

Hello from your Prairie South District
Shepherding Team. I am Karen Newby and I
serve as Co-chair of the team with Pastor
Seamus Enright. Our team serves as your
connection to the Northern Illinois Conference.



If your church has a problem or need from the NIC we can connect you with the person or committee that can help.

We also offer laity trainings. Lay Academy is offered twice a year and is geared toward raising up lay servants, lay speakers, and the occasional lay minister. Once a year we offer training for church committee leaders, usually in March.

As part of our communication with you, we want to share stories of churches stepping outside the box in their communities. Today we are featuring First United Methodist Church in Princeton. Gary Patterson, church council chairperson, learned of a need for sponsorship in the park district's Flag Football League, so the church sponsored about 96 children of the 4th and 5th grade teams.

Part of the sponsorship included putting the name of the church on the back of the team shirts. However, the church did not stop at sponsorship. At the end of the season, All the kids and their families were invited to a pizza party at the church. About half the kids and their families showed up. Not only did this

effort raise awareness of the church, but they were identified as a church that helped the community.

Has your church done something “outside the box?” We would love to hear about it and share your story. Contact Karen Newby at bellskaren41@gmail.com.

Here is a list of your district shepherding team members:

1. Lowell Akers
2. Karen Bonnell
3. Jonathan Crail
4. Seamus Enright, co-chair
5. Paul Lee
6. James (Jim) Miller
7. Karen Newby, co-chair
8. Marcia Peddicord
9. Robert Pritchard
10. Jeremiah Thompson
11. Tom Weber