

# The Inkling

## Message from The Reverend John Sandel

I have gladly begun my brief tenure as the “Bridge Interim” or “Interim Interim” or “Pre Interim” pastor for FPCNH. Regardless of title, I hope to provide a pastoral presence which will both provide a measure of continuity for the congregation and provide the Interim Search Committee with some breathing room within which they can work carefully to identify the full-time Interim Pastor. In addition to moderating the session, I am available for pastoral care, to make hospital visits, and to talk with you about any questions, doubts, and fears when they arise. You can reach me through the church office (203-562-5664) by leaving a message, which I will receive. In case of an emergency call my mobile (203-260-0222) which is my emergency number in my office in Milford.

The June 28 service marked the beginning of my work and the next step in the process of leave taking from Bill and Maria’s ministry. The Rev. Karla Koll, Ph.D., spoke directly to that part of our experience through the retelling of the Fourth Gospel’s story of Jesus’ leave taking and of the leave taking which has been part of her life. She reminded us that in all things, “God loves us.” She also introduced us to her work as a Presbyterian Mission Co-Worker at the Latin American Biblical University in Costa Rica, which follows many years of service in Guatemala and Nicaragua. In the fellowship time after the service we learned that overseas mission positions similar to hers were being defunded by the denomination. The money just is not there. Consequently funding for overseas mission positions will necessarily have to come from local congregations. FPCNH has had a long relationship with Rev. Koll and several others. They may soon require congregational support to maintain their positions. How will we respond?

Summer worship at FPCNH has always featured a variety of strong preachers and a selection of gifted soloists from our wonderful choir, and this summer promises the same as we explore the theme of Biblical journeys. Transporting us to new heights, as always, will be Pat on piano.

See you in church!

John

## News from the Interim Pastor Nominating Committee

The search for an interim pastor is progressing well, and the committee is grateful for your encouragement and support. I want to share with you some general information about the process of choosing an interim pastor, as well as some news about the committee’s work so far.

Christian churches organize themselves in a variety of ways. Unlike some churches—the Roman Catholic church, for instance—in the Presbyterian church, a pastor is not sent to a congregation by a bishop or some other authority. Instead, the congregation must vote to *call* its own pastor. Yet unlike some other churches—in congregational or independent traditions, for instance—we call a pastor in partnership with other local Presbyterians: More precisely, the Presbytery (the council made up of pastors and ruling elders in the area) oversees the call process, and provides guidance and expertise. Working with others this way can certainly make things slower! But Presbyterians believe that doing so is in accord with the biblical witness we receive; and that working together in this way—with its mutual support and accountability—can even make us better disciples of Christ.

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## “Traveling Stories” is the Summer Preaching theme

This summer, as in summers’ past, preachers from our congregation will lead the people of God at First Presbyterian Church in worship. The theme this summer invites preachers to take the community of faith on a journey. Using scripture lessons from the bible about the traveling stories of God’s people, each preacher will reflect on the ways God calls people to be on the go, to be open to new experiences, to rest secure that God’s love is everlasting. Worship begins at 9:30 a.m. each Sunday, in the Miller Gathering Hall, followed by a Friendship Hour.

July 5, The Rev. Arthur Shippee, preaching  
joined by The Rev. John Sandel at the  
Communion Table.

August 2, The Rev. John Sandel, preaching  
and presiding at the Communion Table.

July 12, The Rev. Mary Thies, preaching

August 9, The Rev. Diane Goudreau,  
preaching.

July 19, Elder Andrew Forsyth, preaching.

August 16, Alison McKinney, preaching.

July 26, Christopher McCloskey,  
preaching.

August 23, Dr. Bruce Gordon, preaching.

August 30, Dr. Michal Beth Dinkler,  
preaching.

## Wednesday Bible Study Continues

Several of the "regulars" at the Wednesday Bible Study want to continue meeting. Presently, we're gathering in people's homes at noon on Wednesdays with shared leadership.

This coming Wednesday, July 8th, we'll be studying Mathew 10: 5-15

at Art and Mary Hunt's home at noon. Please bring your preferred translation. Contact Ralph Jones for more info (203-248-7386). If you wish, bring a brown bag lunch. Cool drinks will be available.

## Texts for the Sundays in July and August:

**June 5:** 2 Kings 2:1-14 ; 2 Corinthians 12:1-10

**June 12:** Matthew 10:5-15; Genesis 12:1-9; Psalm 121;  
Ephesians 3:14-21

**June 19:** Luke 10:25-37; Psalm 25:1-1

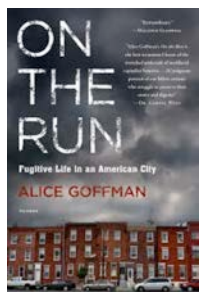
**June 26:**

**August 2:** Mark 1:35-39

**August 9:**

**August 16:** Ruth 1:1-18; Luke 9:57-62

**August 23:** Isaiah 6:1-8; John 4:19-23



## Let's Read *On the Run: Fugitive Life in an American City*

Copies of *On the Run* are available for church members to read this summer. Alice Goffman's chronicle of families caught inside a justice system that has gone awry will be the focal point of our fall 2015 book discussion. Books are on the table in the Miller Gathering Hall. We plan to hold several small-group discussions at various times during the fall to accommodate the greatest number of people possible.

## **News from the Interim Pastor Nominating Committee** (continued from page 1)

Before the congregation searches for a pastor, however, we need time to think. We need to carefully consider who we are, and what our future might look like. What do we need from a pastor? What has worked well at First Presbyterian? And what needs corrected could be improved? Where do our talents and energies lie? Where do we sense God's Spirit leading us? An interim pastor will help us ask these questions, and will support us in the exciting, but potentially difficult, conversations that will provide some answers. The interim will also lead us in worship and tend to our pastoral care until we call a pastor. Unlike the pastor we will call together as a congregation, the interim will be *appointed* by the Session—with the approval of the Presbytery—to serve for a *limited time* (likely one year).

As you read last month, the Session has appointed several of its members to be the Interim Pastor Nominating Committee. Since the last *Inkling*, the committee has prepared the job advertisement for the interim position. This was approved by the Session and the Presbytery in the middle of June, and was circulated throughout the broader Presbyterian church by the end of the month. So far we have received around twenty applications and are considering each of these carefully. We will interview a number of these applicants, and present a nominee to Session in due course.

Until an interim pastor is appointed, the Session will make sure we are led in worship and cared for in our times of need and joy. As you know, the Reverend John Sandel is currently serving this way as our *interim* interim!

As we continue our task, please keep me in your prayers, along with the other members of the committee (Scott Funston, Elizabeth Gill, Candice Gray, David Miller), John Sandel, the Session as a whole, and the Reverend Susan Trucksess (our liaison with the Presbytery).

Please be in touch if you have any questions.

Andrew Forsyth, Chair, Interim Pastor Nominating Committee  
andrewcforsyth@gmail.com

## **Memorial Cairn – July 6**

Reclaiming the Prophetic Voice will once again mark the number of deaths of civilian and military personnel from the wars in Iraq and Afghanistan. Join friends at the monument on the corners of Broadway and Elm Streets in New Haven at 6 p.m. for a 15 minute prayer service. All are welcome.

## **Playground Work Day, July 12th**

Our playground work day at the end of June was a wonderful success! Volunteers of all ages accomplished weeding and pruning the entire enclosure. Little Jackson decided he wanted to help, so he and nursery caregivers Naomi and Emily all joined us in the trenches. And speaking of dirty work, have you ever wondered what it might have been like for Noah to muck the ark? Just ask Becca and Lauriann, who cleaned our wooden boat of all its leaves and mud. Thank you to everyone who pitched in!

There's still another opportunity to help after church on July 12th. We'll do any additional weeding and pruning that may need to be done by then in order to prepare the space for new mulch. If the weather is dry and sunny, we'll also sand the wooden boat and refurbish the metal slide. Email [firstpresbyterianchurch@gmail.com](mailto:firstpresbyterianchurch@gmail.com) or speak to Kimberley about volunteering or lending supplies.

## **Karla Ann Koll provides updates on Presbyterian World Mission**

The Rev. Dr. Karla Ann Koll was our guest preacher June 28th. She has been a PC(USA) mission co-worker since 1986, and FPCNH has been supporting her work for about half that time. Currently she teaches at the Universidad Bíblica Latinoamericana in San José, Costa Rica. Her students come from a number of different Latin American countries, and range from Pentecostal to Roman Catholic in background.

After coffee hour, Karla spoke to a group of about twenty. She began by talking about the current shortfall in Presbyterian World Mission funding, which will result in the termination of eleven mission co-workers by December 31 of this year. Three of them—Paul Matheny, Mary Nebelsick, and Marta Bennett—are currently supported by our church.

Karla detailed a number of reasons for the financial challenges at World Missions. First, a court decision has required the denomination to spend down its endowments for mission. Further, many presbyteries have reduced the percentage of income they allocate to the denomination and its mission agency. Many churches have ceased to contribute to mission at the denominational level (ours has not), choosing to direct their mission giving to organizations not related to the Presbyterian Church (USA). In fact, almost all mission funding now comes from gifts directed to the support of mission personnel or to specific mission programs.

In recent years, the PC(USA) has asked mission co-workers to engage with churches to encourage support for Presbyterian World Mission. The effort to raise funds is a substantial burden on the time and energy of mission co-workers. The good news is that congregations are stepping up to the challenge. The amount of money being designated for mission co-worker support has been growing over the last three years, though not at the rate needed to make up for the shortfall in other funding sources. Karla expressed her deep appreciation to the congregation for their ongoing support for her salary and for Presbyterian World Mission.

### **Thank-you From Bill and Maria**

Dear Friends,

We write to share our deepest thanks for this season of celebration of our ministry together at First Presbyterian Church of New Haven, and for your kindness and warm wishes as we have completed our work. We have been so very grateful for all that has been said, for the gifts that this community of faith has given to us, and for the assurance of prayers and good wishes as we begin a new season of work and ministry at Yale Divinity School.

On Sunday, June 7<sup>th</sup>, we felt deeply honored during the program after church and at the picnic. We've spent these weeks reading the many letters that we received, and remembering the amazing years that we have shared. How thankful we are to you, and to the whole community, for these wonderful years in our lives.

And on Sunday, June 21<sup>st</sup>, you amazed us again with your support and with your love, as we stepped down from the pulpit for the final time. You spoke words of gratitude and hope, and blessing.

We will forever treasure the years of ministry that we have known in your midst, and will hold you and the First Presbyterian Church family in our prayers. May God's blessings continue to be rich and abundant in your life, and for this people of God.

With our love,

Bill and Maria

## Summer Events for All Ages: Picnic & Parachute in the Park

Calling all youth and children! You're invited to join our summer activities from 11 a.m. – 1 p.m., following Friendship Hour on three Sundays. Children under age 10 must be accompanied by a parent or guardian.

Bring your own bag lunch, and we'll provide the parachute. You're also welcome to bring other toys and activities, sunscreen, and picnic blankets. We'll enjoy the warmth of the season and each other's company and perhaps welcome the public to join our games.

Weather permitting, here's where we'll gather at 11 a.m.:

July 19 – College Woods in East Rock Park

August 2 – Summit of East Rock Park

See Kimberley or email [firstpresbyterianchurch@gmail.com](mailto:firstpresbyterianchurch@gmail.com) for further contact information and/or to arrange carpools.

Note: Other plans can easily be added to our summer calendar! You are welcome and encouraged to host events or to suggest activities at the church or in the community, suitable for a particular age range or for all. Kimberley will gladly coordinate additional volunteers and manage communications and publicity as needed.

## Help provide fresh food for the hungry!

A few of the Massaro Farm Tuesday afternoon pickups are still looking for volunteers. Check out the sign-up sheet on the Welcome Table or the bulletin board in the Miller Gathering Hall, along with directions. Sign up for a Tuesday to help us help others have more fresh fruit and vegetables.



In addition, Christian Community Action reminds us that they are happy to accept donations of fresh produce. Contact a Mission Committee member if you would like to donate excess bounty from your home garden.

## **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 ...

Church members and friends who seek God's healing grace, including Ken Haynam, Eugene Smith, Joan Wells, and Ned Castner, recovering at home.

The family and friends of Ken Jetter, as we mourn his death and celebrate his life.

Shaleen Camery-Hoggatt, Michal Beth Dinkler's mother, who is undergoing chemotherapy.

Sarah Malone, Anita Shaffer's relative, who is undergoing chemotherapy.

London Poole, Katy Poole's daughter.

The people of Kenya, Turkey, Syria, South Sudan, Egypt, Israel and Palestine, Iraq, 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 and Patrick Copeland, 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.

# July 2015

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
			1	2	3	4 9:00am Yoga 9:30am Women's AA 5:30 pm Columbus House Dinner
5 9:30 am Worship & Communion; The Rev. Arthur Shippee preaching 10:30 a.m. Friendship Hour	6	7 7:30pm CLOC	8	9 9:00am Yoga	10	11 9:00am Yoga 9:30am Women's AA
12 9:30am Worship; The Rev. Mary Thies preaching 10:30 a.m. Friendship Hour	13 4:00pm Musical Folk	14 9:30am Musical Folk	15 5:30 pm Musical Folk	16 9:00am Yoga 5:30pm Musical Folk	17	18 9:00am Yoga 9:30am Women's AA
19 9:30am Worship; Elder Andrew Forsyth preaching 10:30 a.m. Friendship Hour 11:00am Youth in Park	20 4:00pm Musical Folk	21 9:30am Musical Folk 7:15pm Session	22 5:30 pm Musical Folk	23 9:00am Yoga 5:30pm Musical Folk	24	25 9:00am Yoga 9:30am Women's AA
26 9:30am Worship; Christopher McCloskey preaching. 10:30 a.m. Friendship Hour	27 4:00pm Musical Folk	28 9:30am Musical Folk	29 5:30 pm Musical Folk	30 9:00am Yoga 5:30pm Musical Folk	31	

# August 2015

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
						1 <b>9:00am</b> Yoga  <b>9:30am</b> Women's AA  <b>5:30 pm</b> Columbus House Dinner
2 <b>9:30 am</b> Worship & Communion; The Rev. John Sandel preaching <b>10:30 a.m.</b> Friendship Hour	3	4	5	6  <b>9:00am</b> Yoga	7	8  <b>9:00am</b> Yoga  <b>9:30am</b> Women's AA
9  <b>9:30am</b> Worship; The Rev. Diane Goudreau preaching  <b>10:30 a.m.</b> Friendship Hour	10  <b>4:00pm</b> Musical Folk	11  <b>9:30am</b> Musical Folk	12  <b>5:30 pm</b> Musical Folk	13  <b>9:00am</b> Yoga  <b>5:30pm</b> Musical Folk	14	15  <b>9:00am</b> Yoga  <b>9:30am</b> Women's AA
16 <b>9:30am</b> Worship; Allyson McKinney preaching <b>10:30 a.m.</b> Friendship Hour <b>11:00am</b> Youth in Park	17  <b>4:00pm</b> Musical Folk	18  <b>9:30am</b> Musical Folk  <b>7:15pm</b> Session	19  <b>5:30 pm</b> Musical Folk	20  <b>9:00am</b> Yoga  <b>5:30pm</b> Musical Folk	21	22  <b>9:00am</b> Yoga  <b>9:30am</b> Women's AA
23 <b>9:30am</b> Worship; Dr. Bruce Gordon preaching.  <b>10:30 a.m.</b> Friendship Hour	24	25	26	27  <b>9:00am</b> Yoga	28	29  <b>9:00am</b> Yoga  <b>9:30am</b> Women's AA
30 <b>9:30am</b> Worship; Dr. Michal Beth Dinkler preaching. <b>10:30 a.m.</b> Friendship Hour	31					

SUMMER INTERIM PASTOR: JOHN SANDEL

DIRECTOR OF MUSIC: PATRICK McCRELESS

CHURCH ADMINISTRATOR: MARTHA SMITH

DIRECTOR OF CHRISTIAN EDUCATION FOR  
CHILDREN AND YOUTH: KIMBERLEY FAIS

NURSERY CARE PROVIDER: NAOMI BRINTON

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**Worship**

Summer Worship is at 9:30 a.m.  
(through Labor Day)

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