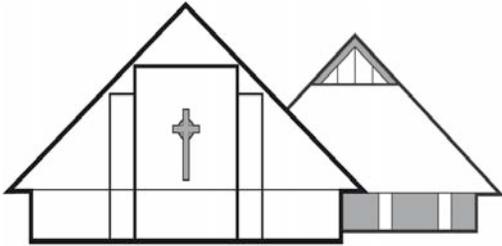


The Inkling

The News of First Presbyterian Church

February 2011

125th Anniversary Celebration



It's finally here! Our months of preparation now usher in the 125th Anniversary Celebration. Mark your calendars for a celebratory luncheon after worship on Sunday, February 20th. A lovely lunch will be prepared for one and all, from our wee ones to those who have been a part of this congregation for over 50 years. It is sure to be a day of wonder and joy as we recall the faithful witness of the congregation that has called New Haven home for the past 125 years.

Committee members have been hard at work identifying important and transitional moments in our history as both a congregation and within the wider community of Presbyterians. At the lunch, we'll hear stories about our past, as we gaze upon the community of faith who will lead us into the future. You don't want to miss this event! An invitation to the lunch is below. There's a place at the table waiting just for you.

Celebrate!

Members and friends will join together Sunday, February 20th, following worship in the Miller Gathering Hall for a

GALA LUNCHEON

In celebration of the 125th Anniversary of
The First Presbyterian Church of New Haven
Your company is requested.

RSVP by Sunday February 13 by responding to firstpresbyterianchurch@gmail.com or signing up at the Welcome Table. Please let us know who in your family will be attending.

A Brief History of FPCNH

A brief history of First Presbyterian Church of New Haven will be available in booklet form at the lunch. The story of our faithful witness, which began on College Street and now lives on Whitney Avenue is told through the lives of its pastors. Written by Alan Hogle, co-chair of the Anniversary Committee, this book will offer a look back in time and into the present day.

History Minutes during Worship

Rona Johnston Gordon, chair of the Worship Committee has organized "History Minutes," to be shared each Sunday morning during the Anniversary Celebration month. Join us as we travel through time, learning about the movement of the Presbyterian Church in New England, and the congregation of First Presbyterian Church's involvement in mission and ministry in the city of New Haven. During worship each Sunday, the congregation will sing a hymn from the time period highlighted that morning. On Sunday, February 20th, the morning's worship service will include readings from previous pastors, prayers from past generations, and music leading us onward in faith.

Concert with Gavin Black in Celebration of Our 125th Anniversary

On the evening of Sunday, February 27, we will continue our musical celebration of our 125th anniversary with a concert given by Gavin Black, a musician who grew up in the neighborhood of First Presbyterian Church New Haven, and who is now a prominent harpsichordist and organist in Princeton.

Gavin is the Director of the Princeton Early Keyboard Center, and he is known for his recordings of seventeenth-century keyboard music on the PGM label. He studied organ and harpsichord with Paul Jordan and Eugene Roan, and conducting with Jahja Ling and Otto-Werner Mueller, and attended Princeton University and Westminster Choir College. He served as Associate University Organist at Princeton from 1977 to 1979, while a student there, and was Organist and Senior Choir Director at Hillsborough Reformed Church, Millstone, New Jersey, from 1988 until 1994. He has been a teacher of organ, harpsichord, clavichord and continuo-playing since 1979, teaching from also at Westminster Choir College and at the Westminster Conservatory of Music.

As a performer, Gavin Black has focused on 17th-century keyboard music, especially music of Dutch, German, or Italian origin, and on the organ music of Bach, which he has performed in its entirety. In the year 2002 he performed Bach's Art of the Fugue on the new organ at the Princeton Theological Seminary, and elsewhere. His recording of harpsichord music of Sweelinck, played on a Philip Tyre copy of a Ruckers transposing double, was recently released by Centaur Records.



Abraham's Tent: A Reflection from Micah Luce

Going home at night has rarely been as frustrating as it was last week. My pantry is full. My entertainment choices are endless. My house is warm. My bed is cozy. Remembering, however, that I have almost a dozen new acquaintances who have few of the above luxuries made those comforts a near-curse.

*Stepping into the Miller Gathering Hall on Monday night, January 17th, I was greeted by 2 of our volunteers who arrived before I did, nearly an hour early. This pleasant surprise of eager workers already about their jobs set the tone for our week of service with Abraham's Tent from January 17th-24th. The steady and diligent work of our over 75 volunteers made the week a joy for everyone involved. However, knowing the work was never about **us** is what turned that joy into a truly spiritual event. The work was instead focused on the 10 homeless men of New Haven who joined us nightly for a hot meal, some great conversation and laughs, a game or movie, and a simple cot for 7 or 8 hours of comfortable sleep before waking early to a warm breakfast, hot coffee, and grabbing a lunch on their way out to live again in the cold day where they call the outdoors their home.*

For 12 hours of each day in our building, however, the men we came to love were as much a blessing to us as we hoped to be to them. Dustin's blue hair and endearing Southern accent, Linwood's constant laughter and gentle spirit, James's guitar skills, and Paul's quick wit are just a small example of the gifts we received from the men—gifts that are a daily reminder for us to share our own: not just resources of time, money, and preparation once a year with Abraham's Tent, but also the subtle ways we treat both strangers and friends in Christian love as taught by our Creator. Thanks to the work of our volunteers, the leadership of our pastors, and, most of all, the bright attitudes of these men, Abraham's Tent was a smooth and truly "God-sized" experience for all of us involved where such love was learned, given, and received.

Maybe if I can all reflect on this a bit more, I can go to my house each night not frustrated, but both thankful and hopeful amidst the reality of injustice toward these 10 men who are so very like me. May we all do the same.



Join us for Bible Study! The Lectionary Bible Study meets on Thursday Mornings at 11:30 a.m. in the Miller Gathering Hall. Each week we read and reflect on the texts for the upcoming Sunday. Co-Pastor Maria LaSala leads the study. *Please note that there will be no Bible Study on Thursday, February 3.*

The texts for February are:

February 6: Isaiah 58:1-9a; Psalm 112:1-9 (10); 1 Corinthians 2:1-12 (13-16); Matthew 5:13-20

February 13: Deuteronomy 30:15-20; Psalm 119:1-8; 1 Corinthians 3:1-9; Matthew 5:21-37

February 20: Leviticus 19:1-2, 9-18; Psalm 119:33-40; 1 Corinthians 3:10-11, 16-23; Matthew 5:38-48

February 27: Isaiah 49:8-16a; Psalm 131:1-3; 1 Corinthians 4:1-5; Matthew 6:24-34

Adult Education with Steve Davis

"Muslims and Arabic Christians on Creation," a four part series led by Professor Steve Davis will be the adult education topic this month. Join Steve on Sunday mornings at 9:30 a.m. in the Miller Gathering Hall as he leads us in an exploration of the Biblical account of Creation from both a Christian and Muslim perspective.

The first week, February 6th, we will explore, "Creation in the Qur'an."

February 13 – Week Two: "Creation in the Qur'an"

February 20 – Week Three: "Creation in Qur'anic Commentary"

February 27 – Week Four: "Creation in Arabic Christian Commentary"

Steve has spent significant time living in Egypt and working with Arab Christian and Muslim communities. When in New Haven, Steve is Professor and Director of Undergraduate Studies (DUS) in the Department of Religious Studies at Yale University.

Looking ahead to March, Shannon Craigo-Snell will lead a course entitled, "Church and Theater in Conversation." In this four part series, the class will explore connections between church and theater, in conversation with four influential modern directors. For lovers of theater and theology!

Join us at 9:30 a.m. each Sunday morning. Coffee and tea will be available.

Eve's Daughters

The next gathering of Eve's Daughters, the women's Interfaith Bible Study shared with the women of Congregation Mishkan Israel, will be held on Monday, February 28th at 6:30 p.m. The meeting, which begins with a prepared dinner, will take place at Congregation Mishkan Israel on Ridge Road in Hamden. The evening's discussion will look to the "Song of Songs," a love poem. Sign up at the Welcome Table and be a part of this dynamic interfaith conversation. Co-Pastor Maria LaSala and Rabbi Alison Adler lead the Bible Study.

Women at the Well will not meet in February. We'll meet again on Wednesday, March 16th for a Lenten conversation about feminist perspectives of sin and forgiveness. Mark your calendars now!

Calvin's Brothers, a theological discussion group for the men of the church, will take place on Thursday, February 17th, beginning at 6 p.m. Bruce Peabody will be facilitating the conversation. Sign up at the Welcome Table or RSVP to firstpresbyterianchurch@gmail.com. Any further questions, please speak with YDS Intern Bryce Wiebe.

Ice-Skating Trip for Middle School and Senior High Youth Groups

The Middle School and Senior High Youth Groups will go on the third annual ice skating trip at the Ralph Walker Rink on Sunday, February 6th. Both youth groups will gather in the Middle School Sunday school classroom after Friendship Hour, where we will have a pizza lunch before we hit the ice! Skates are available for rental at the rink. The group will return to the church for hot cocoa before the 3:00 pick-up time. Please see Nancy McLaren with questions.



The Senior High Youth Group will gather on February 13th after Friendship Hour for lunch and a time of fellowship.

More Youth Groups News!

The Middle School Youth Group will gather again on March 13th.
The Senior High Youth Group will gather again on March 27th.

Plans are in the works for a joint **Youth Group service trip to Philadelphia** in May. Stay tuned for more information!

A new **Youth Group newsletter** will be circulating quarterly, starting this month. Nancy McLaren welcomes your contributions (photos and/or reflections) to this new project. If you are not currently on the mailing list to receive the letter, but would like to be, please sign up at the Welcome Table, or see Nancy.

Children in Worship Building Project

As the 125th anniversary of the church draws near, so too does the Children in Worship group's completion of a special 'building' project. In preparation for this special anniversary celebration, the children of our congregation have worked on artistic representations of the church buildings that have housed the First Presbyterian Church over the years. The project will be on display in the Miller Gathering Hall on February 20th. Come and see the wonderful work of our children and the Children in Worship volunteers!

Annual Meeting of the Congregation Set for February 13

The Annual Meeting of the First Presbyterian Church of New Haven congregation will take place on Sunday, February 13th following the Friendship Hour. At this meeting, you will hear the reports from the church's committees, highlighting events from the year past. The congregation will also vote on the Co-Pastors' Terms of Call for the coming year. You are invited to bring up issues, ideas, and concerns at this meeting. Copies of the Annual Report will be available beginning Sunday, February 6th.

January

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March

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February 2011

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
January 30 9:30 AM CE - All Ages 9:30 AM Choir 10:45 AM Worship 12 PM Friendship Hour	31	February 1 3 PM Homework@First 7:30 PM Mission Committee 7:30 PM CLDC Meeting	2 8:30 AM Staff Meeting 7 PM Choir Rehearsal	3 9 AM Yoga 3 PM Homework@First	4 7:30 PM CT Folk Concert	5 Columbus House 9 AM Kundalini Yoga 9:30 AM Women's AA
6 9:30 AM CE - All Ages 9:30 AM Choir 10:45 AM Worship 12 PM Friendship Hour 1 PM Youth Ice-Skating Trip	7	8 3 PM Homework@First	9 8:30 AM Staff Meeting 7 PM Choir Rehearsal	10 9 AM Yoga 11:30 AM Bible Study 3 PM Homework@First	11	12 9 AM Kundalini Yoga 9:30 AM PSNE - Fairfield 9:30 AM Women's AA 6 PM Dinner with Friends
13 9:30 AM CE - All Ages 9:30 AM Choir 10:45 AM Worship 12 PM Annual Meeting 1 PM Senior High Gathering	14	15 3 PM Homework@First 7:15 PM Session	16 8:30 AM Staff Meeting 7 PM Choir Rehearsal	17 9 AM Yoga 11:30 AM Bible Study 3 PM Homework@First 6 PM Calvin's Brothers	18	19 9 AM Kundalini Yoga 9:30 AM Women's AA
20 9:30 AM CE - All Ages 9:30 AM Choir 10:45 AM Worship 12 PM 125th Anniv. Celebration	21	22	23 8:30 AM Staff Meeting 7 PM Choir Rehearsal	24 9 AM Yoga 11:30 AM Bible Study	25	26 9 AM Kundalini Yoga 9:30 AM Women's AA
27 9:30 AM CE - All Ages 9:30 AM Choir 10:45 AM Worship 12 PM Friendship Hour 7:30 PM Gavin Black - Harpsichord	28 6:30 PM Eve's Daughters @ CMI	March 1 3 PM Homework@First 7:30 PM Mission Committee 7:30 PM CLDC Meeting	2 8:30 AM Staff Meeting 7 PM Choir Rehearsal	3 9 AM Yoga 11:30 AM Bible Study 3 PM Homework@First 3 PM Homework@First	4	5 Columbus House 9 AM Kundalini Yoga 9:30 AM Women's AA

February

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March 2011

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
February 27 9:30 AM CE - All Ages 9:30 AM Choir 10:45 AM Worship 12 PM Friendship Hour 7:30 PM Gavin Black - Harpsichord	28 6:30 PM Eve's Daughters @ CMI	March 1 3 PM Homework@First 7:30 PM Mission Committee 7:30 PM CLDC Meeting	2 8:30 AM Staff Meeting 7 PM Choir Rehearsal	3 9 AM Yoga 11:30 AM Bible Study 3 PM Homework@First 3 PM Homework@First	4	5 Columbus House 9 AM Kundalini Yoga 9:30 AM Women's AA
6 9:30 AM CE - All Ages 9:30 AM Choir 10:45 AM Worship 12 PM Friendship Hour 2 PM Linda Lader's Ordination	7	8 3 PM Homework@First	9 8:30 AM Staff Meeting 7 PM Choir Rehearsal	10 9 AM Yoga 11:30 AM Bible Study 3 PM Homework@First	11	12 9 AM Kundalini Yoga 9:30 AM Women's AA
13 9:30 AM CE - All Ages 9:30 AM Choir 10:45 AM Worship 12 PM Friendship Hour 1 PM Middle School Gathering	14 8 PM Yale Rep Theatre	15 3 PM Homework@First 7:15 PM Session	16 8:30 AM Staff Meeting 5:30 PM Women at the Well 7 PM Choir Rehearsal	17 9 AM Yoga 11:30 AM Bible Study 3 PM Homework@First 6 PM Calvin's Brothers	18	19 Memorial Service for Kay Jetter 9 AM Kundalini Yoga 9:30 AM Women's AA
20 9:30 AM CE - All Ages 9:30 AM Choir 10:45 AM Worship	21	22 3 PM Homework@First	23 8:30 AM Staff Meeting 7 PM Choir Rehearsal	24 9 AM Yoga 11:30 AM Bible Study 3 PM Homework@First	25	26 9 AM Kundalini Yoga 9:30 AM Women's AA 5 PM Bingo
27 9:30 AM CE - All Ages 9:30 AM Choir 10:45 AM Worship 12 PM Friendship Hour 1 PM Senior High Gathering	28 6:30 PM Eve's Daughters @ FPC	29 3 PM Homework@First	30 8:30 AM Staff Meeting 7 PM Choir Rehearsal	31 9 AM Yoga 11:30 AM Bible Study 3 PM Homework@First	April 1	2 Columbus House 9 AM Kundalini Yoga 9:30 AM Women's AA

A Memorial Service for Kay Jetter will be held in the sanctuary on Saturday, March 19. Details will be forthcoming.

YDS Intern Ashley Hurst to Preach on February 27

YDS Campus Ministry Intern Ashley Hurst will preach on Sunday, February 27. Ashley continues her internship with PUY, Presbyterian Undergraduates at Yale. Come and hear Ashley preach good news!

Meal-a-Month

Your generous donations go to the Christian Community Action food pantry.

Meal-a-Month GROCERIES
<input type="checkbox"/> Bags of rice
<input type="checkbox"/> Bags of beans (red or black)
<input type="checkbox"/> Pasta / pasta sauce
<input type="checkbox"/> Canned tuna
<input type="checkbox"/> Canned fruits (low sugar preferred)
<input type="checkbox"/> Canned meats
<input type="checkbox"/> Canned vegetables (low-sodium)
<input type="checkbox"/> Boxes of mashed potatoes
<input type="checkbox"/> Pasta sauce
<input type="checkbox"/> Peanut butter
<input type="checkbox"/> Low-sugar breakfast cereals (Cheerios, etc.)
<input type="checkbox"/> Low-sodium soups
<input type="checkbox"/> Dessert items – Jello, pudding mixes, etc.
<input type="checkbox"/> Canned juices: tomato, V8, grape, orange
<input type="checkbox"/> Instant milk
<input type="checkbox"/> Coffee and/or tea
<input type="checkbox"/> Flour
<input type="checkbox"/> Sugar

- CCA’s clients select the items they need and want for families ranging from one or two to seven or eight.
- A variety of sizes are appropriate.
- Use this list as a guide. Check the specials aisle for similar items on sale.
- The CT health department prohibits distribution of fresh foods.
- Census data show Connecticut had the largest percentage increase for all people and for children living in poverty in the country, despite our goal of cutting the child poverty rate in half by 2014. That's almost 315,000 Connecticut residents living under the Federal poverty level.

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 ...

Diane Highwart, who is struggling with illness.

Jim Owens’ sister, Virginia Campbell, who is struggling with cancer.

Debbie Tenney's nephew and Mike Tenney's cousin, Derrick, who has brain cancer.

Lee Shaffer and Alan Hogle, who continue to face issues with their health.

Christopher Asher, Sue Asher's nephew, who has begun service with the Tenth Mountain Division of the Army.

Jordan Matos, son of Karina Woltke, who will leave in February for ten weeks of basic training at Fort Leonard Wood in Missouri.

Those who are unable to worship with us on a regular basis: Jim Tenney; Jan Forman; Ken Jetter. Other people and situations in need of our supplications.

Presbytery of Southern New England to Meet in Fairfield

The Presbytery of Southern New England will meet on Saturday, February 12th at the First Presbyterian Church in Fairfield. Dick Hasbany, Mary Webber, and Teddy Hogle will serve as commissioners from First Presbyterian Church. On the docket for the morning is a discussion of Overture 10 A, the overture that would lift the current restrictions banning the ordination of GLBT people. Here is the text of the overture:

Shall G-6.0106b be amended by striking the current text and inserting new text in its place as follows:

[Text to be deleted is shown in bold; text to be added is shown as italic.] **“b. Those who are called to office in the church are to lead a life in obedience to Scripture and in conformity to the historic confessional standards of the church. Among these standards is the requirement to live either in fidelity within the covenant of marriage between a man and a woman (W-4.9001), or chastity in singleness. Persons refusing to repent of any self-acknowledged practice which the confessions call sin shall not be ordained and/or installed as deacons, elders, or ministers of the Word and Sacrament.**

[Replace with:] *Standards for ordained service reflect the church’s desire to submit joyfully to the Lordship of Jesus Christ in all aspects of life (G-1.0000). The governing body responsible for ordination and/or installation (G.14.0240; G-14.0450) shall examine each candidate’s calling, gifts, preparation, and suitability for the responsibilities of office. The examination shall include, but not be limited to, a determination of the candidate’s ability and commitment to fulfill all requirements as expressed in the constitutional questions for ordination and installation (W-4.4003). Governing bodies shall be guided by Scripture and the confessions in applying standards to individual candidates.”*

Also at that meeting, the Presbytery will hear another report from its “Discerning the Way” committee that is working with two churches in our Presbytery who wish to leave the denomination.

This will be Presbytery Executive Dana Lindsley’s last meeting until May when he returns from a three month sabbatical. Dana will be transitioning into a new role within the Presbytery, one that seeks to reform the Presbytery into a more spiritual partnership. While he is on sabbatical, the Rev. Ned Castner, from our congregation, will serve as Pastor to the churches. The Rev. Tom Speers, will serve as liaison to the “Discerning the Way” taskforce. We pray that Dana finds much joy and rest during his leave, and we will look forward to his return in May.

Dinner with Friends – February 12

Enjoy the fun of sharing a casual dinner with a small group of First Presbyterian Friends. All the good things in life – friends, talk, laughter, and community in Christ – made even better by good food.

- There is a place at the table for everyone who signs up. You are especially welcome if this will be your first Dinner with Friends.
- Please RSVP at the Welcome Table or contact Art or Mary Hunt. Let us know if you would like to host a small Dinner with Friends group.
- The dinner preparation is shared – the host chooses the menu and asks each guest to contribute.
- There will be several hosts so each hosts a small group of six to eight guests.
- Art and Mary match the guests to the hosts.
- Dinners with Friends are held four times each year.
- To complete the evening, we just need you.

Add your name to the *sign up sheet* on the **Welcome Table** or call Art or Mary Hunt. Save the next date for Dinner with Friends: Saturday, April 30, 2011.

Join us at the Yale Repertory Theatre!

Join us for a performance of William Shakespeare's *Romeo and Juliet*, at Yale Repertory Theatre on Monday, March 14, at 8 p.m. Tickets are \$10 each. Please sign up and pay for your ticket no later than Sunday, February 27. A sign up sheet and envelope for your check (made payable to First Presbyterian Church) or cash will be found on the Welcome Table. It is important that you pay for your ticket at the time of signing up. Thank you!



Yale Rep brings the epic passion of the most beautiful love poetry ever written to its stage for the first time.

Bounding between festive celebrations and bloody duels to the death, battles of wit and soaring romanticism, Shakespeare's *Romeo and Juliet* is the world's greatest and most enduring love story. From their first shy glances to their last heartbreaking kiss, the star-crossed teenagers choose each other in spite of their feuding families' ancient grudge, as their love races towards a final confrontation with fate.

This bold new production of Shakespeare's timeless romance introduces Yale Rep audiences to director Shana Cooper, a co-founder of the New Theater House, whose work also includes productions at the Oregon, California, and Washington Shakespeare Festivals.

- Yale Rep

CONNECTICUT FOLK CONCERTS



Join us on Friday, February 4, for a folk music concert with Amy Speace. First Presbyterian Church receives 10 complimentary tickets. Email or call the church office to reserve yours!

Save the Dates:

March 4 – Tim Grimm; Michael Smith
April 1 – Buskin & Batteau; John Flynn
May 6 – Danny Schmidt

For more information, check out the CT Folk website at ctfolk.org.

CO-PASTORS: BILL GOETTLER & MARIA LASALA
DIRECTOR OF MUSIC: PATRICK McCRELESS
CHILDREN & FAMILY MINISTER: NANCY McLAREN
CAMPUS CHAPLAIN TO YALE: JENNIFER DAVIS
PARISH ASSOCIATE: SUE ASHER
YDS INTERNS: ASHLEY HURST & BRYCE WIEBE
CHURCH ADMINISTRATOR: HANNAH ROH

First Presbyterian Church
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New Haven, Connecticut 06511
Phone: (203) 562-5664
Fax: (203) 562-1202
Email: firstpresbyterianchurch@gmail.com
Web site: www.fpcnh.org

Christian Education for all ages
9:30 a.m.

Worship
10:45 a.m.

Office Hours
Tuesday - Thursday
8:30 a.m. - 12:30 p.m.

First Presbyterian Church
704 Whitney Avenue
New Haven, Connecticut
06511

Afraid that you might lose this Inkling? Find your e-copy on the church website at fpcnh.org! Please note that for privacy reasons, the e-copy may be slightly different than the hard copy.