



First Presbyterian
Church of Lake Forest

Faith CONNECTIONS

PARKING FOR CHRISTMAS EVE

The Session of First Church encourages you to attend one or more of the services on Christmas Eve, Sunday, December 24. To make it as convenient as possible, parking options are available.

Two shuttle buses with professional drivers will be running continuously from 4:00 PM to 12:30 AM from the city parking lot on the corner of McKinley and Deerpath. The use of these buses throughout the fall has been a great success and we hope you will use the shuttle on Christmas Eve.

Both the Deerpath and Sheridan Road parking lots are open.

Street parking is available on Deerpath and Washington Roads.

Lake Forest College has additional parking in front of Durand Institute and on Middle Campus (first turn to the left as you head south on Sheridan Road).

Please join us! We look forward to celebrating the birth of our Savior with you on Christmas Eve!

700 N. Sheridan Road
Lake Forest, IL 60045
(847)234 6250
Fax: 234-6283

www.firstchurchlf.org

Christmas Eve services will be held on Sunday, December 24

10:00^{AM} with **Lessons and Carols** led by Reverend Christine Chakoian. The Arden family will provide special music & lead carol singing

3:00^{PM} with **communion** served by intinction led by Dr. Donald Dempsey with music solo leadership by two of our college students, McKay Wyckoff and Michael Anderson *prelude begins at 2:45*

5:00^{PM} **family service** led by Reverend Patrick Day with the children's choirs singing and featuring a prelude for flute and piano
flute and piano prelude begins at 4:45

8:00^{PM} led by Reverend Christine Chakoian and with **special music** led by Susan Noble, soprano a choral ensemble and string quartet with Selections from Handel's *Messiah*
organ and string quartet prelude begins at 7:40

11:00^{PM} led by Reverend Christine Chakoian with the **Sanctuary Choir** and a **string quartet** leading music; Special music will include *O Holy Night* sung by Kathleen Ferrin and *Christmas Day* by Gustav Holst, Sanctuary Choir, strings and organ
organ and string quartet prelude begins at 10:40

*** Please note that communion will not be served at the 11:00^{PM} service

Sunday, December 31

10:00^{AM} Worship led by Dr. Donald Dempsey; **one service only** with fellowship after the service

Dear friends,

Every year I look forward to reading Christmas cards from my far away friends. I love to catch up with the goings-on of their families, chuckle over their lame jokes, receive their sincere good tidings, and savor the joy of long-time friendships and cherished memories.



But there is one card I especially look forward to receiving every year. It is from my friend Dean Thompson and his family. Dean has been part of my "Moveable Feast" study group for many years. He has pastored churches on the West Coast and the East, and currently serves as President of Louisville Theological Seminary.

Every year without fail, Dean and Rebecca send a treasure to their friends: a quote, a poem, or a citation about Christmas that has meant so much to them, that they in turn pass on to others. I want to pass one of my favorites on to you this holy season:

*"It was into the real world that Christ came,
into the city where there was no room for Him,
and into a country where Herod, the murderer of innocents, was king.
He comes to us, not to shield us from the harshness of the world,
but to give us the courage and strength to bear it;
not to snatch us away by some miracle from the conflict of life, but to give us peace ...
His peace ... in our hearts, by which we may be calmly steadfast while the conflict rages,
and be able to bring to the torn world the healing that is peace."*

--William Temple

May the peace of Christ who comes to us this season be with you and those you love, now and always.

Every blessing,

Christine Chakoian



Floral Ministry

Prepares First Church for Advent

First Church is blessed with spectacular holiday decorations. When donations are received for the fund, they are allocated for many beautiful holiday decorations seen throughout the church.

The floral baskets that hang on main entrance doors to the church, warmly welcoming members and guests, are provided by the funds. Urns of flowers on the sanctuary stairs, the Christmas trees, garland, and silk arrangements in the sanctuary, Fellowship Hall and South Parlor were all made possible by the Flower Ministry fund.

Congregation members make donations and dedications, with a provided envelope.

The dedication will be listed in the Christmas Eve bulletins. The Christmas decorations envelope is available at the church office and in the pew racks.



First Presbyterian Church of Lake Forest
847-234-6250

SUNDAY, DECEMBER 17

3RD SUNDAY OF ADVENT

9:00AM Worship

The Reverend Christine Chakoian
Youth band at 9:00 & 11:00

11:00AM Worship

The Christmas Pageant

Lectionary: Zephaniah 3: 14-20
Isaiah 12: 2-6
Philippians 4: 4-7
Luke 3: 1-18

SUNDAY, DECEMBER 24

4TH SUNDAY OF ADVENT

10:00AM Worship

Lessons and Carols

The Reverend Christine Chakoian
Please see the front page for more Christmas Eve worship times

Lectionary: Mic. 5:2-5a; Luke 1:47-55
or Ps. 80:1-7; Heb. 10:5-10;
Luke 1:39-45 (46-55)
Isa. 9:2-7; Psalm 96;
Titus 2:11-14; Luke 2:1-14 (15-20)

IN MINISTRY TOGETHER

Pastor/Head of Staff

Rev. Christine Chakoian

cchakoian@firstchurchlf.org

Executive Associate Pastor

Rev. Dr. Don Dempsey [Interim]

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

Faith Connections is published bimonthly and mailed to 1300 members and friends of **First Presbyterian Church of Lake Forest** 700 North Sheridan Road, Lake Forest, IL 60045. Submission due dates are the 1st and the 15th of every month. Submissions may be emailed (preferred method) to publish@firstchurchlf.org

2007

STEWARDSHIP

Each one of us matters to the household of God, and we grow by what we share . . .

Thank you to all who have already returned their pledge cards for 2007.

Our stewardship effort for this year is off to a good start.

To those who are still considering a pledge for 2007, thank you for your prayerful consideration. We all have much to be thankful for and in particular we are blessed by the community of faith that we share at First Church. We hope that each member of the congregation will choose to pledge in support of the on-going ministries of the church and our important new ministry of family life.

There are many opportunities to share throughout the church year. Now we are asked to share through pledging our financial support. The Stewardship Committee thanks you for your past generosity and asks that if you have not already pledged this year, please send in your pledge card.

HELPFUL INFORMATION ON CHARITABLE CONTRIBUTIONS

The Pension Protection Act of 2006 permits individuals to distribute up to \$100,000 from an individual retirement account (IRA) directly to a qualified charity without recognizing the assets transferred to the qualifying charity as income. The act uses the term "qualified charitable distribution" to describe what has popularly been referred to as an IRA charitable rollover. A qualified charitable distribution is a distribution from a traditional IRA of an individual who is 70½ or older to an eligible charitable organization (such as the church). An individual may exclude up to \$100,000 from his/her gross income for each tax year for qualified charitable distributions from an IRA. As always please consult with your tax accountant/tax advisor to see if this distribution would benefit you.

Sew Much Comfort aids soldiers

As the mom of PV2 Heidi Allen, Jessica Allen has become involved in an all-volunteer organization that makes adaptive clothing for wounded soldiers. *Sew Much Comfort* was founded by Ginger Dosedel. Her 10-year-old son, Mike, has cancer. It was his idea to make adaptive clothing for the wounded soldiers, just as his mother and grandmother had been making for him over the years. Through the thoughtfulness of this young man and his family, *Sew Much Comfort* was born.

Jessica has been making adaptive clothing for this organization and is coordinating a 'sew-in' at Lake Forest High School scheduled for Saturday, February 3. She would like 20-30 people who are experienced at sewing and interested in assisting soldiers to contact her at (847) 234-8456, or Mom2gabs@aol.com. To learn more about this organization which has received a commensurate grant from the Department of Defense, go to www.sewmuchcomfort.org



END OF YEAR FINANCIAL INFO

THE CHURCH OFFICE AND BUILDING WILL BE CLOSED AT NOON ON FRIDAY, DECEMBER 22 AND 29 AND ALL DAY ON MONDAY, DECEMBER 25 AND JANUARY 1. THE ENTIRE CHURCH STAFF OFFERS YOU JOY IN THIS MOST BLESSED SEASON.

TO CREDIT YOUR CONTRIBUTIONS TO FIRST CHURCH IN THE YEAR 2006, THEY MUST BE RECEIVED BY NOON ON FRIDAY, DECEMBER 29. ANY CONTRIBUTIONS RECEIVED AFTER NOON ON DECEMBER 29 WILL BE CREDITED TO THE 2007 STATEMENT.

reaching out....gathering



OUR FAMILY OF FAITH:
Telling the Story, Following the Way

together... working for Christ

Set forth below is summary financial information for November 2006 and the year-to-date period through the end of that month. The Year-to-date loss of \$ 48,744 is under budgeted loss by \$46,529. The good news is that our expenses are held within budget, in fact below budget by \$85,411, demonstrating administrative control.

	Current MONTH	Year To Date CURRENT	Year To Date BUDGET	ANNUAL BUDGET 2006	YTD DIFFERENCE FAVORABLE (UNFAVORABLE)
TOTAL INCOME	\$232,423	\$2,018,857	\$2,057,739	\$2,405,750	\$ 386,893
TOTAL EXPENDITURES	\$107,967	\$2,067,601	\$2,153,012	\$2,405,750	\$ 338,149
NET INCOME	\$124,456	\$ (48,744)	\$ (95,273)	\$-	\$ 93,744

FIRST PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH OF LAKE FOREST FINANCIAL REPORT

Have you completed your 2007 pledge?

PROCLAIM CHRIST'S MESSAGE



**Are you carrying a new burden in your own life?
Are you caregiver to a family member or friend?
Do you want to learn more about managing your situation?**

AS PART OF ITS MISSION AT FIRST CHURCH, STEPHEN MINISTRY MAINTAINS A CAREGIVING LIBRARY, HOUSED IN THE NORTHERN NICHE OF THE SOUTH PARLOR. THE CAREGIVING LIBRARY IS EXPANDED REGULARLY TO INCLUDE PUBLISHED MATERIALS INTRODUCED AT STEPHEN MINISTRY CONTINUING EDUCATION SESSIONS. IT IS OPEN TO ALL MEMBERS OF THE FIRST CHURCH FAMILY. TITLES, A PARTIAL LISTING OF WHICH FOLLOWS, MAY BE BORROWED ON THE HONOR SYSTEM.

BOOKS

Suddenly Solo and Starving: A Survivor's Cookbook
Alberti and Emmons, *Your Perfect Right: A Guide to Assertive Living*
Bridges, *The Way of Transition: Embracing Life's Most Difficult Moments*
Guideposts, *Why Be Lonely?*
Gugel, *Cries of Faith, Songs of Hope*
Harwell, *When Your Friend Gets Cancer*
Haugk, *Christian Caregiving a Way of Life*
Haugk, *Don't Sing Songs to a Heavy Heart*
Haugk, *When & How to Use Mental Health Resources*
Hershey, *Beginning Again*
Hunter, *Helping When it Hurts*
C.S. Lewis, *The Problem of Pain*
Mace & Rabins, *The 36 Hour Day*
Maxwell, *Bedside Manners*
McKay, *Nuts & Bolts Issues for Small Group Ldrs*
McNeal, *The Present Future*
Munson, *A Guide to Comforting a Seriously Ill Friend*
Munson, *Finding Your Way Through Grief*
National Institutes of Health, *Taking Time*
Navpress, *New Testament Lesson Maker*
Paap, *Biblical Equipping: God's Word in Your World*
Peterson, *Call Me if You Need Anything and Other Things Not to Say*
Preston, *You Can Beat Depression*
Sigrist, *Journey's End: Understanding the Final Stages of the Dying Process*
Sittser, *A Grace Disguised*
Snowdon, *The Nun Study*

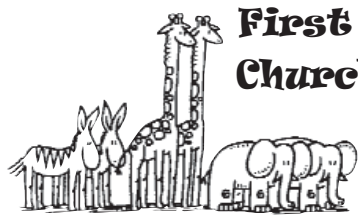
Stephen Ministries St. Louis, *Bright Ideas*
Stephen Ministries St. Louis, *What Do I Do Now?*
Strobel, *The Case for Christ*
Strobel, *The Case for Faith*
Strobel, *The Case for the Creator*
Stromman and Stromman, *Five Cries of Grief*
Tieger and Tieger, *Do What You Are:
Discover the Perfect Career through the Secrets
of Personality Type*
Tubesing and Tubesing, *The Caring Question*
Vaillant, *Aging Well*
Westborg, *Good Grief*
Wilson, *Back in Control: How to Stay Sane,
Productive and Inspired In Your Career Transitions*

VIDEOS

Facing Death (2 tape series)
Feeling the Silence: Visits without Conversation
Follow Me
Intimacy: More than a 3 Letter Word
Ministering to Suicidal Persons
Ripped Down the Middle: Finding Hope Beyond the Hurt
The Courage to Let Go

AUDIO TAPE

The Power of Prayer (Feb 2005)



First Presbyterian Church Preschool Enrollment News

Pre-enrollment for 2007-2008 began November 1, 2006. Please call Jennifer Strauss, Assistant Enrollment Chair, at (847) 735-7283 or email jennifer_strauss@medco.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.

A parent informational session will be held on

Tuesday, January 9 at 12:30 PM in South Parlor.

The session lasts approximately 45 minutes and includes a PowerPoint slide show, Q & A session and Preschool tour. Complimentary childcare is available on request.

The Christian Ideas group is exploring fundamental concepts of morality through reading and discussing classic works of Christian thought. This month's works include Darwin's *Descent of Man* (chapter 4). The group meets Tuesday evenings at 7:00PM in the Parish House. Newcomers and visitors are welcome. See the adult education web site for details at www.firstchurch1f.org/adult.

IN MEMORIAM

William (Bill) J. O. Roberts died on November 17, 2006. Mr. Roberts joined the church in 1964. Bill was ordained and served two terms on Session. He will be missed by his wife, Ann and their five children and grandchildren. A memorial service was held in the sanctuary on November 29, 2006, Pastor Kent Kinney officiating.

PROVIDE A COMMUNITY OF NURTURE

O Come All Ye Faithful



Wanted:

Angels, shepherds,
or sheep, ages 3 to 13.

No experience needed;
willing spirit preferred.

The Annual Christmas Pageant can't go on without you!



The Children's Ministry
invites one and all to its
annual Christmas Pageant,
which will take place on
Sunday, December 17
during 11:00AM Worship.

But we need your help!

If you know any youths,
aged 3 or older, who might
like to participate as
angels, shepherds, or sheep,
please pass the word on.

The Pageant gives our
children and youth the fun
and rewarding opportunity
to lead the congregation
in retelling the traditional
story of the birth of our
Savior.



Mandatory Rehearsal:

Saturday, *December 16* in the Sanctuary

Pageant:

...9:00 to 10:00AM

Sunday, *December 17* in the Sanctuary

...11:00AM Worship Service

Participants should arrive in costume by 10:30AM.

Please call Liz Gescheidle at
(847) 234-5124 with any questions.

THANKSGIVING OFFERING

The community service on Thanksgiving Day was held at St. James Lutheran Church. Pastors Christine Chakoian and Patrick Day and deacon Alexander Wyckoff participated in the service. The three churches who are involved determine how the offering will be distributed. This year the offering was split equally between PADS (Public Action to Deliver Shelter) and Church World Service earmarked for relief in Darfur. Each agency received \$947.50. The Thanksgiving service includes Church of the Holy Spirit, St. James Lutheran and First Church. This long-standing ecumenical tradition is a wonderful expression of thanks for God's unconditional love and grace.



WHO ARE WE?



Our Christian calling takes many
forms.

Here is one example
with personal thoughts from **Dick Morehead**
regarding his experience as a member of the
Long Range Planning Council (LRPC):

The LRPC has been charged by the Session with focusing on long-term, big-picture, inter-disciplinary issues, challenges and opportunities facing First Church. What has this process been like for you?

Overall, it has been very helpful in challenging my faith assumptions and values and in exploring new ways to examine beliefs in God and Christ. I grew up in Presbyterian traditions, nurtured in family, community and college, worship in university chapel, and active participation in non-denominational Protestant churches, where I lived, here and abroad. Except for a theological discussion group years ago in New York, I have not had this opportunity for sustained review of faith and applications.

It is sometimes difficult to articulate influences and deeper impacts, but I am continually impressed with the diversity of talents, life experiences and faith journeys, shared so far, which promise opportunities for meaningful growth ahead.

Have you had any personal revelations?

I gained understanding of "vencor" and am still learning the essence of "missional" and how it can work individually and for the church. I have a growing appreciation for the importance of motivation, in daily and long-term actions, seeking understanding of how attitudes and motivation can be shaped.

What part of the outcome are you most excited about?

Growing personal and congregational faith,
and its meaningful application in daily life.
Developing spiritual energy, through small group ministries (such as Men's Bible Study and Prayer Group) and strengthening inter-relationships.

What has surprised you?

How long and sometimes difficult it is to internalize new approaches,
having long adhered to certain values and assumptions.
How easy to slip back, as daily agendas reinforce existing attitudes.

What do you think we all have to learn from the work you have done so far?

The journey is exciting, an ongoing process where working together provides helpful insights and requires continued involvement to realize our faith potential, individually and as a congregation. It is important to remain open, provide time for study and meditation, for there is indeed joy in the process and meaningful milestones along the way, led by the pastor and the Holy Spirit.

Please send submissions to publish@firstchurchlf.org

December 15, 2006
Faith Connections
is published
twice monthly.
Submission
due dates
are the
1st and the 15th
of the month.

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LAKE FOREST, IL

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FIRST CHURCH VISION STATEMENT

Called together and centered in Christ's service, we are a fellowship growing in faith.

Relying on God's grace, we commit to fulfilling God's purpose for us by creating a welcoming, inclusive environment that inspires spiritual growth and celebration.

We journey together, caring for each other as we make deeper connections through prayer, worship, education and mission outreach.

We embrace the challenge to be faithful stewards of our God-given gifts and talents.

Inspired by our heritage of service and leadership, we are disciples of Christ, committed to making a positive difference in our families, community and beyond.

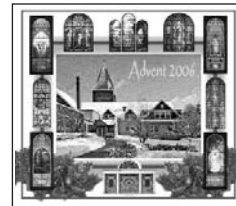
We call others to join with us as we journey into the future, strengthened by God's guidance and love.



Advent Wreathmaking & Dinner



THE RUMMAGE ROOM will be closed for the Christmas and New Year holiday from **FRIDAY, DECEMBER 15** through Sunday, January 7. We will reopen on Monday, January 8, 2007.



A daily
Advent calendar

is available on First
Church's web site at

www.firstchurchlf.org

Each day includes a different scripture, meditation, music, children's activity and a book or service.

To make this part of your family's preparation for the birth of Jesus, just click on the icon you will see on the home page of our web site. It is the hope of the Communications Committee that this virtual Advent calendar will help us to remember that Jesus is the gift we receive at Christmas.