



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

October 15, 2008
Volume VIII, No. 19

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.

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

LIVE IT! Through Your STEWARDSHIP in 2009

Each year First Presbyterian Church of Lake Forest touches the lives of thousands ---children and adults, members, neighbors near and far---providing spiritual nurture, education, community fellowship, and helpful services to neighbors in need.

What makes this all possible are the gifts of its members and friends. **Our gifts to God each week are an act of worship , recognizing the power of Christ to transform lives.**

It takes over \$2.4 million to fund the current programs and mission of First Presbyterian Church of Lake Forest and to keep the church building open every day. While we are blessed with some significant endowments, 87% of our budget is funded with member pledges and gifts. Increased participation is crucial to our mission and vision. **Think about what we could do if more of our members participated by pledging!**

The ability to meet the 2009 proposed budget of over \$2.4 million depends on each and every one of us contributing to the 2009 Stewardship Campaign. **Each and every gift, large and small, makes a big difference in the life of this church!**

This year, one of your Stewardship Committee's goals is to provide several opportunities to learn more about the meaning of stewardship. Over the next four Sundays, we encourage you to attend one of the Town Hall meetings to learn more about the church's key accomplishments in 2008 and priorities for the coming year. The Stewardship Committee will review facts about the church's funds and how these gifts are used to support the life and vital ministry of this congregation. We will be available for any questions you may have as you prayerfully consider your pledge for 2009.

You will also be hearing from members of our congregation during worship over the next four Sundays. Each will be sharing some reflections on their own journey as they think about stewardship and how the life of this church has influenced their lives.

You will soon be receiving a letter from your Stewardship Committee along with a brochure we hope you will find useful as a 'giving guide'. As you prayerfully contemplate your financial situation this year, how much of your financial resources will you share to fulfill God's will for you and for First Presbyterian Church?

*"You shall celebrate with all the bounty that
the Lord your God has given to you and to your house"*

-Deuteronomy 26: 11

In Faith,

Your Stewardship Committee

Joe Hickey, Moderator

Bob Crawford, Christine Edwards, Beth Gillies,

Lynnette Hinch, Rich Levin, Jim Mayhall





Pastor/Head of Staff...**Rev. Christine Chakoian**...cchakoian@firstchurchlf.org
 Associate Pastor...**Rev. Corey Nelson**...cnelson@firstchurchlf.org
 Parish Associate...**Rev. Kent Kinney**...kkinney@firstchurchlf.org
 Dir. of Strategy, Development & Operations...**Lynnette Hinch**...lhinch@firstchurchlf.org
 Dir. of Youth Faith Formation...**Kristie Finley**...kfinley@firstchurchlf.org
 Dir. of Children's Faith Formation...**Amy Pagliarella**...apagliarella@firstchurchlf.org
 Dir. of Music/Organist...**Jill Hunt**...jhunt@firstchurchlf.org
 Dir. of Sanctuary Choir...**Tom Tropp**...ttropp@firstchurchlf.org
 Dir. of Youth Music Ministry...**Lesley Byers**...lbyers@firstchurchlf.org
 Preschool Dir. ...**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** ... fax 847-234-6283 847-234-6250
 First Presbyterian Church of Lake Forest 700 N. Sheridan Rd, Lake Forest, IL 60045 847-234-6250



Dear friends,

This has been the rockiest financial season we have ever seen. No one knows how it will all play out. This makes it really difficult for any of us to know how much to pledge this year.

Yet this we do know: that it is God's hand behind every blessing of life, and it is God on whom we rely.

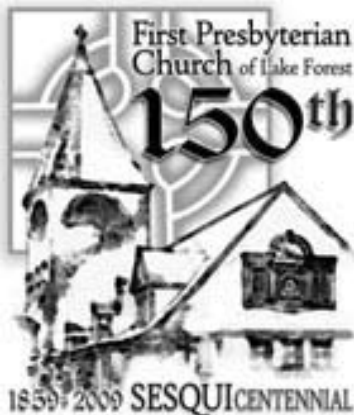
And this we know: that it is the intangible gifts – of love and kindness and this community – that are our most valuable assets.

And this we know: that we who still have so much are called to share with those who have been hit so much harder.

In these uncertain times, I encourage you to proclaim loud and clear what is certain. Show up in church, participate in fellowship events, join a church committee, prayerfully consider your pledge, and commit yourself again to our reliable, generous God.

Every blessing,

Christine Chakoian



CALVIN TRIP EXPLORED

As a part of the celebration of the church's 150th birthday, a trip to Geneva, Switzerland is being considered for late spring 2009. This is in conjunction with the 500th birthday of John Calvin, considered the theologian behind the Presbyterian tradition. A focus group, open to the entire congregation, will be held on Sunday, October 19 at 10:00 a.m. in the South Parlor. Please join facilitators Dick Miller and Lynnette Hinch. They want to hear your thoughts about the interest level and feasibility of a trip. All are welcome. Goodies and coffee will be served!

Sunday Worship

SUNDAY, OCTOBER 19

29TH SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME

9:00 & 11:00AM Worship

Third Grade Bible Sunday 9:00AM

Reverend Christine Chakoian

Children's Choirs at 9:00AM

Youth Choir at 11:00AM

Matthew 22: 15-22

SUNDAY, OCTOBER 26

30TH SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME

9:00 & 11:00AM Worship

Reformation Sunday

Blood Drive!

Reverend Christine Chakoian

Bach Cantata - Sanctuary Choir,

Festival Choir, Strings at 9:00 & 11:00AM

Luke 10: 25-37

REMEMBER! We switch to daylight savings time on November 2. Turn your clocks back one hour when you retire on Saturday night.

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

You can help with Hurricane Relief

"Girl's first day of school never came: 10-year-old shot while tying sister's shoe" Chicago Tribune headline 9/3/08

In the past year, there have been over 30 children and young people shot to death in Chicago, many of them innocent by-standers caught in gang cross-fire. In Lake County, the numbers are lower but still significant: six children in 2005. One of our church's goals is to provide a community of spiritual nurture, but it seems obvious that these communities, our communities, are terribly broken. This two-part discussion series will explore the relationship of gangs to the communities in which they exist, how those communities, and the people that live in them, are affected, and what can be done to help change things for the better.



THE FIRST PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH OF LAKE FOREST
ADULT FAITH FORMATION COMMITTEE PRESENTS:

Gangs In Our Neighborhood: A Two-Part Panel Discussion

PART 2

The Chicago Experience

Reverend Leslie Sanders Hope Presbyterian Church

Mr. Ric Estrada Erie Neighborhood House

Mr. Wallace Gator Bradley Former "Gangster Disciples" Member

Presented on Thursday evening **October 30**

South Parlor **7:00 PM - 9:00 PM**

For more information contact the church office: (847) 234-6250 or moderator@firstchurchlf.org

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 on **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 Live Faith Formation NEWS

Our Youth Faith Formation team is exploring better ways to meet the needs of the youth and their families who live in a world that moves at the speed of sound. Youth Ministry Architects are a consulting firm founded to help congregations develop a plan for their youth and family ministry that addresses the challenges faced today at church, school, home, and in their social lives. Youth Ministry Architects will meet with small groups of youth and adults to personalize a plan that is unique to First Church. Kristie Finley, Director of Youth Faith Formation, is pleased to work with these professionals and looks forward to implementing change to enhance our youth ministry.

In response to the widespread devastation left behind by this season's hurricanes,

we offer an opportunity for members and friends of First Presbyterian Church to support the relief efforts with a financial contribution through

Church World Service (CWS). CWS is essentially the relief and development arm of our National

Council of Churches in which our denomination plays a significant role.

Because CWS has the national and international expertise and because they work ecumenically with multiple local, national and international agencies,

they are well-positioned to respond to a crisis that has both local and global repercussions. They have already been and will

continue to be deeply involved in communities at risk, particularly in the Caribbean and along the Gulf Coast. Our contributions

will support the purchase and distribution of emergency aid including blankets, hygiene kits, medicine and food. **Checks** can

be made out to **First Presbyterian Church** with a specific memo designation for "**Hurricane Relief.**"

We will receive funds and distribute them directly to Church World Service.

Contact Reverend Corey Nelson with questions

PROCLAIM CHRIST'S MESSAGE

Volunteers & Materials for Neal School Project

In recent weeks, you've started hearing about First Church's important new mission project,

The North Chicago Education Initiative...a multi-faceted partnership program to address critical needs at Neal School, North Chicago's junior high. You'll certainly be hearing more about numerous opportunities to become involved. In the meantime, we already are partnering with Neal staff, students & parents to improve facilities. Starting October 31, and concluding by mid-November, we will be painting their cafeteria, along with some minor repair work.

Here's how you can help:

1. Sign-up for work shifts

Work shifts of 3 to 6 hours each are being scheduled for 3 consecutive weekends (Friday afternoons thru Sunday afternoons). Plus several weekday afternoon shifts, to make it easier for Neal students to participate.

We can use help with painting, cleaning & prepping, and ceiling tile repair.

Sign-up sheets showing each shift are available in the church office.

If you're interested, please complete one & place in Corey Nelson's mailbox or office.

2. Donate materials

Listed below are materials needed. Anything our members donate will save us from purchasing or renting. If you can help, please indicate & place this form in Corey Nelson's mailbox or office. Someone will contact you.

- | | |
|--|---|
| <input type="checkbox"/> paint brushes | <input type="checkbox"/> paint rollers |
| <input type="checkbox"/> wall cleansers | <input type="checkbox"/> roller sleeves |
| <input type="checkbox"/> brushes and/or pole brushes | <input type="checkbox"/> roller handle extensions |
| <input type="checkbox"/> sponges | <input type="checkbox"/> roller pans/liners |
| <input type="checkbox"/> buckets | <input type="checkbox"/> masking/painting tape |
| <input type="checkbox"/> rags | <input type="checkbox"/> extension ladders |
| <input type="checkbox"/> access to professional scaffolding, large area paint tarps | |
| <input type="checkbox"/> access to a mid-size truck to transport materials at beginning/end of project | |

Name: _____

Phone: _____ E-mail: _____

THANKS!



First Church Preschool fundraising committee

has been busy planning the 6th Annual Winter Fundraiser on February 21, 2009. The event is a great opportunity to connect with old friends, new families and our wonderful teaching staff. Cocktails, dinner, dancing and wonderful auction items will make this an evening to remember.

We rely on our auction to allow us to fund capital improvements, teacher enrichment activities and scholarship requests. In the past, the following items have generated great interest: sporting event tickets (professional and college), vacation destinations, airline tickets, and golf outings to name a few.

If you are able to donate to the auction, you will greatly improve our fundraising ability. Please let me know by October 22. Thank you to those who have already donated; your generosity is greatly appreciated!

Feel free to contact me at (847) 234-8212 or lisacervieri@yahoo.com with any questions.

Thank you in advance of your support.
Lisa Cervieri,
First Presbyterian Preschool
Parent Board

IN MEMORIAM

Edward R. Holmberg died on September 26, 2008. Mr. Holmberg joined the church in 1975 and served as an ordained deacon and elder. Mr. Holmberg served the community as a lawyer and board member of many community organizations. He will be missed by his wife Shirley, and their children Edward, Charles, Sheryl and Kimberly. A service will be held in the sanctuary on October 27 at 11:00AM, Reverend Kent W. Kinney officiating.



Christian Ideas is examining the topic of social justice through reading and discussions. We meet on **Tuesday evenings** at the church, room 215 (with no meeting on Oct.16). This month's readings focus on concepts of social justice in the Old and New Testament (Deuteronomy, Isaiah, Matthew, Acts, and 1 Timothy). New participants and guests are always welcome.

Christmas Tea
Save the Date!
Women's Christmas Tea
Monday, December 8
7:00 PM
Fellowship Hall

PROVIDE SPIRITUAL NURTURE

Family Faith in Action: A NEW FOCUS ON LIVING YOUR FAITH

How do we raise mission-minded children? Can we teach our children to love and serve our neighbors? And can we do so in a way that allows families to grow and serve together?

A Search Institute Study found that adults who live their faith have several things in common: they grew up in homes where they frequently talked with their parents about faith, the family worshipped together regularly, and the family participated in service projects together. Parents say they would like to participate in more service activities, but they don't know how.

Family Faith in Action is a new effort to offer families regular opportunities to serve our neighbors together. Each event will include a project that serves our neighbors, reinforces Biblical teachings and stories, and allows for fun and fellowship. Family members will work side-by-side, allowing kids of all ages to help each other.

Our first event is described below...stay tuned for additional opportunities! To get involved, please contact Anneliese Crawford at robertcraw@aol.com. For Children's Faith Formation questions you are encouraged to reach Amy Pagliarella at the church or at apagliarella@firstchurchlf.org.

Two Great Ways to Put Your Family's Faith in Action!

Wear your boots and jeans to worship on October 19 and get ready to Go Green for God! Families will leave immediately following the 9:00 service for the first **Family Faith in Action event - a service project at Elawa Farms**, a local conservation organization.

As part of the Sunday School's unit on environmental stewardship, the children have already raised nearly \$100 for a new turtle pond at Elawa. This pond will feature two of the area's native species: Midland Painted Turtles and Snapping Turtles, and will also serve as a recovery area for turtles that have been injured by cars. The funds will be allocated for water pumps, aerators, heating, and landscaping, as well as veterinary bills for injured turtles.

All ages are welcome! We will gather at the church at 10:15 to drive over to Elawa. Bring work gloves, if possible, and come prepared to pull weeds and collect seeds. The morning will end at noon with a BYO picnic that supports another local organization, Benny's World.



Benny Waters, a three-year-old boy in our community, was recently diagnosed with a pediatric brain tumor. **Benny's World** is a non-profit foundation established to fund research for a cure. Children and their families will host a stand with lemonade, other favorite treats, and coffee (if it's chilly) to raise money for Benny's World.

Please contact Martha Zeeman at Martha@zeemanfamily.com with questions about the Elawa project, and Joy McGreevy at joymcgreevy@sbcglobal.net with questions about the Benny's World lemonade stand.



Third Grade Bible Sunday

The 140-year tradition of presenting Bibles to students in the third grade continues on **October 19, 2008**. At the 9:00 worship service, members of this year's class will receive the New Revised Standard Version of the Bible with a bookplate inscribed with their name. The Bibles are provided by the **Kitzerow Bible fund**, a memorial gift established to honor Betsy Kitzerow by her husband Carl.

FALL BLOOD DRIVE

Sunday, **October 26, 2008**

7:30 AM TO 12:30 PM

Fellowship Hall

The Red Cross needs our support to provide relief for victims of local, national and international disasters.

One donation can help save up to three lives. On behalf of the congregation, the Board of Deacons is proud to assist the Red Cross in their effort to supply over six million units of blood to hospitals around the country to help ensure that blood is readily available whenever and wherever needed.

Can we count on you?

Sunday, October 26 is designated Fall Blood Drive Day. The Red Cross will be conveniently administering the Drive in Fellowship Hall. **Appointments are being scheduled between 7:30 AM & 12:30 PM at 15-minute intervals.** Please encourage friends and family members to join in our effort.

To reserve your sitting time, please call Paul Bergmann (847) 295-7957.

For more information on the process and eligibility, please visit <http://www.givelife2.org>

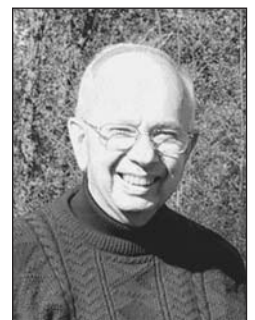
Lunch Bunch on Friday, October 31

is in for a treat as member **Allen Davies**

takes us on last year's choir trip to Italy!

Come see and hear of the many adventures the choir experienced while bringing a musical message of faith to many people. Lunch is at noon in the South Parlor. Cost is \$5.⁰⁰ at

the door. Call Kerry Spera at (847) 234-6250 ext. 233 for reservations by Tuesday, October 28.



SUNDAY SCHOOL AT 9:00 AM

SUNDAY WORSHIP AT 9:00 AM & 11:00 AM

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

SEND SUBMISSIONS TO publish@firstchurchlf.org

OCTOBER 15, 2008

847-234-6250 fax 847-234-6283
700 N. Sheridan Road
Lake Forest, IL 60045

www.firstchurchlf.org
First Presbyterian Church of Lake Forest



NON-PROFIT ORG.
U.S. POSTAGE
PAID
PERMIT No. 65
LAKE FOREST, IL



STEWARDSHIP 2009

Town Hall Meetings

Provide Information for 2009 Stewardship Commitments

"What shall I return to the Lord for all of God's bounty to me?"

- Psalm 116. 12

All members and friends of First Presbyterian Church are encouraged to attend one of the upcoming Town Hall meetings on the following Sundays: October 19, 26, November 2, and November 9 at 10:00AM in the South Parlor. These sessions are intended to provide information about the church, key accomplishments and priorities for the coming year.

Members of the Stewardship Committee will review some facts about the source of the church's funds and how these gifts are used to support our operating budget.

We will share some new analysis of our pledges and how our church relates to other churches in terms of giving. All of this information is to help you feel informed as you prayerfully consider your pledge for 2009.

The meetings will begin immediately following the conclusion of the 9:00AM worship service and are expected to last approximately 30 minutes. Coffee and refreshments will be served. For parents who wish to attend one of these sessions together, consolidated child care will be available after Sunday School for the Town Halls on November 2 and November 9. For more information, contact Lynnette Hinch, Director of Strategy, Development & Operations at lhinch@firstchurchlf.org.

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