



First Presbyterian
Church of Lake Forest
www.firstchurchlf.org

700 N. Sheridan Road
Lake Forest, IL 60045

847.234.6250 fax 847.234.6283

March 15, 2007

Volume VII, N° 6

Faith CONNECTIONS

Holy Week

The heart of the experience

Palm Sunday ... April 1 9:00 & 11:00^{AM}

the depth...

“The Cry of the Whole Congregation” by Walter Wangerin
THE STORY OF CHRIST'S PASSION TOLD IN SCRIPTURE, STORY,
SONG, DANCE AND CONGREGATIONAL PARTICIPATION,
INCLUDING THE CELEBRATION OF THE LORD'S SUPPER.

Maundy Thursday ... April 5 7:30^{PM}

the drama...

Communion & Tenebrae
Music by the Sanctuary Choir

Good Friday ... April 6 Noon through 8:00^{PM}

the power...

Opening Worship & Stations of the Cross
WE INVITE YOU TO EXPERIENCE THE PASSION OF JESUS' LAST DAYS.
THE SENIOR HIGH YOUTH WILL PRESENT SEVEN
STATIONS OF THE CROSS, AN EXPERIENTIAL WORSHIP SETTING.
JOIN US IN THE SANCTUARY BETWEEN NOON AND 8:00PM FOR
PERSONAL DEVOTION AT THE STATIONS.

Easter Festival Celebration... April 8

the presence...

7:00^{AM} Youth Music Ministry

9:00 & 11:00^{AM} Sanctuary Choir,
Children's Choirs, Brass Quartet

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,

As we walk through the season of Lent, I pray that your personal practices and our church's Lenten mini-retreats have brought you spiritual refreshment and renewal. Now, more than halfway through Lent's 40 days, we approach its culmination in Holy Week.



In my own faith, I find the worship services of Holy Week to be impossibly powerful. I can't altogether explain it. Part of it is the power of ritual, in the annual re-telling of the story; part of it is the power of the music and the creative, evocative services; part of it is the power of gathering together in so many holy moments. Yet all of it is much, much larger than can be explained by tradition or aesthetic or community. It is the accumulative encounter with Christ's Spirit in these worship services that take my breath away.

I humbly invite you, then, to receive what I have known by worshiping as often in Holy Week as you can. What I'm suggesting is in some ways absurd; we're all so terribly busy. But the Spirit's transforming renewal is yours to experience, if only you will come.

Please join your brothers and sisters in Christ:

Palm Sunday, April 1, 9:00 & 11:00AM: Jesus' entry into Jerusalem, betrayal and Passion, told through Scripture and congregational participation.

Maundy Thursday, April 5, 7:30PM: The commemoration of the Last Supper and the service of Tenebrae ("shadows" or darkening of the sanctuary).

Good Friday, April 6, noon: A brief service of the Stations of the Cross
Noon – 8:00PM: private devotions at the Stations of the Cross

Easter Sunday, April 8, 7:00AM: Hear the Story and See for Yourself
9:00 & 11:00AM: Festival of the Resurrection

May these last days and weeks of the season of Lent find you meeting the Lord in profound and refreshing ways.

Every blessing, *Christine Chakoian*

Lenten Mini-Retreats

The Reverend Patrick Day and a team of lay leaders invite you to the final two retreats.

The theme is Meeting Christ in our Everyday Lives. The scriptural reference is John 12: 1-8 about the anointing of Jesus. The retreats will all follow the same program and you are invited to participate in one or many. You are asked to read the Bible passage ahead of time and bring something with you that represents your everyday life

March 20, Tuesday; 1:00 – 3:00PM March 29 Thursday; 9:00 – 11:00AM

Childcare is offered for the day-time retreats. Reservations to Kerry Spera at (847) 234-6250



WEDNESDAY MORNING LENTEN COMMUNION SERVICES Led by Lay and Clergy

SERVICE IN THE CHAPEL FROM 7:00-7:30AM CONTINENTAL BREAKFAST FROM 7:30-8:00AM

March 21 Dick Mentzinger Rev. Christine Chakoian breakfast served by Dick Mentzinger

March 28 Keith Smith Rev. Don Dempsey breakfast served by Mary Farwell



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SUNDAY, MARCH 18

4TH SUNDAY IN LENT

9:00 & 11:00AM Worship

The Reverend Christine Chakoian
Sanctuary Choir &

Lakeminster Ringers at 9:00

Lakeminster Ringers &

Carol Choir at 11:00

Annual Meeting Part 2 at 10:00

Lectionary: Joshua 5: 9-12

Psalms 32

2 Corinthians 5: 16-21

Luke 15: 1-3, 11b-32

Philippians 3: 4b-11

SUNDAY, MARCH 25

5TH SUNDAY IN LENT

9:00 & 11:00AM Worship

The Reverend Christine Chakoian
Sanctuary Choir at 9:00

Soloist at 11:00

Lectionary: Isaiah 55:1-9

Psalms 63:1-8;

1 Corinthians 10:1-13

John 12: 1-8

IN MINISTRY TOGETHER

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publish@firstchurchlf.org

PROCLAIM CHRIST'S MESSAGE



From CARE RECEIVER

to **STEPHEN MINISTER**

The care they received during a crisis has moved many care receivers to train as Stephen Ministers:

One day Joseph Little found himself wandering the streets alone, no longer employed, his marriage crumbling, searching for a place to live. A few weeks earlier he had moved to town with his family. *"I had been a partner in a law firm, and I gave up my law practice to move back to my wife's hometown and work for her family's company,"* Joe said. *"Shortly thereafter, I got served with divorce papers."*

"So I found myself in a new city where I knew practically no one. No job. No wife. No kids, at least temporarily. It was a great personal crisis."

In his wanderings he caught sight of the steeple of the Presbyterian church where he had been married. He approached the associate pastor, who soon provided a Stephen Minister. For 18 months Joe's Stephen Minister cared for him as he weathered the divorce and began rebuilding his life.

In early 2005 Joe took STEPHEN MINISTRY training.

*"It has given me skills that I use as a parent of two sons, in my personal relationships, and in my career as an attorney... I listen to people differently than I did before. I empathize so well with what people are going through because I've been a care receiver."**

To learn more about receiving CONFIDENTIAL care for yourself, or for someone you love, from one of First Church's trained male or female Stephen Ministers, call Rev. Kent Kinney at (847) 234-6250. WATCH future issues of Faith Connections and Sunday Bulletins FOR ANNOUNCEMENTS ABOUT THE TRAINING CLASS now forming at First Church FOR FALL 2007.

* First Church Stephen Ministry applies strict rules of confidentiality to the story of each of its own care receivers. The foregoing story is not about a care receiver from this church. It is a true story from another Presbyterian church, reproduced with permission of Stephen Ministries St. Louis. Download this and other accounts of Stephen Ministry in action from www.stephenministries.org.

Dedicate Easter Flowers in Honor or In Memory of a Loved One

Honor a special beloved person with a dedication that will be listed in the church bulletin on Easter Sunday, April 8. Contributions can be made using the Easter Flower envelope found in the pew rack. It may be placed in the offering plate during worship or returned in person or by mail to the church office no later than **Wednesday, April 4**. Be sure to print clearly WHOM the dedication is in memory of and FROM whom so the dedication can be properly presented. The donation can also be given to the Glory of God, in celebration of a special occasion, in honor of our brave soldiers, or for any reason you may want to share with our congregation. Please make your tax deductible donation, payable to **First Presbyterian Church/Flower Ministry**.

Questions? Call Laurie Valassis (847) 234-5326



Lunch Bunch on Friday, March 23,



welcomes member **Nancy Orbison**, musician extraordinaire and superb solo handbell ringer.

She will tell us

some handbell history, demonstrate techniques and end with a mini-concert. Don't miss this event! Call the church at (847) 234-6250 for a reservation by Tuesday, March 20, please. Cost is \$5.00 at the door of South Parlor.

IN MEMORIAM

Evelyn C. Renz died on February 7, 2007 in Arizona. Mrs. Renz was a member of First Church for 53 years. She enjoyed community service, especially at Lake Forest Hospital. She will be missed by her children, Robert and John Renz, Judy Volpe and Sue Fox and four grandchildren. A memorial service will be held on June 9, 2007, Reverend Don Dempsey officiating.

Mary Lou Swift died on February 15, 2007. Mrs. Swift, a deacon, joined the church in 1973. She was a valued member of Chancel Guild for many years. She will be missed by her daughter, Sara (Bill) Snyder and their children Mary and Jessica and two sons. A memorial service will be held in the sanctuary on March 31, 2007 at 2 pm, Reverend Kent Kinney officiating.

BIRTH

Bert and Cathy Tucker proudly announce the arrival of their grand daughter, *Ava Eliana Tucker*, on February 12, 2007. She is the daughter of Gary and Kandi Tucker of New Jersey. Ava means "life" and Eliana means "God has answered."

PROVIDE A COMMUNITY OF SPIRITUAL NURTURE



Bid For Better Lives

Saturday, April 28, 2007 at the Onwentsia Club, Lake Forest

6:00PM

Name(s) _____

Phone _____

Address _____

Reservations are requested for _____ guest(s) at \$75 per person \$ _____

Angel Package \$100 Single/ \$200 Couple (Includes reservation and program recognition) \$ _____

Archangel Package \$250 Single/\$500 Couple (Includes reservation and program recognition) \$ _____

Friend of the Deacons up to \$500 (**donation only** with program recognition) \$ _____

Caring Partner \$500+ Individual or Business Name (**donation only** with program recognition) \$ _____

Pre-purchase of DRINK tickets ~ \$1/ea (tickets will be ready for you when you check in) \$ _____

TOTAL \$ _____

Please make your check(s) payable to **FIRST Presbyterian Church of Lake Forest** **OR**

CREDIT CARD: VISA _____ MASTERCARD _____

CARD # _____ EXP DATE _____

Cardholder name/ signature _____

(for program recognition payment must be received by 4/13/07 - thank you)

Seating will be pre-assigned, you may (please circle one of the following):

A) reserve a complete table (limit 10 people) to confirm this request
checks or charge for all guests, must be received together.

B) request to be seated with others (less than a full table) OR

C) "mix and mingle" and we'll seat you with others.

We will do our best to accommodate all requests but seating limitations may require some flexibility

Please provide the names, addresses and phone number for all guests in your group so that an Auction Book can be delivered prior to the event. Thank you!

NAME(S) and ADDRESS (**must be completed for all parties requested at same table**) PHONE

PLEASE RETURN THIS COMPLETED FORM ALONG WITH PAYMENT TO:

Nancy Hensel
1074 West Fork Drive
Lake Forest, IL 60045

(PLEASE - DO NOT send reservations to the Church office)

For more information about how this event benefits others visit: www.firstchurchlf.org

PROMOTE GOD'S VISION OF JUSTICE



WHO ARE WE?

Our Christian calling takes many forms.



Here is one example **Phyllis Metcalf**, member of First Church for 32 years, recently returned from a trip to Guatemala with the **Hearts In Motion** agency. This was Phyllis' fifth trip to Guatemala! It is her faith that leads her there as she follows Jesus Christ in loving service to others.



"I have no special talents and yet, each year they find lots for me to do. It's a wonderful experience and is really helping to make a difference in Guatemala," Phyllis stated. What a gift to follow the example of our Lord and make a difference in someone's life!

Hearts In Motion sends 30-60 doctors, nurses, dentists, pharmacists, firefighters, carpenters, translators and "go-fers" to Guatemala each month to help with a variety of activities. The participants build schools, run daycare centers, perform miraculous surgeries and teach search and rescue techniques in a rural area of Guatemala about 3 hours east of Guatemala City.

Phyllis has some unbelievable stories to tell and would be glad to share them. If you have any interest in hearing about them, please contact her at (847) 234-9070 or Pjcoppp@aol.com.

ONE GREAT HOUR OF SHARING









Since 1949, Presbyterians have joined with millions of other Christians through One Great Hour of Sharing to share God's love with people experiencing need. Our gifts support ministries of disaster response, refugee assistance and resettlement, and community development that help people find safe refuge, start new lives, and work together to strengthen their families and communities. Recognizing that the hope we have in Christ is lived out in our hope for one another, we respond with gifts that help our sisters and brothers around the world find the hope for a brighter future. First Church will collect this offering on **Palm Sunday, April 1.**



Your Help Can Make A Difference

Last month, Rev. David MacPherson of Moyobamba, Peru reminded us that we are all capable of Great and Marvelous Deeds. First Church invites you to join our mission efforts in Peru; there are so many ways that you can help the people of this region:



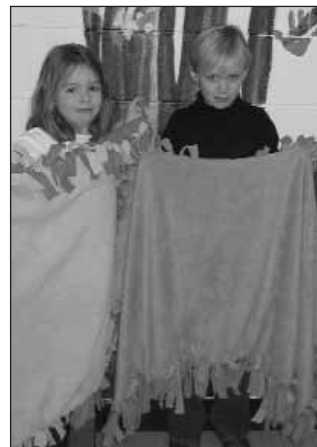
-  Donate and build a new church in one of Lima's barrios: \$20,000
-  Sponsor a child at Annie Soper Christian School: \$500 per year
-  Help build/finance a seat for higher learning in Moyobamba
-  Volunteer to go on a mission trip
-  Pray for all the peoples of Peru
-  Volunteer to house the next missionary family visiting Lake Forest
-  Serve on the World Mission Committee
-  Go with First Church's Mission Committee to the Mission Conference in October in Louisville

Let's work together to make a difference for the people of Peru.

If you can help, please contact Jon Bayer at (847) 735-0615.

Sunday School making a difference with Mission projects!


Thanks to everyone who helped with the mission projects in Sunday School.



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Children's Choirs welcome
 those interested in being a part
 of the Annual Children's
 Musical *By the Sea!*



PW Book Review

Save the Date

Barbara Rinella will be our guest on

reach out
 &
 bring a friend!



Tuesday, April 17

at 10:00AM in Fellowship Hall

Continental Breakfast
 from 9:00-10:00AM

DATES TO REMEMBER

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PRESBYTERIAN WOMEN
INVITE
 THE WOMEN OF
 THE CHURCH TO

Women's RETREAT

Saturday, May 19 *Praying the Gospel*

at ST. MARY'S OF THE LAKE with Barbara Peters
 8:30 - 3:00PM Breakfast & Lunch served

DATES TO REMEMBER

Are your children in school? Do you want to network with other women and do things with other women? The Presbyterian Women Coordinating Team needs leadership, invites your ideas and programs that respond to today's interests. Think about getting involved with a friend or two. Call Rita Fossell, PW Moderator at (847) 234-4761.