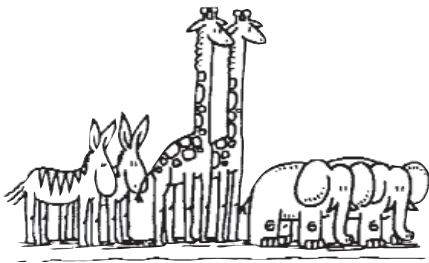




# Faith CONNECTIONS

## 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](mailto: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  
**12:30PM** 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.

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

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

First Presbyterian  
Church of Lake Forest

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

Dear friends,

As the new year arrives, tradition urges us to adopt new resolutions: to take stock of our priorities, banish bad habits, perhaps even revive hibernating dreams. And while we may well doubt that this year will be any different -- our age and realism get the best of us -- nevertheless, many of us deep down harbor hopes that cling tenaciously.

The questions that our culture invites us to consider on the eve of the New Year are more profound than they appear at face value. Beneath the surface, these are worthy issues: issues of identity and purpose, repentance and forgiveness, renewal and the stewardship of not only this coming year, but whatever years we have left. These are issues which ultimately cannot be met with secular answers.

Yet they are answered by the resources of faith. That is why, once more, we begin our year together in worship with the Renewal of our Baptismal Vows on Sunday, January 7. This powerfully meaningful service provides refreshment for our deepest hopes. We remember again that our identity and purpose are given to us in our baptism: we are children of God, and ambassadors of Christ. We receive again the invitation to repentance and promise of forgiveness are given to us by the grace of God and the power of the Holy Spirit. We reclaim again the renewal that is given to us by the real presence of Christ in our lives, and our high calling to be stewards of the abundant blessings that are ours from the hand of our generous God.



As you prepare for the year ahead, I pray that it will be for you a time of joyful reclamation of hope and possibility. May God bless you and yours richly in this New Year.

Every Blessing,

*Christine Chakorian*



**RESOLVED,  
TO BE BETTER INFORMED?  
ATTEND STEPHEN MINISTRY'S  
MONTHLY CONTINUING EDUCATION  
PROGRAMS IN THE NEW YEAR!**

On one Saturday morning each month from January through May 2007, Stephen Ministry will present a program designed to enrich Stephen Ministers and other caregivers in our church family. Except those programs for which specialized Stephen Ministry training is a prerequisite, **STEPHEN MINISTRY CONTINUING EDUCATION** is open to everyone.

This past November, we spent an hour in expertly guided study of Dr. Kenneth Haugk's informative observations on the "do's" and "don'ts" of caregiving learned from personal experience in the terminal illness and death of his wife, *Don't Sing Songs to a Heavy Heart*.

Next up, on Saturday morning, **January 27**, at 10:00 a.m., Liz Fales, Domestic Violence Educator for A SAFE PLACE, Lake County's shelter for abused and battered women- a principal mission of our Board of Deacons- will tell us **THINGS WE ALL NEED TO KNOW ABOUT THE FACES OF DOMESTIC VIOLENCE**.

**Mark your calendar now.** Then, watch Faith Connections and Sunday bulletins for more information about this and future open Stephen Ministry Continuing Education programs.

Call Reverend Kent Kinney, at (847) 234-6250, for referral or to ask about how one of our trained **STEPHEN MINISTERS** can help to bring you, or someone you love, a happier Happy New Year!



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.

*...aids soldiers*

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](http://www.sewmuchcomfort.org)



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

**SUNDAY, JANUARY 7**

**BAPTISM OF THE LORD**

**9:00 & 11:00AM Worship**  
*The Reverend Christine Chakoian*  
*Renewal of Baptism Vows*  
*Communion*

**Lectionary:** Isaiah 43: 1-7  
Psalm 29  
Acts 8: 14-17;  
Luke 3: 15-17, 21-22

**SUNDAY, JANUARY 14**

**2ND SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME**

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

*The Reverend Christine Chakoian*  
*Baptism*

**Lectionary:** Isaiah 62: 1-5  
Psalm 36: 5-10;  
1 Corinthians 12: 1-11;  
John 2:1-11

**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)
- Associate Pastor **Rev. Patrick Day**  
[pday@firstchurchlf.org](mailto:pday@firstchurchlf.org)
- Parish Associate **Rev. Kent Kinney**  
[kkinney@firstchurchlf.org](mailto:kkinney@firstchurchlf.org)
- Children's Ministry **Donna Birney**  
[dbirney@firstchurchlf.org](mailto:dbirney@firstchurchlf.org)
- Director of Youth Ministries **Kristie Finley**  
[kfinley@firstchurchlf.org](mailto:kfinley@firstchurchlf.org)
- Director of Music/Organist **Jill Hunt**  
[jhunt@firstchurchlf.org](mailto:jhunt@firstchurchlf.org)
- Director of Sanctuary Choir **Thomas Tropp Jr.**  
[ttropp@firstchurchlf.org](mailto:ttropp@firstchurchlf.org)
- Director of Children's Choirs **Elizabeth Weismehl**  
[eweismehl@firstchurchlf.org](mailto:eweismehl@firstchurchlf.org)
- Director of Youth Music Ministry **Lesley Byers**  
[lbyers@firstchurchlf.org](mailto:lbyers@firstchurchlf.org)
- Preschool Director **Ruth Luke**  
[preschool@firstchurchlf.org](mailto:preschool@firstchurchlf.org)
- Church Business Manager **Herb Smyers**  
[hsmyers@firstchurchlf.org](mailto:hsmyers@firstchurchlf.org)
- Church website [www.firstchurchlf.org](http://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](mailto:publish@firstchurchlf.org)

# Learning through Singing

Have you heard the kids who are singing and humming- outside of the choir practice room, that is-after Sunday School classes this year? That's because the Sunday School rotation now incorporates more music. Each week, children start their time by learning and singing Christian-oriented songs, ranging from classic favorites, such as "This Little Light of Mine," to holiday carols to adaptations of popular tunes.

"We've received very positive feedback from the kids," says Sally McDonald, co-director of the new music program along with fellow church member, Ann Barbour. "This weekly chance to learn music is just an added way for kids to have fun and explore faith in its many forms."

Following the pastor's Word for Children during the 9:00AM worship service, 1st through 6th graders head to Fellowship Hall, where they gather as a group to start singing. Younger kids participate in their own simpler version of a music program. After fifteen minutes of musical immersion, children are then shepherded to their classrooms.

Patrick Day has volunteered to lead several sessions, and the Senior High Youth Music Ministry is slated to lead a January session for the older kids. Sally and Ann also hope to recruit other members of our congregation, including the adult and bell choirs, to teach about all the different kinds of music that resound throughout the church.

Feel free to contact Ann Barbour at (847)295-7835 or Sally McDonald at (847)234-6445 with any questions or comments.

## New Member Class

First Church is offering a two-session class for anyone interested in joining the church community on Thursday, January 18 from 7:00 to 9:00PM and Saturday, January 20 from 8:30AM to 12:00 PM (brunch is served). On Sunday January 21 new members will be received at the 11:00 AM service. Child care is provided Thursday, Saturday and Sunday.

The guiding principles of these classes are contained in First Church's core mission: "Recognizing that Christ alone is the Head of the Church and that he has the power to transform lives, the First Presbyterian Church of Lake Forest affirms our core mission is to Proclaim Christ's message, Provide a community of spiritual nurture, and Promote God's justice."

The class offers each participant the opportunity to share his/her faith journey; to learn more about First Church and its history; and to learn about the mission of First Presbyterian Church. A recent new member stated, "We really enjoyed learning more about the church and getting to know the members of the membership committee. We found the experience to be very gratifying."

We look forward to getting to know you! Contact Dr. Don Dempsey [ddempsey@firstchurchlf.org](mailto:ddempsey@firstchurchlf.org) or Beth Gillies [egillies@firstchurchlf.org](mailto:egillies@firstchurchlf.org).



## WHO ARE WE?

Our Christian calling takes many forms. Here is one example



On Saturday, December 9 at 8:00AM, eleven members of the youth ministry band, **Eggs Benediction**, packed up their instruments and headed downtown to the CBS studios for a TV taping of the Greater Chicago Broadcast Ministries program, *Different Drummers*.

*Different Drummers* is Chicago's only weekly spotlight on contemporary values, interests and artistic talents of children and teens, and the First Church youth band was spotlighted brilliantly. They performed four Christmas songs; 'Have Yourself A Merry Little Christmas', 'Joy To The World', 'Mary, Did You Know' and 'O Holy Night,' that was showcased on the Christmas Eve airing of the program at 5:00 AM on Channel 2, WBBM -TV. Pastor Christine Chakoian was the featured speaker. She addressed how we need Jesus to calm our anxiety and to remind us what really matters.

The taping took about two and a half hours with a half hour for sound setup. As always, these young adults stepped up and performed wonderfully. The studio crew was most impressed. The program is usually a talk-show format, so the producers weren't quite sure what to expect with a teenaged band. But the Christmas Spirit was definitely at work and the taping was a success.

## IN MEMORIAM

*Dale Noble* died on December 10, 2006. Mr. Noble joined the church in 1993. A memorial service was held in the King Home in Evanston on January 5. He will be interred in the Memorial Garden in January by Pastor Kent Kinney. He joins his wife and son who are in the garden. He will be missed by his daughter, Joanne.

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 \$93,404 positive results for the current month is the result of members bring their pledges more current. The Year-to-date loss of \$133,660 is under budgeted loss by \$6,296, primarily due to control over expenses.

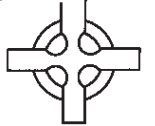
	Current MONTH	Year To Date CURRENT	Year To Date BUDGET	ANNUAL BUDGET 2006	YTD DIFFERENCE FAVORABLE (UNFAVORABLE)
TOTAL INCOME	\$243,343	\$2,020,914	\$2,057,739	\$2,405,750	\$( 36,825)
TOTAL EXPENDITURES	\$149,939	\$2,154,574	\$2,197,695	\$2,405,750	\$ 43,121
NET INCOME	\$ 93,404	\$ (133,660)	\$ (139,956)	\$-	\$ 6,296

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

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

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*Centered in Christ, Growing in Faith*  
**First Presbyterian  
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### FIRST CHURCH VISION STATEMENT

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

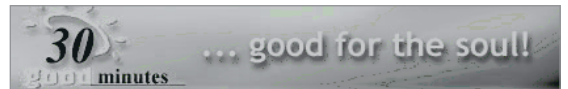
Relying on God's grace, we commit to fulfilling God's purpose for us by creating a welcoming, inclusive environment that inspires spiritual growth and celebration.

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.



The Reverend Christine Chakoian may be seen and heard regularly on **30 Good Minutes**, a weekly ecumenical and interfaith program, at 5:00PM on Sunday afternoons, Channel 11 WTTW.



A speaker presents a spiritual topic with a question and answer period following. Another person reflects on the same topic.

Christine will be reflecting on **Hope on January 7**, **Faith on February 4**, **Diversity on February 25** and **Justice on March 18**. You can see the full schedule at [www.30goodminutes.org](http://www.30goodminutes.org).



**LA TRATTORIA**  
**FIRST CHURCH**  
**SAVE THE DATE**  
**March 10**  
at LAKE FOREST CLUB