

# The Inkling

The News of First Presbyterian Church of New Haven

March 2010

## The Season of Lent in Word, Image, and Song

The weeks of Lent invite Christians to a time of deeper reflection and introspection, as we ready our hearts for the proclamation of the good news of our faith on Easter Sunday. During this Lenten season at First Presbyterian Church of Haven, in addition to sermons based on the Lectionary Texts from the Gospels of Luke and John, we will be invited to consider artistic renderings and poems addressing the stories of Jesus' movement toward the cross. Sent out over the church email, the images and poems will prompt times of personal meditation and insight.

Each Sunday morning will also offer the opportunity to come to the Table of Christ to celebrate the Sacrament of Holy Communion, in a quiet time of gathering after the Benediction. In reading the Biblical story, in time spent with images and poems, in worship gatherings and in the sacrament shared, may this be a Holy Lenten season in your life.

## A Lenten Carbon Fast

During this Lenten season, our congregation is inviting members and friends to consider a non-traditional fast—a *carbon fast*. The Sunday morning Welcome Table holds suggestions for the prayerful reduction of energy use, and suggests ways to learn more and remember those with less—that we might more equitably share the earth's resources with all God's children.

This effort was noted in a front page story in the New Haven Register: Here is how the New Haven community learned about our Carbon Fast:

### **New Haven Register, Wednesday, February 17, 2010**

By Ed Stannard, Register Metro Editor

Here's something to give up for Lent: the amount of carbon-based energy you use. A growing movement among faith groups, called a Carbon Fast, links the reflective season that begins today, Ash Wednesday, with a desire to be more responsible about using resources that are so plentiful in the developed world, but so scarce elsewhere. "As Christians, we care about our neighbors, meaning our worldwide neighbors," said Martha Smith, a member of the First Presbyterian Church on Whitney Avenue in New Haven. Led by Smith and others, the parish is in its second year of being more environmentally conscious.

The Rev. William Goettler, co-pastor of First Presbyterian, said last year's effort was "pretty remarkable... People engaged in the conversation in the beginning and brainstormed ways of cutting back" on energy use. Goettler said it's important for Americans to work for environmental justice toward the developing world, because this country "burns far beyond our proportion of oil and consumes resources beyond our number." The Carbon Fast movement focuses on action, which counters the trend of how most Americans behave, according to a national survey released Tuesday by researchers at Yale and George Mason universities. The poll found most Americans favor environmental actions, but few actually practice them.

See the full article at [http://www.nhregister.com/articles/2010/02/17/life/a1\\_--\\_ecolent\\_0217.txt](http://www.nhregister.com/articles/2010/02/17/life/a1_--_ecolent_0217.txt).

Don't forget to **spring forward!** Daylight Savings Time begins at 2:00 a.m. on Sunday, March 14. *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.

## Adult Education

Co-Pastor Maria LaSala traveled to Isarel on a ten day tour with leaders from the Christian, Jewish and Muslim communities of Connecticut. The trip sought to explore what leaders in the three religious traditions, Judaism, Christianity, and Islam are saying about the peace process in that troubled land. On Sunday, March 7<sup>th</sup> Maria will lead the Adult Education conversation with stories and pictures from that experience. The class begins at 9:30 a.m. Coffee and tea will be available.

On March 14 and 21, The Revs. Paul Matheny and Mary Nebelsick will talk about their work in the Philippines. Paul and Mary are back in New Haven for the year and have been worshipping with us each week. Their daughter Rachel is a part of the Confirmation Class. Paul Matheny and Mary Nebelsick were appointed as mission co-workers in January 2001 to serve in the Philippines at Union Theological Seminary in Dasmariñas, near the capital city of Manila. The seminary serves the United Church of Christ of the Philippines (UCCP), the PC(USA)'s partner church. Mary teaches biblical studies, especially the Old Testament, and Paul teaches Christian theology, the philosophy of religion, and ministerial studies. In addition to teaching basic courses within the seminary curriculum, both Mary and Paul are involved in the program of the seminary to develop future leaders in theological education. Mary coordinates the M.Theol. program offered at the seminary and Paul coordinates the Ph.D. program, while helping with the D.Min. and D.Theol. programs. Again, the Adult Education class will begin at 9:30 a.m. each Sunday morning.

## Join us for Bible Study!

The Lectionary Bible Study meets on Thursday Mornings at 11:00 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.

### The texts for March are:

- March 7 *Third Sunday in Lent*: Isaiah 55:1-9; Psalm 63; 1 Corinthians 10:1-13; Luke 13:1-9
- March 14 *Fourth Sunday in Lent*: Joshua 5:9-12; Psalm 32; 2 Corinthians 5:16-21; Luke 15:1-3, 11b-32
- March 21 *Fifth Sunday in Lent*: Isaiah 43:16-21; Psalm 126; Philippians 3:4b-14; John 12:1-8
- March 28 *Palm Sunday*: Psalm 118; Philippians 2:5-11; Luke 19:28-40; Luke 22:14-23:56



Amiens - The Prodigal Son. Stained-glass composition by J. Le Breton (glass studio of Gaudin, Paris), 1933

## Women at the Well returns in March with a Lenten Conversation

All women of the congregation are invited to an evening of soups and breads on Wednesday, March 3<sup>rd</sup>. Together we will reflect on our places of worry and anxiety, the things we wish to lift to God for release, as we hear again of God's steadfast and abiding love for her people. If you would like to make a pot of soup, or bring a loaf of bread or dessert, please indicate that on the sign up sheet on the Welcome Table.

### **In nothing be anxious; but in everything by prayer and supplication with thanksgiving let your requests be made known unto God. (Philippians 4:6)**

When you pray, offer...

Prayers for the people of Haiti, and the people of Chile, and for those working to provide rescue and relief following the devastating earthquakes.

Prayers for those who are unable to worship with us on a regular basis: Jim Tenney, Mary Chesnutt; Jan Forman; Ken and Kay Jetter; and Nancy Johnstone.

Prayers for other people and situations in need of our supplications.

שירו ליהוה כי-גאה גאה

סוס ורכבו רמה בים

Sing to the LORD for he has triumphed gloriously;  
Horse and rider he has thrown into the sea.

"Song of Miriam", Exodus 5:21

## Eve's Daughters

Eve's Daughters meets on Monday, March 22 to study Miriam. This month's gathering will take place at First Presbyterian Church at 6:30 p.m. Supper will be provided. Co-Pastor Maria LaSala and Rabbi Alison Adler will present the prophet Miriam whose story is found in the Torah. Miriam's story is critical to the Exodus and with Passover beginning at the end of March, it is fitting that Miriam, a leader of the Exodus, be the topic for conversation. It is also interesting that the name Mary is derived from the name Miriam, and as Christians ready themselves for Holy Week and Easter, we remember the importance of the many Marys in the Christian New Testament. Come and find out what they have in common and how they are different! A sign up sheet will be found on the Welcome Table. Questions? Please talk with Co-Pastor Maria LaSala.

## Jenny Davis approved as a Candidate for Ministry of Word and Sacrament

At the February meeting of the Presbytery of Southern New England in West Hartford, church member Jenny Davis came before the Presbytery to be approved as a Candidate for Ministry. Jenny spoke of her faith journey and of her love for God and her desire to serve God's church. She was approved unanimously by an enthusiastic Presbytery, and is now in the final stage of preparation for ordination. This spring Jenny is working as a Divinity School Intern at the First Presbyterian Church of Fairfield.

## Elder Justin Ray is named Chaplain of the Year by Vitas

Justin Ray was named Chaplain of the Year by Vitas Hospice, where Justin serves as a hospice chaplain. The awards celebration took place in Florida, and the entire Ray family, Julie, Elliott and Milo were present for the festivities. This Fall, Justin was the guest speaker at Whitney Center in Hamden. He offered care to Anne Smith and Jim Dittes during Jim's final days, and to Jim Clark and Nancy Walker as Jim's dad, Joe faced the end of his life. Most recently, Justin led the Adult Sunday school class in February, working with Ann Ameling, this year's Yale Divinity School intern, and Parish Associate Sue Asher, in the series on "Living with Dying." Congratulations Justin!

## Spring Ahead and Share a Potluck Lunch!

On March 14 we will set our clocks forward one hour, then wake up to the promise of a Potluck Lunch at church! Come celebrate the vernal equinox at our potluck lunch. Bring your favorite dish that makes you think green and/or warm.

## Dinner with Friends

On Saturday, April 10 @ 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.
- ❖ 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.

February

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# March 2010

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
February 28 Middle School to Cloisters 9:30 AM CE 9:30 AM Choir 10:45 AM Worship 12 PM Congregational Meeting	March 1	2 3 PM Homework Help 7:30 PM Mission Committee 7:30 PM CLDC Meeting	3 9:30 AM Staff Meeting 7 PM Choir	4 9 AM Yoga 11:30 AM Bible Study 3 PM Homework Help	5 8 PM CT Folk	6 Columbus House 9 AM Kundalini Yoga 9:30 AM Women's AA
7 9:30 AM CE 9:30 AM Choir 10:45 AM Worship - Communion 12 PM Friendship Hour 1 PM CE Meeting	8	9 3 PM Homework Help	10 9:30 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
14 Daylight Saving Time Begins 9:30 AM CE 9:30 AM Choir 10:45 AM Worship 12 PM Potluck	15 8 PM Yale Rep	16 3 PM Homework Help 7:15 PM Session	17 9:30 AM Staff Meeting 7 PM Choir	18 9 AM Yoga 11:30 AM Bible Study 3 PM Homework Help	19	20 9 AM Kundalini Yoga 9:30 AM Women's AA
21 9:30 AM CE 9:30 AM Choir 10:45 AM Worship 12 PM Friendship Hour	22	23 3 PM Homework Help	24 9:30 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 Palm Sunday 9:30 AM CE 9:30 AM Choir 10:45 AM Worship 12 PM Friendship Hour 3 PM Just Harmony Concert	29	30 3 PM Homework Help	31 9:30 AM Staff Meeting 7 PM Choir	April 1 9 AM Yoga 11:30 AM Bible Study 3 PM Homework Help	2 Good Friday	3 Columbus House 9 AM Kundalini Yoga 9:30 AM Women's AA

March

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# April 2010

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<b>March 28</b> Palm Sunday 9:30 AM CE 9:30 AM Choir 10:45 AM Worship 12 PM Friendship Hour 3 PM Just Harmony Concert	<b>29</b>	<b>30</b> 3 PM Homework Help	<b>31</b> 9:30 AM Staff Meeting 7 PM Choir	<b>April 1</b> 9 AM Yoga 11:30 AM Bible Study 3 PM Homework Help	<b>2</b> Good Friday	<b>3</b> Columbus House 9 AM Kundalini Yoga 9:30 AM Women's AA
<b>4</b> Easter 9:30 AM CE 9:30 AM Choir 10:45 AM Worship - Communion 12 PM Friendship Hour 1 PM CE Meeting	<b>5</b>	<b>6</b> 3 PM Homework Help 7:30 PM Mission Committee 7:30 PM CLDC Meeting	<b>7</b> 9:30 AM Staff Meeting 7 PM Choir	<b>8</b> 9 AM Yoga 11:30 AM Bible Study 3 PM Homework Help	<b>9</b>	<b>10</b> 9 AM Kundalini Yoga 9:30 AM Women's AA 6 PM Dinner with Friends
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## News from Diane and Zadi Stinton, visitors to FPC in 2008

F E B R U A R Y 2 0 1 0

# NEWS FROM NAIROBI



*"Stop and consider God's wonders.  
Do you know how God controls the clouds  
and makes his lightning flash?  
Do you know how the clouds hang poised,  
those wonders of him who is perfect in  
knowledge?" Job 37:14-16*



A few weeks ago, Zadi and I witnessed an amazing sight – the longest solar eclipse anticipated for the next thousand years! I couldn't help but wonder, that the same God who governs the sun, moon, and earth to produce such a striking sight also guides the path of our lives....

Entering this new year and decade, I am so thankful for the present stretch of life's pathway before us. I'm really enjoying my new role at **NEGST** in the **MTH** in **World Christianity** program. I just taught a modular course on World Christianity and World Religions, which challenged all of us in our relations with those of other faiths. Please pray for us as we continue to teach and supervise students in their thesis research.



**Back to School!**  
After a wonderful Christmas season, Zadi (4 yrs.) is delighted to start Imani class at Logos Christian School.

Thank you so much for your love and prayers for us both!  
Mungu akubariki - God bless,

*Diane*

## Food Match for Christian Community Action

During March and April, each non-perishable food item you donate to CCA will be matched with funds from the Alan Shawn Feinstein Foundation of Rhode Island ([www.feinsteinfoundation.org](http://www.feinsteinfoundation.org)).

The suggested "Meal a Month" menu for **March** is: canned beef hash, biscuit mix, canned beets, canned peaches, jello, and powdered milk. (Cheerios are healthy and good for small children.) Please choose low-salt, low-sugar canned goods.

## Just Harmony Concert at First Presbyterian Church

Just Harmony is thrilled to invite you to join us for a special concert, when we open for Cindy Kallet and Grey Larsen, nationally-renowned songwriters and folk musicians. Just Harmony will start the concert off with our multi-cultural music of peace, justice and freedom, sure to get your hands clapping and your feet stomping; Kallet and Larsen will follow with music that includes Cindy's sparkling original songs, distinctive settings of traditional Irish music, Scandinavian fiddle duets, old-time fiddle and guitar tunes from southern Indiana, and new music that Cindy and Grey are inventing together. For more on Cindy and Grey, please visit [www.cindykallet.com](http://www.cindykallet.com) and [www.greylarsen.com](http://www.greylarsen.com). The concert is at the First Presbyterian Church, 704 Whitney Ave., New Haven, CT, Sunday March 28th at 4 – 6 p.m.; tickets \$12 for adults, \$5 for children under 10, available at the door. We look forward to singing with you!

## Homework@First hits the ground running!

Our new after school homework help program, which started on January 26th, is off to a great start. In its first month, the program has served over twenty students by offering one-on-one homework help sessions. The program is so popular that it already has a significant waiting list! The students are in grades three through eight, and are seeking help in all different academic areas, from ESL to science fair projects. Our volunteer tutors include FPC congregants, as well as Yale Divinity School students and faculty, and other East Rock community members. Homework@First is partnered with New Haven Reads, a successful tutoring, homework and literacy help program located in downtown New Haven. New Haven Reads has been extremely generous in sharing materials, and advice, as well as student referrals.

We are still looking for people who can donate one to four hours of their time, weekly, to assist students for one-hour long sessions. We also need volunteers who might be willing to substitute, in situations when tutors are unavailable, help with occasional administrative tasks, or supervise children who are waiting for their session to begin. Director of Christian Education Nancy McLaren is directing this program, with administrative support from Mike Tenney and Phil Yoo. Please feel free to contact Nancy (nancybmclaren@gmail.com) if you would like to donate some of your time, academic materials, or other talents to the program. Prayers are always welcome too!

Finally, Homework@First thanks you all, and the CLOC committee, for supporting the program by organizing and attending the Sock Hop this past month! The funds raised will help stock the new resource room, located in the community building.

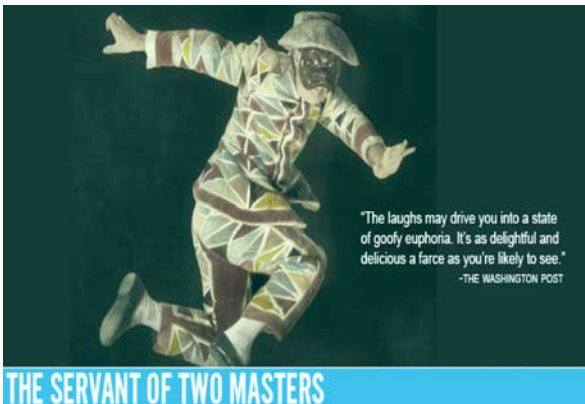
## News from the Property Committee

The Property Committee is interested in your ideas for what we should be working on. We have placed a "Put It On The List" sheet on the welcome table in the Copeland Room. If you see something that needs to be done or have an idea to improve our Church property, please pass it on to us by putting it on the list. A wonderful quality about First Presbyterian Church is the energy, talent and commitment of our volunteers. The Property Committee has three teams of volunteers working to keep the Church in ship shape. Anita Shaffer is leading the Scrub-a-Dub crew, Pat Wales is leading the Grounds and Gardening crew and David Miller is leading the fix-it crew. Our volunteers augment and expand on the work of Jeff Owens, our Sextant. Our other committee members are Bob Frew, Tommie Highwart, Art Hunt, Ralph Jones, Joel LaChance, Stephen Latham and Arthur Shippee and we would love to have you join us. If you are interested, please contact Art Hunt.

## 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. Catch Mustard's Retreat on March 5 and Tret Fure on May 7. Concerts are on Friday evenings at 7:00 p.m. For more information, check out the CT Folk website at [ctfolk.org](http://ctfolk.org).

## Yale Rep



Identities are mistaken, engagements are broken, and lovers are reunited in Carlo Goldoni's *commedia dell'arte* masterpiece when the wily—and chronically hungry—servant Truffaldino hatches a zany scheme to double his wages (and his meals) by serving two masters at once.

- from the *Yale Rep*

Join friends from First Presbyterian Church for *The Servant of Two Masters* on Monday, March 15. **Remember this season's tickets are only \$10.00 each.** Enjoy a night out in New Haven! **The next show is *Battle of Black and Dogs* on Monday, April 19.**

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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Web site: [www.fpcnh.org](http://www.fpcnh.org)

**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**