



First Presbyterian
Church of Lake Forest
www.firstchurchlf.org

700 N. Sheridan Road
Lake Forest, IL 60045

847.234.6250 fax 847.234.6283

April 1, 2007
Volume VII, No. 7

Faith CONNECTIONS

ONE GREAT HOUR OF SHARING

Every year during Lent all Presbyterian churches join together with other Christians in collecting an offering for One Great Hour of Sharing. This offering provides support and ministry in this country and abroad for disaster response, refugee assistance and resettlement and community development, which allows for individuals to have a new beginning in a safe environment.

These ministries strengthen and support both families and communities bringing Christian love and caring as comfort.

Food, shelter and clothing are basic human needs which are directly supported with the funds from this offering. 10% of funds collected are used for administration and materials, the rest of the money collected is divided between the Presbyterian Hunger Program- to alleviate hunger and eliminate its causes, Presbyterian Disaster Assistance Program- to respond to disasters with relief and to minister to refugees of a disaster and on the Self-Development of People committee.

These are important life sustaining programs supported by our church, along with many others. Please give generously to the One Great Hour of Sharing to be a part of this vital life saving Christian ministry.



BARGER URGES ALL MEMBERS OF GOD'S COMMUNITY "TO BE CHURCH"

"Church is a gift of God." That's how Rick Barger, lead pastor of Abiding Hope Lutheran Church in Littleton, Colorado, sums up the authentic church. *"It's not a club; it's not an institution."*

Author of the book, *A New and Right Spirit*, Barger is best known for helping congregations make adaptive change. Talking with hundreds of members of First Church over the March 15-17 weekend, Barger walked participants through the transformation of his Evangelical Lutheran congregation to a fast-growing, faith-driven community of active believers. While here, he led a series of workshops, leadership meetings with Session, Deacons and church staff as well as a Friday night congregational meeting in the Sanctuary, sharing ideas on the "missional church."

According to Barger, who met many challenges during and after Columbine in his hometown, church leaders need to "step up." "Today's churches are desperate for courageous and faithful leaders."

Barger noted steep declines in traditional church membership, as just one sign of a deconstructed church in a post-nuclear world. "God tells us not to be afraid. Love is God's constant reconciliation of the world and his claim on our lives."

Central to Barger's vision is to equip everyone in the congregation to "be church." He urges members of mainline congregations to view every member as part of their ministry. Among the challenges of a transformational church are moving from approval seeking to permission giving, from leadership by a few to leadership by all, and from attention on programs to spiritual formation. "The result can be a deeper spirituality, vitality and momentum," he states.

In his church, Barger underscores the need to focus on a few Wildly Important Goals (WIGS). Then, he says, it's a matter of putting them into action with a compelling means to keep score while holding people accountable. One of the goals of his church has been a Haiti mission effort that provides nearly \$1 million. His church has also launched a Leadership Academy on its 3.1 acre site.

Barger said that "he sensed something great happening at First Church." He cautioned that the new shape of a congregation is not without some stresses and pledged continued connection with our church helping us move forward. One of the keys to success in achieving our own Wildly Important Goals, according to Barger, is "a disciplined people, disciplined thought and disciplined action."

"We only concentrate on that which has significance, consequence or value." As a result, Barger's church practices radical generosity and intentional connections through small groups. But worship remains the center.

"The mission is urgent," Barger concludes. "The children, the poor, the world call us to 'love who God loves'." "We are all lost (without the love of God)," says Barger. "Go about changing our world. God did not call us to be a religion, but to be church."

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

Dear Friends,

In mid-March we were treated to amazing presentations by Rick Barger, pastor of Abiding Hope Lutheran Church in Littleton, Colorado. Over the last six months our elders and deacons have been studying Rick's book – *A New and Right Spirit: Creating an Authentic Church in a Consumer Culture*. Our book study has been helpful; but it was Rick's presence with us that galvanized our thinking.

The crux of Rick's argument is this: not through our own fault, but in the course of cultural pressures, most mainline churches have forgotten what our "core business" is. Our mission is not to provide counseling, to be community activists, to create social outlets, to raise money for good causes, or even to ensure individual personal salvation in exchange for righteous living. Salvation has already been ensured by God through Jesus Christ. Our mission is to be the body of Christ in the world.

I am convinced that our three Great Ends are a powerful start to a renewed focus on our core mission. Proclaiming Christ's message, providing a community of Spiritual nurture, and promoting God's vision of justice are the ways First Presbyterian Church Lake Forest will strive to be faithful. Our work now in the weeks ahead is to attach particular immediate and longer-term goals to our Great Ends. Our next Session meeting we'll begin to define our two or three key goals. Watch for those key goals to be identified and broadcasted throughout the church. You can help by holding your Session and staff accountable to this task ... by letting us know any thoughts you may have on these matters ... and, as always, by praying constantly for God's guidance for our plans.



These are exciting days in the life of our church. I, for one, can feel the Spirit stirring things up; not condemning the past, but using the best of who we are to create more than we could imagine.

Every blessing,

Christine Chakoian

DEDICATE EASTER FLOWERS IN HONOR OR IN MEMORY OF A LOVED ONE

Honor a special beloved person with a dedication that will be listed in the church bulletin on Easter Sunday, April 8. Contributions can be made using the Easter Flower envelope found in the pew rack. It may be placed in the offering plate during worship or returned in person or by mail to the church office no later than **Wednesday, April 4**. Be sure to print clearly **WHOM** the dedication is in memory of and **FROM** whom so the dedication can be properly presented. The donation can also be given to the Glory of God, in celebration of a special occasion, in honor of our brave soldiers, or for any reason you may want to share with our congregation. Please make your tax deductible donation, payable to **First Presbyterian Church/Flower Ministry**.



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SUNDAY, APRIL 1

PASSION/PALM SUNDAY

9:00 & 11:00AM Worship

*The Reverend Christine Chakoian
Passion Sunday Drama
Communion*

Lectionary: Luke 19: 28-40
Psalm 118: 1-2, 19-29
Isaiah 50: 4-9a
Psalm 31: 9-16
Luke 22: 14-23 or 23: 1-49
Philippians 2: 5-11

SUNDAY, APRIL 8

EASTER/RESSURECTION OF THE LORD

7:00, 9:00 & 11:00AM Worship

*The Reverend Christine Chakoian
The Reverend Dr. Don Dempsey
The Reverend Patrick Day
The Reverend Kent W. Kinney
Youth Music Ministry at 7:00
Sanctuary Choir, Childrens Choir's
and Brass at 9:00 & 11:00*

Lectionary: Acts 10: 34-43 or
Isaiah 65: 17-25
Psalm 118: 1-2, 14-24
1 Corinthians 15:19-26
John 20: 1-18

IN MINISTRY TOGETHER

Pastor/Head of Staff

Rev. Christine Chakoian

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Director of Children's Choirs **Elizabeth Weismehl**

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1st and the 15th of every month.
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publish@firstchurchlf.org

PROCLAIM CHRIST'S MESSAGE



STEPHEN MINISTRY CONTINUING EDUCATION

PRESENTS ITS SIXTH AND FINAL CLASS OF THE 2006-2007 FIRST CHURCH YEAR

2006		
November 4	<i>Don't Sing Songs to a Heavy Heart</i>	Kathleen Barnett, M. Div. and Vandy Janson, M.A.
2007		
January 27	Basic Domestic Violence Ed from A Safe Place	Liz Fales, Domestic Violence Educator
February 10	<i>(Almost) Everything You Wanted to Know about Being a Missional Church-but Were Afraid to Ask</i>	Rev. Dr. Christine Vogel
February 17	<i>Writing a Spiritual Autobiography</i>	Jane B. Lionberger, M. Div.
March 10	<i>Offering Care to Those Experiencing Losses Related to Aging</i>	Laurel Whitney Butcher, R.N., M.S. and Kathleen Barnett, M. Div.
Saturday April 21 at 10:00 AM in the South Parlor (Coffee and Fellowship at 10:00, Program at 10:30)	<i>Offering Care to Those Struggling with a Long Term Illness</i> <i>OPEN to the entire First Church family!</i>	Liz Richmond, Pastoral Counselor  Midwest PALLIATIVE & HOSPICE CareCenter™

To learn more about becoming a Stephen Minister at First Church by joining the Fall 2007 training class, call Donna Birney at (847) 234-6250. To obtain care for yourself or someone you love from one of more than 60 trained Stephen Ministers already at work among the First Church Family, call Rev. Kent Kinney at (847) 234-6250.

Spring Rummage Sale Invitation

Do you have a limited time for volunteering but have expert knowledge in a specialty that you would like to share with Rummage?

On **Saturday, April 14** Rummage invites members of the congregation and their friends to come and be "**Drop in Experts**" for the morning. We will work from 9:30AM until noon and enjoy a light lunch.

What is a "Drop in Expert"? A Drop in Expert is a person with significant knowledge in a given area who would be willing to help Rummage with identifying and valuing donations in their area of expertise prior to the sale. We need experts in the following areas to help us sort and price the following merchandise:

Men's Suits.....Men's Better Clothing.....Ladies Better Clothing.....Trend Shop (Juniors)
Art Work.....Sporting goods.....Golf Equipment.....Baby Merchandise.....Jewelry

In the clothing areas we are trying to sort and price items into more categories than we have in the past with the hope of identifying higher value items and pricing them more in accordance with their true value. We also need help identifying more valuable artwork and assigning prices to those pieces. We have the same goal in Sporting Goods and Golf Equipment. We need guidance in the Baby merchandise area in identifying safe items to sell as well as recognizing better brands. Jewelry needs to be sorted by patient volunteers willing to straighten chains, match earrings and more.

If you would like to help on April 14th or have questions about this volunteer opportunity, please email Chris Denniston cad4lf@comcast.net or Deb Dintruff at deb.dintruff@comcast.net to RSVP for the morning. Please let us know what type of expert you would like to be. We would appreciate RSVPs by April 11th so we know how many experts to expect and to plan lunch. We look forward to this new Volunteer Opportunity in Rummage and hope to see many experts that day!



IN MEMORIAM

Virginia Grant Griffis died on March 8, 2007 in Bellingham, Washington where she lived for many years. Ginny was born in Highland Park and joined First Church in 1937. She was known in the community through her work at the Trading Post Gift Shop and shared her love for people through the Women's Guild, teaching Sunday School and outreach ministry with the pastors. Ginny believed that if an activity was worth doing, it was worth doing well! She will be missed by her daughter, Sherry George and all those who knew her. A service was not held.



SET-UP SUNDAY.....April 29
- Sunday afternoon
1:00pm - 5:00pm

SET-UP CONTINUES... April 30
- Monday all day
9:00am - 5:00pm

SET-UP CONTINUES..... May 1
- Tuesday
9:00am - 1:00pm
posted hours for sign-up;
some departments will work
in the afternoon to finish

CHAIRMEN'S PRESALE... May 2
- Wednesday
10:00am - 12:30pm

WORKER'S PRESALE.... May 2
- Wednesday
1:00am - 4:00pm

(THURSDAY & FRIDAY - NO ACTIVITY)

SATURDAY SALE DAY

May 5

Sale hours
7:00AM until 4:00PM



Bid For Better Lives

Saturday, April 28, 2007 at the Onwentsia Club, Lake Forest

6:00PM

PROMOTE GOD'S VISION OF JUSTICE

Gathering and Sending or... Ushering?

Head ushering is a routine and straightforward task... right? But let us picture a First Church worship service in which:

1. No one greeted worshippers
2. No one passed out bulletins
3. No one assisted congregants to their seats
4. No one answered questions
5. No one responded to a health crisis
6. No one called the Fire Department when the alarm sounded
7. No one collected the offering.
8. No one provided microphones to hear the prayers of the people

It's clear isn't it? The entire experience of worship would be radically depleted without these crucial participants and the ministry that they extend.

Recently, Dr. Holper spoke to the Worship and Music Committee and reiterated the key relationship between 'honor and sacrament' and 'gathering and sending' in the order of worship. He exhorted us not to make the mistake of underestimating the power of greeting and extending welcome. He reminded us that we never know who will 'walk through our door' on any Sunday and how that person may positively influence our congregation. He emphasized that the 'gathering and sending' portions of the worship experience are threshold moments in which we 'enter into community' and then 'go out into the world'. He is convinced that these threshold moments can be times when hearts are changed.

"We cannot underestimate the transforming power of the 'gathering and sending' portion of the worship experience."

Dr. Fred Holper,
Professor of Preaching and Worship, McCormick Theological Seminary

You can be part of gathering and sending by being trained as a First Church Head Usher. If you enjoy meeting people, organizing and serving with fellow ushers, ensuring welcome, order and safety in worship, then you are an ideal candidate for a one-time thorough Head Usher training session offered by Jim Simmen to men and women who are willing to serve in this crucial worship leadership and service role. In addition to the visible ministry of welcoming, head ushers are trained to handle emergencies and ensure the safety and comfort of congregants. They work in close tandem with pastors to choreograph authentic worship.

Head ushers always serve at the convenience of their own schedules so please do not rule yourself out if you travel; ushers are needed at all times of the year and your personal schedule will not exclude you from this ministry. Please consider sharing your time and skills by contacting Jim by email: zweisimmen@att.net or (847) 362-0963 for details on an upcoming spring training session. Or call the church office, (847) 234-6250.

Help Our Youth: *Become a Teacher or Shepherd*

If you're looking for a way to serve in your community and give back, you may want to consider becoming involved in Sunday School at First Church next year. The Children's Ministries Committee needs you! Leading our youth (ages 3 through 6th grade) through Christian learning presents a wonderful way to connect with young lives and help them progress in their individual faith journeys.

Commitment involves one hour each Sunday during the 9 am service over a six-week unit-or more-starting in the fall. You can also organize a "tag team" approach with spouse or friend for more flexibility. Teachers lead one lesson with a different age group each week. Shepherds guide students to their classrooms and assist with lessons. Turn-key, easy-to-use lesson plans and materials are provided. An informational kick-off meeting is scheduled for Monday, April 23 at 9:30 AM in the Stuart Room. Please contact Donna Birney for more details at (847) 234-6250, ext. 255.

Sew-In April 21 *...aids soldiers*

We need your help!

Sew Much Comfort is an organization that sews adaptive clothing for our soldiers and sailors who have been wounded.

Bring your sewing machine, your sewing skills, and join us in **Fellowship Hall** at **8:30 AM on Saturday, April 21** as we support this important cause. Supplies and directions will be provided. If you are interested, please contact Jessica Allen at (847) 234-8456, or Liz Bradner at (847) 433-3139.

Christian IDEAS

A SMALL GROUP MINISTRY DEVOTED TO READING & DISCUSSING CLASSIC WORKS ADDRESSING BASIC ISSUES OF THE CHRISTIAN FAITH

discussing classic works of Christian thought. This month's works include Milton's *Paradise Lost* and a pair of stories by Edgar Allen Poe. The group meets Tuesday evenings at 7:00 in the Parish House. Newcomers and visitors are welcome. See the adult education web site for more details at www.firstchurchlf.org/adult.

For further information, contact Kevin Warnke at warnkek@sbcglobal.net or (847) 615-2002 (evenings)

Staff Changes, as does life

Gay Webb, administrative assistant to Reverend Christine Chakoian, and her husband Bill leave April 1 for an extended stay in

Dubai. Gay's presence has been a gift to the staff and congregation of First Church and she will be missed. Gay has promised to keep in touch. We offer the Webbs our prayers as they begin this next stimulating phase of life.

Beth Gillies has become Pastor Chakoian's administrative assistant, effective immediately and will continue the successful ministry modeled by Gay Webb.

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Holy Week

The heart of the experience

the depth... Palm Sunday ... April 1 9:00 & 11:00 AM
"The Cry of the Whole Congregation" by Walter Wangerin
THE STORY OF CHRIST'S PASSION TOLD IN SCRIPTURE, STORY,
SONG, DANCE AND CONGREGATIONAL PARTICIPATION,
INCLUDING THE CELEBRATION OF THE LORD'S SUPPER.

the drama... Maundy Thursday ... April 5 7:30 PM
Communion & Tenebrae
Music by the Sanctuary Choir

the power... Good Friday ... April 6 Noon through 8:00 PM
Opening Worship & Stations of the Cross
WE INVITE YOU TO EXPERIENCE THE PASSION OF JESUS' LAST DAYS.
THE SENIOR HIGH YOUTH WILL PRESENT SEVEN
STATIONS OF THE CROSS, AN EXPERIENTIAL WORSHIP SETTING.
JOIN US IN THE SANCTUARY BETWEEN NOON AND 8:00PM FOR
PERSONAL DEVOTION AT THE STATIONS.

the presence... Easter Festival Celebration... April 8
7:00 AM Youth Music Ministry
9:00 & 11:00 AM Sanctuary Choir,
Children's Choirs, Brass Quartet

PW Book *reach out*
Review &
bring a friend!



**Barbara
Rinella**

will be our guest on

Tuesday, April 17
at 10:00 AM
in Fellowship Hall

Continental Breakfast
from 9:00-10:00 AM

Reservations by April 14 please.
Call Kerry Spera at (847) 234-6250.
Cost is \$5.00.