

# The Inklings

The News of First Presbyterian Church

January 2014

## The Light Shines...

The days are slowly getting longer, and January invites us to see a new light!

The first Sunday of the New Year invites us to hear again the story of the wise men from the East who come searching for the newborn king. The word "epiphany" describes the moment when suddenly we see or understand something in a new or very clear way. On Sunday, January 5<sup>th</sup>, "Epiphany Sunday," we will hear again how the wise ones travel to find the Christ child, with gifts of gold, frankincense and myrrh ... expecting a king and a royal family. They follow a star only to discover a different kind of king. This beloved scripture story invites us to think again of our own epiphany experiences. Join us on Sunday, January 5<sup>th</sup> for worship. The service will also include the Sacrament of Holy Communion.



## Abraham's Tent returns to First Presbyterian Church Beginning Monday, January 13

This winter we will again host twelve men from the Columbus House Shelter program, in the Owens Community Building. Beginning Monday evening, January 13, a crew of volunteers will prepare dinner, hang out in the Miller Hall, and provide company to these new friends. Sunday school classrooms will become bedrooms for a week, the Miller Hall will be transformed into a dining hall and commons space, creating a temporary home for John, Dwayne, Steven, Scott, Henry, Kwasi, Nicholas, Gregory,

Abraham, Jose, Rodolfo and Chris. Many volunteers have signed up to accompany our friends for the week. If you have not yet signed up and want to participate, please speak with Brian Gray.

A final planning meeting will take place on Sunday, January 5<sup>th</sup> during the Friendship Hour. Join friends new and old as together we journey, following the light of Christ, spreading good news, and bringing hope to those who know hurt and despair. Perhaps this year we will experience a new epiphany and discover something new about ourselves and our community we didn't know was there.

## Congregational Meeting January 26

The Annual Meeting of the Congregation will take place on Sunday, January 26<sup>th</sup>, following the Friendship Hour. The Session's Annual Report will be available, summarizing the past year of mission and ministry in this corner of God's world, and the PCUSA. At that meeting you will have a chance to hear about the work of the church from Session Elders, vote on the Co-Pastors' Terms of Call, and delight in the company of friends. You are welcome to ask questions, talk about concerns, and bring new ideas for consideration. Plan to stop by the Friendship Hour for refreshments, and then return to the Sanctuary for the meeting.

## New Elders to be Ordained and Installed on January 12

The First Presbyterian congregation gathered for a special meeting on December 8<sup>th</sup>, 2013 to elect officers for the Class of 2015. The Service of Ordination and Installation will take place during worship on Sunday, January 12<sup>th</sup>. Elders to be ordained and installed are: Candice Gray, Caty Poole, Betty Whitney and Nancy Woodington.

Candice Gray is a Certified Licensed Occupational Therapy Assistant, working full time in a short term rehab facility. This is her 3rd career. Candice grew up and lived most of her life in Stratford, CT. She married Brian Gray at FPC 3 years ago and moved to Hamden 1 1/2 years ago with their two cats, Simon and Eli. Candice is a member of CLOC and has participated at Columbus House and with Abraham's Tent. Candice will be ordained and installed.

Caty Poole grew up in Hawaii and moved to New Haven 2 years ago, after spending most of her adult life in Pennsylvania and New Jersey. With a degree in communications, and after many years in the corporate industry, Caty is now the Executive Director of Massaro Community Farm in Woodbridge, which is an organic vegetable farm and a community space for events and learning. Caty is passionate about food justice issues and enjoys serving food at Columbus House and the Downtown Evening Soup Kitchen. Caty is an ordained Elder, having served her church in New Jersey.

Betty Whitney is a long-time member of FPC, having previously served on the Session. She recently retired from teaching elementary school children at the Foote School. Betty now enjoys spending time with her children and grandchildren, who live all over the world, and volunteering with different organizations in New Haven. Betty currently sits on the Christian Education Committee and co-teaches church school for our children in grades K-4.

Nancy Woodington came to New Haven as a Yale freshman and went on to the divinity school and the graduate school, finishing with an M. Div. and a Ph.D. (Near Eastern Languages and Literatures). She has been a member of First Presbyterian twice, once starting as an undergraduate, then returning in 1999 after a fourteen-year hiatus as a member of Trinity on-the-Green, where she served on the vestry and a number of committees (Music, Investments, Discernment, etc.). Here she has been on the Mission, Nominating, and Property committees. She is married to her Yale College classmate John Meeske. Both Nancy and John are active singers, and their sons, David Meeske—now with the Peace Corps in Mankhan, Khovd, Mongolia,—and Christopher Woodington—a student at Grinnell College—have been singers as well. Nancy will begin a three year term in January, having been ordained and installed in October to fill the vacancy left by Julie Ray.

Join us on this Sunday as we participate in the laying on of hands, and the ordaining of new ruling elders.

## Congregation Members elected to the Nominating Committee

At that same meeting in December, the following members were elected to serve on the Nominating Committee. They are: Gary Cline, Sadako Ohki, Blake Purnell, and Martha Smith. Gary and Martha are currently serving on the Session, Gary as chair of Mission and Martha as chair of the Nominating Committee and the Property Committee. Their term ends in January. Blake has served one year on the Nominating Committee and is eligible for a second year. Blake currently sits on the Property Committee. Sadako has previously served on the Session, chairing the Worship Committee. She is a host at the Welcome Table.

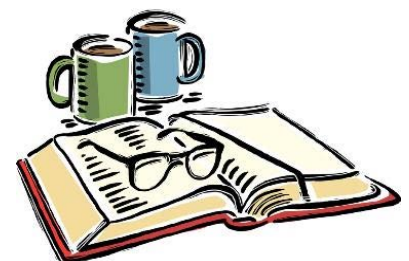
## The texts for January are:

**January 5:** Jeremiah 31:7–; Psalm 147:12–20; Ephesians 1:3–14; John 1:[1–9] 10–18.

**January 12:** Isaiah 42:1–9; Psalm 29; Acts 10:34–43; Matthew 3:13–17

**January 19:** Isaiah 49:1–7; Psalm 40:1–11; 1 Corinthians 1:1–9; John 1:29–42

**January 26:** Isaiah 9:1–4; Psalm 27:1, 4–9; 1 Corinthians 1:10–18; Matthew 4:12–23



## Christian Education News

Christian Education classes for all ages will resume on Sunday, January 12<sup>th</sup>. Children and youth will return to their classrooms where teachers are eager and ready to continue to share the good news of our faith. We will continue the good work of sharing God's good news and of caring for one another and our world.

Adult Education will meet on Sunday, January 12<sup>th</sup>, in the Miller Gathering Hall. The Rev. Sue Asher, Director of Spiritual Care at Yale New Haven Hospital, will talk with us about Advance Directives and End of Life Health Decisions. Then on Sunday, February 6<sup>th</sup>, we will have the chance to hear Flo McBride talk with us about the birds found in the land of the Bible. Flo, an educator in the Hamden school district, and a bird watcher extraordinaire, will share with us pictures of God's littlest creatures. Turtle doves, ravens, sparrows, all make an appearance in the lands of the Bible. Spend an hour with us on Sunday mornings beginning at 9:30 a.m. Coffee and tea will be available.

### January Potluck – January 12<sup>th</sup>



Brr... it's cold outside! Come with your favorite hearty winter food for a shared potluck on the second Sunday in January. Please prepare a family sized main dish, side dish, or dessert. During the potluck, bags of books will be given to our newest babies and toddlers. If you'd like to contribute to the Baby Book Bags, please bring new or gently used books to church. There will be a box in the Copeland Room, waiting to receive them. We'll be giving baby bags this year to: Lucille Miller-Jensen, Calliope Wilder, Jackson Williams, Eliza Wiman, and Fiona Wiman.

### Steve Jungkeit to be Installed at Old Lyme UCC Church – January 12

Steve Jungkeit, who served as our summer sabbatical pastor in 2012, and was a frequent leader and preacher at First Presbyterian Church, will be installed as Senior Pastor at the First Congregational Church of Old Lyme, on Sunday, January 12<sup>th</sup> at 4 p.m. Co-Pastors Bill Goettler and Maria LaSala have been asked to preach at the service. Steve has invited members of the First Presbyterian Church congregation to attend and be a part of this wonderful day in his life and in the life of his family, and new church home. It will be great to see Steve in his new surroundings and to celebrate this joyous day.

### New Members received in December

**Kathryn Miller-Jensen** is Assistant Professor of Biomedical Engineering & Molecular, Cellular & Developmental Biology at Yale University School of Engineering and Applied Science. She is married to Kyle, and has two children, Charlotte and Lucy. Kathryn is a cousin of our friend and colleague, Steve Jungkeit.

**Paul McCullough** returns to New Haven and to First Presbyterian Church after a time of teaching in Charlottesville, Virginia. Paul now teaches English Literature at the Westover School in Middlebury, Connecticut.

Welcome Kathryn and Paul!

### Dinner with Friends - January 25

The next Dinner With Friends is scheduled for 6:00 p.m. Saturday, January 25. This is an opportunity to spend a relaxed evening getting to know others in the congregation. The host usually makes the main dish with guests supplying everything else. The work is shared by all! You will find a sign-up sheet on the Welcome Table, so please sign up.

## ***“The Faces of Stewardship” – An Update***

Celebrations abounded at year’s end with our many Advent activities rejoicing in the coming of the baby Jesus. The season of giving began with goodie boxes and bags given to university and military personnel near and far, the Sacrament of Holy Communion each Sunday, an inter-generational program and pot luck, a worship service of Advent music by our choir, a wonderful Christmas dinner, a delightful children and youth led service and our cherished Christmas Eve services. During Advent we were busy planning to host homeless men during our upcoming week for Abraham’s Tent. There have been numerous opportunities to “put a face on our Stewardship” during Advent at First Presbyterian.

We can also celebrate the bountiful blessings in support of our Stewardship campaign for the coming year. Many renewed last year’s pledge and we received a number of new pledges. To date, over 85 member households have pledged nearly \$272,000. If the pledges we expect are received, we could see a final total near \$295,000.

For those who offered your pledge for the financial support of the life and ministry of First Presbyterian Church for 2014, *thank you*.

Pledges toward 2014 are still being received. If you have not yet had the opportunity to pledge, we invite to prayerfully consider your pledge of financial support for our new year. Pledge cards will be available on the Welcome Table or you can simply email (in confidentiality) to [firstpreschurchstewardship@gmail.com](mailto:firstpreschurchstewardship@gmail.com). The Session’s December meeting was postponed due to snow. And so the Session’s financial plans for the coming year are not yet complete and your timely response will be most helpful as the Session plans for the coming year.

We intend to continue our popular “Faces of Stewardship” email periodically though the year celebrating the work of the many Stewards among us. Will one of the faces be yours? As they say, “it takes a village.” So may God bless all the *Faces of Stewardship* among us.

David B. Miller - Elder, Chair of Stewardship

## **Co-Pastor Maria LaSala to lead Bible Study at Whitney Center in January and February**

Co-Pastor Maria LaSala is making plans to lead a Bible Study at Whitney Center during January and February. This time of study and reflection will be open to residents of Whitney Center and friends from First Presbyterian Church of New Haven. Details will be forthcoming.

## **Memorial Cairn**

In this new year, as the wars continue, Reclaiming the Prophetic Voice will again be marking the cost of the continuing violence in Iraq and Afghanistan by placing the December stone on the Memorial Cairn at the intersection of Broadway, Elm and Park streets in New Haven on Monday evening, January 6th, at 6 p.m. This stone will be inscribed with the December death total of US military personnel and the approximate documented numbers of Iraqi and Afghani civilians killed during that same period of time.



## Peace and Justice Dinner Group

The Peace and Justice Dinner Group meets on the second and fourth Mondays of each month beginning at 6 p.m. For more information, talk with Art or Mary Hunt or email them at [art@cheswood.com](mailto:art@cheswood.com) or [mary@cheswood.com](mailto:mary@cheswood.com).



## Connecticut Folk Concert – January 3 at 7:30 p.m.

Come hear No Fuss & Feathers Roadshow featuring Karyn Oliver, Carolann Solebello and the Ya Yas when they return to First Presbyterian Church for an evening of music. First Presbyterian Church receives ten complimentary tickets. Please email the church or call to reserve yours.

## Session Approves a Sexual Misconduct Policy for the Church

At its November 19 meeting, the First Presbyterian Church Session voted to adopt a sexual misconduct policy for First Presbyterian Church. The policy, required by the Presbytery of Southern New England, calls for pastors, ruling elders, members, and staff to maintain appropriate relationships with those they interact with and minister to in conducting their duties. The sexual abuse or sexual exploitation of another human being is an affront to all that the Church teaches and may also be a violation of Connecticut law. Sexual harassment is a matter of particular concern to First Presbyterian Church because we are so strongly connected by bonds of trust. The policy was developed by Rev. Maria LaSala and Elders Gary Cline, Art Hunt, and Dick Hasbany. The active elders were joined by Jim Clark and Elder Nancy Walker, both lawyers with expertise in sexual misconduct issues. The policy will be available for reading at the welcome table during January, and an implementation plan will be developed and announced at the annual congregational meeting.

## Glory to God: The New Presbyterian Hymnal

First Presbyterian Church of New Haven has been singing some of the hymns from the new hymnal for the past year. We've delighted in learning new songs in worship each Sunday. The Yale Institute of Sacred Music will hold a morning workshop on Saturday, January 25th to introduce the new Presbyterian Hymnal, *Glory to God*, to the general public. This will be a great opportunity to sing even more new hymns and to hear from the chair of the hymnal committee, Mel Bringle, about the process involved in creating this new hymnal. The workshop will begin at 9:30 a.m. and end at 12:30 p.m. This event is free and open to the public.

## Prayers for Our Community

**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 men of Abraham's Tent: John, Dwayne, Steven, Scott, Henry, Kwasi, Nicholas, Gregory, Abraham, Jose, and Rodolfo.

John Withers, who is at Gaylord Rehabilitation Center, recovering from a fall.

Tommie Highwart and her family as they grieve the death of Ron Highwart.

Church members and friends who seek God's healing grace, including Eugene Smith; Ken Haynam; Judith Kistler, Christy Purnell's mother; Caty Poole's mother Hedy Walter; Jim Owens; Paul Turner's mother Sylvia; Martha Smalley's mother Kay; Fritz Gorst, friend of Beth Aura Miller; Joan Wells; Sandy Withers; Rabbi Herbert Brockman, and John Wood, Becky Cline's father.

The people of South Sudan, especially our PCUSA Mission Co-workers Nancy and Shelvis Smith-Mather.

The people of Syria, Egypt, and for all across the Middle East, during this time of unrest, violence, and discord.

David Meeske serving with the Peace Corps in Mongolia.

James Smit, Patrick Copeland, and Jordan Matos, who are serving in the armed forces.

Those who are unable to worship with us on a regular basis.

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

# January 2014

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
			1	2 9:00am Yoga 5:30pm Musical Folk 6:30pm GNHCC	3  7:30pm CT Folk Concert	4  9:00am Yoga 9:30am Women's AA
5 9:30am Choir 10:45am Worship 12:00pm Friendship Hour 12:30pm Abraham's Tent Meeting	6 4:15pm Musical Folk 6:00pm Memorial Cairn	7 9:30am Musical Folk 6:30pm CE Committee 7:30pm CLOC and Mission Committees	8 10:00am Musical Folk 4:30pm Staff Meeting 5:30pm Musical Folk 7:00pm Choir	9 9:00am Yoga 5:30pm Musical Folk 6:30pm GNHCC	10	11 9:00am Yoga 9:30am Women's AA
12 9:30am Choir, Church School 10:45am Worship 12:00pm Potluck 4pm Steve Jungkeit's Ordination	13 Abraham's Tent  4:15pm Musical Folk 6:00pm Peace and Justice Dinner Group	14 Abraham's Tent  9:30am Musical Folk	15 Abraham's Tent 10:00am Musical Folk 4:30pm Staff Meeting 5:30pm Musical Folk 7:00pm Choir	16 Abraham's Tent  9:00am Yoga 5:30pm Musical Folk 6:30pm GNHCC	17 Abraham's Tent	18 Abraham's Tent  9:00am Yoga 9:30am Women's AA
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26 9:30am Choir, Church School 10:45am Worship 12:00pm Friendship Hour 12:30pm Congregational Meeting	27 4:15pm Musical Folk 6:00pm Peace and Justice Dinner Group	28 9:30am Musical Folk	29 10:00am Musical Folk 4:30pm Staff Meeting 5:30pm Musical Folk 7:00pm Choir	30 9:00am Yoga 5:30pm Musical Folk 6:30pm GNHCC	31	

# February 2014

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CO-PASTORS: BILL GOETTLER & MARIA LASALA

DIRECTOR OF MUSIC: PATRICK McCRELESS

PARISH ASSOCIATE: SUE ASHER

CAMPUS CHAPLAIN TO YALE: HANNAH DREITCER

CHURCH ADMINISTRATOR: MIRIAM SAMUELSON

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**Christian Education for all ages**

9:30 a.m.

**Worship**

10:45 a.m.

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

*Please find your e-copy on the church website at [fpcnh.org](http://fpcnh.org).*