



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 CONNECTIONS

November 15, 2008
Volume VIII, No. 21

Here are just a few examples of how we operate with your generous talents & funds:

*In Sunday School each week teachers are buying their own marker, glue, pens, pencils and craft supplies. Including nursery support, curriculum, & training materials we spend approx \$85 per child annually for the average number of 110 children in Sunday school each week.

*The Bibles given each year to Kindergartners and 3rd graders cost approximately \$1,000 and are actually funded by a Memorial Gift and not out of the operating budget.

*At Coffee Hour each week goodies equivalent to 15 or more coffee cakes are donated by members of the congregation.

*Every day our telephones are answered by dedicated and cheerful Hospitality Ministry volunteers.

*Every Sunday bulletin is copied and stuffed in-house and no longer printed outside the church and only cost about \$150 each week.

*Our use of technology to reduce cost in sending email communications and providing website information is growing each week.

*Faith Connections cost per issue is estimated at \$870. Mailers for Advent, Lent and Rally Day are \$3,500 including bulk mailing costs.

*Each participant on Work Trip contributes \$350 to \$450 each year to help defray transportation and meal expenses. Many Work Trip advisors spend additional funds for food and supplies without requesting any reimbursements.

*We spend approximately \$7,000 annually to keep the organ and all of our pianos in tune.

*On Christmas Eve and on Easter we spend an extra \$7,000 for soloists, strings, and a special Brass Quintet. With some additional guest soloists and instrumentalists during the year, our music program is supported by talented volunteers. Sheet music now costs \$2.00 per copy, but we're fortunate to have built up a library of over 800 pieces when prices were far less. Children's programs cost \$8.00 each for the special annual musical.

At a recent Town Hall Meeting a long term member of First Church asked, "What does it cost to Wake Up the church every Sunday morning?" She continued, "When all of us walk in we often don't think about that." There are a number of ways to gather the facts and the staff has helped recently to focus on the budget details that make up the totals.

Total Expenditure Budget for 2008 is \$2,434,471 approved by Session.

Total YE Actual Expenditure Projection for 2008 is \$2,360,610

or approximately 3% less than budgeted.

Approximately 92% of these 2008 expenditures are:

	Annual	Monthly	Weekly
Office and Gen'l	\$ 547,719	\$ 45,643	\$ 10,533
Buildings and Grounds	\$ 434,295	\$ 36,191	\$ 8,352
Ministerial	\$ 491,038	\$ 40,920	\$ 9,443
Faith Formation	\$ 150,000	\$ 12,500	\$ 2,885
Music & Worship	\$ 150,751	\$ 12,563	\$ 2,899
Mission	\$ 262,000	\$ 21,833	\$ 5,038
Deacons	\$ 194,500	\$ 16,208	\$ 3,731
Subtotal	\$ 2,230,303	\$ 185,856	\$ 42,890

Total Giving each year includes Pledges, Foundation Gifts, Regular Non Pledge Giving and Plate Collections.

Total Giving in 2007 was \$2,184,245 and the total Giving Year End Projection is \$1,970,544 or approximately 10% less than last year. We typically expect each year to receive in approximately 96% of what has been pledged.

In a tough year like this we may receive only 89%.

Pledges	\$ 1,644,254
Foundation Gifts	\$ 96,775
Regular Non-Pledge Giving	\$ 167,350
Plate Collections	\$ 5,586
Other Giving	\$ 56,579
Subtotal	\$ 1,970,544

We have been blessed by a generous congregation who has graciously supported Christ's work in this community in good times and in challenging times. During the 1990's when thousands of people were looking for work on the North Shore this congregation founded the Career Resource Center. In areas of Mission we have stepped up with not only our funds but our working hands at the Neal School in North Chicago. Whether you have sorted Rummage, baked cookies for coffee hour, bought supplies for your Sunday school class, answered the phone for the Hospitality Ministry, visited the sick, served at Soup Kitchen, or staffed PADS, we thank you. We appreciate all that all of you do in our church community.

We are committed to spending your contributions wisely for God's work in our community and beyond. Through the next year we'll continue to provide examples and keep you informed. In these challenging times we have been very fortunate to have had forefathers who have left both Restricted and Unrestricted gifts to our church. All of these funds are managed by a professional investment advisor adhering to the Investment Guidelines recommended by the Finance Committee and approved by Session. We are fully committed to fulfill the Mission and Deacon commitments

[continued on next page]

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



Pastor/Head of Staff... **Rev. Christine Chakoian**... cchakoian@firstchurchlf.org
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Dear friends,

It is no accident that in churches across the country, Thanksgiving and Stewardship seasons coincide. Both annual rituals celebrate the same thing: our gratitude for God's abundant gifts.

Most years at Thanksgiving and Stewardship we enjoy an embarrassment of riches: our dinner plates and offering plates are full. This year, both will be emptier for many in our nation.

We're not used to that experience. We are so accustomed to having more, year over year, that we hardly know what to do.

But here's where faith comes in: we discover the unexpected – perhaps even unwelcome – blessings in our losses.

When we are not as wealthy as we once were, and cannot buy whatever we want, we discover again how very much we already have, blessings beyond our imagination.

When we are not as secure as we were, and don't know what next year will hold, we learn how to trust God a day at a time.

When we are not able to be as generous as we had been, and cannot support benevolences in the way we want, we learn how to donate our time and energy and passion ... and we learn to rely on others in our family who can help carry our part of the financial load.

These are not easy times. But they may bring remarkable blessings that we could never otherwise receive.

So this Stewardship and Thanksgiving season, whatever you bring to the table: be grateful, for God is still giving abundantly, more than we ask or imagine.

Every blessing,

Christine Chakoian

2009 STEWARDSHIP [continued from front page]

that have been made by First Church. At yearend we are not stepping back from our intentions to fully fund these expenditures. To cover any shortfalls this year we'll be able to draw from some of these Unrestricted Funds. We plan to utilize approximately \$200,000 from investments this year to supplement the operating budget. Final numbers are dependent on November and December giving which are significant percentages of the total giving each year.

As you prayerfully consider your tithes, pledges and gifts to our church this year, we are committed to spend your gifts wisely for God's work in the world. We appreciate every dollar and every talent you share. Thanks for helping us fund Waking Up the Church each day, each week, and each month in all of His seasons.

Your humble Treasurer, John F. Johnson

Sunday Worship

SUNDAY, NOVEMBER 16

33RD SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME

9:00 & 11:00AM Worship

PLEDGE DEDICATION SUNDAY

Amy Pagliarella

Children's & Women's Choirs

and Lakeminster Ringers at 9:00

Sanctuary Choir at 11:00AM

Matthew 25: 14-30

SUNDAY, NOVEMBER 23

CHRIST THE KING/REIGN OF CHRIST

9:00 & 11:00AM Worship

Reverend Christine Chakoian

Eggs Benediction at 9:00 & 11:00AM

Matthew 25: 31-46

SUNDAY, NOVEMBER 30

FIRST SUNDAY IN ADVENT

9:00 & 11:00AM Worship

Reverend Corey Nelson

Sanctuary Choir at 9:00 & 11:00AM

Luke: 46-56, 1 Samuel 2: 1-10

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

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 .

YOUTH FAITH FORMATION AFFIRMED

The world is moving at the speed of sound and the lives of our families are moving just as fast. Trying to better meet the needs of the youth and their families, our youth committee invited Youth Ministry Architects (YMA), a consulting firm founded to help congregations develop a plan for their youth and family ministry, to help us explore best practices. Their mission is to help churches establish sustainable, deep-impact youth ministries, one church at a time.

Lynn Barger Elliot, a past Youth Ministry Liaison at the Chicago Presbytery, and Ron Whistler, a youth minister from Nashville met with over 60 people in listening groups of middle school and high school students and parents as well as youth committee members, youth advisors and staff. The results include affirmation of our youth program which has had only two leadership changes in almost 20 years, recognition of a thriving senior high ministry, the need for a middle school/junior high program and more family inclusion.

We are excited about the future and look forward to the entire congregation joining us on this journey. Thank you to all the participants for lively and meaningful conversation. Continue to look for more information in upcoming *Faith Connections*. Please contact Youth Director Kristie Finley or Youth Faith Formation Moderator Linda Martinat with questions.

JOIN THE LIBRARY COMMITTEE

If you are interested in books, religion and/or like to read, please join your Church Library Committee. We can use your help. The Committee is responsible for: choosing, reviewing and approving new acquisitions; keeping the Library's magazine subscriptions current; checking in and shelving books, and sending overdue notices when needed. Also we computer-print the catalog cards and file them. The committee usually meets during the day, 3 or 4 times a year. If you would like to join us, please contact Judy Noble at (847) 234-6678.



**Due to budget concerns,
the parking shuttle
will no longer
be available on
Sunday mornings
beginning Sunday, November 16.**

In addition to our parking lots, parking is available at Lake Forest College middle campus (entrance off Sheridan Road south of Deerpath; follow signs), in front of the Durand Art Institute (dark red building on the corner of Deerpath and Sheridan), and on Deerpath and Washington Roads.

If you have any questions, contact Donna Birney
dbirney@firstchurchlf.org or
Herb Smyers hsmyers@firstchurchlf.org .



The **Christian Ideas** group is examining the topic of social justice through reading and discussions. It meets on Tuesday evenings at the church, room 215 (with no meeting on November 25). This month's readings are fictional portrayals of perfect (or not-so-perfect) societies – St. Thomas More's *Utopia* and George Orwell's *Animal Farm*. **New participants and guests are always welcome.**

WEDNESDAY MORNING TAIZÉ SERVICES

Every Wednesday morning during Advent (DECEMBER 3, 10, 17), you are invited to participate in a Taizé style communion service from 7:00-7:30AM. This will be a contemplative time of singing, praying, reading scripture, listening in silence and sharing the bread and cup.

**Join us each week as we set aside space for God to speak to us
and renew us during what can be a hectic season.**

We will share breakfast together in the South Parlor after the service.
For more information, contact Reverend Corey Nelson.

LunchBunch

On Friday, November 21, Lunch Bunch welcomes Reverend Emily Rosencrans, Chaplain at Lake Forest Hospital. Reverend Rosencrans will tell us of her ministry to those in need of comfort during their hospital stay. Come to the South Parlor at noon. Cost is \$5 at the door. Call Kerry at the church (847) 234-6250 x 233 by Tuesday, November 18.



Coat and Winter Clothing Sale!

First Church Rummage will provide the opportunity to purchase winter coats and clothing before winter hits us hard. The sale will be held on **Saturday November 22, from 8:00AM to 2:00PM** in Fellowship Hall. Your help spreading the word will be much appreciated. If you can assist in preparing for the sale, during the sale and/or cleaning up after the sale, contact the rummage department at (847) 234-6250 ext. 235

BIRTHS

We welcome *William Karl Danz*, born on October 27, 2008. William joins his sister Audrey and loving parents Bill and Tricia.

We welcome *Robert Alan Haas III (Rory)*, born on October 28, 2008 to loving parents Lauren and Robbie Haas and proud grandparents Kris and Mitch Engel and uncles Brent and Matt.

PROCLAIM CHRIST'S MESSAGE

Don't Know Much About History?



On July 24, 2009 First Church will kick off its **Sesquicentennial** year honoring our church's past and building a cornerstone for its future. It's fair to ask: *"What's the point of looking back?"* Our church has a historic legacy that bears investigation because its comprised of three significant

strands that are discernable throughout the last 150 years; education, mission and stewardship. We know our past because our remarkable History and Archives Committee has collected and catalogued minutes, events, building plans, photographs, artifacts and other records according to a logical system formulated by Harold Hutchings, a professional archivist. The Sesquicentennial Steering Committee will lean on the expertise of the History and Archives Committee as we look back during our celebratory year.

Tim Christie, Sesquicentennial Steering Committee Co-Chair is quick to add that despite his own deep respect for our church's history, the yearlong recognition is going to place equal emphasis on looking forward. For nearly a year, Tim has led the committee in brainstorming the overall template for the year including: events, guests, community gatherings and educational opportunities in music, art, architecture, theology and history. When Tim spoke this month at the Lunch Bunch he emphasized that a key component of the year's activity will be to create a tangible legacy for the future. Stay tuned for more about that.

The Sesquicentennial is going to be whole lot more than a good chicken dinner!

Tim Christie,
Sesquicentennial Steering Committee Co-Chair

Indeed the Sesquicentennial Steering Committee is issuing a clarion call to every church committee to think deeply about the activities they do each year and to intentionally brainstorm and plan ways to drench them in the spirit of the yearlong celebration and commemoration. For example, adult study committees, Deacon's Dinner, Christmas Tea, Trattoria, Sunday School, Youth Group, Mission activities, musical presentations, pageant and all of the myriad activities of our church are invited to begin planning now how their yearlong activities can be imbued with our church's history and future.

It's safe to say that at the close of the celebration in May 2010, our entire congregation will be more conversant and cognizant of our church's history and role in the evolution of the town of Lake Forest. Understanding from whence we have come will be the cornerstone for becoming faithful and engaged stakeholders in our future.



Deacon's Christmas Basket Program

As the weather turns colder and we begin to see signs of the holiday season, it is also time to consider how we might

help brighten the Christmases of needy children and families in our area.

The Christmas Basket Program provides our congregation with the opportunity to adopt a needy Lake County family and play "Santa" for their children. To participate, you may complete the response form provided below and return it to the church office or place it in the offering plate. You may also sign up at the sign-up table between services outside the church office from November 16 through December 7. A deacon will contact you with your family information.

Wrapped and labeled gifts for your adopted family should be dropped off at the Salvation Army's facility in Waukegan by Wednesday December 10. If you'd like to meet your recipient, you may come to the Christmas program and cookie reception being held for the adopted families on Saturday 12/13 from 2pm-4pm at the Salvation Army Adult Rehabilitation Center. Additionally, we will continue a gift certificate program. The Salvation Army assists families with older children, individuals and senior citizens by providing gift certificates for food and other necessities. Your cash donations will be used to purchase Wal-Mart and Jewel Food gift certificates. If you would like to participate in this manner, just send your check for any amount, made out to First Presbyterian Church Board of Deacons, along with your form, to the church office.



Deacon's Christmas Basket Program

Name: _____

(If a group, please give name of group & indicate a contact person)

Address: _____

Phone: _____ Fax: _____

Email: _____

Preferred Christmas Basket Family Size: _____
(# of children)

We will call you and choose a family which best suits your preference.

_____ I would like to participate in the gift certificate program.

My check in the amount of \$ _____, made out to the *First Presbyterian Church Board of Deacons*, is enclosed.

Please place this form in the offering plate or mail it to the church office, attention: Deacon's Christmas Basket Program.

We are grateful to each of the individuals and families listed here who, as of Tuesday, November 4, have expressed their support for the mission and ministries of First Presbyterian Church through their pledge for 2009. **Thank you for your generous support!** If you did not receive a pledge card, you may pick one up in the office or you may pledge online at www.firstchurchlf.org/stewardship. Every gift makes a difference!

Bill and Diane Lloyd
 Gean Lutz
 David McKee
 Tom and Kimberley Meador
 Milt and Joann Meigs
 Rosealice Miller
 Don and Jo Murray
 Carole Niemeyer
 Dan and Kristin O'Neil
 Nancy Orbison
 Suzanne Pattou
 Mary Grace Peterson
 Susan Peterson
 Ray and Ruth Pierobon
 Fred and Mary Lou Price
 Rick and Janice Price
 Larry and Linda Remensnyder
 John and Nancy Remington
 Ann Roberts
 Larry and Cindy Rogna
 David and Miriam Sanders
 Richard and Barbara Schulz
 Joan Shannahan
 Bill and Sara Snyder
 Kent and Christine Taubensee
 David and Tracy Tolmie
 Doris Volpe
 Harris and Ann Walker
 Kevin and Anne Wamke
 Henri and Jolly Weil
 Mark and Carla Westcott
 Henry and Florence Wheeler
 Jack and Mary Ellen Wright
 Bill Wright
 Linda Alpert
 Ruth Andrew
 Luben and Astrid Atzeff
 Elaine Bamer
 Allen and Peggy Bartine
 Jane Beers
 Paul Bergmann
 Bob and Carol Binkley
 Phil and Julie Boersma
 Liz Bradher
 Roger and Michele Burgis
 Chuck and Laura Carothers
 Patrick and Janet Cayce
 Cathy Cecchi
 Jim and Joy Christensen
 Robert Clark
 Phyllis Cretors
 Paul and Pat Cummings
 Rob and Barbara Davis
 Gloria Davis
 Cardy Davis
 Wes and Sue Dixon
 Rina DuToit
 Maddie Dugan
 Bill and Pat Ensing
 Tom and Heidi Ford
 John and Kathy Fox
 Norma Garrett

Dona Georgeson
 Barbara Giannasi
 Carl and Bubs Gottwald
 Charles and Jill Green
 Gwen Griffen
 Todd and Paulette Harris
 Joe Hickey
 Jeff and Lynnette Hinch
 Connie Howes
 Ellen Hyndman
 Clifford and Sharon Jenks
 Bill and Cindy Johnson
 Dick and Ann Johnson
 Stewart and Marcy Kerr
 Doris Knox
 Marlene Koe
 Helen Kohr
 Charles and Lynda Kraemer
 David and Marilyn Kulieke
 Bernie and Susan Layton
 Laurence and Barbara Lee
 Bill and Diane Lloyd
 Gean Lutz
 David McKee
 Tom and Kimberley Meador
 Milt and Joann Meigs
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 Henri and Jolly Weil
 Mark and Carla Westcott
 Henry and Florence Wheeler
 Jack and Mary Ellen Wright
 Bill Wright
 Constance Addington
 Edward Anderson
 Lyn Andress
 Jon and Sharon Bayer
 Jacquie Berkshire
 Ed and Ruth Bindi
 Joe and Missy Burger

Tim Christie
 Bob and Anneliese Crawford
 Larry Crone
 Jim and Jackie Deters
 Janice Engle
 Marv and Mary Farwell
 Joel and Kathy Ferrin
 Gaylord and Susan Fill
 Jim and Diane Fondriest
 Bryan and Carrie Ford
 John and Liz Gescheidle
 Andy and Marla Gottschalk
 Bette Griffis
 Grace Groner
 Christian and Valerie Hallen
 Margaret Hart
 Mark and Meg Hausberg
 Mike and Jill Havey
 Dan and Elizabeth Hennessy
 Jim and Carroll Herber
 John and Nancy Johnson
 Bob and Karol Karlblom
 Kent and Carolyn Kinney
 Tracy Kurasiewicz
 Jill Landry
 Bill Lay
 Dick and Marilyn Lewis
 Bill and Helen Loving
 Beth Lucy
 Jeff and Meredith Lytle
 Brian and Linda Martinat
 Keith and Anne Martino
 David Mattoon
 Jeanette Mattoon
 Alan and Hope May
 Jim and Susan Mayhall
 Chuck and Mary McDermand
 Dick and Maryjane Montzinger
 Fred and Michele Montgomery
 Lew and Verna Muldrow
 George and Maureen Olsen
 Shirley Paddock
 Delores Paley
 Jim and Julia Parker
 Dave and Beattie Radcliffe
 Grace Schuster
 Don and Mia Spooner
 Bill Springer
 Frederick Stanton
 John and Kim Taylor
 Bob and Mary Lou Troyer
 Doug and Laurie Valassis
 Karen Vratimos
 Gwen Wasmuth
 Dewey and Anne Winebrenner
 Paul and Corinne Wood



2009 STEWARDSHIP

NON-PROFIT ORG.
U.S. POSTAGE
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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



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

Stone Soup Supper

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

Families gathered in October for an outing to Elawa Farms 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.

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



NOVEMBER 15, 2008

SEND SUBMISSIONS TO
publish@firstchurchlf.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**
Dinner @ 6:00 Worship @ 7:00^{PM}
December 7

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