



Summer 2023 Newsletter

Volume 01 | Issue 02 | Illini for Christ

Spring Semester Review

Illini for Christ kicked off the new year by heading to Florida for the annual Gulf Coast Getaway trip. This trip is always one where the group grows closer through everything from the ride down to the sessions and meals together. Additionally, the ministry successfully held a teen and college retreat in Clinton, Illinois and have had some opportunities to serve and encourage the members at the Philo Road church.

In 2023 momentum seems to be building. This summer college students will be serving at Illinois Christian Camp, will have the opportunity to serve in a mission trip to Kenya, and our ministry leadership will network with and learn from other campus ministers.

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What a great way to begin winding down a crazy busy semester!

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“One who is faithful in a very little is also faithful in much...” (Luke 16.10)

Teen & College Retreat

April 21-23 Illini for Christ and the Philo Road youth ministry leader, Allen Cornett, organized a Teen and College Retreat that was held at Little Galilee Christian Camp in Clinton, Illinois. We had teens from the Church of Christ Northwest in Peoria and the Clear Lake Church of Christ in Springfield in addition to our college students.

Participants were led in times of praise, lessons, reflection time, played games, watched a movie, had some time outside, and were fed by some great food prepared by some of the Philo Road ladies.

This retreat was well received by all who participated, teens, college students, and chaperones alike. If possible, we hope to introduce this as an annual retreat to encourage high school and college students as they wind down their school year.

**Know of someone coming to UIUC?
We would *love* to meet them!**

Coming Up: Summer 2023

Illinois Christian Camp, Cantrall, IL

Many Illini for Christ students will serve as counselors at ICC this June.

Caring for Kenya

Daniel Sani hopes to travel to Kenya this summer for Carl Burkybile's Caring for Kenya trip in July. If you would like to support Daniel, please contact the church or Jon before July.

Campus for Christ, Nashville, TN

Jon and Emma hope to learn from experienced Campus Ministers this summer at the Campus for Christ Conference at Lipscomb University in July.

New Coordinators

This coming fall we will have our first non-student coordinator, Ruthie Counter, who will oversee an Adopt-a-Student program. The Philo Road church has utilized this program in the past and we seek to revamp this tool in the fall.

Philo Road Church of Christ wants to receive new students as family. We are actively working to improve how we receive students so that they feel as comfortable among our current church family and Illini for Christ family as possible.

This coming fall we will also have different students in the Activities and Service Coordinator roles.

Lastly, we hope to have an additional coordinator to reach international students beginning this fall.



ULife Visit

In April Chris Buxton, the Executive Director of ULife Consulting, stopped in to grab lunch with Jon and explore UIUC talking about campus ministry. ULife consults with current campus ministries, coaches campus ministry leaders, and also plants campus ministries. Chris also teaches undergraduate classes at Harding University and graduate classes at Lipscomb University about campus ministry to equip future campus ministers.



Acts of Kindness

Our service coordinator for the semester, Marie Shaffer, has been encouraging us to do acts of kindness as the opportunities present themselves. At our teen and college student retreat the college students went through the church directory and wrote thank you cards to those who have been encouraging them this school year.

Additionally, we received a request to wash the windows of one of the members at the Philo Road church. One of graduate students, Daniel Sani, and Jon went to wash those windows with smiling faces and long arms to reach all the high corners.

What acts of kindness have you seen in your life recently? Are there any that you would like to see in Champaign-Urbana that you would like to help us with? Are there any opportunities in your area that a small college group could help with?

How you can support Illini for Christ:

1. Pray. Please pray for us as we try to engage with individuals at the U of I and the Urbana-Champaign community.
2. Increase Awareness. If you know of anyone thinking about attending the U of I and they might need a faith community, let's connect!
3. Donations. If you would like to contribute to Illini for Christ, please make checks out to "Philo Road Church of Christ" with "IC" in the memo line. You can also use the church website. Go to "Giving" and choose "Campus Ministry."

Want to learn more about Illini for Christ? Please contact Jon Smith at jonglen25@gmail.com or call the Philo Road Church of Christ at (217) 344-1659.