



# Faith CONNECTIONS

## Head Ushers Needed – Men and Women Invited

One of the behind-the-scenes aspects of a good worship service is an orderly, safe and welcoming environment in the sanctuary. Head ushers are largely responsible for this function and more people are needed to perform these duties at First Church each week. Jim Simmen is Head Usher Coordinator on the Worship and Music Committee as well as the person who conducts training courses for interested members. Jim recently stated,

*"I really want our members to be aware that Head Ushering is open to both men and women. We now have several female Head Ushers, all of whom do an outstanding job ... namely Betty Plum, Missy Romanoff, Gale Wayne, Mona Strenger, Esther Williams, Marsha Messervey, Addie Morrison, "AJ" Woroch, and Carol Bubala, and we would always welcome more."*

All of the essential details necessary to be a Head Usher are covered in the training session (to be scheduled in early spring) but most important is a desire to serve and a welcoming, cooperative leadership style. If you have been looking for a way to be more involved at First Church, consider this important role. Please contact: Jim Simmen 2weisimmen@att.net or phone: (847) 362-0963 before February 1.

700 N. Sheridan Road  
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(847)234 6250  
Fax: 234-6283

[www.firstchurchlf.org](http://www.firstchurchlf.org)

On **Sunday, February 26**

at the 9:00 and 11:00AM worship,  
our combined Children's Choirs  
and Sunday School  
will present the musical play,

## Rescue in the Night

The play, written by Tom S. Long  
and Allen Pote, tells with songs,  
narration, and great humor  
the story of Daniel and the lions' den.

This year the children in the choirs are inviting all of the children in grades 1-6 who attend the Sunday School rotation to join them in their annual presentation.

Here are the ways children can participate:

1. All children in grades 1-6 who attend the Sunday School rotation on Sunday mornings from January 8 thru February 5 will experience the story of Daniel, help make props, and learn two of the songs in the play. They are invited to join in singing these two songs when the play is presented.
2. Children in grades 1-6 who attend the Sunday Carol Choir rehearsals from 10:15-10:45AM. on Sunday mornings from January 8 thru February 19 will learn most of the songs in the play and be assigned a short speaking part.
3. The main speaking and acting parts (Daniel, the King, three advisors and several minor characters) will be chosen from children in grades 4-6 who attend rehearsals on Tuesday afternoons from 4:30- 5:30PM, beginning January 10. You must be able to attend this Tuesday rehearsal to have a main part.
4. In addition to the 4:30-5:30 p.m. rehearsal, the Jr. High Choir, grades 5-8, will continue to meet from 5:30-6:00PM on Tuesday afternoons beginning January 3.
5. The Cherub Choir, ages 4 thru K, will continue to meet on Thursday afternoons from 3:30-4:15PM beginning January 5. These children will have a VERY SPECIAL PART! They will be the LIONS and will have one of the best songs in the play to sing!

All children who will participate in the presentation on Sunday, February 26 must attend a dress rehearsal on Saturday, February 25 from 9:00-11:00AM

Plan to be a part of this exciting joint Children's Choirs and Sunday School presentation!

Contact Jill Hunt with your questions: 847-234-6250 or [Jhunt@firstchurchlf.org](mailto:Jhunt@firstchurchlf.org)

Dear friends,

The New Year is the perfect time to take stock of who we are, and whether our lives are going in the right direction. Year after year we make personal resolutions, and for those of us who work outside the home, we plan goals and objectives for the months ahead.

Yet it probably hasn't dawned on us to evaluate our spiritual well-being, or set goals for our growth in faith.

This year I want to offer you the opportunity to do just that, beginning with the **Renewal of Baptismal Vows on January 8** ("Baptism of the Lord Sunday"). Worship that day will focus on the meaning of our baptismal promises, and ways in which we can more purposefully seek to fulfill them. We will be asked to reaffirm our vows, and everyone will have the opportunity to come forward for a blessing, if they wish. We will also distribute water-drop shaped glass pebbles to carry throughout the year as a reminder of the waters of baptism, through which we have been claimed by God forever.



The Renewal of Baptismal Vows begins our personal spiritual assessment and recommitment. Later in January and throughout February, our whole church will engage in a corporate spiritual assessment as well. On **January 29**, the day of our **Annual Meeting**, I will kick off a four-week sermon series examining our spiritual purposes as a body of believers. Following each sermon – after both services – we encourage you to participate in a sermon discussion session. In addition, every Bible study, fellowship group, and committee will be provided resources to focus conversations around these questions.

I hope you will plan to be part of our spiritual renewal at the beginning of this year. And I pray that God will bless us in our efforts to grow as the faithful Christians we sincerely long to be.

Every blessing,

## STARTING WITH SCRIPTURE

Start the New Year with Bible study led by Reverend Christine Chakoian beginning **January 17, 2006**. Study groups will be held on Tuesday morning 9:00 - 10:30 (January 17) and Thursday evening 7:00 - 8:30 (January 19).

**Three sessions** are planned and you may come in and out of them as you are able.

- ☞ The first 3 January weeks will offer ways for us to hear God's voice today among the many voices competing for our attention.
- ☞ The February study will focus on what it means for us to be the church - not just when we're in the building, but all the time in our daily lives.
- ☞ The third session focus will be on Lent as we prepare for the resurrection of our Lord.

Reverend Chakoian is looking forward to these opportunities for continued learning. There is no maximum attendance but a minimum of 12 is necessary. Please respond to Gay Webb [gwebb@firstchurchlf.org](mailto:gwebb@firstchurchlf.org) if you plan to attend the first study or phone (847) 234-6250 and leave your name with the Hospitality Minister.

**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](mailto:publish@firstchurchlf.org)** (or [kwolff@firstchurchlf.org](mailto:kwolff@firstchurchlf.org))

faxed to (847) 234-6283 or dropped off at the church office.

**SUNDAY, JANUARY 1, 2006**

**FIRST SUNDAY AFTER CHRISTMAS**

**10:00 Worship**

*The Reverend Dr. Gordon Butcher*  
*Communion*

**Lectionary:** Isaiah 61: 10 62: 3  
Psalm 148  
Galatians 4: 4-7  
Luke 2: 22-40

**SUNDAY, JANUARY 8**

**BAPTISM OF THE LORD**

**9:00 and 11:00AM Worship**

*Reverend Christine Chakoian*  
*Sanctuary Choir at 9:00 and 11:00*

**Lectionary:** 1 Samuel 3: 1-10 (11-20)  
Psalm 139: 1-6, 13-18  
I Corinthians 6: 12-20  
John 1: 43-51

**SUNDAY, JANUARY 15**

**SECOND SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME**

**9:00 and 11:00AM Worship**

*Reverend Dr. Don Dempsey*  
*Sanctuary Choir at 9:00*

**Lectionary:** Jon 3: 1-5, 10  
Psalm 62: 5-12  
I Corinthians 7: 29-31  
Mark 1: 14-20

## IN MINISTRY TOGETHER

Pastor/Head of Staff

**Rev. Christine Chakoian**

[cchakoian@firstchurchlf.org](mailto:cchakoian@firstchurchlf.org)

Executive Associate Pastor

**Rev. Dr. Don Dempsey** [Interim]

[ddempsey@firstchurchlf.org](mailto:ddempsey@firstchurchlf.org)

Assoc. Pastor **Rev. Dr. Gordon Butcher**

[gbutcher@firstchurchlf.org](mailto:gbutcher@firstchurchlf.org)

Parish Associate **Rev. Kent Kinney**

[kkinney@firstchurchlf.org](mailto:kkinney@firstchurchlf.org)

Communications Coordinator **Donna Birney**

[dbirney@firstchurchlf.org](mailto:dbirney@firstchurchlf.org)

Children's Ministry **Cathy Dohnalek**

[cdohnalek@firstchurchlf.org](mailto:cdohnalek@firstchurchlf.org)

Youth Director **Kristie Finley**

[kfinley@firstchurchlf.org](mailto:kfinley@firstchurchlf.org)

Associate Director of Music **Jill Hunt**

[jhunt@firstchurchlf.org](mailto:jhunt@firstchurchlf.org)

Preschool Director **Ruth Luke**

[preschool@firstchurchlf.org](mailto:preschool@firstchurchlf.org)

Director of Music Ministries **David Štech**

[jstech@firstchurchlf.org](mailto:jstech@firstchurchlf.org)

Church Business Manager **Herb Smyers**

[hsmyers@firstchurchlf.org](mailto:hsmyers@firstchurchlf.org)

Church website [www.firstchurchlf.org](http://www.firstchurchlf.org)

# INSPIRED BY OUR HERITAGE

## Making a New Year's Resolution?



Several years ago, University of Washington researchers, Elizabeth Miller and Alan Marlatt, sought to understand factors that best predict success in keeping a New Year's Resolution.\* Results of their study indicated that successful resolutions are "a process, not a one time effort that offer people a chance to create new habits." To be successful people need to follow-up on their behavior over a long period of time.

- ☞ Have a strong initial commitment to make a change.
- ☞ Have coping strategies to deal with problems that will come up.
- ☞ Keep track of your progress. The more monitoring you do and feedback you get, the better you will do.

If your personal Resolution is to know even more joy and prosperity in the New Year than a bountiful portion bestowed upon you by God during the past year, you have, in addition to the UW research team's advice, First Church Stephen Ministry's sincere good wishes. If your personal Resolution is to resolve a conflict, to emerge from grief or to recover from some other significant spiritual pain your life, you have our Stephen Ministry's offer of HELP in the days ahead.

If you make the strong initial commitment to change, one of our trained Stephen Ministers can help to create new habits and heal spiritual pain from any cause through a gender specific caregiving relationship for as long as the "process" takes. Our Stephen Ministers are trained to listen to your story; to keep it CONFIDENTIAL; to be open to you, AS YOU ARE NOW AND AS YOU WOULD LIKE TO BE; to stand with you while YOU develop your own strategies; to observe "the process" of healing as it unfolds in your life and to keep track of progress toward your goal.

A trained Stephen Minister from First Church can provide help you can't obtain from family or friends because family and friends stand too close to be objective witnesses to the dysfunction affecting your life. Pastoral counseling from a member of First Church's pastoral staff would prove to be a helpful one-time effort. But, a trained Stephen Minister can provide dedicated care and follow-up over a longer period of time than any of our pastors, who must remain on call for short term counseling to other members of this church family. And, as the UW research team found, "The more monitoring you do and feedback you get, the better YOU will do."

Call Rev. Kent Kinney, at (847) 234-6250, for referral or to ask more questions about how one of our STEPHEN MINISTERS can help to bring you, or someone you know, a happier Happy New Year!



## WHO ARE WE?



### Our Christian calling takes many forms.

Here is one example.

Allen Davies has been a leader (ordained elder and deacon) at churches throughout his adulthood. He has been an active member of First Church for 37 years. He and his wife Eliza have enjoyed making music with the Sanctuary Choir. Business trips with Amoco and family excursions sensitized him to the beauty of people, wildlife and the landscape. As Allen headed more deeply into retirement and digital cameras came to the fore, his long time interest in photography became a more insistent calling. Now you will see Allen at most church events, capturing the life of First Church in photos. When asked what he enjoys most about photography, Allen responded, "I love people, especially the little ones." This shows in the photos you see in *Faith Connections* and the web site. Our Photography Ministry is a result of Allen's creativity and talent. He clicks the picture, develops the proof sheet, and makes finished photographs for a minimal charge for supplies. If you would like to be part of the Photography Ministry, contact Allen Davies at [adavies@alumni.rice.edu](mailto:adavies@alumni.rice.edu).

## PRESBYTERIAN WOMEN

Mark your calendar on **February 1**  
at 11:30AM in South Parlor.

We will be making Valentines  
for our shut-in members and friends -  
and have a delicious  
soup-and-salad lunch together.

All the materials will be provided  
to inspire your enjoyment  
in making Valentines  
that make many people so happy.

Call Michele Montgomery or Rita Fossell

**THE  
RUMMAGE ROOM  
will be closed  
for the  
New Year holiday.  
We will reopen on  
January 9, 2006.**

# COMMITTED TO MAKING A POSITIVE DIFFERENCE

## ATTENTION SENIOR HIGHS!

The Senior High Retreat is **February 3, 4, & 5**. We will be staying at Conference Point in Williams Bay, Wisconsin, and will go night skiing on Saturday at Alpine Valley. In an effort to keep costs down, retreat information will not be mailed, but is available at the Church office. Space is limited; please return the sign up information to Kristie Finley before January 17, 2006.

**January 8, 2006**, Our College Worktrippers will present slides and answer questions about their recent mission trip to Ocean Springs, MS. Please join them in Fellowship Hall between services.

**January 8**, Senior High Youth Group: De-stress before finals, Alison Deputy will lead us in Tai Chi. See you there.

### **Sometimes spaghetti isn't just a meal, but an event.**

Senior High Work Trip participants, and Advisors will prepare and serve a Spaghetti Dinner. Entertainment will be provided by the Youth Music Ministry Band. Tim Brown, Pastor of the Ocean Springs Presbyterian Church will be joining us. Please call the church office for reservations; tickets (\$15) will be at the door;

**January 22, 2006**, at 6:30 PM.

## FEBRUARY 2006 SR HIGH YOUTH GROUP

- |              |   |
|--------------|---|
| February 3-5 | Senior High Retreat   |
| February 5   | Souper Bowl of Caring,<br>following 9 and 11AM services.<br>No evening Youth Group      |
| February 12  | Bake Sale to benefit 2006 Work Trip<br>6PM Presbyterian College Fair<br>7PM Youth Group |
| February 19  | Long weekend, no Youth Group  |
| February 26  | Youth Group   |

## ATTENTION 7<sup>th</sup> & 8<sup>th</sup> GRADERS!

### THE ANNUAL SKI RETREAT IS IN JANUARY.

The Annual Ski Retreat is in January. In an effort to keep costs down we are not mailing the 7th and 8th Grade Ski retreat information, but are asking that you pick it up at the Church office. Also, the date has been changed; we will leave on Friday, **January 20**, and return on Sunday, January 22. We will be staying at Conference Point in Williams Bay, Wisconsin and we will ski on Saturday at Alpine Valley. Please return the sign up information before January 10, 2006 to Kristie.

## Christian Perspectives

- Next session begins January 5, 2006

Thursdays 1:00-2:30 PM/Parish House Conference Room

Christian Perspectives will begin meeting again on January 5, and continue on the 12, 19, and 26 with group discussion based on: *"Listening for God: Contemporary Literature and the Life of Faith - Volume 4"* by Paula J. Carlson and Peter S. Hawkins. The January session is an interactive discussion based on readings and all are invited. Books are available at the hospitality desk for \$11.00. There will be a nominal fee for the book. You are invited to contact Susan Peet or Jeanne Lane (cestchoc@aol.com) with questions.

Listening for God is intended to help readers investigate how life and faith merge in surprising ways and places. Contemporary American literature may not be the most predictable place to listen for God, but it may well turn out to be among the most rewarding. The volume includes 8 selections, brief author profiles and reflection questions. The series is accompanied by a Leader Guide and a DVD which features interviews with the authors themselves or leading scholars on their work. Professor Hawkins directs the Luce Program in Scripture and Literature Arts, a leading institution in the study of Biblical traditions in contemporary poetry and fiction. Previously he was professor of Religion and Literature at Yale Divinity School and director of its Religion and Arts Program, where he co-edited the earlier volumes of "Listening for God" with Paula J. Carlson, now professor of English and associate dean of academic affairs at the University of Dubuque in Iowa.

**Thank you for your generosity last year towards our neighborhoods affected by Hurricane Katrina.**

Here is what we have accomplished so far, and we are not finished yet!

**GENERAL RELIEF:** Over \$38,000 donated by individuals to PCUSA

\$4000 from the Mission Committee to the Presbyterian Church in Tuscaloosa, AL to help care for disabled adults who "landed" there

**TO PADS:** \$2500 from the Deacons for emergency aid

\$3150 donated for "Rummage Bucks" - each displaced family member represented at the Fall Rummage Sale received transportation to the sale, a \$50 voucher and lunch

All household goods requested

**TO OCEAN SPRINGS, MISSISSIPPI:** \$5000 to the First Presbyterian Church in Ocean Springs, from the Mission Committee for immediate needs

Purchased a used Dodge minivan for \$12,776.61 for the pastor of Ocean Springs, Reverend Brown's use. Kristie Finley and Jim Mayhall delivered it with a new DVD/VCR player, lots of videos, a prayer net from our youth, and many hygiene kits from our Sunday School.

Our youth sent \$300 in Target Gift cards in October

More than 300 toys and gift cards totaling \$3000 for Christmas including many from Debby MacKenzie's private Christmas party

College Work Trip of 14 students and 7 adults spent 5 working days there and accomplished much

\$500 in gift cards from Cindy Swinson's private Christmas party



# WE CALL OTHERS TO JOIN US

## Kindergarten Bible Sunday

will be held on **January 22**, during the 9:00 worship service. Kindergarten Bible Sunday is our church's acknowledgment that the Bible is a vitally important book that is central to our life and faith as Christians. Kindergartners are invited to receive, as a gift, a children's Bible storybook. This storybook has colorful illustrations and child-friendly text that introduces children to the main characters in the Old and New Testaments. If you have a kindergartener and did not receive a letter regarding Bible Sunday, please contact Cathy Dohnalek at 234-6250.

<i>Daniel and the Lion's Den Schedule</i> <i>Workshop Rotation Unit 3</i>					
	Art Room 11	Play Props Room 12	Bible Discovery Room 213	Music and Games Room 10	Theatre & Drama Room 212
Teachers	Kelly Dever	Jill LoForte	Leah Fietsam	Sally McDonald Susan Powell	Meredith Peper
January 8	6th grade	5th grade	4th grade	3rd grade	1st and 2nd grades
January 15	5th grade	4th grade	3rd grade	1st and 2nd grades	6th grade
January 22	4th grade	3rd grade	1st and 2nd grades	6th grade	5th grade
January 29	3rd grade	1st and 2nd grades	6th grade	5th grade	4th grade
February 5	1st and 2nd grades	6th grade	5th grade	4th grade	3rd grade

SHEPHERDS	
Grade 1	Anne Winebrenner
Grade 2	Susan Milanak, Meg Cassano
Grade 3	Kathy Fluri, Julie Stevenson
Grade 4	Dawn Neal
Grade 5	Carol Hurst, Debbie Stumpf
Grade 6	Susan Layton, Eleanor Thorn



# The Christmas Pageant



reaching out...  
gathering together...  
working for Christ...

## THROUGH STEWARDSHIP

FINANCIAL REPORT For the period ending December 18, 2005	CURRENT MONTH	YTD CURRENT	ANNUAL BUDGET 2005
TOTAL INCOME	\$197,325	\$2,050,778	\$2,084,969
TOTAL EXPENDITURES	\$117,254	\$2,065,776	\$2,084,969
NET INCOME	\$ 80,070	\$ (14,997)	\$ -

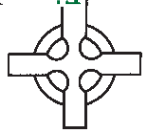
Please send submissions to [publish@firstchurchfl.org](mailto:publish@firstchurchfl.org)

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First Presbyterian  
Church of Lake Forest  
*Centered in Christ, Growing in Faith*



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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.



Kristie Finley, Director of Youth Ministry

**THANK YOU!** Your generosity is overwhelming! The Ocean Springs congregation has been showered with toys, books, games and gift cards. Imagine their joy in selecting a new Christmas gift for their family members! The college work trippers used new tools purchased with your donations that were critical to the rehab they did. Slides from this trip will be available at coffee hour on Sunday, January 8. The task force is grateful for your support. Gordon Butcher, Carolyn Dapier, Kristie Finley, Jerry Fox, Donna Johnson, Margaret Lindquist, Jim Mayhall, Addie Morrison and Beverly Raudabaugh.



Art Chantler, Jim Mayhall, Jim Mynhier, Chris Coffin, Jim Cochran