



First Presbyterian
Church of Lake Forest
www.firstchurchlf.org

700 N. Sheridan Road
Lake Forest, IL 60045

847.234.6250 fax 847.234.6283

May 1, 2007
Volume VII, No. 9

Faith CONNECTIONS



Blessing of the Animals at First Church on Sunday, May 6

I will remember my covenant which is between me and you and every living creature of all flesh.

Genesis 9:15

God's providential care for all creatures will be celebrated on Sunday, May 6 at a 9:00AM Blessing of the Animals worship service led by Reverend Christine Chakoian.

In the pet-friendly environment of the Rummage Tent, First Church members young and old are invited to bring their pets [including Teddy Bears] for this unique service in remembrance of St. Francis of Assisi's love for all God's creatures.

Reverend Patrick Day will lead traditional worship, including communion, concurrently in the sanctuary and at 11:00AM.

Proverbs reminds us that, *'the righteous care for the needs of their animals'* and this worship experience will recognize and celebrate the tremendous services given to the human race by animals. The recent pet food recall brings into sharp focus our responsibility for the nurture and care of our pets and the singular gifts they bring to our lives. The junior highs will lead the Blessing with liturgy and music, and communion by intinction will be served. Please ensure that children with pets are accompanied by an adult and that pets are securely leashed.



ORGAN & GUITAR RECITAL

Sunday, May 20, 4:00PM

We have a real treat in store for us on **Sunday, May 20**, at 4:00PM in the sanctuary. Our Director of Music/Organist, Jill Hunt, and her son, guitarist Jason Hunt, will present a concert of organ and classical guitar music. Jill will perform organ works by J. S. Bach, English composers Percy Whitlock (1903-1946) and Frank Bridge (1879-1941), and Canadian composer Denis Bédard (b. 1950). Jason will perform works for guitar by J. S. Bach, Mauro Giuliani (1781-1829), Brazilian composer Heitor Villa-Lobos (1887-1959), and Cuban composer Leo Brouwer (b. 1939).

Jason began studying the classical guitar in high school with Mark Maxwell, Professor of Guitar at DePaul University. He received a Bachelor of Music degree in guitar performance from Northwestern University in 1999, studying with Anne Waller. He teaches guitar privately and at Guitar Works in Evanston and performs frequently in the Chicago area, playing pop, rock, jazz, and classical.

Jill is, of course, very proud of her son, Jason! We can all look forward to this special opportunity to hear them perform together. Plan to join us for this exciting event.

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

Completion of Front Entrance & Landscape Renovation Unifies First Church Campus

Welcoming Front Entry, Varied Plantings and New Site for Playground

In the year 2000, a beloved member of First Church shared a fond childhood memory of "rolling around on the lawn" after church with her Sunday School friends. The spirited romps took place right outside the Sanctuary. Over time, the favorite spot grew thick with shrubbery, and in the 1950's, the church entryway was completely redone. These memories and more served as the driving force behind a decision to take a new look at the entry and surrounding campus to see if it could be improved.



After more than five years from idea to reality, First Church has a newly renovated front entrance. Already this spring, plantings are underway to further enhance the campus landscape.

"We realized that we really needed an integrated approach," said Bill Webb, outgoing Moderator of the Building and Grounds Committee, recalling the beginning of the campus renovation project. Webb was one of several people who shepherded an extensive \$1.1 million front entrance and campus landscape project to completion using only private member donations. A **dedication of the project** is planned by Buildings and Grounds on **June 10** following Sunday service.

TIME TO MOVE FORWARD

Although the project drew interest, it got a needed jump start when Reverend Jim Brasel came to serve as interim minister. Under his leadership, a group of First Church members came forward to address the need for a more integrated approach to our church landscape and confusing entrances. Aside from landscape concerns, structural objectives were also uncovered. One concern was some stone problems leftover from an outside addition in the 1950's. Input came back from the preschool that they badly needed a new playground area and the Sanctuary needed a more efficient heating and cooling system. We determined that a different parking configuration would add regular and handicapped spaces. All in all, lots of different, yet related objectives.

DONOR SUPPORT CRUCIAL

"We had a strong interest factor by donors," said Bill Webb, noting that without the generosity of members (many of whose gifts were made through the Memorials Committee) these 'bricks and mortar' issues often go unresolved. Adding gratitude for an outpouring of support, Audrey Vanderaa, moderator of Memorials, expressed her delight in being able to support this new and welcoming campus to the community.

THE PROJECT TEAM

The magnitude of both the architecture and landscape components of the project – as well as the historic status of the church – called for the selection of top notch consultants and contractors.

(continued on next page)



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SUNDAY, MAY 6

5TH SUNDAY OF EASTER

9:00 & 11:00AM Worship

*The Reverend Patrick Day
in the sanctuary at 9:00 & 11:00
Eggs Benediction at 9:00 & 11:00*

*Blessing of the Animals at 9:00
The Reverend Christine Chakoian*

*Junior High youth music
Communion at all services*

Lectionary: Acts 11:1-18

Psalm 148

Revelation 21:1-6

John 13:31-35

SUNDAY, MAY 13

6TH SUNDAY OF EASTER

MOTHER'S DAY

9:00 & 11:00AM Worship

*The Reverend Christine Chakoian
Sanctuary Choir at 9:00
Baptism at 11:00*

Lectionary: Acts 16:9-15

Psalm 67

Revelation 22: 12-14

John 5: 1-9

IN MINISTRY TOGETHER

Pastor/Head of Staff

Rev. Christine Chakoian

cchakoian@firstchurchlf.org

Associate Executive Pastor

Rev. Dr. Don Dempsey

ddempsey@firstchurchlf.org

Associate Pastor **Rev. Patrick Day**

pday@firstchurchlf.org

Parish Associate **Rev. Kent Kinney**

kkinney@firstchurchlf.org

Children's Ministry **Donna Birney**

dbirney@firstchurchlf.org

Director of Youth Ministries **Kristie Finley**

kfinley@firstchurchlf.org

Director of Music/Organist **Jill Hunt**

jhunt@firstchurchlf.org

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

ttropp@firstchurchlf.org

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

eweismehl@firstchurchlf.org

Director of Youth Music Ministry **Lesley Byers**

lbyers@firstchurchlf.org

Preschool Director **Ruth Luke**

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Church Business Manager **Herb Smyers**

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Church website www.firstchurchlf.org

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publish@firstchurchlf.org

PROCLAIM CHRIST'S MESSAGE

Completion of Front Entrance & Landscape Renovation Unifies First Church Campus

Welcoming Front Entry, Varied Plantings and New Site for Playground (continued from page 1)

After interviewing a handful of well-respected firms to tackle the project, Buildings and Grounds tapped the Lake Forest architectural firm of Geudtner and Melichar. Recognized for her restoration work with area churches, Diana Melichar along with Guy Berg from the same firm were anxious to create a structural concept in keeping with the church's history. An "open-air covered loggia" was to be added to the southeast corner of the Narthex granting better identification to our main entry. The plan was reminiscent of the 1902 church. Arching brackets were to be added to enhance shape. Geudtner and Melichar developed a paper model which was displayed in Fellowship Hall for all members to more clearly see and understand planned changes.

In March 2005, Geudtner and Melichar made a formal presentation before the City's Historic Preservation Commission. (Approval is necessary given the landmark status of the property.) With approval received and a stack of permits in hand, a much needed face-lift for First Church was underway!

The firm of Bully and Andrews was selected for the general renovation. Their team worked during all kinds of weather conditions and even some construction delays on the loggia (stone needed to be precisely matched and a special tool for joint finishing secured), just to be completed by October 2006.

Douglas Hoerr Landscape Architecture of Chicago was chosen for the project. As chief landscape architect, Hoerr noted that the church lacked a unified landscape concept. A walk-through revealed that "shrubbery was hiding the building, and concrete areas near the front doors actually had sunk, creating a safety hazard."

Hoerr urged the church to go for a "total concept, not just a detailed plan." When Hoerr's firm first put forth a written study, the report noted a need to create a pleasing overall composition to better define existing areas at First Church. The areas determined to need most attention were the Sheridan Road and Narthex doors which were felt to be confusing to visitors. Thus, greater definition of the main entrance was considered a primary goal. The entire campus needed landscape enhancements. Among the recommendations made were that new plantings have year-round interest and be visually open and inviting. Strong bedlines were added which are more in keeping with the scale of the buildings.

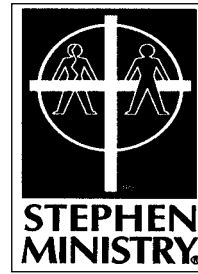
Rocco Fiore and Sons was selected to install the landscape plan and worked closely with Douglas Hoerr Associates to interpret their objectives appropriately.

OUR TEAM

Over the past few years, many members of the Buildings and Grounds Committee worked tirelessly to coordinate and see the project to fruition. Among these are Bill Webb, Archie Fletcher, Jane Jensen, Steve MacFarlan, Ben Maas, Harold Morrison, Virginia Ross, Herb Smyers, and Laurie Valassis. Also, elder Peter Keller assisted by representing Buildings and Grounds on Session. Steve MacFarlan oversaw the installation of the air-conditioning system.

At the planned dedication on June 10, Reverend Chakoian and some key planners will speak to the impact of the project on First Church.

"The months of construction and some necessary inconvenience are over", said Reverend Christine Chakoian, recently. "First Church now has an inviting new entry. We thank everyone who worked on behalf of the church to enhance this ministry. We hope the improvements to our campus will continue to welcome all who want to share in Christ's message."



Stephen Ministry

"We are not some casual and meaningless product of evolution.

Each of us is the result of a thought of God. Each of us is willed, each of us is loved, each of us is necessary."

Benedict XVI, a current symbolic leader of Christians worldwide, speaking on the occasion of his installation as Pope of the Roman Catholic Church, April 24, 2005

STEPHEN MINISTERS are MEN and WOMEN who have received special training to support the process of healing those suffering emotional trauma. Some are openly devout Christians, some quietly question the dogma of their faith, some freely testify to a relationship with their Savior while others guard the privacy of a personal relationship with God. STEPHEN MINISTERS are as varied in their interests and their personal liturgical practices as the members and friends of this congregation. Yet, each one is loved and each one is necessary to do acts satisfying the varied needs filled by Stephen Ministry's mission among members and friends of First Church. ALL are encouraged to apply to this important ministry in the life of our congregation as an answer to Jesus' charge to his followers to love and to help one another.

Act now if you'd like to be part of the next STEPHEN MINISTER TRAINING CLASS, which is now being formed to begin just after Labor Day. It is a wonderful opportunity for you to grow in faith, develop stronger interpersonal skills, and bring Christ's love into the lives of hurting people through that unique "thought of God" that made you, "YOU".

Techniques to equip a distinctively Christian style of caregiving have been polished by the Stephen Series for more than thirty years. Among topics to be presented in fifty hours of training this fall are:

- Feelings: Yours, Mine, Ours
- Confidentiality
- The Art of Listening
- Assertiveness: Relating Gently
- Maintaining Boundaries in Caregiving
- Crisis Theory and Practice
- Using Mental Health Professionals and Community Resources
- Ministering to Those Experiencing Grief
- Dealing With Depression

To become part of this class, you need only pick up a copy of the Stephen Minister Application, fill it out and return it to the Church Office. A time will then be scheduled when you can meet with a couple of our Stephen Leaders to learn more about training and tell them about the unique set of gifts assembled by God when he thought, "YOU". If you have any questions, talk with Donna Birney at (847) 234-6250.

PROMOTE GOD'S VISION OF JUSTICE

BOGGS RURAL LIFE CENTER in KEYSVILLE, GEORGIA

Site of high school Work Trip 2007 by Jim Cochrane

In 1906, the United Presbyterian Church established Boggs Academy as a mission to fulfill the unmet needs of the dispossessed, impoverished African-American community of Burke County, Georgia - a large rural county bordering the Savannah River below Augusta, Georgia. These former slaves and their descendants had been, and were continuing to be, deprived of the most basic economic, educational and social opportunities to realize their potentials as individuals and as a community, and to contribute to the welfare and growth of the larger society. With its inception the Academy became an integral part of the life and mission of Presbyterianism.

A school for the rural poor throughout Burke County was formed. It taught literacy and agricultural skills and became a center for the spiritual and civic life of the community. Boggs evolved into one of the top African-American boarding college preparatory schools in the United States, with over 90% of its graduates going on to college. Due to declining enrollment and increasing indebtedness, the Academy ceased operation in June 1984.

The Academy's glorious past provided the inspiration for the establishment of the Boggs Rural Life Center (BRLC). The Center was established through the leadership of three local community groups working with the Boggs Academy National Alumni Association (BANAA), and the National Black Presbyterian Caucus. They came together to work with the Presbyterian Church (USA) in an effort to help ensure that the BRLC would continue to be a beacon of hope to the disenfranchised and under-developed African-American communities of Burke County and beyond.

Initially, the PC (USA) was skeptical of the community's ability to independently sustain an institution the size of Boggs and put the property up for sale. Mrs. Lela Stone, an alumna of Boggs Academy, led a delegation of alumni and local Presbyterians to a vigil on the steps of the PC (USA) headquarters in Louisville asking that the church honor its oft-stated mission to serve the rural poor and the disenfranchised.

The church's response was immediate and positive. The "For Sale" signs were removed, and negotiations resumed. In 1991 the PC (USA) conveyed all lands (1232 acres, including a 60 acre campus) and 24 buildings to the Boggs Rural Life Center, Inc., with the directive that it was to find "new and purposeful ways by which to fulfill its original mission to meet the needs of the dispossessed African-American communities of Burke County, and the surrounding regions of Georgia and South Carolina."

The BRLC Board of Directors is committed to building on the historical strengths of Boggs Academy. The survival and sustainability of rural communities and people depend on their educational preparedness. The Board is committed to ensuring that science, math, computer, ecological literacy, technical, and entrepreneurship skill-building drive all adult and youth programming and is pursuing an innovative and practical approach to meeting these educational needs, goals and opportunities through the establishment of a private school on the Boggs campus.

RUMMAGE SALE



SET-UP SUNDAY.....April 29 -
Sunday afternoon 1:00 - 5:00pm

SET-UP CONTINUES.....April 30 -
Monday all day 9:00am - 5:00pm

SET-UP CONTINUES.....May 1 -
Tuesday 9:00am - 1:00pm
posted hours for sign-up;
some departments will work
in the afternoon to finish

CHAIRMEN'S PRESALE...May 2 -
Wednesday 10:00am - 12:30pm

WORKER'S PRESALE.....May 2 -
Wednesday 1:00am - 4:00pm
(THURSDAY & FRIDAY - NO ACTIVITY)

RUMMAGE SALE

SATURDAY, MAY 5
Sale hours 7:00AM until 4:00PM

Calling all Bakers!

Please help to feed the many workers of the annual rummage sale. If you are interested in providing baked goods for the workers at the May sale, which earns you a workers card for the presale, please contact Sharon Jenks by email snjenks@comcast.net or (847) 234-6768 or Cindy Rogna, croгна7@aol.com (847) 295-7187.

Senior High Youth Group Schedule:

May 6: No Music Ministry
7:00 PM Youth Group Bowling - Fatman Bowl in Libertyville -
drop off and pick up there. \$8.00 for shoes and bowling.

May 13: No Youth Group, Mothers Day

May 20: 5:30 Music Ministry; 7:00 PM Youth Group - Last Small Groups

Graduating Seniors Leading Worship **June 3** at 9:00 and 11:00

Work Trip 2007 to **Boggs Rural Life Center** June 10 to 16

Informational meeting May 9 at 7:00 PM

Support us on **May 19** during our annual *Work Trip Car Wash* Fundraiser.

We are raising funds for our trip to the Boggs Rural Life Center in Keysville, Georgia, June 10 to June 16. We will be ready at 9:00 AM and will be washing cars until 1:00 PM. *Please join us for a fun and free car wash.*

NEW MEMBERS

WE WELCOME THE FOLLOWING NEW MEMBERS
WHO JOINED THE FIRST CHURCH
COMMUNITY OF FAITH
ON SUNDAY, APRIL 15, 2007.



Jerry and Fay Ligon moved to this area from New England. They are enjoying retirement especially reading, skiing and traveling. Fay sings in the Sanctuary Choir and Jerry is active in the Friday Morning Men's Bible Study and Prayer Group. First Church was recommended to Jerry by co-board members at the Colgate/Rochester/Crozer Divinity School. Fay enjoys the music and dignity of First Church's worship services.

David and Denise Bunning have two sons, Bryan (13) and Daniel (10). Denise enjoys spending time with her family and volunteering in her son's schools. A former elementary teacher, she helps families who have children with food allergies through her support group. David enjoys being very busy and strives to cure food allergies through foodallergyproject.org. He works in investments, loves helping people reach their potential and enjoys time with family, especially outdoors.



Donna and Chris Coffin have three sons, Will (20), Alex and Stephen (17). Donna is a very active wife, mother and community volunteer who currently sings in the Sanctuary Choir. She enjoys art tours in the city and paddle in the winter. Chris has many interests and is very active in the lives of his sons. He has gone on several work trips and feels spiritually fed at the Lenten Wednesday morning worship services.



Chris and Rachel Baker have been called to membership at First Church through the birth of their son, Bradyn. They strive to be the best parents they can be. Rachel enjoys family, friends, and travel. Chris is active with his friends, family and loves playing golf.




Jim Parker has been active in First Church for many years as his sons, Will (21), McNeil (19), JJ (17) and daughter Lucy (13) have grown up. He and his wife Julia have taught preschool Sunday school for many years. Jim followed his wife into the church and has been inspired by her leadership and his children's love of work trip. He life's work has been to raise his family in the Christian tradition.



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PRESBYTERIAN WOMEN
INVITE
THE WOMEN OF
THE CHURCH TO A

Women's RETREAT

*Praying
the Gospel*

Saturday, May 19

8:30-3:00^{PM} at St. Mary's on the Lake in Mundelein

Barbara Peters, leader Breakfast and lunch will be served. Cost is \$20.00

Register with Kerry by calling the church office (847) 234-6250.

Questions call Jane Jensen (847) 367-7209 or Michele Montgomery (847) 615-1690

