



First Presbyterian
Church of Lake Forest
www.firstchurchlf.org

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

January 1, 2009
Volume IX, N^o 1

Faith CONNECTIONS

Sunday Worship

SUNDAY, JANUARY 4, 2009

2ND SUNDAY AFTER CHRISTMAS

9:00 & 11:00AM Worship

Reverend Corey Nelson

Communion

Sanctuary Choir at 9:00AM

Matthew 2: 1-12

*BEGIN
THE NEW YEAR
WITH ...*

**SUNDAY EVENING,
JANUARY 4**

**FIRST
Sunday @ First Church**

Dinner @ 6:00PM
Worship @ 7:00PM

*Welcome the new year
with a casual, upbeat service
of worship at 7:00 p.m.*

*A simple supper precedes worship
at 6:00 and helps set the stage
for the praise of God and
spiritual nurture following.*

**SUNDAY, JANUARY 11
BAPTISM OF THE LORD
9:00 & 11:00AM Worship**

Reverend Christine Chakoian

Renewal of Baptismal Vows

Sanctuary Choir at 9:00 & 11:00AM

Mark 1: 1-11

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

Neal News

*"I give you a new commandment, that you
love one another. Just as I have loved you,
you also should love one another." John 13: 34*

First Church has an opportunity to bring this message from Christ to life, offering the opportunity for a quality education to our neighbors in North Chicago, an under-resourced school district just north of Lake Bluff. A partnership with Neal (Junior High) Math and Science Academy, serving over 600 7th and 8th grade students, has been established as a major mission initiative to commemorate our sesquicentennial anniversary and to celebrate our historic commitment to education. Education has been a central focus of our congregation's mission from the establishment of Lake Forest College to our support of McCormick Theological Seminary. The Neal School partnership follows. This initiative employs the "community school" model which links resources of the public school with partners in the broader community in order to serve the whole child and their families. Although this model is part of a prominent national and greater Chicago movement, we are piloting an exciting effort in which local churches play a central role with a public school. Church-school partnerships enhance the community school model by leveraging the time, talent and treasure of a local congregation in support of children and families in need. For more information contact Mission Committee co-moderators Jim Mayhall or Donna Johnson or Reverend Corey Nelson.

So, what have we done so far?

The Cafeteria/Hallway Painting Project in November involved over 100 volunteers, 495 work hours, 30 gallons of paint

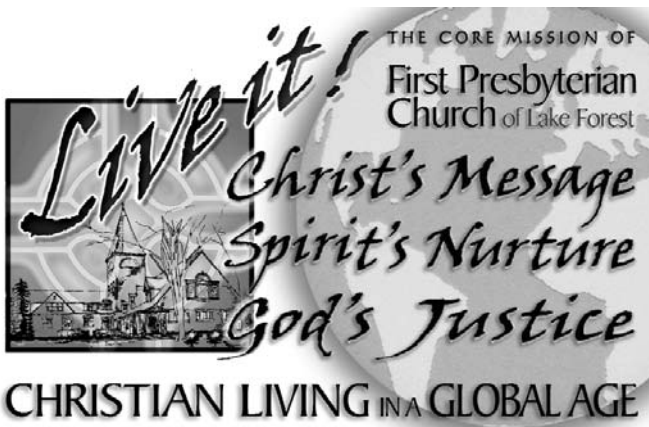


and lots of fellowship and fun over two weekends in late October! Students and faculty were thrilled to have their cafeteria looking so fresh and clean after just two weekends of work! Part of the Partnership with Neal involves developing a relationship built on mutual trust. The Painting Project showed the Administration that a major project can be planned and completed on time. The Church supplied all the materials associated with this project, including sealing and waterproofing several cracks.



After we showed we could handle the big stuff, we went for the important stuff...a Staff Appreciation Lunch! On Tuesday, December 2 Dorothy Chantler and Cindy Johnson with help from Laura Johnson and Sue & Steve MacFarlan prepared and served a wonderful lunch at Neal School. The teachers loved the food and the fact that we thought of them! Now that we have their attention we have an opportunity to show that we really want to help them provide the students the best education possible. Which leads to.....

(continued on page 3)



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,

As we turn the page toward a new year, we hold many hopes for changes that we'd like to see: a better economy, a more stable peace in Iraq, and many others.

Some changes are out of our control. But other changes are within our control – and these are the ones resolutions are made of.

Most of us have typical resolutions: this year I'll join a book club and strengthen my mind; this year I'll join a health club and lose weight; this year I'll join a savers club and spend less money on "toys."

But what if we made spiritual resolutions instead? Resolutions like:

This year I'll join a Small Group and make a commitment to strengthen my faith

This year I'll join the choir, or Rummage sorting, or the Neal School project and lose my preoccupation with my worries

This year I'll join those who pledge to the church and spend my "first-fruits" in thanks for God's blessings.

The best resolutions don't make us feel badly. The best resolutions help us focus on our aspirations. This year, let's aspire to be our best selves – as the children of God we are meant to be.

Every blessing,

Christine Chakoian

Work Trip 2009 Chili Fundraiser!

This year the Senior High Work Trip Fundraiser will be tasty and warm for all.

We are selling Paul Finley's famous chili for Super Bowl Sunday consumption.

During the month of January the youth will be taking chili orders between services. The students will be cooking Saturday January 31 and pick up is at church after services on **Super Bowl Sunday February 1**. Four servings (48 ounces) is \$25. Enjoy the game by letting us make dinner! If you have questions or orders please contact Kristie at (847) 234-6250 or kfinley@firstchurchlf.org.

All proceeds will help fund Work Trip 2009.

Senior High Community Youth Group Progressive Dinner

Our annual community Progressive Dinner is **January 25**.

This wonderful opportunity brings the youth groups in the community together for food, fellowship and service. The evening will take place at First Church with **dinner at 7:00** after which we will make valentines and valentine bags for students in North Chicago & lunches for PADS. We will finish the evening with music & worship in the Sanctuary.

Junior High Presbytery Winter Retreat January 23-25, 2009

A 2-night retreat for 6-8th grade youth in the Chicago and Blackhawk Presbyteries at East Bay Camp, Bloomington, IL

Bring a friend and join in the fun as we explore the *Fruits of the Spirit* as demonstrated by Will Farrell. Check the website for registration info or call Kristie Finley at (847) 234-6250 or kfinley@firstchurchlf.org

SOUPER BOWL OF CARING

On Sunday **February 1** our Senior High Youth Group will be collecting donations of money and food after the 9:00 and 11:00 worship services. The Souper Bowl is a simple effort to "love the Lord our God ...and love our neighbors" by encouraging people to give one dollar each as they leave worship on Super Bowl Sunday. All funds and goods collected are designated to an agency that our Senior High Youth Group selects. The "Souper Bowl" not only began in a Senior High Youth Fellowship in South Carolina, it also enables young people to see that, by God's grace, they can make a difference in the world. So that our young people might learn, they are involved in the collection of funds and in the decision making as to where the funds are sent. Last year we shopped in small groups for a family using the experience to understand the difficulty a parent has in feeding their family on a limited budget. We then donated the food to the Shields Township Food Pantry. On Souper Bowl Sunday, ask the young person at the door with the large pot, how we are using our collection this year.

Neal News

continued from front page

Ms. Xavier, who heads up the Science Department at Neal, mentioned that they did not have enough microscopes and wondered if we could help them get 20 microscopes. The microscopes were included in a list of "in-kind" donations needed at Neal School.



It did not take long before Ellen Hyndman bought 20 microscopes for Neal School! **For the first time there is a microscope available to each student.** The excitement in the class was amazing as they discovered bugs in pond water and cells in a leaf. Education becomes so much easier when you have the proper tools!

State and Federal testing allows the use of calculators for achievement tests.

The only problem is that the students at Neal don't have any. That is all Les Hammar and his small group needed to hear. They immediately **took up a collection and there are now 100 TI 34 calculators** on order to be delivered in January.

The success of our **Staff Appreciation Lunch led to providing Christmas Cookies to the Teachers Lounge in December.** We want the teachers to know that we are committed to helping them. Small acts like lunches and cookies break the ice and create more opportunities to help.

Neal School has a beautiful greenhouse that, unfortunately, has not been used very much.

If you drive north on Lewis Ave, you will see the large structure between the two wings of their building.

Kris Engel and Susie Mayhall have **volunteered** to help them as they **get a curriculum in place to use the greenhouse.**

The Senior High Youth Group has collected holiday gift cards that will be used by teachers to purchase school supplies for students. It is hard to take notes without a pen and paper and these supplies will help solve a chronic mid-year problem for the teachers and students. The Youth Group, through the Mission Committee, **also provided Starbucks gift cards** to each of the teachers as another sign of support.

Next at Neal

The College Work Trip took place on December 29 and 30 where additional painting and clean up was done at Neal School.

More lunches...the first Staff Appreciation Lunch was such a huge hit that we want to do it every month!

The Boys & Girls Club of Lake County runs an after school program at Neal School from 2:30 to 5:00p.m. every day.

Volunteers are needed for homework help and general program assistance.

A **microwave and toaster oven** for the After School Cooking Club **are needed.** (The students LOVE this club & don't realize that measuring is math.)

A **DVD Player is needed** for teaching and entertainment at Friday Fund Day.

The After School Club needs support on Tuesdays and Thursdays. Volunteers to help with homework and provide one-on-one academic support are needed 2:30-3:30 p.m. Enrichment Clubs (3:30-4:15 p.m.) need volunteers proficient in computer skills, dancing, chess, art, sports, martial arts and gardening. This would enhance the current program of **ONLY** three clubs.

The schedule for the after school program on Tuesday and Thursday is as follows:

2:15 - 2:30 PM - Snack, 2:30 - 3:30 PM - Power Hour (Homework and Tutorial Support)

3:30 - 4:15 PM - Enrichment Clubs, 4:15 - 5:00 PM - Life Skills (Boys & Girls Club Character Building)

The **Greenhouse Project** will be gearing up and looking for volunteers

The Physical Education Department **needs supplies for some basic exercise classes.** Bar bells or weight bars would be very helpful. If you are upgrading your equipment or it is just collecting dust, please consider a donation to Neal School.

The things we have done so far at Neal are remarkable. Much more needs to be done over a long period of time. We have made the strategic commitment to partner with Neal School for the long term. We will need the support and assistance of the entire congregation to succeed. **If you have any questions** regarding the nature of **this Community School partnership** and **how you can get involved with time, talent or treasure** please contact **Reverend Corey Nelson, Jim Mayhall or Donna Johnson.**

We are grateful to each of the individuals and families listed here who, as of Tuesday, December 16, 2008 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!

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New to 2009 Stewardship: Fisherman's Fund Announced to Support New Pledges

As he walked by the Sea of Galilee, he saw two brothers, Simon, who is called Peter, and Andrew his brother, casting a net into the sea - for they were fishermen.

And he said to them, "Follow me, and I will make you fish for people."

Immediately they left their nets and followed him.

Matthew 4: 18-20

The Fisherman's Fund is an endowment from anonymous donors available to match -- dollar for dollar--all new annual pledges to the 2009 Operating Budget from individuals up to a grand total of \$150,000!

- Suggested minimum pledge: \$500 (or whatever your household feels is sacrificial)
- New pledges will be matched up to \$1,000
- New pledges: households who have never pledged or have not made a pledge since 2006 are considered new and are eligible to be matched
- Fisherman's Fund matching gift program expires on March 31, 2009
- If you have already submitted a new pledge for 2009, it will be matched by the Fisherman's Fund

To ALL who have already submitted a pledge for 2009, we thank you for your continued generosity!

If you wish to support this opportunity, please fill out a pledge card or you may also pledge online at www.firstchurchlf.org/stewardship



2009 STEWARDSHIP

PROMOTE GOD'S VISION



THANKS TO EVERYONE WHO HELPED AND PARTICIPATED IN THIS YEARS PAGEANT!

BIRTHS

We welcome *Henry Orlan Oak*, born on December 4, 2008 to Elisabeth and Matthew Oak. He is joyfully welcomed by proud grandparents Brenda and John Dick.

We welcome *Lyla Kay Drowne*, born on December 5, 2008 to Nancy and George Drowne. She is joyfully welcomed by sisters Emma and Sara and proud grandparents Art and Dorothy Chantler.

Thank You!

To my dear Lake Forest church friends,

Thank you so very much for all the lovely cards and notes you have sent to me this Christmas. The years spent with you in the Lake Forest church were so precious to John and myself and are still wonderful memories. May the gift of God's love be with you always.

With my love,
Lorraine Bellingham

A Special Day for Families of Kindergarteners

Kindergarten Bible Sunday, an annual tradition at our church, will be held on **January 25**. At the 9:00 service, each kindergartener will be presented with his or her own *Adventure Bible*, a children's Bible storybook, as a gift from the church.

Your home is the most powerful influence in the faith development of your child and we want to support you as you nurture this most precious gift! If you have not signed your child up for Kindergarten Bible Sunday, please contact Sarah Seccombe by January 5 at sseccombe@firstchurchlf.org or at (847) 234-6250 so that a Bible will be ready for your child. Please plan to attend the 9:00 worship service on Sunday, January 25 so that you and your child can participate in this special event.

Church library kudos

Were you aware that **First Presbyterian Church has one of the most extensive church libraries in this area?** Our collection contains numerous Bible dictionaries; several Bible interpretation series such as: The Interpreters' Bible series; the Anchor Bible series; and the John Knox Interpretation series; in addition to the writings of various theologians.

If you are involved with a Bible study group, a discussion group, or personal study, consider using the materials in our Church Library. The Library is located on the main floor of the Parish House. More recent books are on the Book Cart located next to South Parlor.

The Moms' Bible Study Small Group will kick off 2009 with a brunch at a member's home on **Thursday, January 8** at 9:15AM.

Resolve to nourish your mind and spirit with this fun and informal group!

Newcomers are always welcome.

For more information, please contact Amy Pagliarella at (847)234-6250 or apagliarella@firstchurchlf.org.

Coming in January....

Our **Children's Choirs** will begin rehearsals in January for the annual Children's Choirs play entitled

"It's O.K. to Be Different"

to be presented in worship on **February 22, 2009**.

Wednesday rehearsals for Cherub Choir (K & 1st grade) and Carol Choir (grades 2-6) begin Wednesday, January 7, 4:00-4:45 p.m. We will also offer a Sunday morning rehearsal from 10:15-10:45 a.m. beginning January 4 for all children in grades K - 6 who would like to participate in the play. Children who wish to have speaking parts or solos must attend the Wednesday rehearsals.

For more information contact Susan Noble or Jill Hunt.

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The Core Mission of
First Presbyterian
Church of Lake Forest

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PROCLAIM
CHRIST'S
MESSAGE

•
PROVIDE A
COMMUNITY
OF SPIRITUAL
NURTURE

•
PROMOTE
GOD'S VISION
OF JUSTICE

First Presbyterian
Church of Lake Forest



First Presbyterian Church Preschool Enrollment News

Pre-enrollment for 2009-2010 began November 1, 2008. Please call Sarah Pasquesi, Assistant Enrollment Chair, at (847) 482-9055 or email pasquesi2@aol.com to place your child on the January registration mailing list. It is necessary for all new students as well as for siblings of current or past enrollees to call or email.

Registration materials will be mailed to everyone on this list Friday, January 9. Completed registration materials must be post marked no later than Friday, January 16 to be in the first lottery pool.

A parent *information session* will be held on Tuesday, January 6 at 12:30pm in the South Parlor. This session will last approximately 1 hour and will include a PowerPoint slide show, Q & A session and Preschool tour. Childcare will be available by reservation only for \$5 per child. Please call Katie Eveleigh at (847) 735-1656 or email eveleigh@sbcglobal.net to reserve a childcare spot.

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Church of Lake Forest**
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Lake Forest, IL 60045
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JANUARY 1, 2009
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

Join us on January 4 for
**FIRST @ First Church
Sunday**
Dinner @ 6:00pm
Worship @ 7:00pm



Save the Date
LA TRATTORIA

COME
AND
ENJOY
FOOD,
FUN
&



FELLOWSHIP WITH
YOUR CHURCH
COMMUNITY

SATURDAY,
FEBRUARY 7, 2009

FROM 6:30-9:00 PM

AT THE
LAKE FOREST CLUB.

DETAILS TO FOLLOW