



First Presbyterian
Church of Lake Forest
www.firstchurchlf.org

700 N. Sheridan Road
Lake Forest, IL 60045
847.234.6250 fax 847.234.6283

November 15, 2007

Volume VII, N^o 22

Faith CONNECTIONS

Advent Music

December 2

We begin Advent in a spirit of mystery and expectation of the coming of the Messiah. Our combined handbell choirs will play a prelude of advent music beginning at 10 minutes before each service.

The Children's Choirs will sing "Lumen Christi" (The Light of Christ) as the Introit and the combined Children's and Sanctuary Choirs will sing the anthem "Climb to the Top of the Highest Mountain" based on Isaiah 40 at both services.

The opening hymn, *O Come, O Come Emmanuel* will begin with a procession of bells and choirs.

December 9

Our Sanctuary Choir, directed by Tom Tropp and accompanied by organist Jill Hunt, will present the Advent Cantata "The Wilderness" written by Samuel Sebastian Wesley (1810-1896). The text is based on the prophecy as written in Isaiah 35.

The Windy City Brass will be present to play the prelude, offertory, and postlude from the front of the church.



Added for Advent Worship

Wednesday Morning Taizé Services

Every Wednesday morning during Advent (beginning November 28), you are invited to participate in a Taizé style communion service from 7:00-7:30AM. This will be a contemplative time of singing, praying, reading scripture, listening in silence and sharing the bread and cup.

Join us each week as we set aside space for God to speak to us and renew us during what can be a hectic season.

We will share breakfast together in the South Parlor after the service.
For more information, contact Reverend Corey Nelson.

Longest Night Service December 20 at 7:30pm

What is the "Longest Night Service?" For many people, Christmas is a difficult time. Some have recently lost a loved one, some are lonely, some have lost a job, and some are suffering from illness, or the pain of a broken relationship. Others feel financial stress or the burden of past memories. These and other life circumstances can seem even more painful when the surrounding cultural messages are signaling "Be of good cheer!"

During this darkest time of the year we remember that Jesus said, "Come unto me all you who labor and are heavy laden and I will give you rest." In response, we will gather together for a time to acknowledge the darkness within our lives and look towards the light of the Christ child that is coming amongst us.

Join us for a time of contemplative music, scripture, stories, silence, reflection and healing prayer.

There will also be an opportunity to light a candle in memory of a loved one, or as a sign of hope. Afterwards, we will join together for a time of fellowship and refreshments. You may know someone who would like to attend this service. Invite them to come with you. Perhaps you too need a quiet time for reflection and prayer.
For more information contact Reverend Corey Nelson.

Christmas Carol Band

Do you play a band instrument? Reverend Corey Nelson is dusting off his old trumpet and inviting you to join him and others for a little "sidewalk carol band" on December 23 and/or 24 before and after services. Sheet music will be provided. We will be offering a few minutes of music as people come in and out of these special services. It would be wonderful to have people of all ages and abilities **join us, whether you are a music student now or haven't played in 20 years!** If you would like to play and will be in town for either of these dates, please contact Corey. A rehearsal will be scheduled at a time which is convenient for those who sign up.

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



Dear friends,

Thanksgiving is just around the corner, and for many of us that means extended family, lots of football, and too much food. But even the youngest child can grasp the real meaning of the day: saying thank you to God.

Giving thanks to God works on so many levels. It helps us remember how abundantly blessed we are; it shifts us from dwelling on everything that's wrong with the world, and it helps us notice the little things that we ordinarily overlook. For all these reasons, we feel more blessed when we stop to give thanks.

Giving thanks also allows us to consider those whose lives are not so materially fortunate. Thanksgiving is a terrific time to share our resources in practical, tangible ways.

The traditions we establish with our children around Thanksgiving can help this become a cherished holiday for them. Here are some of the ideas that I've gleaned from others in the church.

- ✧ Practice for Thanksgiving: every evening in November, at bedtime, have each member of the family share one thing they're grateful for that day.
- ✧ Decorate the Thanksgiving table with paper leaves for place cards. Have the children write down – or dictate to you – something they're thankful for about each person.
- ✧ Share with others by having each Thanksgiving dinner guest bring a non-perishable item to donate to First Church's food drive for the Shield's Township Food Pantry.

What are your traditions? Whatever you do, I hope you have a marvelous time... a time for which you can be truly thankful.

Every blessing, *Christine Chakoian*

Reprinted with permission from November 2006 First Presbyterian Church Preschool Newsletter



Thank you to those who have turned in pledges for 2008!

As of Wednesday, November 7, we have received 216 pledges for a total amount of \$995,454. This represents 47% of our \$2,100,000 goal. Pledges are over 16% above (average) what was pledged last year at this same time.

If you have not turned in your pledge card, please do so on or before **Pledge Dedication Sunday on November 18** when we dedicate our pledges in worship. Pledge cards are available in the church office if you did not receive one in the mail. Our pledges are a tangible symbol of our thanksgiving to God and our commitment to God's work here at First Church.

*"From everyone to whom much has been given,
much will be required."* Luke 12:48



First Presbyterian Church of Lake Forest
847-234-6250

SUNDAY, NOVEMBER 18

33RD SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME

9:00 & 11:00AM Worship

Reverend Christine Chakoian

Children's Choirs at 9:00

Sanctuary Choir at 11:00

Lakeminstler Ringers at 9:00 & 11:00

II Kings 18-25, I Isaiah, Nahum, Zephaniah, Jeremiah, Habakkuk, Ezekiel, Psalm 137: 1-5

THURSDAY, NOVEMBER 22

COMMUNITY THANKSGIVING WORSHIP

10:00AM at

The Church of the Holy Spirit
Reverend Christine Chakoian preaching

SUNDAY, NOVEMBER 25

CHRIST THE KING/REIGN OF CHRIST

9:00 & 11:00AM Worship

Reverend Christine Chakoian

Sanctuary Choir at 9:00 & 11:00

String Quartet at 9:00 & 11:00

Ezra, Nehemiah, II Isaiah, Haggai, Zechariah 1-8, Isaiah 44: 21, 28

IN MINISTRY TOGETHER

Pastor/Head of Staff
Rev. Christine Chakoian
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Rev. Dr. Don Dempsey
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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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PROCLAIM CHRIST'S MESSAGE



Community

Service

Thanksgiving Day

Thursday, November 22

at Church of the Holy Spirit Lake Forest, IL

On November 22, Reverend Christine Chakoian will lead the Community Thanksgiving Service at The Church of the Holy Spirit at 10:00 a.m. The entire community is invited to participate in this ecumenical service in which First Church partners with St. James Lutheran Church and The Church of the Holy Spirit Episcopal to give thanks for the unmerited blessings we share together through God's grace and remember our role as stewards of God's gifts. The participating churches have agreed that offering collected will be given to the Lake County PADS (Public Action to Deliver Shelter) program which is an active ministry of all three congregations. Although Thanksgiving is a national holiday it is also a spiritual holiday because implicit in giving thanks is the presence of the Giver to whom we address our gratitude. The service rotates yearly between the three churches and next year it will be hosted at First Church.

INTERFAITH CONCERT TO BE HELD DECEMBER 1

On Saturday, December 1, the Sanctuary Choir will join with several area churches to participate in an interfaith choral service and concert. The concert will be held at 7:30PM at Highland Park Presbyterian Church, 330 Laurel Ave.

The Highland Park Presbyterian Choir and First Church Sanctuary Choir will be joined by the choir from the Church of Latter Day Saints in Wilmette. The concert will include the Christmas Cantata of Daniel Pinkham.

The Sanctuary Choir has issued an invitation for singers who don't feel they can fit Sanctuary Choir into their weekly schedules to participate in this very special concert!

This concert is free and open to the public. If interested, please contact Sanctuary Choir Director Tom Tropp at ttropp@firstchurchlf.org.

STEPHEN MINISTRY

Thanksgiving is set aside to allow each of us to commemorate and give thanks to God. Although it is a civil holiday in the United States, exercising our civil freedom of religion, many of us set the day aside for observance according to our own religious traditions. When events touching our lives don't yield traditional fruits associated with joy and material well being, we can relieve stress induced by the associated secular undercurrents of the holiday by turning our thankfulness to those other gifts from God which we can accept as having been received.

Prayers are simply communication to God- a memorized formal prayer, or words spoken simply but sincerely from the heart. Our prayer mentor, Diane Stephens, has pointed out that, in times of crisis, utterance directed toward God as simple as the word, "Help!" is prayer. (*Diane Stephens is currently scheduled to return to First Church in February to present a Stephen Ministry Continuing Ed program on the topic of "prayer." Watch for future announcements.*)

Do you desire to lead Thanksgiving prayer at your household's holiday table? Consider these questions as a way of preparing for a prayer which will be personal and meaningful to your guests:

What were the major events that took place in the life of your household this year?

Did your family grow in number, through weddings or births?

Did your family or any other guest experience hard times? If so, consider what was learned from each situation.

Who are the members of your household and your guests?

Name one quality that you're thankful for in each person.

If you are interested in receiving training as a Stephen Minister or, if you or someone you love could use the confidential help of a trained Stephen Minister, call Rev. Kent Kinney at (847) 234-6250 or contact the lay Referral Coordinator, Mary Schlott, at (847) 295-1348.



Advent Supper & Wreath Making

SUNDAY, DECEMBER 2

5:00 – 7:00_{PM} in Fellowship Hall

BRING YOUR FAMILY AND FRIENDS AS WE BEGIN THE HOLY SEASON OF PREPARATION FOR THE BIRTH OF JESUS

ENJOY DINNER, FELLOWSHIP & WREATHMAKING

Materials will be supplied Children will enjoy a special Craft Corner

Cost: \$30 for families ... \$20 for couples ... \$10 for a single



To make your reservation contact Kerry Spera (847) 234-6250 or kspera@firstchurchlf.org Payment requested at time of registration

FIRST CHURCH ADVENT GIVING OPPORTUNITIES

SAVE THIS INSERT FOR EASY REFERENCE WITH DETAILS ON WAYS TO GIVE

ANNUAL DEACON Women's Christmas Tea

SPONSORED BY THE BOARD OF DEACONS

Monday, December 10
at 7:00PM
in Fellowship Hall

The Board of Deacons is once again hosting a Women's Christmas Tea on the evening of December 10 in Fellowship Hall. This is a lovely evening of food, music, fellowship and reflection. Price of admission is a gift for the children of the



**Boys & Girls Club
of Lake County,**

a Waukegan after-school program. Gift ideas and instructions will be available during sign-up which will begin on Sunday, November 11 between services. Gifts should be brought to the event on December 10. Gift delivery will be coordinated by the Board of Deacons. Call Kerry at the church (847) 234-6250 for reservations.

Advent Giving Opportunities Abound

As the weather begins to turn colder and we begin to see signs of Christmas in our store fronts, so too, is it time to consider how we might help brighten the Christmases of needy children, families, and elderly in our area. **Our church provides a number of direct ways in which you can share the blessings God has bestowed upon you.** Please consider participating in one or more of these efforts. It is a wonderful way to experience the Christian joy of direct mission involvement. **The major efforts we will be supporting are:**

* **Deacon's Christmas Basket Program**
to benefit families in Lake County selected by the Salvation Army.
Sign up from 11/18-12/9/07. (Contact-Tracy Tolmie 847-234-7801)

* **Deacon's Christmas Tea & Gift Collection**
to benefit the Boys & Girls Club of Lake County.
Gifts brought to the event on 12/10/07.
(Contact- Gretchen Seymour 847-735-1366)

* **7th & 8th Grade-Sponsored Giving Tree**
to benefit Casa Central, serving Hispanic children
in the Humboldt Park neighborhood of Chicago.
Sign up begins 12/2/07. (Contact-Kristie Finley 847-234-6250)

* **Senior High Gift Card Collection**
to benefit the Night Ministry Youth Program in Chicago.
Cards due on 12/16/07. (Contact- Kristie Finley 847-234-6250)

* **College Work Trip-** to benefit families in Sunset Gap,
Tennessee from 12/18-12/22. (Contact- Kristie Finley 847-234-6250)

* **College Care Packages-** to benefit our church's college
students during Advent. (Contact- Kristie Finley 847-234-6250)

* **Presbyterian Women's Caroling-** to benefit the elderly
at Westmoreland on 12/12. (Contact- Rita Fossell 847-234-4761)



ADVENT GIVING OPPORTUNITIES



7th & 8th Grade-sponsored Giving Tree:

The 7th & 8th Grade Sunday School classes will sponsor the Giving Tree again this year which will **benefit Casa Central**, an agency in Chicago which supports Hispanic children in Humboldt Park. A tree with gift tags will be set up near the church office beginning Sunday, December 2. Simply take a tag, purchase the requested gift, and return it unwrapped with the corresponding tag under the tree by December 16. Gift delivery will be handled by Kristie Finley, Youth Director.

Senior High Gift Card Collection:

The Senior High Youth Group will continue their annual effort of collecting gift certificates for a helpful organization. This year's collection will **benefit the Night Ministry Youth Program** in Chicago. This organization offers a range of services and outreach to Chicago's at risk and homeless youth. Our Senior High School students and their families will bring gift certificates of varying denominations to their annual Christmas party on December 16. Kristie Finley and the youth group will coordinate delivery of the certificates.

College Work Trip:

College students home for break are invited to participate in this year's holiday work trip to Sunset Gap, Tennessee. The trip is scheduled for December 18-December 22 and will offer a variety of building projects to **benefit Appalachian families**. Contact Kristie Finley for details.

College Care Packages:

Youth ministry is sponsoring assembly of care packages during Advent for our college students. These are always **welcome reminders of our church's care for them**. Parents and others are invited to participate on November 27 at 6:30 p.m. Please be sure Kristie Finley has your college student's current address. Contact Kristie for other details.

Presbyterian Women Caroling:

PW is sponsoring Christmas **Caroling for the elderly** at Westmoreland on December 12 with a meal to follow. This is always a wonderful time for both singers and recipients, bringing holiday cheer to all involved. Contact Rita Fossell, Moderator of PW for details.

Bring Joy to Others through our Christmas Basket Program



This ministry provides our congregation with the opportunity to adopt a Lake County family and play "Santa" for their children. To participate, you may complete the response form provided below and return it to the church office or place it in the offering plate when you come to church. (The form will also be in the Sunday bulletin beginning November 18.) Alternatively, you may sign up on the 4 consecutive Sunday mornings beginning November 18. Look for the sign-up tables between services outside the church office.

Christmas Basket delivery can be handled several ways.

Wrapped gifts may be dropped off at the Salvation Army's facility in Waukegan by December 14 or brought to a Santa's Brunch being held on Saturday, December 15 at 10:00 a.m., if you'd like to meet your recipients.

Additionally, we will continue a gift certificate program.

As you may recall, the Salvation Army assists families with older children, individuals and senior citizens by providing gift certificates for food and other necessities.

Your cash donations will be used to purchase Wal-Mart and Jewel Food gift certificates. If you would like to participate in this manner, just send your check for any amount, made out to First Presbyterian Church Board of Deacons, along with your form, to the church office.



Yes, I'd like to participate in the Deacons' Christmas Basket Program

Name: _____
(If a group, please give name of group and indicate a contact person)

Address: _____

Phone: _____ Fax: _____

Email: _____

Preferred Christmas Basket Family Size: _____ (# of children)

We will call you and choose a family which best suits your preferences.

and/or

_____ I would like to participate in the gift certificate program. My check in the amount of \$ _____, made out to the Board of Deacons, is enclosed.

Please place this form in the offering plate or mail it to the church office, attention: Deacon's Christmas Basket Program. Thank you!

We hope you will find it in your heart to support these important ministries at First Church this year. Your involvement is critical to enable these worthy recipients to experience the joy of Christmas.

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Magi-cal Market

Gift Bazaar and Cookie Walk

Come to a holiday boutique offering a wide variety of gift items, many created by local artists and the "not to be missed" Cookie Walk. Fill an empty box with all the cookies it will hold and your Christmas baking is complete!

Thursday, December 13

Fellowship Hall
9:00^{AM} - 3:00^{PM}

15% of all proceeds will go to benefit Reading Power, a successful local tutoring program in North Chicago.
Contact Lee Gantz for information
(847) 295-9684

The Core Mission of
First Presbyterian
Church of Lake Forest

PROMOTE
CHRIST'S
MESSAGE

PROVIDE A
COMMUNITY
OF SPIRITUAL
NURTURE

PROMOTE
GOD'S VISION
OF JUSTICE

SUNDAY, NOV. 18



NOVEMBER 15, 2007
FAITH CONNECTIONS
IS PUBLISHED TWICE MONTHLY.
SEND SUBMISSIONS TO
publish@firstchurchilf.org
SUBMISSION DUE DATES
ARE THE 1ST & 15TH
OF EACH MONTH.
WORSHIP SUNDAYS
AT
9:00 & 11:00AM
SUNDAY SCHOOL
AT 9:15 AM

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Team Up to Fight Hunger

Volunteers are urgently needed on **Tuesday, November 27** to prepare dinner and/or serve dinner to homeless people in Chicago's Lakeview neighborhood with the Night Ministry. Bring a friend and sign up for one of two teams: The cooking will be from 1:00 to 4:00 PM in the Fellowship Hall kitchen by one team, and the serving will be from 7:00 to 10:00PM in Lakeview by another team.

We need your help!

Please contact Liz Bradner at (847) 234-1612 or Reverend Corey Nelson at (847) 234-6250.



First Church was honored with an award from Lake Forest Garden Club for our new landscaping. Members Deborah MacKenzie, Tim Christie, Audrey Vanderaa were joined by church business manager, Herb Smyers as our representatives at Gorton Community Center for the presentation of the award on Thursday, October 18.