

NOVEMBER, 2019

THE BELLTOWER

1ST PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH OF KANKAKEE

IN CONCERT! ONU JAZZ COMBO Sun. Nov. 10th 3pm



Staff

Karen Williams, CP,
Interim Pastor &
Moderator

Paul Johnson,
*Director of Music,
Office and Building
Manager*

Mark Wadley,
Maintenance

The date is fast approaching! Are you attending? Have you told others about the concert? You can see last month's Belltower for detail about the group.

Immediately following the concert a reception will be held, and then about 10-15 minutes after that a tour of the church will be offered. You will hear about our rich history and our beautiful stained glass windows.

For more info contact the church office at office@firstpreskankakee.org or 815.939.3546.



Prayers of Thanksgiving

What do prayers of Thanksgiving include?

Remembering what God has done for us.

Telling another about it.

Showing God's glory to others.

Offering gifts of ourselves, our time, and our resources.

Prayers of giving thanks are indeed important as we all have reasons to be thankful. In fact, we are reminded "Keep on praying. No matter what happens, always be thankful, for this

is God's will." (1 Thessalonians 5:18). We can be thankful for who God is and for the opportunity He gives us to turn to Him in all situations, good and bad. God is always there for us. Our sincere prayers let Him know that we are thankful for that. Prayers of thanksgiving should be a continuous part of our everyday lives.

Prayer of Gratitude

Thank you, Father, for having created us and given us to each other in the human family. Thank you for being with us in all our joys and sorrows, for your comfort in our sadness, your companionship in our loneliness. Thank you for yesterday, today, tomorrow and for the whole of our lives. Thank you for friends, for health and for grace. May we live this and every day conscious of all that has been given to us.

I am grateful to God for sending me here, to this church and to this church family. I pray that each of you have health, family and happiness this Thanksgiving.

Remember not to eat too much turkey, always save room for Pumpkin or my favorite, Sweet Potato Pie.

In Christ Name, Pastor Karen

Building Manager Update

October was an eventful month. Mark discovered the men's bathroom in the CE Wing covered with water...he mopped it up. I came a few hours later and it was back. The drains were so badly corroded they were leaking, and to make it worse the faucets wouldn't shut off all the way. New faucets and drains were installed.

The remaining exterior lighting should be installed by Nov. 10th, and in the next week there will be WI-FI in the fellowship hall and sanctuary.

OUR MISSION IN KENYA



Shadrack Ndegwa recently returned from a visit to Kenya. While there he visited our mission and took some pictures to share with us.

To start with, the picture above was taken in the town of Ganze, Kenya. There is a large Presbyterian Church of East Africa (PCEA) congregation there. This picture shows a number of things. In the center are the 81 students of Ganze Academy with the Pastor of Ganze Presbyterian church, wearing the tan shirt in the rear center. In the right foreground you can see a portion of the 2 classrooms. In the back right is the church building. To the far left and behind the students on the left you can see piles of stone. These are actually coral stones. They are used for building projects. For example the church and the school on the right use the stones to construct the bottom portion of the walls. After a foundation has been dug, a steel reinforced concrete pad is poured. After drying the coral stones are placed and the remaining parts of the wall are placed.

Ganze Academy, a mission of the PCEA was started by the Presbyterian Church of Ganze, Kenya. The school originally started out as a rescue mission for the children in the area. Due to years of drought many of the people there are poor, and could not provide regular healthy meals to their children. A small group of children would come to the church where they could get fed. When other children in the area heard they could come and get food they started to attend as well.

It wasn't long after their numbers increased that the Pastor and church leaders realized none of these children were going to school. The church started to look for someone to teach the children. Initially they were taught in the church because there was not yet a separate school building.

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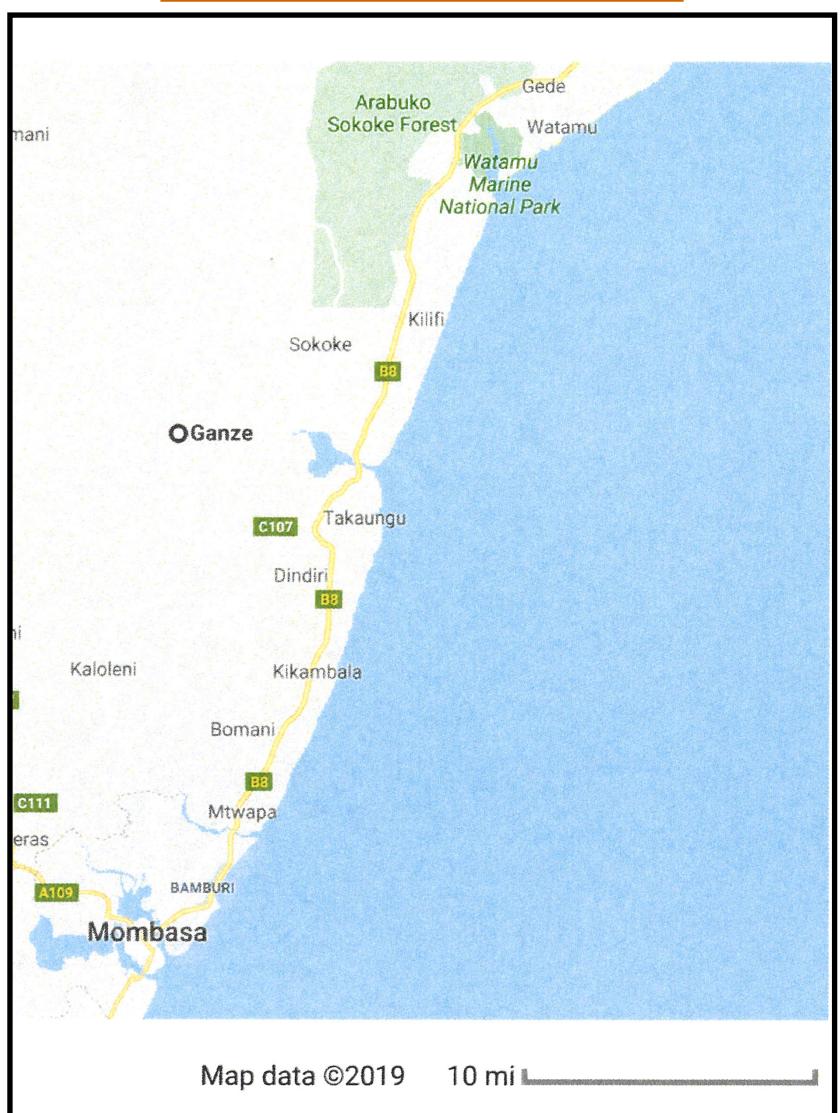
The church decided they should construct a school with classrooms instead of using the church. It started with one classroom. They laid a foundation for the one classroom. Then a second classroom was added. Now they are in the process of adding two more classrooms so they can teach children at different grade levels.

The government school was 2 miles from Ganze, the students had to walk there. That school was not providing food. That is why the PCEA school became popular, because they could get food and an education.

The \$6,000 that we gave the PCEA was to build a new PCEA church in the town of Tezo which is 14 km from Kilifi Town. Kilifi Town is the county seat. Ganze is 32 km away. PCEA is building a church in Tezo, the 6K bought the lot for the new church.

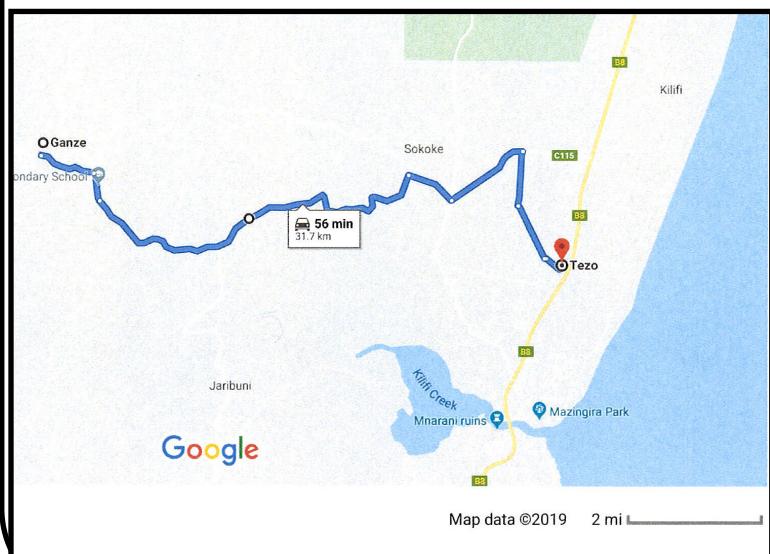
Most of the deaf people in Tezo would go to Kilifi Town to church, but the cost of transportation was too much for many of them, so they stopped coming

Kenyan Mission continued



Map data ©2019 10 mi

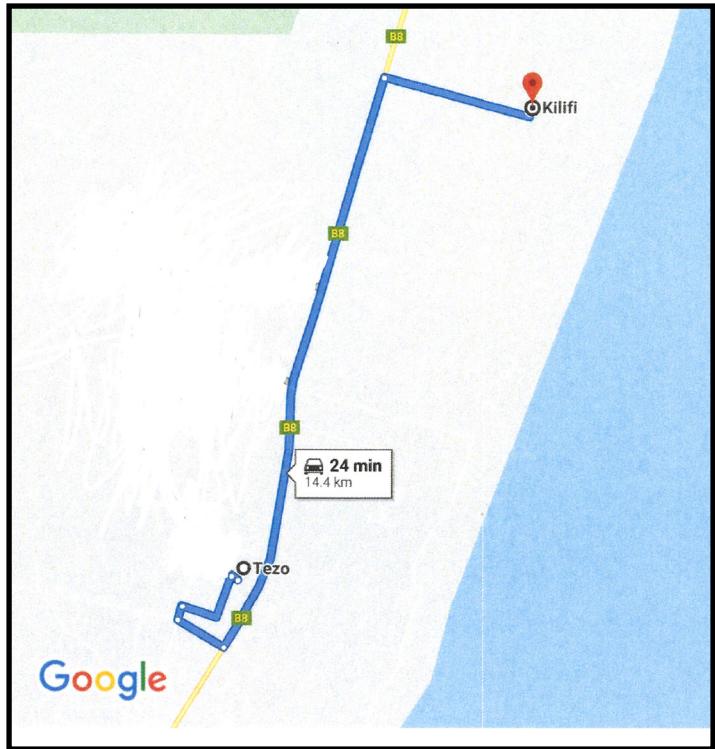
Ganze is located between Mombasa and two beautiful reserves. The Arabuko Sokoke Forest and the Watamu Marine National Park.



When Shadrack went back to Kenya in 2018, the deaf people had stopped coming to the church in Kilifi Town to learn to learn sign language. The cost of transport went up. 12 students could no longer attend.

It would be very expensive to give the students money for transport, so Shadrack and the PCEA thought it would be better to build a church in Tezo

Kenyan Mission continued



The land was expensive because a highway is being built through Tezo.

After the title is processed, PCEA will start the process of building the church. First they will sit down and figure out the size the church will be.

The cost of the materials will not be very expensive because the quarry where the stones are from is not far from the church.

To the right is the kitchen for Ganze Academy. It will soon be upgraded

Whoever is preaching, there is someone there who knows sign language will interpret for the deaf. Many of the people there do not know God. Being deaf they had never heard anything about God because there was no one to tell them.

Now they are processing the titles for the land for the church in Tezo. The lot was 100 ft x 100 ft, They bought this lot because the owner used to be in charge of land and Shadrack's friend, one of the elders was a member of the staff of the land register. Because they know one another they received a cheaper price than everyone else.



People in Kenya are getting enlightened and want to come to worship. We are excited to partner with the PCEA and its' mission in Kenya!

The beauty of early winter at First Presbyterian Kankakee



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THE BELLTOWER

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Come check out Sunday school at 10 am! *The New Testament for Beginners!* Hope to see you there!

Nov. Birthdays!

4th—Evan Kosyla

5th—Alexis Young

30th—Kay Jones

Cartoon of the month

