



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

PROCLAIMING CHRIST'S MESSAGE  
PROVIDING A COMMUNITY OF SPIRITUAL NURTURE  
PROMOTING GOD'S VISION OF JUSTICE

} These are the  
**THREE GREAT ENDS**  
that drive what we do here.

WHAT ARE SOME WAYS WE WILL LIVE THESE OUT THIS YEAR? Our worship series *Stories We Can't Live Without* begins in September. We will spend a year looking at some of the major stories from Scripture. Maybe you've heard these stories a thousand times. Maybe there will be some you have never heard before. Perhaps you will hear them differently now. It should be an exciting year in worship.

We are also creating opportunities for small groups of people to come together, to discuss these stories and how they affect our understanding of who God is, and how God is working in our lives.

*"But I don't know anything about the Bible." "I could never stand up and talk about that stuff." "I just choose to live my faith."*

These are a few reasons people might use to not participate in a small group. I understand people have different gifts, and I respect people who go about their lives without calling attention to the good things they are doing. I also understand this could be a new experience for some people. We want to know what we are doing, and new experiences take that luxury away from us. But I believe this is worth the risk.

When God goes to work on us we need to figure out what that means. Sometimes that's hard to do alone. These groups will provide opportunities for people to connect with one another and with God.

*You will learn about the Bible. You will find that you can talk about this stuff. You may even discover new ways to live your faith.*

Proclaiming Christ's message is not always about the pulpit, going door-to-door, or standing on Michigan Avenue with sandwich boards. We proclaim Christ's message in groups around a table. Providing a Community of spiritual nurture: small groups do nothing if they don't do that. Promoting God's vision of justice? Who knows what ideas could come out of your small group?

Reverend Patrick Day

## Choir Tour to Italy Ends on High Note

The Sanctuary Choir directed by Thomas Tropp and Lakemister Ringers directed by Nancy Orbison of the First Presbyterian Church of Lake Forest, Jill Hunt Music Director, recently returned from a ten day choir and handbell tour as part of the American Celebration of Music in Italy. Choral pieces sung by the choir were composed by American musicians during the last two centuries. The church sends the choirs out on tour every three to four years to carry the gospel message.

On Sunday, July 1, the Sanctuary Choir sang at the 9:00<sup>AM</sup> mass in St. Peter's Basilica in the Vatican.

The choir was warmly welcomed, invited to take the communion sacrament, and were applauded at the end of the mass.

Choir President and baritone, Roger Burgis [pictured], sang a solo during *Every Time I Feel the Spirit*. This service was a witness to the ecumenical spirit that is truly alive and strong in the Vatican, as it is in Lake Forest. In addition to the mass at St. Peter's Basilica, the choir participated in mass at St. Caterina Chapel in Assisi.

Four evening concerts were also performed by the Sanctuary Choir and Lakemister Ringers, an 11-member handbell choir.

They performed in Rome, Florence, Treviso and Como. Soloists were Gail Beckman, Roger Burgis, Chuck Kraemer, Lynda Kraemer and Elizabeth Weismehl. The bells delighted the concert goers who were intrigued with how the bells work and the variety of tones.

Both choirs were graciously welcomed and much appreciated at each concert. A heartwarming welcome was received at the last concert in Como. People were standing at the back for lack of enough seating and were enthusiastic in appreciation as the concert ended.





*But second, I think small groups are the most effective way for us to grow in faith. When we learn Scripture together and explore what it means for us today, the Bible really comes alive. We question assumptions, share insights, discover connections better together than we do alone. We also begin to see the love of God at work in ourselves and in each other.*

*Fall may feel a long way off. But I hope that you'll include Small Groups in your plans. I think you'll find that you'll get far more out of it than you put in ... which is so often the case in God's hands.*

*Every blessing,* 

Dear friends,

*In the dog-days of summer, planning for fall may be the last thing on your mind. I don't want to load up your calendar now ... but I do want to entice you to consider one opportunity that's coming up: Small Group Bible study.*

*Why do I think you should try this out?*

*First, because I think it's crucial that we all become familiar with the Bible. Our sermon series, **Stories We Can't Live Without**, aims to help with that. But the fact is that no matter how moving, educational, or inspiring a sermon series might be, it will never be enough.*



## The Associate Pastor Nominating Committee introduces the Reverend Corey A. Nelson candidate for Associate Pastor of Mission



Our committee was given the task of finding an Associate Pastor for Mission searching for someone with mission experience, enthusiasm, vision as well as being able to provide spiritual nourishment to the congregation. We feel that **The Reverend Corey A. Nelson** has the unique talents and experience to succeed in leading our church on its mission journey.

The APNC has had a journey of its own in our search for Corey. We were guided in our process by Pastors Chakoian and Dempsey as well as from Jill Paulsen, representing the Presbytery of Chicago. We have been meeting regularly [sometimes several nights during a week] reviewing Personal Information Forms, meeting and interviewing candidates from around the country by phone and in person. The committee grew in its understanding of each other as well as the qualities that we were seeking.

The committee felt Corey brings many gifts to us and took special note of his:

- ❖ strong background in mission at the local, national and international levels
- ❖ strong intellect and quick sense of humor
- ❖ ability to develop our church's long term goal of becoming a "missional church"
- ❖ creative worship leadership
- ❖ pastoral care within the congregation

Corey will be joining our congregation in September and will preach in worship on **Sunday, August 19 at 10:00AM.**

A Congregational Meeting will be held immediately after worship to vote on the call. We hope that you will be there with us to meet Corey at a reception following worship.

With blessings,

**Associate Pastor Nominating Committee**  
*Diane Conklin, Dave Grinnell, Sarah Gunderson, John Johnson, Laura Johnson, Stewart Kerr and Frank Sibley*



**First Presbyterian Church** of Lake Forest  
 847-234-6250

**SUNDAY, AUGUST 5**  
 18TH SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME  
**10:00AM Worship**

*Sabbath in Sacrament*  
 Guest preacher  
 Reverend Karen Chakoian

**Lectionary:** Hosea 11:1-11  
 Psalm 107:1-9, 43  
 Colossians 3:1-11  
 Luke 12:13-21

**SUNDAY, AUGUST 12**  
 19TH SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME  
**10:00AM Worship**

*Sabbath in Stories*  
 Reverend Patrick Day

**Lectionary:** Isaiah 1: 1, 10-20  
 Psalm 50:1-8, 22-23  
 Hebrews 11:1-3, 8-16  
 Luke 12:32-40

**SUNDAY, AUGUST 19**  
 20TH SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME  
**10:00AM Worship**

*Candidating Sermon*  
 Reverend Corey A. Nelson

**Lectionary:** Isaiah 5:1-7  
 Psalm 80:1-2, 8-19  
 Hebrews 11:29-12:2  
 Luke 12:49-56

## IN MINISTRY TOGETHER

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

Associate Executive Pastor  
**Rev. Dr. Don Dempsey**  
 ddempsey@firstchurchlf.org

Associate Pastor **Rev. Patrick Day**  
 pday@firstchurchlf.org

Parish Associate **Rev. Kent Kinney**  
 kkinney@firstchurchlf.org

Children's Ministry **Donna Birney**  
 dbirney@firstchurchlf.org

Director of Youth Ministries **Kristie Finley**  
 kfinley@firstchurchlf.org

Director of Music/Organist **Jill Hunt**  
 jhunt@firstchurchlf.org

Director of Sanctuary Choir **Thomas Tropp Jr.**  
 ttropp@firstchurchlf.org

Director of Children's Choirs **Elizabeth Weismehl**  
 eweismehl@firstchurchlf.org

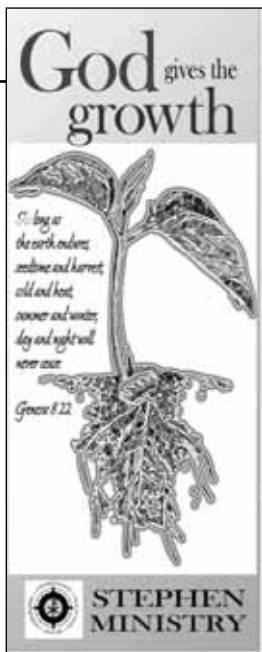
Director of Youth Music Ministry **Lesley Byers**  
 lbyers@firstchurchlf.org

Preschool Director **Ruth Luke**  
 preschool@firstchurchlf.org

Church Business Manager **Herb Smyers**  
 hsmyers@firstchurchlf.org

Church website **www.firstchurchlf.org**

# PROCLAIM CHRIST'S MESSAGE



To learn more and obtain an application for the upcoming **STEPHEN MINISTRY** class, call Donna Birney at (847) 234-6250.

A new training CLASS is NOW FORMING FOR the FALL of 2007.

## SENIOR HIGH YOUTH ACTIVITIES for Fall at First Church

### Sunday Mornings

9:00 and 11:00 Worship begins  
September 9 for everyone

### Confirmation

7:00 to 8:15 PM starting September 16,  
Sundays in Small Groups for 9th graders  
- anyone older than freshman who have not  
been confirmed are invited

### Youth Music Ministry

5:30 - 6:30 PM Sundays starting August 26  
Everyone who plays an instrument -  
electric or acoustic guitar, percussion,  
strings, brass, any instrument, those of you  
who like to sing, or any of you who do not  
sing or play an instrument but love music,  
join us Sundays before Youth Group.

### Sunday Evenings

7:00 - 8:15 PM starting August 26  
**Senior High Youth Group**  
Join us in Fellowship Hall for fun,  
fellowship and service.  
Study will take place in small groups.

Any questions contact Kristie at  
(847) 234-6250 or kfinley@firstchurchlf.org

## CHRISTIAN PERSPECTIVES: Sharing Sabbath Time on Thursday Afternoons

### The small group ministry, Christian Perspectives

welcomed Reverend Christine Chakoian for a return visit to facilitate discussion of Barbara Brown Taylor's recent book, *Leaving Church*\*. She selected the book because the author is a favorite among her own Moveable Feast pastor's study group; referred to so often in fact that the author is shorthanded as simply BBT. The refreshing realization that others share an affinity for talking about our spiritual selves draws this small group together in the Parish House on Thursday afternoons. Brown's chronicle of her personal faith journey and subsequent exit from pastoral ministry provided the groundwork for three gatherings in which Reverend Chakoian challenged participants to apply the author's hard-won insights to our own lives and experiences at First Church. *Leaving Church* opened a revealing window on one pastor's experience in church leadership and provided ample fodder for lively discussions of concepts including: the priesthood of all believers, how we 'do church', prioritizing faith and mission goals, understanding a church's 'DNA', and who ministers to the ministers, to name but a few.



Christian Perspectives is an ongoing effort to set aside what author, Wayne Mueller describes as "*Sabbath time; rest, renewal and delight for our busy lives.*" Last summer Reverend Chakoian led a series of Christian Perspective discussions on Mueller's book, *Sabbath* which helped to explain the concept of sacred time and provide strategies for expanding it beyond one hour of Sunday morning worship. This small group combines discussion of theological ideas with moments that intentionally name our experiences, memories, and sensations of faith. Thinking about our lives spiritually through the process of thoughtful discussion with others results in growth in understanding of what is personally meaningful and being part of a caring community. The delight occurs when authentic self reflection results in rueful shared laughter which happens often.

Some of the outgrowths of this small group ministry (nicknamed, "CP") include:

- |   |  |
|---|--|
| <i>Friendship</i>   | <i>Personal spiritual growth and renewal</i> |
| <i>Prayer support</i>   | <i>Encouragement and personal insights</i>   |
| <i>Christian life skills</i>                                      | <i>Intergenerational fellowship</i>          |
| <i>Desire for continuous learning</i>                             | <i>Ever-widening personal reading lists</i>  |
| <i>Listening to and witnessing each other's spiritual growth.</i> |  |

Some have noted that their experience in Christian Perspectives has helped connect the 'why' of Sunday morning's worship message with the 'how-to' of following Christ in their daily walk. These mini epiphanies occur in the midst of discussing the reading selections, non-judgmental witnessing and acceptance of differing opinions and most memorably, laughter.


"I enjoy Christian Perspectives for so many reasons! In addition to getting to know amazing women whom I might not otherwise know, I learn so much from the open and honest discussions sparked by the books we read." Beth Mynhier

Christian Perspectives is currently on summer recess and will reconvene in September. The 2007-08 reading selections (both fiction and non-fiction) will be inspired by the upcoming yearlong sermon series, **Bible Stories We Can't Live Without.** For information - contact co-facilitators, Susan Peet (sbpeet@comcast.net) or Jeanne Lane (cestchoc@aol.com).

\*For detailed summaries of Reverend Chakoian's three sessions facilitating, *Leaving Church*, go to the church website: [http://firstchurchlf.org/adult/adult.html#small\\_groups](http://firstchurchlf.org/adult/adult.html#small_groups).

**AUGUST 1, 2007**  
FAITH CONNECTIONS  
IS PUBLISHED TWICE MONTHLY.  
SUBMISSION DUE DATES  
ARE THE 1ST & 15TH  
OF EACH MONTH.  
SUMMER WORSHIP  
SUNDAYS AT 10:00AM

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RECOGNIZING  
THE POWER  
OF CHRIST  
TO  
TRANSFORM  
LIVES

THE CORE MISSION  
OF FIRST CHURCH

PROCLAIM  
CHRIST'S  
MESSAGE

PROVIDE A  
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## HELP US SAY IT WITH FLOWERS

Help us say it with flowers: happy birthday, welcome home from the hospital, we're sorry you are ill, the church family is thinking of you, you're celebrating a birth...and on and on. The Deacons' flower ministry has grown to include deliveries to church members and friends at home in addition to deliveries to shut-ins.

The Flower Delivery Ministry is part of the congregational care of the Board of Deacons and the deacons rely on the congregation to help them carry out their vital role of care, as modeled by our Lord and Savior, Jesus Christ.

The Flower Delivery Ministry has been organized by quarter, so each minister delivers flowers three times during one quarter of the year. A brief training session is provided to help each minister feel comfortable in his/her role. Couples may visit together and children may go along on visits.

We ask that you consider participating in this ministry. We can use you any quarter during the year, but we are looking especially for additional ministers during the quarter of January, February and March 2008 and also April, May, and June 2008. For additional information, call Donna Birney [847] 234-6250, Deacon Sue Barkhausen [847] 234-5925, or Deacon Betty Plum [847] 295-6242. Help us say it with flowers!!