

# The Inkling

The News of First Presbyterian Church of New Haven

January 2010

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## A New Decade Begins!

First Presbyterian Church will welcome in the new year and a new decade offering many ways to respond as Christ's faithful disciples.

The Ordination and Installation of newly elected church elders will happen during worship on Sunday, January 10<sup>th</sup>. Being ordained and installed are: Seth Craigo-Snell, Rona Johnston Gordon, Tim McConnell and Andrew McCloskey who will serve a one-year term as youth elder. Teddy Hogle, already ordained as an elder, will be installed. The new session will meet for a day-long retreat on Saturday, January 9<sup>th</sup>. This will give the new session a chance to get to know one another and to have a chance to talk together about their hopes and dreams for the church's mission in the year to come.

Thanks go to those members of the session who finish their terms of service this month. They are: Steve Latham, who oversaw all the property issues; Lindsay Miller, who served as youth elder on the Worship Committee and who chaired the Nominating Committee; Bruce Peabody whose work with the Worship Committee brought many new and wonderful pieces to our worshipping life together; Martha Smalley, who served on the Christian Education Committee, and Sue Stout, who served as Personnel chair. Thank you one and all for your service to the church of Jesus Christ. Well done!

January is also the month in which the Miller Gathering Hall will become a shelter for ten men from the Columbus House homeless ministry program. Beginning on Monday, January 18<sup>th</sup>, our space will be transformed as a place of respite and welcome. Members of the congregation have already signed up to provide meals, entertainment, and to serve as evening hosts. There is still time to sign up.

Members from Congregation Mishkan Israel (who are hosting the homeless men the week before us) will talk with us about their experiences during the Sunday morning Adult Education class at 9:30 a.m. on January 17.

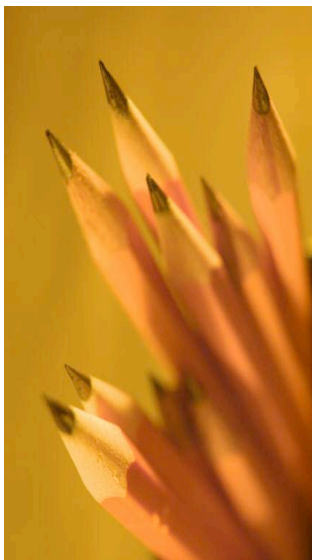
## Abraham's Tent

First Presbyterian Church will participate in the city-wide effort to house the homeless this winter. During the week beginning on Monday, January 18, we will house 10 homeless men, from 6 p.m. until 6 a.m. The entire program will be professionally resourced by the staff of Columbus House. But it is church volunteers who will make this work. We need people to cook meals each night, and people to come and welcome our guests and to sit at the tables with them for the meals. Then we need adults who will spend the whole night at the church, staying awake while our guests sleep. Finally, we need some people who will straighten things out again in the morning. A large sign-up board is in the Copeland Room. Please sign up today.

Please note that January training dates for Abraham's Tent have been set. **On Thursday evening, January 7**, volunteers from 14 congregations will gather at Congregation Mishkan Israel in Hamden for Companionship Training, an introduction to and conversation about the nature of homelessness and the hosting that we will be doing. Then, on Thursday, January 14 (early evening) the First Presbyterian volunteers will gather with Columbus House staff at our church to make very specific plans for our week of welcome. All volunteers should try to be present for this meeting. Questions? Please talk with Bill Goettler or Micah Luce.

## Meal a Month

The number of Americans living in households lacking consistent access to adequate food soared last year to 49 million people. The figure represents an increase of 13 million people, including many children. The Mission Committee invites you to participate in a "Meal a Month" program to help stock the local food pantries and feed hungry adults and children in New Haven. The menu for **January**: canned beef hash, biscuit mix, canned wax beans, canned pears, coffee and powdered milk and cereal (Cheerios are healthy and good for small children).



### ***Homework @ First program to start at the end of the month***

Nancy McLaren and a team of volunteers will be starting the homework help program on Tuesday, January 26th. The preparations are ongoing and Nancy has been gathering information and input on how best to serve our new neighbors at the Worthington Hooker School. Students will be able to schedule hour-long, one-on-one sessions with volunteer tutors. The program is intended to supplement the educational experience of Worthington Hooker students, and to enhance their sense of connectedness to their community. This exciting new program is also a way for our congregation to respond to the needs of our city and to extend hospitality in our neighborhood. If you are interested in volunteering in any capacity, would like to donate designated curricula or books, or have questions/concerns, contact Nancy McLaren at [nancybmclaren@gmail.com](mailto:nancybmclaren@gmail.com). Thank you for your prayers and support in these exciting and busy days of preparation for this new ministry.



## Join us for Bible Study!

The Lectionary Bible Study meets on Thursday Mornings at 11:30 a.m. in the Miller Gathering Hall. Each week we read and reflect on the texts for the upcoming Sunday. Co-pastor Maria LaSala leads the study. She is joined from time to time by CE Director, Nancy McLaren and Youth Group Leader Phil Yoo. *Please note that there is no Bible Study on January 7 and 14.*

### The texts for January are:

January 3: Jeremiah 31:7-14; Psalm 147:12-20; Ephesians 1:3-14; John 1:1-18

January 10: Isaiah 60:1-6; Psalm 72:1-7, 10-14; Ephesians 3:1-12; Matthew 2:1-12

January 17: Isaiah 43:1-7; Psalm 29; Acts 8:14-17; Luke 3:15-17, 21-22

January 24: Nehemiah 8:1-3, 5-6, 8-10; Psalm 19; 1 Corinthians 12:12-31a; Luke 4:14-21

January 31: Jeremiah 1:4-10; Psalm 71:1-6; 1 Corinthians 13:1-13; Luke 4:21-30

## Christian Education for Adults

Yale Theology Professor Shannon Craigo-Snell returns to lead a three-week adult education series exploring Christian understandings of evil. January 24: What is evil? January 31: Philosophical approaches to the problem of evil. February 7: Theological approaches to evil. The class begins at 9:30 a.m. in the Miller Gathering Hall. Coffee and Tea are provided.

## Eve's Daughters

Eve's Daughters will meet again on Monday, January 25<sup>th</sup> at First Presbyterian Church of New Haven. The evening begins with dinner at 6:30 p.m. The night's discussion will offer the women from Mishkan Israel and from First Presbyterian Church a chance to explore the story of the Daughters of Zelophehad in the Book of Numbers. Rabbi Alison Adler and Co-Pastor Maria LaSala will lead the discussion about "inheriting the promise" and then invite small group conversation. January's weather calls for hot and hearty soups (vegetarian please!) If you would like to make a pot of soup, or bring breads and desserts, please talk with Maria LaSala. A sign up sheet can be found at the Welcome Table.

## Maria LaSala is off to Israel

Maria LaSala has been invited to join an interfaith delegation to Israel at the end of January. The trip is sponsored by the ADL, the Anti Defamation League, and will take Maria and her colleagues to a number of holy sights sacred to Judaism, Christianity, and Islam. There they will have a chance to talk with a number of leaders of peace movements and be in dialogue with one another about the difficult issues surrounding this most holy land. Please keep Maria and her colleagues in your prayers as they travel.

December

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# January 2010

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
December 27 10:45 AM Worship - Agape Feast	28	29	30 9:45 AM Staff Meeting	31 New Year's Eve	January 1 New Year's Day	2 Columbus House 9 AM Kundalini Yoga 9:30 AM Women's AA
3 10:45 AM Worship - Communion 12 PM Friendship Hour 1 PM CE Meeting	4	5 7:30 PM Mission Committee 7:30 PM CLOC Meeting	6 9:45 AM Staff Meeting 11:45 AM Presbyterian Promise 7 PM Choir	7 9 AM Yoga 11:30 AM Bible Study	8 7 PM CT Folk	9 9 AM Kundalini Yoga 9:30 AM Session Retreat 9:30 AM AA 6 PM Dinner with Friends
10 9:30 AM CE 10:45 AM Worship 12 PM Potluck 12:30 PM Skating	11 6 PM Worship Committee	12	13 9:45 AM Staff Meeting 7 PM Choir	14 9 AM Yoga 11:30 AM Bible Study	15	16 9 AM Kundalini Yoga 9:30 AM Women's AA
17 9:30 AM CE 10:45 AM Worship 2 PM Worthington Hooker School Dedication	18 Hosting the Homeless 12 PM MLK Interfaith Worship	19	20 9:45 AM Staff Meeting 7 PM Choir	21 9 AM Yoga 11:30 AM Bible Study	22	23 9 AM Kundalini Yoga 9:30 AM Women's AA
24 Hosting the Homeless 9:30 AM CE 10:45 AM Worship 12 PM Friendship Hour	25 6:30 PM Eve's Daughters at FPC	26 3 PM Homework Help	27 9:45 AM Staff Meeting 7 PM Choir	28 9 AM Yoga 11:30 AM Bible Study 3 PM Homework Help 6:30 PM Men's Dinner	29	30 9 AM Kundalini Yoga 9:30 AM Women's AA
31 9:30 AM CE 10:45 AM Worship 12 PM Friendship Hour	February 1	2 3 PM Homework Help 7:30 PM Mission Committee 7:30 PM CLOC Meeting	3 9:45 AM Staff Meeting 7 PM Choir	4 9 AM Yoga 11:30 AM Bible Study 3 PM Homework Help	5	6 Columbus House 9 AM Kundalini Yoga 9:30 AM Women's AA

January

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March

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# February 2010

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
January 31 9:30 AM CE 10:45 AM Worship 12 PM Friendship Hour	February 1	2 3 PM Homework Help 7:30 PM Mission Committee 7:30 PM CLOC Meeting	3 9:45 AM Staff Meeting 7 PM Choir	4 9 AM Yoga 11:30 AM Bible Study 3 PM Homework Help	5	6 Columbus House 9 AM Kundalini Yoga 9:30 AM Women's AA
7 9:30 AM CE 10:45 AM Worship - Communion 12 PM Friendship Hour 1 PM CE Meeting	8 8 PM Yale Rep	9 3 PM Homework Help	10 9:45 AM Staff Meeting 7 PM Choir	11 9 AM Yoga 11:30 AM Bible Study 3 PM Homework Help	12	13 9 AM Kundalini Yoga 9:30 AM Women's AA 5 PM Sock Hop
14 9:30 AM CE 10:45 AM Worship 12 PM Potluck	15	16 5 PM Pancake Supper 7:15 PM Session	17 9:45 AM Staff Meeting 6:45 PM Ash Wednesday Worship	18 9 AM Yoga 11:30 AM Bible Study	19	20 9 AM Kundalini Yoga 9:30 AM Women's AA
21 9:30 AM CE 10:45 AM Worship 12 PM Friendship Hour	22 6:30 PM Eve's Daughters @ Mishkan Israel	23 3 PM Homework Help	24 9:45 AM Staff Meeting 7 PM Choir	25 9 AM Yoga 11:30 AM Bible Study 3 PM Homework Help	26	27 9 AM Kundalini Yoga 9:30 AM Women's AA
28 9:30 AM CE 10:45 AM Worship 12 PM Friendship Hour	March 1	2 3 PM Homework Help 7:30 PM Mission Committee 7:30 PM CLOC Meeting	3 9:45 AM Staff Meeting 7 PM Choir	4 9 AM Yoga 11:30 AM Bible Study 3 PM Homework Help	5	6 Columbus House 9 AM Kundalini Yoga 9:30 AM Women's AA

**Dinner with Friends** On Saturday, January 9 @ 6 pm, enjoy the fun of sharing a casual dinner with a small group of First Presbyterian Friends.

*All the good things in life - friends, talk, laughter, community in Christ - made even better by good food.*

- ❖ Hosts and Guests may RSVP by adding their name to the sign up sheet on the **Welcome Table** or by contacting Art or Mary Hunt.
- ❖ There will be several hosts so each hosts a small group of six to eight guests.
- ❖ Art and Mary match the guests to the hosts.
- ❖ The dinner preparation is shared – the host chooses the menu and asks each guest to contribute.
- ❖ There is a place at the table for everyone who signs up. You are especially welcome if this will be your first Dinner with Friends.
- ❖ Dinners are scheduled four times each year.
- ❖ To complete the evening, we just need you.

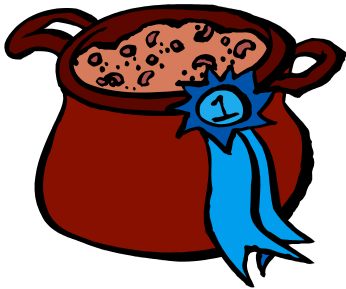
Add your name to the sign up sheet on the **Welcome Table** or contact Art or Mary Hunt. Save the dates - Dinner with Friends: Saturday, April 3, 2010 Picnic with Friends: Saturday, July 17, 2010.

## **Confirmation Class begins in the New Year**

A confirmation class will be held for those in Grades 8, 9, 10, and 11 who would like to explore their Christian faith and learn more about the Presbyterian Church. The class will meet once a month for conversation around a meal. Class members will be expected to read the Gospel according to Luke, to participate in one service project, and to lead worship with the pastors one Sunday morning. Confirmation will take place on Pentecost Sunday, which this year is May 23<sup>rd</sup>. The first get together of the new Confirmation class will take place on a Saturday in January from 11 a.m. until 3 p.m. in the Miller Gathering Hall. If you are interested, please talk with co-pastors Bill and Maria.

## **The January “Warm Your Soul” Potluck lunch and “Baby Book Shower” will take place on Sunday, January 10 after worship.**

During the lunch, we will continue our tradition of showering new babies in our congregation with books. If you have new or gently used books to contribute, please drop them off in Maria LaSala’s office. And plan on bringing hearty soups or comfort foods to share for the meal!



## **Calvin’s Brothers! A Dinner Gathering for Men**

Theology? Politics? Mission Work to Share? Food to Eat! The men of the First Presbyterian Church community are invited for a dinner of hearty chili on a cold winter night, and for a time of considering together a project, a study, or at the very least a meal that we would like to share in the coming months.

Join us, on Thursday, January 28 at 6:30 p.m. in the Miller Gathering Hall. See the sign up sheet on the Welcome Table.

*Afraid that you might lose this Inkling? Find your e-copy on the church website at [fpcnh.org](http://fpcnh.org)! Please note that for privacy reasons, the e-copy may be slightly different than the hard copy.*



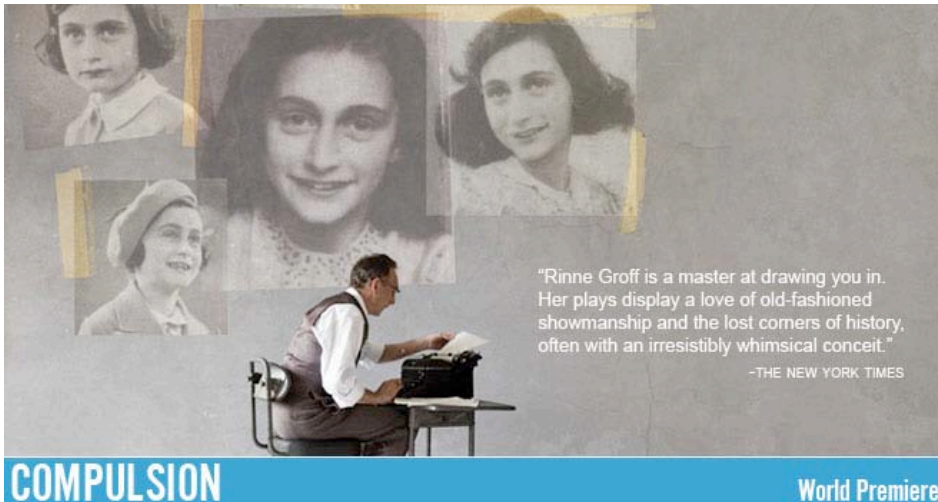
## CONNECTICUT FOLK CONCERTS

Once again, First Presbyterian Church will host folk music! The church receives 10 complimentary tickets. Email or call the church to reserve yours, the week before any scheduled concert. Below is the schedule for concerts from January 2010 – May 2010 (concerts are on Friday evenings at 8).

January 8 – Harry Manx  
March 5 – Mustard's Retreat

February 5 – Vance Gilbert  
May 7 – Tret Fure

For more information, check out the CT Folk website at [ctfolk.org](http://ctfolk.org).



Sid Silver (Mandy Patinkin) wants nothing more than to bring Anne Frank's story to an American audience, and he believes he's the right man to translate the young girl's diary and adapt it for the stage. But his passion spirals into a lifelong obsession when a New York publishing house reveals its own plans for what would become one of the most powerful and enduring documents of the 20th century.

Inspired by the story of Meyer Levin, *Compulsion* marks the Yale Rep debuts of Rinne Groff, whose plays have been praised for their "kaleidoscope style" (*The Village Voice*), and Oskar Eustis, the artistic director of The Public Theater.  
- from the *Yale Rep*

Join friends from First Presbyterian Church on Monday, February 1st to see this production of *Compulsion*. The performance begins at 8 p.m. Sign up at the Welcome Table before Sunday, January 24th to reserve a space. Other Yale Rep outings include: *The Servant of Two Masters* on Monday, March 15; and, *Battle of Black and Dogs* on Monday, April 19. **Remember this season's tickets are only \$10.00 each.** Enjoy a night out in New Haven! We'll hope to see you at the theater!

## Skating Trip for the Middle School and Senior High Youth Groups

Following the Potluck Lunch on January 10th, Phil Yoo and Nancy McLaren will lead an afternoon of fellowship and ice skating for the Middle School and Senior High youth groups. We will provide games before going skating at the Walker Rink at 1080 State Street. The afternoon will conclude at 3:30, with parent pick up at the rink. Please note, newcomers are very welcome! Sign up with Nancy or Phil for this afternoon of wintry fun.

## A special thank you from Nancy McLaren...

Thank you to all the volunteers and families of our church who made the December 6th Advent dinner and play such fun and such a success! Martha Smalley once again wrote, and prepared the children to perform, a wonderful and thought-provoking play. The efforts on the part of the children, families, and Martha, were evident from the costumes to the set design to the oversized camel! Thank you all for participating and for helping us to prepare our hearts for Advent.

Thank you also to the children and families who participated in this year's 4:00 Christmas Eve service. Once again, the children shone, and were great fun to work with. The 4:00 service was a treat this year, making Christmas celebration all the merrier. It has been my great pleasure working with the children, families, and volunteers this past year, and I look forward to another great year with you all in 2010.

CO-PASTORS: BILL GOETTLER & MARIA LASALA

DIRECTOR OF MUSIC: PATRICK McCRELESS

CHRISTIAN EDUCATOR: NANCY McLAREN

CAMPUS CHAPLAIN TO YALE: JENNIFER DAVIS

YDS STUDENT INTERN: ANN AMELING

PARISH ASSOCIATE: SUE ASHER

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**9:30 a.m. Christian Education for all ages**

**10:45 a.m. Worship**

Office Hours

Tuesday-Thursday

8:30 a.m. - 12:30 p.m.

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**First Presbyterian Church  
704 Whitney Avenue  
New Haven, Connecticut  
06511**