

WE INVITE YOU TO MEET THE STAFF OF FIRST CHURCH CONNECTING PEOPLE WITH CHRIST AND HIS POWER TO TRANSFORM LIVES



REVEREND CHRISTINE CHAKOIAN, PASTOR/HEAD OF STAFF

Christine is the spiritual and worship leader of the congregation. She enjoys meeting every member of the church family and getting to know them as individuals. Chris is married to John Shustitzky and they have a daughter, Anne. "Please know how deeply I have felt the hand of God in this call. I can only begin to imagine what God will accomplish among us, in our lives and in our congregation", states Chris. cchakoian@firstchurchlf.org



REVEREND COREY NELSON, ASSOCIATE PASTOR, MISSION

Corey has served as a Young Adult Volunteer in Northern Ireland and Ghana and on the staff of Worldwide Ministries Division as a mission educator and worship leader. During his tenure, he created and led the Thuma Mina Mission Theatre Company and the Global Worship Initiative.

Corey states that his goal is "to combine his passion for mission and worship so that his ministry at First Church will support and implement our core mission. cnelson@firstchurchlf.org



JOHN JOHNSON, EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR

John works closely with the Pastors and Staff overseeing operations and facilities and supporting Personnel, Finance, Stewardship, Long Range Planning, Buildings & Grounds and Endowment committees. John has general management, operations, financial, marketing, sales and engineering skills developed over 40 years in the telecommunications and data networking industry. He enjoys singing in the choir and serves as an advisor on Work Trip. John and Nancy have a daughter Katie, a son Ted, married to Carol and grandson Travis. "Every day is filled with grace in this church and the variety of ways we serve the congregation and community is astounding!" jjohnson@firstchurchlf.org



REVEREND AMY PAGLIARELLA, ASSOCIATE PASTOR FAITH FORMATION, CHILDREN

Amy is the Associate Pastor Faith Formation, Children fresh from her own experiences as a parent and a graduate of McCormick Theological Seminary. She and her husband, Colm, have two sons, Nolan and Rowan.

Amy states, "It is truly my privilege to minister to and with your children, and I look forward to working with you as you raise your families in Christian discipleship." apagliarella@firstchurchlf.org



KENT WARD KINNEY, ASSISTANT PASTOR

Pastoral calling fills Kent's days. Kent and his wife Carolyn have three children and seven grandchildren who enhance their spare time. "I enjoy encouraging people of all ages in opportunities in Christian discipleship," acknowledges Kent. kkinney@firstchurchlf.org



DONNA BIRNEY, DIRECTOR OF CONGREGATIONAL CARE

Encouraging open flow of information among the staff, congregation and community keeps Donna busy. She resources Membership, Parish Life and lay ministries. She is married with two daughters. "I love the people and the gifts they bring to their ministry within the life of the congregation and beyond," stated Donna.

dbirney@firstchurchlf.org



JILL S. HUNT, DIRECTOR OF MUSIC

Jill's responsibilities include administering and growing the music program. As organist Jill plays for all worship services accompanying the Sanctuary Choir, ensembles, and soloists. She directs the Handbell Choirs. She has two sons, Bryan, a computer consultant and Jason, a guitarist, teacher and performer. "I am so grateful to have such wonderful opportunities to share my keyboard and musical gifts with this congregation. I consider it a special privilege to lead worship through playing the organ, leading the singing of congregational hymns and accompanying choirs and soloists. jhunt@firstchurchlf.org



TOM TROPP, DIRECTOR OF SANCTUARY CHOIR

Tom is Director of the Sanctuary Choir. He grew up in Lake Forest and graduated with a Bachelor in Music from Illinois Wesleyan University, with an emphasis in choral conducting and sacred music. He received a Master of Music degree in choral conducting and historical musicology from the University of Arizona. In addition to his work with our choirs, Tom is in doctoral program in choral conducting at Northwestern University.

Tom and his wife Anne live in Lake Forest with their daughter Katie. ttropp@firstchurchlf.org



LESLEY BYERS, YOUTH MUSIC MINISTRIES

Lesley has been singing professionally for over 20 years and currently is part of the swingin' sextet Lesley Byers & The Jazz Cats who have performed throughout the USA. She loves working with children, youth and adults as director of Eggs Benedict. "The kids constantly amaze me with all they can do and the effort they put into their music," she states. lesleybyers@aol.com



SUSAN NOBLE, DIRECTOR OF THE CAROL AND CHERUB CHOIRS

Susan completed majors in Voice Performance and Music Education with a minor in musical theater performance from Northwestern University where she returned for a masters degree in Voice Performance and Literature. She has performed regionally in many venues, has taught singing at Northwestern and Glenbrook North High School and is currently a private voice teacher.

KAY WOLFF, GRAPHIC DESIGN/PUBLICATIONS

Kay designs and produces all the church communications. She has been involved in the graphic design industry for many years. Kay has three sons, Peter, Graham and Henry who have grown up in Lake Bluff.

"I enjoy the range of possibilities in producing imaginative print materials for the church and helping congregation members explore creative ways to showcase their ministries," Kay commented.

kwolff@firstchurchlf.org



NICK REDMOND, DIRECTOR YOUTH & YOUNG ADULTS FAITH FORMATION

Nick comes to us as a recent graduate of McCormick Theological Seminary. He has been involved as a youth ministry leader for the past 8 years in the Chicagoland area and in his hometown of Ames, Iowa. He has been on 12 church work trips, has spent time volunteering in Ghana and Mexico and studying biblical history in Egypt, and is an avid lover of sports, music, movies, and technology. Nick is excited to be a part of the ministry at First Pres and is looking forward to meeting and getting to know you! nredmond@firstchurchlf.org

ELIZABETH "BETH" GILLIES, EXECUTIVE ADMINISTRATIVE ASSISTANT

Beth works with the head of staff providing administrative support in her day-to-day ministry. She works with Mission, Membership and Personnel Committees. A graduate of Denison University, Beth brings a variety of work experience to her position. Outside of work, Beth loves dancing and is a Scottish Highland dancer.

egillies@firstchurchlf.org



SARAH SECCOMBE, ADMIN. ASSISTANT, SUNDAY SCHOOL SUPERINTENDENT

Sarah is a graduate of Southeast Missouri State University and brings varied work experiences to her position at First Church. She works with Baptism and is the wedding go-to person. Sarah also works with Faith Formation Team, Music staff and committees. Sarah grew up in the First Church family and is pleased to be working again in Lake Forest. sseccombe@firstchurchlf.org

YEHUDA JACOBI, FINANCIAL ASSISTANT

Yehuda's focus is payroll, maintaining the general ledger, monitoring and reporting pledges during stewardship and purchasing. When asked what he liked about working at First Church, Yehuda replied, "I am glad to be working here because of the spirit that exists among the staff, church members and their children.

That spirit says there is life and movement. I look forward to being of service here."

yjacobi@firstchurchlf.org



TC ANDERSON, ASSOCIATE FOR YOUTH FAITH FORMATION

TC, our popular youth 'minister in training,' who joined us in September 2010 as a field site intern from McCormick Seminary, will continue his work here primarily with middle school and interact with high schoolers at youth group. "I really like being here. I like working in a church community," TC stated. Single and living in Hyde Park, TC enjoys a pick-up game of basketball with friends. When he receives his Master of Divinity, TC hopes to be a youth minister. tanderson@go.mccormick.edu

KERRY E. SPERA, FINANCIAL ASSISTANT

Kerry is responsible for accounts payable/receivable, maintenance of contribution and pledge records, cash management, preschool bookkeeper, month-end reporting and general administrative responsibilities as assigned. She attended Elgin Community College with emphasis in Business Administration & Accounting and has many years experience in both areas. Kerry is married to Edward and they have two daughters, Amanda and Kayla.

"I enjoy the diversity of my job...no two days are the same... and the variety of people I work and communicate with including staff, vendors and congregation members," stated Kerry. kspera@firstchurchlf.org



JENNIFER L. AYCOCK, COLLEGE MINISTRIES INTERN

Jennifer is the intern for College Ministry. She is currently completing her M.Div. at Trinity Evangelical Divinity School. Ten years ago, she moved from central Texas to attend Wheaton College and has been on a wild ministry ride to D.C., Chicago, France, North Africa, and India ever since. "I love college students--their intense passion and honest questions--and I look forward to welcoming and walking with students on their faith journey with God and others this year!!! jennifer.aycock@gmail.com

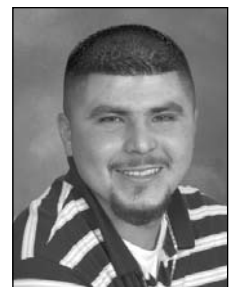
ELMER ROSALES, BUILDING SUPERINTENDENT

Elmer makes sure our program preparation is organized and works inside and outside the building. He has worked in landscaping and with an electrical firm with additional schooling in both areas. He likes working with his hands. Elmer is married to Karen, has a son José and a daughter Kelsey. He enjoys coming to work every day and has respect for everybody with whom he comes in contact. I especially like communicating with everyone," Elmer stated.



RUTH LUKE, DIRECTOR OF THE FIRST PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH PRESCHOOL

As preschool director, Ruth spends her time working with teachers, parents and children. Ruth and her husband George have two grown children: Todd and Scott and several grandchildren. "I enjoy nurturing early childhood Christian faith experiences for our preschool children and their parents," states Ruth. preschool@firstchurchlf.org



MARIO ALBERT ESPAT, CUSTODIAN

Albert, as he prefers to be called, joined our staff in October 2008 after spending the previous three years in the army in his native country, Belize. When asked what he likes best about working at First Church, Albert replied, "I like working among people. It's a really nice environment!" In his free time, Albert enjoys listening to music, watching comedies on TV, and playing with his dog, Chance, a rottweiler-pit bull mix.