



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 15, 2007

Volume VII, No. 10

Faith CONNECTIONS



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Samuel Putnam Soomin Shin Nick Putnam



Emma Heizer Morgan Luttig Caroline Novit



Alexandra Murphy Cari Glennon Jackie Thorn

Confirmation

at First Church encompasses
a study of God,
Jesus Christ,
the Holy Spirit,
the Sacraments
and the church.

These students have met
weekly since September,
reflecting on the faith
they have been taught
at home and at church
and have written a
personal statement
of their faith.

On April 22,
twenty-five young adults
confirmed the faith they have
been taught and which
their parents professed
on their behalf at baptism.

We welcome our newest Active Members
& invite them into the full life of First Church!





Dear friends,

One of the hallmarks of the Reformed tradition is the "priesthood of all believers" – that is, that every Christian is called by God to serve the Lord in every aspect of our living. In addition, in accordance with Biblical models, some people are called to serve through particular church offices. Not only pastors but also Deacons and Elders are ordained to these offices; we even take the same ordination vows.

Until recently, most Presbyterians have paid great attention to the training and examination of pastors, but treated the preparation of elders and deacons much more casually. A valuable correction was made as a result of last summer's General Assembly of the PC(USA), when the commissioners voted to allow pastors, elders, and deacons to declare "scruples" during their examination for ordination. This is actually a retrieval of a mechanism from early in the last century, when an officer-elect could announce a significant disagreement with a matter of theology of governance. The ordaining body (Presbytery in the case of pastors, Session for elders and deacons) would determine whether the matter was "essential" or not. If it was essential, the candidate for office would not be ordained; if it was non-essential, the candidate would be ordained.

This spring, your newest class of elders elect and deacons elect have experienced a very different preparation for office than in past years. They have participated in ten hours of classes, with significant reading and writing assignments. Training sessions have included polity and the missional church, our approach to Scripture, history, theology, and our personal understanding of the gospel. Their final project is a statement of their personal faith, which is the basis of their examination for ordination. On May 20 during worship, they will be asked their ordination questions. I know that they will be able to answer them with understanding and integrity. A summary of our work together follows.



I have been impressed with and moved by the deep faithfulness of our church's officers. Please pray for them, as they lead our congregation with "energy, intelligence, imagination, and love."

Every blessing,

Christine Chakoian

Key Goals for Deacons and Elders

SESSION 1: KEY GOALS to grasp the values of the missional church
to feel confident in the "how to's" of your particular office
to understand the basic "what's and why's" of Presbyterian polity

ORDINATION QUESTIONS CONCERNING POLITY

Will you be governed by our church's polity, and will you abide by its discipline?

Will you be a friend among your colleagues in ministry, working with them, subject to the ordering of God's Word and Spirit?

(FOR ELDER) Will you be a faithful elder, watching over the people, providing for their worship, nurture, and service? Will you share in government and discipline, serving in governing bodies of the church, and in your ministry will you try to show the love and justice of Jesus Christ?

(FOR DEACON) Will you be a faithful deacon, teaching character, urging concern, and directing the people's help to the friendless and those in need? In your ministry will you try to show the love and justice of Jesus Christ?

SESSION 2: KEY GOALS to know the basic story of salvation-history as it comes to us through Scripture
to learn Presbyterian approaches to the authority of Scripture

FOCUS: ORDINATION QUESTIONS CONCERNING SCRIPTURE

Will you fulfill your office in obedience to Jesus Christ, under the authority of Scripture, and be continually guided by our confessions?

Do you accept the Scriptures of the Old and New Testaments to be, by the Holy Spirit, the unique and authoritative witness to Jesus Christ in the Church universal, and God's Word to you? (continued on page 4)



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

SUNDAY, MAY 20

7TH SUNDAY OF EASTER

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

*The Reverend Christine Chakoian
Ordination and Installation
of Elders and Deacons*

*Lakeminster Ringers at 9:00 & 11:00
Sanctuary Choir at 11:00*

Lectionary: Acts 16:16-34
Psalm 97
Revelation 22: 12-14
John 17: 20-26

SUNDAY, MAY 27

DAY OF PENTECOST

9:00 & 11:00AM Worship

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

Lectionary: Acts 2: 1-21
Genesis 11: 1-9
Psalm 104: 24-34
Romans 8: 14-17
John 14: 8-17

IN MINISTRY TOGETHER

Pastor/Head of Staff

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Associate Executive Pastor

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Director of Sanctuary Choir **Thomas Tropp Jr.**
ttropp@firstchurchlf.org

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PROCLAIM CHRIST'S MESSAGE

WHAT LANGUAGE DOES GOD SPEAK?

The fields of religion and science appear frequently in the news and often lead to polarized arguments. Dr. Francis Collins M.D., Ph.D., author of, *THE LANGUAGE OF GOD* is a physician-geneticist noted for his visionary leadership of the Human Genome Project (HGP). He is also an evangelical Christian. This juxtaposition intrigued the members of Christian Perspectives, the First Church discussion group which reads and discusses books on a wide variety of faith topics. Questions such as those the author poses in his book have inspired spirited discussion in 'CP' in the past. Many have been challenged to answer pointed questions from family members; "Do you really believe in the miracles in the Bible...? This ongoing debate, coupled with Reverend Chakoian's sermon series last fall on the 'Family of Faith' in which she used the metaphor of DNA to speak about Christianity, made this book a compelling reading selection for the group. In an early chapter, the author asks, "Is mathematics along with DNA, another language of God?"

How can we as Christians reconcile the stories in the Bible that some use in order to defend their faith when they seem to contradict facts that God has given us the ability to discover? Evolution, intelligent design, and the earth's age are some of the topics Collins addresses in his book. While pursuing his considerable academic and research credentials, Dr. Collins personally wrestled with philosophical and spiritual questions that arose in his own life. Why does God allow suffering? How can miracles (including those in the Bible) be rationally embraced by a scientist? In upcoming weeks, the group will explore this scientist's attempt to reconcile what he calls the "flash point" between science and faith.

A confirmed atheist in his youth, Collins underwent a spiritual metamorphosis when he read C. S. Lewis' *MERE CHRISTIANITY*. In his book, Collins explores his own upbringing on a small farm in Virginia's Shenandoah Valley where he was home-schooled by well-educated parents, his enthrallment with chemistry, physical chemistry and biochemistry, the field that sparked his interest in the molecules that hold the blueprint for life: DNA and RNA. Recognizing that a revolution was on the horizon in molecular biology and genetics, he changed fields and enrolled in medical school at the University of North Carolina, where he earned an M.D. in 1977. Later in his career, he accepted an invitation to become director of the National Center for Human Genome Research which took on the challenge of constructing a map of the human genome.

"It is humbling for me and awe-inspiring to realize that we have caught the first glimpse of our own instruction book, previously known only to God."

Dr. Francis Collins, Speaking to Religion and Ethics Newsweekly

For many years, Dr. Collins kept his views to himself but in *THE LANGUAGE OF GOD* he chronicles his own journey from atheism to faith. He attempts to clear a philosophical space for Christians who find themselves in a hardened quandary in which they are forced to choose between their faith and science.

Christian Perspectives is an open discussion for anyone who has read the book and is interested in a lively and respectful exchange of views. The group meets weekly on **Thursdays**, from 1:00-2:30 PM in the Parish House Conference Room. Summaries of the discussion are published on the web site at: http://firstchurchlf.org/adult/adult.html#small_groups.



Stephen Ministry

...Provide a community of Spiritual nurture

Be still. Listen, don't look for answers.

Most people don't expect you to fix anything.

They are looking for their own solutions and answers.

They just need someone they can trust with their innermost thoughts to listen while they work it out for themselves.

They will find their own answers if given the opportunity.

Katie Maxwell, in

Bedside Manners: A Practical Guide to Visiting the Ill

I cannot see what you see or feel what you feel if I stand here facing you. I've got to go to where you are, and face the way you are facing. I've got to look at your world through your eyes. If some obstacle is a mountain to you, I'm being brutal if I say: "Ah! It's really only a little molehill." Unless I see a mountain, I haven't really heard you!

James E. Sullivan, in

The Good Listener

Hurts don't go away because you wish them away or reason them away. In fact, nothing you as a caregiver can do will miraculously remove the pain. That's God's terrain. So don't expect that you will be able to provide just what the person needs to make it all better. You have been called to fulfill a role that is much more attainable--walking with the person, sharing and being Christ's love and compassion. When you do that, you will be making a significant difference in the suffering person's life.

Kenneth C. Haugk, in

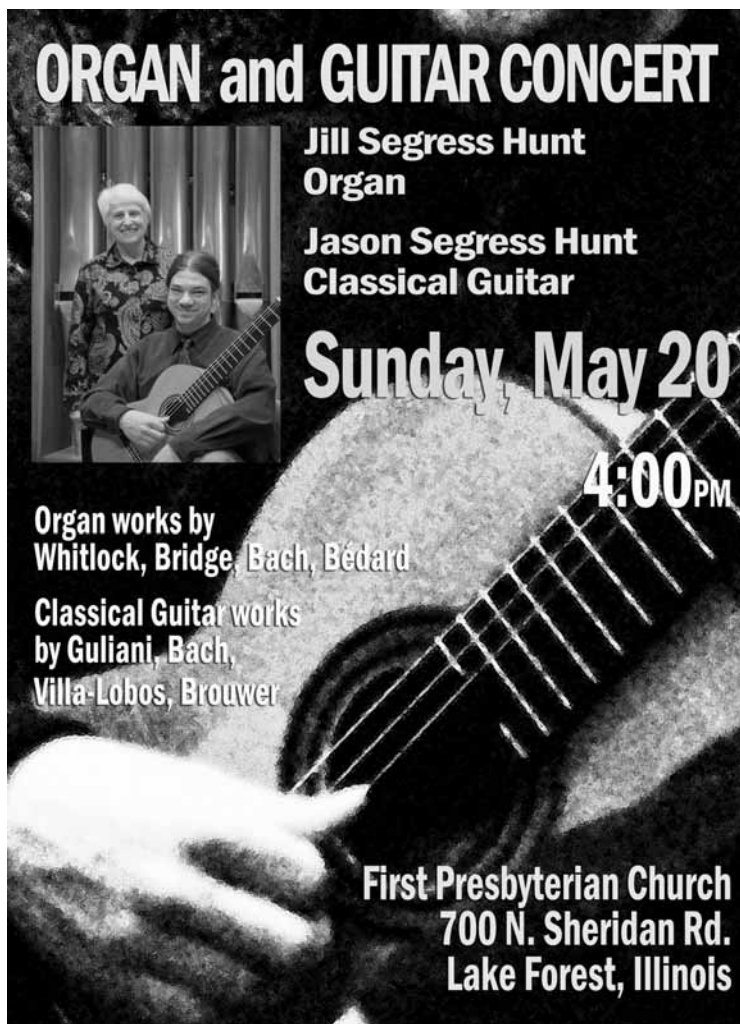
Don't Sing Songs to a Heavy Heart

STEPHEN MINISTRY training will equip you to offer effective support, through distinctively Christian caregiving, to your family, your friends and the inevitable stranger found lying along your life's path. Even when you have already overcome the same challenge faced by another, the means to help another overcome that challenge is not intuitive. Like every other skill God gives to sustain us from infancy through old age, effectively applying one's life lessons to help another must be learned.

Take the opportunity to get yourself equipped.

You'll not only become an effective caregiver, you'll use your newfound people skills every day in every way! **APPLY NOW FOR STEPHEN MINISTRY TRAINING** this fall. Watch the Sunday Bulletin this spring for announcement of exploratory meetings with our Stephen Leaders. CALL Donna Birney at (847) 234-6250 TO RECEIVE more information and AN APPLICATION.

PROMOTE GOD'S VISION OF JUSTICE



ORGAN and GUITAR CONCERT

Jill Segress Hunt
Organ

Jason Segress Hunt
Classical Guitar

Sunday, May 20
4:00 PM

Organ works by
Whitlock, Bridge, Bach, Bédard

Classical Guitar works
by Giuliani, Bach,
Villa-Lobos, Brouwer

First Presbyterian Church
700 N. Sheridan Rd.
Lake Forest, Illinois

Mission WORK TRIP to BOGGS RURAL LIFE CENTER Keysville, Georgia

PROPOSED WORK PROJECTS June 10-16, 2007

HARBINSON HALL (Youth Dormitory) Interior: paint, replace some ceiling tile, replace floor tile & window blinds in dining area, Exterior: Paint

TEACHERAGE (Adult Housing) Interior: repair damaged drywall & paint, replace kitchen stove & refrigerator, Exterior: repair & paint fascia, soffit, & trim

PHELPS (Administration Building) Interior: replace ceiling grids & tile, paint metal window trim, carpentry; (repair cabinets in office area), possibly replace carpeting in office & entry areas, Exterior: pressure wash, caulk & paint metal window trim

STUDENT CENTER (Activity Center & Kitchen) Interior: replace tile flooring, replace ceiling lighting, remodel kitchen, including replacing the 2 stoves, 2 refrigerators, & dishwasher, miscellaneous carpentry. Exterior: re-roof (tear-off), pressure wash & paint

SWIMMING POOL BATH HOUSE: pressure wash, repair & paint the interior & exterior, re-roof

In addition to working on the above projects, if funds permit, several houses in the Waynesboro, Keysville, & Gough areas will be worked on.

Key Goals for Deacons and Elders

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 2

SESSION 3: KEY GOALS to know the basic story of church history
to know key beliefs of Presbyterians
to learn Presbyterian approaches to theological controversy

FOCUS: ORDINATION QUESTIONS CONCERNING THEOLOGY

Do you trust in Jesus Christ your Savior, acknowledge him Lord of all and Head of the Church, and through him believe in one God, Father, Son, and Holy Spirit?

Do you sincerely receive and adopt the essential tenets of the Reformed faith as expressed in the confessions of our church as authentic and reliable expositions of what Scripture leads us to believe and do, and will you be instructed and led by those confessions as you lead the people of God?

Do you promise to further the peace, unity, and purity of the church?

SESSION 4: KEY GOALS

to reconnect our personal faith with our calling as deacons or elders
to identify additional tools/training we may need
to practice sharing our faith as our church's spiritual leaders

FOCUS: ORDINATION QUESTIONS CONCERNING PERSONAL FAITHFULNESS

Will you in your own life seek to follow the Lord Jesus Christ, love your neighbors, and work for the reconciliation of the world?
Will you seek to serve the people with energy, intelligence, imagination, and love?

WORK TRIP CAR WASH

Saturday, May 19, 2007

Drive your car through the church parking lot for a **FREE** car wash between 9:00 AM and 1:00 PM.



The *more cars* the Senior High Youth and Advisors wash, the *more funds* we raise for Work Trip.

Let your friends know about this opportunity too!

Thank you for your continued support!

Senior High Youth Group Schedule:

May 20: 5:30 Music Ministry;

7:00 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

PROVIDE A COMMUNITY OF SOCIAL JUSTICE

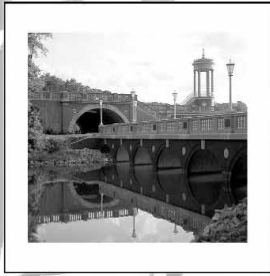
PRESBYTERIAN WOMEN
INVITE
THE WOMEN OF
THE CHURCH TO A

Women's RETREAT

Praying
the Gospel

Saturday, May 19

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



The Rev Barbara Peter,
M.Div., McCormick Seminary; Certified
Spiritual Director, San Francisco Theological
Seminary PC(USA) **will lead the retreat.**

She has titled our retreat, "Praying the Gospels" with one goal being to amplify the Core Mission of our Church. We are spiritual persons and Barbara will help us to experience and begin learning a variety of spiritual practices leading us to greater intimacy with God in Christ through the Spirit - through music, discussion, hands-on art experiences, and personal reflection. Breakfast and lunch will be served. Cost is \$20.00. Register by calling the church office (847) 234-6250. Questions call Jane Jensen (847) 367-7209 or Michele Montgomery (847) 615-1690



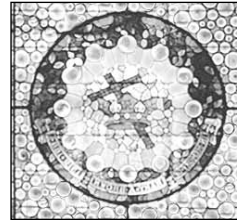
Join us on
Friday, May 25
when the

Lunch Bunch

welcomes
Congressman
Mark Kirk,
our congressional
representative from
the 10th Illinois District.
Congressman Kirk
will give a
D.C. legislative
update to include
various world and
national affairs.
Come at noon
to the South Parlor.
Call the church
for reservations at
(847) 234-6250
by Tuesday, May 22
Cost is \$5.⁰⁰ at the door.

Cross and Crown Design Window

The Memorials Committee and Buildings and Grounds is in the process of duplicating the center part of the impressive Cross and Crown window, the one with three bays, to replace the new, smaller, plain loggia window looking out at Deerpath. Stained glass artist, Laura Roslof, from Elkhorn, Wisconsin is doing the detailed design work in leaded glass. The window is a memorial from Morrison family members in memory of their parents, Lois and Willard Morrison. Their granddaughter Reverend Amy Morrison Heinrich has suggested an inscription, **"Our suffering, servant-King Jesus Christ, who bears both the crown of thorns and the crown of glory."** When the piece is finally readied, it will be placed in the Narthex loggia window. It carries a border that complements and extends the original window design as first dedicated to Mary Brown (1812 to 1884). As its inspiration, the beloved Cross and Crown window is a Palladian designed window by Charles Summer Frost. It was made of a variegated glass known as opalescent glass, which was popular during the mid 18th century in churches of Georgian and Adam style. That window was restored in 1940.



On **May 20** between the services
you are invited to hear Dave Tolmie
and his father, Don tell us about their
mission in Tanzania, Africa.

Here about the development of the Faraja Primary
School for the Handicapped and how it is making a
difference in peoples lives. Dave and Don and their
families have been involved with the school since 1999.
Tanzania, Africa is one of the poorest countries in the world.



THE SCHOOL'S OBJECTIVES INCLUDE:

- ☒ To kindle a spirit of self-worth in children and youth with physical disabilities and to show them that society in general, and the church in particular, cares and considers them as useful members of their community.
- ☒ To offer a good primary school education to children of 6-13 years old and if possible to extend and cover secondary education.
- ☒ To provide computer and English skills for all graduating students.
- ☒ To offer physiotherapy/occupational therapy to help the children/youth learn to cope with their disabilities.
- ☒ To seek medical and orthopaedic assistance as financially able.
- ☒ To prepare children and youth with physical disabilities who have had no opportunity to get a primary school education by providing them with necessary basic training needed for admission to vocational training and secondary schools where they may live and learn with their peers who have no physical handicaps

COME AND HEAR THIS POWERFUL CHRISTIAN WITNESS OF ONE FAMILY'S DESIRE TO GIVE BACK
SOME OF THE TREASURES THEY HAVE BEEN GIVEN TO MAKE THIS A BETTER WORLD.



Did you unpack your winning items from the auction when you arrived home & discover 2 trucks that were inadvertently placed in your bag? If so, would you please return them to the hospitality desk at church. The person who purchased them would be so happy!

May 15, 2007
Faith Connections
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Submission due dates
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Worship Sundays
at 9:00 & 11:00

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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



**American
Red Cross**



SPRING BLOOD DRIVE

Sunday, May 20 - 7:30_{A.M.} to 12:30_{P.M.}, Fellowship Hall

Now, as much as ever, the Red Cross needs your support to provide relief for victims of local, national and international disasters. Come be part of the healing process. Your donation can help save up to three lives. On behalf of the congregation, the Board of Deacons is proud to assist the Red Cross in their effort to supply over 6 million units of blood to hospitals around the country to help ensure that blood is readily available whenever and wherever needed. Can we count on you?

Sunday, May 20 is designated Spring Blood Drive Day. The Red Cross will be conveniently administering the Drive in Fellowship Hall. Appointments are being scheduled between 7:30_{AM} and 12:30_{PM} at 15-minute intervals.

Please encourage friends and family members to join in our effort.

To reserve your sitting time, please call Paul Bergmann (847) 295-7957.

For more information on the process and eligibility <http://www.givelife2.org>