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## FROM THE CHURCH HOUSE

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### WHAT ABOUT "ABOUT US"?

Joe Page, Vice-Moderator

*"As a Congregational Christian church, we value faith, freedom and fellowship. We do not require a formal statement of belief as a condition of membership. Sincere Christian conviction and an honest desire to be together as followers of Jesus Christ are what unite us. We are open and affirming to people of all ages and abilities, races, sexual orientations and national origins."*

These words appear on the homepage of our church web site and communicate our core message of welcome and hospitality to the world. In light of our recent initiative to discuss preparing a statement of intentional welcome to gay and lesbian members, some have asked, "What about 'About Us'?" How would this existing statement ~ words that have appeared on our web site for several years ~ align with this new open and affirming initiative?

The simple answer: It would synchronize with that effort clearly and elegantly. An open and affirming statement will underscore the intention of our Congregation to be a church that openly shares the commitment of our "About Us" message, and is committed to living out that vision in practical ways. This means:

- Being a church that welcomes *everyone* who wishes to join us on our spiritual journey.

- Being a place of nurturing safety where people of faith live out their belief that *every person* is a precious and unique creation made in God's image.
- Being a congregation that openly includes all persons and embraces differences of sexual orientation, gender, marital status, age, mental and physical ability, as well as racial, ethnic, and social-economic backgrounds.

A task force, led by Patty Sprague, has been formed to address these issues and develop a plan for our congregation. All members are welcome to share their thoughts on this issue. Opportunities for sharing will be made available through Christian education programs and open meetings in the coming weeks and months. Look for more information in your Sunday bulletin, in Sunday announcements, in future editions of the newsletter and on the church website.

### FROM THE PASTOR'S DESK

Rev. Dr. James E. Roghair, Interim Pastor

Thank you to First Congregational for carrying on while Elizabeth and I were ten days in China accompanying a Northwestern University alumni tour. It's good to be home. China is vast, and we only scratched the surface - we are determined to learn more. A powerful first impression is the constant presence of history. They speak of hundreds and thousands of years, the way we do decades and centuries. What we will leave to tell in

4000 years?

The Chinese people we met were friendly and outgoing to us. Many are poor, and yet they are generous. As we lingered to see one garden hundreds of years old, our tour group left early – guided through tangled alleys back to our bus. We were unsure what to do. But, crippled and lame beggars at the gate, whom we in the tour had ignored, began to point, “Bus,” they said, “bus.” And a woman selling postcards ushered us to our bus, before we were even missed. We were relieved and grateful – and a bit humbled. It is an amazing world where those who give and those who receive are in flux. Isn’t that always true? –

*Jim*

### **OUTREACH WANTS TO KNOW: HOW ARE YOU HELPING?**

Our church’s Outreach Committee recently launched a project that is designed to make us more aware of the many different ways that our church members work to help others. Whether you are on the board of a nonprofit organization, volunteer at a soup kitchen occasionally, go camping with the girl or boy scouts or tutor a child, we’d like to know about it. We’ll take the information, take a photo of you, and use both in an ongoing display that you’ll be able to enjoy during coffee hour. We’ll be able to learn more about each other, and it may also be a good way to learn about new good works you may want to get involved in. So...when you see us coming...smile for the camera!

### **ART SHOW REMINDER!**



Please plan to attend or participate as an artist in the fall art show. We are especially encouraging jewelry and craft items for this show, but also welcome paintings, drawings, and prints.

**DATES:** 5–8 p.m., Saturday November 3, the show opens with a reception, including music; 11 a.m.–2 p.m., Sunday, November 4. Please note the change of dates from the previous notice.

**ARTISTS:** Applications will be mailed to artists who exhibited in the last show by October 5. Artists who did not exhibit in the last show should pick up applications in the narthex October 7, 14, or 21, or from Peggy Tinzmann. *Deadline for submitting all applications is October 24.* Number of hanging works is limited to 15 per artist; any number of smaller works (jewelry, ceramics, small crafts, etc.) may be exhibited.

### **VOLUNTEERS NEEDED!**

Please volunteer for one (or more) of the following tasks for the show:

- Publicity (headed by Laura Wilson)
- Hanging the show (headed by Eric Erickson)
- Program (headed by Peggy Tinzmann)
- Saturday reception (headed by Lacy Ogbolumani)
- Taking down the show (head person TBA)
- Cashier (head person TBA)
- Security (head person TBA)

**QUESTIONS?** Call or email Peggy Tinzmann: 847-251-0809; [m-tinzmann@northwestern.edu](mailto:m-tinzmann@northwestern.edu)

### **BUGS IN YOUR EARS**

A Memoir of Betty Bates  
by Laura Wilson

“We’re all gonna be one family, see? We’re all gonna love each other.”

What frustrated parent has not made this wish, either silently or at the end of a long day? In her young adult novel, *Bugs in Your Ears*, (1977)

FCCE member Betty Bates captures the feelings of parents as well as her narrators, young teens going through a life crisis. This novel began a twenty year labor of love, with Betty creating fifteen novels for readers ages 8 - 14 and many articles for magazines like *Highlights*. Although her YA (young adult) novels are now out of print, they are available at the Evanston, Niles, Wilmette, and Skokie libraries.

Born Elizabeth and wanting to not be called "Lizzie," Betty chose her name during high school. In those years, her family had moved away from Evanston and lived in Pennsylvania. There, Betty was inspired by a lively English teacher named Mrs. Kirk. "She was a marvelous teacher," recalls Betty. "She loved literature and encouraging young writers." Some years later, Betty studied writing in writers' workshops in the Evanston area.

All fiction writers know that novels need conflict, and Betty has been drawn to the tensions of families in her stories. "Blended families appear in my novels," she said. "I use experiences of my past but never write about a real person or event that actually happened." Narrator Carrie lashes out at her new family with "You all have bugs in your ears!" in the novel of that name. Carrie struggles to start a new life with a step father and three new siblings.

In *Thatcher Payne in the Neck* (1985), Betty also explores the angst of a blended family, this time from the point of view of Kib, a young girl who starts off with a "parent trap" scheme, along with friend Thatcher, only to have it transform into a plan not so much to her liking. This novel won Betty the 1986 Carl Sandburg Award, given yearly by the Friends of the Chicago Public Library.

Betty's writing style follows the YA novel genre, using a plot that moves and the inner thoughts

of an endearing narrator. "I write in from the young person's point of view because it seems natural," she explained. Small details like tuna casseroles or a broken soap dish and slang phrases enrich this kind of writing and help create the young teen's world. Themes never go out of style; the stress and strain of school, new families, moving, jealousy and competition, first loves, grief and loss, these struggles appear in Betty Bates' novels and books about people of all ages.

Betty and Ted Bates have attended First Congregational Church for sixty years, beginning shortly after their wedding. They raised three boys and a daughter and particularly enjoy visiting their grandchildren and their apple farm in Maine.

First Congregational Church is blessed with so many artists that it's hard to keep an accurate count. Growing up is a part of our congregation's life, and our children can see themselves in the novels of Betty Bates, right here on our doorstep.

### INFORMATION PLEASE



If you have recently moved, changed phone numbers or changed your email address, call or email the church office with your updated information. We will be printing a new church directory in the near future.

**Telephone:** (847) 864-8332 **email:** [firstcongo@mcleodusa.net](mailto:firstcongo@mcleodusa.net)

### MAGAZINES NEEDED

Please save your old magazines. Starting mid-October, there will be a box in the narthex for the donation of magazines for the Warming Center. The Warming Center is our weekly, Thursday afternoon hospitality center for the homeless which is open from November through March. Our guests enjoy reading news, sports, and entertainment. *Reader's Digest* is always a favorite.

### A VOLUNTEER OPPORTUNITY

Hands-on help for two of our Benevolence Recipients! The Infant Welfare Society and Evanston Day Nursery would both like our help for some fall clean-up and spruce-up activities at their facilities. Bring your energy and enthusiasm to church and we'll carpool over to:

**Infant Welfare Society** from 1:00 to 4:00 p.m. on **Saturday, October 6th**

**Evanston Day Nursery** from 8:00 a.m. to noon on **Saturday, October 27th**. Contact Lyn Page, Benevolence/Outreach Committee, if you'd like to come for just part of the time, or for more information.

(847) 475-3943 or [lpag@oakton.edu](mailto:lpag@oakton.edu).

### THE NEW SENIOR CLUB

The September luncheon meeting of the new Sr. Club was a tribute to Mary Ellen Buell, who will soon move to California to a new and more exciting life. Everyone wrote a memory of their friendship with her and the remembrances were read and then given to her to take out west and read when she thinks of us. There were many experiences tied to these memories and the conversation covered time and activities, people and emotions, and all of the connections we make in our church lives. The luncheon was copious and tasty with the chocolate cake made by Margaret taking the prize of most appreciated. Next month it is back to basics on October 1st with sandwiches in the Guild Room at noon. See you all then. DJ

### CHURCH MEMBERS PERFORM PRINCESS IDA

A number of First Congregational Church members are involved in this year's Savoyaires production of Gilbert & Sullivan's delightful *Princess Ida*. Performing onstage are Kingsley Day, Bob Gaskill, and Gary Hardesty.

Playing in the orchestra are Megan Cahill, Nancy Robertson, and Jane Soung. The producer is Laima Day.

Performances are Friday-Saturday, October 12-13 and 19-20, at 7:30 p.m., and Sunday, October 14 and 21, at 3:00 p.m., at Chute Auditorium, 1400 Oakton Street (between Asbury and Dodge) in Evanston. Tickets are \$20, \$15, or \$10 (\$15, 10, or \$5 for children 12 and under). For tickets, call 847/251-8767.

### HAPPY BIRTHDAY

- 1 Jordan Robertson
- 2 Irene Doberstein
- 3 Mark Ferguson
- 3 Allison Krause
- 5 Betty Bates
- 5 Ross Donnan
- 6 Nancy Anderson
- 10 Nevin Cunningham
- 13 Glennis Lundberg
- 13 Marion Rorke
- 13 Cherie Weil
- 16 Kristin Julcher
- 17 Barbara Lee
- 17 Jerry Schmahl
- 19 Robert Cleland
- 21 Michaela Cudahy
- 21 Stephen Wilson
- 22 Mark Daniels
- 25 Kathryn Lee
- 26 Nancy Arnold
- 30 Lyn Page
- 31 Paul Ferguson
- 31 Jean Stafford

### SUNDAY, OCTOBER 21

#### NORTH SHORE CROP WALK

YOU CAN MAKE A DIFFERENCE  
BY TAKING PART IN THE  
**NORTH SHORE CROP WALK**  
TO FEED THE HUNGRY.



FOR MORE INFORMATION CONTACT LAURA  
WILSON OR BETTY PHILLIPS.

### **SUNDAY AFTERNOON BOOK DISCUSSION GROUP**

Book selections for fall 2007 through January  
2008:

**Sunday, October 14, 2007**

*Reading Judas: The Gospel of Judas and the  
Shaping of Christianity* by Elaine Pagels

**Sunday, November 4, 2007**

*Water for Elephants* by Sara Gruen

**Sunday, December 2, 2007**

*Suite Francaise* by Irene Nemirovsky

**Sunday, January 13, 2008**

*A Thousand Splendid Suns* by Khaled Hosseini

The Sunday Afternoon Book Discussion  
Group meets at 4:00 pm in the Church House.  
Everyone is welcome to attend these informal  
book discussion groups.

### **JOIN US OCTOBER 7 FOR WORSHIP**

Dr. Calvin S. Morris, PhD., Director and CEO  
of Community Renewal Society will be our  
guest preacher.

### **SCHUBERT'S "MASS IN G" FOR REMEMBRANCE SUNDAY**

On Remembrance Sunday, November 4<sup>th</sup>, the  
Chancel Choir and string quintet will present  
Franz Schubert's beautiful "Mass in G" during  
morning worship. If you would like to use this  
occasion to offer financial contributions in  
memory of a friend or loved one, your gift will  
help defray costs for this service. Please make  
your check payable to First Congregational  
Church, indicate "Remembrance Sunday" in  
the memo, and include the name of the  
person(s) memorialized. Thank you for your  
support.

### **CHANCEL FLOWERS**

Donating chancel flowers is a wonderful way to  
honor someone special in your life,  
commemorate a special occasion (perhaps a  
birthday or anniversary), to say thank



you, or to honor the  
memory of a friend or  
family member. The  
chancel flowers sit on  
the communion table in  
the chancel. The flowers cost  
\$40. Donations are acknowledged in the  
Sunday bulletin. For more information  
contact the church office at 847 864-8332.

**OCTOBER CHANCEL CHOIR  
MUSIC**

**October 7 - World Communion**

Halley - "Freedom Trilogy"

**October 14**

Peeters - "Jubilate Deo"

Peeters - "Aria"

**October 21**

Mendelssohn - "Lift Thine Eyes" (Elijah)

Mendelssohn - "He Watching Over

Israel" (Elijah)

**October 28 - 80th Anniversary**

**Service (Music from 1927**

**Dedication)**

Ivanoff - "Bless the Lord"

Brahms - "How Lovely is Thy Dwelling

Place" (German Requiem)



**First Congregational Church of  
Evanston  
1417 Hinman Avenue  
Evanston, IL 60201**