

# The Inkling

The News of First Presbyterian Church

November 2013

## Stewardship 2014: "The Many Faces of Stewardship"

This is the season for Stewardship. It's that time of year when we consider how we will be stewards of all that God has granted to us in this church we call home, and in outreach to our city and to our world. David Miller is the Chair of the Stewardship Committee this year. In the first Minute for Stewardship offered during worship on Sunday, October 20<sup>th</sup>, David introduced this year's theme, "The Faces of Stewardship." Sharing pictures of our community of faith at work, David invited us to see us in the sanctuary as we worship God, in the classrooms where we learn together in faith, in our acts of justice and caring where we share God's love with one another and with those in need, through our mission and caring ministry both locally and in the wider world, and in the many other ways where we enjoy the company of colleagues and friends, new and old.



We are blessed to be an active and engaged congregation. And we certainly have much for which to be grateful. They say 'a picture is worth a thousand words.' And David, our resident photographer has thousands of pictures of this faith community to prove it. We could call it the First Pres "family album". These pictures convey a faith community with a shared ministry of caring for and nurturing one another, with a concern for those in need within our wider community, and, a sense of responsibility to care for the place where we worship and learn. Each week during this Stewardship season you will receive a note with the week's "Faces of Stewardship," as we invite you to prayerfully consider where... when... and how you might be "pictured" in our First Presbyterian Church family album.

Our annual Stewardship Celebration Luncheon will be held on Sunday, November 10th. Over the next three weeks, we will see and hear about our shared Stewardship in worship. You will also receive a letter and a pledge card, inviting your gifts. Throughout the year we will put a face on many of those acts of Stewardship within our community of faith. We will celebrate our past and continued Stewardship. And we will extend an invitation to you to contemplate, pray about, and commit to return a portion of your time, talent, and treasure in support of Gods' work... here in this place and wherever God leads.

So indeed, now is the season for Stewardship. Thank you. - David Miller, chair

## Sing a Song of the Saints of God

All Saints' Sunday is November 3rd. This is the day when the church celebrates and gives thanks for the lives of those beloved to our community and to God who have died in the past year. Their faithful witness lives on in our acts of justice, mercy, and kindness. As a worshiping community we will remember these faithful friends, naming them during the worship service that morning. Co-Pastor Maria LaSala will be the preacher. The Sacrament of Holy Communion will be shared. Together we raise our voices in praise and in thanksgiving.

## Witness Against the War in Afghanistan

Reclaiming the Prophetic Voice will again be marking the cost of the continuing war in Afghanistan by placing the October stone on the Memorial Cairn at the intersection of Broadway, Elm and Park streets in New Haven on Monday evening, 6 p.m., November 4. This stone will be inscribed with the October death total of US military personnel and the approximate documented numbers of Iraqi and Afghani civilians killed during that same period of time. All are welcome.

## Don't Forget: Daylight Saving Time

Just a Reminder to Fall Back! Daylight Saving Time ends at 2:00 a.m. on Sunday, November 3. Turn back your clocks by one hour!

## Feasting on the Word

Join friends around the table for a time of feasting ... on good food and on God's good Word. Our November date is still being determined. Stay tuned for more information. The program will begin at 6 p.m. with a pot luck dinner and includes some singing, praying, and reflecting on scripture. All are welcome.



## Martin Johnstone to preach on Sunday, November 17<sup>th</sup>

Rev. Dr. Martin Johnstone will be our guest teacher in the adult education Sunday School class and our guest preacher on Sunday, November 17<sup>th</sup>. Martin, an ordained minister of the Church of Scotland (Presbyterian), served for 11 years as a parish minister in one of Scotland's economically poorest neighborhoods. He was then appointed to a national role within the Church. His work is in four main areas: He coordinates the Church of Scotland's work within the poorest 5% of neighborhoods in Scotland. Over the last decade the Church of Scotland has had a deliberate policy of significantly increasing resources in its poorest communities, for example, in doubling the levels of staffing in priority area parishes. He is the voluntary Chief Executive of Faith in Community Scotland – an anti-poverty agency which resources faith groups to tackle poverty. It operates in Scotland's poorest communities, with dedicated teams in Glasgow and Dundee.

Martin also facilitates the work of Scotland's Poverty Truth Commission ([www.povertytruthcommission.org](http://www.povertytruthcommission.org)). Over the last three years, the Commission has brought together some of Scotland's poorest citizens with some of its most influential to advocate for changes in the way that the symptoms and causes of poverty are addressed. At the heart of the Commission's message is the clear assertion that poverty will never be adequately understood and addressed until those who experience it are helping to shape, deliver and evaluate anti-poverty policy. If all of that is not enough, Martin chairs Glasgow's Third Sector Forum which brings together the city's 2,400 charities, social enterprises and volunteering agencies. He is currently coordinating the development of an integrated anti-poverty strategy for Glasgow – Scotland's poorest city. Join us in welcoming Martin on Sunday, November 17<sup>th</sup>.

## Men's Breakfast



We will have a men's breakfast on Saturday, November 2 at 8 a.m. at Manjares in Westville, just around the corner from Whalley Avenue on West Rock Avenue. Pancakes and eggs and waffles and sausage plus some Bible study and time for reflection are on the menu on the first Saturday of November.

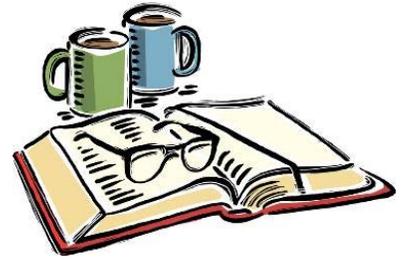
## Texts for the Sundays in November:

**November 3:** Hab. 1:1-4, 2:1-4; Ps. 119:137-144; 2 Thess. 4:1-4, 11-12; Luke 19:1-10

**November 10:** Hag. 1:15b-2:9; Ps. 145:1-5, 17-21 or Ps. 98; 2 Thess. 2:1-5, 13-17; Luke 20:27-38

**November 17:** Isa. 65:17-25; Isa. 12; 2 Thess. 3:6-13; Luke 21:5-19

**November 24:** Jer. 23:1-6; Luke 1:68-79; Col. 1:11-20; Luke 23:33-43



## Movies with a Conscience:

### A series of films in November at First Presbyterian Church

Join friends to view challenging films that ask some of the right questions.

*The Other Son* -- Sunday, November 3, 6:30 p.m.



As he prepares to join the Israeli army for his national service, Joseph discovers he is not his parents' biological son, but that he was inadvertently switched at birth with Yassin, the son of a Palestinian family from the West Bank. This revelation turns the lives of these two families upside-down, forcing them to reassess their respective identities, their values and their beliefs. This moving and powerful movie will probably change you a bit forever.

*Happy New Year* -- Sunday, November 10, 6:30 p.m.



*Happy New Year* is the story of "Sgt. Cole Lewis" who, mentally and physically scarred by his time served in Iraq and Afghanistan, finds humanity, compassion and friendship in a group of similarly injured veterans at a remote Veterans Hospital.

"*Happy New Year* provides a rare glimpse into the darker ramifications of war that rarely take center stage in the national dialogue. This struggle has nothing to do with political motives or tactical movements, but rather the battle to retain sanity against impossible odds." (Eric Kohn, Criticwire)

*Escape Fire* -- Sunday, November 17, 6:30 p.m.



*Escape Fire* examines the powerful forces maintaining the status quo, a medical industry designed for quick fixes rather than prevention, for profit-driven care rather than patient-driven care. After decades of resistance, a movement to bring innovative high-touch, low-cost methods of prevention and healing into our high-tech, costly system is finally gaining ground. Award-winning filmmakers Matthew Heineman and Susan Froemke follow dramatic human stories as well as leaders fighting to transform healthcare at the highest levels of medicine, industry, government, and even the US military. *Escape Fire* is about finding a way out. It's about saving the health of a nation.

## Looking Ahead to December

Advent is upon us and there will be many opportunities to prepare for the birth of our Savior, Jesus in worship, in service, and in celebrating the joy we know as a community of friends gathered in faith. The Sacrament of Holy Communion will be offered each Sunday in Advent. Music of the season will fill our hearts. The Choir will present choruses and carols of the season on Sunday, December 15<sup>th</sup>. The Christmas Dinner will be held following worship that day. There will be good news of great joy proclaimed each week as we pray, O Come, O Come, Emmanuel.

## Adult Education in November

November 3 and 10 - A New Look at Immigration: A conversation with Grace Yukich, assistant professor of sociology at Quinnipiac University and author of *One Family Under God: Immigration Politics and Progressive Religion in America*.

*Behind the walls of a church, Liliana and her baby eat, sleep, and wait. Outside, protestors shout "Go back to Mexico!" and "Even heaven has a gate!" They demand that the U.S. government deport Liliana, which would separate her from her husband and children. Who is Liliana? A criminal? A hero? And why does the church protect her?*

In *One Family Under God*, Grace Yukich draws on extensive field observation and interviews to reveal how immigration is changing religious activism in the U.S. In the face of nationwide immigration raids and public hostility toward "illegal" immigration, the New Sanctuary Movement emerged in 2007 as a religious force seeking to humanize the image of undocumented immigrants. Building coalitions between religious and ethnic groups that had rarely worked together in the past, activists revived and adapted sanctuary, the tradition of providing shelter for fugitives in houses of worship. Through sanctuary, they called on Americans to support legislation that would keep immigrant families together. But they sought more than political change: they also pursued religious transformation, challenging the religious nationalism in America's faith communities by portraying undocumented immigrants as fellow children of God. In her book, Grace shows progressive religious activists struggling with the competing goals of newly diverse coalitions, fighting to expand the meaning of "family values" in a diversifying nation. Through these struggles, the activists are both challenging the public dominance of the religious right and creating conflicts that could doom their chances of impacting immigration reform. Grace has been attending First Presbyterian for the past year and is a native of Alabama.

November 17 – a conversation with Martin Johnstone from the Poverty Initiative in Glasgow. Please see the article about Martin in this Inking.

## Dinner with Friends

The next Dinner with Friends is Saturday, November 9 at 6 pm. Everyone is welcome to share terrific food and conversation with First Presbyterian friends in this small dinner party setting. If enough friends RSVP, we will have multiple hosts. Each host plans the meal at their home. A host will contact you, give you directions to their home and ask you to contribute something to the meal. Future dinner dates are January 25, 2014 and April 12, 2014. Our Dinner With Friends coordinators are Art and Mary Hunt. Rsvp at the Welcome Table or via email to [mary@cheswood.com](mailto:mary@cheswood.com) or [art@cheswood.com](mailto:art@cheswood.com).

## Peace and Justice Dinner Group

The Mission Committee's Peace and Justice Group meets the second and fourth Mondays each month at 6 p.m. If you would like to learn more about the work of this group, please contact Mary Hunt ([mary@cheswood.com](mailto:mary@cheswood.com)), Ralph Jones ([rjmhs@gmail.com](mailto:rjmhs@gmail.com)), Bonnie Sherman ([shermanbonnie@att.net](mailto:shermanbonnie@att.net)) or Teddy Hogle ([teddyjoy@comcast.net](mailto:teddyjoy@comcast.net)). The November meetings are Monday, November 11 and Monday, November 25.

## Alternative Gift Market

Alternative Gift Market will be back during the Advent season to entice you to consider "green" gifts for your family, loved ones and friends. Alternative Gift Market creates an opportunity for others to give gifts of food, shelter, medicine, water, education and so much more for needy people throughout our nation and the world. AGI's policy each year is to evaluate and select certain projects that are life-changing and sustainable. AND all contributions are tax-deductible! Please consider a financial contribution even if it's not for your family or friends. Every dollar makes a difference to help less fortunate people live a better life. Open for business during friendship hour after worship service.

--Pat Wales

## Abraham's Tent

For the 5<sup>th</sup> year First Presbyterian Church will be participating in Abraham's Tent. Over 20 congregations in the Greater New Haven area will provide meals and overnight shelter for 12 homeless men during the coldest months of the year. The program is coordinated through Columbus House. Each congregation will take one week beginning Dec 1 through March 20<sup>th</sup>. First Presbyterian Church will be the host beginning on January 13<sup>th</sup> through January 20<sup>th</sup>.

Abraham's Tent has been a rewarding experience. Each year over 70 members have cooked and served meals, acted as host and overnight coordinators. You are invited to participate again this year or for the first time. A meeting is planned for Sunday November 24<sup>th</sup> during the Friendship Hour. Please consider cooking, offering hospitality during the evening and morning hours, or serving as overnight hosts. If you have questions call or email Brian Gray, 203-543-1191, [brian\\_gry@yahoo.com](mailto:brian_gry@yahoo.com) or talk with the Co-Pastors Bill and Maria.

### Thanksgiving Special Offering

More than one out of every seven children lived in poverty in Connecticut last year. That's an increase of more than 17% since the beginning of the great recession of 2008. And it hasn't been getting better since that recession "ended." Connecticut Voices for Children notes that at the start of the Great Recession, Connecticut experienced the largest increase in child poverty of any state in the nation. It is hard to be thankful on an empty stomach.

Each year, through our Thanksgiving Special Offering, First Presbyterian Church joins people and institutions around New Haven to help Christian Community Action, Connecticut Food Bank and Downtown Evening Soup Kitchen provide a true thanksgiving meal to the many who could not otherwise afford it. Your thanksgiving special offering will be divided 40%-40%-20% between these organizations. This offering is a major opportunity to give thanks by contributing directly to the well being of our neighbors.

**Christian Community Action's** program serves families, particularly in New Haven's Hill neighborhood. Last year, they distributed 2,333 baskets! **DESK – Downtown Evening Soup Kitchen** – serves meals to New Haven's homeless individuals throughout the week. Each year **Connecticut Food Bank** supports these and many other local efforts by providing food and resources to approximately 600 community-based programs in six of the state's eight counties: Fairfield, Litchfield, Middlesex, New Haven, New London and Windham.

In addition to financial contributions, there are opportunities to volunteer. CCA needs help sorting and preparing the Thanksgiving baskets. That will be on Saturday, November 23<sup>rd</sup> and Sunday, November 24<sup>th</sup>. DESK needs volunteers on-site Wednesday, November 27<sup>th</sup> and Thursday, November 28 to help prepare meals, set up the dining room for the Thanksgiving meal, and package and deliver meals to the homebound, staying a short time to visit. Children with parents are most welcome, and helpful, in both these efforts. SIGN-UP is required. See Ralph Jones [[rcjmhs@gmail.com](mailto:rcjmhs@gmail.com) or 203-248-7386].

**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 Ron and Tommie Highwart, Ken Haynam, Jim Owens, Paul Turner's mother Sylvia Turner, Joan Wells' daughter-in-law Annabelle, and John Wood, Becky Cline's father.

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.

# November 2013

| Sunday   | Monday   | Tuesday  | Wednesday   | Thursday  | Friday                                | Saturday  |
|--|--|--|---|---|---------------------------------------|---|
|  |  |  |   |   | 1<br><br>7:30 p.m. CT<br>Folk Concert | 2<br>8:00 am Men's<br>Breakfast<br>9:00am<br>Yoga<br>9:30am<br>Women's AA |
| 3<br>9:30am Choir,<br>Church School<br>10:45am<br>Worship<br>12:00pm<br>Friendship<br>Hour<br>6:30pm Movies<br>with a<br>Conscience    | 4<br>4:15pm<br>Musical Folk<br>5:15pm<br>Musical Folk<br>6:00pm<br>Memorial Cairn<br>6:15pm Worship<br>Committee | 5<br>9:30am<br>Musical Folk<br>10:30am<br>Musical Folk<br>6:30pm CE<br>Committee<br>7:30pm CLOC<br>and Mission<br>Committees | 6<br>10:00am<br>Musical Folk<br>11:00am<br>Musical Folk<br>4:30pm<br>Staff Meeting<br>5:30pm<br>Musical Folk<br>7:00pm Choir  | 7<br>9:00am<br>Yoga<br>5:30pm<br>Musical Folk<br>6:30pm<br>GNHCC  | 8                                     | 9<br>9:00am Yoga<br>9:30am<br>Women's AA<br>6pm Dinner<br>with Friends    |
| 10<br>9:30am Choir,<br>Church School<br>10:45am<br>Worship<br>12:00pm<br>Stewardship<br>Lunch<br>6:30pm Movies<br>with a<br>Conscience | 11<br>4:15pm<br>Musical Folk<br>5:15pm<br>Musical Folk<br>6:00pm Peace<br>and Justice<br>Dinner Group            | 12<br>9:30am<br>Musical Folk<br>10:30am<br>Musical Folk  | 13<br>10:00am<br>Musical Folk<br>11:00am<br>Musical Folk<br>4:30pm<br>Staff Meeting<br>5:30pm<br>Musical Folk<br>7:00pm Choir | 14<br>9:00am<br>Yoga<br>5:30pm<br>Musical Folk<br>6:30pm<br>GNHCC | 15                                    | 16<br><br>9:00am<br>Yoga<br>9:30am<br>Women's AA                          |
| 17<br>9:30am Choir,<br>Church School<br>10:45am<br>Worship<br>12:00pm<br>Friendship<br>Hour<br>6:30pm Movies<br>with a<br>Conscience   | 18<br>4:15pm<br>Musical Folk<br>5:15pm<br>Musical Folk   | 19<br>9:30am<br>Musical Folk<br>10:30am<br>Musical Folk<br>7:15pm<br>Session   | 20<br>10:00am<br>Musical Folk<br>11:00am<br>Musical Folk<br>4:30pm<br>Staff Meeting<br>5:30pm<br>Musical Folk<br>7:00pm Choir | 21<br>9:00am<br>Yoga<br>5:30pm<br>Musical Folk<br>6:30pm<br>GNHCC | 22                                    | 23<br>9:00am<br>Yoga<br>9:30am<br>Women's AA                              |
| 24<br>9:30am Choir,<br>Church School<br>10:45am<br>Worship<br>12:00pm<br>Friendship<br>Hour  | 25<br>4:15pm<br>Musical Folk<br>5:15pm<br>Musical Folk<br>6:00pm Peace<br>and Justice<br>Dinner Group            | 26<br>9:30am<br>Musical Folk<br>10:30am<br>Musical Folk  | 27<br>10:00am<br>Musical Folk<br>11:00am<br>Musical Folk<br>4:30pm<br>Staff Meeting<br>5:30pm<br>Musical Folk<br>7:00pm Choir | 28<br><br>Thanksgiving  | 29                                    | 30<br>9:00am<br>Yoga<br>9:30am<br>Women's AA                              |

# December 2013

| Sunday   | Monday   | Tuesday   | Wednesday  | Thursday   | Friday    | Saturday  |
|--|--|---|--|--|-----------|---|
| <b>1</b><br>9:30am Choir,<br>Church School<br>10:45am<br>Worship<br>12:00pm<br>Friendship<br>Hour      | <b>2</b><br>4:15pm<br>Musical Folk<br>5:15pm<br>Musical Folk<br>6:00pm<br>Memorial Cairn<br>Committee<br>6:15pm Worship<br>Committee | <b>3</b><br>9:30am<br>Musical Folk<br>10:30am<br>Musical Folk<br>6:30pm CE<br>Committee<br>7:30pm CLOC<br>and Mission<br>Committees | <b>4</b><br>10:00am<br>Musical Folk<br>11:00am<br>Musical Folk<br>4:30pm<br>Staff Meeting<br>5:30pm<br>Musical Folk<br>7:00pm Choir  | <b>5</b><br>9:00am<br>Yoga<br>5:30pm<br>Musical Folk<br>6:30pm<br>GNHCC  | <b>6</b>  | <b>7</b><br>9:00am<br>Yoga<br>9:30am<br>Women's AA  |
| <b>8</b><br>9:30am Choir,<br>Church School<br>10:45am<br>Worship<br>12:00pm<br>Friendship<br>Hour      | <b>9</b><br>4:15pm<br>Musical Folk<br>5:15pm<br>Musical Folk<br>6:00pm Peace<br>and Justice<br>Dinner Group                          | <b>10</b><br>9:30am<br>Musical Folk<br>10:30am<br>Musical Folk  | <b>11</b><br>10:00am<br>Musical Folk<br>11:00am<br>Musical Folk<br>4:30pm<br>Staff Meeting<br>5:30pm<br>Musical Folk<br>7:00pm Choir | <b>12</b><br>9:00am<br>Yoga<br>5:30pm<br>Musical Folk<br>6:30pm<br>GNHCC | <b>13</b> | <b>14</b><br>9:00am Yoga<br>9:30am<br>Women's AA    |
| <b>15</b><br>9:30am Choir,<br>Church<br>School<br>10:45am<br>Worship<br>12:00pm<br>Christmas<br>Dinner | <b>16</b><br>4:15pm<br>Musical Folk<br>5:15pm<br>Musical Folk  | <b>17</b><br>9:30am<br>Musical Folk<br>10:30am<br>Musical Folk<br>7:15pm Session  | <b>18</b><br>10:00am<br>Musical Folk<br>11:00am<br>Musical Folk<br>4:30pm<br>Staff Meeting<br>5:30pm<br>Musical Folk<br>7:00pm Choir | <b>19</b><br>9:00am<br>Yoga<br>5:30pm<br>Musical Folk<br>6:30pm<br>GNHCC | <b>20</b> | <b>21</b><br>9:00am<br>Yoga<br>9:30am<br>Women's AA |
| <b>22</b><br>9:30am Choir,<br>Church<br>School<br>10:45am<br>Worship<br>12:00pm<br>Friendship<br>Hour  | <b>23</b><br>4:15pm<br>Musical Folk<br>5:15pm<br>Musical Folk<br>6:00pm Peace<br>and Justice<br>Dinner Group                         | <b>24</b><br>Christmas Eve<br>7:30pm and<br>11pm<br>Christmas Eve<br>Services   | <b>25</b><br>Christmas Day   | <b>26</b><br>9:00am<br>Yoga<br>5:30pm<br>Musical Folk<br>6:30pm<br>GNHCC | <b>27</b> | <b>28</b><br>9:00am<br>Yoga<br>9:30am<br>Women's AA |
| <b>29</b><br>9:30am Choir,<br>Church<br>School<br>10:45am<br>Worship<br>12:00pm<br>Friendship<br>Hour  | <b>30</b><br>4:15pm<br>Musical Folk<br>5:15pm<br>Musical Folk  | <b>31</b><br>9:30am<br>Musical Folk<br>10:30am<br>Musical Folk  |  |  |           |   |

CO-PASTORS: BILL GOETTLER & MARIA LASALA

DIRECTOR OF MUSIC: PATRICK McCRELESS

PARISH ASSOCIATE: SUE ASHER

CHURCH ADMINISTRATOR: MIRIAM SAMUELSON

CAMPUS CHAPLAIN TO YALE: HANNAH DREITCER

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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**

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