



First Presbyterian
Church of Lake Forest



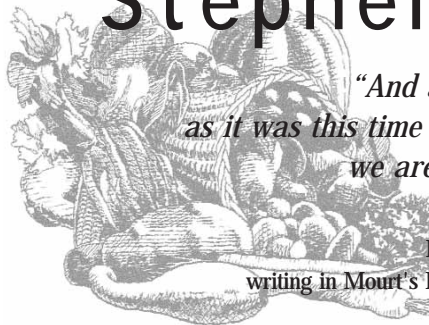
Community Thanksgiving Service

At 10:00 AM on Thanksgiving Day,
Thursday, November 23,
St. James Lutheran Church, (847) 234-4859
1380 N. Waukegan Road, Lake Forest, IL
will host a Community Thanksgiving
Service in cooperation with First Presbyterian
Church of Lake Forest and The Church of
the Holy Spirit. Reverend Jay Sidebotham,
Pastor of The Church of the Holy Spirit
will be welcomed to the pulpit and music
will be offered by a choir comprised of
singers from all three churches, under the
direction of Timothy Haskett from St.
James. A special offering will be collected
and will be divided between P.A.D.S.
and Church World Services.
Communion will be served at this special
service. Childcare will be provided. Please
consider joining in this celebration of the
Lord's Supper before you gather with family
and friends around your Thanksgiving table.

700 N. Sheridan Road
Lake Forest, IL 60045
(847)234 6250
Fax: 234-6283

www.firstchurchlf.org

Stephen Ministry



*"And although it be not always so plentiful
as it was this time with us, yet by the goodness of God,
we are so far from want that we often wish
you partakers of our plenty."*

Edward Winslow, a leader of the Plymouth Colony,
writing in Mourt's Relation of the Pilgrims' thanksgiving feast of 1621.

How is the national holiday, Thanksgiving 2006, best observed in a distinctly Christian manner? By recognizing that bounty in our life is received through God's grace. At the end of the spectrum, God doesn't initiate pain in our life. He redeems us from it. Yet, observance of the national holiday is set by dictates of secular tradition and the calendar, not according to any personal cycle of bounty.

How, as men and women of faith, can we welcome the sick and the broken in spirit to our table to partake in a feast intended to celebrate times of plenty?

- ✳ Listen, listen, listen. Then, tailor corporate prayers of Thanksgiving to take a vulnerable guest to an emotionally and spiritually safe place which may not be the same place you "want" them to be.
- ✳ Acknowledge the cause of grief or ongoing pain for your guest. Do not pretend it doesn't exist, even if only for the duration of your feast. Recognize the reality of Edward Winslow's observation that "it be not always so plentiful." During the life of each of us, the national observance falls at times devoid of personal plenty.
- ✳ Ask the vulnerable how they are doing personally. Then listen, listen, listen. Directly or indirectly, you will learn what emotional and spiritual support they want from you. They might wish to reminisce about happier, better times, a lost loved one, OR they might not wish, for the duration of your feast, to dredge up painful memories. But, they will not be comfortable if you pretend they are untouched by negative forces at work in their life.
- ✳ Internalize, for the purpose of building your own confidence in dealing with any vulnerable guest, but do NOT quote to your vulnerable guest, wisdom in the writings of the Apostle Paul that God grants each of us grace sufficient to carry us through our suffering.

To learn more about relating to those who are suffering, read Kenneth C. Haugk, Ph.D., *Don't Sing Songs to A Heavy Heart*. This book was the topic of Stephen Ministry Continuing Education on November 4. Copies are available for purchase, while supplies last, from the church office or online from www.stephenministries.org. If you, or someone you love, is suffering through a difficult time, call Rev. Kent Kinney at (847) 234-6250 to learn how to receive support from one of our trained Stephen Ministers.

Dear friends,

It is perhaps an accidental intersection between church and secular calendars, but I find it appropriate that Thanksgiving follows close on the heels of our Stewardship Pledge Sunday. The two are so intimately related.



The duel nature of Thanksgiving – as thanks and giving – goes back to its origins in the Pilgrim colonies. Early American history scholar James Calvin Davis reminds us that for these early Calvinists, there were *“two parts to a righteous Thanksgiving celebration. One turns its eyes upward, acknowledging that God is the source of every good blessing, while the other extends its hands outward, to help those less fortunate”* (“A Pilgrim Thanksgiving, The Presbyterian Outlook, Nov. 22/29, 2004, p. 9).

Robert Cushman, a deacon and businessman who arrived a year after his friends on the Mayflower, shares these thoughts:

“It is lawful sometimes for men to gather wealth, and grow rich, but a godly and sincere Christian will see when this time is, and will not hoard up when he seeth others of his brethren and associates to want.”

We follow God’s example, who

“might have kept all grace, goodness, and glory to himself, but he hath communicated it to us ... even so as his Son Christ Jesus left his glory eclipsed for a time, and abased himself to a poor and distressed life in this world, that he might by it bring us to happiness. If God ... delighted in ... reliving frail ... man, so far inferior to himself, what delight ought man to have to relieve and comfort man, which is equal to himself?”

Or to use Scripture’s words, *“Beloved, since God loved us so much, we also ought to love one another”* (I John 4:11).

A blessed Thanksgiving to you and those you love,

Christine Chakoian

The Reverend Dr. Donald Dempsey represented First Church recently at the Career Resource Center, a not-for profit organization that helps individuals in employment transition. He presented a program titled “The Spiritual Side of the Job Search” on Thursday, October 26 with 17 job seekers in attendance. This sizable group was impacted by Don’s experience, direction and recognition of the role of the human spirit in stressful life moments. “Don has an exceptional talent for connecting because he has a natural way of being at ease with people of all types of background and experiences. He has genuine compassion for others,” stated Jan Leahy, Executive Director, Career Resource Center



He shared his own story which immediately put others at ease regarding their own challenging circumstances. Career Resource Center is a ministry supported by First Church through the Board of Deacons. It has a wonderful reputation for delivering quality assistance to job seekers. For more information call: (847) 295-5626

SUNDAY, NOVEMBER 19
33RD SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME

9:00 and 11:00AM Worship
The Reverend Patrick Day
 9:00 Children’s Choirs
 11:00 Sanctuary Choir
Lectionary: 1 Samuel 1: 4-20
 Hebrews 10: 11-14
 Mark 13: 1-8

SUNDAY, NOVEMBER 26
CHRIST THE KING SUNDAY

9:00 and 11:00AM Worship
The Reverend Patrick Day
 9:00 Sanctuary Choir
 11:00 Soloist
Lectionary: 2 Samuel 23: 1-7
 Psalm 132: 1-12
 Revelation 1:4b-8
 John 18: 33-37

IN MINISTRY TOGETHER

- Pastor/Head of Staff
Rev. Christine Chakoian
 cchakoian@firstchurchlf.org
- Executive Associate Pastor
Rev. Dr. Don Dempsey [Interim]
 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**
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- Director of Youth Music Ministry **Lesley Byers**
 lbyers@firstchurchlf.org
- Preschool Director **Ruth Luke**
 preschool@firstchurchlf.org
- Church Business Manager **Herb Snyers**
 hsmyers@firstchurchlf.org
- Church website www.firstchurchlf.org

Faith Connections is published bimonthly and mailed to 1300 members and friends of **First Presbyterian Church of Lake Forest** 700 North Sheridan Road, Lake Forest, IL 60045. Submission due dates are the 1st and the 15th of every month. Submissions may be emailed (preferred method) to publish@firstchurchlf.org

INSPIRED BY OUR HERITAGE

MINI SALE DELIVERS

Despite the construction...despite the weather...despite the later than usual date...our annual Fall "mini" rummage sale grossed almost

\$26,000. A big thank you goes out to all of our rummage volunteers.

They were fantastic! Even though this sale is a scaled down version of the BIG sale in May, it still requires a lot of effort to get everything sorted, organized and ready to go. Comments

from our General Chairmen complimented the Department Chairs as being the best ever! They were focused on selling and "cleaning house" to make

the most of what we had and to make room for the rummage to come to support the Spring sale.

Rummage veterans started lining up at 5:30 AM.

The honor for first in line was awarded to Mary Jane who has been shopping our rummage sales for years.

She was also the first in line last May! People from all over the Chicagoland area lined up before the doors opened at 8:00AM. Rummage that remained was bundled and sent to various agencies including 2nd Presbyterian Church in Chicago.

Finally, a **big thank you** to everyone who helped: workers café, sorters, set up and clean up crews, cashiers, baggers, security and First Church staff, especially custodians Elmer and John and liaison,

Kristie Finley. A **special note of thanks** goes to Steve MacFarlan, Rolly Ford, Jim Mayhall and Carl Stevens - they were here from the planning stages through the clean up efforts. **Thanks** go to the Boy Scouts and the youth of our church for their welcomed efforts.

Without the helping hands of many we could not deliver such wonderful results. Rummage Rocks!

Mark your calendar for the first week in May for set-up week then save **May 5, 2007** and join us for another wonderful event - where we do make a difference.



Growing in Faith Journey to Bethlehem

Sunday School Late Fall 2006 Schedule

	Art Room 011	Mission & Outreach Room 012	Science & God's World Room 212	Bible Discovery Room 213	Games Fellowship Hall	Theatre & Drama Room 216
November 19	3rd grade	1st grade	2nd grade	6th grade	4th grade	5th grade
November 26	4th grade	5th grade	1st grade	2nd grade	6th grade	3rd grade
December 3	6th grade	3rd grade	5th grade	1st grade	2nd grade	4th grade
December 10	SPECIAL EVENT					

PROCLAIM CHRIST'S MESSAGE

Bring Joy to Others through our Christmas Basket Program

It is time to begin thinking about the Christmas season. You can be sure that children are! Each year, First Church provides baskets of Christmas gifts for families who would have very little under their Christmas trees. This act of generosity brightens the Christmases of needy families in Lake County and is a wonderful way to experience the Christian joy of direct mission involvement.

We hear countless stories of God's blessings at work through the Board of Deacons' Christmas Basket Program. Stories of youth groups and Sunday School classes working together to buy gifts for young children, of families who gain a greater appreciation of their own bounty when they deliver the basket to recipients, and of the pure joy of a child from a simple Christmas gift. The essence of the Christmas message is profoundly felt through the simple giving of a Christmas Basket to others in need.

It is simple to participate. Signup by completing the form here and return it to the church office (attn: Deacons' Christmas Basket Program) or place it in the offering plate. A Deacon will contact you with a family, details for gift giving and how to deliver the baskets. Delivery can be directly to the family or to the Salvation Army. You may also sign up on Sunday beginning November 19 outside the church office.

The Salvation Army provides gift certificates for food and other necessities. You can participate in this way by making a cash donation. A \$25 donation will provide a Wal-Mart gift certificate, and \$50 will provide a Jewel food-only gift certificate. If you would like to participate in this manner, send your check (made out to the Board of Deacons) and your form, to the church office.

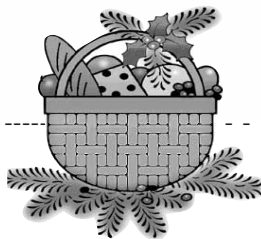
The Deacons' Christmas Basket Program is a rewarding way to share the blessings God has given us. Please sign up right away so that we can help many needy families this year.

Thank you,

Mark Gunderson (847) 535-9806, Tracy Tolmie (847) 234-7801
Nelle McNicholas (847) 295-1118, Sarah Mynhier (847) 615-2660
Deacon's Christmas Basket Coordinators



Christmas Basket Program



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.

____ 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!

MEMBERSHIP MENTOR MINISTRY SEEKS TO NURTURE NEWEST MEMBERS

The Membership Committee welcomes new members into the life of First Church and nurtures their involvement into the family of faith. A Mentor Ministry began last year to connect our newest First Church members with established members to enhance their incorporation into the life of the church. Mentors are needed for our most recent new members who were received into membership in worship on October 15.

The mentor invites mentees to join their participation in the life of First Church like worship, fellowship, mission, committee work, special programs and social events. Every effort is made to match mentors with new members with similar background and interests. Couples, singles and families are encouraged to apply.

Willingness to share Christ's welcoming connection is the only requirement. No previous experience is necessary. Your efforts will be rewarded as you get to know these dynamic, committed and delightful new members! If you are interested in serving as a mentor to a new member or just want more information, contact Jacquie Berkshire at sunnyberk@aol.com or (847) 615-0676 or Maureen Grinnell at meggrinnell@beyondquota.com or (847) 234-9475.

PROVIDE A COMMUNITY OF NURTURE

Rev. Dr. Victor Makari Speaks on World Mission Needs

The Mission Coordinating Committee (MCC) welcomed Rev. Dr. Victor Makari, Coordinator of the PC (USA) Office of the Middle East and Europe, for an afternoon of discussion on Sunday, October 22. Dr. Makari met with the MCC, and then addressed the annual meeting of the entire Mission Committee. During his meeting with the MCC, Dr. Makari discussed the reorganization of the PC (USA) World Mission Division and explored the overhead of running the national office. Dr. Makari's address to the Mission Committee focused on the needs of Christians in the Middle East. He outlined ways in which presbyteries or local congregations can invest in housing for Palestinians in the West Bank. Dr. Makari explained that the church is working to expand international marketing for Palestinian crafts and related products. He reiterated that Christians living in Iraq, Pakistan, Jordan and Egypt need our prayers as well as our help. Dr. Makari thanked our church for our involvement in Egypt and Gaza, and stressed that much more help is needed in these areas. First Church extends a heartfelt thank you to Dr. Makari for taking the time to come and discuss these important issues.

We're bringing our
Christmas Tea 2006
HOME! to Fellowship Hall
Monday, December 4 at 7:00 PM

In lieu of an admission fee,
we ask you to consider a gift of

Christmas Joy!

for any of the following First Church Missions:

A Safe Place
Hope Church
North Chicago
Reading Power

Additional details on suggested gifts for each of the groups
will be available when you place your reservation.
Reservations taken between services outside the church office.

30 minutes ... good for the soul!

The Reverend Christine Chakoian may be seen and heard regularly on 30 Good Minutes, a weekly ecumenical and interfaith program, at 5:00PM on Sunday afternoons, Channel 11 WTTW. A speaker presents a spiritual topic with a question and answer period following. Another person reflects on the same topic. Christine will be reflecting on *Calling* on November 26. You can see the full schedule at www.30goodminutes.org.



First Presbyterian
Church of Lake Forest

OUR FAMILY OF FAITH:
Telling the Story, Following the Way

reaching out... gathering together... working for Christ...

2006 TOTAL PLEDGE CONTRIBUTIONS TO DATE-----

Month to Date Oct. 29, 2006	Month to Date Budget	Year To Date October	Year To Date Budget	Amount Needed To Achieve 2006 Budget
\$112,396.71	\$150,605.21	\$1,274,668.85	\$1,370,284.16	\$ 95,615.31

REACHING OUT...GATHERING TOGETHER...

4th Annual First Presbyterian Church Preschool Fundraiser

Saturday, January 27, 2007

HAVE ANYTHING TO DONATE?

For 43 years the First Presbyterian Church Preschool of Lake Forest has provided Lake Forest and Lake Bluff children with an extraordinary preschool experience, focusing on the development of children through the use of social competence, personal empowerment, independence, creativity and intellectual curiosity. The school's philosophy of engaging children in their own learning has generated a lifetime of intellectual appreciation and enjoyment for many, many children. The preschool is proud to serve over 100 families in Lake Forest and Lake Bluff. However, as with any private educational institution, the success of the program can only be obtained through the support of the families of the students and business establishments in the community.

The Parent Board of Directors for the First Presbyterian Church Preschool would like to ask for your support. We will host our 4th Annual Fundraiser with a Silent Auction and Raffle on Saturday, January 27, 2007. Money generated at this annual event helps to subsidize capital improvements, curriculum enrichment opportunities for the children, scholarships, and teacher and parent education programs.

We are still looking for items such as tickets to sporting events, club outings, unused airline miles, and time-share vacations to be included in our silent auction. In addition, we are selling ad space for a reasonable price in our auction booklet.

All gifts for the First Presbyterian Church Preschool fundraiser are charitable contributions to the First Presbyterian Church of Lake Forest, Illinois, and accordingly, are tax deductible as allowed by law. All donations will be recognized in the event program. Tax donation letters will be sent following the event in early 2007.

Please feel free to be creative-if you have something, we'll take it! We also appreciate any cash donations. If you do have something you would like to donate, or if you would like to purchase an ad in our auction booklet, please contact Sandi Rupprecht at (847)234-0299 or email her at bcrupprecht@comcast.net.

Thank you for supporting our Preschool!
Krina Huddlestun, Paulette Harris and Sandi Rupprecht

The Christian Ideas group

is exploring fundamental concepts of morality through reading and discussing classic works of Christian thought.

This month's works include Aquinas' *Treatise on Law* and (possibly) Kant's *Metaphysics of Morals*. The group meets Tuesday evenings at 7:00 in the Parish House (no meeting on November 21; in the South Parlor on November 28). Newcomers and visitors are welcome. See the adult education web site for more details at www.firstchurchlf.org/adult.

ITALY IN 2007

Join the Sanctuary Choir and the Lakeminsters Ringers on tour to Italy, June 28-July 9, 2007. We have a few spaces open and non-singers, non-ringers are most welcome!

This wonderful opportunity to see Italy includes Rome (we will sing in St. Peter's in the Vatican), Assisi, Siena, Florence, Venice, Como, and Milan.

For complete details, contact Jill Hunt at the church, (847) 234-6250, x 230.

ADVENT WREATH MAKING & SUPPER



Traditional Advent Wreath Making and Supper

Bring your family as we begin the holy and joyous Advent season.

PLAN TO ATTEND THE ADVENT WREATH MAKING AND SUPPER,

ON **Sunday, December 3** from 5:00 to 7:00PM.

Enjoy our youth band as dinner is served, followed by fellowship and wreath making.

Materials will be supplied. The children will also enjoy a special Craft Corner.

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

ADVENT WREATH MAKING & SUPPER

Last Name _____ email _____ Phone _____

Names of Adults participating _____

Names of Children participating _____

Amount enclosed \$ _____

Please note Advent Supper in the memo line.

COMMITTED TO MAKING A DIFFERENCE



During the holiday season, A Safe Place provides food baskets and opens a **"Holiday Store"**

so that our clients (victim/survivors of domestic violence and their child witnesses) can select gifts for their children as well as for themselves free of charge. To provide these services, A Safe Place depends on the generous donations of the community.

PLEASE HELP!

HOLIDAY WISH LIST

new items only for our holiday store

Gift cards: Target, Wal-Mart, Toys R Us, Kmart; wrapping paper, tape, bows, gift bags

Gift Items for Children: picture books, early readers, novels; building blocks and toys, Duplos and Legos; culturally diverse dolls for all ages; infant and toddler toys; board games for all ages, puzzles, playing cards, educational games; art supplies, washable markers, crayons, paints, glue, construction paper, child scissors, craft and science kits, Play Doh; DVDs, non-violent family movies, video games (non-violent), Walkmans, radios, skates, basketball, soccer balls, softballs

Clothing: new winter attire and outerwear in all infant, child and teen sizes (boys and girls) and all adult women, all sizes; new shoes, boots, and slippers for women, boys and girls, all sizes; pajamas and robes, all sizes

Gift items for Women: jewelry, perfume, disposable camera, stationery, journals and stamps, bath products and toiletries, makeup bags, curling iron, hair accessories, ethnic hair care products

All holiday gift items should be delivered or scheduled for delivery **no later than December 8**. Contact Davina Martin, Associate Director of Development, A Safe Place/Lake County Crisis Center; (847) 731-7165 ext. 108 or church member Betty Toser (847) 234-5802

YOUR SUPPORT OF A SAFE PLACE DURING THIS HOLIDAY SEASON SUPPORTS THE VISIONS OF HOPE THAT TOUCH LIVES, SAVE LIVES, CHANGE LIVES. BEST WISHES FOR A JOYOUS HOLIDAY!



WHO ARE WE?

Our Christian calling takes many forms.

Here is one example

with thoughts from Rick Jones regarding his experience as moderator of the Long Range Planning Council (LRPC):



The LRPC has been charged by the Session with focusing on long-term, big-picture, inter-disciplinary issues, challenges and opportunities facing First Church. What has this process been like for you?

The last year has been very rewarding and challenging. We have challenged ourselves to slow down and think about why we are a church, and why we individually and collectively are there, before diving into our "planning." This framing has created a planning process all by itself, and a framework for our future planning about how we proclaim the gospel, provide a community of spiritual nurture, and promote social justice.

Have you had any personal revelations?

I personally have learned more about the background and underpinnings of the Presbyterian church, particularly the Book of Order and six Great Ends of the church.

What part of the outcome are you most excited about?

I'm excited that we are tying our planning to the current and historic mission of the Presbyterian church.

We aren't just talking about resource A or resource B, or program A or program B. Those are, and can be, important, but if we don't tie those resources, programs, or "things" to why we're doing them, we ultimately won't have any meaning.

What has surprised you?

I'm pleasantly surprised at how cohesive our council is. It has been an intense year, and we have a fantastic group with lots of different perspectives.

I believe we all are comfortable sharing whatever thoughts we have with the group. It has really become a "safe haven" for brainstorming, sharing, and growth.

What do you think we all have to learn from the work you have done so far?

I believe the most important thing we can learn is that we need to continually challenge ourselves--as we consider the "what" in our First Church life, we actively and carefully consider the "why." That is the connection we're seeking to make in our work and planning.

Please send submissions to publish@firstchurchllc.org

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Submission
due dates
are the
1st and the 15th
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www.firstchurchllc.org

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(847) 234 6250
Fax: 234-6283
Centered in Christ, Growing in Faith
**First Presbyterian
Church of Lake Forest**



PERMIT N° 65
LAKE FOREST, IL

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FIRST CHURCH VISION STATEMENT

Called together and centered in Christ's service, we are a fellowship growing in faith.

Relying on God's grace, we commit to fulfilling God's purpose for us by creating a welcoming, inclusive environment that inspires spiritual growth and celebration.

We journey together, caring for each other as we make deeper connections through prayer, worship, education and mission outreach.

We embrace the challenge to be faithful stewards of our God-given gifts and talents.

Inspired by our heritage of service and leadership, we are disciples of Christ, committed to making a positive difference in our families, community and beyond.

We call others to join with us as we journey into the future, strengthened by God's guidance and love.

First Church is asking you to gather non perishable food items for a *Food Drive* to benefit our *Shields Township* neighbors.

A box to accept food is outside the main office. The Shields Township Food Pantry shelves are very low in this season of bounty. The need grows; there is never too much food. Bring items from the list below between **November 12** and **December 10**. Thank you for your generous support! Mona Strenger and Gale Wayne Fruit | Juice | Non-Sugared Cereal | Evaporated Milk | Baby Food Spaghetti Sauce | Tomato Sauce & Pasta | Soup | Canned Tuna | Canned Chicken | Pasta | Rice | Vegetables | Pork & Beans | Powdered Milk | Jell-O Mix | Peanut Butter | Jelly/Jam | Hamburger-Helper, Tuna Helper and Similar Mixes | Pancake Mix | Maple Syrup | Saltine Crackers | Tea, Kool-Aid, and Hot Chocolate | Cake and Muffin Mixes | Toilet Paper | Paper Towels | Detergent | Cleaning Supplies | Personal Items, Shampoo, Bar Soap | Toothpaste | Disposable Diapers.

Lunch Bunch

On **Friday, November 17**, Lunch Bunch is privileged to have a conversation with **Frank Farwell**, our longtime faithful member, who will talk about his family in relation to the church and Lake Forest. Among many other accomplishments. Frank is a former mayor of Lake Forest and a lifetime trustee of Lake Forest College. He descends from one of the prominent families of early Lake Forest, which includes John B. Farwell, a founder of our church. Lunch is at noon in the South Parlor. Reservations please by Tuesday, November 14.

Call the church at (847) 234-6250.