

Minutes of the Commission to close Mount Pleasant Presbyterian Church

On Sunday, April 15, 2018, Dana Waters, Sid Burgess, Jay Wilkins, and Beverly Dodson conducted the closing worship for Mount Pleasant Presbyterian Church. Mary Ann Morrow, the great-great-great granddaughter of the gentleman who gave the property on which the church now stands also participated in the worship. Other relatives were present.

The commission was given a copy of a history written for the 100th anniversary of the church, a Historical Sketch of the Mount Pleasant Presbyterian Church filed with the Historical Foundation in Montreat, N.C. on April 10, 1934 and a copy of the quit claim deed deeding the church property to the Cemetery Association. The Session Book dated from 1913 will be sent to the Presbytery after a copy is made to remain in the Church Sanctuary. Earlier records were destroyed in a fire. The Church building will be used for community events with the Cemetery Association trustees providing church upkeep.

Commission Members:

Beverly Dodson

Rev. Dana Waters

Rev. Sid Burgess

My Faith Journey

Sunjae Kim

My name is Sun Jae Kim. I was born in Choongnam, South Korea but am currently living in Suwanee, GA. I have been married 15 years and have three sons, Ezra, Isaac, and Enoch. I currently serve the Jesus Hope Church located in Suwanee, GA as an Associate pastor. My wife's name is Hoonam Kim. She is now working as RN at Johns Kreek Emory Hospital. I had graduated from Hosea University with a theology degree and had also studied at Columbia Theological Seminary for Master in Divinity degree and pursuing Doctor of Ministry course.

My father and mother were faithful Christians and had brought me up in the faith. It was my mother's devotion and faith that naturally turned my heart toward studying theology.

When I began my theological study in Korea, I had a chance to teach children at the Zion Methodist church for three years. This was my first ministry. There were around 30 children. As a Sunday school director I planned worship and education for the children and preached every Sunday and taught them about Jesus and good news. I was very happy to see the children's faith growing day by day.

After three years of army service, I returned to college to finish my theological education. I met one of my precious friends from India at the school. His name was Stanley. He was studying about Dalit theology. Dalits are the people who are pressed and exploited by upper class people in India. We studied together and served the people from Southeast Asia. They came to Korea to work and support their family but their working condition was bad. Sometimes they were treated unfairly and unjustly. So we tried to help them by introducing some lawyers and social workers to solve the problems they had. This ministry gave me a chance to understand the people who are struggling from the difference of language and culture.

After marriage, my wife had received a job offer from a local hospital in USA. So we accepted that offer and came to America in 2002. It was God's grace that my wife and I settled down in Georgia without any big problem. The first city I served ministry in America was Orlando. My wife worked at the hospital and I studied as part-time student at Asbury Seminary. I worked as educational director at the first Methodist Korean church for one and half year. I planned some church educational curriculums and served young adults. Through this ministry in Orlando, I decided to continue theological study and become minister. So my family moved to Atlanta, GA. and I entered CTS, Columbia Theological Seminary.

Through my studies at CTS, I have become persuaded that my theology would be on a firm foundation laid through studies of various theological fields. Through my activities within CTS community, conversations with the faculty, students, I had a chance to see various viewpoints and interpretations regarding many social denominational issues. The diversity came from their different culture, ethnic background, languages, and contexts; These all have guided me to have an appreciation for a deep and wide thinking and to broaden my viewpoint.

I have been serving Jesus Hope church for 7 years since I moved to Atlanta, GA. these 7 years of ministry at Jesus Hope Church gave me a chance to see and understand Korean immigrant

church and community. I could understand what the immigrant church is like and learned what does Korean churches need to become more diverse and healthy.

I deeply thank God for His love leading me here in the midst of difficult situations. As apostle Paul said "By the grace of God that I am what I am", It is all God's steadfast love and grace to guide me here. I pray that the same grace and love of God lead and guide me in His righteous way.

My Faith Statement

Appendix B-13

Sun Jae Kim

I understand the calling of my vocation to be one of service to God's people through hope and the word and love of God. I believe that God has called me to do the work of reconciliation as an ordained pastor of Word and Sacrament. This discernment is based on my personal trials that testify to the work of God in my life's journey through its joys as well as sorrow. My specific vocational sense of call is to serve a parish healing the wounded families, specifically immigrant families, through God's love.

As a disciple of Jesus, I confess God and Jesus Christ as Lord. I believe Trinity is one substance in three persons. Each person of the Trinity is particularly involved in Creation(Father), Redemption(son), and Sanctification(Holy Spirit). Three persons (God, Son, and Holy Spirit) interrelated each other so that reality of one cannot separated from the reality of others. I accept the Old and New testament as God's word. I believe that God reveals Himself through His word. I also believe that God's will reveals presently through the power of the Holy spirit, as well as in Jesus Christ. As God's children, we have been accepted and saved by faith through our savior Jesus Christ. My personal faith is centered on God's sovereign nature, steadfast love, and Justification by faith shown by Jesus Christ. I believe that all humans are sinners. We cannot make our own salvation by our efforts. It is through only God's love made manifest in the life, death and resurrection of Jesus Christ that redeem us. Jesus is the only way, truth, and life to salvation and eternal life. He invites us in every situation, circumstance, and every step that we make into His way which gives us peace, purpose and certainty for salvation, the kingdom of God.

I believe that God shows His grace and way for me in every step of my life. Holy Spirit guides me and binds me to God and His son Jesus Christ through God's unfailing love.

Faith Journey
Rev. Tom Bryson

I grew up in the Mississippi Delta where my father worked as a research scientist for the Department of Agriculture. As a young child I thought everyone grew up in a small town and went to church every time the doors were open. My father was on the session and taught Sunday School, my mother sang in the choir, moderated Presbyterian Women, and later worked as the church secretary. My faith grew as I grew. I marked the passage of time by what was happening at church. Summers meant Camp Hopewell and Vacation Bible School, later it meant the long trip to Montreat. Fall meant family night suppers and youth group. Winter was a time of charity and concern for neighbors in need. Spring brought fundraisers, church picnics, and church league softball. Surrounded by the love of a congregation, I learned that God loved me, wanted me to act with concern for others, and Jesus' new life meant that I could go to heaven.

I worked at our Presbytery's camp the summer I turned 16 and it changed my life. I was washing dishes and mowing grass but I was also teaching others about Jesus for the first time. The faith that had been given to me by others was now mine to share. A couple years later, while in college, my faith matured outside the safety of childhood in a confrontation that would become an important step in my faith journey. I was invited to lunch by a campus minister from a denomination similar in name but vastly different in theology. The host used the opportunity to theologially bully me with big words and scripture quoting in order to push me off of my beliefs. I was mad. I was mad at him, but most of all I was mad at myself for not having the knowledge and vocabulary to stand up to this bully. I picked up a copy of Shirley Guthrie's *Christian Doctrine* later that week. Not only was I never going to be in a position where I had difficulty articulating what I believed, I was not going to let anyone be bullied like that again if I could help it.

Soon after that lunch, I was asked by the local congregation to work with their youth and I worked as a student intern my last three years of college at Mississippi State University. Working with youth was my opportunity to keep my promise and equip these youth with the vocabulary and conviction they would need when put in the frustrating confrontation that I had experienced.

While at State, I met my wife Ashley. She was a few years younger so when I graduated I was eager to stay close to Starkville. When the same congregation asked me to serve as Director of Christian Education I saw the opportunity, not only to stay close to Starkville but also to have a period of discernment for ordained ministry. Three years later I applied to seminary and enrolled as an inquirer in St. Andrew Presbytery.

Ashley and I (now married) moved to Atlanta in the summer of 2004, still not sure what God had in mind for us at Columbia Theological Seminary. All of our anxiety was relieved when Ashley got a great job, I was offered an internship at St. Luke's Presbyterian Church, and we met the incredible community of CTS. Many of our deepest friendships developed at CTS and my theological and vocational uncertainty found fertile soil to grow and mature. God certainly used this amazing experience of community and education to prepare us for the ministry.

I was ordained in July of 2007 as a solo pastor in Columbus, Mississippi. Ashley and I had never considered moving back, at least not immediately, to Mississippi, but the Lord works in mysterious ways. I have been challenged and nurtured in this call over the last 10 years, finding my voice in leadership and preaching in a grace-filled congregation often eager to try something new. While here in Columbus, Ashley and I saw our family grow with the addition of two boys. Michael, 6, is full of energy and kind of hard headed like his dad. Henry is now three with all the joys and trials of his age.

Faith Journey
Rev. Tom Bryson

While serving in Columbus, the congregation has formed a strong ecumenical partnership soup kitchen to feed the hungry of our community, undergone a dozen or more changes to the physical space including a columbarium, outdoor worship space, an amazing stained glass window, and has recommitted itself to acts of hospitality as a discipline of faith formation. The congregation has just completed a capital campaign to renovate the educational building and the addition of a much needed elevator. In the last year we have reformed a campus ministry program to Mississippi University for Women and added a new staff position of Program Director. This is a congregation that is alive and actively seeking God's calling.

During my time in Columbus, I have been fortunate to continue my theological education by receiving a doctorate of ministry from McCormick Theological seminary with a focus on church growth and revitalization. The thesis was a mixture of academic work and practical application which took place at FPC Columbus. The focus of the thesis was practices and places of hospitality in the congregation. Looking at our unique theological and cultural identity through the lens of scripture has helped us embrace new understandings of hospitality and how they can be expressed in a congregation.

Faith Statement
Rev. Tom Bryson

I believe in One Holy and Loving God who creates, redeems, and sustains all things. This One God is revealed in three distinct ways in the Father, Son, and Holy Spirit. My faith is guided by what has been revealed in the history of God's interaction with God's people, in the man, Jesus Christ, and the guidance given by the spirit in revelation of scripture and the world around us.

I believe in the God of Abraham and Sarah, Isaac and Rebecca, and Jacob and Rachel, who throughout the history of the Hebrew people has revealed His presence in the world. God created everything that is and ever will be and made human kind in His own image. God works through creation to bring about glory of God.

I believe that Jesus was a man in every way, made of flesh and blood. He lived a life full of human experience along with the temptation of sin. He was tempted but never gave way to sin. He was at the same time fully God. He came to the earth not only to reveal God to humanity through serving, healing, and teaching, but to save humanity from the slavery of sin and death. By His death and resurrection, Christ chose humanity. The grace shared in Christ's love can never be earned or deserved, but is freely given to all who would believe in Him.

I believe in the Holy Spirit, God in us that allows us to recognize and see who God is. The Spirit moved over the waters at creation, was imparted to humanity at Pentecost, and lives in us today giving gifts and helping us to interpret God's will. The Spirit guides us as individuals and the church as a whole to follow and faithfully discern God's call on our lives.

I believe that scripture is a gift from God, written by people who were inspired by the Holy Spirit. Although each person by the Spirit is given the ability to read and understand scripture, only in conversation with each other and the gifts from God, can we truly discern the fullness of scripture and God's will for the earth.

I believe the church is the body of Christ here on earth. The church is a community of believers striving to find faithful ways to worship and glorify God. It is made up of sinful and fallible people yet striving to work for reconciliation and peace here on earth. God uses the church for the betterment of this world, spreading the Good News of the Gospels, to proclaim the Kingdom of God to come, and the saving grace for humanity found in Christ.

ANNUAL REPORT ON REMUNERATION OF MINISTER MEMBERS -- 2018

This chart contains the name of all active members who have terms of call in this Presbytery and shows their remuneration configurations for 2018.

Note: If Travel, CE, not vouchered for actual expense, it is income and part of Effective Salary.

MINISTER-WORK	EFFECTIVE SALARY	BOARD OF PENSIONS	TRAVEL VOUCHERED	CONT. ED VOUCHERED	OTHER CHURCH EXP	TOTAL PACKAGE
Barrett Abernethy, First-Livingston	48,314	17,876	3,000	1,000	800	70,990
Ben Acton, Southminster-Associate	51,766	19,153	1,000	1,000	4,763	77,682
Nan Adams, Memorial	50,000	18,500			6,678	75,178
Nan Adams, Westminister-Montgomery	12,500					12,500
Betty Angelini, Living River	70,004	25,902		3,000		98,906
Rick Atkerson, Member-at-Large	0	0	0	0	0	0
Michael Bailey, First-Tuscaloosa	120,000	44,400	500	1,700	9,000	175,600
Yoo Chang Bang, Member-at-Large						
Lindsey Becker, Member-at-Large						
Shelaine Bird, Member-at-Large	11,420					11,420
John Brock, First-Eufaula	44,000	16,060		2,000	4,600	66,660
Taylor Brown, HR, First-Phenix City (part-time)	13,340					13,340
Tom Bryson, Southminster	84,000	31,080	2,400	2,100	5,850	125,430
William Carl, Independent	238,519	59,622		5,000	3,740	306,881
Lydia Casey, Parish Associate, Edgewood	0	0	0	0	0	0
Donald Chinula, Professor, Stillman						
Timothy Cho, Korean-Birmingham						
Susan Clayton, Independent	90,523	33,494		3,000	7,044	134,061
Lant Davis, Mountain Brook	63,000	23,310	2,000	1,000		89,310
Vic Dippenaar, Member-at-Large	98,000			20,000	25,000	143,000
Erica Durham, Columbia Seminary	52,640	14,988				67,628
Debbie Feagin, Springville (part-time)	300 per Sunday		.545 per mile			
Debbie Feagin, Dodson Memorial (part-time)	200 per Sunday		.545 per mile			
Zana Free, Member-at-Large						

MINISTER-WORK	EFFECTIVE SALARY	BOARD OF PENSIONS	TRAVEL VOUCHERED	CONT. ED VOUCHERED	OTHER CHURCH EXP	TOTAL PACKAGE
Joe Genau, Edgewood						
James Goodlet, First-Tusc., Campus Minister	57,390	21,234	500	2,000		81,124
Catherine Goodrich, First-Birmingham, Assoc.						
Elizabeth Goodrich, Independent, Assoc.	81,979	30,332		3,000	6,407	121,718
Richard Hanna, Chaplain, Kirkwood	73,677	27,260				100,937
Patrick Harley, UKirk-Bham	50,000	18,693	1,000	750		70,443
Cathy Hoop, Grace	60,000	22,200	2,000	1,500	6,039	91,739
Ed Hurley, South Highland	115,391	42,695	6,000	5,275	13,776	183,137
Catherine Japhet, Chaplain						
Jun Mo Jeong, Auburn-Opelika Korean						
Steve Jones, Second						
J.C. Kang, Auburn-Opelika Korean, Associate						
Sung-Woong Kim, Member-at-Large						
Sun Jae Kim, Korean-Tuscaloosa	30,000	14,600				44,600
Neeley Lane, First-Tuscaloosa	50,000	18,500	1,000	1,720		71,220
Brian Lays, Independent	63,889	23,639		3,000	4,988	95,516
Rebecca Mann, Member-at-Large	12,124					12,124
Bruce McClendon, First-Alex City	41,507	16,858	4,040	2,290	4,358	69,053
John McClure, Professor, Vanderbilt	137,205	13,720				150,925
Mark McCormick, Member-at-Large						
Jamie McLeod, Cahaba Springs	65,000	25,358	1,635	750	2,700	95,443
Leigh Ann Min, Chaplain, Brookwood Baptist	50,100	3,000		3,000		56,100
Hakbae Moon, Korean-Anniston	55,836		3,600	1,000		60,436
Terry Newland, Synod Executive	102,994	23,686		1,500	7,879	136,059
Elizabeth O'Neill, Immanuel						
Jyung Ho Oh, Korean-Montgomery						
Catherine Oliver, First-Birmingham	52,000	19,240			3,500	74,740

MINISTER-WORK	EFFECTIVE SALARY	BOARD OF PENSIONS	TRAVEL VOUCHERED	CON. ED VOUCHERED	OTHER CHURCH EXP	TOTAL PACKAGE
Mary McQueen Porter, Shades Valley, Parish Assoc.	0	0	0	0	0	0
Kathy Wolf Reed, First-Auburn	59,249	7,110	5,419		4,533	76,311
Leanne Pearce Reed, Shades Valley	65,000	24,050	1,000	2,500	9,473	102,023
Nick Reed, First-Auburn	50,369	20,679	5,419		3,853	80,320
Leeann Scarbrough, First-Talladega	59,379	20,783				80,162
Christopher Scott, Member-at-Large	0	0	0	0	0	0
Joe Scrivner, Brown Memorial	44,444	15,556		750	3,215	63,965
Lou Ann Sellers, First-Tuscaloosa, Associate	67,161	24,850		2,500	500	95,011
Paul Sherwood, Oakmont	68,120	25,623		2,000	7584	103,327
Dong ouk Shin, Korean-Pelham						
Charles Sims, First-Sylacauga	29,000		1,300		1,200	31,500
Dan Stephens, Member-at-Large						
Jim Truesdell, Member-at-Large	0	0	0	0	0	0
Lucy Turner, Independent, Associate	117,335	43,414		3,000	9,095	172,844
Lindsey Wade, Member-at-Large						
Cody Watson, Frontier Presbyterian Fellowship	75,000	32,000				107,000
Jay Wilkins, General Presbyter	75,000	31,996	10,600	1,000	5,738	124,334
Rachel Winter, Member-at-Large						
Tom Winter, Stated Clerk	10,000					10,000
Jonathan Yarboro, First-Wetumpka	47,360	18,000	6,600	1,800	2,642	76,402

John Homer

Alexander John Homer, better known as John, was born in Chicago, Illinois in August of 1933 and died in February of this year at age 85. He is survived by Anne, his wife of 56 years, their daughter, Kim, and their delight, Tatum, their granddaughter.

Early in his life promised his God that he would become a minister. Then, for some 20 years he forgot that promise. He saw himself as a life-long learner and an actor. Thus, in high school and college, he was involved in choruses and plays. He studied at Alma College in Maryland, graduating with a BA in Economics and French. Next he graduated from the University of Georgia with an MBA. After graduate school worked at the First National Bank of Atlanta where he met Anne. After a whirlwind week of dating they became engaged, and, a few months later, they eloped.

During a successful business career in Dallas, Texas, was called to his earlier promise to God to study for the ministry. He then enrolled at Austin Theological Seminary where he received his seminary education.

His first pastorate was in a church redevelopment in the small town of Monroe, Georgia. There he found his passion for ministry – the passion of presence and care for people without prejudice or precondition. His subsequent ministries in church redevelopment, as a “high-risk” parole officer (them not him), a therapist, and, as always, a caring pastoral counselor. It was during this time that John engaged, somehow, in PhD work in psychology – and found himself on disability with heart problems.

Though the heart issues continued, John went on to more pastorate in Jefferson, Georgia where he envisioned and, with others, developed Northminster Presbyterian Homes, a retired community. In the late 1990’s both he and Anne retired. They bought an RV, and they hit the road. Traveling in the west, John became chaplain for Mt. Rainier, Washington,, supervising 12 college students and 2 seminarians who provided weekly worship services for campers.

After finally settling in Birmingham, they attended South Highland Presbyterian Church where John served a three year term as Parish Associate. John also served on the Commission on Ministry.

I conclude with words spoken by Ed Hurley at John’s “Witness to the Resurrection.”

“John was a remarkable individual, a man I am calling, ‘Great Soul.’ His life was utterly dedicated to his Lord, who he trusted in life and in death. A man of such strong inner steel so far as faith, hope, and love, and all those fruits of the Spirit are concerned – love, joy, peace, patience, kindness, generosity, faithfulness, and gentleness. John, frail of body, was always strong of spirit, always the encourager, always cheering us on, always caring for us. In the manner of his Lord, he demonstrated sacrificial love – ‘greater love has no one but that a person give up their lives for their friends.’”

Thanks be to God!

04-20-2018 / PW Report to Presbytery

Greetings Everyone!

2017 was one spectacular year. 2018 is promising to be the same. It is refreshing to see just how dedicated and devoted the women of our Presbytery are in study, worship and service. They are truly servants to God, family, friends and those in need. It is a pure privilege to serve as Moderator of Presbyterian Women in the Presbytery of Sheppards and Lapsley.

Our women are involved in a myriad of missions locally, nationally, and worldwide. The local congregations pitch in and personally volunteer for too many missions to mention here. They collect & serve food, raise money, roll up their sleeves to assist in clean-up & remodeling, go on mission trips, knit & sew items for comfort, and much, much more. They are an integral part of the success of mission work of the church. Their passion is ensuring education, Bible study, the care of others in need and to be disciples of advancing the Kingdom of God. I dare say that the women of Sheppards and Lapsley exemplify Philippians 4:13 "I can do all things through Christ who strengthens me." They rely on the strength of God to do His work.

The 31st Annual Spring Gathering was held on Saturday, March 3, 2018 at Living River: A Retreat on the Cahaba. We dressed casually and wore comfortable shoes to enjoy the day of business, worship, wonderful food and fellowship. The Rev. Betty Angelini delivered an inspiring message. Doug Marshall brought greetings and wonderful information from The Presbyterian Home for Children. It was a pleasure for many of the women to meet Doug for the first time! Adisa Salim provided an excellent overview of 2nd Chance, a nonprofit organization offering services to domestic and sexual assault victims located in Anniston, AL. We are so pleased to be partnered with 2nd Chance and to have Adisa come and speak to us in the future.

We are all thrilled to welcome aboard to the Presbytery Coordinating Team Belinda Dickinson & Charlotte Worsham as Birmingham Co-Cluster Leaders and Olympia McCrackin as the Horizons Representative and Missions Coordinator. They are already off and running!

Now, get out your calendars! There are some exciting events coming up that you need to remember. The Alabama/Mississippi Women's Conference will be June 13-15, 2018 at Briarwood Presbyterian Church in Jackson, MS. If you attended the Spring Gathering in March, you have the flyer for this conference in your program book. There are interesting workshops to select from. Amy Poling Southerland, author of the 2018-2019 Horizons Bible Study, God's Promise: I Am With You, will be in attendance.

The Triennial Churchwide Gathering of Presbyterian Women will be August 2-5, 2018 at the Galt House in Louisville, KY. Kathy Tracey and I will be your Voting Representatives at the Business Meeting. Please pray for our discernment of God's Will during this meeting. You have heard me say this before, and I will say it again, "If you have never been to a Churchwide Gathering, please prayerfully consider it! You will not regret it!" I hope to see some of you there!

The Fall Gatherings are being planned. Once again, First Presbyterian Church Sylacauga will be hosting a joint gathering for the Anniston, Montgomery/Selma and Auburn/Eufaula Clusters on Saturday, August 11, 2018 from 9:30-12:00 with registration beginning at 9:30. The Birmingham Fall Gathering will be Saturday, August 25, 2018 at Southminster Presbyterian Church from 9:30-12:00. The Tuscaloosa Fall Gathering is TBA.

I must express my personal word of thanks to the Presbytery and Presbyterian Women for all of their prayers, words of support, cards, monetary gifts and trinkets during my Breast Cancer Journey. They have been amazing and completely appreciated. As you all know, I am a true

believer in the power of prayer. Your prayers have been powerful! God has heard them and has answered them in His Perfect Timing!

As I regain my strength and energy, I continue to do the work that God knows that I can do. I pray for you all and our continued pursuit in our service to Him!

Respectively submitted with Blessings,
Dotty Lessley, PW Moderator

PRESBYTERY REPORT
MAY 2018
CONGO PARTNERSHIP TEAM, PSL

The CPT met at the Presbytery office on April 8th, 2018, at 2:30. Members present were: Jay Wilkins, Ralls Coston, Billy Colley, Belinda Dickinson, Debbie Feagin, Lynn Nelson, Craig Seitz, Dean Vandegrift, Lydia Wilfong. Charles Nash participated by phone. Craig Seitz gave the opening prayer.

Minutes of the last meeting were read by Lynne Nelson, Secretary.

Belinda Dickinson reported on our current finances and what we may receive in contributions. It was noted that we were able to furnish teacher texts for both the schools and tools and materials for the vocational schools that meet in the afternoon at each school. We have received several messages of gratitude from CPC leaders. We hope to work toward a third school later, but for now, we have less costly needs to address as requested by the CPC.

Money has been sent this year for food, agriculture and for microbusinesses through their village savings and loan, for PDA in Congo, and for PRODEK (Program for Development in Kasai). Prodek trains and equips Congolese people to form associations involving education, hunger alleviation, collective decision making, election of representatives to settle land and pricing disputes. We answered a request from Dr. John Fletcher for funds to help with funding for the hydro being built to provide electricity and water for the Bibanga Hospital. We were able to do this with designated gifts from two of our churches,

We hope to continue to send scholarship funds for seminary students in our two partner presbyteries, as well as scholarship funds for the vulnerable children in the Ditekemena Orphanage and those being fostered in homes. These programs are managed by the CPC and will need about \$4500.

Other needs we hope to address are medical support, women's economic development, food support, trauma healing, cycles for supervisors to reach the schools and villages. Cycles are best because of the lack of roads. A request was received from Build Congo Schools (part of PCUSA affiliated Congo Mission Network) to help with construction of another school in the Kasai that serves a large population and meets in poor, makeshift settings. We will consider sending some support to BCS; hopefully \$2000.

Please pray for the Congolese Presbyterian Community Church. The financial and political situation there is very bad all over Congo. The area we serve is in the Kasai, somewhat away from the most troubled areas. However, they were definitely in the center of violence from October, 2016 until May of 2017. Thanks be to God the schools we have built and those built by Build Congo Schools were not damaged by any of the combatants. The CPC tries to keep a low profile and go about their business.

Also, please keep Dr. John Fletcher and wife Gwenda in prayer. Gwenda became very sick and she and John returned to the states. Her recovery is going very slowly. He has gone back to Congo to finish up the hydro work and other business. He will return to the U.S. afterwards. They may have to retire. This will be a great loss for the CPC.

With gratitude and blessings to all,

Belinda Dickinson, Moderator
Congo Partnership Team, PSL



AN OPEN CAMPUS MINISTRY.
FOLLOWING CHRIST
FURTHERING THE KINGDOM

UKirk Birmingham Report to Presbytery
May 2018

- April was the last month of Dinner & Worship and the rest of UKirk programming for the Spring Semester.
- Our Steering Team meets the first Monday of every month to guide and support this exciting ministry.
- Our Resource Development Team meets monthly for lunch to discern ideas for financial sustainability as this ministry continues to grow and form.
- Student Ministers (SM), Callie Nickles and Lucy Kate Green, have each led worship for UKirk three times throughout the semester.
- Callie, SM, preached at a South Highland Holy Week service on Monday, March 26.
- Lucy, SM, preached on Wednesday at IPC's chapel service.
- Both Student Ministers have agreed to serve again in the fall semester, and this will be a huge help as we gear up for fall recruitment and kick-off events!
- We held a High School "Come & See" Worship on Wednesday, April 11th.
- The UKirk Spring Retreat @ Living River was a wonderful time of laughter, worship, and rest. Both Student Ministers led workshops and helped lead worship.
- Our Spring Send-Off was Sunday, April 29, and we thank Jeff Johnson (Steering Team member) for he and Sonny's hospitality for hosting us. We honored our graduating seniors, celebrated the work of our Student Ministers, and rejoiced in the completion of our first school year!
- New students keep "popping up," some of whom are from PC(USA) backgrounds and some who are from other Christian traditions plus a few from no church background, which is forming into a wonderfully diverse community.
- We have shirts (and students are wearing them proudly...and let me know if you want one, too)! The front has the "U" logo with UKirk BHM's Three S's: Sanctuary, Spirituality, Social Justice.
- I'm continuing to visit churches to give a "pitch" or preach to 1) worship alongside churches in the Presbytery, 1) build relationships with congregations and potential students, and 3) to gather various forms of support.
- A website has been created and is continuing to be built: ukirkbirmingham.org
- A Instagram account is up and running: @ukirk_bhm

Submitted by Rev. Patrick Harley, Campus Minister for UKirk Birmingham.