

# Faith CONNECTIONS

**First Church** has many existing groups that have been active for years including **Christian Perspectives, Women's Wednesday Worship, Friday Men's Group, Book Discussion, Circle III, Christian Ideas, Sunday Morning Bible Study, Men's Discussion Group.**

The people who have participated in those groups know the value they have received from their involvement. Some of the people who registered for one of the new groups ended up finding a home in one of these existing groups.

What we want for you is that you find a group to explore your faith, to reflect on the **Stories We Can't Live Without.**



## Small Groups return in January

You thought you would wait.

You thought a weekly commitment was simply too much.

**BIBLE STORIES** we can't live without  
Proclaiming Christ's Message Today



But then you heard. You talked to a friend who was in a small group. You overheard two people at fellowship hour. You started thinking you were too late.

You're not! Small groups are now forming for a January start.

We will handle registration differently this time around.

The registration form will have a list of times that groups are meeting. Simply check the one that fits with your schedule, and we will get rolling.

### WHO

- Everyone is encouraged to participate in a small group.
- Anyone currently active in an existing group is encouraged to continue with that small group and/or to sign up for a newly forming group.
- Registration forms are available on the web at [www.firstchurchlf.org](http://www.firstchurchlf.org) and at the hospitality desk in the church office.

### WHAT

- A typical small group meeting lasts 1½ hours.
- That time includes fellowship, study, sharing, and serving.
- Every group will be given a curriculum, written by Reverend Patrick Day.
- The devotional curriculum is in sync with the **Stories We Can't Live Without** that we will experience in worship.

### WHEN and WHERE

- Small groups of 8 to 12 people meet once a week.
- The next session begins the week of January 13 and ends at Easter, March 23.
- Groups meet in homes or at church or at another mutually agreed upon location.

### HOW

- Small groups will be formed based on time available to meet.  
(See registration form on the web site, [www.firstchurchlf.org](http://www.firstchurchlf.org))

IF YOU HAVE AN INTEREST IN LEADING A SMALL GROUP,  
CONTACT REVEREND DAY AT [pday@firstchurchlf.org](mailto:pday@firstchurchlf.org).

TRAINING FOR LEADERS WILL BE HELD ON Thursday, January 10 from 7 - 8:30 p.m.  
and repeated on Friday, January 11 from 9 - 10:30 a.m.

*You will be equipped with the tools you need to begin an effective ministry  
and you will be supported as your small group ministry continues.*



Dear friends,

We take for granted that the church is part of our Christmas season. But how many of our neighbors and friends don't have a congregation they can call home?

While we never accost people with unwanted evangelism, neither do we want to leave people out in the cold when they long for the warmth of spiritual fellowship.

December is such an appropriate, natural time to **reach out with an invitation:**

*"Our kids love the Advent-wreath-making party at church – would you and your kids like to join us the evening of the 2nd?"*

*"Our Women's Christmas Tea is Monday night the 10th. I'd like you to be my guest."*

*"Sunday the 9th, our choir is performing a gorgeous cantata. I know you love music – why don't you come?"*

*"Do you have anywhere to worship Christmas Eve? We'd love to have you sit with us."*

There's no place like home for the holidays.

This Christmas, **the most important Christmas gift you may give is to help someone you know find their way home ... home to God's welcoming house.**

Every Blessing, *Christine Chakoian*



Pledge Dedication Sunday was celebrated in worship on November 18 as we were reminded that God is the source of all goodness, grace, wisdom, patience and love.

An additional 50 pledges were received on Pledge Sunday raising the amount pledged to 67.7% of budget goal which is \$2,109,000.

Your Stewardship Committee says "Thank you" to everyone who has presented their pledge for 2008.

If you have not yet submitted your pledge, it is not too late! Please prayerfully consider what you will give and submit your pledge. Cards are available in the pew racks, the office and on the name tag tables.

"From everyone to whom much has been given, much will be required." Luke 12: 48

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

### SUNDAY, DECEMBER 2

1ST SUNDAY IN ADVENT

**9:00 & 11:00AM Worship**

*Reverend Christine Chakoian  
Children's Choirs, Sanctuary  
Choir and Bells at 9:00 & 11:00  
Advent wreath lighting*

**Isaiah 58  
Malachi 3**

### SUNDAY, DECEMBER 9

2ND SUNDAY IN ADVENT

**9:00 & 11:00AM Worship**

*Reverend Christine Chakoian  
Sanctuary Choir at 9:00 & 11:00  
Wundy City Brass at 9:00 & 11:00  
Advent wreath lighting*

**Isaiah 11: 1-10  
Psalm 72: 1-7, 18-19  
Romans 15: 4-13  
Matthew 3: 1-12**

### 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
  - Associate Pastor **Rev. Corey Nelson**  
cnelson@firstchurchlf.org
  - Parish Associate **Rev. Kent Kinney**  
kkinney@firstchurchlf.org
  - Director of Youth Ministries **Kristie Finley**  
kfinley@firstchurchlf.org
  - Director of Children's Ministries **Amy Pagliarella**  
apagliarella@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
  - Dir. of Communications **Donna Birney**  
dbirney@firstchurchlf.org
  - Church Business Manager **Herb Smyers**  
hsmyers@firstchurchlf.org
- Church website [www.firstchurchlf.org](http://www.firstchurchlf.org)

# PROCLAIM CHRIST'S MESSAGE

The Sanctuary Choir will present its traditional **Advent music program** on December 9.



This year's musical offering is a truly special one. Samuel Sebastian Wesley's (1810-1876) *The Wilderness and the Solitary Place* was written to inaugurate the newly rebuilt organ at Hereford Cathedral in 1831. The piece, originally scored for choir, soloists, and organ, was later orchestrated by the composer for use in the Birmingham Choral Festival of 1852 (at the encouragement of his close colleagues Felix Mendelssohn and Louis Spohr). We will present the work in its original format, accompanied by the organ.

Wesley has been referred to as the "saviour of English cathedral music," as his compositions and essays continuously challenged composers, music directors, and clergy to meet the highest musical standards, despite a steady decline in the popularity and support for cathedral music programs throughout the middle of the 19th century. *The Wilderness*, a setting of Isaiah 35, heavily relies on the opulent musical language of the mid-nineteenth century, but also shows an abundance of originality and inspiration that was rare at this period of English musical history.

The five movements, making notable use of solo voices in isolation and ensemble rather in the manner of choral concerto, cover a wide range of

style and emotion. As could be anticipated, there is an important - and rather difficult - score for the organ. After all, the piece was written by England's preeminent organist to dedicate a new organ!

Rounding out the program on December 9, the choir will present two smaller-scale anthems of Wesley. *O Lord, my God*, subtitled "Solomon's Prayer," and Wesley's masterpiece *Thou Wilt Keep Him in Perfect Peace* will provide bookends to the service. In addition, our resident brass quintet, the Windy City Brass, will be on hand to provide some color to the prelude and offertory.

## In Fall Session Meetings, elders...

- ✦ grew spiritually in small groups while discussing the stories of the Bible highlighted in worship
- ✦ heard that staff is discussing governance issues, including how to make meetings more effective; phase 1 of our Audio Visual plan is being implemented
- ✦ approved baptism, communion dates and all church fundraisers for 2007-2008
- ✦ set dates for stewardship with Pledge Sunday on November 18
- ✦ devised strategies to engage more people in worship and small groups;
- ✦ heard preliminary plans for the sesquicentennial (150th) in spring 2009;
- ✦ shared joys and concerns

## O Come Let Us Adore Him

This is a wonderful opportunity for our children and youth to lead the congregation in retelling the Christmas Story. Please participate if you can - no experience is required. Enjoy the unfolding drama with your family.

**Please be a part of this year's Christmas Pageant!**

We are looking for children age three and older to play the roles of angels, sheep, and shepherds in the **annual Christmas Pageant**.

Pageant Date.....**Sunday, December 16 at 9:00<sup>AM</sup>** service

***Families, participating children must attend the following:***

Costume Pick Up..Tuesday, December 11 OR Wednesday, December 12  
3:30-5:00<sup>PM</sup> 11:30<sup>AM</sup>-12:30<sup>PM</sup>  
First come, first served!

Rehearsal.....Saturday, December 15, 9:00-10:00<sup>AM</sup> Sanctuary  
This is a mandatory practice for all pageant participants

Pageant..... Sunday, December 16 at 9:00<sup>AM</sup> service  
Participants should arrive by 8:30<sup>AM</sup> in costume

Call with questions - Tiffany Notz at (847) 295-1810 or Amy Pagliarella at (847) 234-6250



# PROCLAIM CHRIST'S MESSAGE

## STEPHEN MINISTRY

On Saturday, Oct. 27 First Church hosted a **Caring Ministry Workshop** presented by Stephen Ministries St. Louis. Stephen Ministries St. Louis is the not-for-profit religious and educational parent organization of First Church's Stephen Ministry program. More than 9,000 congregations have enrolled in Stephen Ministries representing more than 150 Christian denominations, in all 50 states, 10 Canadian provinces, and 21 other countries where Stephen Ministers walk alongside their neighbors who are going through difficult times. About 50 participants from thirteen other congregations- as close as our sister Presbyterian congregation in Wildwood, Illinois, to as far away as Friendship Church, a Baptist congregation from Prior Lake, Minnesota- gathered to hear Joel Keen, from the Pastoral staff at the Stephen Ministry Center in St. Louis, outline the benefits and sample the training techniques of the Stephen Series- as the system and materials for training and organizing laypersons are officially called.

Furthering one of First Church's goals of, Providing a Community of Spiritual Nurture, Stephen Leader, Nan Patterson coordinated the hugely successful event. Collaborating with her in this endeavor were the following members of the congregation, as well as First Church Stephen Ministers and Stephen Leaders: Mary Beidler, Donna Birney, Christine Chakorian, Stan Eaton, Joel Ferrin, Vandy Janson, Michelle Junkin, Chuck Kraemer, Lynda Kraemer, Nancy Orbison, Cesilie Price, Mary Schlott, Sue Sentell and Donna Short.

Interviews are underway for a new Stephen Ministry Training Class beginning at a date to be announced in the near future. If you would like further information or an application to join the class, call Donna Birney at (847) 234-6250. If you or someone you love could benefit from the confidential attention of one of our Stephen Ministers, call Rev. Kent Kinney at (847) 234-6250 or contact our Stephen Ministry lay Referral Coordinator, Mary Schlott, at (847) 295-1348.



## Advent Supper & Wreath Making

SUNDAY, DECEMBER 2

5:00 – 7:00<sup>PM</sup> in Fellowship Hall

BRING YOUR FAMILY AND FRIENDS AS  
WE BEGIN THE HOLY SEASON OF  
PREPARATION FOR THE BIRTH OF JESUS

ENJOY DINNER, FELLOWSHIP & WREATHMAKING

Materials will be supplied Children will enjoy a special Craft Corner

Cost: \$30 for families ... \$20 for couples ... \$10 for a single



To make your reservation contact Kerry Spera (847) 234-6250 or [kspera@firstchurchlf.org](mailto:kspera@firstchurchlf.org) Payment requested at time of registration

## Women's Ecumenical ADVENT SERVICE

Wednesday, December 5

7:00<sup>PM</sup> at the First Presbyterian Church of Libertyville

Reverends Kathy Bostrom and Amy Heinrich officiating  
Alison Attar virtuoso harpist

BEGIN YOUR ADVENT JOURNEY  
CENTERED IN PRAYER  
AND QUIET REFLECTION

Contact Reverend Amy Heinrich (847) 362-2174

## IN MEMORIAM

*Virginia L. Swanton* died on November 12, 2007. Virginia joined the church in 1950. As an ordained deacon, she represented the Career Resource Center and highly respected their mission. She will be missed by her brother Don, his wife Peg and their children Anne, Elizabeth, Susan and Robert. A memorial service was held in the chapel on November 17, 2007, Reverend Kent Kinney officiating.

*Glen L. Estle* died on November 14, 2007. Mr. Estle joined the church in 1987. His sense of justice was shared with the Issues committee of Session. He will be missed by his wife, Margaret and their daughters Susan and Carolyn. A memorial service was held in the chapel on November 17, 2007, Reverend Kent Kinney officiating.

## BIRTH

*Tess Elizabeth Uihlein* was born on November 9, 2007 to Karen and Brian Uihlein. She joins her brothers Mac, Brock and Logan and proud grandparents Dorothy and Art Chantler.

*Charles Francis Dugger* was born November 17, 2007 to Julie (Kreischer) and Dan Dugger, granddaughter of Millicent Kreischer and 10th great gandchild, and 8th boy in a row!

## THANK YOU!

*To the First Presbyterian Church, its staff and its members:*

*I want to thank you all for your prayers and for all you have done for me. The church means everything to me.*

*Sincerely,  
Margaret Berg, 43 year member  
Living at Westmoreland*

# PROCLAIM CHRIST'S MESSAGE

## First Church Welcomes Chinese Delegation November 2 - 4

First Church recently hosted six representatives of the Chinese Christian community: Rev. Xinyi AN, Rev. Keyun ZHANG, Rev. Jiemiao HE, Rev. Mrs. Jing Fang FAN, Mr. Guang Yu LOU, and Mr. Huating LI. During their first day in Chicago, the delegation traveled to McCormick Seminary in Hyde Park, where they met with Rev. Dr. David Esterline, Dean of the Faculty and Vice President for Academic Affairs and Rev. Dr. Cynthia Campbell, President of the Seminary. Afterwards, a tour was arranged of Chicago attractions followed by a dinner reception at the Bayer's home. Twenty guests joined in for both the meal and a presentation by Rev. AN.



On Sunday, the Chinese delegation attended both the 9:00 and 11:00 services. At both services, Rev. AN delivered a greeting from Chinese Christians to First Church, with translation provided by Mr. Lou. Rev. AN shared the compelling story of a his country's church growing at an exponential rate (1.8 million Christians in the Jiangsu province alone) and the challenge of the church to develop leadership (only 35 ordained ministers in the same province). Rev. AN also presented a beautiful wall hanging to our church which now hangs in the hallway outside of the main office.



A more formal presentation was given between services in the South Parlor. The vibrant results of 100 years of mission and ministry alongside the Chinese people was evident as we learned about the breadth of their church's growth and the depth of their faithfulness. World Mission continues to be an important part of our church's core mission of bringing justice to all of God's people.

Special thanks also to everyone who helped make this a successful and memorable weekend for all: including, Steve McFarlan, Rev. Corey Nelson, Wendy Wieggers, Tracy Putnam & Nina Strand, Jon & Sharon Bayer, Addie & Harold Morrison and Carla Wyckoff, just to name a few.

## Christmas Decorations

A wonderful tradition at First Church is giving in memory or honor of a loved one at Christmas. Monies collected are used to decorate the sanctuary for the Advent and Christmas seasons.

Ushers have envelopes and they are in the pew racks, the office and on the name tag tables in the halls.

**Please print clearly** on the envelope for whom the flowers are given and from whom.

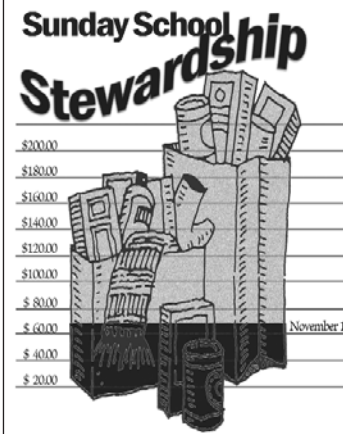
Place it in the offering plate or return it to the church office no later than Wednesday,

December 19.

The names of your loved ones will be listed in all the Christmas Eve bulletins. Thank you for your generosity of spirit and giving.

## Children's Stewardship IS UNDERWAY

The Sunday School is raising \$200 to help fund their **January mission project** to prepare lunches for PADS, the soup kitchen supported by local churches. This is just the beginning of a new stewardship emphasis for children.



Sunday School is raising money to buy food for PADS

Children - be a part of the Sunday School's giving!  
All money raised by the end of 2007 goes to purchase food to cook and serve during our January Mission Unit at PADS

Beginning on Stewardship Campaign's Pledge Dedication Sunday, November 18, the children began passing the collection plate during their community time. They are learning to sing the doxology and to give thanks to God for their offerings each week. Families are encouraged to speak about Stewardship with their children and to encourage kids to set aside a portion of their own allowance or chore money for giving.



Christmas Tea 2007

## "At the Manger"

Sponsored by the Board of Deacons



**Celebrate** the joys of the season on **Monday, December 10** at 7:00 p.m. at the Women's Christmas Tea sponsored by the Board of Deacons. Fellowship Hall will be transformed to make you feel **At The Manger** where you will enjoy the sounds of the season, delicious tea and volunteer made cookies, and an inspirational message from Christine.

This year's Tea **benefits The Boys and Girls Club of Lake County**. In lieu of admission, a donation to support The Boys and Girls Club would help spread the holiday spirit. Clothes or toys for children, club facility necessities or food donations for The Boys and Girls Club holiday dinner on December 13, are wonderful thoughts for donations. A complete "wish list" will be provided when you register for the event. Sign up between services on Sundays or call Kerry (847) 234-6250 at the church to make a reservation. Wrapping of gifts is optional. Come enjoy holiday fellowship and celebrate this joyous time of year!

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The Core Mission of  
First Presbyterian  
Church of Lake Forest

PROMOTE  
CHRIST'S  
MESSAGE

PROVIDE A  
COMMUNITY  
OF SPIRITUAL  
NURTURE

PROMOTE  
GOD'S VISION  
OF JUSTICE

## Magical Market Gift Bazaar and Cookie Walk

Come to a holiday boutique offering a wide variety of gift items, many created by local artists and the "not to be missed" Cookie Walk. Fill an empty box with cookies and your Christmas baking is complete!

Thursday, December 13  
Fellowship Hall  
9:00<sup>AM</sup> - 3:00<sup>PM</sup>

15% of all proceeds will go to benefit Reading Power, a successful local tutoring program in North Chicago. Contact Lee Gantz (847) 295-9684



## First Presbyterian Church Preschool Enrollment News

Pre-enrollment for 2008-09 began November 1, 2007. Please call Cheryl Ashley, Assistant Enrollment Chair, at (847) 482-1162 or email [cheryl.ashley@comcast.net](mailto:cheryl.ashley@comcast.net) 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 11. Completed registration materials must be post marked no later than Friday, January 18 to be in the first lottery pool.

Parent informational sessions will be held on Wednesday, December 5 at 9:15AM and Tuesday, January 8 at 12:30 PM both in the South Parlor. These sessions last approximately 45 minutes and include a PowerPoint slide show, Q & A session and Preschool tour. Childcare will be available at no charge by reservation only. Call Tracy Lundergan at (847) 295-7640 to reserve a childcare spot.

**First Presbyterian Church of Lake Forest**  
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**NOVEMBER 15, 2007**  
FAITH CONNECTIONS  
IS PUBLISHED TWICE MONTHLY.  
SEND SUBMISSIONS TO  
[publish@firstchurchil.org](mailto:publish@firstchurchil.org)  
SUBMISSION DUE DATES  
ARE THE 1ST & 15TH  
OF EACH MONTH.

**WORSHIP SUNDAYS**  
AT  
9:00 & 11:00<sup>AM</sup>  
SUNDAY SCHOOL  
AT 9:15<sup>AM</sup>