

The Inkling

The News of First Presbyterian Church

May 2013

Pentecost: Feel the Winds of the Spirit

The coming of the Holy Spirit fills the faithful with hope for new possibilities. Fifty days after the news of Jesus' resurrection, the community of disciples receives God's Spirit, empowering us to preach the gospel and witness to the wonder of God to make all things new, to bring hope out of despair, life out of death, and love out of fear. First Presbyterian Church seeks always and in all ways to witness to the Spirit's transforming power.



On Pentecost, May 19th, we will gather to hear the scripture story of that first Pentecost, when the disciples, still fearful, were emboldened to proclaim the truth about God's love and mercy, God's power to use ordinary human beings to bring about peace and justice and love.

Banners will wave, songs will be sung, prayers for a world made new will be offered to the God, whose breath is our breath and whose heart is our heart. During worship, Delia Annabel Ray will be baptized, offering us another way to see the wonder of God to claim us as God's own.

On May 5th, the Rev. Justin Ray will be the preacher. Justin has long been a part of the First Presbyterian Church family, having arrived over ten years ago to begin his M.Div. studies at Yale. He served as an intern in our midst, and was ordained to the ministry of Word and Sacrament in our sanctuary. Come and hear good news! During worship, the Sacrament of Holy Communion will be celebrated. Following worship, a brief service of healing and wholeness will be offered. Co-Pastor Maria LaSala will lead that service.

On May 12th, the youth of our congregation will lead us in word, song, and story. This is always a delightful morning as we hear from the young voices of our community. Come and be surprised. Come and be nurtured. Come and be moved by the reflections of our youth.

Mozart's Requiem June 2

The choir of First Presbyterian Church and the choir of Bethesda Lutheran Church invite the community to a performance of Mozart's Requiem (completed by R. Levin) and other choral and instrumental music, on Sunday, June 2, at 4 p.m. The hour-long program will take place at Bethesda Lutheran Church, 450 Whitney Avenue, New Haven. The Bethesda Choir and the First Presbyterian Church choir will perform, as will soloists and orchestra, under the direction of Lars Gjerde and Patrick McCreless. We promise an afternoon of inspiring and beautiful music making! Mozart died before completing his Requiem. Mozart scholar and performer Robert Levin recently made a rarely heard completion of the work. Join us for this special event! The event is free and open to the public. A free-will offering will be collected to support the next season of the Bethesda Music Series. A reception will follow the concert.

Walk Against Hunger Sunday May 5

Join a team from First Presbyterian Church for the 37th annual greater New Haven Walk Against Hunger. The Walk benefits the Connecticut Food Bank, which distributed more than 17 million pounds of food in 2012. The 3 mile walk begins at 2 p.m. in East Rock Park. A reception follows the Walk. If you can't walk, be a sponsor. For more information contact Brian Gray at 203-543-1191, brian_gry@yahoo.com.

“So Long, Farewell ...”

It's that time again. The month of May brings goodbyes into our midst. Students graduate, friends we have come to know and love, move away, called to new places for work and ministry. This month we will say goodbye to both the Jungkeit family and the Ray family, as well as several others who have been a part of our church community.

Rachael and Steve Jungkeit with their three children, Sabina, Elsa, and Augie leave first. We will say goodbye to them on Sunday, May 5th. Steve, who served as our Sabbatical Pastor last summer, has been called to be the Pastor of the Old Lyme Congregational Church. We've been blessed by Steve's leadership ... his preaching, his teaching, his work with Yale undergrads, and his service on the Session. Rachael has shared her gifts of music ministry during her time with us, leading us in song and in prayer. The community in Old Lyme are most fortunate to have called Steve. Rachael will continue teaching at Hamden Hall, but their home will be in Old Lyme.

May 26th we will be the final Sunday with the Ray family. Justin and Julie, arriving ten years ago from Minnesota, have been in New Haven much longer than they ever expected. But it is to Minnesota that they return ... with three children, Elliott, Milo and Delia. Justin served as an intern at First Presbyterian Church, and co-led, with Jenny Davis, the Presbyterian Undergraduates at Yale, until becoming a hospice chaplain. Justin was ordained in our sanctuary. Julie was ordained an Elder and currently serves on the CLOC committee. They return to Minnesota where Julie will begin working with the Minnesota Department of Public Health, and Justin will continue in ministry

We at First Presbyterian Church of New Haven knew this day would come ... and we are grateful to God for placing these two families in our midst for a time. We know that the ties that bind are strong and sure ... and we trust that the deep and abiding friendships formed in this community will hold us all fast.

Graduates!

May is a time to celebrate graduations. We congratulate:

Christopher McCloskey graduates from Clark University. Chris has been accepted to Princeton Theological Seminary where he will begin his studies toward a Masters of Divinity.

David Meeske graduates from Trinity University in San Antonio, Texas. David will begin a term with the Peace Corps. He leaves for Mongolia in late May.

Katie Clark graduates from the University of Vermont Medical School. Katie will begin her residency at the University of Virginia in Pediatric medicine.

Jessica VanDenend receives her Ph.D. from Union Theological Seminary. Jessica's work is in Empathy and Social Justice. She has been invited to teach in the Pastoral Care department at Yale Divinity School in the fall.

Renata Strause who has been an important part of the church choir, graduates from Yale Law School. Renata heads off to Ohio.

Ruthie Lovejoy graduates from Yale University. Ruthie has been a part of the Presbyterian Undergraduates at Yale for all four years. Ruthie will begin working for the Department of Defense, using her skills in Arabic.

Bo Reynolds will also graduate ... with one semester remaining. We'll anticipate seeing Bo again in the fall, but wish him congratulations this month.

Cinco de Mayo Potluck

Foods with a Mexican flavor will adorn the buffet table on Sunday, May 5th. Come with a family sized main dish, side dish, salad or dessert. A piñata filled with good things will be broken open for all to enjoy.

During the Potluck lunch we will also say goodbye to Steve and Rachael Jungkeit, Sabina, Elsa and Augie.



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. Bryce Wiebe leads the study.

The texts for May are:

May 5: Acts 16:6-15; Ps. 67; Rev. 21:10, 21:22-22:5; John 14:23 *or* John 5:1-9

May 12: Acts 16:16-34; Psalm 97; Rev. 22:12-14, 16-17, 20-21; John 17:20-26

May 19: Acts 2:1-21 *or* Gen. 11:1-9; Ps. 104:24-34, 35b; Rom 8:14-17 *or* Acts 2:1-21; John 14:8-17

May 26: Prov. 8:1-4, 22-31; Ps. 8; Rom 5:1-5; John 16:12-15



Adult Education in May

Deb Justice will continue her two-part series on music on Sunday, May 5. Deb will provide a brief background and discussion on Presbyterian music. What has the idea of uniquely Presbyterian music meant over time, and what does it mean for churches like First Presbyterian today? A life-long Presbyterian, Deb is a postdoctoral associate at Yale's Institute of Sacred Music. Deb has a masters degree in ethno-musicology from Wesleyan and a doctorate from Indiana University, and her research deals with how modern communities relate to musical traditions.

On Sunday, May 12 and 19, join Bill Goettler and Maria LaSala and members of the Sanctuary Task Force for a conversation about the emerging needs of the sanctuary. It's time again to think broadly about our church worship space, and also to consider the more immediate concerns, including a new carpet and sound system. What kind of art should add to our worship space? And what hymnal shall we use, if any? These and other questions will be considered. The class will meet in the Miller Gathering Hall. Coffee and tea will be provided.

Feed the World: An Offering of Letters

While you are enjoying the good food and good company at the Cinco de Mayo Potluck, make some time to stop by the Bread for the World "Offering of Letters" table. It's time to remind our representatives in Congress that we want all people, young and old, to have access to healthy and nutritious foods. Congress is responsible for passing legislation that could make food programs stronger, and make fresh fruits and vegetables easier to obtain. Nancy Rupp and Gary Cline will be waiting with pens, paper, addresses, and a sample letter.

Eve's Daughters – May 13 at First Presbyterian Church

The story of Michal, Saul's daughter and David's wife, will be the focus for the May gathering of Eve's Daughters, the women's interfaith bible study. Stuck between a rock and a hard place, this woman of our biblical tradition has much to teach us about women's resiliency in the face of patriarchy. The program, which begins at 6 p.m. with dinner, includes teaching, reflection, and a closing prayer time. If you would like to assist with the meal, please sign up at the Welcome Table, indicating a vegetarian main dish, salad, bread or dessert. For more information, please talk with Co-Pastor Maria LaSala.

Iraq/Afghanistan Memorial Cairn

Reclaiming the Prophetic Voice will again be marking the cost of the continuing violence in Iraq and Afghanistan by placing the April stone on the Memorial Cairn at the intersection of Broadway, Elm and Park streets in New Haven on Monday evening, May 6, at 6 p.m. This stone will be inscribed with the April death toll of US military personnel and the approximate documented numbers of Iraqi and Afghani civilians killed during that same period of time. Emily Melcher of the Unitarian Society of New Haven will be leading the vigil.



Film Series on Sunday evenings in June

Beginning on June 9th, First Presbyterian Church's Miller Gathering Hall will become a theater space on summer Sunday nights. Come at 6:30 p.m. and join friends to watch recently released documentaries and films covering current justice issues. Popcorn will be served.

Looking Ahead to June:

The End of the Church School Year is Sunday, June 2nd. We will celebrate with an Intergenerational Program at 9:30 a.m. Certificates will be awarded, songs will be sung, and treats shared. Following worship, all are invited to stay for the church picnic. The grills will be hot ... and burgers, both meatless and meat will be cooked. Please bring a family sized dish to share.

We will return to the summer worship schedule beginning on June 16th. Worship will begin at 9:30 a.m. and will take place in the air-conditioned Owens Community Building. Help will be needed each morning to set up chairs and distribute hymnals. If you would like to be a part of the set up and break down team, please be in touch with Bruce Peabody.

Vacation Bible School August 19 – 22: Register Now!

This summer's Vacation Bible School, "Come Aboard the VBS Friend-ship" will take place from Monday, August 19 through Thursday, August 22 from 9 a.m. until 2 p.m. in the Miller Gathering Hall of First Presbyterian Church. Once again we will be joined by our friends from Church of the Redeemer (UCC), First and Summerfield UMC, and Bethesda Lutheran Church for a fun filled week of songs, crafts, and field trips as we hear stories from the Bible about friendship. VBS is open to children rising to Kindergarten through 5th grade. The cost for the four day program, which includes snacks, is \$25, with a discounted price for families with more than one child. Registration forms are on the Welcome Table. If you'd like more information, please talk with Co-Pastor Maria LaSala.

Update from the Evangelical Theological Seminary in Cairo:

The Evangelical Presbyterian Church in Egypt is observing the Lenten Season in unity with our Coptic Orthodox Sisters and Brothers in our country. Our Western partners have entered the season following the celebration of the Resurrection of our Savior. We have witnessed significant signs of unity among the Christians including the presence of Pope Tawadros and five Coptic Orthodox Bishops at the investiture of the new Catholic Bishop on March 12. "At a time when Egyptian Christians are extremely discouraged by the fundamentalist Muslim leadership of the nation and feel marginalized and threatened, it was wonderful for two of the key leaders of the Egyptian Church to express their solidarity for one another and share a common vision for effective witness and the co-existence of all in Egypt." (Egyptian Bible Society) The outbreak of violence at St. Mark's Cathedral this past Sunday continues to draw Christians together alongside moderate Muslim voices.

Last week we celebrated the dedication of the Center for Middle Eastern Christianity on the campus of ETSC. This very special occasion provided another opportunity for Egyptian Christians to strengthen their common bonds. The vision that was cast by Dr. Atef Gendy and Dr. Kenneth Bailey in 2005 culminated in opening our beautifully designed space on the third floor of the original Cairo campus building. A growing library of books and documents will encourage serious study of the earliest centuries and growth of Christianity in our context. It is the mission of the CMEC to encourage Christians of the Middle East to appreciate their Christian history, heritage and tradition. Dr. Bailey, Dr. Samir Khalil, and Dr. Mark Swanson were the first three scholars to join in our celebration. We invite your prayers for the future impact of CMEC.

A Note from our Mission Co-Workers

Dear Rev. Maria La Sala, Rev. Bill Goettler, Session, Mission Committee, and First Presbyterian Church family,

We are so thankful for your support! After the Israelites crossed the Jordan River on dry ground, they gathered 12 stones together. The stones would serve as a reminder for their children and their children's children that the living God was with them and that the hand of the Lord is mighty. This testimony is one of the inspirations that led us to name our son "Jordan." Jordan's survival of a premature birth in South Sudan reminded us that the living God is indeed mighty. Jordan drew together people of many places, languages, cultures and ethnic groups for a common purpose: to sustain life. From the South Sudanese women who prayed beside his incubator, to friends who met us in Nairobi after our medical evacuation, to the countless prayers and emails of friends, family and congregations in the United States; people joined their hearts in faith.

In a similar manner, we see the living God moving in mighty ways in South Sudan through the ministry of reconciliation. privileged to work alongside our South Sudanese brothers and sisters who are laboring for peace, for healing, and for hope in their young nation. Christ calls each of us to reconcile people to God and to one another, and we feel particularly called to do so in the South Sudan. Thank you for your prayers and for your contribution of five hundred dollars at the end of last year, which allows us to serve Christ in the place God set in our hearts. We are deeply grateful for and humbled by your partnership.

*Rev. Shelvis Smith-Mather and Rev. Nancy Smith-Mather
RECONCILE International, Mission Co-Workers of the Presbyterian Church U.S.A. & Reformed Church in America*

Reflections from Ecumenical Advocacy Days 2013 – At God’s Table: Food for a Healthy World

Ecumenical Advocacy Days’ 2013 National Gathering in Washington, DC, April 5-8, focused on fighting injustices in the global food system and reauthorization of the U.S. Farm Bill.

We joined over 700 Christian advocates at the 11th Ecumenical Advocacy Days to seek Food Justice for a Healthy world. Over the weekend, we explored injustices in global food systems that leave one billion people hungry, create food price shocks that destabilize communities, aggressively market food with little nutritional value, leave many inner city neighborhoods ‘food deserts’ and generally harm God’s creation. At God’s Table, all are invited and fed, and the poorest in our midst are given a special place. We sought the abundance and equality reflected in the biblical image of God’s great banquet table. (Exodus 16:16-18 and Luke 14: 12-24)

The 2008 U.S. Farm Bill was allowed to expire in 2012, primarily because the House leadership would not bring the 2012 Farm bill to a vote. At the end of last year, the 3 main portions of it (SNAP, Commodity Subsidies and Crop Insurance Subsidies) were extended through September 30, 2013, but other critical but smaller programs that support training new farmers, expanding access to farmers markets, converting traditional farms to organic farms, promoting soil and water conservation, and some international food aid were left unfunded. These programs are referred to as “stranded programs”.

The focus of EAD this year was to educate attendees about many aspects of food justice and to prepare us for visits to our senators and representatives to ask for their support in four important areas.

- 1. Pass of a multi-year fully funded farm bill ... no more stop-gap extensions.*
- 2. Fully fund SNAP (Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program) and maintain its status as an income based benefit. There are forces in Congress that want to cut its funding and to change it to a block-grant to states. Over 47 million people in this country rely on SNAP to purchase food – 75% of the benefits go to children or elderly. The average allotment per person is just \$4-4.50 per day. Changing the funding or structure of the program could drastically reduce eligibility.*
- 3. Fully fund the stranded programs, including programs that make it possible for low income people to have access to fresh local food, and programs that promote conservation of God’s creation.*
- 4. Change the way we provide international food aid to source the aid close to the area needing assistance instead of producing and shipping food aid from the United States thus promoting local farmers instead of putting them out of business.*

On Monday, we met with legislative aides at Senator Blumenthal’s, Senator Murphy’s, and Congresswoman DeLauro’s offices and also made an impromptu visit to the House Agriculture Committee office. I am proud to report that we are well represented in Connecticut and that both senators and our representative fully support the passage of a multi-year farm bill that includes all the provisions important to us. The House Agriculture Committee is a different story. Not only are they influenced by large – some might say factory – farms, they must also follow the dictates of the House leadership.

If you are feeling like writing an email or two, you might write to the House of Representatives Committee on Agriculture in a very positive way. Thank them for the terrific work they are doing to provide food security, land conservation incentives and support for small local organic farmers. Tell them how important these programs are to you. The contacts are: Lauren Sturgeon, Legislative Assistant, lauren.sturgeon@mail.house.gov; Brent Blevins, Subcommittee Staff Director, brent.blevins@mail.house.gov and Riley Pagett, Staff Assistant, riley.pagett@mail.house.gov.

We viewed segments of a terrific film – A Place At the Table, Bread For The World is one of the sponsors, that we might want to watch together as a congregation. There may also be an opportunity for our congregation to participate in the food stamp challenge along with staff in Senator Murphy’s office. Congressman Jim McGovern of Massachusetts delivered a passionate keynote address in favor of the farm bill and increasing aid to those among us who suffer from food insecurity. He lived the food stamp challenge for a week.

We could not go to Washington without having a little fun. We started out on Friday visiting the MLK and FDR memorials as the cherry blossoms were just starting to open and ended our visit on Monday walking among cherry trees in full bloom after our visit to the Hill. EAD 2013 was a great experience, and we hope you will plan to attend EAD 2014 next spring.

Mary and Art Hunt

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 ...

Beth Aura Miller, recovering from a hospital stay.

Tommie Highwart, recovering from surgery.

Jeff Miller, David Miller's brother, recovering from surgery.

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

Blanca Thiebaut and her colleague Montserrat Serra, who work for the Spanish division of Doctors Without Borders, and who have been held captive for over a year.

Jordan Matos, James Smit, and Dillon LaChance, who are all serving overseas in the armed forces.

David Meeske, heading to Mongolia with the Peace Corps at the end of May.

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

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

May 2013

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
			1 9:30am Musical Folk 4:30pm Staff Meeting 7:00pm Choir Rehearsal	2 9:00am Yoga 11:00am Bible Study 4:00pm Musical Folk	3 10:00am Musical Folk	4 9:00am Yoga 9:30am Women's AA
5 9:30am Choir, Church School 10:45am Worship 12:00pm Cinco de Mayo Potluck	6 6:00pm Memorial Cairn	7 9:30am Musical Folk 4:00pm Musical Folk 7:30pm CLOC and Mission Committees	8 9:30am Musical Folk 4:30pm Staff Meeting 7:00pm Choir Rehearsal	9 9:00am Yoga 11:00am Bible Study 4:00pm Musical Folk	10 10:00am Musical Folk	11 9:00am Yoga 9:30am Women's AA
12 9:30am Choir, Church School 10:45am Worship 12:00pm Friendship Hour	13 6:00pm Eve's Daughters, FPC	14 9:30am Musical Folk 4:00pm Musical Folk	15 9:30am Musical Folk 4:30pm Staff Meeting 7:00pm Choir Rehearsal	16 9:00am Yoga 11:00am Bible Study 4:00pm Musical Folk	17 10:00am Musical Folk	18 9:00am Yoga 9:30am Women's AA
19 9:30am Choir, Church School 10:45am Worship 12:00pm Friendship Hour	20 6:00pm Worship committee	21 9:30am Musical Folk 4:00pm Musical Folk 7:15pm Session	22 9:30am Musical Folk 4:30pm Staff Meeting 7:00pm Choir Rehearsal	23 9:00am Yoga 11:00am Bible Study 4:00pm Musical Folk	24 10:00am Musical Folk	25 9:00am Yoga 9:30am Women's AA
26 9:30am Choir, Church School 10:45am Worship 12:00pm Friendship Hour	27	28 9:30am Musical Folk 4:00pm Musical Folk	29	30	31	

June 2013

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
						1 9:00am Yoga 9:30am Women's AA
2 9:30am Choir, Church School 10:45am Worship 12:00pm Church Picnic 2pm Mozart Requiem	3 6:00pm Memorial Cairn 6:00pm Worship committee	4 9:30am Musical Folk 4:00pm Musical Folk 7:30pm CLOC and Mission Committees	5 9:30am Musical Folk 4:30pm Staff Meeting	6 9:00am Yoga 11:00am Bible Study 4:00pm Musical Folk	7 10:00am Musical Folk	8 9:00am Yoga 9:30am Women's AA
9 10:45am Worship 12:00pm Friendship Hour 6:30pm Film Series	10	11 9:30am Musical Folk 4:00pm Musical Folk	12 9:30am Musical Folk 4:30pm Staff Meeting	13 9:00am Yoga 11:00am Bible Study 4:00pm Musical Folk	14 10:00am Musical Folk	15 9:00am Yoga 9:30am Women's AA
16 9:30am Worship 10:30am Friendship Hour 6:30pm Film Series	17	18 9:30am Musical Folk 4:00pm Musical Folk 7:15pm Session	19 9:30am Musical Folk 4:30pm Staff Meeting	20 9:00am Yoga 11:00am Bible Study 4:00pm Musical Folk	21 10:00am Musical Folk	22 9:00am Yoga 9:30am Women's AA
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30 9:30am Worship 10:30a, Friendship Hour 6:30pm Film Series						

CO-PASTORS: BILL GOETTLER & MARIA LASALA

DIRECTOR OF MUSIC: PATRICK McCRELESS

CHRISTIAN EDUCATOR: BRYCE WIEBE

PARISH ASSOCIATE: SUE ASHER

YDS INTERN: 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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Please find your e-copy on the church website at fpcnh.org! We hope to stop printing most copies of the Inkling, moving to an entirely digital format. So take a moment today to check out the newsletter online.