



A monthly publication of the First Presbyterian Church of Lake Forest

Mending More than Fences

By Jen "Pen" Richards

This past June, 61 of our senior high students and 18 advisors (including myself) spent a week in Lebanon Junction, Ky., on the annual Work Trip, helping several families in the community and Cedar Ridge Presbyterian Camp where we stayed. Our group mended fences, fixed doors, put in windows, repaired decks and stairs, painted houses, hung gutters, fixed and carpeted floors, shingled roofs and tidied yards ... just to name a few!

Advisors Jim and Jo Cochrane, and their local connection, former Lebanon Junction mayor Butch Sweat, researched the sites ahead of time, allowing each team of students to be able to meet multiple homeowners as they rotated between the various work sites. Advisors were assigned to one place, allowing us to build deep relationships with our hosts. Each evening as we gathered for worship or small groups, we shared stories about the homeowners and the day's events. Being in community with the people we were helping was powerfully gratifying.

Getting to Know Marty

I was blessed with the honor of working at Marty Jefferies' home. John "JJ" Johnson and I were paired up to supervise the site together. JJ had the building skills, I had the willingness to weed, direct kids to jobs and clean up—we made a dynamic duo!

Before arriving, we learned that Marty's husband, Jerry, had passed away a few years before. They had been married almost 36 years. While weeding with Marty, I was privileged to hear about Marty's life and how she and her husband met. Marty shared that they had attended middle school together but their lives parted soon after. It wasn't until they were in their 30s that they were reunited on a blind date. Jerry arrived at Marty's home and the two reminisced about their youth over cups of coffee at the kitchen table. Marty remembered a time when Jerry got in trouble at school and Jerry remembered how pretty Marty looked in a yellow dress she would wear to the USO while playing steel guitar in



Marty Jefferies supervising the job.

an all-girl band. Romance blossomed; they married; and had a little girl.

Marty spoke of playing in bowling leagues during the day while her daughter was in school and how she's still bowling today, as a team captain no less. Marty said she likes to keep busy. She edits the weekly bulletins for her church. Marty told me, "I added bigger, fancier fonts and color. People like color! Plus I added a Bible trivia question every week, with the answer given the next week." (As a souvenir, Marty gave me the current bulletin with the question, "What king wanted to kill David?")

Another tidbit Marty shared was that until she got arthritis in her hands she was very handy with tools. Many times during our renovations she proved her expertise by naming the size of wood boards and explaining how a project should be handled. It's humbling to allow others to do what you used to be able to do yourself, but Marty graciously welcomed our assistance.

One of my favorite moments was when she answered her phone and told her relative, "I'm sitting here with a snitch. Every time I mention something to her, the group goes and does it. All I did was say I was going to paint my shutters soon and wham those kids were taking them down and painting them! I mentioned I like the color blue and darn it



Marty in her garden.

if they didn't find blue carpet to put down in my Prayer Closet." When she hung up we laughed about the phone call and she thanked our church again and again for all the gifts of labor and love. Each day as she greeted us, she let JJ know about her day's devotional reading and study verse. Marty is a woman in the Word and her faith strengthened ours.

Work Trip is for our high school youth to assist those in need, but it's the relationship building that lets the owners know we truly care. On the last day of the trip I slipped a card from our group onto Marty's kitchen table without her knowing. As I slipped out the front door and onto her newly painted deck, I saw Marty listening to one of the students explain his Eagle Scout project. When the young man was done, Marty let him know she was proud of him. Soon after the last pot of geraniums was placed on a newly hung hook, our eyes locked with the understanding that it was time to say goodbye. "I'm going to miss you," I said with teary eyes. Marty nodded and agreed. We stood up and hugged. I actually think we hugged about five times before I left. As we pulled away in the van, I was proud of all the handiwork that had been completed, but what I will value most is the fact that Marty knows we loved meeting and getting to know her.



Dear friends,

How's the summer been for you so far? I've had some time away too—preaching at Montreat Conference Center in Asheville, NC, and devoting 10 days to the General Assembly of our denomination. One of our elders, Anne Warnke, was an elected commissioner this year, and we'll be sharing our experiences sometime later this summer.

But it's been my time here that's been particularly meaningful. I've enjoyed telling stories with kids at Vacation Bible School, sending the youth off to Work Trip with our prayers, exploring Scripture with "Women's Wednesday Worship" Bible study, and finding refreshment in Barbara Brown Taylor's book, *An Altar in the World*. Copies are still available at the church office if you don't have yours yet!

One of the great pieces of advice Taylor gives is to take time to savor God's presence in creation. I hope you'll join your church family for some wonderful opportunities to do that this month: Playground Church on Sundays, Bible Study at the Beach on Tuesdays, #takeJesusontheroad and the All Church Picnic in August.

Together, or on our own, we discover God's presence everywhere. I'd love to hear your stories about where you're meeting God!

Every blessing,

Reverend Dr. Christine Chakoian

Be the Face of Welcome this Summer

Looking for ways to connect and catch-up with friends this Summer? Then consider being a Summer Fellowship host! You can do it individually or with family and friends. All you would need to bring are about six grocery-sized packages of goodies AND your welcoming presence. We'll set up the rest. Reimbursement for the food cost is available with your receipts.

Sign up on the bulletin board in the lobby. There are many Sundays left to choose from! Thank you for considering this ministry of hospitality!



There's Always Room for Dessert!

Looking to participate in a program that promises interesting people, tasty treats and a home-like atmosphere with no further commitments, little planning and the opportunity to rest from busy bee-ing to zestful be-ing?

Then "Just Dessert" is calling your name! On Aug. 28, we will be gathering in groups of three to four households to enjoy dessert and get to know each other. We are looking for households to host and provide the place, beverages, table settings and set the menu. We are also looking for guests to contribute to the dessert offerings and a willingness to connect with other people in the church they may or may not already know.

Sign up to host or be a guest at firstchurchlf.org/dessert or at tables in the Narthex on July 10, 17 and 24. Questions? Please call, text or email Susan Sailor Daly at (847) 271- 6270 or at ahoymates@comcast.net.

WE WORSHIP

JULY 10

10am Worship
Rev. Dr. Christine Chakoian Leading

JULY 17

10am Worship
Rev. Dr. Corey Nelson Leading

JULY 24

10am Worship
Rev. Dr. Christine Chakoian Leading

JULY 31

10am Worship
Rev. Dr. Corey Nelson Leading
Pastor Nelson's Last Day



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CHURCH OFFICE (847) 234-6250
HOURS: Monday-Friday 9AM-5PM

Special Church Personnel News

On July 6, at a special meeting of the Session, Pastor Corey Nelson shared the bittersweet news that he has accepted a new call. We rejoice with Corey, and at the same time, we will miss him very much. Here is his letter to all of us.

The Session has called a special meeting of the congregation for Sunday, July 31, immediately after worship, at which time we will formally dissolve the pastoral relationship. A reception for Corey and Miriam will follow. As is our custom, a parting gift will be collected; if you wish to contribute, please note in your gift that it is for Corey's farewell.

What happens next? I am working closely with Corey to make plans for immediate coverage of his duties in August. Personnel Committee and I will be working together on a longer-term staffing plan.

Please join me in praying for a wonderful future for Corey and Miriam.

*Blessings,
Rev. Dr. Christine Chakoian*

Dear Church Family,

Serving as your Associate Pastor for Mission the past nine years has been one of the greatest privileges and joys of my life. It has been wonderful to walk alongside you in our journey of faith. Therefore, it is with deeply mixed emotions that I write to you today to share that I have received a new call in ministry and will be concluding my current call here on July 31, 2016. In September, I will begin a new call as the Senior Pastor for the First Presbyterian Church of Fort Collins, Colorado.



I realize that many of you are traveling over the summer, but would love to see you, express my appreciation for all you've done for me and Miriam and say good-bye in person before beginning the transition. I will be in worship on Sundays July 10, 17 and 31 and in the office much of the month as well.

I will be preaching on July 17 and at my last service on July 31. Our Senior Pastor, Chris Chakoian, our Staff, Personnel Committee and lay leaders have begun to outline plans for transitioning my responsibilities and will be sharing those plans soon.

I am forever grateful for the opportunity to have been a part of this community. Your warmth, hospitality and care for me throughout some of the most challenging and most exhilarating chapters of my life and ministry have truly been gifts of grace and love to me. I am also genuinely excited for the future of this congregation and community as you continue to explore how God is calling you. You have wonderful new chapters of ministry ahead of you. May God continue to richly bless you.

Peace,
Rev. Dr. Corey Nelson

Summer Service Opportunities



Hunger doesn't take summer breaks. We need your help to ensure that the 200 people we serve at **Soup Kitchen** have delicious, healthy meals this month. Served jointly with St. Mary's church in Lake Forest on the 3rd Friday of each month at Holy Family Church in Waukegan, we need both food and servers, and we would be delighted for you to provide either. No food goes to waste! If there are leftovers at the end

of the evening, there are other locations the food gets delivered. A sign-up sheet is available for each month on the bulletin board in the church hallway outside the main office or you can sign up at firstchurchlf.org/soupkitchen. For more information or to be added to our monthly distribution list, please contact Shawn Ward at shawn66@comcast.net.

Meal-a-Month for the summer will be centered on the educational needs of students and teachers. Our focus will be on Lake County schools. If you have any unused school supplies, please drop them off in the box outside the hospitality office.

Join us for fun, worshipful Sunday morning at Playground Church!



NEW Youth Chime Choir



All 3rd through 8th graders are invited to join the Youth Chime Choir! Come for Choir and stay for chimes:

- Tuesday 3:45-4:15 p.m.
Cherub Choir (age 4-kindergarten)
- Tuesday 4:15-5 p.m.
Carol Choir (grades 1-5)
- Tuesday 5-5:30 p.m.
Youth Chime Choir (grades 3-8)—
There are up to 10 ringing positions to fill!
Sign up today!
- Sunday 10:20-10:50 p.m.
Middle School Choir (grades 6-8)

Contact Director of Children's Choirs Susan Noble for more information: snoble@firstchurchlf.org or Dr. Barry Wenger, bwenger@firstchurchlf.org for info on Chime Choir.

**Celebrate
the end of summer
at the
All Church Family Picnic!**
Sunday, Aug. 21 at 11 a.m.

Pray for our high school youth who will be traveling with other church groups from the Presbytery of Chicago for the 2016 Presbyterian Youth Triennium. Held at Purdue University in Indiana from July 19-23, the Triennium is a gathering of more than 5,000 Presbyterian high schoolers from all over the world for a week of worship, small groups, fellowship and fun.

Small Group Q&A with the Summer Bible Study at the Beach

Get to know our many small groups! We will feature a different one in Faith Connections throughout the year. The Q&A will highlight fun, unique things about each group but we encourage you to contact the group's leaders to learn more!

How long has the group been around and how did it form?

The group has a fairly long history with one another, having connected through the initial Women's Wednesday Worship group, the Working Women's small group and Covenant Bible Study.

What makes the group unique?

We think the group is special! There is a high level of warmth and openness among group members, and a high commitment to coming to meetings prepared to learn from the text and from one another. Since most group members have a long history of Bible Study, the discussions are rich.

What do you study/discuss?

We discuss the current study guide that is tied to the sermon series.

What is the meeting format and what will you be studying next?

We will continue to study the program tied to Sunday preaching.

The Summer Bible Study at the Beach group meets on Tuesdays at 11:30 a.m., Lake Forest Beach, middle shelter (next to the boat launch). Or, if you'd like to walk down to the beach with a group, meet at 11:15 a.m. at the Deerpath Parking Lot.



Stephen Ministry—God's Love in Action

"Bear one another's burdens, and in this way you will fulfill the law of Christ."

– Galatians 6:2

We are a Stephen Minister congregation! ... Great! What's a Stephen Minister?

A Stephen Minister is a trained member of our congregation who provides one-to-one caring ministry to people experiencing grief, divorce, job loss, loneliness and many other life difficulties.

A Stephen Minister devotes time and energy, and can make a major difference in another person's life.

A Stephen Minister completes 50 hours of training before ever meeting with a care receiver. Continuing education sessions are offered as well.

A Stephen Minister brings Christ's presence into a person's life and also experiences Christ in the other person. This ministry involves prayer, thought, study and commitment.

A new training class for Stephen Ministers is starting in early September. The Holy Spirit may be calling you to the joy, growth, meaning, training and service of becoming a Stephen Minister.

If you would like more information, contact Donna Birney (847) 234- 6250, DBirney@firstchurchlf.org.

New Exploring Grief Group

We are pleased to announce three new six-session Exploring Grief Groups that will be run by our Mission partner, Samaritan Counseling Center. This free series provides a confidential, supportive and educational environment to grieve the loss of a loved one or friend.

Meetings are led by Erin Sharp, MDiv, MS who has extensive experience with grief and loss through her work with

clients and as a pastor. Erin will design a unique presentation for each meeting tailored to the needs of the group. The group meets every other Wednesday at 4 p.m.

• **Fall Session** (Oct. 5 – Dec. 14) will be held at First Presbyterian of Lake Forest, 700 N. Sheridan Road in Lake Forest

• **Winter Session** (Jan. 11, 2017 – March 22, 2017) will be held at Church of the Holy Spirit, 400 E. Westminster Ave. in Lake Forest

• **Spring Session** (April 12, 2017 – June 21, 2017) will be held at St. James Lutheran Church, 1380 Waukegan Road in Lake Forest

For more information or to register for any of the six-session groups, please contact Erin at 847-446-6955 ext. 22 or esharp@northshoresamaritan.org.

Stay Connected This Summer with *Flat Jesus*



Stay connected with other church families this summer by snapping pictures of yourselves with Flat Jesus. You can pick up a Flat Jesus from the Children's tables. As you take a picture, also take a moment and notice where you felt God's presence that day. Post your pics to Instagram or Facebook, #TakeJesusOnTheRoad. (Make your post "public" if you'd like all other participants to see it.) Participate often! Flat Jesus loves to travel.

Along with Flat Jesus, think about the Practice of Seeing this summer and observe where you see God in the day-to-day. Snap a

picture and email it to info@firstchurchlf.org with a brief description of where you see God. We'll be collecting these throughout the summer and posting them on Facebook and at the church. Please let us know if you would like us to publish your name with the photo. Send as many and as often as you'd like! "Stay in touch" this summer through Pastor Dave's blog. Early each week he'll post a reflection and questions based on the sermon that was just preached. Visit firstchurchlf.org/davesblog.

Upcoming Opportunities to Join Vision Trips

There are several upcoming Vision Trips hosted by some of our mission partners. Get a first-hand look at what's happening in the Middle East and how Christians are getting involved:

Mutually Encouraged by Each Other's Faith: Travel to Lebanon & Syria with Presbyterian World Mission to share worship, fellowship and a mutual time of learning with Presbyterian Partners in both countries.

Where: Lebanon, with optional Syria extension **When:** Sept. 22 – Oct. 4

Details: Trip led by Rev. Elmarie Parker, PC (USA) liaison to Syria, Lebanon, Iraq, and Amgad Beblawi, Presbyterian World Mission's coordinator for the Middle East, Central Asia and Europe.

Registration Deadline: July 15 – contact Rev. Parker at eparker.rl.isli@gmail.com for info and to register.

What in the World is God Doing in Egypt? A Mission-Vision Trip. In the midst of upheaval and uncertainty, the Presbyterian Church of Egypt is hard at work planting churches and revitalizing congregations.

Where: Cairo and Alexandria, Egypt **When:** Oct. 10 – 21

Details: Led by Outreach Foundation's Rev. Nancy Fox and Tom Widmer. Come alongside the Synod of The Nile's church planting and revitalization mission, the Evangelical Theological Seminary of Cairo and partner organizations.

Registration Deadline: July 10 – contact Rev. Fox at NancyTFox@gmail.com for info and to register.

The church in the Middle East continues to grow and expand in ways previously unimaginable. Meet with church leaders from the Arabian Peninsula and Persian world.

Where: Dubai, UAE **When:** Nov. 1 – 10

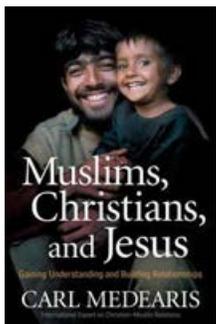
Details: Led by Rev. Dan McNerney from Presbyterian Frontier Fellowship. Witness the evangelical efforts in the Arabian Peninsula and the Persian World Fellowship.

Registration Deadline: July 10 – contact Rev. Fox at NancyTFox@gmail.com for info and to register.



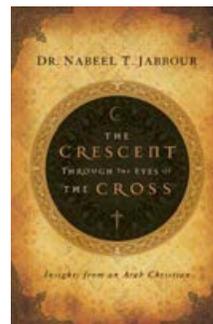
2016
SUMMER
Reading List

Summer Reading on Christianity and Islam: Titles recommended by Adult Faith Formation and The Syria-Middle East Workshop:



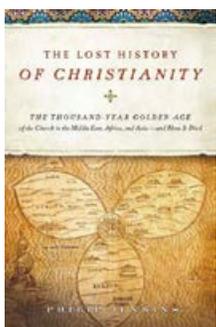
Muslims, Christians, and Jesus: Gaining Understanding and Building Relationships
by Carl Medearis

This book examines what Islam really teaches and how today's Muslims live and think. Medearis shares practical information and personal stories instead of focusing on differences.



The Crescent through the Eyes of the Cross: Insights from an Arab Christian
by Nabeel Jabbour

Dr. Jabbour, an Arab Christian raised in the Middle East, has lived and taught in the US for 25 years. He explores Muslim grievances, our own prejudices and assumptions, and the origins of radical Islamic fundamentalism.



The Lost History of Christianity: The Thousand-Year Golden Age of the Church in the Middle East, Africa, and Asia—and How It Died by Philip Jenkins

This is the story of how the churches to the East of Rome, once the dominant expression of Christianity for its first 1,000 years, are now nearly extinct.



Muhammad and the Believers: At the Origins of Islam
by Fred McGraw Donner

For those curious about Islam's beginnings, Donner (University of Chicago Professor of Near Eastern History) presents an original, evenhanded, and succinct account.

More information on these books can be found at firstchurchlf.org/summerreading.

Rummage Sorters Needed

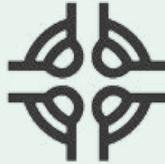
Do you love fashion? Do toys strike your fancy? Then we want your expert eyes to help find the perfect items to sell at our Fall and Spring Rummage Sales!

Rummage sorters are needed Mondays and/or Thursdays from 9 a.m. to 12 p.m. in the Rummage Sorting Room. Training is provided and putting in 9 hours of sorting per month gets you shopping privileges year-round!

We need sorters for these departments, in order of need:

- toys
- shoes
- linens
- fashion
- garden
- housewares

Contact Maureen Olsen at (224) 433-6179 to sign up. The Fall Rummage Sale is just around the corner, Oct. 1 from 8 a.m. to 3 p.m.



BOTH FOLLOWED BY FELLOWSHIP

10 AM

JUNE 19 - JULY 31

PLAYGROUND CHURCH

10 AM

MAY 29 - SEPT. 4

SUMMER WORSHIP

JOIN US FOR

JULY 2016

PUBLICATION DATE

700 N. Sheridan Road, Lake Forest, IL 60045
www.firstchurchlf.org

First Presbyterian Church
OF LAKE FOREST

