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# The Chapel Bell

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Presented by the Maple Street Chapel Preservation Society, Inc.  
Volume 26, Issue No. 2 Spring, 2025

## Chapel Hosts Lilac Princess Tiara Presentation by Vicki Webb

Maple Street Chapel hosted the Lombard Junior Women's Club annual Lilac Princess Tiara Presentation on March 12, 2025.

This year's royal court members are (left to right), Princess Olive Turner, Princess Khloe Hickman, Princess Jillian Gorvett, Princess Delaney Spontak and Princess Marisa Olas. Olive Turner and Khloe Hickman are juniors at Glenbard East, Jillian Gorvett and Marisa Olas are seniors at Glenbard East and Delaney Spontak is a senior at Glenbard South.



The Maple Street Chapel Preservation Society gave each princess a one year membership as a friend of the Chapel, a lilac colored Yeti tumbler with an "Every Day is Tiara Day Princess (their name)" label, a lilac pen and paper set, and a lilac compact mirror.

# Princess Program Runs in the Family...

by Vicki Webb



The picture is of Princess Olive Turner 2025 and her mom, Princess Laura White-Chesney 2003. Not pictured are Princess Khloe Hickman 2025 and her sister, Princess Kayla Hickman 2022.

In 1930, 95 years ago, Lombard held the first Lilac Pageant, crowning the first Lilac Queen, Adeline Fleece. Each of the Lilac Princesses was able to don the first crown, made by Christia Reade and crafted from silver spoons donated by the women of Lombard.

In 2001, the Lombard Junior Women's Club obtained sponsorship of what is now called the Lilac Princess Program. Each princess receives a tiara, a \$1,500 scholarship as well as gifts from various community groups.

The contest is open to young women of Lombard who are between the ages of 16-21. The women are evaluated by a panel of impartial judges from outside the Lombard area, and are scored in categories of academics, community service involvement, poise, grace, speaking ability, as well as appearance. Five princesses are chosen to serve on the Lilac Court, as community ambassadors for Lombard, throughout Lilac Time. They then did another round of interviews on April 26<sup>th</sup> to determine which of the five will be crowned the queen. The Lilac Queen will be crowned on May 3<sup>rd</sup> 2025 at 1:00 pm in Lilacia Park. This year, on May 2<sup>nd</sup>, the LJWC will hold a 95th Lilac Court reunion. The Lilac Parade will be held on Sunday, May 18<sup>th</sup> at 1:30 pm.

\*As a sidenote, Vicki Webb's mom was a 1949 Lilac Princess. Her maiden name was Jane Freund.

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**The Chapel Bell is a newsletter presented by the Maple Street Chapel Preservation Society, Inc., published quarterly in Lombard, Illinois 60148. Contact personnel @ 630-627-0171**

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**Chapel Bell Editor and Publisher: Suzanne Bruce Arndt, 630-306-0212**

# Meet Charlie Peterson, a Friend of the Maple Street Chapel

by Suzanne Bruce Arndt

Charlie Petersen was born in Kirkwood, Missouri along with his two sisters. His one sister lives here in Lombard and his other sister lives near their 95 year old mother in a small town near Kirkwood. Charlie's dad was a Chemical Engineer and his mother worked in a library.

He studied at Kansas University where he graduated with a Bachelor of Fine Arts with a major in painting and a minor in animation. In 1980 Charlie moved to Chicago where there were more opportunities for him to utilize his degree. He worked for several companies and also did a lot of freelance work. During his time in Chicago he met Lauren (his future wife) at the American Art Academy. They married in 1988 and moved to Lombard in 1989 where they bought their first house.

Charlie started his business, Petersen Animation and Lauren taught grade school and then she moved into library science. They have two children, Evan who works in the banking field and Lily who teaches 4<sup>th</sup> grade. They joined First Church in 1995. Charlie is currently First Church Porter which entails setting up Hatfield hall for various events, mowing the lawns, and helping out wherever needed. He is one of a 6 member maintenance team who are on call. Charlie is most appreciated for his ability and knowledge to make the necessary repairs as they arise.

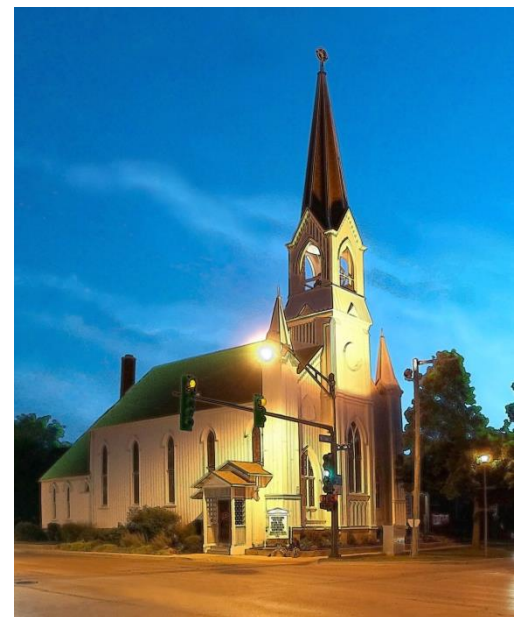


First Church has a variety of services that are held at the Chapel and Charlie runs the sound board and lighting for these events. He also creates the brochures for the MSC series, helps out at the community center, maintains the First Church memorial garden and is one of a team who run video, recording and live streaming of First Church Sunday services.



In 2024 Charlie traveled to Costa Rica with some of the First Church members to help build homes and he is planning to do the same when he goes with them to Kentucky this summer.

To say he's busy is an understatement. He has coached park district soccer, baseball and basketball teams and enjoys cooking up a batch of chili for the chili cook off at First Church. Charlie also enjoys going to concerts that include rock, bluegrass and folk music.



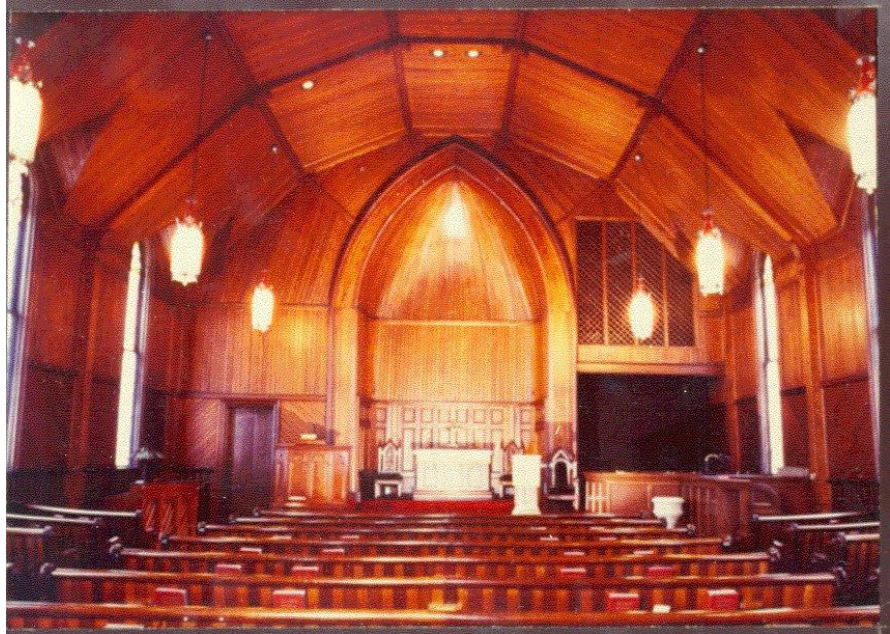
These two pictures are just a small sampling of the artistic work that Charlie produces. He donated these pictures to the Chapel. For more information, go to Charlie's website: [charliepeterson3d.com](http://charliepeterson3d.com).

# MAPLE STREET CHAPEL OPEN HOUSE SCHEDULE

Please join us for a tour of the Chapel that is listed on the National Historical Registry of Illinois.

Tours are available on May 31, June 28, July 26, Aug. 30, Sept. 27 and Oct. 18th. All times are from 1-3 pm.

We will be happy to accommodate special requests. Please call (630) 627-0171 for a private tour.



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## MAPLE STREET CONCERTS

*SAVE THE DATES... by Vicki Webb*

*Presenting our 41st season*

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| Saturday, Sept. 27 <sup>th</sup> at 7pm.   | \$20 Annalee Koehn and Chuck Cox                                     |
| Saturday, Oct. 18 <sup>th</sup> at 7pm.    | \$20 James Gordon  |
| Saturday, Nov. 15 <sup>th</sup> at 7pm.    | \$20 Lee Murdock's Christmas Ship Show                               |
| Saturday, Dec. 6 <sup>th</sup> at 5:30-7pm | Kilty Pleasure leads us in our annual Jingle Bell Jubilee sing along |
| Sunday, Jan. 4 <sup>th</sup> at 3pm        | \$25 Special Consensus   |
| Saturday, Jan. 24 <sup>th</sup> at 7pm     | \$20 Dynamic Duos of the '60s  |
| Saturday, April 25 <sup>th</sup> at 7pm    | \$20 Patchouli and Terra Guitarra                                    |

A special thank you to Melissa Dagenhart for her expertise and dedication of the MSC series over the years.

I would also like to thank my team of volunteers: *Sound*: Joel Simpson and Maurice Smeets, *Lights*: Ron Leaneagh, *General Assistance*: Denise Davis, Mark and Diane Swiss, Al Webb, Charlie Peterson, and Russ & Jean Reneau.

# About the Bell Itself

by Ken Bohl, President & Facilities Director

As much as the bell has spoken to us and the community for 155 years, let's talk a little about the bell itself. The inscription near the top tells us it was cast by Meneely Bell Foundry of West Troy, New York. This foundry was established in 1826, and a second foundry was established in 1870. Between the two of them they produced 65,000 bells before they both closed in 1952.



To the right is an advertisement for the same style bell as the one in our Chapel. Note that it has two options for ringing:

- 1) The rope turning the wheel, which we use today, is best suited for continuous ringing.
- 2) A hammer striker for a single ding. Although our bell does not have this hammer, there may have originally been one, hinted by the fact that there are *two* holes in the ceiling of the northwest entrance.



A major factor in the quality of a bell is the metal used in its casting. Bronze, an alloy of about 90% copper and 10% tin is the best combination for tone quality and durability. Poorly-made or improperly-used bells will crack. The Liberty Bell is unfortunately proof of this.



Up close the bell looks very different than when you look up at it from the ground. The bell hangs from the cast iron yoke (going over the top of the bell) and the yoke is supported by two "A" braces. The thickness of the bell varies, being about an inch thick at the top and the bottom, but only about a half inch thick in the middle.

Periodic inspection of the bell is very important. Our bell weighs about 2,000 lbs., so in effect it is like having a small car up there! The wood beams that the A braces rest on must be preserved in order to support that weight. The yoke is heavy duty cast iron, but the top of the bell is attached to it with four "head bolts". Deterioration of the support beams or the bolts could result in the bell falling down, which would not only do extensive damage, but could potentially be deadly! We also clean and lubricate the bearings every year.



(continued from page 5)



The wooden wheel, which tilts the bell in order for it to ring, is another maintenance item. The wood needs to be kept in good condition. Metal brackets have been added to the joints to strengthen it. A collapse of the wheel would not be a major catastrophe, but this is a major example of an ounce of prevention is worth a pound of cure.

Inside the bell is not only the clapper, but a pair of springs that the clapper swings into. Without these springs, imagine you swing the bell just a little bit harder than it takes to make the clapper strike the bell. The clapper would then stay resting against the bell, which would muffle the sound. The way it works is that the clapper runs into the spring and strikes the bell, and the spring immediately pulls it away, resulting in a clearer tone.



In 2018 we had once-every-100-to-150-years preventative maintenance done. After 148 years of ringing, the clapper was worn down to being flat on each side, and the springs had metal fatigue and didn't work. These were not hazardous, but both affected the quality of the bell's ringing. So, all we had to do was replace the clapper and springs, and the bell has as beautiful sound as it did in 1870.

Let's talk a little bit about the emotional aspect of the bell. It can stir up both sadness and celebration. September 11<sup>th</sup>, 2006, a 5<sup>th</sup>-anniversary memorial of the 9/11 attack was held at the Chapel. The overflow crowd gathered on Maple Street. I was asked to ring the bell for a half hour as people filed into the Chapel.



On the other hand, for as long as any of us can remember, it has been a Chapel tradition for couples to ring the bell together at their wedding ceremony.

Our bell is a beautiful instrument. We are committed to keeping up the maintenance to keep it ringing and to keeping it safe.

# Meet More Friends of the Maple Street Chapel

## Basic Membership

Charles & Pamela LaFleur (In honor of their 49th wedding anniversary)

Timothy Yarling

## Bell Ringer Membership

Cheryl Cramer

Al & Vicki Webb

(In honor of the volunteers of the Maple Street Chapel Preservation Society, Inc. and Maple Street Concerts)

## Chapel Steward

Janet Derber

## Steeple Club

William Heller

## In Honor Of Diana Lang, daughter, and grandsons Karl & Kurt Lang

Carole Robinson

## In Memory of her dear cousin, Mike Trautman

Carole Robinson

## Donation from Maple Street Chapel Designated Fund of DuPage Foundation

**Editor's note:** Please accept our apology for misspelling the following names in the previous newsletter: Renee Thorsell, In memory of George & Gwendolyn Vandon from Renee & Tom Thorsell for the chimney fund, and In memory of Tom Scott by Jay Madary - JVM

**Maple Street Chapel Preservation Society**  
**220 S. Main Street**  
**Lombard, Illinois 60148**

**Join the Friends of the Maple Street Chapel Society Today!**

Please check the box below to direct your enclosed donation.

Please make your check payable to the Maple Street Chapel Preservation Society, Inc.

- Friends of the Maple Street Chapel. Annual memberships. Money is used for ongoing Chapel expenses.
- Endowment Fund. Money is invested and earnings provide for preservation of the Chapel
- Special Gifts. Specifically for \_\_\_\_\_

- |   |                   |  |                     |
|---|-------------------|--|---------------------|
| <input type="checkbox"/> Basic "Friends" Membership | \$25 - \$99       | <input type="checkbox"/> Board & Batten Society  | \$3,000 - \$4,999   |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Bell Ringer Membership     | \$100 - \$499     | <input type="checkbox"/> Colonel Plum's Partners | \$5,000 - \$9,999   |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Chapel Steward Membership  | \$500 - \$999     | <input type="checkbox"/> The Reade Circle        | \$10,000 - \$24,999 |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Steeple Club Membership    | \$1,000 - \$2,999 | <input type="checkbox"/> Pinnacle Society        | \$25,000 +          |

NAME \_\_\_\_\_

ADDRESS \_\_\_\_\_

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Detach and return to Maple Street Chapel Preservation Society, Inc.,  
220 South Main Street, Lombard, Illinois 60148



