



First Presbyterian
Church of Lake Forest
www.firstchurchlf.org

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Lake Forest, IL 60045

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JULY 1, 2007
VOLUME VII, N^o. 13

Faith CONNECTIONS



Holy Outrageous Goals

SESSION APPROVES HOLY OUTRAGEOUS GOALS

It has been one year since Session adopted our statement of who we are:

Recognizing the power of Christ to transform lives, the core mission of First Church is to

- + Proclaim Christ's Message
- + Provide a Community of Spiritual Nurture
- + Promote God's Vision of Justice

In an effort to bring this mission to life, the Session unanimously approved the following goals at its June meeting which we are calling our *Holy Outrageous Goals*.

- + We will double worship participation by July 2009 to Proclaim Christ's Message.
- + We will double participation in Faith Formation by July 2009 to Provide a Community of Spiritual Nurture.
- + We will develop a goal to Promote God's Vision of Justice when the Associate Pastor for Mission has been called.

These are challenging goals and reachable. They culminate with our sesquicentennial in 2009. We are heading to 150 years young and feeling Christ's influence re-energizing our communal life.

To double worship participation we include increasing worshippers on Sunday mornings, viewing worship through audio-visual means currently being developed and worship services held on other than Sunday morning. This is not a matter of competition or numbers, but a question of how do we share Christ's message with the most people we can. We anticipate that much of the work of doubling participation in Faith Formation will take place in small groups. These groups will provide intentional, consistent nurturing of our faith. Resources are being developed to aid the small groups. Leaders will be trained so they are comfortable with their roles, feel the support of First Church and become part of this work of the Holy Spirit. In addition, resources will be available for private devotions, families with children, and opening devotions at meetings. *(continued on page 2)*



Liturgical Arts Ministry at First Church

Have you ever experienced works of art that inspired you - even evoked emotion? The profound connection between art and spirit is the basis for a new liturgical arts ministry that will begin with the upcoming yearlong sermon series, **Stories We Can't Live Without: Proclaiming Christ's Message Today**. The drama, humanity and emotion of Bible stories has been inspiration for countless artists in all medium for centuries. Worship Planning Team has been working on ways to further enrich worship while enacting one of our congregation's core missions: proclaiming Christ's message. Our church is already blessed with extraordinary music yet there are many among us that have myriad artistic talents that can enhance our understanding of Scripture. Beginning at the beginning with Genesis and concluding with Revelation, the series will explore with fresh insights, Bible stories that we think we already know. Telling the stories in enriched ways, visually, audibly and experientially is a key goal of the new ministry.

The ministry is an invitation to all artists, artisans and craftspeople who delight in the creative process. Ideally, 52 original artistic expressions will be part of a year of worship dedicated to stories in the Bible. *(continued on insert page)*

How do we begin? *Holy Outrageous Goals*

✦ Attend worship as often as possible, invite a friend or family to join us, spread the word of God's love and power evidenced in worship, tell any of our leaders that



RECOGNIZING THE POWER OF CHRIST TO TRANSFORM LIVES
THE CORE MISSION OF FIRST PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH
PROCLAIM CHRIST'S MESSAGE... *Double worship attendance by June 2009*
PROVIDE A COMMUNITY OF SPIRITUAL NURTURE... *Double participation in small groups*
PROMOTE GOD'S VISION OF JUSTICE... *Development with new Associate Pastor for Mission*

you want to be part of this exciting, bold movement of the Spirit.

This fall we begin a sermon series called *Stories We Can't Live Without: Proclaiming Christ's Message Today*. We will search Old and New Testaments in a broad overview that will engage us in conversation with God's Word so we begin to see the connection with scripture that was written so many years ago and our lives today.

✦ Join a small group this fall. Invite a friend to join with you. Use this opportunity to explore your faith with others in our community of faith. Just as God yearns to be in relationship with us, we yearn for a relationship with God and each other. Small groups will help us satisfy that longing while deepening our faith.

✦ Continue to pray for our Associate Pastor Nominating Committee as they near their decision about their candidate for this position. We hope that this pastor will be in place this fall. Pray also for our ongoing mission endeavors, and consider rolling up your sleeves to help with Soup Kitchen, Reading Power, the PADS shelter, Rummage, Night Ministry, and other outreach to those who need a special measure of God's grace.

We have our work cut out for us, but we can reach these goals through your participation and the work of the Holy Spirit. Creative ideas are being sought renewed energy is being experienced ... and Christ's power is being felt to transform our lives here at First Presbyterian Church of Lake Forest.



A SMALL GROUP MINISTRY DEVOTED TO READING & DISCUSSING CLASSIC WORKS ADDRESSING BASIC ISSUES OF THE CHRISTIAN FAITH

Christian Ideas Topic II- Good & Bad

The Christian Ideas study group, building on last fall's exploration of right and wrong, took up the question of why we so often do what is wrong, even though we know what is right. This question recurs throughout history, leaving no shortage of readings for this topic. Pre-Christian philosophy was followed by scripture (Old and New Testament) and classic Christian writings on the topic, taking a different turn at the end with less conventional literary explorations.

The group studied works of Plato, Aristotle, Genesis, Romans, Augustine, Thomas Aquinas, John Milton, and Edgar Allen Poe. The one clear message from all the readings is that we are all sinful creatures. Ideas commonly expressed today about bad behavior emerge in interesting ways. There is little sense of defects in upbringing as an excuse for sin, but there is recognition that sin, to impart guilt, must be voluntary. There is also a clear ranking of badness. Unsuccessfully resisting sinful appetite due to moral weakness consistently rates as a minor sin. Voluntarily seeking pleasure in corrupt ways is a worse act of vice. And acts done purely from malice, in rebellion against God's expressed will or natural law, are the worst of all. Plato alone rejects the notion of deliberate choice of evil; the other authors, and a wealth of human experience, argue against that rejection.

The Christian Ideas group is planning a short set of discussions this summer, and will commence again this fall. New members and occasional guests are always welcome. Contact Kevin Warnke for further information (847) 615-2002.



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847-234-6250

SUNDAY, JULY 1

13TH SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME
10:00AM Worship

Sabbath in God's Sovereignty
Reverend Christine Chakoian

Lectionary: 2 Kings 2: 1-2, 6-14
Psalm 77: 1-2, 11-20
Galations 5: 1, 13-25
Luke 9: 51-62

SUNDAY, JULY 8

14TH SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME
10:00AM Worship

Sabbath in Silence
Reverend Patrick Day

Lectionary: 2 Kings 5:1-14
Psalm 30
Galations 6: (1-6) 7-16;
Luke 10: 1-11; 16-20

IN MINISTRY TOGETHER

Pastor/Head of Staff

Rev. Christine Chakoian

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Associate Executive Pastor

Rev. Dr. Don Dempsey

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Associate Pastor **Rev. Patrick Day**

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Parish Associate **Rev. Kent Kinney**

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Director of Music/Organist **Jill Hunt**

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Director of Sanctuary Choir **Thomas Tropp Jr.**

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Director of Children's Choirs **Elizabeth Weismehl**

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Director of Youth Music Ministry **Lesley Byers**

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Preschool Director **Ruth Luke**

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Church website www.firstchurchlf.org

PROCLAIM CHRIST'S MESSAGE

Liturgical Arts Ministry

at First Church

(continued from front page)

The ministry is being launched now

because time is a key element in any artistic endeavor and it is hoped that the summer months will be fertile time for creative work.

Works that are created will be used, displayed, performed and viewed in worship as well as forming part of a yearlong exhibit in various spaces throughout the church. All forms of artistic media, i.e., painting, sculpture, photography, music performance or composition, pottery, dance, ceramics, calligraphy, and textile arts, and more are envisioned.

How will the ministry be implemented? Artists are invited to select from the series list, a story that speaks to them and, in conjunction with Reverend Chakioan, discuss and plan how their proposed creation will play a role in worship. Then the creative process commences and the alchemy between artist and material goes to work.

What are possible outcomes? A song, sculpture, quilt, wood carving, dance, communion cup, pastoral vestment, prayer shawl, musical performance, photograph, mobile, painting...to name only some possibilities. The only limits are the creative mind of the artist, space constraints and the mutual agreement between pastors and artist that the purpose of the work is to help tell the story reverently to the glory of God.

Are resources available to artists? A number of titles exploring liturgical art and Christianity and artistic expression have been ordered and can be checked out at the church for ideas and direction. The Internet is also a wealth of information about ways that liturgical art is used in other churches.

What happens after the work is displayed, used or performed in worship? Artists will be invited to display tangible works in appropriate spaces throughout the church for the duration of the sermon series. Works will then be returned to the artists.

How can I participate? Artists can select their chosen Bible story on a first come, first serve basis from the sermon series' content.

After a meeting with Reverend Chakoian, that story will be assigned to the artist and the date of the sermon will be the completion deadline. Please contact Donna Birney at the church office to express your interest and receive a list of the stories in the series.



WHO ARE WE?

Our Christian calling takes many forms. Here is one example:

The spirit of mission that our youth develop as they participate in the life of First Church does not go away when they graduate from college and become independent. Paul Reaumont is a Financial Analyst with CB Richard Ellis in Chicago. As a high school student, he was an active participant in the Senior High Youth Group and Work Trip. He continued that spirit of mission giving this spring, by coaching a baseball team of ten and eleven year olds from Cabrini Green in Chicago.

The baseball program is through the YMCA. Paul found that the boys had no equipment and the YMCA's supplies were limited. Remembering the rummage sale, he procured equipment for the team at the sale in May. The Youth Committee further supported Paul in this ministry to the children of Chicago. They used monies from the Willett Fund to encourage the children to stay in the game by purchasing a glove for each child and an end of the year celebration held on June 23. "The White Sox donated 35 tickets for us as well which is exciting," stated Paul, whose faith led him to the inner city of Chicago.



PROCLAIM CHRIST'S MESSAGE



Stephen Ministry

*Do not forget to entertain strangers,
for by so doing some people
have entertained angels without knowing it.*

Hebrews 13:2



AVALANCHE RANCH

Children took a wild ride through God's Word" and learned five key messages – God is real, God is with us, God is awesome, God is strong and God is in charge the week of June 11-15. Avalanche Ranch was the theme of the week and WAHOO the word of the day thanks to Cheryl Anderson who did fabulous decorations. Director, Susan Powell, stated, "The cooperation of the parents of the children and the participation of older youth enhanced the week and ensured that everything went smoothly." Areas of study included Games (Mark Pairitz and John Gescheidle), Crafts (Martha Zeeman and Jeniece Higgins), Snack (Cynthia Hessemer), Chadder Theater (Allison Waggoner, Aimee Teluk), Bible Discovery (Missy Burger, Liz Gescheidle) and Music (Ann Barbour, Sally McDonald). Each of these talented people brought the biblical story to life through their area. Mission was a focus of the week as well and the children brought wrapped snacks (see photo) to be given to the Sidewalk Sunday School program in Waukegan, a ministry supported by Children's Ministries Elder Liz Gescheidle.

The children shared their joy and learning with the congregation during worship on June 17, praising the Lord through song and dance. Heartfelt thanks to the many people who made Vacation Bible School a success!!!

IN MEMORIAM

Bruce Thorne died on May 26, 2007. Mr. Thorne joined the church on October 1, 1939. He served as President of the Board of Trustees. He will be missed by his children, grandchildren and great grandchildren as well as many friends. A memorial service was held in the sanctuary on June 14, 2007, Reverend Christine Chakoian officiating.

Martha Louise (Nielsen) Arquilla died on May 26, 2007. Mrs. Arquilla joined the church on October 2, 1940. She taught piano in the community for many years and helped with music in Sunday school. She will be missed by her family and friends. A memorial service was held in the sanctuary on June 1, 2007, Reverend Christine Chakoian officiating and Reverend Kent Kinney assisting.

STEPHEN MINISTERS are trained in a distinctively Christian style of caregiving. During his or her fifty hours of training, each Stephen Minister is equipped to provide care with a set of tools consisting of not only the teachings of our faith, but God's elemental revelations, through the scientific work of modern physicians, psychologists and sociologists, of the complex tapestry of body and spirit that make each of us a unique human being.

At a season when each of us is proud to enjoy the freedoms of this nation, each of us should also reflect on the opportunity to push the margins of our good works beyond those few men and women with whom we regularly share Sunday Worship. Walter J. Geldart, M.Div., M.Eng., writing as an observer for the American Unitarian Conference, says it this way:

"We can do no better than follow the timeless teachings of Jesus... In this day and age it is necessary to have respect for wisdom in the great world religions because our interfaith neighbors in American communities come from several religious traditions with their own truths and values and how they practice them. It is harder today than 100 years ago to be an authentic member of your faith community and truly follow the commandments of scripture - because loyalty to your own group is in a tension with what is not known or not understood about the other group that you do not belong to. Anxiety and fear about group belonging and personal identity can isolate one neighbor from another neighbor in another faith tradition.

But the solution is neither to abandon your tradition and its language and concepts, nor to embrace an empty relativeness, and follow popular fads and opinions. The American community of neighbors can be a model for interfaith dialog because our democratic constitutional form of government guarantees religious freedom for all its peoples. It is necessary for people who talk God talk, to walk the walk with their neighbors that their Scriptures prescribe...

Let there be peace on earth, let this be the moment now,
With every step I take let this be my solemn vow,
To take each moment and live each moment in peace eternally,
Let there be peace on earth, and let it begin with me!
Amen."

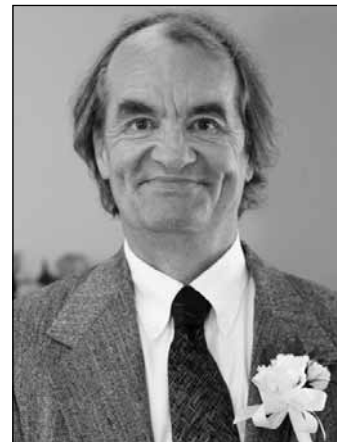
Call Kent Kinney now at (847) 234-6250 for an application to join Stephen Ministry training this fall! ALL members of our First Church family over the age of 18 are invited to apply. Stephen Ministry welcomes diversity of talent, life experience and application of Christian faith. Come as you are now and Stephen Ministry will show you how to use your unique gifts to help your neighbor effectively.

WE WELCOME THE FOLLOWING **NEW MEMBERS** WHO JOINED FIRST CHURCH ON
JUNE 17, 2007



Maddie Dugan grew up in the area. She brings a sense of family history in First Church. She enjoys time with family and friends as well as her volunteer commitments in the community. Maddie feels called to give back to the community that has given her so much.

Richard Schulz returned to the North Shore after 27 years in CA and married Barbara Christensen in 2005 here at First Church. He is committed to the ministries of soup kitchen and the grief ministry aspect of Stephen Ministry. He will be attending Stephen Leader training this summer and helping to teach the fall training class. Richard retired from nursing after 25 years with BSN and MSN degrees and is fulfilling a life-long dream of developing an investment newsletter. He is most grateful to be making First Church his home.



Sharon Jenks is committed to the love and nurture of her family, friends and community. She enjoys spending time with her family, cooking, movie nights and vacations. Her volunteer work in the community is very satisfying. She is looking forward to increasing her ministry at First Church as co-chair of the rummage worker's café. Having raised her children in this church, Sharon knew it was officially time to become a member!



Matt Jenks is focused on graduating from college. He enjoys sports, music and cooking. He has grown up in this church and, with his family, feels called to membership.



Edward and Kristin Armstrong and their children; Jack (8) and Connor (5) want to be part of a community of faith. Ed is a senior account executive at CDW. Kristin enjoys volunteering at her son's schools and throughout the community. The family enjoys being with each other and friends, travel, tennis and golf.



Sharon Meier is a registered nurse in the obstetrics department at Highland Park Hospital. She enjoys dance, cooking, music, physical activity and decorating. Sharon will be married here in January and feels called to membership through First Church's music and sermons.

Anneliese and Bob Crawford and their sons, Peter (8), Andrew (5) and Daniel (2), recently moved to Lake Forest from Atlanta, GA where they were active in the life of Trinity Presbyterian. Bob is Executive Vice President of Brook Furniture Rental. Anneliese focuses most of her energy on managing the 3 Crawboys. All are glad to be back in the Chicago area, closer to both sides of the family. Bob's parents, Winnie and Bob Crawford are members of First Church.



SUNDAYS AT 10:00AM
SUMMER WORSHIP

1ST & THE 15TH OF EACH MONTH.
SUBMISSION DUE DATES ARE THE
IS PUBLISHED TWICE MONTHLY.
FAITH CONNECTIONS

July 1, 2007

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DEACON HEAT WAVE MINISTRY: KEEPIN' OUR FRIENDS COOL WHEN IT HEATS UP!

When it's hot outside, it can be too hot inside for some of the elderly and homebound in our congregation who do not have air conditioning. As part of its ministry, the board of Deacons will check in on those identified as being without air conditioning during unusually long or severe periods of heat. If you or someone you know would like to be added to the list of those to be looked after this summer, please contact Kerry at the church office at (847) 234-6250, ext. 233. We may at times have a need to provide "cool rooms" for these friends. If you are willing to provide a cool room to someone in the congregation who may need it this summer, or have further questions on this ministry, please also contact Kerry at the church office.



WORK TRIP YOUTH AND ADULTS
RETURN FROM A WEEK OF MINISTRY AT
BOGGS RURAL LIFE CENTER IN GA.