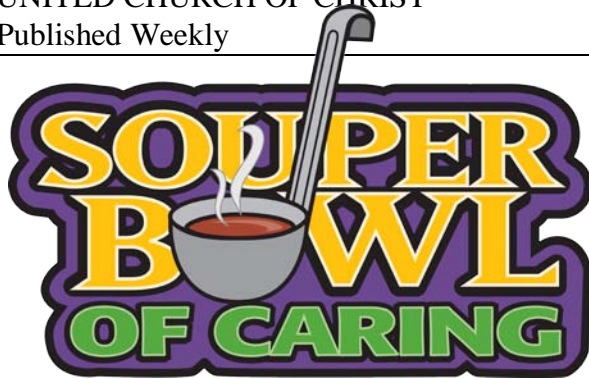


NEWS AND NOTES

FIRST CHURCH OF LOMBARD
UNITED CHURCH OF CHRIST
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NEXT SUNDAY FEBRUARY 5TH

Next Sunday will find members of our Youth Community gathering before and after worship, armed with kettles for accepting donations to the annual **SouperBowl of Caring**. Begun in 1990 by a youth community in a southern church, the effort has grown each year, with last year's total being \$9,605,368 in cash and food. The number of American families in poverty is currently the highest in 52 years, with 1 in 7 households being food insecure, 16 million of those being children. Groups dealing with hunger and need are strengthened with this one-hour ingathering of funds, and thousands of young people are given an opportunity to learn that God can use them to make a difference in the lives of others.

Each participating group designates who will be recipients of the morning, and the First Church Youth Community has chosen to benefit the Outreach House, covering needs for *first things first* infant needs ministry and the Walk-In Ministry.

NEW ORLEANS ADULT MISSION TRIP IN MARCH

The First Church NOLA Adult Mission Trip will find participants going to New Orleans on Friday, March 23rd, and returning on Saturday, March 31st. The group will be staying at a newly-updated Camp Hope and will be working with the St. Bernard Project in rebuilding, bringing residents back "home" after the devastation of Hurricane Katrina.

The weekend will include an opportunity to enjoy beach time, visits to the historic French Quarter and other sites prior to heading to work for a 7 AM-2 PM work shift for the week. Cost for the program is \$300, including room and board (3 meals) at Camp Hope, ground transportation, plus a meal with Americorp volunteers at Today's Ketch. Transportation from home to New Orleans is additional to the program cost and varies between AMTRAK and Southwest Airlines costs.

Outreach Coordinator Sandra Hill is the contact person for the NOLA effort, and needs participants to let her know by **Friday, February 3rd**, if they're to be included in the trip. She may be contacted at shill@theoutreachhouse.org or 630-693-0187. Information is also posted on our website, www.firstchurchoflombard.org.

APPALACHIAN ADULT MISSION TRIP IN JULY

A second Adult Mission Trip is planned for July 29th-August 4th, working with Sharing With Appalachian People (SWAP) in Eolia, Kentucky. SWAP is a home repair ministry that serves low-income families in counties of southeastern Kentucky and West Virginia. While SWAP addresses sub-standard housing, it also focuses on sharing the message of God's love and building relationships that serve to enrich everyone involved.

The week's cost of \$500 includes transportation, lodging, and some meals, but additional money is needed for meals on the road and miscellaneous personal expenses. A \$100 deposit (\$50 of which is non-refundable) is required by next **Sunday, February 5th**. Educational Ministries Coordinator Becky Kirsh is coordinating this effort, and can be reached at 630-629-2630, ext. 15 or bkirsh@firstchurchoflombard.org. Information is also posted on our website, www.firstchurchoflombard.org.

“WRESTLING WITH ANGELS”

The Wednesday, February 1st session of “*Wrestling With Angels*” will feature Philip Yancey, author of “*Where Is God When It Hurts?*” Yancey has moved thousands with his honesty and insight as he digs deep to help people find hope in the face of suffering. This Wednesday, he tackles the subject of *If You’re So Good, Why Are Things So Awful?* Becky Kirsh, Educational Ministries Coordinator, will guide the discussion following the video presentation which starts at 6:30 PM. The evening should conclude by 8 PM.

LADIES WHO BRUNCH

If you are a mom of school aged children or younger, you are invited to join other moms on Sunday, February 12th, at noon for great conversation and company. The brunch will be at Pompei, 17 W 280 22nd St, Oak Brook Terrace, IL. Anyone wanting to enjoy the company of other mothers, just show up! Have questions? Just ask Denise Dabisch, Congregational Care Coordinator, 630-629-2630 ext. 19, ddabisch@firstchurchoflombard.org.

BOOK DISCUSSION, FEBRUARY 29TH

The Book Discussion Group will meet next on Wednesday, February 29th, from 6:30-8 PM to exchange thoughts about Marcus Borg’s *Putting Away Childish Things: A Tale of Modern Faith*. In Borg’s own words about this, his first foray into fiction, “This is an engaging way for readers to learn about the important issues dividing Christians today. Along the way, we join with the characters to ask the hard questions such as what does the Bible really teach? Who is Jesus? What is the nature of faith today? This is a story that promises to leave us different in the end than when we started, as we learn how even in the twenty-first century, God works in mysterious ways.” Becky Kirsh, Educational Ministries coordinator, will guide the discussion of the book’s message.

Books are available for \$10 during Coffee Hour or in the office during the week.

VARIETY SERIES FOR MAPLE STREET CHAPEL

The 3-program Variety Series benefiting the Maple Street Chapel will occur on Sundays, February 12th, March 18th, and April 15th, all at 3 PM. Tickets for the first two programs are \$15 each, with the April concert being \$20, but all three may be had for \$40 if bought as a package.

- February 12th – Terry Lynch becomes Meriwether Lewis, relating the story of the Lewis and Clark Expedition.
- March 18th – The Village Vocal Chords, a 24-member women’s chorus focuses on barbershop melodies.
- April 15th – The annual American Heritage Concert features the spirited music of Rogers and Hammerstein and Lerner and Lowe, accompanied by dancers from the *Dance Centre*.

Tickets are available through Tom Scott, the service counter at Mr. Z’s, or from Ken Bohl at 213 W. Ash St. by check payable to the Maple Street Chapel.

JUBILEE WEDNESDAYS

Are your children a part of Jubilee each Wednesday from 3:30-5:30 PM? If they’re between age 5 and 5th grade and haven’t been here yet, they’re missing out on the fun of games, activities, crafts, snacks, and even a chance to finish homework before going home. Parents may enjoy the 2 hours to do something on their own list of things to do and then pick up the kids at 5:30 PM and head to the Community Table to participate in the dinner there, sharing the time with other community members.

COUNCIL CORNER

January 2012

First Church Council met on Monday, January 23rd. This is the first meeting of the new Council. All members were present.

After the devotional, prior month's minutes approval and Treasurer's report, each Worship Team gave an update on their activities, events, projects and other happenings around First Church.

Upcoming events include Family Game Night, Laity Sunday, mission trips, book discussions, St Patrick's dinner, fund raiser's, picnic, trivia night, Texas Hold 'Em', 'Gourmet Guys' and events for seniors, in addition to the Second Sunday breakfast group. Also planned are seasonal services/activities such as the Maundy Thursday Seder.

Many activities are coming soon - everyone is reminded to check the 'NEWS AND NOTES' every week in the Sunday bulletin

A WEDNESDAY FOOD TREAT

“Regulars” at the Wednesday Community Table encourage friends who haven’t tried it yet to come between 5:30-7 PM and experience a full, nutritious meal at the same time that they share conversation with community members who have come to count on this weekly night out and the warmth and welcome that First Church Family provides.

Sandra Hill, Outreach Coordinator, always welcomes volunteers who take part in preparing the meal, serving it, and cleaning up afterward, and serving 150 people can be somewhat daunting. Please contact her at shill@theoutreachhouse.org or 630-693-0187 to find out how you can help.

IN OUR CHURCH FAMILY

...We’re thinking of **Judy Decker, Marge Lessman, Marlyn Meyer, Richard Scheelk, and David Schertz**, all of whom have spent some recent time in the hospital.

JANUARY 29TH – FEBRUARY 5TH AT FIRST CHURCH

Sun. 1/29	9:00 AM Explorers/Confirmation 9:00 AM New Member Breakfast 10:15 AM Worship–Sanctuary 10:15 AM Sunday School 11:30 AM <i>OJV & OGN</i> 11:30 AM “Still Listening?” Fair 12:15 PM <i>One Step Closer</i> 6:00 PM Youth Community			6:30 PM “Wrestling with Angels” 7:00 PM PRC Class 7:00 PM 2 nd Year Confirmation 9:00 AM Crafts Group 10:00 AM Walk-In Ministry 10:00 AM <i>first things first</i> 6:20 PM <i>Josiah Reade Ringers</i> 7:45 PM Chancel Choir 9:30 AM PRC Class
Mon. 1/30	7:00 PM Confirmation Leaders 7:30 PM Wider Church team		Thur. 2/2	
Tue. 1/31	10:00 AM Walk-In Ministry 10:00 AM <i>first things first</i> 6:30 PM P.A.D.S.		Sat. 2/4	
Wed. 2/1	10:00 AM Walk-In Ministry 10:00 AM <i>first things first</i> 3:30 PM Jubilee 5:30 PM Community Table		Sun. 2/5	SOUPER BOWL SUNDAY 9:00 AM Explorers/Confirmation 10:15 AM Worship–Sanctuary 10:15 AM Sunday School 11:30 AM <i>OJV & OGN</i> 12:15 PM <i>One Step Closer</i>

SUNDAY, FEBRUARY 5TH

GREETERS: Ruth Ann Engstrom, Mary and Chris Kaufman, Gia and Mike Mallon, Marge Neely.

USHERS: Harold Hoffman, Bill Johnson, Chip Kunberger, Kevin Lattner, Rick Miller, Dan Pike, George Vandon, Jr., Eric Wilson.

COUNTERS: Ken Bruzek, Jamie Geiger, Peggy Hatfield, Margaret McCormick.

COFFEE HOUR: Sharon Cox, Pam Meyer.

NURSERY VOLUNTEER: Rachel Foltyniewicz.

SOUND TEAM: Kevin McGuire.

LITURGIST: Dan Jares.