A taco dinner was served for all guests before the interactive, webcast event given by President Stephen M. Veazy. Linda Meyer graciously offered to organize this fellowship event.
  - 4/18- David Lai was in charge of our Good Friday service depicting the last hours of Jesus's life through movies, music and drama. His imaginative use of lighting, costumes and props allowed us a glimpse into our Saviors last hours.
  - 4/20- Easter Sunday was full of worship experiences with the 9:00am "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 Derek Sanders speaking.
  - 4/27- Nancy McClellan hosted a pizza lunch and Youth Workers Registration Drive after the Contemporary worship service.
  - 6/7- Ralph Wineman invited his family of Christ friends to enjoy an open house picnic to commemorate his 61<sup>st</sup> wedding anniversary. Many attended and shared fond memories of the couple as well as abundant delicious food.
  - 6/8- An Open House was held to celebrate Jeff Jauch's high school graduation. We are very proud of and support our congregational youth whenever we are able.
  - 6/29- As a result of the First Chicago congregation closing, a welcome letter, dated May 27, was sent to those who attended that congregation to come and worship at Elgin. They were invited to worship with us on

Sunday, June 29 and be our guests at a potluck dinner. Following the potluck, we invited them to join us for a short meeting to answer questions and/or concerns and discussed how we could provide ministry to them and, also, how they would like to become involved in the life of the Elgin congregation.

- 7/20- A poignant Sending Forth was held for Derek and Ginger Sanders who were moving to New Mexico. During the potluck gathering we shared jokes and fun memories of wonderful fellowship along with the spiritual blessings of the ministry they provided for many years at Elgin. A monetary gift was given to them to help support their "Hear the Cry Ministries."
- 8/3- Kayla Kent was baptized by her father, Priest John Kent and confirmed by Seventy Blake Smith and Elder Mark McClellan during the blended worship service. A potluck luncheon of friendship and support was held afterward in the fellowship hall.
- 8/10- For over 50 years, Milford and Joan Burgess have attended our Elgin Community of Christ congregation where they have generously shared their giftedness in the life of our congregation. We were saddened by their move to Texas to live closer to their family. After the worship service everyone was invited to stay for a potluck dinner which was followed by a Sending Forth for Milford and Joan. Many wonderful memories and funny stories were shared along with reminding them of the many special ways they have touched our lives. Gift cards from Home Depot and McDonald's were some of the gift cards presented to them. We will always remember them fondly.
- 10/4- Ron and Pam Ross were the instructors for the Shelby class held in our building. This class was for all pastors, CFO's, recorders, youth leaders or congregational members who would need Shelby access. Since Ron and Pam are retiring, the Plano congregation provided a pizza lunch, Gayle Parker made a beautiful decorated cake, gift cards including one for Home Depot were given and many people shared a favorite memory.
- 12/14- Mark McClellan organized a delightful Christmas program which was enjoyed by many. Kevin Henrickson playing his guitar, opened the program with a Christmas caroling sing-along. John Kent played a musical guessing game with his viola. Tiffany Krause and David Lai showed off their dancing talents with a varied routine. Robb Kent awed us with his talent in the martial arts. Shirley Werba had a fun dance routine to "It's a Blue Blue Christmas" by Elvis Presley. Gracie Kent played "Jingle Bells" on the piano and Samantha Hey sang "All I want for Christmas Is You". Ralph Wineman thrilled us all with his talented golf skills and his tricks. Jim Wertz ended the program with a beautiful reading of "Twas the Night Before Christmas". Jean Hedrich blessed the congregation and the food as we continued to celebrate with Christmas cookies, appetizers and punch in the fellowship hall.

## **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.

## **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 subject was "What is God calling you to do?"

## **OUTREACH MINISTRY**

### **SCRIP GIFT CARD PROGRAM**

- For the past seven 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 \$543.03.

### **YOUNG PEACEMAKERS CLUB**

- Young Peacemakers Club started 2014 with a meeting on January 11<sup>th</sup> at the church. Meeting twice a month September thru May, there has been an increase of children and even their parents attending the activities. By May 2014 YPC had had 27 members throughout the year.
- YPC was able to participate at Family Camp this year at Camp Quarryledge in July, with daily classes for 14 campers, and afternoon peacemaking activities.
- The Streamwood Summer Celebration table was well staffed and attended by the Kent Family, Katherine Ackley, Fred and Linda Meyer, Cloyd Dowell, Glen Kruescher, Bill Howard, and Jean Hedrich. During the event participants were invited to attend YPC meetings and Elgin Community of Christ Youth Sunday

school classes. YPC key chains, insulated lunch bags, Jack and Jenn Generosity Jars, and bracelets were handed out to youth.

- In August, Elgin's Gail Borden Library invited YPC to International Fest, where we helped children make peace mala bracelets celebrating and supporting all the world's religions. Families were able to register their kids for YPC. We had two new families attend YPC after this festival.
- YPC was invited to the Rakow Library branch on September 21<sup>st</sup>, The International Day of Peace; there was an informational table, and storytelling.
- In August YPC was also accepted as an Elgin Peace Participant in supporting Elgin as an International City of Peace. Elgin became recognized by the UN in 2013 as a City of Peace and the work of YPC supports the educational aspects of teaching peace to our youth.
- 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. Beets, peas, green beans and peppers were planted. Next to the box in a 4' x 6' plot on the ground, zucchini, cucumbers, 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 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 Peacemakers Club had a table staffed by John & Kate Kent, Grace, Jayna, & Kayla Kent, Jean Hedrich, and Cloyd Dowell. Invitations were given out as well as insulated lunch bags, bracelets and flyers for upcoming Young Peacemakers Club meetings. We had one new family with six children that was invited this year in September and has been coming regularly to our activities. We also still have a family of four from last year's event that still attend regularly.

### **SERVICE MINISTRY**

#### **LOVE BOXES**

- Thanks to all who contributed to our Love Boxes. Ten boxes were sent out filled to the brim to our college students Ricky Schulz, Garland Mann-Lamb, Korinne

Henrickson, Trent Faunce, Katie Sanders, Tyler Betancourt, Andrew Sawyers, Audrey Lai, Jacob McClellan, and Joshua Naber in time for Valentine's Day.

### **MILITARY OUTREACH**

- The month of March is set aside to recognize and support the Wounded Warrior Project. A generous check was sent with our heartfelt thanks to those who serve us in the military.

### **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**

- 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.

### **CRISIS CENTER COLLECTION**

- During March and April Linda Meyer organized and collected various toys and candy suitable for Easter baskets. Our Sunday school classes helped fill 10 baskets which were delivered to the Elgin Crisis Center after church services on April 13<sup>th</sup>.
- 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 months of September and October. 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.
- Under the direction of Linda Meyer, a collection of toys for children at the Elgin Crisis Center was organized in November and December. As usual, our members were extremely generous and shared their abundance with the 16 children in need. Our youth shopped with the money collected so the children in need could have a brighter Christmas.

### **OUTREACH INTERNATIONAL**

- Our congregation contributes to Outreach International to support sustainable goods for children and their families living in poverty. Our congregation sent \$1143.78 to the Campaign for Caribbean Kids Fund, raising money for schools in Haiti.

### **CARING SUPPORT**

- Our congregation responded with support and willing service to the needs of the Montana family during Vince's lengthy illness. Ginger Sanders organized a group and Facebook page, "Praying for Vince". Each Sunday a group of people would meet at Vince's home or the hospital to pray with him. Sadly, Vince passed away on June 20th, 2014. A memorial service, presided by Derek and Ginger Sanders, was held at our congregation on July 12th. During the service, many funny and poignant memories were shared by family and friends. Following the service, everyone was invited to stay for a Celebration of Life barbecue luncheon provided by the family and congregation in the fellowship hall.
- Due to complications from two heart surgeries, we were saddened by the death of our sister in Christ, Arlene Wineman who passed away on March 3<sup>rd</sup>. Arlene was a valued member and tireless worker in our congregation for the past 55 years. If there was a job that needed to be done, we were blessed that Arlene would generously offer her time and talents and would work tirelessly without any thought of recognition. Arlene was our Elgin Historian for over 15 years. She organized not only the Adult Fellowship activities but sent birthday cards and get well messages to our congregation. She printed our Sunday bulletins for at least 25 years and served as secretary of our congregation. Derek Sanders and Bill Howard presided over a large emotional service as we remembered our dear sister, Arlene. After the memorial service we continued our celebration of Arlene's life at a dinner.

### **COLLECTIONS FROM THE HEART**

- As we try to live Christ-like lives, we believe in supporting families with acute financial needs. This year we supported a family from our congregation with a monetary donation 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 three families with a monetary Christmas gift.

### **CAMP QUARRYLEDGE SUPPORT**

- A special collection to support Camp Quarryledge is taken each month that has a 5<sup>th</sup> Sunday in it. Our CFO reported that \$240.00 was collected in March, June, August and November and in personal envelopes throughout the year.
- John Kent is a Camp Quarryledge board member. Over the years Elgin members have been leaders on this board.
- On Sunday, December 28, a town hall meeting following the 10:00 a.m. traditional joint worship service, under the leadership of CFO Blake Smith, was held to discuss and receive feedback regarding the future of Camp Quarryledge. Lunch was provided by the Chicago Mission Center.

## **YOUTH MINISTRY**

### **KID'S KAMP**

- Under the leadership of Linda Meyer, this ministry for children was offered during the 10:00 a.m. worship service beginning June 8<sup>th</sup>. Classes were held twice a month during the months of June, July and August. The theme, "Keeping Your Space Clean and Green" included lessons:
  - Serve the Lord!
  - Stop, Look, and Listen!
  - Prepare for a Rainy Day
  - Don't Waste God's Blessings
  - Keep Your Space Clean and Green
- On Sunday, August 25<sup>th</sup>, Linda Meyer and the Kid's Kamp presided at the 10:00 worship service. A skit entitled "The Garbage Diet" was performed during the worship service. The campers sang songs from the lesson themes. A sub sandwich lunch was held followed by a Kid's Kamp Carnival. There was face painting, a fishing game, a ring toss, lollipop tree and the favorite toilet paper toss as well as an inflatable moonwalk and much more. There were many helpers including Mark McClellan, Nancy Naber, Robyn Meyer, Fred Meyer, Sheryl Sawyers, Allie Sawyers, Nancy McClellan, Katie McClellan, Ralph Wineman, Kayla Kent, Kate Kent and our director, Linda Meyer. This was a wonderful day of fun and fellowship for the 45 attendees.

### **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 Congregation and with the Chicago Mission Center for our youth and their friends:
  - 2/23- WhirlyBall and Pizza party fun and fellowship with youth from other Chicago congregations
  - 2/28- Sr. High/Jr. High retreat at Camp Quarryledge
  - 3/8- Youth Lock-In overnight- Frozen theme – with fun games, cooking, movies and devotions
  - 3/9- Pancake Breakfast put on by the youth during the Sunday School hour. A free will offering of \$562.00 was collected for Outreach International
  - 3/21 Junior Retreat at Camp Quarryledge
  - 6/22- Jr. High and Sr. High Camp at Quarryledge
  - 8/3- Children's Camp at Quarryledge for K, 1st and 2nd graders
  - 8/3- Junior Camp at Quarryledge
  - 9/27- Youth Lock-In overnight for youth grades 7-12

- 9/28- A pancake breakfast for the congregation was put on by the youth during the Sunday School hour – donations received were sent to Outreach International
- 10/10- Junior Retreat at Camp Quarryledge
- 10/19- Our older youth enjoyed an afternoon of pizza and laser tag
- 10/26- Trunk or Treat at the church parking lot – many youth dressed in costume
- 11/7- Jr. High/Sr. High retreat at Camp Quarryledge
- 11/16- Pizza and Christmas Program rehearsal for all youth
- 11/21- Junior Camp at 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.
- Youth Workers Registration classes were organized by Nancy McClellan and were held several times throughout the year.

## **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](http://www.bymyspirit.us/elgin).

### **IMPROVING GOD'S HOUSE**

- 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 and will be missed as he moves to Texas.
- Under the leadership of Lowell Naber, five large trees which had died during the extremely cold winter were cut down and removed.
- Three new trees were planted by Ralph Wineman to honor the memory of Arlene Wineman, his wife of almost 61 years.
- Under the leadership of Lowell Naber, the driveway and parking lot were seal coated
- This summer, under the leadership of Nancy Naber and utilizing the carpentry skills of Milford Burgess, some much needed updates were completed to improve the look and function of the sanctuary. We were blessed greatly that the remodeling was funded by donations. The work included:
  1. Removing the partition wall with glass windows at the rear of the sanctuary
  2. Removing lattice in front of the organ so both sides of the stage area would be matching in design
  3. Removing the rough sawn cedar from the walls of the stage and rear wall in front of the AV room of the sanctuary
  4. Taping, priming and painting of drywall
  5. Installing additional electrical outlets for the AV room
  6. Installing new carpeting in the sanctuary
  7. Updating the AV equipment with a new computer and other wireless components under the direction of our AV Coordinator, David Lai.
- During the last half of this year, Nancy Naber has used her artistic skills to decorate the worship table in the sanctuary.
- In December, many volunteers put up our Christmas tree and decorated the sanctuary and the entryway.

### **CHICAGO MISSION CENTER**

### **The Chicago Mission Center**

- Nine 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.