

FIRST CONGREGATIONAL CHURCH *of Western Springs*

1106 Chestnut Street, Western Springs, Illinois 60558 † 708/246-1900



GATHERINGS

A PUBLICATION FOR MEMBERS AND FRIENDS OF THE CHURCH

OCTOBER 1, 2015

“All too often we regard stewardship simply as a matter of our giving to God, but this aspect is secondary.

Before we can give, we must possess, and before we possess we must receive. Therefore, stewardship is, in the first place, receiving God’s good and bounteous gifts. And once received, those gifts are not to be used solely for our own good. They must also be used for the benefit of others, and ultimately for the glory of God the giver. The steward needs an open hand to receive from God and then an active hand to give to God and to others.”—Murray J. Harris

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Murray J. Harris is professor emeritus of New Testament exegesis and theology at Trinity Evangelical Divinity School in Deerfield and is the author of numerous books.

COMING UP THIS SUNDAY, OCTOBER 4 LABYRINTH WALK & PF CAR WASH

At our 9:00 and 10:30 family services this Sunday, Rich will continue our sermon series on Becoming Faithful Disciples with a sermon on the subject of being generous stewards — not only of our resources but of God’s creation. Children in second grade and older will remain in worship with their families and to share in the sacrament of communion.

Our kids’ choirs will rehearse at 10:00 and 11:35, and after both services, a guided labyrinth walk will be offered on the recently dedicated Stiffler Labyrinth in Plymouth Hall. MidShippers will brunch together at noon at the LaGrange Country Club; and from 1-4pm members of our high school youth group (PF) will hold a car wash in the parking lot to help offset the cost of their annual work tour trips. Plymouth Fellowship will meet for their regular meeting at 7pm in the Youth Room.

LOOKING AHEAD TO OCTOBER 11 WEE WORSHIP & CONFIRMATION

Meredith will continue our fall sermon series at 9:00 and 10:30 with a sermon on the subject of witnessing. Our steel pan ensembles will offer musical accompaniment, and in lieu of Sunday school, children up through first grade will worship together in the Chapel with Jan Fraccaro.

Due to the Columbus Day holiday, our children’s choirs will not rehearse and PF will not meet. Confirmation class, however, will take place at 10:15 in the Youth Room, and at 11:30, our Christian Ventures Committee will meet in the Kemper Library.

Get ready to
RUMMAGE
*and be a part of
 something wonderful*

Oct 14—Oct 22

Just before our annual Spring and Fall Rummage Sales, the church starts to bustle with activity and commotion. They are remarkable, albeit exhausting events that bring hundreds of volunteers together and thousands of shoppers through our church doors. In a matter of hours, we will raise in the neighborhood of \$30,000. Profits from the sale are then donated to numerous local, national and international non-profit organizations. Seeing is believing. We hope you'll be a part of this month's sale.

How can you help?

- **Volunteer** the week of the sale (See our link to sign up on our website at wscongo.org)
- **Donate** your gently-used rummage (We offer convenient drive-through service in our parking lot from 9-1 on Oct 17 and 1-3 on Oct 18)
- **Donate** food/beverages for the volunteers (See our link online.)
- **Pray** for those involved
- **Shop** the sale (and bring your friends and neighbors along):

SALE HOURS:

Oct 20 5-8pm
 Oct 21 10am-Noon
 & 6-8pm
 (half-price and bag sale)

MARK YOUR CALENDAR

DINING FOR WOMEN. Jan Bert is hosting October's Dining For Women meeting at her Indian Park home. The group will meet at 6:30pm for a Peruvian pulled pork dinner. Guest are asked to bring sides and desserts and as usual — contribute the cost of dinner to support the Amazon Community Based Participation Cervical Cancer Screen-and-Treat Program of Peru. To learn more about the local chapter of this national non-profit organization, contact Laurel Seidelman at lseidelman@comcast.net. Please RSVP to Laurel by October 9.

LEARNING ABOUT OUR ROOTS. On Sunday, October 25, Rich will lead our Adult Christian Exploration hour with a presentation entitled, "From Puritans to Progressives: Our Congregational Roots." The Puritans, known for their firm scripture and theological boundaries, are the spiritual ancestors to the United Church of Christ. How then, did the UCC become such a powerful voice for tolerance and inclusivity? Join us at 10:15 in the Seim Room to find out.

MEN'S FAITH & FELLOWSHIP BREAKFAST TO RESUME on Saturday, Oct 10. Men of all ages and their guests are invited to join Rich and Mike in the Seim Room for a light breakfast, friendly conversation and an engaging presentation. This month, Marv Baldwin will talk to the group about the spiritual practice of Lectio Divina. It all begins at 7:45 in the Seim Room.

BRING YOUR OPINION. If you enjoy the art of lively and engaging conversation, you may want to consider joining a small discussion group that meets on the second Friday night of the month. The groups will meet again this year starting on Oct 9. Contact Mary Lee (maryleelarsen@aol.com) or Mark (mark@laubacherco.com) to learn more.

SAVE THE DATE. Our very own violinist, Ben Beilman, will be in concert at Chicago's Harris Theater on November 13. Plans are afoot to get a group of tickets. Contact Kathryn Price at 246-5022 if you're interested.

CONGO COFFEE HOUSE. All ages are invited to play and/or enjoy live music on Saturday, October 23, from 7-9pm in our Chapel. Admission and snacks are free and the entertainment value is priceless. Steve Joyner coordinates this program and will help/ accompany anyone who would like to perform. Students from LT's songwriting club often clamor for a chance to showcase their talent. Contact Steve to sign up or learn more: 708-638-1681 or popensoap@aol.com.

ANXIETY – OURS AND OUR TEENS is the subject of Dr.

John Duffy's presentation at 7pm in the Seim Room on Monday, November 2. Dr. Duffy is a nationally-recognized expert in self-awareness, relationships, and parenting. He speaks extensively on Availability in both public and corporate forums, presenting with great clarity, compassion and humor. This event is sponsored by our Moms of Teens group and is open to the public. To learn more about Dr. Duffy, visit his website at drjohnduffy.com.



ANNUAL HEALTH SCREENING. On October 24, our Advocate Parish Nurse Deb Stankiewicz will host our Annual Health Screening in Plymouth Hall. Appointments will be available from 7:30-10:30am for any/all of the following blood tests:

- Basic Blood Test (\$48)
- PSA (\$40)
- Thyroid Function (\$40)
- C-Reactive Protein (\$40)
- Take-Home ColoCare (\$6)
- Vitamin D Level (\$45)

Contact Deb for an appointment at ext. 218 or Debbie@wscongo.org.

MEET OUR NEW MEMBERS

On Sunday, September 27, we had the honor and privilege of welcoming the following people into our family of faith. We look forward to getting to know them and sharing this journey together....

ERICA AND FRANK ALLETO have lived in Western Springs for close to 10 years. Frank grew up in LaGrange, and Erica is from the Milwaukee suburbs. They've been married for 11 years and have 3 children: Sam (7), Eleanor (4), and Lucy (1). Frank is in his 20th year as an English teacher at LTHS and is also a comedic magician known as Frankie Ace. Erica feels fortunate to be able to stay home with their children and was an Events Coordinator and Project Manager & Analyst prior to being a stay-at-home mom. Currently, Eleanor attends the Pre-K class here and Erica participates in Moms in Faith on Friday mornings. Their sponsors are Karen and Dan Pansing.

SALLY AND BILL BRADENBURG moved to Hinsdale after 39 years in New Jersey. They grew up in the Chicago area, although Sally spent some of her school years in Wichita, KS and graduated from Main Township High School in Park Ridge. Bill graduated from LTHS, then Iowa State. (They've also lived in California, St. Louis and Connecticut.) Married for 59 years, Bill and Sally have three children, seven grandchildren and two step-grandchildren. Over the years, Bill and Sally have been involved in numerous Presbyterian churches, serving as elders and Sunday school teachers as their children were growing. Bill worked with International Flavors and Fragrances and enjoyed traveling the world. Sally is an artist by education and has taught watercolor classes. They are delighted to be in their new place at Graue Mill and here at church with their daughter's family, The Vegas. Not surprisingly, their sponsors are Kathy and John Vega.

CHRISTINA CHAKOS-KALOYANIDES grew up in Homer Township and lived most of her adult life in Chicago, until she moved to Austin, Texas to get her Master's Degree. She is currently living in Orland Park and hoping to move into the city or LaGrange/Western Springs area. She has her degrees in Music and Opera Performance. She currently works at The School of the Art Institute of Chicago in the Institutional Advancement Office and teaches voice at a performing arts school in Wheaton. She is also the soprano section leader of our very own Chancel Choir and "thoroughly enjoys it." Her hobbies include outdoor sports, and she is a Blackhawks and Cubs fan. Her sponsor is Janet Mensen Reynolds.

AARON HODGES grew up in the small town of Helotes, Texas and has lived in the Chicago area for a little over two years. He has his degree in computer science and business and is currently a network engineer for a company in Orland Park. His hobbies are working out, enjoying outdoor activities and experiencing new things – travel, arts, craft beer, "you name it!" He just learned how to snow ski last year. His sponsor is Janet Mensen Reynolds.

DEE SCHNELL is originally from Iowa, but has been in the area since 1959. She has lived in Western Springs since 1973. Her three children graduated from LT. Her son lives in Burr Ridge with his wife and two adult children. She also has three step children and a total of 17 grandchildren. In the past four years since Dee has been a widow, she has sold her house and moved to a condo. She's been active in the watercolor class and involved with our rummage sales. Dee enjoys her friendships with many long-time friends and new-found friends. She's a volunteer teacher of English as a second language and is an avid bridge player. Her sponsor is Mary Mayham.

YOUTH NEWS



PF CAR WASH

In an effort to offset the cost of their annual work tour, members of our high school youth group will be washing cars in the church parking lot on Sunday, October 4, from 1-4pm. The cost is \$10/wash.

READERS WANTED

We're compiling a list of children and youth who would like to participate in worship by reading prayers or Scripture. Please email Katherine at katherine@wscongo.org if your offspring would like to serve in this capacity.

JRNEYS KICK-OFF

Our junior high youth group (for kids in grades sixth through eighth) will kick-off the program year on Wednesday, Oct 7, at 7pm in the Youth Room. Kids are welcome to bring a friend and join us on the first, second and third Wednesday nights of the month (except in October, because of Rummage). Questions? Contact Mike Tilden at tilden@wscongo.org.

PRESCHOOL HAS ROOM

for three-year-olds. Our other classes are filled, but we have space for more three-year-olds. Contact Amy Faison for details: preschool@wscongo.org.

PASTORAL STAFF

Rich Kirchherr
Senior Minister

Katherine Willis Pershey
Associate Minister

Meredith Onion
Associate Minister

Deb Stankiewicz
Parish Nurse

Gatherings is a biweekly publication of the First Congregational Church of Western Springs. Articles for inclusion should be submitted to Meg Heinz at gatherings@wscongo.org.

Gatherings is emailed to members and posted on-line at www.wscongo.org.

**NEXT GATHERINGS
DEADLINE
5pm
Monday, October 12**

BITS & PIECES

IN OUR PRAYERS...Please hold **Betty Love** in your prayers this week. Betty recently moved from Plymouth Place to Minnesota to be near her daughter, Susie.

To her friends here, Betty writes:

Thank you all who have so kindly taken the time to visit/escort me while I was at Plymouth Place. Now I am living near our daughter in Minneapolis. My Jitterbug number is 224-531/2994 I do indeed miss you all! Love, Betty

Betty would 'love' to hear from you:

c/o Grace Homes, 414 Wilshire Walk,
Hopkins, MN 55306. Email:
lovelsj@yahoo.com

A MEMORIAL SERVICE for Carole Cech's brother, Gene Cech, who passed away on May 19, will be held in our Sanctuary on October 10, at 11am; a reception will follow in the parlor. If you can help with the reception in any way, please contact Harriet VerGowe at HKV13@aol.com.

FAREWELL TO A FRIEND. Alice Parker's life was celebrated at a memorial service on September 23, at Plymouth Place. Alice died on September 19, at the age of 88.

DISCIPLE SHIP HAS SET SAIL! The Children's Ministry Committee has launched its fall family faith formation project. Designed to help keep our congregation's theme of discipleship afloat in our homes, a fun ship kit is available for families to pick up on the table by the Light Court. Once assembled, the boat of disciples and fish will surely support families' efforts to grow into the disciples Jesus urges us all to become. Help yourself and enjoy!

DOES OUR BAGEL BITE MINISTRY SPEAK TO YOU? If so, please sign up on the easel in the Light Court to pick-up our standing order on an upcoming Saturday.