

A LIGHT IN THE CITY
FOURTH
PRESBYTERIAN
CHURCH
www.fourthchurch.org

December 9–15, 2007

News and Opportunities

ADVENT AND CHRISTMAS

Tonight is the annual Festival of Advent Lessons and Music at 6:30 p.m. in the sanctuary, followed by a holiday reception, hosted by Women@Fourth Connect, of cookies and hot cocoa.

A midweek Advent service is held at 7:30 p.m. in Blair Chapel each Wednesday of Advent.

The Christmas cantata *A Ceremony of Carols* by Benjamin Britten will be sung by the Morning Choir during 9:30 and 11:00 worship on Sunday, December 16.

“Operation Christmas Gift Bag” provides holiday gifts for Sunday Night Supper guests. Filled bags can be returned to the church today.

Christmas Day dinner tickets are available during Coffee Hour following 9:30 and 11:00 worship and at the reception desk during the week. This dinner will be served in Anderson Hall at 12:30 p.m. on Christmas Day.

There will be four candlelight services on Christmas Eve—4:00 (Children’s Pageant), 6:00 (Family Service), 8:30, and 11:00 p.m.—and an 11:00 a.m. service on Christmas Day.

WBBM-TV (CBS) will broadcast the 8:30 p.m. Christmas Eve service at 11:35 p.m. on December 24 and 9:00 a.m. on December 25.

Daily Advent devotions written by Fourth Church members and staff are available in printed booklets found in the church literature racks and by e-mail (send e-mail addresses to devotions@fourthchurch.org).

The “Christmas Wishes” gift project, sponsored by Women@Fourth Connect and the Mission Committee, collects holiday gifts for more than 700 children in need. Wish lists are available—and gifts can be dropped off—during Coffee Hour. **A Christmas Wishes gift wrapping party** will take place next Sunday, December 16 at 12:30 p.m. in the Manse. All are invited.

“Light Up a Life” this holiday season! Gifts to this year-end giving campaign will make a difference in the lives of those touched by Fourth Church and Chicago Lights while also serving as a meaningful gift and way to honor the special people in your life. Details are available in the brochures in the church literature racks and on the church website.

Memorialize or honor loved ones by contributing to the purchase of Christmas flowers and garlands for the sanctuary. A list of those remembered will be printed in the Christmas bulletin. Contributions can be made by completing the forms available in the literature racks. Completed cards must be returned by Friday, December 14 in order for names to appear in the bulletin.

Chicago Lights Holiday Cards, designed by Tutoring students, are available for purchase during Coffee Hour. Cards are also available at www.fourthchurch.org. Proceeds benefit the Tutoring and Scholarship program of Chicago Lights. Holiday cards from previous years are on display in the Gallery until January 7.

FELLOWSHIP

The Gathering, a fellowship opportunity for individuals age twenty-five to thirty-five, meets today at 12:15 p.m. in the Randolph Room.

ThirtiesForties meets today at 12:30 p.m. in the Page Smith Room.

Fourth Acts, a group that presents staged readings in support of programs at Fourth Church, meets today at 12:30 p.m. in the Manse for a Christmas lunch. Those interested in joining this group are welcome to attend.

Cornerstones will meet on Friday, January 4 to discuss *90 Brothers and Sisters* by Lenore DePree. This book is available for purchase during Coffee Hour.

MUSIC AND THE ARTS

Amir Gray will play the tuba at Friday's free Noonday Concert at 12:10 p.m. in the sanctuary.

The "Christmas with Tower Brass" concert will be held on Saturday, December 22 at 5:00 p.m. in the sanctuary.

VOLUNTEERS AND DONATIONS

Volunteer Needs

Servers for a congregational Christmas Dinner, 9:30 a.m. to 3:00 p.m. on Tuesday, December 25

Guides for participants in a low-vision conference near the Merchandise Mart; shifts are available on December 6, 7, and 8

Tutors for the Chicago Lights Tutoring program, Thursdays from 6:00 to 7:30 p.m.

Grocery shoppers for Sunday and Monday night suppers

Vespers bread cutter for third Sunday of the month

Ushers for Vespers on a rotating schedule

Current Donation Needs

Men's casual winter clothes, especially warm coats, jeans, and belts in larger sizes

For more information and a list of additional needs, stop by the Volunteer table during Coffee Hour or call Larry Nicholson at the church at 312.981.3382.

CHILDREN, YOUTH, AND FAMILY

Sunday School meets today at 9:30 and 11:00 a.m. in Westminster House.

Fourth Church youth meet today from 10:30 a.m. to 12:00 noon. **Elevation** (grades 6 and 7) meets in the Manse basement, **Fourth Church Rising** (Confirmation) meets in the Page Smith Room, and **Senior Highs** (grades 9–12) meets in the Crow's Nest. **A lunch for youth and families** takes place today at 12:15 p.m. in the Dining Room.

News and Opportunities, which is distributed during Sunday worship, is also available in the church literature racks and at www.fourthchurch.org.

The Fourth Presbyterian Church of Chicago • John M. Buchanan, Pastor
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ENRICHMENT

A new Academy for Faith and Life class begins today. "The Birth of Christ as Told by Matthew and Luke," taught by Tom Rook, takes place at 11:00 a.m. in the Anderson Hall S. Balcony. Continuing today at 9:30 a.m. is **"The Mysteries of the Eastern Orthodox Church,"** taught by Bruce Rigdon, in the Anderson Hall S. Balcony.

Bible Study opportunities:

John Knox, Sundays at 9:30 a.m.

Noonday, Wednesdays at 12:10 p.m.

Life and Learning, Fridays at 10:00 a.m.

"Introduction to Photoshop Elements,"

an overview of this popular software for editing digital photos, will be offered by the Center for Life and Learning (CLL) at 12:00 noon on Tuesday, December 11 in the Page Smith Room. Following the success of the CLL's first digital camera course, this Noon Program, which is free, is open to all men and women 60 and over. For more information or to register, call the Center at 312.981.3386.

STEWARDSHIP

Thank you to everyone who has made a commitment to the 2008 Stewardship Campaign. We have received \$2.9 million in commitments from 975 households. Our goal is to have 100 percent member participation and raise \$4 million in pledges. If you have not yet completed your pledge card, please place it in the offering plate this morning or mail it to the church. Pledge cards are available in the pew racks. For more information, call Lisa Radetski, Director of Giving Ministries, at 312.981.3380.

WORSHIP

Morning Prayer is held each weekday at 9:30 a.m., except Tuesdays, when it is held at 9:00 a.m. All are invited to join staff for daily Morning Prayer, which takes place in Stone Chapel and offers opportunity to remember in prayer members of the Fourth Church congregation and those in need.

Special prayer requests are included in intercessory prayer in Stone Chapel on Sundays. Individuals can leave their prayer requests written on paper in the boxes located outside Stone Chapel, at the Volunteer table during Coffee Hour, at the reception desk, and in the Narthex. They also can pray together with the Deacon who is in Stone Chapel after 11:00 worship.

A prayer service in the style of Taizé is held the fourth Friday of the month at 7:30 p.m. in Anderson Hall. The next service is Friday, December 28.

MISSION AND OUTREACH

Information about domestic violence, and a survey to fill out, is available at the Women@Fourth Connect table during Coffee Hour. The confidential results of this survey will help guide and shape the response of the Fourth Church congregation and community to domestic violence.

Cyclone Sidr hit Bangladesh on November 15. Over 4,000 lives were lost, and in many places people are still living without shelter or protection. Fourth Presbyterian Church is contributing \$1,000 to Presbyterian Disaster Assistance to support the relief efforts.

CALENDAR FOR DECEMBER 9–15, 2007

Sunday, December 9

7:50 a.m. to 12:45 p.m.	Nursery		Westminister 14
8:00 a.m.	Morning Worship	John M. Buchanan preaching	Sanctuary
9:00 a.m.	Coffee Hour		Anderson Hall
9:30 a.m.	Morning Worship	John M. Buchanan preaching	Sanctuary
9:30 a.m.	Sunday School		Westminster House and Manse
9:30 a.m.	Youth Choir Rehearsal		Dining Room
9:30 a.m.	John Knox Bible Study		Page Smith Room
9:30 a.m.	Academy for Faith and Life		Anderson Hall S. Balcony
10:30 a.m.	Coffee Hour		Anderson Hall
10:30 a.m.	Elevation		Manse Basement
10:30 a.m.	Fourth Church Rising		Page Smith Room
10:30 a.m.	Senior Highs		Crow's Nest
10:30 a.m.	Cherub Choir Rehearsal		Dining Room
11:00 a.m.	Morning Worship	John M. Buchanan preaching	Sanctuary
11:00 a.m.	Sunday School		Westminster House and Manse
11:00 a.m.	Children's Choir Rehearsal		Dining Room
11:00 a.m.	Academy for Faith and Life		Anderson Hall S. Balcony
12:00 p.m.	Coffee Hour		Anderson Hall
12:15 p.m.	Intercessory Prayer		Stone Chapel
12:15 p.m.	Church Tour		Sanctuary
12:15 p.m.	Youth and Families Lunch		Dining Room
12:15 p.m.	The Gathering		Randolph Room
12:30 p.m.	ThirtiesForties		Page Smith Room
12:30 p.m.	Fourth Acts		Manse
4:00 p.m.	Social Service Center Sunday Night Supper		Dining Room
5:30 p.m.	Vespers Choir Rehearsal		Sanctuary
6:30 p.m.	Festival of Advent Lessons and Music		Sanctuary
7:30 p.m.	Cookies-and-Hot-Cocoa Reception		Anderson Hall

Monday, December 10

9:30 a.m.	Morning Prayer (also Wednesday–Friday)		Stone Chapel
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Tuesday, December 11

9:00 a.m.	Morning Prayer		Stone Chapel
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Wednesday, December 12

9:30 a.m.	Benevolent Guild		Page Smith Room
12:10 p.m.	Noonday Bible Study		Large Conference Room
7:30 p.m.	Advent Worship		Blair Chapel

Thursday, December 13

6:00 p.m.	Chancel Choir Rehearsal		Sanctuary
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Friday, December 14

10:00 a.m.	Center for Life and Learning Bible Study		Page Smith Room
12:10 p.m.	Noonday Concert: Amir Gray, tuba		Sanctuary

Preaching on Sunday, December 16

John M. Buchanan 8:00, 9:30, and 11:00 a.m.

Parking is available Sundays at the John Hancock Center, 875 North Michigan Avenue (access Chestnut Street), at the rate of \$7.00 until 2:00 p.m. and at 900 North Michigan (access from Rush or Walton Street) at the rate of \$7.75 to 4:00 p.m. and \$6.00 after 5:00 p.m. Validation tickets must be picked up during Coffee Hour or from the Chestnut Street reception desk.