



First Presbyterian  
Church of Lake Forest  
www.firstchurchlf.org

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

# Faith CONNECTIONS

## Pastor Accepts International Role

The Presbyterian Church (USA) made the following announcement on its web site. *"The Board of Trustees of the Lebanese American University in Beirut has elected the Rev. Christine Chakoian, pastor of First Presbyterian Church in Lake Forest, IL to serve on the board. She succeeds the Reverend David Maxwell, a senior editor with the Presbyterian Publishing Corporation, who has completed two consecutive terms of service as a trustee."*

Thank you, Christine, for your willingness to serve as a board member in this important educational institution!

*save the date*

**INSTALLATION SERVICE  
for the  
Reverend Corey Nelson,  
Associate Pastor  
for Mission  
on November 11 at  
4:00PM**

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

## Worship - The Endless Conversation Between God and Us

Reverend Chakoian formed the Worship Planning Team with the goal of including more staff and lay people in developing one of the most important things that ministers do.....weekly worship.

In early summer 2006, four staff members and one lay representative from the Worship and Music Committee of the Session began meeting weekly to discuss and brainstorm every aspect of the way worship is conducted at First Church. Several staff members had recently returned from the Calvin Institute of Christian Worship's annual conference on worship renewal where a plethora of ideas and seminars are presented on preaching, music, spiritual formation and discipleship.

Reverend Chakoian has reiterated that liturgy literally means the "work of the people" and points toward a

*A goal without a plan is just a wish.*

Antoine de Saint Exupery

willingness to risk that worship can be more covenantal, participative, expansive and authentic if planned by a wider circle of leaders.

Furthermore, letting go of the control of worship planning by inviting more staff and lay participants into the process instantly expands and invigorates it with surprising creativity and a renewed expectation of the great things of God.

Initially, the meetings were principally concerned with the practical and the short-term – "What's needed for next week's service?" A weekly tracking tool was developed to document the elements of worship including: order of worship, sacraments, scripture readings, liturgical year observances, preaching and assistant pastors, sermon series themes, hymns, prayers, special music, communion, commissioning ceremonies (elders, deacons, new members, teachers, mission teams) and the participative ministries of ushers, acolytes, choirs, floral and liturgical readers.

When the aspects of worship are deconstructed in this manner it is quickly evident how unexamined worship patterns can become frozen into rote rigidity. Feedback mechanisms are now in place that invite weekly input from the Worship and Music Committee on how the service glorified God and what may need more attention.

This close examination of the elements of worship at all levels enables the team to infuse them with spiritual freshness and reverent creativity. The tracking tool is now shared weekly with the Worship and Music Committee to ensure that all worship

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Dear friends,

Our sermon series, **"Stories We Can't Live Without"** is off and running. We opened with the Creation stories, and then explored sin's impact in the Fall, Cain and Abel, and the great flood. Next we started looking at God's promises to the Patriarchs, Abraham, Isaac, Jacob and Joseph. We are covering a lot of ground fast.



We're going so fast, though, that it may be hard to take it all in. At a recent Session meeting, one of our Elders asked, *"Help me understand what I should do before or after each Sunday lesson ... what to read, what to study, how to approach this."*

I appreciated his candor, and my guess is that he's not alone.

I want to offer three options to help you navigate your way through this series:

- ① If you're in one of our new small groups – and you are legion! – you will already have an opportunity to think and talk about the stories prior to the Sunday lesson. We're still receiving applications to join small groups – but we'll be closing the first 12-week sessions on October 1. You'll have another chance, though, when we re-start after the first of the year.
- ② If you can't make the weekly commitment to a new small group, or it's just not your style, our ongoing Bible study groups are always open to "drop-ins." Try one on for size: *Women's Wednesday Worship* (which is really Bible study) meets at 10:00a.m. each week; *Friday morning Men's Group* meets at 7:00a.m. each week.
- ③ If groups are not in the cards for you, I encourage you to do individual study. To help you with this, we'll provide you with questions for the week prior, and in preparation for the week ahead, I'll give you Bible study passages, recommended readings from supplementary materials, and questions to ponder to prepare for worship. These study materials will come with our weekly sermon e-mail. If you're not yet on our e-distribution list, or if you don't have access to a computer, contact Donna Birney at (847) 234-6250 or [dbirney@firstchurchlf.org](mailto:dbirney@firstchurchlf.org), to receive these materials.

I hope these weeks ahead will be inspiring for your faith. Let me know how I can help you make the most of our series. Your feedback is always welcome.

Every blessing, *Christine Chakoian*



## STEWARDSHIP 2008

The Stewardship Committee is asking that you reflect on your faith and consider your 2008 pledge to the mission and ministry of First Presbyterian Church. Our goal this year is that each and every member makes a pledge to the 2008 operating budget so that we might meet our **Core Mission: To proclaim Christ's message; To provide a community of spiritual nurture; and To promote God's vision of justice.**

Everything we do, once we confess that Jesus Christ is our Lord and Savior, is stewardship. It involves what we believe about our possessions; what we do with them; what we believe about life; and how we live.

You will soon be receiving a letter containing your 2008 pledge card and in that letter we will be asking you to make your pledge to the mission and ministry of First Church for the coming year. Our congregation has spoken about our mission and ministry goals for First Church. Our 100% participation in the Stewardship campaign this year makes an important statement about our commitment to those goals. Please give generously and out of joy for all that God has given to you.

*"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, OCTOBER 7**  
27TH SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME

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

*Reverend Christine Chakoian*  
*World Communion Sunday*  
*Sanctuary Choir at 9:00 & 11:00*  
*Peacemaking Offering Received*

**Genesis 37 - 50**  
**Genesis 45: 4-5**

**SUNDAY, OCTOBER 14**  
28TH SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME

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

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

**Exodus 1-15**  
**Exodus 14: 13-14, 21-22**

## IN MINISTRY TOGETHER

Pastor/Head of Staff  
**Rev. Christine Chakoian**  
[chakoian@firstchurchlf.org](mailto:chakoian@firstchurchlf.org)

Associate Executive Pastor  
**Rev. Dr. Don Dempsey**  
[ddempsey@firstchurchlf.org](mailto:ddempsey@firstchurchlf.org)

Associate Pastor **Rev. Patrick Day**  
[pday@firstchurchlf.org](mailto:pday@firstchurchlf.org)

Associate Pastor **Rev. Corey Nelson**  
[cnelson@firstchurchlf.org](mailto:cnelson@firstchurchlf.org)

Parish Associate **Rev. Kent Kinney**  
[kkinney@firstchurchlf.org](mailto:kkinney@firstchurchlf.org)

Director of Youth Ministries **Kristie Finley**  
[kfinley@firstchurchlf.org](mailto:kfinley@firstchurchlf.org)

Director of Children's Ministries **Amy Pagliarella**  
[apagliarella@firstchurchlf.org](mailto:apagliarella@firstchurchlf.org)

Director of Music/Organist **Jill Hunt**  
[jhunt@firstchurchlf.org](mailto:jhunt@firstchurchlf.org)

Director of Sanctuary Choir **Thomas Tropp Jr.**  
[ttropp@firstchurchlf.org](mailto:ttropp@firstchurchlf.org)

Director of Children's Choirs **Elizabeth Weismehl**  
[eweismehl@firstchurchlf.org](mailto:eweismehl@firstchurchlf.org)

Director of Youth Music Ministry **Lesley Byers**  
[lbyers@firstchurchlf.org](mailto:lbyers@firstchurchlf.org)

Preschool Director **Ruth Luke**  
[preschool@firstchurchlf.org](mailto:preschool@firstchurchlf.org)

Dir. of Communications **Donna Birney**  
[dbirney@firstchurchlf.org](mailto:dbirney@firstchurchlf.org)

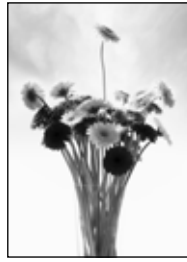
Church Business Manager **Herb Smyers**  
[hsmyers@firstchurchlf.org](mailto:hsmyers@firstchurchlf.org)

Church website [www.firstchurchlf.org](http://www.firstchurchlf.org)

# PROCLAIM CHRIST'S MESSAGE

## The Flower Delivery Ministry

The Flower Delivery Ministry is a new outreach initiative of the Board of Deacons to express God's love to individuals and families within the church community. It involves the sharing of available flowers from Sunday worship, weddings, and memorial services with church members as a reminder of God's love and the support and friendship of the congregation.



The Deacons are seeking additional volunteers to act as "Flower Delivery Ministers," sharing their gifts of kindness and concern with members of our church family who are ill, hospitalized, or otherwise unable to attend church, as well as those who are celebrating a special birthday, birth of a family member, baptism, or anniversary.

The flower delivery assignments are organized by calendar quarter so that each volunteer delivers no more than two arrangements three times during the calendar quarter. A brief training session is provided.

Those who have delivered flowers in the past have expressed how much this activity has meant to them as well as to the individuals receiving the flowers. To volunteer to help out, or for additional information, please call or e-mail Sue Barkhausen (847) 234-5925; dbarkhausen@sbcglobal.net).

## WORLD COMMUNION SUNDAY

**October 7** is less than a month away, and on that day we, along with Christians around the world will be celebrating World Communion Sunday. For more than 60 years, the first Sunday in October has been designated as a day when Christians celebrate the sacrament of Holy Communion as a part of a global community of faith.

The Presbyterian Church (USA) began World Communion Sunday in 1936 by inviting Presbyterians in the United States and overseas to celebrate Communion together. It was planned so that other denominations could participate, and by 1940 had spread beyond the Presbyterian Church. Today, Christians from all around the world gather on the first Sunday in October to affirm their oneness in Christ as they celebrate the Lord's Supper on World Communion Sunday.

First Church will celebrate World Communion Sunday by using special breads for our communion service, representative of the various nationalities and backgrounds from our congregation. If you would be willing to buy or bake a loaf of bread that represents your heritage, please contact Lee Gantz at (847) 295-9684 or lggf@aol.com. We look forward, with enthusiasm, to the variety of breads that you offer and thank you for your willingness to participate in this very special communion Sunday.



## What Is the Peacemaking Offering?

The Peacemaking Offering is one of four special offerings designated by the General Assembly of the Presbyterian Church (U.S.A.). The 192nd General Assembly (1980) of the former United Presbyterian Church in the United States of America called for an offering to be received to support peacemaking initiatives and peace education throughout the church when it adopted the recommendations in the report "Peacemaking: The Believers' Calling."

The Peacemaking Offering is received by most congregations on **World Communion Sunday, October 7**. It is recommended that 25% of the Offering received be retained by each congregation, 25% be used by synods and presbyteries, and 50% be used by the General Assembly ministries through the Presbyterian Peacemaking Program.

## Worship - The Endless Conversation Between God and Us

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participants are cued to the order and elements of the worship service.

The Worship Planning Team strives to plan worship that invites people to be participants not watchers of an event. As our search committees completed their work and the congregation extended calls to new ministers, the Worship Planning Team has grown and been energized by talent and fresh ideas for worshipping God. The Long Range Planning and Governance Committee's goals, coupled with the concentration on three of the "Great Ends of the Church" (proclaiming the Gospel, providing a community of spiritual nurture and promoting God's vision of justice), impart inspiring parameters that infuse intentionality into worship planning.

Indeed, as the walls of rote worship are torn down the options for what is possible can be overwhelming. Fortunately, the team is blessed with the checks and balances of discernment about what is reverent, invitational and inclusive for corporate worship.

Top-of-mind too is the challenge that understanding and articulating the Christian faith must make room for the concept of the mystery of God that transcends human rationality. This ineffable mystery is a highly individual experience which can be evoked variably by music, spoken word, meditative quiet, prayer, drama, artistry and the mere ambience of corporate worship. The team is committed to using all of the tools in the worship planning toolbox to enhance everyone's conversation with God.

## FALL BLOOD DRIVE

*save the date*

**Sunday,  
Nov. 18**

**GIVE  
BLOOD**  
Every Drop Counts

# PROMOTE GOD'S JUSTICE

## Calling All Eagle Scouts!

If you look at the wall outside Fellowship Hall, you will see the plaques naming the Troop 46 Scouts who have attained the rank of Eagle from Ian McPherson in 1931 to Matt Engel in 2006. First Church has supported Troop 46 since 1930 when the pastor, Reverend Dr. George Roberts and the Session chartered the troop. Dr. Roberts' legacy involves children and young adults. He is remembered for the children's messages he did every Sunday in worship and as the leader of Troop 46.

The Boy Scouts of America, Northeast Illinois Council are sponsoring a "Gathering of Eagles." If you know a man who earned the rank of Eagle Scout as a boy, let him know that he's invited to meet many other Eagle Scouts at this rare gathering. This event will be held at Lovell's of Lake Forest Fine Dining on Wednesday, October 24, 2007 at 6:30 p.m. All interested adults are encouraged to attend, including spouses or parents of Eagle Scouts.

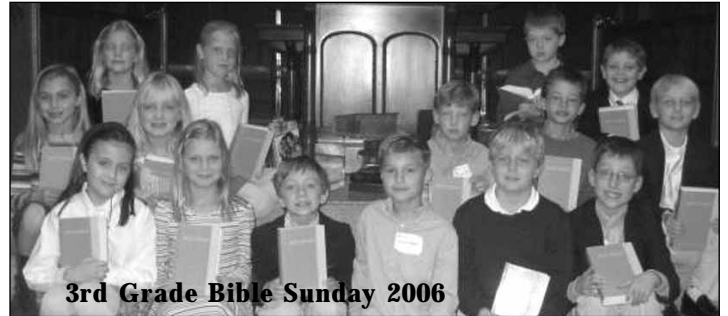
The reception will feature stories presented by noted author Alvin Townley about famous Eagle Scouts including Bill Marriott, Jr., Bill Gates, Sr., New York Mayor Michael Bloomberg and NASA astronaut Jim Lovell from his book, "Legacy of Honor: The Values and Influence of America's Eagle Scouts". Captain Lovell has been invited to share his stories at this event, too.

Call the Northeast Illinois Council, Boy Scouts of America for more information at (847) 433-1813, or at the online registration website at WWW.NEIC.ORG.

## MEMORIALS

Marjorie (Kahler) White died on September 17, 2007. Mrs. White is the mother of member Cindy Magnuson. She will be missed by her family and friends. A memorial service was held in the chapel on September 20, 2007 Reverend Patrick Day officiating.

On Sunday, October 21, we continue the long-standing tradition of presenting Bibles to the children of our congregation. Third-graders will be called forward, by name, during the 9:00am worship service to receive a Children's Bible. In Sunday School, the children learn the Bible stories we can't live without and it is our hope that this Bible will encourage a life-long love of reading the stories for themselves.



We are in the process of contacting

all third graders to confirm who will be present to receive a Bible. If you do not receive a letter but have a third grader who wishes to receive a Bible, please contact Amy Pagliarella at [apagliarella@firstchurchlf.org](mailto:apagliarella@firstchurchlf.org) or by calling the church.



## First Presbyterian Church Helping P.A.D.S.

Our congregation has a long history of helping P.A.D.S. (Public Action to Deliver Shelter) serve many of Lake County's neediest citizens, some of them chronically homeless and some in need of only temporary assistance.

Shelters are located throughout Lake County, seven nights a week, October through April.

Our volunteers provide a warm reception, dinner, overnight supervision and companionship as well as breakfast and a bag lunch for 50 men at Wesley Free Methodist Church in Waukegan on the 2nd and 5th Tuesdays of each month.

**Our first assigned evening to provide dinner at the P.A.D.S. shelter is Tuesday, October 9.** Your help is vital to the continuation of this important ministry. We are seeking your donations of casseroles, milk, fruit, juices, and dessert. If you can help, please see our sign-up sheet on the table outside the church office.

We welcome the assistance of families, scout troops, small groups, or individuals who are willing to serve dinner, spend the night, serve breakfast, or assemble lunches.

Please contact Deacons Tom Ritter (847) 234-8215 or Sue Barkhausen (847) 234-5925 if you have questions. Many thanks.



## RAINBOWS

Children kindergarten – 8th grade  
Thursdays beginning October 18  
4:30 – 5:30 PM South Parlor

Whenever a change takes place in the family—death, divorce, separation or abandonment—it has a profound effect on all members in a family. Grieving is a natural process which evolves from an emotional loss. Grief can be a positive experience which will provide a foundation for personal growth and strength. When grief does not have an opportunity to be resolved, its impact can be destructive. Rainbows is an organization created to provide children an opportunity for healing after a painful loss. If you would like more information, contact Amy Pagliarella, [apagliarella@firstchurchlf.org](mailto:apagliarella@firstchurchlf.org) or (847) 234-6250 ext 229.

# PROVIDE SPIRITUAL NURTURE



Sunday, September 23 at First Church

*All-Church Picnic* 4:30 to 6:30 PM

**HELP WANTED:**  
Loving and responsible child care providers are needed to care for children age 3 and under in the church's nursery. We are seeking an experienced caregiver to lead in the nursery on Sunday mornings, as well as other caregivers (can include high school and college students) to provide additional care on Sundays and occasional weekdays. Caregivers must be able to provide references and proof of ability to work in the United States. Please contact Amy at [apagliarella@firstchurchlf.org](mailto:apagliarella@firstchurchlf.org) or call (847) 234-6250.

## FALL RUMMAGE SALE

On Saturday, October 13, First Church will hold our annual Fall Rummage Sale. The summer sorting is over and now it's time to get organized and set the wheels in motion for another successful sale. Whether you're a Rummage veteran or first time volunteer we hope you will come and be part of this wonderful and worthy event in the life of our church. There are many ways you can help. Rummage schedule is as follows:

Thursday, Oct 11.	Set-up	9:00am – 4:00pm (all welcome)
Friday, Oct. 12	Set-up	9:00am – 3:00pm (all welcome)
Friday, Oct 12	Worker's Pre-Sale	1:30pm -- 3:30pm (workers welcome)
Saturday, Oct 13	Sale Day	8:00am - 3:00pm (all welcome)
Clean-up, Oct 13	After the Sale	3:00pm – 6:00pm (all welcome)

If you can't be at the church to help there is another way to contribute to the effort... by providing home made treats for our workers cafe. With a donation of 6 dozen cookies, bar cookies, brownies, or 4 loaves sweet bread, you will qualify for a card for the worker's pre-sale. Please contact Jody Hillger @ [jodyhillger@comcast.net](mailto:jodyhillger@comcast.net) or call 847- 234-6320. While we appreciate and will graciously accept store bought donations, this will not qualify for a worker's card. For the latest information be sure to check our rummage website at [www.1stpreslfrummage.org](http://www.1stpreslfrummage.org)

Other friendly reminders:

Friday, Oct. 7

Rummage Room closes for drop-offs

Monday, Oct 27

Rummage Room re-opens for drop-offs

WE HOPE TO SEE YOU "RUMMAGING" AROUND THE CHURCH!



# 2007-2008 SESSION

THE SESSION IS THE GOVERNING BODY OF THE CHURCH.  
IT IS COMPRISED OF **26 ELDERS** (THREE CLASSES OF EIGHT AND TWO YOUTH ELDERS)  
WHO ARE ELECTED TO SERVE THREE YEAR, STAGGERED TERMS,  
AND THE FULL-TIME PASTORAL AND MINISTRY STAFF.



**JACQUIE BERKSHIRE**  
*Membership*  
(847) 615-0676  
sunnyberk@aol.com

**LIZ GESCHEIDLE**  
*Christian Education (Children's)*  
(847) 234-5124  
lizlf@sbcglobal.net



**DAVID CAIN**  
*Finance*  
(847) 295-3471  
dcain@milburncain.biz

**JOE HICKEY**  
*Stewardship*  
(847) 295-3774  
jphick@comcast.net



**JIM MAYHALL**  
*Mission, Stewardship*  
(847) 234-8280  
Jmay243@hotmail.com

**MISSY ROMANOFF**  
*Memorials*  
(847) 295-3353  
Missy3353@aol.com



**TIM CHRISTIE**  
*Membership, 150th*  
(847) 234-1325  
tchristie@conwayfarms.com

**RICK JONES**  
*Long Range Planning & Governance*  
(847) 234-8070  
rick.jones@hewitt.com



**DICK MENTZINGER**  
*All Church Nominating Committee,  
Committee on Preparation for Ministry*  
(847) 234-2139  
dickmentzinger@comcast.net

**DOUG VALASSIS**  
*Personnel Committee*  
(847) 234-5326  
dtv852@msn.com



**ALEX COFFIN (YOUTH)**  
*Buildings & Grounds (A-V)*  
(847) 615-2139  
alexcoffin@aol.com

**PETER KELLER**  
*Buildings and Grounds*  
(847) 393-7996  
pkeller@concentric.net



**SUSAN MILANAK**  
*150th, Memorials*  
(847) 615-9078  
Milanak@comcast.net

**ANNE WARNKE**  
*Buildings & Grounds  
Long Range Planning & Governance*  
(847) 615-2002  
warnkek@worldnet.att.net



**CHRIS EDWARDS**  
*Finance* (847) 615-0397  
cedwards@winston.com

**BILL LAY**  
*All Church Nominating Committee  
Parish Life*  
(847) 234-0787  
westminsterlf@hotmail.com



**TOM MULLEN**  
*Christian Education (Adult)  
Committee on Preparation for Ministry*  
(847) 234-4410  
tmullen@mayerbrownrowe.com

**LAUREN WHALLEY**  
*Christian Education (Youth)*  
(847) 234-2868  
lfmw21@aol.com



**DIANE FONDRIEST**  
*Worship and Music*  
(847) 615-1350  
dwfondriest@cw.com

**RICH LEVIN**  
*Stewardship* (847) 234-6445  
levinmcd@comcast.net



**BETH MYNHIER**  
*Clerk of Session, Long Range  
Planning & Governance, Personnel*  
(847) 615-2660  
chmyn@aol.com

**CARLA WYCKOFF**  
*Mission* (847) 234-7212  
cwycckoff@co.lake.il.us



**KAY FRIEDBERG**  
*Communications*  
(847) 735-0724  
thewritinglife@aol.com

**LINDA MARTINAT**  
*Christian Education (Youth)  
Mission*  
(847) 615-0820  
lmartinat@aol.com



**DAWN NEAL**  
*Parish Life*  
(847) 234-7632  
dneal60@prodigy.net

**DAN O'NEIL**  
*Personnel*  
(847) 295-9096  
danny@xpresstrade.com

TOGETHER WITH THE  
MINISTERS OF WORD  
AND SACRAMENT,  
ELDERS EXERCISE  
LEADERSHIP,  
GOVERNMENT AND DISCIPLINE,  
AND HAVE  
RESPONSIBILITY  
FOR OUR CHURCH  
AS WELL AS  
THE CHURCH-AT-LARGE,  
INCLUDING  
ECUMENICAL RELATIONSHIPS.





# 2007-2008 BOARD OF DEACONS

THE BOARD OF DEACONS, FIRST OF ALL, MINISTER TO THOSE WHO ARE IN NEED.

DEACONS MINISTER TO THE SICK, TO THE FRIENDLESS, AND TO ANY WHO MAY BE IN DISTRESS.  
DEACONS ARE OUR HANDS OF OUTREACH WITHIN AND OUTSIDE OF OUR CONGREGATION.



**SUE BARKHAUSEN**  
*Flower Ministry, Life Events, PADS*  
(847) 234-5925  
sbarkhausen@lfelem.lfc.edu



**TODD HARRIS**  
*Campus Ministry* (847) 457-3298  
tharris@lakeforest.edu



**MAUREEN OLSEN**  
*Home Communion*  
(847) 367-8286  
imaginethatmdo@earthlink.net



**LAURA SIBLEY**  
*Prayer Chain, The Haven*  
(847) 615-9221  
sibleylaura48@hotmail.com



**PAUL BERGMANN**  
*All Church Nominating Committee  
Blood Drive*  
(847) 295-7957  
paul.bergmann@comcast.net



**NANCY HENSEL**  
*Career Resource Center  
Samaritan Counseling Center*  
(847) 295-2913  
nphensel@comcast.net



**CESILIE PRICE**  
*Auction, Boys and Girls Club*  
(847) 615-8806  
cprice4@aol.com



**CARL STEVENS**  
*Habitat for Humanity, Outreach*  
(847) 482-1403  
carl.stevens@uop.com



**JONATHAN CLAIR**  
*Buildings and Grounds*  
(847) 234-3436  
pjclair@msn.com



**VANDY JANSON**  
*A Safe Place, Interfaith Chaplaincy*  
(847) 234-1922  
v.janson@sbcglobal.net



**TOM RITTER**  
*PADS* (847) 234-8215  
thritter8@gmail.com



**TRACY TOLMIE**  
*Vice Moderator,  
Christmas Baskets*  
(847) 234-7801  
dtolmie@aol.com



**PAT CUMMINGS**  
*Memorials and Receptions*  
(847) 735-8119  
patcumings7@comcast.net



**STEWART KERR**  
*Finance, Chicago Community Trust*  
(847) 295-8316  
stewart.kerr@associatedbank.com



**BARBARA SCHULZ**  
*Spiritual Coach, Life Events*  
(847) 680-8206  
lakemillelacs@aol.com



**BERT TUCKER**  
*Personnel* (847) 234-0115  
berttucker@hotmail.com



**BEVAN DUNCAN**  
*Memorials and Receptions*  
(847) 295-6617  
bevan@blueduncan.com



**LYDON NEUMANN**  
*The Harbor, Blood Drive*  
(847) 295-1237  
clneumie@aol.com



**GRETCHEN SEYMOUR**  
*Secretary, Food for Friends  
All Church Nominating  
Committee, Christmas Tea*  
(847) 735-1366  
seymour96@comcast.net



**GALE WAYNE**  
*Moderator* (847) 234-3446  
gswayne@comcast.net



**JOEL FERRIN**  
*Inreach, Stephen Ministry,  
Wheels for Others, Rainbows*  
(847) 234-5046  
jhf5046@aol.com



**AMY O'KEANE**  
*Holiday Deliveries*  
(847) 234-6727  
aokbok@msn.com



**BILL SHRIVER**  
*Soup Kitchen*  
(847) 757-3407  
wfshriver@yahoo.com



**DUANE WISE**  
*Membership, Reading Power*  
(847) 295-2993  
dcwise@comcast.net




**KIM GLENNON**  
*All Church Picnic, Christmas  
Tea, Auction*  
(847) 615-8349  
bimmer89@aol.com



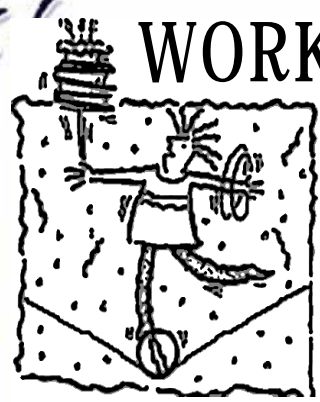
**ANNA SHUSTITZKY**  
*Christmas Tea,  
All Church Picnic, Auction*  
(847) 482-1638  
muirm\_beatha\_dan@sbcglobal.net

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

First Presbyterian  
 Church of Lake Forest  
 www.firstchurchlf.org  
 700 N. Sheridan Road  
 Lake Forest, IL 60045  
 847-234-6250 fax 847-234-6283



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# WORK TRIP SPAGHETTI DINNER & TALENT SHOW

\$20.00 per person

...Sunday, October 28...6:30 PM in Fellowship Hall

The annual Spaghetti Dinner and Work Trip Talent Show are combining this year for a doubly joyous evening of preparation for mission and ministry! The senior high work trip will go to Camp Wonderland in Missouri in June 2008 for a week to do physical labor and to help with the handicapped campers. This mountain top experience for the youth and advisors (over 125 last year) is supported by the whole church family. For the first time, two fundraisers are being combined into one fun evening.

The youth will cook and serve dinner. Our multi-talented youth follow it up with the Work Trip Talent Show. This is a great opportunity for younger children to see what they have to look forward to in high school youth group.

If you thought it was amusing to try to dunk Kristie (Director of Youth Ministries) and Patrick (Associate Pastor for Family Life) at the picnic, you won't want to miss this fun! Please make your reservation by contacting Kerry Spera kspera@firstchurchlf.org or (847) 234-6250 ext. 233.

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

## Bakers needed for the fall Rummage Sale



on Saturday, October 13

...6 dozen cookies, bars, brownies, or 3 loaves of a sweet bread.  
 Please contact Jody Hillger at (847) 234-6320 or jodyhillger@comcast.net