

December 7–13, 2008

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

News and Opportunities

MUSIC AND THE ARTS

The art exhibition on display in the Loggia highlights the Lesideng Soup Kitchen's mission in South Africa.

Vox 3 will perform this Friday's free Noonday Concert at 12:10 p.m. in the sanctuary.

The play *A Christmas Key* will be presented by Fourth Acts on Sunday, December 14 in the Manse at 12:30 p.m.

The annual Festival of Advent Lessons and Music will be next Sunday, December 14 at 6:30 p.m. in the sanctuary. A cookies-and-hot-chocolate reception hosted in Anderson Hall by Women@Fourth Connect will follow.

The "Christmas with Tower Brass" concert will take place Saturday, December 20 at 5:00 p.m. in the sanctuary.

The annual Christmas Cantata will be Sunday, December 21 during 9:30 and 11:00 worship, with the Morning Choir singing Daniel Pinkham's *Christmas Cantata*.

ADVENT AND CHRISTMAS

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

A Fair Trade Gift Bazaar is being held today until 2:00 p.m. in Anderson Hall to benefit families around the world that are impoverished.

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

Today is the last day to drop off gifts for the "Christmas Wishes" gift project, which collects holiday gifts for more than 700 children in need.

A six-week Advent book study of *God with Us: Rediscovering the Meaning of Christmas*, hosted by ThirtiesForties, will meet today at 12:30 p.m. in the Manse. Copies of the book are available during Coffee Hour. A light lunch will be provided upon request for \$5.

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

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

CHILDREN, YOUTH, AND FAMILY

“Operation Christmas Gift Bag” provides holiday gifts for Sunday Night Supper guests. Instructions and a bag, to decorate and fill, are available during Coffee Hour today. Filled bags are to be returned to the church by next Sunday, December 14.

Chicago Lights Holiday Cards, designed by Tutoring students, are available during Coffee Hour, online at www.chicagolights.org, and at the reception desk; all proceeds benefit the Chicago Lights Tutoring program.

“**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 literature racks or at www.fourthchurch.org.

NEWS AND RESOURCES

Year-End Gifts of stock: Many people choose to make year-end gifts of stock to Fourth Church but have questions about how to do so. Information is available in the literature racks, at www.fourthchurch.org, and from Candi Wiggins at 312.274.3822.

Including Fourth Church in your estate plans will help ensure that the mission and ministry of Fourth Church and Chicago Lights will continue for generations to come. For details about how to include the church in estate plans, contact Cerry Letrich at 312.981.3381.

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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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 6–7) meets in the Manse basement, Fourth Church Rising (grade 8 confirmation) meets in the Page Smith Room, and Senior Highs (grades 9–12) meets in the Crow’s Nest. The monthly Youth and Family Luncheon will be held today at 12:15 p.m. in the Dining Room.

“**Embracing Parents**,” an informal discussion group that centers on pertinent issues parents face, meets today at 11:00 a.m. in the Tutoring Library. Child psychologist Anne Updegrave will facilitate conversation.

The annual La Posada Family Night will be Friday, December 19 at 6:00 p.m. at the church. Contact Melissa Scanlan at 312.640.2578 for details.

MISSION AND OUTREACH

A mission brunch with the founders of the Lesideng Soup kitchen will take place Sunday, December 21. Contact Natasha Holbert at 312.274.3831 for details.

Cuba and Cameroon mission trip applications are due Thursday, January 15 (for the May 1–9 trip to Cuba) and Monday, January 19 (for the May 29–June 12 trip to Cameroon). Details about the trips as well as the application form are available in the literature racks and online at www.fourthchurch.org/missiontrips.html.

ENRICHMENT

Weekly 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.

The issues of loss and grief may become more difficult to deal with during the holiday season. For support, call the Counseling Center at 312.787.8425.

Carl Grapentine of WFMT radio

will present a program of music and commentary fitting the season at Men's Group this Saturday, December 13 at 8:00 a.m. in the Dining Room. To RSVP, contact the church office at 312.787.4570.

The Center for Life and Learning

invites men and women sixty and over to a special meal in Chinatown led by culinary expert Dr. Anthony Yu on Wednesday, December 17 at 6:00 p.m. Registration is limited to twenty individuals; some transportation is available upon request. For more details and to RSVP, contact Patricia Amis at 312.981.3387 (pamis@fourthchurch.org).

Books by Women will meet Tuesday, January 6 at 6:00 p.m. to discuss *Talk Before Sleep* by Elizabeth Berg.

The Community Book Group will not meet during December but will resume on Tuesday, January 27 at 7:00 p.m. in the Page Smith Room to discuss *Speaking of Faith: Why Religion Matters—and How to Talk About It* by Krista Trippett.

FELLOWSHIP

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

Fourth Dimension will meet for a Christmas celebration this Saturday, December 13 at 7:30 p.m. at a member's home. Reservations are required; to RSVP, call the Fourth Dimension Infoline at 312.787.2729, ext. 494.

WORSHIP

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 the chapel or pray there with a Deacon at 12:00 noon.

A service in the style of Taizé is held at 7:30 p.m. in Anderson Hall each fourth Friday of the month. The next service will be held on Friday, December 26.

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 an opportunity to pray for those in need.

VOLUNTEERS AND DONATIONS

Current Volunteer Needs

Hosts, lunch set up and clean up crew for the Chicago Presbytery event on Tuesday, December 9 at Fourth Church
Sunday School teachers for 11:00 a.m. classes, teaching grades 1–3
Tutors for the Tutoring Program

Current Donation Needs

A lockable file cabinet with two drawers
Computers in good condition (2007 or newer) for a Cabrini-Green school

For a list of additional needs, contact Larry Nicholson, Director of Volunteer Ministry, at 312.981.3382.

CALENDAR FOR DECEMBER 7–13, 2008

Sunday, December 7

7:50 a.m. to 12:45 p.m.	Nursery		Westminster 14
8:00 a.m.	Morning Worship	Victoria G. Curtiss preaching	Sanctuary
9:00 a.m.	Coffee Hour		Anderson Hall
9:00 a.m. to 2:00 p.m.	Fair Trade Bazaar		Anderson Hall
9:30 a.m.	Morning Worship	John M. Buchanan preaching	Sanctuary
9:30 a.m.	John Knox Bible Study		Page Smith Room
9:30 a.m.	Sunday School		Westminster House
9:30 a.m.	Youth Choir		Dining Room
10:30 a.m.	Coffee Hour		Anderson Hall
10:30 a.m.	Elevation, Fourth Church Rising, Senior Highs		<i>(see announcement)</i>
10:30 a.m.	Cherub Choir		Dining Room
11:00 a.m.	Morning Worship	John M. Buchanan preaching	Sanctuary
11:00 a.m.	Embracing Parents		Tutoring Library
11:00 a.m.	Sunday School		Westminster House
11:00 a.m.	Children's Choir		Dining Room
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.	The Gathering		Randolph Room
12:15 p.m.	Youth and Family Luncheon		Dining Room
12:30 p.m.	Advent Book Study		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.	Vespers	John W. Vest preaching	Sanctuary
7:30 p.m.	Coffee Reception		Anderson Hall

Monday, December 8

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

7:30 a.m.	Men's Bible Study	<i>(see announcement)</i>
9:00 a.m.	Morning Prayer	Stone Chapel

Wednesday, December 10

9:30 a.m.	Benevolent Guild	Page Smith Room
12:10 p.m.	Noonday Bible Study	Large Conference Room
6:30 p.m.	Midweek Advent Service	Blair Chapel

Friday, December 12

9:30 a.m.	CLL Bible Study	Page Smith Room
12:10 p.m.	Noonday Concert: Vox 3	Sanctuary

Saturday, December 13

8:00 a.m.	Men's Group	Dining Room
7:30 p.m.	Fourth Dimension Christmas Party	<i>(see announcement)</i>

Preaching on Sunday, December 14

Adam Fronczek	8:00 a.m.
John M. Buchanan	9:30 and 11:00 a.m.
Festival of Lessons and Music	6:30 p.m.

Parking is available Sunday mornings at the John Hancock Center, 875 North Michigan Avenue, at the rate of \$7.00 for three hours 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 for the 900 garage must be picked up during Coffee Hour or from the Chestnut Street reception desk. Hancock tickets must be validated in the Narthex.