

The Inkling

The News of First Presbyterian Church

October 2016

MOVING ALONG

The first step in finding a new pastor for a Presbyterian congregation is the gathering of information about the congregation and area, and the writing of a self-study report. That step is now complete, with approval from the Presbytery of Southern New England. You can find the complete study on the fpcnh.org web site. Click the About Us tab and scroll down to the Session tab. On the Session page you will find the link to the completed report. The next step in the process is already underway. The Congregational Nominating Committee has solicited names from the congregation for both the Pastor Nominating Committee (PNC) and the office of Elder. The Congregational Nominating Committee will be prayerfully selecting people to ask to serve on both Session and the PNC. Hopefully that work will move along smoothly and we will be able to have a congregational meeting to elect a PNC.

Please hold the church, the Congregational Nominating Committee and potential candidates for the PNC in your prayers as we take the next step in the process of finding a new pastor.

A STEWARDSHIP THOUGHT

In the Holy Land are two ancient bodies of water. Both are fed by the Jordan River. In one, fish play and roots find sustenance. In the other, there is no splash of fish, or sound of bird. The difference is not in the Jordan, for it empties into both. In the Sea of Galilee: for every drop taken in one goes out. It gives and lives. The other gives nothing. And it is called the Dead Sea.

--Pastor Susan

SCRIPTURES FOR OCTOBER



OCTOBER 2

Isaiah 55:1-5, Psalm 66:1-6 and Philippians 2:5-11

OCTOBER 9

Jeremiah 29:1, 4-7, Psalm 111 and Luke 17:11-19

OCTOBER 16

Luke 18: 1-8, Psalm 119:97-104 and Jeremiah 31:27-34

OCTOBER 23

Joel 3:23-32, Psalm 65 and Luke 18:9-14

OCTOBER 30,

2 Corinthians 4:16-18, Psalm 28:6-9 and Hebrews 12:1-3

Memorial Cairn Prayer Service on Monday October 3rd

Reclaiming the Prophetic Voice will mark the cost of the continuing violence in Iraq and Afghanistan and elsewhere in the Mid-East by placing the September stone on the Memorial Cairn at the intersection of Broadway, Elm and Park streets in New Haven on Monday evening, October 3, at 6 p.m. The Reverend Shelly Stackhouse from the Church of the Redeemer in New Haven will lead the gathering.

The stone will be inscribed with the September death toll of US military personnel and the approximate documented numbers of civilians killed during that same period of time. The wars have not ended. Our memorial days go on.

September Session Notes:

Our September 20th meeting opened with devotion and prayer. Pastor Susan reported that the Congregational Study Committee's report was approved at the September 17th Presbytery meeting which means that the church can now move toward electing a Pastor Nominating Committee. Session **VOTED** to call a Congregational Meeting for this purpose on October 16, 2016. Christopher McCloskey's ordination is scheduled for Saturday, October 1. Pastor Susan shared that Sue Asher offered a gift donation to present to Christopher on behalf of the church. The Session accepted her gift offer with thanks. Session **VOTED** to approve the celebration of communion at the ordination.

Committees provided reports:

Christian Education - Session **VOTED** to receive Kimberley Fais' report on Christian Education with thanks and to approve Sunday School teachers for 2016-17.

CLOC provided plans for monthly events up until June 2017 (check the calendar and bulletin).

Mission: The next four weeks of adult education will focus on peace and justice issues; Abraham's Tent will be back at FPCNH during the week of January 16, 2017 and the Alternative Gift Catalogue will be replaced with the Presbyterian Giving Catalogue at Christmas.

Property: The workday on Sunday September 18th was successful and another will be scheduled.

Stewardship: The theme of the upcoming campaign will be 'Stepping Forward in Faith' with Stewardship Sunday scheduled for November 13th.

Worship: The cross behind the pulpit has been refinished thanks to Scott Funston; gluten-free communion options will be offered; Melinda Hall and Sarah Wallman are working on an Advent liturgy; discussion ensued about forming a communication committee to have more focused and visible advertising and publicity for the church.

Session discussed a report submitted by the Manse Subcommittee (Mike Spicer, David Miller, Susan Frew, Jim Whitney, Scott Funston, Jane Hindenlang) which was charged with looking at different options for the Manse (renting, selling, maintaining) and their implications in advance of hiring a new pastor. The Session chose to revisit the future of the Manse at its next meeting, but in the meantime directed Property to spend current allocated funds for Manse maintenance during 2016.

--Elder Jane Hindenlang

Adult Education in October

October 9 and 16 Sunday morning sessions will be a discussion on prison reform and prisoner re-entry to society, focusing on the book Writing My Wrongs, by Shaka Senghor. Dan Justino, Executive Director a local re-entry program, EmergeCT, will be joining us. There are a few copies of the book on the Welcome Table. Please plan to attend even if you have not read the book.

Starting on Sunday, October 23rd, Bruce Gordon will lead a three classes on Faith and Mental Health.

THE 2016 STEWARDSHIP CAMPAIGN: STEPPING FORWARD IN FAITH Message from Elder Bruce Peabody

I am the Chair of the Stewardship Committee this year and I wanted to give you a preview of this year's Stewardship Campaign, which will kick off on Sunday October 30th and conclude with a Stewardship Lunch on November 13, 2016. As you know, the annual Stewardship Campaign is the one time in the year when we ask people to make a financial pledge to the Church to pay for all the good work which the Church does throughout the year; your pledged funds becomes the basis by which the Church's budget for the coming year is set.

Our theme this year is "Stepping Forward in Faith". 2017 is going to be a big year for First Presbyterian Church--with our Mission Study completed and accepted by the Presbytery, we will be starting the search for our new pastor right away and, with a lot of hard work and a little luck, we hope to have a new pastor during 2017.

As we step forward in faith to prepare for the coming of a new pastor, we want to have our financial house in good shape so that our worship, education, mission action and giving, and our buildings show this congregation in the best possible light to a potential pastoral candidate. In my mind, this is the time for individuals to pledge to the Church to the best of our individual abilities--this will set the tone and spirit and provide the financial capacity for the new pastor to live up to all of our dreams and aspirations for what this Church can be.

The last week in October, you will receive a mailing with general budget information from the past years and with a pledge card for you fill out and return, either by mail or in person on Stewardship Sunday, November 13th, during worship or during the luncheon afterwards. There will be Minutes for Stewardship on October 30th, November 6th and November 13th, and Pastor Susan will preach on stewardship on November 13th as well.

2017 is going to be an exciting time for the Church and I hope that you will join me in prayerfully reviewing your finances and making a pledge to the Church so that we can all move forward in the new year towards fulfilling all the hopes and dreams that we have for First Presbyterian Church, New Haven.

--Elder Bruce Peabody

Christian Education Updates from Kimberley

Saturday, October 1st, 3:30-7 p.m. - Youth Group serves dinner at Columbus House. We have several youth ages 10-18 prepared to help thus far, under the adept supervision of Tyler and Erin. If you haven't already signed up, it's not too late! Let Tyler know you'll be there: tyler.wadzinski@yale.edu

Tuesday, October 4th, 6-7:30 p.m. - Christian Education Committee Meeting & Teachers' Dinner. Please keep all of our church's teachers and CE committee members in prayer as we gather to make plans for the coming months, informed by the reflections of our current long-term volunteers.

Sunday, October 16th, 12 noon - Teacher Training Opportunity: "Teaching Skills Beyond Content." We'll discuss the skills we wish to impart to our church children and youth beyond memorization, and some teaching techniques and activities which foster those skills. Examples may include making peace with the unknown; semiotics and meaning-making; initiative and innovation; critical thinking and curiosity; collaboration and empathy; entering "courageous space"; navigating the Bible; using resources like Bible dictionaries, commentaries, and concordances; and developing a life of prayer, service, and spiritual discipline. Those interested should look for Kimberley at the all-church potluck. We will share lunch together as we talk.

October 30th is the final Sunday of Block A for Youth & Children's Christian Education. Anyone ages 3-18 who would like to be in some way involved in leading the Youth & Children's Advent Service at 10:45 on December 18th should contact Kimberley by October 16th. Depending on their tasks, they will make most of their preparations in November and December during the 9:30 hour. Adult classes and nursery care will continue as usual. There will be no Youth & Children's CE on December 25th, January 1st, or January 8th. Block B will begin on January 15th. The full year's three-block schedule can be found on the website: fpcnh.org/community/children-youth

November 27th is the Sunday after Thanksgiving and the first Sunday of Advent. Join us in the Miller Gathering Hall at 9:30 a.m. to usher in Advent with an inter-generational celebration full of crafts, games, and refreshments. Adults, youth, and children interested in sponsoring and/or leading portions of the event should contact Kimberley by November 6th.

Email Kimberley at firstpresbyterianchurch@gmail.com with a subject line related to the event or topic you wish to discuss.

Sock Drive for Columbus House—September-October



Our Sunday School class (ages 6-10+) has been studying Jesus's invitations in the Gospels to love and serve people who experience poverty and exclusion. During September and October, we will be hosting a "Sock Drive" for residents of Columbus House. When we asked Columbus House how we could best serve them through our contributions, they told us that socks are at the top of their list. While there are many places in New Haven where hungry people can go to get food, there are very few places they can turn to for some of the basic items they need to stay warm and dry. We are grateful for the opportunity to help address this need. If you are able, please consider contributing a few pairs of:

New socks (white, grey, or black crew-cut cotton socks for men and women in adult sizes)!

We will have a box available to receive contributions in our Sunday School classroom (Room 2) every week. Thank you for your generosity!

-Sophie House

MUSIC AT FPCNH IN OCTOBER



The sanctuary will ring with music this October. Our auspicious beginning will be Christopher McCloskey's ordination service on Saturday, October 1. The choir will sing Mendelssohn's "How Lovely Are the Messengers that Preach Us the Gospel of Peace," and we'll sing joyous hymns appropriate to the occasion. Our organist/director (Pat McCreless has another obligation that day) will be Henry Parkes, a superb British musicologist and keyboardist who teaches music history, especially that of the medieval period, at the Yale Institute of Sacred Music and Department of Music. (He was the pianist for the London Symphony before coming to Yale two years ago!).

The following day is World Communion Sunday, which we all--congregation, choir, organ/piano--will celebrate with music from around the world. A setting in Spanish and English of the text "I Was Glad When They Said Unto Me" (the opening lines of Psalm 122) will be the anthem, and the hymns and responses will be international as well. There's more in the remaining Sundays of the month. On October 9 the choir will offer a snappy anthem, "All My Days," by Mark Miller (whose lovely setting of the Lord's Prayer we've all sung a number of times), with a solo by Beth Aura Miller. As the month unfolds, you'll also hear a setting of verses from Psalm 89 ("I Will Sing of the Mercies of the Lord Forever") and the "Agnus Dei" from Karl Jenkins' *Mass for Peace*.

And if you'd like to sing Advent and Christmas music this year, but don't have time to sing in the choir year-round, you should know that you're welcome to join us when we begin rehearsing this seasonal music in mid-October.

Pat McCreless

CT FOLK CONCERT ON OCTOBER 14th

Even though they are called First Friday Folk Concerts, October's concert will be on Friday October 14th at 7:30 p.m. This season's first show at First Presbyterian Church's Miller Hall will feature the virtuosic guitarist and very entertaining, [Beppe Gambetta](#), an Italian musician in love with both American roots music as well as the music of his native country.



The church receives ten complimentary tickets. E-mail or call the church office to reserve yours.

OCTOBER 16-FALL POTLUCK LUNCH

Please plan to stay after service on Sunday, October 16th for our Fall Harvest Potluck. Please bring a family size main dish, side dish or dessert to share. Good food and fellowship for all!



CURLING, COCKTAILS & CHILI

We're going to try this again!

When: Saturday, Oct. 22, 2016 from 5-9 p.m.

Where: Nutmeg Curling Club, 123 Glenwood Ave, Bridgeport, CT

Cost: \$10 per person



Ever watched curling during the Olympics and thought you would like to give it a try? Here is your chance. The evening will include on-ice instruction from experienced curlers, time to play a short game and will end with a shared meal in the club's Warm Room (cash bar). No experience or equipment is required. There is room for 24 curlers (age 15 & up), so get your deposit in soon. Just want to watch? No problem, as the Warm Room has comfy chairs and large windows looking onto the ice. Children in the Warm Room must be accompanied by a parent or responsible adult. Let us know if you want to curl or to come watch. Sign up sheet will be on the Welcome table or you can contact Scott Funston.

Greetings From The Purnells

Hello to our church family!

The Purnells are settling in nicely in PA. The house is put together enough to feel like home. The kids love the neighborhood, which is quiet and fun to explore. There are several children on the street, and almost every family has dogs. Rebecca is settling into fourth grade, and is becoming very active in activities including band, peer mentoring, Girl Scouts, and K-kids (a junior Kiwanis club). Sam loves his new middle school, especially his physical science and agricultural lit class. He plans on joining Spanish club and Envirothon. Blake's working from home is working out very well so far. Although I am starting to fill out paperwork for subbing, I am enjoying being a wife and mother. We have been blessed to have visits from son Michael and nephew Todd and their families. It is nice to run into people I grew up with as we adjust to our new home. We miss our First Pres. Family and are just beginning to explore houses of worship. Our cell phone number and email are the same; our new address is 11 Sunset Court, Dillsburg, PA. 17019, and our home number is 717-638-0987. We would love to hear from you.

THANKS TO ALL WHO HELPED CLEAN UP THE GROUNDS!!!

The Church Property Workday held on September 18 was a great success. It was wonderful to see so many members of our congregation come together to spruce up our grounds.

Among other accomplishments, together we managed to: weed the areas around the Owens building and the church building; weed and clean up the children's play area; move, clear and spread a good portion of the compost between the church lawn and manse property; weed and plant new perennials in the butterfly garden beside the parking lot; remove plants in the old raised beds, spread soil and plant new grass there; and weed/clean the area around the sign in front of the church.



Ralph Jones, Jim Whitney and Scott Funston tackle the infamous "compost pile."

The weather held up and it was a terrific opportunity for fellowship. Special thanks are owed to Pat Wales for providing lunch for the work crew. But of course...there's always more to be done. We look forward to seeing church members at the next workday -- stay tuned!

-Robert Williams, Property Committee Chair



Newton Kinity and Phillip Phiri clear weeds from the front of the church.



Becky Cline clearing weeds from the play area.

A Walk in Memory of Libby Hollingsworth

You are invited to an outdoor historic tour along Fair Street; in memory of Libby Hollingsworth and to benefit Action to Cure Kidney Cancer. The morning event will also include strolling musicians, refreshments and a silent auction.

When: Saturday, Oct 15, 10:00 a.m. –noon

Where: Fair and Broad Street, Guilford

Tickets: \$15 (\$5 for students)

For advance tickets or more information: Contact ann_weeden@ackc.org or (203) 458-2369



A few more dates ahead on the church calendar:

- Thursday, Dec 22, 2016, 5:00 p.m.--Libby Hollingsworth memorial service
- Monday January 16- Monday January 23, 2017.--First Presbyterian will be hosting Abraham's Tent in our Owens' Building. Watch the Inkling and Bulletin in the coming months. Questions and/to serve on Organizing Committee, Contact Brian Gr

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, at Benchmark Senior Living in Hamden.

Jeanette Murphy, for healing and strength.

Gretchen Sherman (Bonnie's daughter), who is recovering from hip replacement surgery.

Jesse Cooper, who is recovering from spinal surgery.

Joan Wells, who is recovering from pneumonia.

Prayers for those whose lives have been shattered by natural disaster, war or famine.

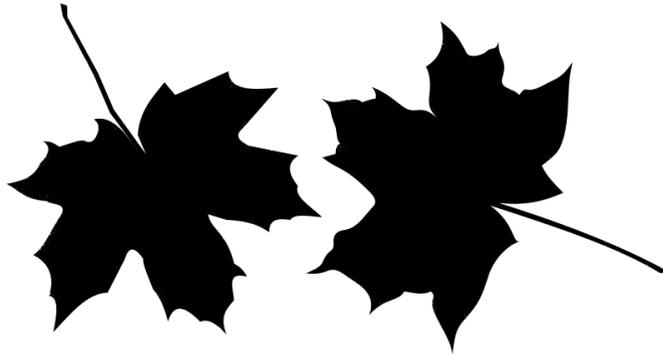
Prayers for all refugees, that they may find a home.

Andrew McCloskey, serving with the Peace Corps in Mozambique.

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.



October 2016

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
						1 9:00 am Yoga 9:30 am Women's AA 3:00 pm McCloskey Ordination 5:30 pm
2 9:30 a.m. Sunday School for all ages 10:45 a.m. Worship & Communion. 12:00 p.m. Friendship Hour	3 4:15 p.m. Musical Folk 6:00 p.m. Memorial Cairn	4 9:30 & 10:30 a.m. Musical Folk 6:00 p.m. CE Committee meeting 7:30 p.m. CLOC Committee meeting	5 5:30 p.m. Musical Folk 7:00 p.m. Choir Rehearsal	6 8:30 a.m. Staff Meeting 9:00am Yoga 1:00 pm Bible Study 7:00 p.m. GNHCC rehearsal	7 9:30 a.m. Musical Folk	8 9:00 am Yoga 9:30 am Women's AA
9 9:30 a.m. Sunday School for all ages 10:45 a.m. Worship 11:45 a.m. Friendship Hour	10 4:15 p.m. Musical Folk 6:00 p.m. Worship Committee	11 9:30 & 10:30 a.m. Musical Folk 7:15 p.m. Mission Committee	12 5:30 p.m. Musical Folk 7:00 p.m. Choir Rehearsal	13 8:30 a.m. Staff Meeting 9:00am Yoga 1:00 pm Bible Study 7:00 p.m. GNHCC rehearsal	14 9:30 a.m. Musical Folk 7:30 p.m. Folk Concert	15 9:00 am Yoga 9:30 am Women's AA
16 9:30 a.m. Sunday School for all ages 10:45 a.m. Worship 12:00 p.m. Potluck Lunch 12:00 p.m. CE Teacher Training	17 4:15 p.m. Musical Folk	18 9:30 & 10:30 a.m. Musical Folk 7:15 p.m. Session	19 5:30 p.m. Musical Folk 7:00 p.m. Choir Rehearsal 7:00 p.m. Survivors of Homicide	20 8:30 a.m. Staff Meeting 9:00am Yoga 1:00 pm Bible Study 7:00 p.m. GNHCC rehearsal	21 9:30 a.m. Musical Folk	22 9:00 am Yoga 9:30 am Women's AA
23 9:30 a.m. Sunday School for all ages 10:45 a.m. Worship 11:45 a.m. Friendship Hour	24 4:15 p.m. Musical Folk	25 9:30 & 10:30 a.m. Musical Folk	26 5:30 p.m. Musical Folk 7:00 p.m. Choir Rehearsal	27 8:30 a.m. Staff Meeting 9:00am Yoga 1:00 pm Bible Study 7:00 p.m. GNHCC rehearsal	28 9:30 a.m. Musical Folk	29 9:00 am Yoga 9:30 am Women's AA
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November 2016

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		1 9:30 & 10:30 a.m. Musical Folk 7:30 p.m. CLOC Committee meeting	2 5:30 p.m. Musical Folk 7:00 p.m. Choir Rehearsal	3 8:30 a.m. Staff Meeting 9:00am Yoga 1:00 pm Bible Study 7:00 p.m. GNHCC rehearsal	4 9:30 a.m. Musical Folk 7:30 p.m. Folk Concert	5 9:00 am Yoga 9:30 am Women's AA 5:30 pm Columbus House Dinner
6 9:30 a.m. Sunday School for all ages 10:45 a.m. Worship & Communion. 12:00 p.m. Friendship Hour	7 4:15 p.m. Musical Folk 6:00 p.m. Memorial Cairn	8 9:30 & 10:30 a.m. Musical Folk 7:15 p.m. Mission Committee meeting	9 5:30 p.m. Musical Folk 7:00 p.m. Choir Rehearsal	10 8:30 a.m. Staff Meeting 9:00am Yoga 1:00 pm Bible Study 7:00 p.m. GNHCC rehearsal	11 9:30 a.m. Musical Folk	12 9:00 am Yoga 9:30 am Women's AA
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20 9:30 a.m. Sunday School for all ages 10:45 a.m. Worship 11:45 a.m. Friendship Hour	21 4:15 p.m. Musical Folk	22 9:30 & 10:30 a.m. Musical Folk 7:00 p.m. GNHCC rehearsal	23 5:30 p.m. Musical Folk 7:00 p.m. Choir Rehearsal	24 THANKSGIVING	25	26 9:00 am Yoga 9:30 am Women's AA
27 9:30 a.m. Intergenerational Advent Program 10:45 a.m. Worship 11:45 a.m. Friendship Hour	28 4:15 p.m. Musical Folk	29 9:30 & 10:30 a.m. Musical Folk	30 5:30 p.m. Musical Folk 7:00 p.m. Choir Rehearsal			

INTERIM PASTOR: SUSAN DEE REISINGER

DIRECTOR OF MUSIC: PATRICK McCRELESS

CHURCH ADMINISTRATOR: MARTHA SMITH

DIRECTOR OF CHRISTIAN EDUCATION FOR
CHILDREN AND YOUTH: KIMBERLEY FAIS

CAMPUS CHAPLAIN AT YALE: EMILY THEUS

NURSERY CARE PROVIDER: NAOMI BRINTON

First Presbyterian Church

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Phone: (203) 562-5664

Email: firstpresbyterianchurch@gmail.com

Web site: www.fpcnh.org

Christian Education for All Ages

9:30 a.m.

Worship

10:45 a.m.

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

Please find your e-copy on the church website at fpcnh.org!