



First Presbyterian
Church of Lake Forest
www.firstchurchlf.org

700 N. Sheridan Road
Lake Forest, IL 60045

847.234.6250 fax 847.234.6283

August 15, 2007
Volume VII, N^o 16

Faith CONNECTIONS

Have you wanted to satisfy your thirst for faith but find the logistics challenging? **Small Groups** are being formed with a wide variety of schedules.

Have you felt challenged to know more about the Bible but found it too big to tackle? **Small Groups** will explore in more depth the **"Bible Stories We Can't Live Without"** this year in worship ... an introduction to the whole sweep of the Scripture's message.

Have you sometimes felt that 'there's your life...and then there's church'? **Small Groups** offer real-time opportunities to "sync-up" our faith with our daily lives with people who are facing very similar challenges.

Have you yearned for rest and renewal? **Small Groups** offer the steady circle of Christian fellowship without asking us to roll up our sleeves ... a respite from our full volunteer, work and family responsibilities.

Have you sought ways to strengthen your own faith ... and our congregation's life? **Small Groups** are a necessity and a gift in a large congregation like ours. It is impossible to know everyone. But within the structure of small groups, every participant has the opportunity to explore God's Word in community, to grow spiritually, to deepen their relationship with Jesus Christ, and to share in the joy of knowing each other.

Aren't there already Small Groups in our church? **Small Groups** have been thriving at First Church ... which shows how valuable the experience is. **Small Groups** that have been active for years include *Christian Perspectives, Women's Wednesday Worship, Friday Men's Group, Book Discussion, Circle III, Christian Ideas, Sunday Morning Bible Study, and the Sunday Men's Discussion Group.* The people who have participated in these groups know how rich their involvement has been, and hope that many others will experience **Small Groups** too.

WHO

Everyone is encouraged to participate in a **Small Group**. Anyone currently active in a **Small Group** is encouraged to continue, and/or to sign up for a newly forming group. New **Small Groups** will be formed based on interests. Some will be intentionally diverse; others will focus on empty nesters, preschool parents, men in their 30 's, grandparents, parents of teenagers, singles, couples without children, all women, all men, ... the possibilities are endless!

WHAT

A typical **Small Group** meeting lasts 1 ½ hours. That time includes fellowship, study, and sharing. The curriculum, written by Rev. Patrick Day, is based on the same **"Bible Stories We Can't Live Without"** explored each Sunday from the pulpit, but allows us to ask questions and take the stories deeper than a 20-minute sermon can go.

WHEN & WHERE

Small Groups of 8 to 12 people meet once a week. The first session begins the week of **September 16** and ends at the beginning of Advent, right after Thanksgiving. Groups meet in homes or at church or at another mutually agreed upon location. The exact day, time and place of meeting is determined by the individuals within each **Small Group**.

HOW

Registration forms are available on the web at www.firstchurchlf.org, in this newsletter and in the church office.

LEADERS

Leaders are being recruited from the congregation.

If you have an interest in leading a **Small Group**,

contact Reverend Day at pday@firstchurchlf.org.

Training for leaders will be held on Thursday, **September 6** from 7- 8:30 PM and repeated on Friday, **September 7** from 9 - 10:30 AM

You need only attend one training and will be equipped with the tools you need to begin an effective ministry & receive ongoing support as your **Small Group** continues.



First Presbyterian Church of Lake Forest
847-234-6250

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

Candidating Sermon
Reverend Corey A. Nelson
Summer Choir
Congregation Meeting

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

SUNDAY, AUGUST 26
21ST SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME
10:00AM Worship

Reverend Dr. Don Dempsey
Summer Choir

Lectionary: Jeremiah 1: 4-10
Psalm 71: 1-6
Hebrews 12: 18-29
Luke 13: 10-17

SUNDAY, SEPTEMBER 2
22ND SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME
10:00AM Worship

Reverend Patrick Day

Lectionary: Jeremiah 2: 4-13
Psalm 81: 1-10
Hebrews 13: 1-8, 15-16
Luke 14: 1, 7-14

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

Dear friends,

One of the things that has deeply impressed me in my two years here is First Church's dedication to mission and service. I am so pleased that Corey Nelson, our candidate for Associate Pastor for Mission, will be starting here this fall. The rumor is that I recruited him from my church in Clarendon Hills. Not so! Corey and I didn't overlap in our work together, and I really didn't know him. But I am delighted with the APNC's choice; he is going to bring tremendous creativity and energy to our mission efforts.

But I also recognize that our church has a tendency to focus on mission at the expense of our spiritual renewal. I'm reminded of the story of Martha and Mary: When Jesus goes to their home for dinner, Mary sits at the Lord's feet and listens to him, Martha is distracted by her many tasks. When Martha complains, Jesus replies, "Martha, you are worried and distracted by many things; there is need of only one thing. Mary has chosen the better part, which will not be taken away from her."

One of my favorite teachers, Tom Long, writes:

"Martha, preparing that meal of hospitality, is doing a good thing - a necessary thing - an act of service - but if we try to do this kind of service apart from the life-giving Word of the gospel, ... it will distract us and finally wear us down. Mary has chosen to listen to the Word. Jesus, the living Word, is present, right in her house, and if she is going to love God and love neighbor, if she is going to show hospitality to the stranger and care for the lost, then everything depends on hearing and trusting that word."

Studying Scripture doesn't come at the expense of service ... it deepens our commitment to service. Knowing the Bible doesn't steal time away from mission ... it reminds us of God's passion for those in need. That is why, when I first came here, I told you I would do anything to lead you in Bible study. I'm making good on my promise: this year, worship and preaching will be bringing the whole sweep of Scripture, from Genesis to Revelation, to you. Then, to bring those stories home and make connections, I'm urging everyone to join a small group Bible study. The first Bible study series will take place for 12-weeks beginning the week of September 16. Registration is available in *Faith Connections* at www.firstchurchlf.org and at the hospitality desk. See the article on the front page for more information.

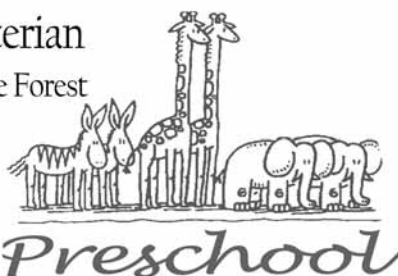


I am utterly convinced that our faith and our mission depends on this: hearing and trusting God's Word ... the living Word, that gives us life itself.

Every blessing,

Christine Chakoian

First Presbyterian Church of Lake Forest



The First Presbyterian Church Preschool

currently has openings in the Discovery class for the 2007-2008 school year. The Discovery class is held on Tuesdays and Thursdays from 9:00 to 11:30 am.

Children entering Discovery must be 3 years old by September 1, 2007.

PROCLAIM CHRIST'S MESSAGE

"It is good to praise the Lord and make music to your name, O Most High!"

Psalm 92

THERE ARE MANY OPPORTUNITIES FOR YOU TO MAKE MUSIC FOR THE LORD AT FIRST PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH THIS FALL. FOR ANYONE FROM 4 YEARS OLD THRU OUR OLDEST ADULTS, THERE ARE CHOIRS AND ENSEMBLES THAT YOU CAN BE A PART OF. WITH OUR EMPHASIS ON SMALL GROUP MINISTRY THIS FALL, WHAT BETTER WAY TO BE A PART OF A SMALL GROUP THAN TO JOIN A CHOIR! OUR TALENTED AND ENTHUSIASTIC MUSIC STAFF INVITE YOU TO USE YOUR GIFTS AND "PRAISE THE LORD!"

Sing Praise to the Lord!

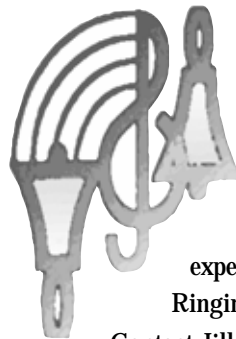
Does your child find joy in singing?

The Children's Choirs at First Church allow children to be an integral part of worship leadership by expressing their joy and spirit through song. All choirs meet on **Tuesdays beginning September 11**. Four and five year olds participate in the Cherub Choir where they sing, dance, play musical games, and experience an introduction to worship. Cherubs, who meet from 3:30-4:00 with a monthly social event, will first lead worship in the late fall. Carol Choir (grades 1-4) meets from 4:15-5:00; participants sing anthems and hymns with healthy vocal technique.

Carol Choir will join the Junior High Choir in leading worship for the first time on Sunday, September 30 at the 9:00 service! Junior High Choir (grades 5-8) meets from 5:15-6:00; singers rehearse hymns and anthems, as well as develop music reading, eartraining, and ensemble skills. Both the Carol and Junior High Choirs lead the congregation in worship on a monthly basis. I am looking forward to another wonderful year worship and joy through music and the eyes of the children. Contact Elizabeth Weismehl at eweismehl@firstchurchlf.org

HANDBELLS - Jill Hunt, Director

IF YOU DON'T WISH TO SING, WHY NOT TRY HANDBELLS!



Our Lakeminsters Ringers will continue to rehearse on Wednesdays at 5:30PM beginning September 5.

They were a great hit in Italy this summer and we look forward to hearing them in worship this fall.

Our Youth and Adult Handbell Choir (someone has got to find a better name for this group!) includes anyone from 5th grade thru adults,

experienced or totally inexperienced in ringing handbells.

Ringling handbells is too much fun to be missed!

Contact Jill Hunt at jhunt@firstchurchlf.org.



Fresh off its very successful tour of Italy, the **Sanctuary Choir**

is gearing up to return to weekly Sunday worship this fall. The choir welcomes singers of all skill levels, and focuses on leading worship through music. We have a number of exciting projects in store this year, and welcome new members to join us at any time. Summer choir will be held on August 19 and 26 - simply report at 9:00 a.m. to learn the anthem and other music for the current Sunday. This is a great way to try the choir on for size!

Regular Wednesday rehearsals will commence on August 29, and our regular Sunday cycle will begin on Rally Day, September 9.

Please feel free to contact Tom Tropp at ttropp@firstchurchlf.org with any questions.

EGGS BENEDICTION IS BACK!!

The High School youth ministry band will begin rehearsals on Sunday, **September 9**, at 5:30 PM. Their first performance will be at the **All Church Picnic on September 23** and their first church service performances will be on Sunday, October 21. Please bring your axe and join in the fun!! Eggs Benediction performs at church services and special events throughout the year. For questions and/or additional information, email Lesley Byers at LesleyPByers@aol.com.



PROVIDE A COMMUNITY OF SPIRITUAL NURTURE

Samaritan Counseling Center Seeks Board Members

The Samaritan Counseling Center, an interfaith community counseling agency with five offices located from Evanston to Lake Forest, is accepting applications for positions on its Board of Directors for three year terms beginning in September. *Body, Mind, Spirit, Community*, the SCC motto, describes its work and philosophy. The Samaritan Counseling Center provides spiritually sensitive mental health services and education for adults, children and families of all faiths-or no faith, often supplying this therapy at minimal cost to those who cannot pay the full fee. All SCC therapists are professionals, licensed by the State of Illinois with additional education and training in theology. SCC is part of the Samaritan Institute, an umbrella agency for 100 independent Samaritan Counseling Centers. The Center is also accredited by the American Association of Pastoral Counselors. The SCC Board of Directors attend monthly meetings and serve on one or more board committees. The ideal board member is committed to improving mental health, active in a religious congregation, familiar with his or her community and knowledgeable in business, education, health care, finance, marketing or fund raising. For more information, call Wendy Lane at (847) 234-7633 or Dick Sawdey at (847) 256-2996 or (312) 294-5746.

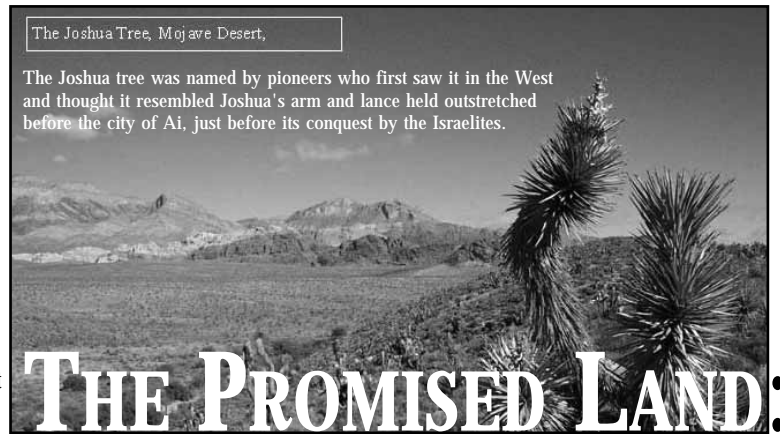
Sr.High Youth Group

Senior High Youth Group will begin Sunday August 26. We are going to expand on the Small Groups which we started last year, with fellowship and fun spread throughout. A sign up for Small Groups was sent in July. If you did not receive one, please let us know. We are looking forward to a great year of living Christ's message through worship and faith formation, the Spirit's nurture by responding to the needs and interests of young people as they connect to each other, the church, community and world while building relationships between youth and adults, and living God's justice in the world through study and service including Work Trip and ministry projects. Contact Kristie with any questions at kfinley@firstchurchlf.org.

Confirmation at First Church

We will have our annual Pot Luck Supper for the Confirmation families on Sunday September 9 to get acquainted. Confirmation begins on September 16 and will take place during our Small Group time on Sunday evenings at 7:00 to 8:15pm. The Confirmation welcome for the students and their families is Sunday September 23 at the 9:00 worship service. Confirmation registration forms went out in July, if you did not receive one contact Kristie immediately at kfinley@firstchurchlf.org.

This year-long study of Joshua, with parts of Genesis, Deuteronomy and Numbers included, will be all about



The Joshua tree was named by pioneers who first saw it in the West and thought it resembled Joshua's arm and lance held outstretched before the city of Ai, just before its conquest by the Israelites.

THE PROMISED LAND: From The Beginning

Where was it, where is it?
What was it, what is it?
What was its meaning for the people of God
in Abraham's time & what is its meaning for us now?

**ADULT
EDUCATION**

SUNDAY MORNING BIBLE STUDY

WITH ELLEN HYNDMAN

resumes September 9 between services at 10:10AM in the Parish House

To Abraham, the Lord promised: *"On that day the Lord made a covenant with Abram and said, 'To your descendants I give this land, from the river of Egypt to the great river, the Euphrates...'"* (Genesis 15:18-21)

And again, to Abraham: *"The whole land of Canaan, where you are now an alien, I will give as an everlasting possession to you and your descendants after you ..."* (Genesis 17:8)

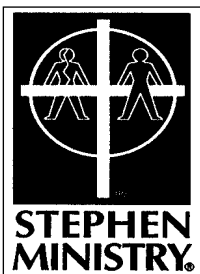
To Joshua: *"After the death of Moses the servant of the Lord, the Lord spoke to Joshua, son of Nun, Moses' aide: 'Moses my servant is dead. Now then you and all these people, get ready to cross the Jordan River into the land which I am about to give to them - to the Israelites. I will give you every place where you set your foot, as I promised Moses.'"* (Joshua 1:1-3)

To the Puritans of America in the 17th Century:
"We shall be as a City upon a Hill, the eyes of all people are upon us..."
(John Winthrop)

The Puritans who disembarked in Massachusetts in 1620 believed they were establishing the New Promised Land and its imagery figured prominently in shaping English colonial thought.

To Americans in the 20th Century:
". . . I just want to do God's will. And He's allowed me to go up to the mountain. And I've looked over. And I've seen the promised land. I may not get there with you. But I want you to know tonight, that we, as a people, will get to the promised land. And I'm happy, tonight. I'm not worried about anything. I'm not fearing any man. Mine eyes have seen the glory of the coming of the Lord."
(Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. on April 3, 1968 , the day before he was assassinated in Memphis)

PROMOTE GOD'S JUSTICE



DO YOU HEAR WHAT I HEAR?

Reflections from Ken McPheeters

The room is silent: four walls, one window, one T.V., family pictures spread out. A single bed in the corner and an occupied easy chair complete this care center scene.

In Rev. Patrick Days' recent Lenten sermon we learned that an average human has 40 million minutes of life. This room is where many spend their last 2 million minutes. What is their view? How do they feel? What do they want to talk about? This is the sector where we Stephen Ministers share our listening skills, patiently endeavoring to encourage conversation, open closed doors and spread examples of spiritual care. Reactions are diverse and unpredictable. Like the reclusive lady who refuses to converse and answers in one word responses. Your imagination suggests you try a new tack, with "what shall we talk about today?" Her checkmate response is "nothing." But all is not lost for during a later visit she blossoms forth with an effusive "Thanks" over a printed prayer card that is read and left for her to ponder.

"It's a process," you remind yourself. "It's a process..." Another gent tells his visiting daughter that he loves the Stephen Minister visits and talks but he just knows, as a Christian Scientist, that the purpose of the visit is to convert him to Presbyterianism! The joy is in the connection, not the misjudgment. These visitations are to specific folks who chose not to socialize, increasing the challenge of caregiving. Of these, several are deaf and call for unique ways of communication. Preprinted prayer cards have been a literal Godsend in reaching out to convey the message.

The great common denominator and most successful round of visits was accomplished on four legs. Our longhaired Dachshund was the hit of the care center offering abundant puppy love and receiving ten fold of soothing strokes in turn! Time stands still during these visits as we are transcended into an advanced view of our future. If and when in this position, what would you ask for? A caring friend to listen, to share your concerns, your faith, your memories? Erich Fromm, the noted psychoanalyst coined the phrase and wrote a book entitled *Listening with the Third Ear*. The method transcends mere hearing and opens up new avenues of discernment that are invaluable to learning more of the needs of the care receiver. "None are so deaf as those who would not hear," has a literal meaning in the care-giving situation, for the gentle art of listening is key to the process.

The gratitude that comes from care giving can be summed up in the reflection of a lady who offered thanks for putting her in touch with a God she had long forgotten. Mindful then is this philosophy: *"Live simply, love generously, speak kindly, and leave the rest to God."*

A new training CLASS is NOW FORMING FOR the FALL of 2007. To learn more and obtain an application for the upcoming STEPHEN MINISTRY class, call Donna Birney at (847) 234-6250.



KEN MCPHEETERS

is one of thirteen Stephen Ministers commissioned at First Church in March 2006. Each Stephen Minister brings his or her own unique set of gifts. After completion of 50 hours of training in listening skills, confidentiality and state-of-the-art caregiving techniques, he or she is matched to care receivers on the basis of those gifts, men to men and women to women.



Small Groups are forming and will begin the week of September 16. Groups will be formed by interest area. Please indicate your area of interest below. The list below is not complete so add any that you do not find!
My interest area is.....

- _____ EMPTY NESTERS
- _____ PRESCHOOL PARENTS
- _____ MEN IN THEIR 30'S
- _____ GRANDPARENTS
- _____ PARENTS OF TEENS
- _____ SINGLES
- _____ COUPLES WITHOUT CHILDREN
- _____ PARENTS OF SCHOOL AGE
- _____ EMPLOYED IN CHICAGO
- _____ SNOW BIRDS
- _____ ALL WOMEN
- _____ ALL MEN
- _____ ALL DIVERSE
- _____ EMPLOYED WOMEN
- _____ EMPLOYED MEN
- _____ EMPLOYED IN CHICAGO
- _____ RETIRED MEN
- _____ RETIRED WOMEN
- _____ OTHER (PLEASE LIST)

Name _____

Phone _____

Email _____

_____ I am willing to host a group in my home

_____ I am interested in being a small group leader

_____ I am willing to help in any way

PLEASE RETURN TO CHURCH OFFICE

AUGUST 15, 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
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THE CORE MISSION
OF FIRST CHURCH

PROCLAIM
CHRIST'S
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PROVIDE A
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&
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VISION OF
JUSTICE



What a wonderful experience the Prayer Shawl Ministry has had with the great ladies of Hope Church! *We want to thank the Ladies of Hope for all of their enthusiasm and hospitality. We got to teach about eight ladies of hope to knit; and turn the "I can't's" into "Oh, I see, now what do I do?" Everyone had expressions of great concentration and radiating warmth, everyone knit and chatted away with us. The time just flew by. What a miraculous connection God granted us.*

We hope to gather again to "cast off" and capture the younger generation's interest during summer camp. I know the Hope Ladies will succeed with their new prayer shawl ministry. All that excitement is contagious. Come join us at 1:00PM on Tuesdays in South Parlor and experience the warmth and camaraderie yourself. And remember, you need not know how to knit, we will show you!

Peggy Koschmann



First Church celebrated Lake Forest Day with a parade entry due to the efforts of elders Bill Lay and Kay Friedberg. Parts of the Gescheidle, Crawford and Lay families are pictured here. Lollipops were distributed during the parade with an invitation to the community attached. Many thanks to all who made this fun event happen!

