

Faith CONNECTIONS



Why were kids making muscle arms, shouting "A-ha!" and making ooey, gooey balls of slime?

Because they were learning about Jesus' miraculous power in Vacation Bible School's "Power Lab." The week of June 9 found 110 children learning about Jesus as dozens of volunteers helped the children connect with Jesus as a friend and someone who empowers them to do what's right. Children were "quarantined" as they learned about the lepers Jesus healed, "walked" on water, ate "mucky mud" puddings that reminded them of Jesus using mud to heal a blind man and participated in any number of crazy activities.

Summer mission began at VBS and continues in Sunday School as the children assemble camp kits for Sidewalk Sunday School. Donations of soap, shampoo, deodorant, socks, washcloths, towels, toothbrushes and toothpaste are appreciated.

Summer Sundays are the perfect opportunity for more low-key lessons as the children meet in multi-age groups. In July, Preschoolers and kindergarteners will learn the popular stories of Jesus while grades 1-4 learn about heroes and heroines of the Bible in "Summer Sunday School Superstars!"

Each week focuses on a different "superstar" - someone we should know because of the major role they played in the faith. We'll learn the stories together and get comfortable locating them in the Bible. Kids will enjoy a different activity each week to reinforce the story.

In August, all ages come together and the learning continues (with a little help from *VeggieTales*). The kids love seeing the stories acted out by cucumbers and our regular teachers enjoy worshipping with their spouses.

We are still recruiting youth volunteers (completed fourth grade or older). Please contact apagliarella@firstchurchlf.org or call Amy at the church, x229 if interested. Or, just come!

Summer Sunday School Superstars!

Heroes and Heroines of the Bible

- | | |
|----------|--|
| June 29 | Adam and Eve - they made a mistake but were still a part of God's plan |
| July 6 | Abraham and Sarah - parents of our faith |
| July 13 | Moses - God's reluctant messenger |
| July 20 | The Prophets - calling God's people to justice |
| July 27 | The early Christians - the men and women who shared the good news |
| August 3 | The Good Samaritan (Are You My Neighbor? - <i>VeggieTales</i>) |
| Aug 10 | Esther (The Girl who became Queen - <i>VeggieTales</i>) |
| Aug 17 | Daniel (Rack, Shack and Benny- <i>VeggieTales</i>) |
| Aug 24 | King David (Dave and the Giant Pickle - <i>VeggieTales</i>) |

RECOGNIZING
THE POWER OF CHRIST
TO TRANSFORM LIVES,
THE CORE MISSION OF FIRST CHURCH
PROCLAIM CHRIST'S MESSAGE
PROVIDE A COMMUNITY OF SPIRITUAL NURTURE
& PROMOTE GOD'S VISION OF JUSTICE



Dear friends,

From June 21 – 28, the General Assembly of the Presbyterian Church (USA) met in San Jose, California for its biannual convention.

As always, a number of difficult issues are facing our denomination: whether persons (homosexual or heterosexual) who are actively partnered outside of marriage are eligible for ordination ... which body of the church holds control of the assets ... what stance we take regarding our Christian brothers and sisters in the Palestinian territories.

We are hardly the only denomination in conflict. All of the “mainline” churches – Episcopal, Lutheran, Methodist, and others – are experiencing painful rifts over similar issues. With all of these church fights, you may well wonder: **why do we bother with denominations at all?**

Indeed, unaffiliated community churches are thriving even while denominational membership is shrinking. But as they thrive, a funny thing is happening. Independent churches such as Willow Creek and Vineyard Fellowship have grown so prolifically that they are “planting” new churches, publishing curriculum, sending out missionaries, and developing governance structures. In short, they are becoming denominations. **So let me give a plug for our denomination:**

We boast a membership of 2.3 million members in 11,000 congregations and continue to launch new church developments across the country We send mission personnel to nearly 70 countries around the world – not including those sent by individual congregations

We support ten seminaries and enjoy affiliations with the 65 Presbyterian-related colleges (including Davidson, Macalester, and our own Lake Forest College)

We provide Christian services not only for our own but for the wider community, including a publishing house (Westminster/John Knox Press), retirement communities (such as Lake Forest Place), college chaplaincies (including Northwestern University, University of Illinois-Chicago, and McKinley Foundation at University of Illinois Urbana-Champaign)

Statistics alone cannot do justice to the power of God at work in worship services, prayer chains, Work Trips, Stephen Ministry, homeless shelters, soup kitchens, career counseling, and so much more, in church after church after church. Hearts are moved, lives changed, bodies strengthened, spirits transformed. Find out more: I commend to you the Presbyterian Church (USA)’s official website – www.pcusa.org – and, for a reliable, independent source of news, the weekly The Presbyterian Outlook (www.pres-outlook.org).

Would it be easier to be an independent congregation? Sometimes, no doubt. But in the end, we do better together than we can ever do alone.

Every blessing, *Christine Chakoian*

Are you grateful that you can read and write?

Would you like to make a difference in the lives of some children? Plan ahead for a meaningful volunteer experience this fall, and be a part of Reading Power, the literacy tutoring program in North Chicago schools. Help to accelerate the learning of low achieving children. To qualify, you need only a love of children, the ability to read and write, and the willingness to devote a morning or afternoon a week to reading and writing with children one-on-one. Training by a literacy specialist will be ongoing. For more information, call or e-mail Mary Jane Hender, (847) 295-2728, mjhender@comcast.net.



First Presbyterian Church of Lake Forest 847-234-6250

SUNDAY, JULY 6

14TH SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME

10:00AM Worship

The Reverend Patrick Day

Communion

Peter

SUNDAY, JULY 13

15TH SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME

10:00AM Worship

The Reverend Emily Rosencrans

Baptism

Hebrews

IN MINISTRY TOGETHER

Pastor/Head of Staff

Rev. Christine Chakoian

cchakoian@firstchurchlf.org

Associate Pastor Rev. Patrick Day

pday@firstchurchlf.org

Associate Pastor Rev. Corey Nelson

cnelson@firstchurchlf.org

Parish Associate Rev. Kent Kinney

kkinney@firstchurchlf.org

Director of Youth Ministries Kristie Finley

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Director of Children's Ministries Amy Pagliarella

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Director of Music/Organist Jill Hunt

jhunt@firstchurchlf.org

Director of Sanctuary Choir Thomas Tropp Jr.

ttropp@firstchurchlf.org

Director of Youth Music Ministry Lesley Byers

lbyers@firstchurchlf.org

Preschool Director Ruth Luke

preschool@firstchurchlf.org

Dir. of Communications Donna Birney

dbirney@firstchurchlf.org

Church Business Manager Herb Smyers

hsmyers@firstchurchlf.org

Church website www.firstchurchlf.org

PROMOTE GOD'S VISION



There will be 3 opportunities to hear Dr. Galambush at First Church. Make plans now to attend any or all of them and learn more about the origins of our faith.

- ① Friday evening, July 25 at 6:30PM in Fellowship Hall. Join Dr. Galambush for dinner catered by Apron Strings, followed by "Will The Real Israel Please Stand Up?"
- ② Saturday morning, July 26 in Fellowship Hall. Join Dr. Galambush for further exploration of the early development of the Church. (Times and topics to follow.)
- ③ Sunday morning, July 27. Join Dr. Galambush after worship service for coffee.

Dr. Julie Galambush
Professor of Religions Studies at
The College of William and Mary

The Reluctant Parting

Dr. Galambush will be our guest at First Church at the end of July. She is the author of *The Reluctant Parting*, a book which describes the development of the early Christian Church. Dr. Galambush holds a Ph.D. in Old Testament studies from Emory University and a Master of Divinity from Yale Divinity School, where she was the roommate of Reverend Christine Chakoian. Formerly an ordained American Baptist minister, she is a convert to Judaism and a member of Temple Rodef Shalom in Falls Church, Virginia.

The weekend will be an enjoyable way to wrap up our series, "Stories We Can't Live Without." Dr. Galambush will help us better understand our connection to our Jewish history and see our part in the overall sweep of God's story.

Advance copies of **The Reluctant Parting** are available for sale through the church office for \$18. Contact Sarah Seccombe at sseccombe@firstchurchlf.org. Copies of the book will also be available for sale on Friday and Saturday.

I/We will attend

Friday evening dinner: Number of persons attending (\$5 each) _____

Saturday seminar: Number of persons attending (no charge) _____

Name: _____

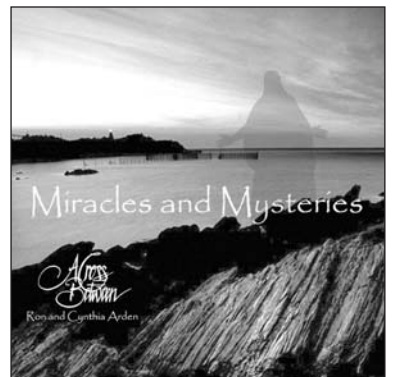
Payment by: Check (enclosed)
 Credit Card

Card No.: _____ Exp Date: _____

SPECIAL MUSIC: GOSPEL STORIES FROM JOHN

PLANNED FOR JULY 20
WORSHIP

Our own Ron and Cynthia Arden will be contributing their gift of liturgical art as part of the "Stories We Can't Live Without" series on July 20 for morning worship. They will share their latest recording, *Miracles and Mysteries - an intimate look at the healing ministry of Christ as told by John*. As part of their ministry called A Cross Between, the Ardens commissioned this work from well known musicians in the gospel music world, Ken Medema and Bruce Greer. Audiences have hailed it as the best "musical sermon" they've ever heard. As a thank you and blessing gift to First Church from Ron and Cynthia, everyone will receive a cd of this dynamic worship concert to take home that day!



IN MEMORIAM

Herbert (Herb) R. Faulks died on May 28, 2008. Herb joined the church in 1956. He was dedicated to the people of First Church as Head Usher for many years and as an advocate for regular contact with congregation members. He will be missed by his family, Libby Faulks and Patty and Bruce Bennett and their children Elliott, Dustin, Annie and Molly. A memorial service was held in the sanctuary on June 7, 2008, Reverend Kent W. Kinney officiating.

Dorothy (Heidloff) Fletcher died on June 5, 2008. Dottie joined the church in 1995. She shared her love for learning with children and adults. She will be missed by her husband, Archie and their children Tom, Sally and David and many grandchildren. A memorial service was held in the sanctuary on June 9, 2008, Reverends Christine Chakoian and Kent Kinney officiating.

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SUNDAY SCHOOL AT
10:15 AM

847-234-6250 fax 847-234-6283
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First Presbyterian
Church of Lake Forest




SUMMER CHOIR - EVERYONE IS WELCOME

...Rehearsal Sunday Mornings at 9:00

and sing at the 10:00 Worship service.

August 3, 10, 17 and 24.



The Core Mission of
First Presbyterian
Church of Lake Forest

•
PROCLAIM
CHRIST'S
MESSAGE

•
PROVIDE A
COMMUNITY
OF SPIRITUAL
NURTURE

•
PROMOTE
GOD'S VISION
OF JUSTICE

The Flower Delivery Ministry

The Deacons' Flower Delivery Ministry is continuing into its second year as an additional means to express God's love to individuals and families within the church community.

It involves the sharing of available flowers from Sunday worship, weddings, and memorial services with church members who need or deserve a reminder of God's love and the support of the congregation.

Volunteers are needed to act as "Flower Delivery Ministers," sharing their gifts of kindness and concern with members of our church family who are ill, hospitalized or otherwise unable to attend church, as well as those who are celebrating a special birthday, birth of a family member, baptism or anniversary.

The flower delivery assignments are organized by calendar quarter, and volunteers are asked to deliver flowers once a month on Sunday afternoons or Mondays after the Sunday services.

Volunteers are invited to attend a brief orientation session on Thursday, July 10 at 10:00 a.m. at the church. Please contact Donna Birney at the church or Sue Barkhausen (847)234-5925; sbarkhausen@lfelem.lfc.edu if you have any questions.