



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*

June 1, 2008  
Volume VIII, N<sup>o</sup>. 11

# CONNECTIONS

## STEPHEN MINISTERS — TRAINED TO LISTEN

When you have felt the most cared for in your life, chances are someone focused on what you had to say, was attentive to your needs and listened to how you felt instead of telling you how you should feel or what you should do.



Listening is one of the most powerful ministry tools we have. It demonstrates that you care about the other person. In Stephen Ministry, a great deal of time is spent in teaching and practicing listening skills because of its importance as a caregiving tool. You can become a more caring listener by applying these six listening concepts from Stephen Ministry training:

- Listening is active*
- Listening takes patience*
- Listening involves more than just words*
- Good listeners are not completely silent*
- Listening happens over time*
- Listening is confidential*

If you would like to learn to be a better listener to your friends and family, contact any of First Church's pastors to explore becoming a Stephen Minister. A training class begins this September.

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

## SPRING SALE DELIVERS

Well we did IT! Our 58th Annual Spring Rummage Sale grossed \$137,746. Many kudos go out to all the of our rummage volunteers. They did a fantastic job. We know it takes the efforts of many to fuel our Many Hands for Mission and we couldn't have done it without you. The year-long effort requires a lot of effort by many to get everything sorted, organized and ready to go...but all was ready on time.

Saturday morning Mother Nature smiled on us for at least the start of the day. That was really appreciated by the many who lined up before the sun peeked over the horizon. The honor for first in line was again awarded to Joy Smith from North Chicago who has been shopping our rummage sale for years. Joy was in line at 3:45AM! Her first rummage destination was our "Treasures" room. Hundreds of others from Iowa, Wisconsin, Indiana, and all over the Chicagoland area were in line well before the doors opened at 7:00AM.

Finally, a big thank you to everyone who helped - the workers café, sorters, set up and clean up crews, cashiers, baggers, security and our entire First Church staff, who were extremely supportive this year. Corey Nelson, our pastor for Mission, alerted all of the agencies we support to ask for both their word of mouth and participatory help. Many kids from the Boys and Girls Club joined us for a good "rummage workout." Custodians Victor and Elmer added valuable suggestions to improve the efficiencies of the clean up process. An extra thank you goes to the entire church staff- in addition to their regular duties, they worked tirelessly all week to make sure we were a church united. Without the helping hands of many we could not deliver such wonderful results.

Thanks again to all...your efforts make it possible for First Church to help so many others. We do make a difference.





Dear friends,

Summer is traditionally a time for R & R ... but your staff at First Church will be going like crazy. We're lining up adult education and small groups for next year, revamping the confirmation program for our 8th & 9th graders, designing Sunday School for our younger grades and registering new families for preschool. We're ordering music, hiring a new children's music director, and working

on an additional worship service for Sunday evenings beginning this fall.

We're hearing from mission committee about how to do what we're already doing but also reach out creatively to new endeavors. Beyond our ministry planning, there is the infrastructure to tend to: rooms to deep clean or paint and repairs to tend to.

All of this takes money. As I mentioned in my May 18 sermon, we are worrying about running a very significant deficit again this year. Forces beyond our control have included astronomical energy and snow removal costs and a slowing national economy. Our pledge income is not keeping up with expenses, even while we are trimming costs in many places. For example, we will delay filling the position vacated by Don Dempsey, and most of his job description will land on my shoulders.

In the months ahead, every gift will matter. If you are doing what you can, God bless you for it. If you can do more, please know how much your contribution will be appreciated.

Every blessing,

**Fellowship hour** offers a wonderful venue to catch-up with friends as well as acclimate new and prospective members into our family of faith.

Cookies, coffee cakes and the like offer a sought-after accompaniment.

And while we all enjoy a delicious snack, participation within the church family is needed to continue this tradition during the summer months of June, July and August. If your family and friends would like to host coffee hour one summer Sunday, sign up at the name tag table outside the office. Questions? Parish Life elder Bill Lay (847) 234-0787



First Presbyterian Church of Lake Forest 847-234-6250

**SUNDAY, JUNE 1**

9TH SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME 9:00 & 11:00AM Worship

Reverend Christine Chakoian Communion

Sanctuary Choir at 9:00 & 11:00 Sundaes Sunday

Controversy over Gentiles Part 1 Acts 10: 1-48; 11: 1-18

**SUNDAY, JUNE 8**

10TH SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME Summer Worship

Schedule Begins today! 10:00AM Worship

Reverend Christine Chakoian Sanctuary Choir Baptism

Controversy over Gentiles Part 2 Galatians 2: 1-15

**IN MINISTRY TOGETHER**

Pastor/Head of Staff

Rev. Christine Chakoian

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Director of Music/Organist Jill Hunt

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Director of Sanctuary Choir Thomas Tropp Jr.

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Church website www.firstchurchlf.org

# PROMOTE GOD'S VISION

On June 8, the **Camerata Singers of Lake Forest** will present their final concert. This vocal chamber ensemble was formed by members of our church choir and has been closely tied to the church during its 28 years.

Susan Cartland (now Bode) and Carol Ptack (now Ramsey) were both exceptional sopranos in our church choir and decided, in 1980, that they would like to form a group to perform more challenging music in the intimate setting of private homes.

The programs of the Camerata Singers have covered a wide range of music, from baroque to Broadway and beyond. The group has performed more than 100 concerts in almost 50 different private homes.

Camerata has always had a close relationship with First Church. Almost half of the directors, singers, audience members and home owners have been associated with the church. Camerata has used the choir room of the church for all of its rehearsals.



This photo, taken in 1985, demonstrates the involvement of the church in Camerata. Third from the left, in the back row, is Eleanor Kraemer, a choir member; and next is Georgiana Askoff, who served as our children's choir director. To the right of the piano is Paul Magnusson, Harlene Milani, Susan Cartland, and Kathy Ferrin - all members of our church choir. Chuck Kraemer is at the far left of the front row, and seated at the piano is Phillip Carey, who later became the director of our church choir. On the far right of the front row is Dick Holmes, another choir member and third from the right is Bill Schnell, our choir director in 1985.

A number of church members have generously offered their lovely homes for Camerata concerts. Photos of many of the concert sites are available in the Camerata website - [www.cameratasingers.org/estates.html](http://www.cameratasingers.org/estates.html). Concerts have been performed at the homes of Don and Bonnie West, John and Gigi Brooke, David and Teresa Crouse, Roland and Gerry Ford, John and Peggy Lehman, Jack and Julie McGinley, Jack and Bonney Pope, David and Deborah Wiechers, and most recently, at the home of Ken and Alice James.

During the past 10 years, much of the work of the board has shifted to three key individuals - A. J. Woroch, Marilyn Holmes and Dick Holmes, all members of the church. A. J. has been in charge of the Camerata receptions since 1990. Marilyn has secured almost all of the homesites, recruited most of the board members, and has chaired every Camerata fundraiser. Dick has managed all of the finances, subscriptions and the advertising program. Other board members involved in our church include Harold and Addie Morrison, Allen and Eliza Davies, Caryl Barclay, Chuck and Eleanor Kraemer, Tom John, Linda Neumann, Evelyn Reczek, Ann Robb, Kathryn and Bob Arndt, Don West, David and Deborah Wiechers, Gay Webb, Jan Ward, Laura Henderson, Betsey Thurman, Bill and Betty Sample, Cindy Morehead, Jerre Gaitan, Rich Monahan, Paul Magnusson, Lyn Hallberg, Jane Flummerfelt, Dorothy Chantler, and Sally Schweikert. Church members who have been singers (in addition to those in the photo above) include Anne Graczyk-Druce, Judy Harris, John Johnson, Nancy Orbison, Tom Tropp, Elizabeth Weismehl, Nancy White, Gail Beckman, and Sally Schweikert. Camerata personnel who have also served as staff members at the church are Carol Ptack, Paul Magnusson, Nancy White, Jane Flummerfelt, Elizabeth Weismehl and Tom Tropp.

## Providing a Community of Spiritual Nurture.....

Soon, **small groups** will be meeting for the last time until fall, discussing the scripture that will be proclaimed in worship on June 8.

Over this year, over 150 people have chosen to participate in small groups. It has been exciting and we have learned a lot.

The single most important factor for people deciding which group to join is meeting time so our registration forms beginning this fall will include leaders' names and the times that the groups will meet.

Due to the past church year, it seemed necessary to have three sessions; Fall, Winter and Spring. Beginning this September, we will have two sessions; Fall and Spring. It will be a longer commitment for you in the Spring, but one that you will be glad you made.

Reverend Patrick Day commented, *"Whether or not you participated in a small group this year, I strongly encourage you to join one next year. The relationships that people have built through this ministry have been amazing."*

Is God calling you to lead a group? Leaders will be trained on September 11&12. (The training sessions are the same. You need to attend one.) The first session is scheduled to run from the week of September 15-December 8.

Leaders will be trained for the Spring Session on January 8&9. The Spring Session is scheduled from the week of January 12-May 18. Our goal is to have leaders committed by the middle of this Summer with registration beginning in August. If you are interested in leading a group, contact Patrick Day at [pday@firstchurchlf.org](mailto:pday@firstchurchlf.org).

Come be part of this exciting ministry!

## NEWS FROM SESSION

Beth Mynhier will continue as Clerk of the Session from June 1 to May 31

John Johnson will replace Skip Heizer in the Treasurer position from June 1 to May 31

Officers of the Society of First Presbyterian Church Lake Forest from June 1 to May 31 are:

President - Doug Valassis  
Treasurer - John Johnson  
Secretary - Beth Mynhier

# PROVIDE SPIRITUAL NURTURE



Mark your calendars



**Julie Galambush**, professor of Religious Studies at the College of William and Mary will be

**our guest the weekend of July 25-27.**

Dr. Galambush is the author of *The Reluctant Parting*, a book which describes the development of the early Christian Church. If you would like to order a copy of her book for \$18, contact Sarah Seccombe at [sseccombe@firstchurchlf.org](mailto:sseccombe@firstchurchlf.org).

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. There will be opportunities to share a meal with her, as well as hear her own story.

More details and registration materials will be available shortly. Contact Patrick Day at [pday@firstchurchlf.org](mailto:pday@firstchurchlf.org) with questions.

## Presbyterian Women

(CT) will be meeting at 12:00PM on June 12 in the Parish House to brain-storm their 2008-2009 program year possibilities. Anyone interested is welcome and urged to attend. We are sharing a light salad/dessert lunch as we discuss. Contact Rita Fossell (847) 234-4761

PRESBYTERIAN  
WOMEN

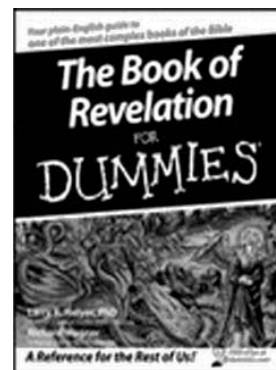
ANNOUNCING

## Summer Bible Study

Sunday Mornings *before* Worship Service  
Starting at 9:00 a.m.

Beginning June 8 and continuing through August 31  
Parish House

## THE BOOK OF REVELATION



Ellen Hyndman's Sunday Morning Bible Study Group will continue over the summer with a study of the book of Revelation. We will use the newly released "**The Book of Revelation for Dummies**" (now available at Amazon.com for \$14.95 plus shipping) as a study guide and class participants will divide up the individual chapters in the book to review and present to the class each week, with discussion to follow.

The first two weeks, beginning June 8, will cover the first five chapters of the book and will serve as an introduction to, and overview of, Revelation. Thereafter, each week will cover actual scripture using the "**The Book of Revelation for Dummies**" as the guide.

### WHY READ REVELATION ANYWAY?

- ❖ Some reasons may include
  - ❖ It grasps the nature of God and his relationship with us
  - ❖ It offers a rare glimpse into the new heaven and the new earth
- ❖ It offers a message of hope – the Biblical view of good triumphing over evil and suffering
  - ❖ Because it is there

Please join us for the **kick-off** of this study at a **pot-luck supper** at the home of Cynthia Hessemer, 865 Greenview Place, Lake Forest on **Saturday, June 7 at 6:30 p.m.**

After dinner we will show The History Channel's dvd entitled "Apocalypse: The Puzzle of Revelation" as an introduction to the study and pastor Patrick Day will be on hand to make a few general comments about Revelation. We will also have a class leader sign up list available at the dinner.

### Interested in attending the pot-luck supper on June 7?

RSVP "Yes" to Spike Paul at [fratedoc@comcast.net](mailto:fratedoc@comcast.net) or Cynthia Hessemer at [chessemer@hotmail.com](mailto:chessemer@hotmail.com) and let us know what you would like to bring

### Can't make the pot-luck supper but want to attend the study?

Then we will see you on June 8 at 9:00 a.m. The first four weeks of study already have class leaders but you can sign up for openings after that.

The Christian Ideas reading and discussion group continues its exploration of **FAITH AND REASON** on **Tuesday evenings at 7:00** in the church room 212.

Readings include Scripture, Socrates' musings on the afterlife, Pascal's wager, an encyclical on **FAITH AND REASON**, and C.S. Lewis' *'Till We Have Faces*.

Newcomers and visitors are always welcome. See the adult education web site for more details (and links to the readings) at

[www.firstchurchlf.org/adult](http://www.firstchurchlf.org/adult).



# PROCLAIM CHRIST'S MESSAGE



If variety is the spice of life then Joy Guscott-Mueller is the epitome of all that the phrase signifies.

As a mother of two girls, a wife, a practicing attorney with a full schedule, a school board member and a lay leader she is active in a broad spectrum of life. When the role of seminarian is

added to that list there is an even wider dimension to it all. Yes, Joy graduated from McCormick Theological Seminary on May 10, 2008 after a long and exhaustive period of study.

Joy came to the decision to pursue her theological studies from many vantage points. She is the daughter and granddaughter of ministers with a close association with all that the spiritual life entails. Her experience as a mother, lawyer and school board member helped to firm her thoughts and ideas about what her gifts were and how she could use them to the greatest advantage for all concerned. She is constantly exploring how she can transform lives and seek social justice, and that process remains a part of her being. While the gospel is at the center of her life, she is a mediator and listener, able to take disparate views and seek effective solutions.

Spawned and nurtured by this congregation, Joy has participated in intergenerational worship, the introduction of a liturgical dance after-school program and Christian education. During recent transformational times she has used her seminary training to meet the challenges that occurred.



While Joy is not yet sure where God's call will take her, she is confident that her skills in teaching, leading, pastoral care and effective written and oral communication will help her in whatever her path may be. At this juncture in her faith journey she believes that she might well be able to "combine elements of both vocations in a unique form of ministry."

Blessed with a devoted husband, David who is also an attorney and two lovely daughters Jillian (first year at the University of Illinois) and Jessye (junior at Lake Forest High School), Joy has had continuing encouragement and support in this acute balancing of home, work and study.

We at First Church are proud to have her as a member of our congregation and proud to salute her on this noble accomplishment. Please say hello to Joy when you see her and let her know she has our full support.

## Contribute to First Church using the Web

What if First Church earned a penny every time you searched the Internet? Well, now it can!



**GoodSearch.com** is a new Yahoo-powered search engine that donates half its advertising revenue, about a penny per search, to the organizations its users designate. Use it just as you would any search engine, get quality search results from Yahoo, and watch the donations add up!

Just go to **www.goodsearch.com** and be sure to enter First Presbyterian Church Lake Forest as the group you want to support.

## History of the Casavant Freres Pipe Organ

Our beautiful Casavant Freres pipe organ was given to the church by an anonymous donor in 1973.

It was installed in the rear balcony of the sanctuary and required a total remodeling to house this magnificent instrument.

It was custom built by a firm in Quebec, Canada known for its fine craftsmanship.



The organ is operated by the player's own effort through the mechanical pressure of the artist's fingers, not an electrical current that induces a magnet to open and close the pipes. "This gives the organist a sense of immediacy and personal control for inducing delicate accents," according to Dr. Richard Enright who was here to oversee the installation. His suggestions dealt with basic electrical needs, floor covering, lighting controls, positioning of the controls and tonality. His critical ear contributed greatly to the totally superior instrument we have today.

Dr. Enright was our interim Organist/Director in 1971 and stayed on for many years as Organist even after he brought in Dr. Bill Schnell as our choir director. Dick was on the faculty at Northwestern University as chairman of the Church Music and Organ Department. We are indeed most fortunate he was here during this time. Currently Dick and his wife Sandy have resettled to the Atlanta area to be near family.

## The parking shuttle makes its last trip on Sunday, June 1.

We give thanks to the Sanctuary Choir and Sunday school teachers who used the shuttle this year. This opened up parking spaces in the church lots for others. This was a gracious gift, much needed and well appreciated. During the summer when we only have one service at 10:00 a.m. there will be no shuttle. Please spread the word.

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9:15 AM

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*Liturgical Arts Ministry*



We give thanks to the artists who have given of their talents to enhance our worship of God.

Julie Holdsworth – paper banners depicting the Pentecost story

Dona Georgeson – painting of Jesus' baptism

Carol Foote – wooden plate served communion on Palm Sunday

Eliza Toser – weaving depicting the threads that tie us all together

Ann Roberts – painting of the messenger who prepares- the way for the Lord

