



## Lunch Bunch

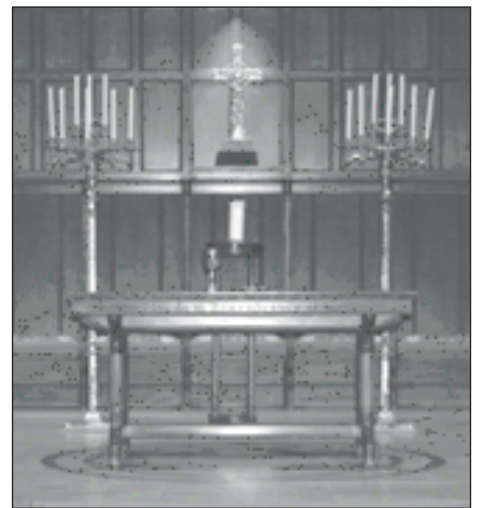
On Friday,  
September 22,  
Lunch Bunch will welcome  
**Desmond LaPlace**, a  
Lake Forest resident,  
who will talk about his  
World War II autograph  
collection. As a young boy  
in 1944, Des wrote over  
3,000 letters (in six years)  
and received over 1,000  
responses from most of the  
war's military leaders and  
others. Come see some  
photographs and hear  
him read some highlights  
from his amazing collection.  
Lunch is at noon in the South  
Parlor. Make your reservation,  
please, by calling the church  
at (847) 234-6250 by Tuesday,  
September 19. Cost is \$5.00  
at the door.

700 N. Sheridan Road  
Lake Forest, IL 60045  
(847)234 6250  
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[www.firstchurchlf.org](http://www.firstchurchlf.org)

## Decoding the Mysteries of First Presbyterian Church of Lake Forest

The search for the Holy Grail in the fictional Da Vinci Code rises to a dramatic peak when the Knight's Templar codex which holds the clues to the grail is stolen by the obsessed Tebing in the Round Temple Church in London. This cloak and dagger scene seems far removed from First Church in Lake Forest, Illinois...but is it? Ascend the steps into the chancel and embedded in the floor under your feet, you will find two interlocking triangles in black and gold superimposed by a terra cotta-colored capital cross and encircled by three colored rings. This is Solomon's Seal and Cross and similar designs are found in none other than the Round Temple Church of London. King Solomon, the Knights Templar, the seal....? What are the links between these entities and why is this particular symbol found in our church? We need to back up into the mists of history to discern the thread of this mysterious connection.



King Solomon was renowned for his long rule, his wisdom and his wealth which he used in part, to build the first Temple in Jerusalem. Fast forwarding in history to the year 1118 in Jerusalem following the First Crusade, you find a war-torn turmoil between Muslims, Jews and Christians in a religious and political power struggle. A group of soldiers living in Jerusalem at this tumultuous time formed the Order of Poor Knights of the Temple of Solomon and undertook the duty of protecting pilgrims. This order of knights evolved to be called 'soldiers of the Temple' or Knights Templar (militia templi) because they were quartered near the Church of the Holy Sepulcher which was reputed to be on the site of King Solomon's temple. It is around this group of knights that author, Dan Brown created the thesis of his novel.

But in what way does this chain of history link to the exquisite seal embedded into the floor of the chancel in our First Church of Lake Forest? Stanley D. Anderson, the architect of our church designed and installed the seal in 1939. In the remarkable treatise, Symbols and Art, author Jeanette Mattoon states, "Anderson was probably inspired by one of the diagrams of the Solomon's Seal and Cross designs of the Temple Church in London." The famous London church was built by the Templar Knights in the twelfth century with a circular nave as a tribute to both King Solomon's Temple and the Church of Holy Sepulcher in Jerusalem. So therein lies the connection. (continued on page 4)

# Reaching out.....gathering together.....working for Christ.

Dear friends,

Visiting scholar Marcus Borg poses a crucial question for us when he asks, "What is the heart of Christianity? What does it mean to be Christian today?" What may have been an obvious answer in an earlier age is no longer universally endorsed. While this may be disturbing, it is the reality we face as children of the Enlightenment and citizens of a global society.

It may help to remember that we are not the first to face a shifting understanding of faith. In the earliest years of the church, "Christianity" wasn't yet a concept. To be a Christian was to be a follower of Jesus on the Way. Later, being a Christian meant being baptized into the one holy catholic and apostolic church; belonging was the doorway to salvation.

In Reformation Europe, being a Christian meant being a student of the Bible – available to all for the first time, with the advent of moveable type. In the last century, in Nazi Germany and apartheid-era South Africa, dissenters believed that being a Christian called them to protest the status quo of "the empire."



What does it mean to be Christian today? There are no easy answers. But surely this is the right question to ask. And how blessed we are to have companions in our quest: to be able to explore the heart of faith together.

With every blessing,

*Christine Chakoian*



## Hurricane Katrina hit just one year ago.

In the past 12 months, much has been accomplished, while much remains to be done. The Hurricane Katrina

Task Force wishes to thank the entire congregation for

their support and response to our requests for help. Initially, we asked for donations for those in Lake County fleeing the devastation. You responded with a \$2500 donation to PADS, plus donations which enabled 35 evacuees to shop our Fall Rummage Sale and furniture for 20 families as they decided to stay here. Then we focused our efforts in Ocean Springs, MS and supported the First Presbyterian Church there. We sent their congregation \$5000 for immediate needs, replaced their DVD player, sent hygiene kits, Target gift cards, supplied their pastor with a minivan, sent toys and gifts at Christmas, sent 14 college students and 7 advisors on a Christmas Work trip, began praying for members of the congregation by name, and concluded renovating and expanding their preschool building during the Senior High Work Trip. Our church will continue to support the First Presbyterian Church in Ocean Springs through the Mission Committee.

Thank you for this opportunity for service,

KATRINA TASK FORCE:

Gordon Butcher, Carolyn Dapier,  
Kristie Finley, Jerry Fox,  
Donna Johnson, Laura Johnson,  
Margaret Lindquist, Jim Mayhall,  
Addie Morrison and  
Beverly Raudabaugh.



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

**SUNDAY, SEPTEMBER 17**  
**24<sup>TH</sup> SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME**

**9:00 and 11:00AM Worship**

*Dr. Marcus Borg*

9:00 Lakeminsters Ringers & Jr. High Choir

11:00 Lakeminsters Ringers & Sanctuary Choir

**Lectionary:** Proverbs 1: 20-33  
Psalm 19  
James 3: 1-12  
Mark 8: 27-38

**SUNDAY, SEPTEMBER 24**  
**25<sup>TH</sup> SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME**

**9:00 and 11:00AM Worship**

*Reverend Christine Chakoian*

9:00 Sanctuary Choir

11:00 Youth Music Ministry

**Lectionary:** Proverbs 31: 10-31  
Psalm 1  
James 3: 13-4:3, 7-8a;  
Mark 9: 30-37  
Deuteronomy 6: 4-7  
Mark 8: 22-26

## IN MINISTRY TOGETHER

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Church website [www.firstchurchlf.org](http://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.  
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1st and the 15th of every month.  
Submissions may be emailed (preferred method) to  
[publish@firstchurchlf.org](mailto:publish@firstchurchlf.org)

## INSPIRED BY OUR HERITAGE

# Stephen Ministrey

*...sometimes we are the only glimpse of Jesus some people ever see*

David A. Papp, Program Director for Stephen Ministries St. Louis

### September 23

All active and inactive Stephen Ministers are invited at **10:00 a.m.** in the South Parlor to share a time of fellowship and planning for the upcoming year of Continuing Education in one to one Christian caregiving.

In addition to 50 hours of basic training received by each Stephen Minister at First Church, all commissioned Stephen Ministers are encouraged to participate in the many hours of continuing education offered by experts on fascinating and diverse topics during the course of each church year.

During the last church year Stephen Ministers, and others in the church family who accepted the invitation to join open sessions, had an opportunity to improve their understanding and skills in caregiving to those suffering such burdens as dementia, chronic or terminal illness, career challenges and large scale disaster.

Come, renew your participation in Stephen Ministry this fall by talking with your Stephen Leaders about continuing education programs you want to attend this year or share with the First Church Family!

### *Also note,*

### September 22 - October 27

Midwest Palliative & Hospice CareCenter will offer classes at **Church of the Holy Spirit** to train Lake County volunteers to provide state-of-the-art support for its palliative and hospice patients. Get more information and an application packet in the church office. First Church's own long-time friend and former choir director, Carol Ramsey, is now a Volunteer Coordinator at Midwest Hospice and Palliative CareCenter. Call her at (847) 556-1632.

## UPCOMING DEACON DATES

As you pencil in your important appointments, please include these! Details to follow!



**Blood Drive - October 22**

**Christmas Tea - December 4**

**Auction - April 28, 2007**

## SAVE THE DATE:

**Saturday, October 21**

## FALL RUMMAGE SALE

**Check our rummage website for the latest information and volunteer opportunities**

**[www.1stpreslfrummage.org](http://www.1stpreslfrummage.org)**

## Please join First Church in A Celebration of a Lifetime of Ministry

*Reverend Dr. Gordon Neil Butcher*

**Sunday, October 1, 2006**

four o'clock in the afternoon

*The program will be in the First Presbyterian Church Sanctuary with a reception to follow in Fellowship Hall*



Plans are being made for Rev. Dr. Gordon Butcher's reception following his *Celebration of a Lifetime of Ministry* program on October 1, 2006.

The Retirement Reception Committee would appreciate donations of homemade desserts (cookies, bars, brownies etc.) for the reception.

Please call the Hospitality desk (847) 234-6250 to inform the committee of your planned culinary donation or sign up during Sunday fellowships on September 17 & 24.

Food donations may be dropped off in the Fellowship Hall Jitchen that day noting "Afternoon Reception". We thank you in advance!!

# COMMITTED TO MAKING A DIFFERENCE

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## Career Resource Center Seeks Volunteers

Career Resource Center has a long and valued relationship with First Church. Over the last 15 years of the Center's operation, numerous church members have served as Executive Director, advisors, and board members. People who volunteer at the Center report that they are valued and engaged in meaningful experiences that make a tangible difference in the lives of CRC's clients. Volunteers increase their skills, learn new talents; all while meeting diverse and interesting people.

As CRC continues to grow and expand its offerings to individuals in employment transition, the Center's volunteer opportunities widen as well. Currently several key positions are available for people who are seeking to 'give back' to their community.

THESE OPPORTUNITIES INCLUDE:

**Client Services Representatives** - If you are a friendly 'people person' and would enjoy sitting at the front desk in CRC's newly renovated professional office environment, greeting clients, answering phone calls, making appointments, assisting with office functions, help is needed on Thursday mornings, Friday afternoons, and Tuesday evenings, 7-9 (once or twice a month).

**Fundraising Support Volunteer:** If you are interested in a flexible volunteer commitment, a volunteer is needed to manage and track CRC's pipeline of fundraising initiatives. This includes: typing solicitation letters, gift acknowledgment letters, and other correspondence.

Time commitment:

Approximately 3 hours per week.

**Grant Writer:** If you are experienced in, or interested in learning, to writing funding proposals CRC has been made aware of an opportunity for a volunteer (over the age of 50) to receive extensive training for fundraising through a program called the Legacy Leadership Institute (which is jointly run by Mather LifeWays, Council for Jewish Elderly, Community Resource Network, and Executive Service Corps).

**Marketing and Communications:** The Community Relations Committee of CRC is looking for those with talent for writing and graphic design. Possible projects include press releases, human interest stories, newsletter, or brochures. The volunteer position is within a committee which meets monthly however writing/designing work can be done on a flexible time schedule.

Please call or email (crcvolcoord@covad.net) Shannon McKenzie, Volunteer Coordinator at (847) 295-5626 to ask questions, take a tour or simply to talk about how you may be involved in any of these opportunities. Career Resource Center, Inc. is located at 40 E. Old Mill Road, Suite 105, Lake Forest, IL 60045



## OPENING DOORS with Special Friends Special Needs Children's Ministry

Opening Doors Ministry is devoted to providing an inclusive and meaningful Church School experience for our children who have special needs and may need extra attention beyond a level generally required in their classrooms. Our goal is for every child to grow in their relationship with God and to feel comfortable, safe, loved and accepted here at First Church. We welcome children of all abilities and encourage them to attend Sunday School. We hope to create an awareness and understanding of the challenges of families with children with special needs. Beginning September 17, we would like to provide Special Friends to accompany and assist these children during Sunday School. A Special Friend is a youth, adult or senior volunteer who will provide one-on-one assistance, encouragement, and friendship to a child with special needs during Sunday school.

We are looking for Special Friends to help with our children throughout the year. No experience is necessary. The time commitment is minimal- only 1 hour on Sunday mornings as your time allows. We will provide the training and support you may need to feel comfortable in this ministry. We believe that this will be a positive learning experience for everyone who is involved.

If you are a parent of a child with special needs or if you have an interest in assisting children with special needs, please contact any one of the members of the Special Needs Ministry Team: Meg Barnhart at 735-8414, Lynnette Hinch at 283-9464, or Donna Birney at 234-6250. Any information shared with this ministry team will be kept confidential.

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## CONFIRMATION POT LUCK FOR PARENTS AND CONFIRMAND

**SEPTEMBER 24**, 5:30 pm in Fellowship Hall. We hope you will come and enjoy this time of fellowship as this year of study begins for First Church's ninth graders.

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## 7<sup>TH</sup> & 8<sup>TH</sup> GRADE MUSIC MINISTRY

will begin **SEPTEMBER 17** from 4:30-5:30 in the Choir Room.

Lesley Byers will work with this group, encouraging and guiding them as they bring their passion for music into ministry at First Church.

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## Attention - Individuals & Families looking for a Special Volunteer Opportunity!

Balmoral Care Center -- a residential nursing home at Lake Forest Place -- is looking for individuals, families (including friendly pets!) or civic groups who are interested in visiting with their residents during the weekends. A visit to a resident might be spent playing games, reading mail, or taking a walk. To spend an hour with one of the residents is such a lift to their days!

For more information on how you might participate, please contact Gale Hartman at Balmoral (847) 604-6724

# WE CALL OTHERS TO JOIN US

## USHERS.....HIDDEN MINISTERS

Ushers are the glue that hold worship together, Sunday after Sunday. We extend deep thanks to **Sue Hood** and **Wendy Watkins** who invited ushers for our summer services, to **Jim Simmen** who trained head ushers and to each and every man, woman and child who served. Throughout the changes brought by the construction, entry and exit to the sanctuary was facilitated by the ushers so the congregation felt comfortable and safety was enhanced.

As we go to our schedule of two services, we are grateful for **Nancy Hamming** and **Joey Raudabaugh** who will invite ushers for the 9:00 service and **Betty and Bill Sample** for the 11:00. We could not do without these dedicated ministers!

## NEW YOUTH GROUP NEEDS A NAME

The Children's Ministries committee has activated a new ministry to middle school students. Beginning October 15, youth group for 5th and 6th grades will be held from 5:30 to 6:30 PM in the Youth Lounge. All students in that age are invited to attend what will be a fun time for learning, spiritual experience, Bible study, getting to know each other and eating together. Serving our neighbors will be part of the regular activity as well as occasional outings. More information will be coming to families. Leaders are Cindy Johnson and Eleanor Thorn.

This group needs a name!!!! Email ideas to [dbirney@firstchurchlf.org](mailto:dbirney@firstchurchlf.org).

## CONSTRUCTION PROGRESS

**Landscaping has begun.** The walkways on Deerpath have been removed in anticipation of new pathways being constructed followed with new plantings.

**The north and south entrances on Deerpath are nearing completion.** Millwork is being installed. The new stone is a close match to the existing and enhances the beauty of the entrances.

**The preschool play yard is shaping up in its new location between the Parish House and the church.** This expanded space opens up opportunity for additional equipment to enhance the learning and growth that occurs in outdoor play. We are looking forward to the children being more integrally located to the daily working of the church.

**Delivery of the new sanctuary heating, ventilation and air conditioning system is expected mid September.** This new system will include air conditioning of the chapel and balcony. During this process a leak was discovered on the roof connecting the chapel and sanctuary. A new copper roof has been installed.

Beginning October 1, the north parking lot (Sheridan Road) will be closed in order to complete the enlargement and landscaping of this lot before cold weather begins. Parking concerns during this time will be detailed closer to start date.

## Decoding the Mysteries

(continued from front page)

In reality, there is no definitive proof that Solomon actually used or possessed such a seal. Yet, more important than its history is the meaning of the seal itself...to each of us. What is its larger significance and why did Stanley Anderson accord the seal a place of honor in the very center of the chancel floor?

Like all authentic and enduring symbols, Solomon's Seal and Cross metaphorically points to larger meanings that resonate on many symbolic levels. Potent in these simple, striking, geometric designs are ancient ideas of heaven (the triangle pointing upward) and earth (the solid base of the second triangle) overlaid with the quintessential symbol of Christianity, the cross. The interlocking equilateral triangles create a hexagram or six-pointed star which Symbols and Art author, Mattoon, states, "Is called the Creator star," because each point represents one day in creation, thus calling to mind the foundational presence of God, as Creator of heaven and earth. The encircling bands of color suggest completeness and perfection and the transcendent timelessness of God. The central placement of the cross implicitly conveys Christ's significance to every soul as well as the centrality of his redemptive sacrifice. You are invited to take a moment to contemplate this beautiful symbol to the glory of God in the chancel of First Church.

SOURCES:

1. Symbols and Art, First Presbyterian Church of Lake Forest, Illinois; Jeanette Mattoon, p. 7-12. Available in the church pews.
2. [http://www.mfa.gov.il/MFA/MFAArchive/1990\\_1999/1999/2/King%20Solomon-s%20Seal](http://www.mfa.gov.il/MFA/MFAArchive/1990_1999/1999/2/King%20Solomon-s%20Seal)
3. <http://www.jewishencyclopedia.com/index.jsp>
4. <http://altreligion.about.com/gi/dynamic/off-site.htm?site=http://www.mystae.com/restrict-ed/streams/masons/templars.html>
5. [http://www.insidethedavincicode.com/in-side/publish/temple\\_church.shtml](http://www.insidethedavincicode.com/in-side/publish/temple_church.shtml)

*Growing in Faith* How the Bible Came to Be

### SUNDAY SCHOOL 2006 FALL SCHEDULE

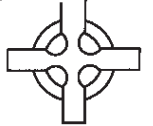
	Art Room 011	Mission & Outreach Room 012	Science & God's World Room 212	Bible Discovery Room 213	Games Fellowship Hall	Theatre & Drama Room 216
September 10	2nd grade	4th grade	3rd grade	5th grade	1st grade	6th grade
September 17	1st grade	6th grade	4th grade	3rd grade	5th grade	2nd grade
September 24	5th grade	2nd grade	6th grade	4th grade	3rd grade	1st grade
October 1	3rd grade	1st grade	2nd grade	6th grade	4th grade	5th grade
October 8	4th grade	5th grade	1st grade	2nd grade	6th grade	3rd grade
October 15	6th grade	3rd grade	5th grade	1st grade	2nd grade	4th grade

Please send submissions to [publish@firstchurchll.org](mailto:publish@firstchurchll.org)

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**First Presbyterian**  
**Church of Lake Forest**  
*Centered in Christ, Growing in Faith*



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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.

## Volunteers needed



to staff the Fair Trade Sale at First Church on October 15. Become an active participant in the cause for social justice and elimination of global poverty! Learn about commodities and gift items that are available through the Ten Thousand Villages supply network. Test the water in the comfort of your own church building. Then, if you like it, dive in by giving time as a salesperson at the new

Lake County Ten Thousand Villages Store at Station Square set to open October 13 at Prairie Crossing in Grayslake.

If you can't help on October 15, the new store could still use your help on other dates:

September 15-18: Assembling and painting fixtures

September 28-October 11: Unloading merchandise  
Unpacking merchandise  
Displaying merchandise

October 13: Dedicated volunteers to serve as salespeople

*Women's Wednesday Worship resumes Wednesday morning*

**September 13** from 10:00-11:00AM in South Parlor.

*Study the scripture planned for Sunday's service.*

*Bring a Bible and your desire to grow in faith and love of the Lord.*

*Come as you are.*

**EVERYONE IS WELCOME!!!**

*No previous Bible knowledge necessary.*

*For more information, call Laurie Valassis (234-5326).*