



First Presbyterian
Church of Lake Forest
www.firstchurchlf.org

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

November 1, 2008
Volume VIII, No. 20

Faith CONNECTIONS

PLEDGE DEDICATION SUNDAY

*"For where your treasure is,
there your heart will be also."*

-Matthew 6: 21

Our annual Pledge Dedication Sunday
is **November 16**, 2008 when we,

as a congregation, will be asked to
make a pledge of our financial support
to the vital mission and ministry
of First Presbyterian Church
for the coming year.

We will dedicate our pledges
as part of our morning worship.
You may place your pledge cards
in the offering plate on that date,
or you may make your pledge
commitment prior to November 16
simply by returning your pledge card
or pledging online at
www.firstchurchlf.org/stewardship.

Stewardship 2009: Now More than Ever

*"From everyone to whom much has been given,
much will be required."* Luke 12: 48

One of the enduring traditions of First Presbyterian Church of Lake Forest is a commitment to the future. Because of that commitment, First Church has never, in its long history, been complacent and self-satisfied. Rather, each succeeding generation has gratefully celebrated the past, lived and served joyfully in the present, and looked to the future, asking what God has in mind as this congregation of Presbyterian Christians seeks **to proclaim Christ's message, provide a community of spiritual nurture, and promote God's vision of justice.**

There is so much we can be grateful for, and so much more that we can do and be. We take seriously our call and responsibility to ensure that all aspects of our church are vital, strong and in concert with the work that God calls us to do. **That strength, of course, rests on financial strength.** As we respond with imagination and creativity to opportunities and vision, **we must also practice our faith through fiscal responsibility.**

Have you attended one of the Town Hall meetings? Your Stewardship Committee is providing several opportunities to hear why now, more than ever, your pledge is crucial to the mission and vision of our church. We encourage you to join us at one of the two remaining Town Hall meetings the next two Sundays, Nov. 2 and 9, at 10:00AM in the South Parlor. Childcare will be available upstairs in *the Ark* and Sunday School care will be extended until 10:30. We also encourage you to listen carefully to fellow members of this congregation during **Moments for Stewardship**. Each will be sharing personal reflections as they think about stewardship and how the life of this church has influenced their lives.

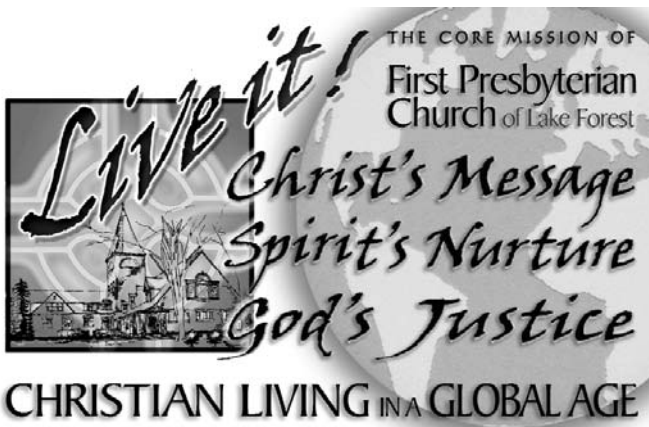
We understand that the current economic environment makes it very difficult to know how much to pledge this year. But consider, as you prayerfully contemplate your own financial situation, how much more your contribution will mean to others this year. Now, more than ever, all gifts make a difference!

Faithfully,

Your Stewardship committee: Joe Hickey, Moderator

Bob Crawford, Christine Edwards, Beth Gillies,
Lynnette Hinch, Rich Levin and Jim Mayhall

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



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Dear friends,

As the calendar turns towards November and the signs of winter grow near, the signs of our common bonds of humanity grow stronger too.

As it is every four years, the season leading up to the election is inevitably partisan, and our differences seem to loom large. Yet November opens with our nation gathering to participate in our most revered observance: to elect in freedom our representative leaders. The month closes with what is surely one of our most cherished national holidays: the feast-day of Thanksgiving, when differences fall away, and we rejoice that all are fed by God's generous hand.

Similarly, our sacred calendar opens with All Saints Day, when we honor the people who have indelibly marked us by their faith, and who have passed on to Eternal Life. November closes with the 1st Sunday of Advent, as we prepare to welcome the King of Kings who rules over us all. These "book-end" celebrations remind us that we are not alone. We are surrounded by "so great a cloud of witnesses" (Hebrews 12:1), and by our God who took on human flesh to live among us.

We are not alone. In the immortal words of John Donne, "No man is an island, entire of itself; every man is a piece of the continent, a part of the main. If a clod be washed away by the sea, Europe is the less, as well as if promontory were, as well as if a manor of thy friend's or of thine were. Any man's death diminishes me, because I am involved in mankind; and therefore never send to know for whom the bell tolls; it tolls for thee." ("Meditation XVII from Devotions Upon Emergent Occasions," 1624).

When the bell tolls for any of us, it tolls for us all. Or as the apostle Paul said, "We weep for those who weep and rejoice with those who rejoice" because we are one family in Jesus Christ.

This month in worship, we will explore what being part of the sacred community of Jesus Christ means to us:

- **November 2 All Saints Sunday: The Community of Saints in our Lives**
- **November 9 the Sunday after the election: The Community of Christians in America**
- **November 16 Pledge Sunday: The Community of Christians in our Church**
- **November 23 Christ the King Sunday: The Community of Christ's Kingdom**

I hope you will join us – your community in Jesus Christ – throughout this month to come.

Every blessing,

Christine Chakoian

Sunday Worship

SUNDAY, NOVEMBER 2

31ST SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME

9:00 & 11:00AM **Worship**

ALL SAINTS SUNDAY

Reverend Christine Chakoian

Sanctuary Choir at 9:00 & 11:00AM

Hebrews 11-12

SUNDAY EVENING, NOVEMBER 2 *DON'T FORGET!*

FIRST @ First Church Sunday

Dinner @ 6:00 Worship @ 7:00PM

SUNDAY, NOVEMBER 9

32ND SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME

9:00 & 11:00AM **Worship**

Reverend Christine Chakoian

Sanctuary Choir at 9:00AM

Romans 13:1-7

Faith Connections

is published bi-monthly and mailed to 1300 members and friends of



First Presbyterian Church of Lake Forest.

Submission due dates are the 1st and the 15th of every month.

Please send submissions to kwolff@firstchurchlf.org

faxed to (847) 234-6283 or dropped off at the church office.

CHURCH OFFICE 847-234-6250

HOURS: Mon-Fri 8:30-5:00PM

Saturdays [Sept - May] 8:00-noon

PROMOTE GOD'S VISION

FALL MINI SALE DELIVERS *RECORD RESULTS*

Saturday October 4 the sun was shining and shoppers were quick to cash in on some great deals.

We outdid ourselves as our annual Fall "mini" sale grossed over \$40,000!!! **A BIG thank you to over 100 fantastic rummage volunteers who made it happen and delivered results.**

Even though this sale is a scaled down version of the BIG sale in May, it still requires a lot of effort by many to get everything sorted, organized & ready to go. Our Fall sale is instrumental for "cleaning house" to make the most of what we have (especially the holiday items) and to make room for the additional "treasures" that we continue to collect for the Spring sale.

Rummage veterans started lining up about 5:00AM. The honor for first in line was awarded to Gerri from Glenview. She was treated to a complimentary cup of coffee and donut then was given a head start to her favorite department. Hundreds from all over the Chicago area and southern Wisconsin lined up behind her and entered the building at 8:00AM. Because we had so much to share, we added some of our traditionally Spring only departments and that helped us reach record breaking sales.

A big thank you to everyone who helped from the workers, sorters, set up and clean up crews, cashiers, baggers, security, café and First Church staff. Without the helping hands of many, we could not have delivered such wonderful results. Rummage Rocks! Mark your calendar for our Big Spring event, starting the end of April - beginning of May for set-up week then the BIG day, May 2, 2009. Join us for another wonderful event and help us make a difference.



ADULT FAITH FORMATION COMMITTEE PRESENTS:



"The Power of Forgiveness"

A Documentary Film by Martin Doblmeier and Journey Films
FORGIVENESS!

What is it?...Why is it necessary?...How do we go about it?

How do we teach it?...Why is it so difficult to do?

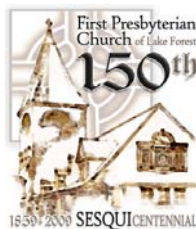
How does it relate to our ideas about Justice?

Is there a "corporate" forgiveness?

Please join us **Sunday, November 16 at 7:00 PM**

in the South Parlor to view this new documentary film
lasting 80 minutes, followed by discussion.

A new and powerful documentary offering stories with
Thich Nhat Hanh, Elie Wiesel, Dr. Robert Enright,
Reverend James Forbes and features on the Amish,
the Holocaust, Ground Zero, Beirut, Belfast, and others .



Calvin Trip Explored

As a part of the celebration of the church's 150th, a trip to Geneva, Switzerland is being considered for late spring 2009 to coincide with John Calvin's 500th birthday. If you are interested in such a trip and were not able to attend previous focus groups, please contact Donna Birney at dbirney@firstchurchlf.org or (847) 234-6250

Stone Soup Supper

Sunday, November 16 4:30 to 6:00PM

Families gathered in October for an outing to Elawa Farms nature sanctuary to pick seeds and weeds to help God's creation thrive. This was the first of many **"Family Faith in Action"** events, all of which will **allow families with kids of all ages to volunteer together.**

The fun continues this month with a Stone Soup Supper.

As a culmination of the Sunday School unit *"But I'm just a kid..."*

God calls us all," we will **hear the famous children's story** in which kids pitch in to save the day, and we will enjoy our own tasty version of "stone" soup. We will also discuss food pantries, and we ask that **each family bring canned goods** for donation to a local food pantry.

Please contact Anneliese Crawford at robertcraw@aol.com with questions.

PROCLAIM CHRIST'S MESSAGE

Annual Deacon Women's Christmas Tea

SPONSORED BY THE BOARD OF DEACONS

"O Come All Ye Faithful..."

Monday, December 8

at 7:00^{PM} in Fellowship Hall

Please join Reverend Christine Chakoian as she shares an inspirational message of the season.

Sign-up begins November 9



KIRKIN' O' THE TARTAN



Weaving Tradition Into a Colorful Ceremony

On Saturday, November 8, at 11:00^{AM}, the Illinois Saint Andrew Society (ISAS) will host a 'Kirkin' O' the Tartan' ceremony and service at First Church. Revered traditions of Presbyterianism and Scottish heritage will be celebrated in the service that features clan representatives who carry lengths (or flags) of tartans forward where they are blessed. Reverend Chakoian will preside over the service which also includes prayer, hymns and bagpipes.

*"He screw'd the pipes and mak'd them skirl,
till roof an' rafters aw' did dirl..."* Robert Burns

Created by an American Scot to pay homage to his homeland, the ceremony resonates with those of Scottish descent, Presbyterians and Protestants alike. 'The Kirk' is the informal nickname for The Church of Scotland, the Presbyterian denomination founded by Scottish clergyman, John Knox. In the 1660-70's, the political and religious upheaval of the Scottish Reformation made the simple act of worshipping outside the State Church punishable by jail, torture and even death. The spirit of the service reflects the freedom of Scottish Presbyterians to practice their Protestant faith openly.

The church in Scotland was decisively shaped by the Scottish Reformation of 1560 when it severed its fealty to Rome. John Knox, who had been exposed to the principles of John Calvin while living in Geneva, Switzerland, helped write the new confession of faith and the ecclesiastical order for the newly created reformed Church of Scotland which was established on a Presbyterian basis.

In our time, the 'Kirkin' O' the Tartan' is an opportunity for the Illinois Saint Andrew Society (ISAS), the oldest charity in the State of Illinois, to celebrate its 162nd anniversary and celebrate Scottish community, heritage and culture.

A lunch buffet will be served at noon. All are welcome. To make your reservation call the St. Andrew Society at (708) 426-7130 or the web site at: <http://www.chicago-scots.org>

IN MEMORIAM

Stuart B. D. Hunt died on October 18, 2008. Mr. Hunt was an ordained deacon with a life-long love of learning. He will be missed by his wife, Shirley and children Stuart, Virginia and Heather. A memorial service was held at Wenban Funeral Home on October 20, Reverend Christine Chakoian officiating.



Thanksgiving

WORSHIP SERVICE

November 27 at 10:00^{AM}

in the Sanctuary at First Church

Communion will be served by intinction

ALL are invited to begin the day with thanks to God for the blessings we have with our friends from

Church of the Holy Spirit and St. James Lutheran Church
Offering collected will go to the Northern Illinois Food Bank

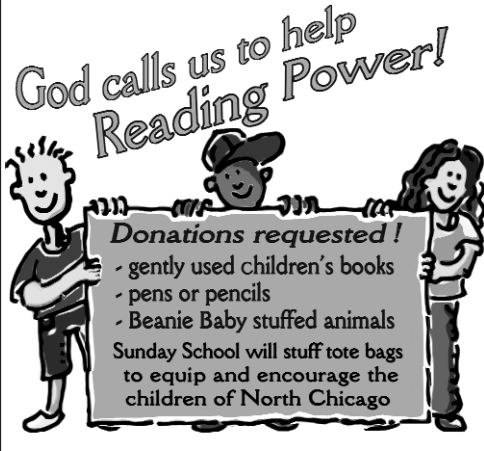
Worshippers are encouraged to bring a canned good for the Church of the Holy Spirit Food Pantry

BIRTHS

We welcome *Jack Henry Bruhn* born October 8, 2008, to Dan and Leigh Ann Bruhn. He joins his sister, Anna.

PROVIDE SPIRITUAL NURTURE

The Sunday School is collecting gently used children's books for Reading Power. Please drop off donations in the church lobby before November 9.



The Power of Prayer

"I'll remember you in my prayers." Because we believe in the power of prayer, we often say this to each other. As a way to live this belief and better connect our church family, the staff is beginning a new tradition of praying for each and every member of the congregation by name at our weekly meeting. We will lift up five families each week, praying for them and for their particular prayer requests. This is a wonderful way to make a big and busy congregation more intimate.

A member of the ministry staff will notify you by letter when your family's name comes up, and will call you to learn of any joys or concerns you wish to share. You can ask that your concerns be kept confidential, or you can ask that they be named aloud in the staff's prayers.

This is our witness that God's love extends to each of us and that we are called by God to be a community of people who genuinely care for each other. We hope that when you receive your letter, you will know that this is a sincere invitation to share your needs with the church.

It takes at least a year to reach everyone, so please don't wait if you have a prayer concern! Reach out to a pastor or the prayer chain by contacting Laura Sibley at sibleylaura48@hotmail.com

SMALL GROUPS FLOURISH

Small groups continue to meet weekly for fellowship and study. Lives are changed when people meet together to pray, to study, to engage in fellowship or to work on a specific task. At this time there are seventeen small groups, 198 people, meeting at many different times and days of the week.

Jesus said,

"Where two or three are gathered in my name, I am there among them."

(Matthew 18:20)

You are invited and encouraged to join one of the following groups at any time. They choose curriculum that resonates with the worship focus **Christian Living in a Global Age**: Sunday Bible Study (Ellen Hyndman), Sunday Men's Discussion Group (Lloyd Hood), Christian Ideas (Kevin Warnke), Women's Wednesday Worship (Christine Chakoian), Mom's Bible Study (Amy Pagliarella), Christian Perspectives (Susan Peet), Friday Men's Bible Study and Prayer Group (Peter Keller). Seven additional small groups use the curriculum developed for Christian Living in a Global Age. These groups will be re-forming in January.

ALL SAINTS DAY

We remember the saints in our lives...those who, according to the apostle Paul, have been and are part of the community of faith, the ordinary people like you and me. We thank God for the lives of those who have gone before us, the saints of our faith who passed the stories of the Gospel to us and shared their faith journeys with us.

All Saint's Day, celebrated on Sunday, November 2 has been a tradition in congregations for over 1,000 years.

The names of church members who died between November 1, 2007 and November 1, 2008 are read aloud in worship as we sing "For All the Saints." Single flowers, available from the ushers as you enter the sanctuary, are provided to anyone who would like to honor a loved one who died in the past year. You are invited to walk to the front of the sanctuary at any time during the singing of the last hymn and place your flower in the vase.

This act of remembrance brings our loved ones into our consciousness, reminding ourselves of the importance of the community of spiritual nurture that we provide each other.

NEW MEMBER CLASSES

All those interested in committing to membership in God's household here at First Pres in Lake Forest is encouraged to attend the next new member class. The new member class includes two sessions - on Saturday November 15 from 8:30 to noon and Thursday November 20 from 7:00-9:00 PM. New members will be welcomed into worship on November 23 at the 11:00 service. Child care is offered for all sessions. These classes offer a wonderful opportunity to learn more about First Presbyterian and what it means to be a member even if you are not ready to join the church. Contact Beth Gillies if you are interested in attending these classes; egillies@firstchurchlf.org or (847) 234-6250

SAVE THE DATE

ANNUAL ADVENT WREATHMAKING SUPPER

**Sunday,
November 30, 2008
5:00 PM**

Fellowship Hall

**ALL WHO LOVE
THE RITUAL OF
CANDLE LIGHTING
AS A REMINDER OF
THE COMING BIRTH
OF OUR LORD
ARE INVITED TO
BEGIN THE SEASON OF
ADVENT JOYOUSLY**

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LAKE FOREST, IL



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

FIRST Sunday @ First Church was successfully launched in October. Supper was coordinated by Dawn Neal with her team of helpers including: Margaret Pairitz, Celeste Murphy, Karol Karlblom, Larry, Emily, Geoffrey, Hannah Neal and Eleanor Thorn. There were 77 in attendance at supper including 10 college students. Others joined for the worship service with a meditation by Reverend Christine Chakoian and music leadership by the Adult Worship Band, Bill and Louise Ries, Ben Stephens, Corey Nelson, Jill Hunt, Brett Houston. Lay participants in worship included Billy Barkhausen, Jeanne Lane, Hannah Neal, Cindy and Jennifer Long. TJ, a student at Lake Forest College stated, "I absolutely enjoyed it. I have been waiting for an excuse to head over there and check things out. I was very involved with my Presbyterian church back home in Monmouth (another church that was founded along with a school, Monmouth College) and I had a lot of great experiences with the college students there. I know that all the students who came enjoyed it just as much and we are all planning on coming back the first Sunday in November. I find that Sunday evening services are a great time for college students and I think that was part of why many of us decided to come." Worship and Music committee moderator, Diane Fondriest had this comment the next day, "I thought last night went very well. Got the message across in a casual but meaningful manner. Good turnout and great music!"

FIRST @ First Church

Dinner @ 6:00 Worship @ 7:00PM

You are invited to the next **FIRST Sunday @ First Church** on **November 2** with **supper in Fellowship Hall at 6:00PM** coordinated by Jody Hillger, Sue Robertson and Chris McCoy. **Worship begins at 7:00 in the sanctuary** and will highlight All Saints Day with Reverend Christine Chakoian sharing her meditation with communion to follow and music leadership by the Adult Worship Band.

NOVEMBER 1, 2008
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
9:00 AM
FIRST @ First Church
Sunday @ First Church
Dinner @ 6:00 Worship @ 7:00pm
November 2

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All Saints Day