



First Presbyterian  
Church of Lake Forest  
www.firstchurchlf.org

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

*Faith*

July 15, 2008  
Volume VIII, No. 14

The next issue of Faith Connections will be August 15

# CONNECTIONS

## Summertime Stress Slowing You Down?

We like to think of summer as being a relaxing, enjoyable time. But hurts, struggles, crises, and problems don't take a vacation. Many times our difficulties seem even worse during the summer because everyone else seems to be enjoying life while we are feeling down. If you are experiencing a difficult time--emotionally, spiritually, or relationally--you don't have to suffer alone. Our Stephen Ministers are trained caregivers, ready to listen, care for and encourage you, pray with and for you, and provide one-to-one Christian care to help you through whatever it is that you are facing. Men are matched with male Stephen Ministers and women are matched with female Stephen Ministers. It's free. It's confidential. And it will make a difference in your life!

To find out more about Stephen Ministry for you or someone you know, talk with one of our Stephen Ministry Leaders: Vandy Janson, Joel Ferrin, Nancy Orbison, Chuck Kraemer, Lynda Kraemer, Donna Birney or any of our pastors.

## Reflections on Work Trip

by Kristie Finley, Director of Youth Ministries

Each year we return from Work Trip transformed, but this year was exceptional. From the campers and their counselors - to the families with whom we worked - to the opportunities for worship - and to see how God was active in our lives, Wonderland Camp set the stage for us to grow in our faith. Leaving our lives, it was very freeing to live as a community.



Site leaders Lesley Byers, our talented Youth Music Minister, and college graduate Lisa Hamming were especially helpful, modeling how to interact with the disabled children and adult campers. They set a standard of such love and gentleness for the campers that our students really understood what a rare gift we received.

When our students heard that someone had donated nail polish and makeup for the campers to use before the dance, we had an abundance of volunteers who set up the beauty shop. It was a tender sight to see Nick Layton applying nail polish like a pro!



Working in the larger community was a valuable way for our students to model Christ's love for our neighbors. Providing a family indoor plumbing and providing a young girl with her first bed - let alone bedroom - opened our eyes to the greater needs of the world.

Matt O'Neil summed it up in his Work Trip Sunday reflection, "*Work Trip is a learning experience. You learn how to do new things and you learn about yourself, others, and God. Work Trip pushes you to the limit physically and mentally every day and it tests and shows you how much you can accomplish if you give it your all and put your mind to it. After witnessing families living in dilapidated trailers and elderly loners who have no visitors and are just as thankful for our company as they are for the new siding that we put on their house, you realize how much God has blessed you and how fortunate you are to have material necessities, friends, and family.*"

Our theme for Work Trip this year is **Live It All Year Long** to keep that community spirit with us. Part of keeping that spirit alive is in the retelling of our stories. If you see a work trip participant, please ask them to tell you how the trip touched them and will help them to live the spirit of God's love all year.



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



Dear friends,

The writer of Ecclesiastes tells us: *“For everything there is a season, and a time for every matter under heaven: a time to be born, and a time to die; a time to plant, and a time to pluck up what is planted ...”* (Ecclesiastes 3: 1-2).

We know this is true for our daily lives. But it is also true for the life of our church. There are seasons of stability and seasons of change ... and often we don't get to choose which season we inhabit.

This spring, I could have sworn that this was a season of stability for our congregation. For the first time in over five years, we were fully staffed. At last, all the pieces designed in our interim period were in place.

But God had other plans. First Don Dempsey was called away to serve as Interim Pastor at First Presbyterian Church of Winnetka. Now we have received word that Patrick Day has been called as the Pastor/Head of Staff of the Northminster Presbyterian Church in Roswell, Georgia. The church Patrick will lead enjoys a membership of 750, many of whom are young families in a growing suburb of Atlanta. No doubt he will make a superb pastor for that congregation, and we wish him well. We will have a formal opportunity to express our gratitude at a reception in his honor August 10, his last Sunday to preach in our pulpit. We will miss him and his family tremendously.

But in the meantime, we are being called too. Perhaps not in the direction we thought we were called – to a time of stability. Instead God is calling us to a new creativity, opportunity, and faithfulness for this moment. The Personnel Committee has put a Transition Team in place to assess our immediate needs. Soon we will explore our strategy for the longer-term vision of our church's ministry. Throughout this season, we will place our confidence in the exceptional strength of our congregation's gifts and faithfulness. And if that energy flags, we know we have Christ's gentle arms to embrace us, and God's mighty power to lead us on.

Every blessing,

*Christine Chakoian*

2008 STEWARDSHIP

First Presbyterian Church of Lake Forest would like to express its deep gratitude to the members and friends who have so generously pledged and given to the 2008 Stewardship Campaign.

To date we have received **pledges from 481 member and friend households totaling \$1,931,025.**

This represents 63% of member households working together to fund mission, worship, Christian education, and building upkeep. Thank you!

**\$2,110,000 is what we need** to sustain the ministries of the church. Every gift can make a difference. We need **every member to participate in order to reach the goal.**

If you have not yet made a pledge to the 2008 campaign, please join the families already supporting the great work of First Church, which touches hundreds of lives each day.

An increase to 100 percent participation or 285 more households annually pledging just \$10 a week would nearly get us to our goal.

If you have made a pledge already, please consider increasing your pledge.

A modest increase on everyone's part – an additional \$5 to \$10 each week – would bring us to the full ministry we all want to see flourish.

No gift or pledge is too small. Together we can do more than we can individually.

You may pledge online at [www.firstchurchlf.org](http://www.firstchurchlf.org), drop a pledge card (available in the pew racks) in the offering plate, or contact Herb Smyers (847) 234-6250 in the church office or email Herb at [hsmyers@firstchurchlf.org](mailto:hsmyers@firstchurchlf.org) if you have questions or would like more information.



First Presbyterian Church of Lake Forest  
847-234-6250

**SUNDAY, JULY 20**

16TH SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME

**10:00AM Worship**

*Special Music:*

*Gospel Stories from John  
Ron & Cynthia Arden*

*The Reverend Christine Chakoian*

**SUNDAY, JULY 27**

17TH SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME

**10:00AM Worship**

*The Reverend Christine Chakoian*

*Julie Galambush*

The next issue of *Faith Connections* will be August 15

**SUNDAY, AUGUST 3**

18TH SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME

**10:00AM Worship**

*The Reverend Corey Nelson  
Communion*

**SUNDAY, AUGUST 10**

19TH SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME

**10:00AM Worship**

*The Reverend Patrick Day  
Farewell Reception for the Days'  
after worship*

**IN MINISTRY TOGETHER**

Pastor/Head of Staff

**Rev. Christine Chakoian**

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Associate Pastor **Rev. Patrick Day**

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Associate Pastor **Rev. Corey Nelson**

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Parish Associate **Rev. Kent Kinney**

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

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Preschool Director **Ruth Luke**

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Dir. of Communications **Donna Birney**

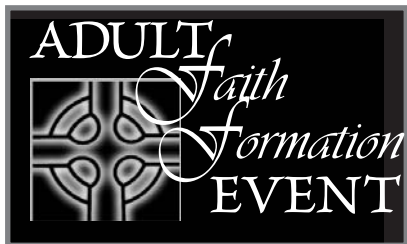
[dbirney@firstchurchlf.org](mailto:dbirney@firstchurchlf.org)

Church Business Manager **Herb Smyers**

[hsmyers@firstchurchlf.org](mailto:hsmyers@firstchurchlf.org)

Church website [www.firstchurchlf.org](http://www.firstchurchlf.org)

# PROVIDE SPIRITUAL NURTURE



**Dr. Julie Galambush**  
Professor of Religions Studies at  
The College of William and Mary

There are 3 opportunities to hear Dr. Galambush at First Church. Make plans now to attend any or all of them and learn more about the origins of our faith.

## The Reluctant Parting

*How the New Testament's Jewish Writers Created a Christian Book*

Dr. Galambush will be our guest at First Church at the end of July. She is the *author of The Reluctant Parting*, which describes the development of the early Christian Church. Dr. Galambush holds a Ph.D. in Old Testament studies from Emory University and a Master of Divinity from Yale Divinity School, where she was the roommate of Reverend Christine Chakoian. Formerly an ordained American Baptist minister, she is a convert to Judaism and a member of Temple Rodef Shalom in Falls Church, Virginia.

The weekend will be an enjoyable way to wrap up our series, "Stories We Can't Live Without." Dr. Galambush will help us better understand our connection to our Jewish history and see our part in the overall sweep of God's story.

If you are planning on attending either the dinner on Friday, July 25, or the seminar on Saturday, July 26, please **RSVP to the church office** (kspera@firstchurch.org, or (847) 234-6250, or by mailing the reservation form below **by Friday, July 18**. There will be a \$5 charge per person for the dinner on Friday and no charge for the seminar on Saturday.

Advance copies of **The Reluctant Parting** are available for sale through the church office for \$18.

Contact Sarah Seccombe at sseccombe@firstchurchlf.org.

Copies of the book will also be available for sale on Friday and Saturday, July 25 & 26.

Friday evening, July 25 at 6:30PM in Fellowship Hall.

① Join Dr. Galambush for dinner catered by Apron Strings, followed by "Will The Real Israel Please Stand Up."

Saturday morning, July 26 from 9:00 - 12:00 in Fellowship Hall.

② Hear Dr. Galambush as she explores the early development of the Christian Church and how, and why, it separated from Judaism.

Sunday morning, July 27.

③ Join Dr. Galambush after worship service for coffee.

## MISSION NEWS

On Tuesday, July 22, Reverend Corey Nelson will be preaching and leading a Global Worship Service at the invitation of the New Wilmington Missionary Conference in New Wilmington, Pennsylvania.

For over 100 years, this national conference has drawn missionaries & members of mission-minded congregations from around the country to this dynamic event.

One of the purposes of Conference has always been to recruit and encourage young people to serve Christ on the mission field.

Hundreds of young people have accepted the challenge to work in missions in the United States and overseas - some to "short terms", others for careers. Since 1961, when the Summer Service program began, 300 college age persons have worked and studied for six to eight weeks in mission work in the United States, Puerto Rico, Alaska, Ethiopia, Tanzania, Ireland, Kenya, Pakistan, Thailand, Taiwan, Italy, Brazil, Korea, Malawi, Egypt, and India. Some have returned to their "service" localities for longer terms. Founded in 1906, there are 1100 people of all ages registered for this year's conference.



### I/We will attend with Dr. Julie Galambush

Friday evening dinner: Number of persons attending (\$5 each) \_\_\_\_\_

Saturday seminar: Number of persons attending (no charge) \_\_\_\_\_

Name: \_\_\_\_\_

Payment by:  Check (enclosed)  Credit Card

Card No.: \_\_\_\_\_ Exp Date: \_\_\_\_\_

### New arrivals for your church Library. You will find these books on the Book Cart.

"The Year of Living Biblically" by A. J. Jacobs

"Fabricating Jesus" by Craig A. Evans

"Genesis" by Robert Alter

"This We Believe" by Stephen Plunkett

"Free of Charge" by Miroslav Volf

"Blue Like Jazz" by Donald Miller

"God's Passion for You" by Billy Graham et. al.

"The Story of Christianity" by Michael Collins and Matthew A. Price

For younger readers: "Cathedral" by David Macaulay

"The New Covenant" by Willis Barnstone

"The Case for the Real Jesus" by Lee Strobel

"The Case for Christ" by Lee Strobel

"Jesus and Psychology" by Fraser Watts, Editor

"Praying With the Word" by David Haas

"Fruit From the Vine" by Alice E. Flaherty, Compiler



# 2008-2009 SESSION

THE SESSION IS THE GOVERNING BODY OF THE CHURCH.  
IT IS COMPRISED OF 26 **ELDERS** (THREE CLASSES OF EIGHT AND TWO YOUTH ELDERS)  
WHO ARE ELECTED TO SERVE THREE YEAR, STAGGERED TERMS,  
AND THE FULL-TIME PASTORAL AND MINISTRY STAFF.



**JACQUIE BERKSHIRE**  
*Membership (moderator)*  
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sunnyberk@aol.com



**DONNA JOHNSON**  
*Mission (Co-moderator)*  
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**ANNE WARNKE**  
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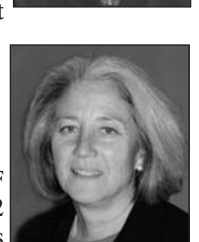
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TOGETHER  
WITH THE  
MINISTERS OF  
WORD  
AND  
SACRAMENT,  
ELDERS EXERCISE  
LEADERSHIP,  
GOVERNMENT  
AND DISCIPLINE,  
AND HAVE  
RESPONSIBILITY  
FOR OUR CHURCH  
AS WELL AS THE  
CHURCH-AT-LARGE,  
INCLUDING  
ECUMENICAL  
RELATIONSHIPS.



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# PROMOTE GOD'S VISION

## *Bike and Build* BRINGS VOLUNTEERS ACROSS OUR NATION

Every Sunday morning for the past two years, Lake Forest College student **Sam LePicier** biked to her job at the church where she cares for the children in our nursery. This summer, Sam's biking is a little more ambitious - from Providence, Rhode Island to San Francisco in 72 days!



Sam's trip is with Bike and Build, a non profit that organizes work trips for young adults. Sam's journey combines biking with volunteering at affordable housing projects. Her adventure began June 4 on a Habitat for Humanity site in Providence. The next day, she and 29 others set out on the 4,000 mile journey.

Families who know Sam from the nursery describe her as a dedicated and talented young woman who is a "natural" with children. Director of Children's Faith Formation Amy Pagliarella says that the church is fortunate to have Sam in *the Ark*. "She is so very caring with the children and they really take to her."

Amy was also very impressed by Sam's desire to support this important cause - affordable housing. Sam committed to raise over \$3000, which includes a donation of her own, not an easy feat for a college student.

To follow Sam's journey, check out <http://samanthalepicier.blogspot.com/>

To donate, visit [bikeandbuild.org](http://bikeandbuild.org).

You can visit Sam in *the Ark* this fall!

## Baptism is an element of worship and one of two sacraments of our church....the Lord's Supper being the second.

Baptism enacts and seals what the Word proclaims: God's redeeming grace offered to all people. Baptism is God's gift of grace and also God's summons to respond to that grace. Baptism calls to repentance, to faithfulness, and to discipleship. Baptism gives the church its identity and commissions the church for ministry to the world." (Book of Order W-2.3006)  
Read more about the theology of baptism on the Presbyterian Church (USA) web site: [www.pcusa.org/101/101-sacrament.htm](http://www.pcusa.org/101/101-sacrament.htm)

The baptismal font has been in sacramental use and part of worship since 1903. The font was made by Louis C. Tiffany Co. of New York from marble imported from Caen, France. The trefoiled column represents our central belief in the Trinity. The bowl's upper edge is inscribed One Lord - One Faith - One Baptism. The acanthus leaves on the bowl symbolize heavenly gardens because early Christian cemeteries were wasteland overgrown with acanthus thistles. The cover (donated in 1942) and font (donated in 1903) were given as a gift by Mrs. John V. Farwell in memory of her parents, Mr. and Mrs. N. Cooley.

The font fell into disrepair over time with a crack where the marble column and the bowl joined. Thanks to the efforts of the Worship and Music and Building and Grounds Committees, repairs have been made. The font has been placed on a wood base with wheels so that it can be moved to its central location during worship and moved under the Jesus baptizing the Children window when appropriate. Member Jane Jensen donated a beautiful silver pitcher to hold the water of baptism.



## CONGREGATION ELECTION HELD

A meeting of the congregation was held after worship on Sunday, June 29 led by Reverend Christine Chakoian. The moderator of the All Church Nominating Committee, Dick Mentzinger, presented a two fold report.

First, Julie Stevenson was elected a deacon in the class of 2011 to fill an open position.

Second, an Associate Pastor Nominating Committee (APNC) was elected to search for the Associate Pastor for Children's Ministries half-time position that was approved at an earlier meeting of the congregation. That committee includes Liz Gescheidle, Sally McDonald, Dan O'Neil and Susan Powell. The APNC will work with our presbytery representative to describe our church, define the position, make a thorough search and select a candidate to present to the congregation for election to this called position. Our current Director of Children's Ministries, Amy Pagliarella, is eligible to be ordained to this position and Pastor Chakoian announced that she is submitting her information for consideration by the committee. The committee will insure that our process is open and transparent, so that we may abide by both the letter and the spirit of The Book of Order, our denomination's constitution.

Prayers are requested for the Associate Pastor Nominating Committee as they begin this important process. We welcome Julie to the ministry of the Board of Deacons!

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**JULY 15, 2008**  
THE NEXT ISSUE OF  
FAITH CONNECTIONS  
WILL BE AUGUST 15  
SEND SUBMISSIONS TO  
publish@firstchurchil.org  
SUBMISSION DUE DATES  
ARE THE 1ST & 15TH  
OF EACH MONTH.  
SUNDAY WORSHIP AT  
10:00 AM  
SUNDAY SCHOOL AT  
10:15 AM

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




**Are you grateful that you can read and write?  
Would you like to make a difference in the lives of children?**



Plan ahead for a meaningful volunteer experience this fall, and be a part of **Reading Power**, the literacy tutoring program in North Chicago schools. Help to accelerate the learning of low achieving children. To qualify, you need only a love of children, the ability to read and write, and the willingness

to devote a morning or afternoon a week to reading and writing with children one-on-one. Training by a literacy specialist will be ongoing. For more info, call or e-mail Mary Jane Hender, (847) 295-2728, mjhender@comcast.net.



**MUSIC &  
WORSHIP  
ON  
JULY 20**

**Our own Ron and Cynthia Arden** will be contributing their gift of liturgical art as part of the "Stories We Can't Live Without" series on **July 20** for morning worship. They will share their latest recording, *Miracles and Mysteries - an intimate look at the healing ministry of Christ as told by John*. As part of their ministry called A Cross Between, the Ardens commissioned this work from well known musicians in the gospel music world, Ken Medema and Bruce Greer. Audiences have hailed it as the best "musical sermon" they've ever heard. As a thank you and blessing gift to First Church from Ron and Cynthia, everyone will receive a cd of this dynamic worship concert to take home that day!

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



*Farewell Reception for Reverend Patrick Day*



Please join in worship and a fond farewell reception on **August 10** after worship for Reverend Patrick Day and his family; Katie, Galvin, Quinn and Cora. Patrick will preach on August 10 for the last time and we will then have a chance to say good bye to all the Days.