



First Presbyterian
Church of Lake Forest
www.firstchurchlf.org

700 N. Sheridan Road
Lake Forest, IL 60045
847.234.6250 fax 847.234.6283

January 1, 2008
Volume VIII, No. 1

Faith CONNECTIONS

STORIES we can't live without Proclaiming Christ's Message Today

SERIES: THE LIFE OF JESUS

- Dec. 30 The Birth of Jesus
(Matthew 1:18-25)
- Jan. 6 Visit of the Magi & Flight to Egypt
(Matthew 2:1-23)
- Jan. 13 The Boy Jesus in the Temple
(Luke 2:41-52)
- Jan. 20 Jesus is Baptized (Luke 3:1-22)
- Jan. 27 Jesus is Tempted in the Wilderness
(Luke 4:1-13)
- Feb. 3 Jesus Begins His Prophetic Mission
(Luke 4:14-44)

Series for Lent: the Prophetic Mission of Jesus

- Feb. 10 Calling to New Life
(Luke 5:1-32, 6:1-16, 7:1-17, 36-50)
- Feb. 17 Preparing Leaders (Luke 9:1-50)
- Feb. 24 Teaching through Parables
(children's musical)
Luke 6:46-49 - House on a rock;
Luke 10:25-37 - Good Samaritan
Luke 10:38-42 - Mary and Martha
Luke 15:11-32 - Prodigal son
Luke 19:1-10 - Zaccheus
- Mar. 2 Inviting Everyone to the Table
(Luke 14:1-15:10)
- Mar. 9 Calling for Righteousness
(Luke 17:1 - 19:10 selected)
- Mar. 16 Palm/Passion Sunday
Confronting Evil (Luke 19:29 - 23:56)
- Mar. 23 Easter Bringing New Life
(Luke 24:1-12)
- Mar. 30 Meeting Us Still (Luke 24:13 - 49)

Series for Eastertide: Remembering Jesus' Words

- Apr. 6 The Beatitudes (Luke 6:20-26)
- Apr. 13 Love your Enemies (Luke 6:27-42)
- Apr. 20 The Lord's Prayer (Luke 11:1-13)
- Apr. 27 The Lilies of the Field
(Luke 12:22-34)

RECOGNIZING
THE POWER OF CHRIST
TO TRANSFORM LIVES,
THE CORE MISSION OF FIRST CHURCH
PROCLAIM CHRIST'S MESSAGE
PROVIDE A COMMUNITY OF SPIRITUAL NURTURE
& PROMOTE GOD'S VISION OF JUSTICE

Small Groups BEGIN AGAIN!

Small Groups are being formed with a wide variety of schedules and interests to deepen our discussion of the stories of the Bible that are interpreted every Sunday in worship.

Jesus wants us to be in relationship with each other and with him. Within the structure of small groups, every participant has the opportunity to explore God's Word in community, to grow spiritually, to deepen their relationship with Jesus Christ, and to share in the joy of knowing each other.

Small groups will begin meeting again the week of January 13. This session will run through the week of March 16. We will continue in our series "Stories We Can't Live Without." Walk with us through the gospel of Luke. Whether you participated in the fall or are new to this idea, we would love to have you participate. A registration form is included in this issue and is also available on-line.

If you have an interest in leading a small group, contact Reverend Day at pday@firstchurchlf.org. Training for leaders will be held on Thursday, January 10 from 7:00 - 8:30 p.m. and repeated on Friday, January 11 from 9:00 - 10:30 a.m. You will be equipped with the tools you need to begin an effective ministry and you will be supported as your small group ministry continues.

Please contact Patrick Day (pday@firstchurchlf.org) with questions.

REVEREND COREY NELSON WILL BE OFFERING
A FIVE WEEK FORUM ENTITLED

Visions of Justice: Mission in the 21st Century



IN FEBRUARY & MARCH

CO-SPONSORED BY THE ADULT EDUCATION & MISSION
COORDINATING COMMITTEES

DETAILS COMING SOON!



Dear friends,

A new year is never altogether new. In the old days when I used a paper calendar, at least the year seemed new; but now, my Palm Pilot slips from 2007 into 2008 with no rustle of paper, no cellophane to unwrap, no blank page to mark. Now I see the continuity of time more than its discontinuity.

But that is not such a bad thing. In worship this season, as we turn the page (literally) from the Old Testament to the New Testament, we're reminded constantly of the way the gospels looked backward and forward at the same time - prophecy and hope woven through the story, the future never disconnected from the past.

The connectedness of God's blessings through time reminds me of a poem written some years ago by Cliff and Barb Swartz, parishioners from another church. Wherever you are in your own march through time, may you experience the same fullness of God's grace in your yesterdays and your tomorrows.

*Beginnings and endings always come together
And need common celebration.
When the days begin to lengthen
And the night is longest,
We charm away the darkness
With a festival of lights,
And consecrate the dying year
By recounting the birth of a child.*

*Before the morning comes
Let us draw close the mantle of old times,
And warm ourselves with memories
Of other Christmases
When the children still hung stockings
And went to bed early,
Leaving us to tree lights,
Fireplace glow, and love.*

*In that young world
There was time for many lives,
Time for stories, games, and music,
Enormous fruit salad, gallons of milk,
And on Christmas day, three kinds of pie.
Time was on our side, the future infinite.
Tomorrow a child would crawl or walk or run,
Tomorrow we would have no need for yesterday.*

*The mornings are colder now
And the nights are longer,
But ceremonies warm the darkness
And memories temper a finite future.
Come, celebrate! Sing carols,
Decorate trees, prepare feasts,
Fill the glass with yesterdays
And let us toast tomorrow.*

Every blessing,

Christine Chakoian



First Presbyterian Church of Lake Forest
847-234-6250

SUNDAY, JANUARY 6

EPIPHANY OF THE LORD

9:00 & 11:00AM Worship

*Reverend Christine Chakoian
Communion*

The Life of Jesus Series Begins

**Visit of Magi and flight to Egypt
Matthew 2: 1-23**

SUNDAY, JANUARY 13

BAPTISM OF THE LORD

9:00 & 11:00AM Worship

*Reverend Corey Nelson
Baptism 11:00*

Kindergarten Bible Sunday at 9:00

SERIES: The Life of Jesus

**The Boy Jesus in the Temple
Luke 2: 41-52**

IN MINISTRY TOGETHER

Pastor/Head of Staff

Rev. Christine Chakoian

cchakoian@firstchurchlf.org

Associate Executive Pastor

Rev. Dr. Don Dempsey

ddempsey@firstchurchlf.org

Associate Pastor **Rev. Patrick Day**

pday@firstchurchlf.org

Associate Pastor **Rev. Corey Nelson**

cnelson@firstchurchlf.org

Parish Associate **Rev. Kent Kinney**

kkinney@firstchurchlf.org

Director of Youth Ministries **Kristie Finley**

kfinley@firstchurchlf.org

Director of Children's Ministries **Amy Pagliarella**

apagliarella@firstchurchlf.org

Director of Music/Organist **Jill Hunt**

jhunt@firstchurchlf.org

Director of Sanctuary Choir **Thomas Tropp Jr.**

ttropp@firstchurchlf.org

Director of Children's Choirs **Elizabeth Weismehl**

eweismehl@firstchurchlf.org

Director of Youth Music Ministry **Lesley Byers**

lbyers@firstchurchlf.org

Preschool Director **Ruth Luke**

preschool@firstchurchlf.org

Dir. of Communications **Donna Birney**

dbirney@firstchurchlf.org

Church Business Manager **Herb Smyers**

hsmyers@firstchurchlf.org

Church website www.firstchurchlf.org

PROCLAIM CHRIST'S MESSAGE

What would Jesus do?

Sunday School resumes on January 6 when our children try to answer that question for themselves. Grades K-5 begin a five week exploration of Jesus' parables as they hear the stories and experience them through art projects, science experiments and drama. Stewardship funds collected by the children in December will fund a mission project as the kids prepare food for the soup kitchen and PADS.

The tradition continues as we present Bibles to kindergarten age members of the congregation. Children will be recognized by name as they come forward to receive a story Bible during the 9:00am worship service on Sunday, January 13. If you would like your kindergartener to participate and you have not received a letter by January 1, 2008 please contact apagliarella@firstchurchlf.org.

Greetings from the Loft

Sunday after Sunday, the Sanctuary Choir looks at the backs of your heads below and wonders, "**Who out there can sing?**" After Christmas, all of the snow birds head south or west, leaving behind a real skeletal crew to carry the weight of the adult music ministry. **We need your help!** Would you consider singing with the choir starting the first of the year until after Easter? What a wonderful service you would be offering!

Besides working hard to learn the music, **we have a lot of laughs and good times together.** The choir is the original "small" group. We practice every Wednesday night at 7:30 PM. **We hope you will feel the call to join us.** Questions, please contact Tom Tropp at ttropp@firstchurchlf.org or Jill Hunt at jhunt@firstchurchlf.org or phone the church (847) 234-6250. We look forward to seeing you.

First Church *SPROUTS* New Mission Branches

The College Mission Trip during Christmas break to First Presbyterian Church in Chicago was filled with hard work by a mighty few. The group arrived at a very emotional time for the congregation as well.

Todd Laesch, Lauren Fondriest, Jonny Morgans, Bryan Ford and Andy Johnson with Jim Mayhall, advisor and Kristie Finley, Director of Youth Ministries traveled to Chicago December 19 to 21.

The students tore out old plaster and metal lathing, crawled through old tunnels cleaning out long unused belongings and sorted through decades of archival materials. They mopped their way out the sanctuary door to leave the church ready to be decorated for Christmas.

This trip comes on the heels of First Presbyterian Chicago hearing that their pastor of 20+ years is being called to another congregation and their church secretary is leaving after 42 years. The students worked so hard and brought the message of new life and hope when the congregation has hard changes in front of them. It was not only their hard work, but their caring and empathetic presence that will stay with the congregation.

Does your child love to sing

but has no time to commit to sing weekly with the children's choirs? If so, here is the perfect opportunity for your child to be involved in a short-term event with no weekday commitment! Everything they need to know will be taught in Sunday School.

Beginning in January, the unit of study will be "**What Would Jesus Do?**" The children will learn and sing about Jesus' stories. This will tie in with the children's musical, "*Once Upon a Parable*," which will be presented during worship on February 24. Through humor and humanity, the play is a retelling of the Exodus story of Moses, Miriam, Aaron, Joshua and the Pharaoh.

We invite all children in Sunday School to participate in this upbeat musical and become a part of a group of energetic storytellers trying to capture the contemporary nature of some of Jesus' most familiar parables. All of the music will be taught during Sunday School and practice cd's will be given out at the first meeting in January.

For more information, please contact Elizabeth Weismehl, Director of Children's Choirs at eweismehl@firstchurchlf.org

Save the Date for *La Trattoria*



First Church's
annual dinner
sponsored by
the Membership
committee.

This fun event will be held on
Saturday, February 9, 2008
from 6:30-9:00 PM
at the Lake Forest Club.

Details will be available early in January.
If you would like to assist, contact elder

**REV. COREY NELSON AND THE MEMBERSHIP COMMITTEE
WILL BE CO-HOSTING A SERIES OF MEALS DURING LENT
FOR MEMBERS AND FRIENDS TO GATHER, BREAK BREAD,
& GET TO KNOW ONE ANOTHER. DETAILS COMING SOON.**

BIRTHS

Katherine Whitworth O'Keane was born on November 16, 2007 to Brian and Amy (Young) O'Keane. She joins her sister Ashlynn, brother James and happy grandmother, Pat Young.

PROVIDE SPIRITUAL NURTURE



Small Groups will begin again in January!

We will begin meeting the week of January 13 and will continue through the week of March 16.

COMPLETE THE FORM BELOW AND RETURN IT TO THE MAIN OFFICE.
CONTACT REV. PATRICK DAY WITH QUESTIONS.

Name: _____

Phone: _____ Email: _____

____ Leader: Jeff Hinch
Meets: Sundays at 7:00 pm at the church
For: Men

____ Leader: Ron and Cynthia Arden
Meets: Sunday evenings in people's homes.
Time to be determined.
For: Couples

____ Leader: To be determined.
Meets: Mondays at 9:00 am at the church
For: All who are interested.

____ Leader: Paul Bergmann
Meets: Mondays at 7:00 pm in people's homes
For: All who are interested

____ Leader: Patty Kreischer
Meets: Tuesdays at 7:00 pm in people's homes
For: Working and/or single women

____ Leader: Stan Eaton
Meets: Wednesdays at 7:00 pm in people's homes
For: All who are interested

____ Leaders: Jacquie Berkshire and Cynthia Hessemer
Meets: Wednesdays at 7:00 pm in people's homes
For: Working/Retired women

____ Leader: Kristie Finley
Meets: Wednesdays at 7:30 pm at the church
For: Parents of Teenagers

____ Leader: Amy Pagliarella
Meets: Thursdays from 9:15-10:45am at the church;
does not meet second Thursday
For: Primarily Moms but all are welcome.

____ Leaders: David Barkhausen and Doug Valassis
Meets: Thursdays at 5:30 pm at the church
For: All who are interested

____ Leaders: Bill Lay and John Gescheidle
Meets: Thursdays at 7:00 pm at the church
For: All who are interested

____ Leader: Patrick Day
Meets: Thursdays at 7:30 pm at the church
For: Fathers with young children

____ Leader: Duane Wise
Meets: Thursdays at 7:30 pm in people's homes
For: All who are interested

____ Leader: Joe Dye
Meets: Thursdays at 7:30 pm at the church
For: All who are interested

Comments: _____

PROVIDE SPIRITUAL NURTURE

Christmas Tea 2007 At the Manger



Dear Church Members,

Thank you all so very much for inviting me to your December Women's Tea and for allowing me to share the many wonderful programs that are being offered at Boys & Girls Club of Lake County. While there, I could feel a quiet and gentle spirit and I felt right at home. Thank you for your graciousness and it was great meeting and sharing with you!

I am very thankful that the ladies of First Presbyterian selected our Boys & Girls Club of Lake County as this year's gift recipient. The generosity shown was tremendous and many of our kids will be blessed as a result of your giving. The gifts/supplies that were provided to support some of our program areas were excellent and well-needed. The staff was so excited as we sorted gifts for the various programs and for the kids! Additionally, the checks and gift cards will be a blessing, so thank you for those, as well.

As I said that evening, we could not do the work that we do without the partnership of First Presbyterian Church of Lake Forest! We are blessed to know you and thankful that we will continue to work together to make a difference in the lives of the kids we serve! Please know that your thoughtfulness is appreciated!

As we embark on a new year, we are expecting new beginnings for many of our kids...opportunities to have positive experiences and to make healthy life choices. The kids will also have opportunities for access and exposure to education, arts and people who care about them. We look forward to your participation with our Club in the new year. Please feel free to phone me if there are questions.

Thank you, First Presbyterian Church, for being a part of God's purpose for this time and season.

Happy Holidays and may God bless each of you,

*Sharon Sanders-Funnye
Resource Development Director*

New Member Class

First Presbyterian Church is offering a two-session new membership class in January. If you are interested in joining the church community please plan on attending the following classes.

- The first class is Saturday, January 26 from 8:30AM to 12:00PM (Breakfast is served)
- The second class is Thursday, January 31 from 7:00PM to 9:00PM
- On Sunday February 3 new members will be received at the 11:00AM service. (Child care is provided both Thursday and Saturday)

The class offers each participant the opportunity to share his/her faith journey; to learn more about First Church and its history; and to learn about the mission of First Presbyterian Church.

The three "Great Ends" adopted by the session serve as the guiding principle for First Church as we recognize that Christ alone is the Head of the Church and that he has the power to transform lives.

First Presbyterian Church of Lake Forest affirms our core mission is to:

1. Proclaim Christ's message,
2. Provide a community of spiritual nurture, and
3. Promote God's vision of justice.

These "Great Ends" serve as our congregation's core identity as we seek to become God's sent-out people. They guide us as we begin the task of determining how best to allocate talent, resources, and time as individuals and as God's community of faith.

Please plan to be a part of this new membership opportunity in January. To sign up or for more information please call or email the church office and ask for Dr. Don Dempsey (ddempsey@firstchurchlf.org) or Beth Gillies (egillies@firstchurchlf.org.)

Comments from recent participants:

"We really enjoyed learning more about the church and getting to know the members of the membership committee. We found the experience to be very gratifying."

"We are delighted to be new members of First Church and look forward to getting to know the church community. Everyone has been so gracious. Thank you!"

JANUARY 1, 2008

FAITH CONNECTIONS
IS PUBLISHED TWICE MONTHLY.
SEND SUBMISSIONS TO
publish@firstchurchll.org

SUBMISSION DUE DATES
ARE THE 1ST & 15TH
OF EACH MONTH.

SUNDAY WORSHIP AT
9:00 & 11:00 AM

SUNDAY SCHOOL AT
9:15 AM

First Presbyterian
Church of Lake Forest
www.firstchurchll.org
700 N. Sheridan Road
Lake Forest, IL 60045
847-234-6250 fax 847-234-6283



NON-PROFIT ORG.
U.S. POSTAGE
PAID
PERMIT No. 63
LAKE FOREST, IL

Save the Date

"All Church" Auction

sponsored by the board of Deacons

Saturday, April 19, 2008
at the Knollwood Club



The Core Mission of
First Presbyterian
Church of Lake Forest

- PROCLAIM CHRIST'S MESSAGE
- PROVIDE A COMMUNITY OF SPIRITUAL NURTURE
- PROMOTE GOD'S VISION OF JUSTICE



Preschool Enrollment

Pre-enrollment for 2008-09 began November 1, 2007.
Please call Assistant Enrollment Chair, Cheryl Ashley,
at (847) 482-1162 or email Cheryl at cheryl.ashley@comcast.net
to place your child on the January registration mailing list.

It is necessary for all new students as well as for siblings of current or past enrollees to call or email.
A parent informational session will be held on **Tuesday, January 8** at **9:15 AM & 12:30 PM**
in the South Parlor.

The session lasts approximately 45 minutes and includes a PowerPoint slide show, Q&A session and
Preschool tour. Complimentary childcare is available on request.