



**First Presbyterian  
Church of Lake Forest**

# Faith

January 15, 2006  
Volume VI, N°2

## CONNECTIONS

### "Are you ready?"

In her initial sermon at First Church, Christine challenged us with this question:

**Are you ready to follow the Holy Spirit's leading in this place?**  
Are you ready to examine who you are as Christians in your daily life – how to realize and fulfill your faith potential - and what our great calling is together as Christ's congregation? The Long Range Planning Council invites you to explore God's leading, as we claim our high calling as God's people – sent out into the world as representatives of Christ.

JOIN US IN THE NEXT MONTH – BEGINNING WITH WORSHIP AND THE ANNUAL MEETING JANUARY 29 – AS WE FOCUS ON OUR END-PURPOSES AS CHRISTIANS IN GOD'S WORLD.

**MARK YOUR CALENDAR NOW:**

**SUNDAYS,  
January 29 – February 19:**

Sermon series on  
"Starting Life at the Ends"

SERMON DISCUSSION  
AFTER EVERY SERVICE,  
LED BY CHRISTINE CHAKOIAN

THROUGHOUT FEBRUARY:

Bible study focus on  
"Starting Life at the Ends"

Tuesday mornings, 9:00 – 10:30AM Bible study  
Thursday evenings, 7:00 – 8:30PM Bible study

For more information contact any member of the Long Range Planning Council: Rick Jones, Prue Beidler, Christine Chakoian, Don Dempsey, Dave Henkel, Dick Mentzinger, Dick Morehead, John Sentell, Bert Tucker, Anne Warnke

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

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



## La Trattoria First Church

A Winter's Eve Get-Together  
**SATURDAY  
January 28**

at the Lake Forest Club

**BACK BY POPULAR DEMAND!**

**6:30PM Fellowship    8:00PM Dinner**  
(CASH BAR)

**Reservations are \$35<sup>00</sup> per person**  
and can be made in the church office,  
during Sunday morning fellowship hour  
or by returning the attached form January 23.

*Buy a ticket or two...  
or get together with friends,  
seats are limited.*

SPONSORED BY  
THE FAMILY LIFE AND MEMBERSHIP COMMITTEES



**Belissimo!**

Name(s) \_\_\_\_\_

Number attending \_\_\_\_\_

Phone \_\_\_\_\_

Amount enclosed (\$35 per person) \_\_\_\_\_

Please make your check payable to the First Presbyterian Church



and write **January Dinner** in the memo line.

Mail to the church at 700 NORTH SHERIDAN ROAD. LAKE FOREST, IL 60045

Reaching out, gathering together, working for Christ.  
"Gathering Together"



Dear friends,

**Do you ever have those moments when you feel like a speaker is directing a presentation right at you personally?** A few months ago I had the privilege of attending the Large Church Pastors' Conference sponsored by our denomination. (It's been a long time since I was the only woman at the table, but they welcomed me warmly!)

I heard a speaker there - George Hunsberger of Western Seminary (Holland, MI) -- whose words turned on a light bulb in my brain. It was like the Holy Spirit was talking directly to me!

*"There is a vast difference," he said, "between a 'vendor' model church and a 'missional' church. The 'vendor' church thinks of its members as 'customers' to be pleased and/or 'volunteers' to keep the organization going; and evangelism becomes 'member recruitment.' Furthermore, ministry is meeting people's 'needs'; the gospel becomes a 'commodity' to package attractively; leaders are expected to produce products that 'sell'; and other churches are considered 'the competition'. If you saw the recent article in Crain's about Willow Creek, you're aware that every congregation is tempted by the 'vendor' model.*

What a different picture is what Hunsberger calls the "Missional" church: The church is its members, sent by God into the world. The church's primary purpose - as individuals and as a community - is to represent God's reign in three ways:

through our spiritual fellowship,  
in living the message of the gospel,  
and as servants of God's justice.

What sent chills down my spine was this: our Long Range Planning Council has been exactly focused on the 'missional' direction of our church ... even though we didn't have the language for it yet.

Every blessing,

P.S. See the front page column for the upcoming opportunities!

**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.

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Submissions may be emailed (preferred method) to

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

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



**First Presbyterian  
Church** of Lake Forest

**SUNDAY, JANUARY 15**  
SECOND SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME  
**9:00 and 11:00AM Worship**

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

**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 22**  
THIRD SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME  
**9:00 and 11:00AM Worship**

*Guest Preacher*  
*Reverend Tim Brown, Ocean Springs, MS*  
*Kindergarten Bible Sunday at 9:00*  
*Sanctuary Choir at 11:00*

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

**SUNDAY, JANUARY 29**  
FOURTH SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME  
**9:00 and 11:00AM Worship**

*Reverend Christine Chakoian*  
*ANNUAL MEETING/Part 1*  
*Minute for Mission/Souper Bowl of Care*  
*Sanctuary Choir at 9:00*  
*Children's Choir at 11:00*

**Lectionary:** Deut. 18: 15-20  
Psalm 111  
I Corinthians 8: 1-13  
Mark 1: 21-28

## IN MINISTRY TOGETHER

Pastor/Head of Staff  
**Rev. Christine Chakoian**  
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Executive Associate Pastor  
**Rev. Dr. Don Dempsey** [Interim]  
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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

## Report to the Congregation on Stephen Ministry Continuing Education

***God breathes his life into us and inhales us back to him.***

(Traditional Judaic wisdom on the sensory experience of one's own death,  
related to Dr. Martha Twaddle by one of her hospice patients)

**T**wenty eight Stephen Ministers and members of the First Church family answered Stephen Ministry's call to attend an open ninety-minute presentation on the morning of November 12, 2005 by Martha L. Twaddle, MD, FACP, FAAHPM, Chief Medical Officer of MIDWEST PALLIATIVE & HOSPICE CARECENTER, on the topic of Hospice and Palliative Care. The presentation served to inform all attendees of the nature of an emerging medical specialty in hospice and palliative care and, further, of the presence of a valuable community resource in MIDWEST PALLIATIVE & HOSPICE CARECENTER.

Dr. Twaddle represented her specialty in hospice and palliative care as having its foundation, unlike most other fields of medicine which focus primarily on biological function, in Descartes' theory of dualism- body and spirit are separate entities which intersect to create a living human being. Therefore, hospice medical personnel are careful to dispense treatment not only to relieve symptoms of physical discomfort during the end-of-life process, but also to relieve emotional stress associated with the process. Such comfort care is not focused exclusively on the dying patient, but also in support of those significant others and children who are captive witnesses to the patient's final journey at the same time they are immersed in their own grief over impending loss of fellowship with the patient.

Although the stages are discernable while the outcome is both certain and universal, the rate of progression through the physical process at the end-of-life is entirely individual." It may play out over a brief period of time, as traditionally thought- days, weeks or months. Yet, as Dr. Twaddle pointed out, it often takes many years.

According to Dr. Twaddle, comparative studies now show in most instances that THOSE WHO RECEIVE HOSPICE CARE AT AN EARLY STAGE IN TERMINAL ILLNESS, LIVE LONGER THAN THOSE WHO DO NOT. Thus, this type of holistic care should not be limited to the last six months of life. Though the concept originated to provide care and comfort during the end stages of the dying process, it has evolved into "Palliative Care". Palliative Care is appropriate any time there is a "life-changing diagnosis." Even when death is not imminently associated with the outcome for a chronic condition, palliative care is likely to improve the patient's prognosis. A person of any age undergoing treatment for such ailments as diabetes, arthritic diseases or debilitating injury may know significant benefit from effective palliative care alongside customarily appropriate drug and surgical therapies.

If you, or someone to whom you are a caregiver, has received a life-changing diagnosis, Dr. Twaddle recommends that you seek evaluation as a candidate for Palliative Care as an element of treatment. For more information, the main telephone number of MIDWEST PALLIATIVE & HOSPICE CARECENTER is (847) 467-7423, answered twenty-four hours a day, seven days a week. The CareCenter currently has regional offices in Libertyville and Evanston, as well as its main office in Glenview.

Find more on the topic of Palliative Care and Hospice in First Church Stephen Ministry's caregiving library. One title in the collection detailing end-of-life stages is *Journey's End, A Guide to Understanding the Dying Process* by Deborah Sigrist, B.S.N., R.N., CRNH.

The next Stephen Ministry Continuing Education program open to the entire congregation will occur on February 11, 2006, when Reverend Don Dempsey, an experienced professional career counselor, will share a program on the topic of "Job Transitions". Mark your calendar now and watch for further announcements.

Call the church office at (847) 234-6250 to inquire about Continuing Education, to borrow a title from the caregiving library, or to learn more about receiving care from a Stephen Minister for yourself or someone you know.

## CENTERING PRAYER STARTS NEW YEAR

"This time of quiet and solitude was just what I needed," said Pastor Christine Chakoian after attending Centering Prayer. "This is a hidden gem happening every week. We need to let the congregation know about it," she stated.

The Centering Prayer group has been meeting in the chapel since Father Thomas Keating introduced the practice to us several years ago. Centering prayer casts a new light and depth of meaning on prayer. It is a relationship with God and a discipline to foster that relationship, moving beyond conversation with Christ to communion with Him.

The source of centering prayer is the indwelling Trinity: Father, Son and Holy Spirit. The focus is to deepen our relationship with the living Christ. It builds communities of faith and bonds members together in mutual friendship and love.

It is an ancient, simple practice that requires no preparation. A sacred word is chosen as the symbol of your intention to consent to God's presence and action within. You sit comfortably for a period of silence, usually about 40 minutes. This is followed by voluntary discussion if desired.

This time of prayer and reflection is open to all. Come and give it a try after the busy holidays. There is no obligation! Learn more about the practice of Centering Prayer at [www.contemplativeoutreach.org](http://www.contemplativeoutreach.org)

# COMMITTED TO MAKING A POSITIVE DIFFERENCE



**Reverend Tim Brown to preach** We are honored to welcome Reverend Tim Brown and his wife, Le from Ocean Springs, Mississippi. They have 3 children, two boys and a girl under the age of seven. Tim captained the football team at Ole Miss and graduated from Austin Theological Seminary. He practiced law before entering the ministry. As the pastor of First Presbyterian of Ocean Springs he welcomed our work trippers in December. He will be preaching at both services on January 22 from Exodus 16. Tim's message is **"Grits, Greens and Butterbeans,"** focusing on God's Sovereignty and Community. Tim and Le will be available to meet and greet you during coffee hour.

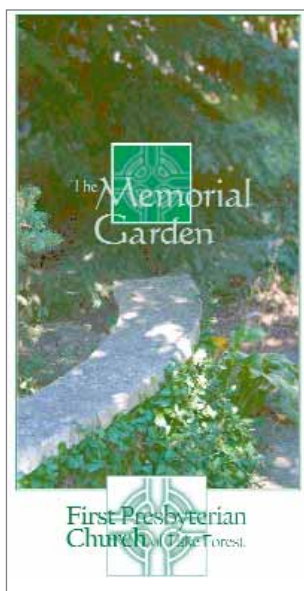
## ANNUAL MEETING OF THE CONGREGATION

SESSION HAS CALLED THE ANNUAL MEETING FOR **SUNDAY, JANUARY 29** IMMEDIATELY FOLLOWING THE 9:00 SERVICE.

THE CONGREGATION WILL REVIEW AND VOTE TO RECEIVE THE BUDGET AND APPROVE THE TERMS OF CALL FOR CALLED PASTORS.

PART II OF THE ANNUAL MEETING IS SCHEDULED FOR **SUNDAY, MAY 7** AND WILL INCLUDE THE REPORT OF THE ALL CHURCH NOMINATING COMMITTEE AND THE ELECTION OF NEW DEACONS, ELDERS AND MEMBERS OF THE ALL CHURCH NOMINATING COMMITTEE.

## NEW MEMORIAL GARDEN BROCHURE



The First Church Memorial Garden offers a final resting place for our members adjacent to the church. It is a silent treasure that allows families to visit their loved ones amidst a serene setting while quietly contemplating the memories so important to us.

To allow more people to know and understand what the

Memorial Garden is, and what it offers for our church community, a new, attractive, comprehensive brochure has been developed that provides all the relevant information. Please pick one up and see what First Church offers for those who have left this world and those who remain. The brochures are available on name tag tables and in the church office.

## Lunch Bunch

Lunch Bunch will meet on January 27 at noon in South Parlor.

We are pleased to welcome our own **Mike Conklin**, a Chicago Tribune journalist for 35 years, who will share some **"Tales from the Front"**, including some of his favorite stories and columns. **Don't miss this special program.** To make a reservation call the church at (847) 234-6250 by Tuesday, January 24. Cost is \$5.00 at the door.



## Would you like to understand the basic tenets and claims of Islam?

A study group is forming to learn about Islam and its relationship to Christianity. A willingness to read and discuss Islam is needed. First meeting is Wednesday, January 25, 7:00 PM, in Winnetka. Call Reverend Dan McNerney (847) 446-1019 for details

## FOOD DRIVE GOODS GRATEFULLY RECEIVED

Mona Strenger and Gale Wayne, sponsors of the First Church Food Drive in December, received words of thanks from Shields Township. They served more than 2500 people in 2005 with stock from the Food Pantry shelves. All food and contributions to the Food Pantry are donated. As Supervisor Fitzgerald stated in the letter, "hunger doesn't take a holiday." Many thanks from Gale and Mona for your generous contributions to our neighbors.



### Work Trip 2006 Spaghetti Dinner

*Sunday January 22 at 6:30 pm*

*Fellowship Hall*

*Members of our Senior High Work Trip will talk about our plans for this year's trip and share stories from Ocean Springs.*

*The Work Trip Participants and Advisors will Cook and Serve You A Delicious Spaghetti Dinner!*

*Tickets are \$15.00*

*Tickets will be purchased at the door - Space is Limited*

*(This is our Spring Fundraiser)*

*Please make a reservation at the front desk*



# WE CALL OTHERS TO JOIN US



“It was amazing!” exclaimed Jim Mayhall. “The congregation would have been incredibly proud of our Church as we did the Lord’s work.” The college students worked and worked and worked until the job was finished. And, we all had so much fun together as we worked so hard!

We fixed a hole in the roof where a tree had crashed through, resulting in two cracked roof trusses, and we removed and replaced the entire roof. We applied exterior plywood sheathing to the exposed stud walls and wrapped the house with moisture/wind barrier Tyvek, we insulated the exterior walls, we replaced numerous electrical outlets and switches, we swept and cleaned up debris in the interior and raked and picked up the exterior grounds, we covered exterior broken windows with plywood and we closed in the garage with a plywood wall until a new garage door is installed. All in all an amazing amount of work in 3 days. The owner of the house was in tears each time she saw the work we were doing. She began to have hope that maybe she could rebuild when before there was nothing but despair...what a feeling to give the gift of hope!!!

The final thing we did was to clean, and I mean clean, the areas of the First Presbyterian Church of Ocean Springs where we slept, and ate. We left it in better condition than when we arrived.

Thank you all for your support and encouragement on this Mission Trip. It was awesome!!!



**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 (847) 234-6250.

## ATTENTION SENIOR HIGHS!

Senior High Retreat February 3, 4 and 5. We will be staying at Conference Point in Williams Bay, Wisconsin and go skiing on Saturday night at Alpine Valley. Please return sign up information to Kristie Finley before January 17, 2006

Senior High Work Trip Participants and Advisors will prepare and serve a **Spaghetti Dinner** on **January 22**, at 6:30 PM.

Entertainment will be provided by our Youth Music Ministry Band. Proceeds benefit 2006 Mission trip to Ocean Springs. Please call the church for reservations; tickets are \$15 to be collected at the door.

### FEBRUARY 2006 SR HIGH YOUTH GROUP

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



December Work Trip to Ocean Springs



## Music News

The Personnel Committee is pleased to announce that **Jill Hunt** has been appointed to be First Church’s first full-time **Director of Music**. Jill brings many years of experience and God-given gifts to this ministry. She will continue as organist and working with children and handbell choirs. She will be more fully involved in weekly worship planning and has ideas for growth of our music ministry particularly in the areas of children and youth. This in no way means that we are losing David Stech from our staff. We are delighted that David will continue to share his remarkable gifts as our Director of the Sanctuary Choir and he will continue to oversee the Community Concert series and accompany our children’s choirs. Please join us in welcoming Jill to this new position as we offer God’s blessings to her and to David in their ministries.

## Daniel and the Lion's Den Schedule

### Workshop Rotation Unit 3

#### 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

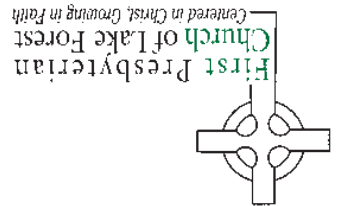
	Art Room 11	Play Props Room 12	Bible Discovery Room 213	Music and Games Room 10	Theatre & Drama Room 212
Teachers	Kelly Dever	Jill LoForte	Leah Fietsam	Sally McDonald Susan Powell	Meredith Peper
January 15	5th grade	4th grade	3rd grade	1st and 2nd grades	6th grade
January 22	4th grade	3rd grade	1st and 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

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

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*Faith Connections*  
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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.

## 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 **Starting Life at the Ends** - 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 and looks forward to being with you!

## PRESBYTERIAN WOMEN

Mark you 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 (847) 615-1690 or Rita Fossell (847) 234-4761

