

# The Inkling

The News of First Presbyterian Church

June 2011

## It's Summer Time!

The skies are blue, the buds on the trees in full bloom, and the warmer air of summer has arrived. We are grateful to God for the beauty and wonder of creation.

We hope you will join us in worship and celebration this month. The church school year comes to an end on Sunday, June 5<sup>th</sup>. At 9:30 a.m., all are welcome to the Owens Community Building for a celebration of our youngsters and teachers, and for another year of learning and growing in faith. The Children in Worship players will be premiering a puppet show, written and directed by Martha Smalley. The children have been working on the play for weeks and are eager to share the performance with all of you. Breakfast treats will be provided, certificates awarded, and thanks given to all.

At 7:00 p.m. on Sunday, June 5<sup>th</sup>, you are invited back to the sanctuary for a celebratory worship giving thanks to God for the movement of God's Spirit in the PCUSA. Behold, God is doing a new thing. With the approval by the presbyteries of the proposed amendment to the Book of Order, inviting the ordination of gays and lesbians, the denomination is entering a time with new possibilities. Join us in worship as we offer praise and thanksgiving, as we lament all that has been lost, and as we reflect on the ways our church will grow ever stronger and more faithful. The service will include songs, prayers, and testimonies from those who have been in this struggle for over thirty years. Following the worship service, Presbyterian Promise will host a reception. All are welcome. Bring friends to help us celebrate.

Sunday, June 12<sup>th</sup> is Pentecost Sunday and the final Sunday of worship at 10:45 a.m. Come to worship ready to experience the fresh winds of God's Spirit hovering and whispering and calling us to discipleship. Co-Pastor Maria LaSala will be the preacher for the morning. This will also be the choir's last Sunday of the season. Together we will give thanks to Pat McCreless and the First Presbyterian Church Choir for helping us to sing God's new song week after week.

Following worship on June 12<sup>th</sup>, you are invited to stay for the church picnic. Burgers, both meat and veggie, will be provided. Please bring a side dish, salad, or dessert to share.

On Sunday, June 19<sup>th</sup>, worship moves to 9:30 a.m. for the remainder of the summer months. And worship will take place in the air-conditioned Miller Gathering Hall. Light refreshments will follow each service, as we come together each week to love and serve our God.

On Sunday, June 26<sup>th</sup>, we will congratulate our high school seniors during worship. Graduating this June are Andrew McCloskey, Michael Schneider, and Christopher Woodington.

And, we hope you will return at 7 p.m. to witness the Ordination of Jenny Davis, to the Ministry of Word and Sacrament. This is a glad day for Jenny and the entire Davis family. It is also a great day for all of us at First Presbyterian Church who watched with wonder and delight as Jenny worked her way through Yale Divinity School, participated in a parish internship and completed her CPE work at Yale New Haven Hospital. Jenny will continue her work as a Chaplain at Yale New Haven Hospital, and as Campus Chaplain to Presbyterian Undergraduates at Yale. Come and celebrate with Jenny. A reception will follow the service.

## **Preaching Peace in a Time of War – This Summer’s Preaching Theme**

Beginning on July 3 and continuing throughout the summer, preachers from our congregation will offer sermons on peace. These sermons will offer a chance to reflect on how we are called to make peace ... in the world, in our families, in our selves. You won’t want to miss a summer Sunday.

## **A Special Thank You to the Christian Education Teachers for the 2010-2011 Year!**

These devoted, consistent, and wonderful volunteers make our Christian Education program happen week after week, bringing delight and joy and the promise of the Gospel to our children and youth. This year we thank: Elizabeth Gill and Sue Balakrishnan who taught our Pre-school class; Melissa Socolow and Betty Whitney who taught our K-2 class; Martha Smalley who taught our 3-5 graders; Gary Cline and Taylor Purvis who taught a very enthusiastic Middle School class – the largest class ever!, and Candice Gray and Hannah Roh for teaching our high schoolers. Thanks too, to Micah Luce who joined Nancy McLaren as youth group advisor this year. We thank you, the children and youth thank you, for sharing your gifts of time and talent with us this year.

## **Homework@First concludes another successful year on June 9th!**

**About Homework@First:** Since January of 2010 our church has offered after-school homework help and tutoring to students from our neighboring school, the Worthington Hooker School. Each student receives one hour of one-on-one, quality ‘help’ time from one of our many volunteers, many of whom are congregants of FPC. The program met on Tuesdays and Thursdays this year, with an eye toward adding Wednesdays in the future. Over the course of this past year, the Homework@First subcommittee worked to develop the program, expand its parameters and effectiveness, and to work with two other neighborhood service organizations, New Haven Reads and Integrated Refugee and Immigrant Services of Greater New Haven (IRIS).

**The Homework@First volunteers will be hosting a cook-out (weather permitting) for students and their families on Thursday, June 9th at 5:30 pm, and you are invited!** It would be delightful to have many church members present for this celebratory occasion, to further extend the warmth and hospitality this church is so good at offering. Please let Nancy McLaren know if you would like to attend, or just sign-up at the Welcome Table. It would be great if you could bring a cook-out side-dish or dessert. Come out and enjoy some good weather and time with new and old friends alike, and support our church’s after school program!

### **A special thank you to the wonderful Homework@First volunteers from FPC:**

Joel LaChance  
Ken Haynam  
Tommie Highwart  
Teddy Hogle  
Wanda Castner  
Ned Castner  
Art Hunt  
Mary Webber  
Nancy Woodington  
Christopher Woodington  
Chuck Forman  
(special guest) David Meeske

These volunteers are responsible for Homework@First’s success this year. Not only did they provide consistent and quality help, they also took time to develop personal relationships with their students and created a hospitable, loving, and fun learning environment. Mercifully, they were also flexible, understanding, and generous with their time. Thank you so very much, Homework@First volunteers!



Fourth Sunday After Pentecost (June 20)  
"Sleeping Elijah"  
He Qi (China)

## Join us for Bible Study!

This lectionary based Bible Study meets on Thursdays at 11:30 a.m. in the Miller Gathering Hall. Each week we read and reflect on the texts for the upcoming Sunday. *Please note that there will be no Bible Study on Thursday, June 9<sup>th</sup>.* The Bible Study will conclude in June for the summer season.

### The texts for June are:

**June 5:** Acts 1:6-14; Psalm 68:1-10, 32-35; 1 Peter 4:12-14, 5:6-11; John 17:1-11

**June 12:** Acts 2:1-21 or Numbers 11:24-30; Psalm 104:24-34, 35b; 1 Corinthians 12:3b-13 or Acts 2:1-21; John 20:19-23 or John 7:37-39

**June 19:** Genesis 1:1—2:4a; Psalm 8:1-9; 2 Corinthians 13:11-13; Matthew 28:16-20

**June 26:** Genesis 22:1-14; Psalm 13:1-6; Romans 6:12-23; Matthew 10:40-42

## It's A Picnic!

Our Annual End of the Sunday School Year Picnic will be held on June 12th after our service, rain (inside) or shine (outside). Hamburgers, hot dogs and veggie burgers will be orchestrated by our master grillers. Bring a salad or a dessert to share.



## Vacation Bible School to take place August 22-25th! Register NOW!

FPC is teaming up with three other local churches for an ecumenical Vacation Bible School: *All God's Critters*. Though FPC will host the four-day event, we will be joined by friends from First and Summerfield United Methodist Church, The Church of the Redeemer UCC Church, and Bethesda Lutheran Church. The program is intended for children ages 4-10, though older 'tweens and teens are invited to join as volunteer junior counselors and counselors. Each day will include traditional VBS fare: story-telling, singing, crafting, sprinklers, outdoor time, trips to local parks, and ice pops. The theme of the week, *All God's Critters*, will bring our attention to our Creator by celebrating creation: sun, moon, stars, cosmos, chaos, earth, people, and critters.... Our program relies heavily on the generosity of volunteers, so if you are willing and able, we'd love to receive your help for anywhere from one day or all four. Maria LaSala or Nancy McLaren would be happy to discuss with you your interest in volunteering.

**Some logistics:** The cost is \$30 per camper for four days. Snacks and drinks will be provided each day, but campers are asked to bring bagged lunches. Late pick-up is available up until 4:00 pm; please note your desire for late pick-up on the registration form. Registration forms must be completed, and payment received, by August 1st. Forms can be found on the Welcome Table, or with Co-Pastors Bill Goettler or Maria LaSala, or Nancy McLaren.

## Youth Group Gatherings for End-of-Year Celebrations in Early June

Middle Schoolers are invited to enjoy a picnic lunch and hike up East Rock, followed by ice cream (obviously), after church on Sunday, June 5th. The Senior High-ers will get together on the 12th, following the church picnic, and head out to Sleeping Giant. Both groups will be ready for pick-up at the church by 3:00. See Nancy McLaren with questions.

## **Eve's Daughters – Reading Rebekkah: A Time for Acting, A Time for Listening**

The final *Eve's Daughters* of the season will take place on Monday, June 20<sup>th</sup> at 6:30 p.m. at First Presbyterian Church. This month, this women's interfaith Bible study between Congregation Mishkan Israel in Hamden, and First Presbyterian Church, will explore the story of our biblical foremother Rebecca, wife of Isaac, and mother of Esau and Jacob. A vegetarian main dish is provided. Please sign up at the Welcome Table and indicate if you are able to bring a dessert. For more information, talk with Maria LaSala.

## **State Street Farmers Market**

The Upper State Street Farm Market is opening on June 4th! It will be open every Saturday (rain or shine), 10am-2pm from June 4 through October 29, 2011. Bring your family, friends, pets and appetites for great food and community! For more information, visit [www.upperstatestreet.org](http://www.upperstatestreet.org).



## **Pentecost Special Offering to be Received on June 12**

In the season of Pentecost, we celebrate the coming of the Holy Spirit as a force of regeneration and renewal, in our own lives and among God's people around the world. We are particularly reminded that the youth of society everywhere, to whom we would look for the promise of spiritual transformation and growth, are also those most vulnerable to the crippling handicaps of poverty, discrimination, violence, and the distractions of a spiritually empty culture.

It is for this reason that the Presbyterian Church U.S.A. has established, as one of its major special offerings each year, an opportunity at Pentecost to contribute to the support of the church's programs aimed to better the life opportunities of "children at risk." Those programs are both denomination-wide and specific to the community served by each individual church. The national office of the PCUSA uses part of the funds collected through the Pentecost offering to carry out its national and international activities to advocate for children at risk, support youth ministry, and fund the direct mission service work of Young Adult Volunteers in the United States and abroad. Each local church, however, retains forty percent of the offering to apply to needs it perceives in its own community.

As a current example, Presbyterian Young Adult Volunteers, in our name and with our support, are advocating for girls' education and health care in Southern Sudan, organizing and encouraging girls and young women to demand an equal chance to participate in their society. In this country, other youth workers are developing new ways to engage youth in their churches and to help them to become confident, responsible, and caring adults.

Our own church has used its portion of the Pentecost offering in a variety of ways to assist youth in our own New Haven community. In the past we have purchased backpacks and school supplies for children at Life Haven, a special homeless shelter for women and children. We have done the same, and more, for the children of refugee families we have helped to resettle, and for certain needy families with which church members have entered into mentoring relationships of counseling and support. One year we co-sponsored a seminar at Overseas Ministries Study Center on children at risk. We have been able to offer support to our own youth, when they have undertaken mission service projects. Recently we have been able to help support Homework at First, the tutoring program to which many of our members have contributed their time and energy.

Our Pentecost offering will be collected on Pentecost Sunday, June 12. Checks may be put in the special envelopes, or simply designated "Pentecost" on the memo line. Please be generous in support of this valuable work of our church.

## Graduates, Graduates and More Graduates!

### From High School

Andrew McCloskey, Guilford High School. Andrew will attend Wesleyan University in the fall.

Michael Schneider, Westbrook High School, plans still in formation!

Christopher Woodington, Amity High School. Chris will attend Grinnell College in the fall.



### From College

Shelly Burian, from McGill University. Shelly plans to study languages this summer and apply to graduate school.

Kyle Blackwell, from Philadelphia University. Kyle will work for an architecture firm in Philadelphia.

Candice Gray, from Housatonic Community College. Candice has accepted a new position in Recreational Therapy.

### From Graduate School

Joanna Ali, with a Ph.D. from University of Hartford

## Kitchen Equipment – Clean Out and Resupply

CLOC has completed an inventory of our kitchen and event supplies. A number of duplicates and extra items, many of which are lovely and useful, have been identified as surplus. They will be on a table in the Miller Gathering Hall by the coat rack from June 5 to June 12 for reclaiming or adoption. At the same time, we are in need of stock pots (heavy enough not to burn food) with lids in 6 1/2, 8 and/or 12 quart sizes, a 2 quart sauce pan with lid and a sturdy electric roaster oven. Donations, including gently used, are gratefully accepted.

## Celebrations!

Jim Phillips celebrates 56 years of ordained ministry this month. Ned Castner celebrates 55 years of ordained ministry. Well done, good and faithful servants.

Sharon Anderson and Hannah Roh, both M.Div. students at Yale Divinity School, were received as Inquirers in May. This begins the process for them toward ordination as a Minister of Word and Sacrament.

Chelsea Purvis and Alnawaz Jiwa were married on May 29 at the New York Botanical Gardens. Chelsea has been active at First Presbyterian Church since her arrival in New Haven in 2002. She is the daughter of church members John and Tracy Purvis and sister to Taylor, who teaches our middle school youth.

## Study/Action Groups Coming to Enliven Your Summer and Open New Friendships

With summer approaching and gas prices still out of sight many of you may be lamenting the fact that it will be a boring summer. It doesn't have to be!

The group of members who attended the Peace Convocation at Stony Point this spring are ready to go with two covenant study/action groups. One on the topic of Immigration Reform and one concerning the relationship the PCUSA has with the IPC (Iglesia Presbiteriana de Colombia) and the possibilities of building communities of Peace in the midst of chaos, witnessing for the way of Jesus in dangerous situations. Our materials will come from the PCUSA and recommended sources from the Presbyterian Peace Fellowship, the Presbyterians for Just Immigration, and assorted GA studies. Please consider this a possibility for you for the summer and make a short term commitment to join us. There is information on the Welcome Table or talk directly to Art or Mary Hunt, Bonnie Sherman, Ralph Jones, Dick Hasbany or Teddy Hogle. If you have an idea for a study/action group on a different topic let us know.





## **Mission Update: January to June 2011**

### **Special Offerings and Funds Received**

Christmas Joy Offering (reported in January 2011): \$1,327.00

Response to earthquake and tsunami in Japan (for Presbyterian Disaster Assistance): \$2,115.00

One Great Hour of Sharing Offering : \$3,361.00

Thanks for your generosity in supporting these special offerings!

Our congregation seems known in our Presbytery (the Presbytery of Southern New England) for our support of mission activities. Accordingly, we have been invited to host a special evening to welcome the “new” head of world mission for the Presbyterian Church USA to our presbytery, Mr. Hunter Farrell. He will be at our church on Friday, September 9<sup>th</sup> at 7 p.m. Save the date. He will speak at the September Presbytery meeting (which will be held at Yale Divinity School) the following day.

### **Interfaith Cooperative Ministries**

Ralph Jones has been selected to be our church’s representative to this greater New Haven umbrella of congregations. Our church has made its annual contribution (\$750) in support of ICM.

### **Stony Point Center**

Stony Point Center is the conference center of the Synod of the Northeast.

In March Wanda and Ned Castner attended a program about Gaza at Stony Point Center. Afterwards they led an Adult Education session to inform us about the situation in Gaza.

In April a group of seven church members attended a Peacemaking convocation at Stony Point Center. We have heard some and will hear more about Peacemaking. Participants included Dick Hasbany, Teddy and Alan Hogle, Mary and Art Hunt, Ralph Jones, and Bonnie Sherman.

In April Rich Ufford-Chase, the co-director of Stony Point Center spoke to church members over supper.

### **“The Cairn”**

On Monday, June 6<sup>th</sup> at 6pm Jane Hindenlang, Mary Hunt, and Maria LaSala will bear witness to call attention to lives lost in the conflicts in Iraq and Afghanistan. Others are welcome to join. Sponsored by the Reclaiming the Prophetic Voice, the prayer vigil takes place at the veterans’ monument on Broadway in downtown New Haven (across from the Yale Bookstore). See Jane, Mary, or Maria for details.

### **Abraham’s Tent**

We hosted for dinner, overnight, and breakfast the following morning ten homeless men during the week from January 17-23. An evaluation session for all participating congregations occurred on May 12<sup>th</sup>. Eight of the ten men now have housing (!). Columbus House presented our church with the “Most Comfortable Award”—as voted by the ten guests: “there were cushy couches and a private TV room. The guys said it was like living in a ski lodge for a week”. You can view the certificate on the oak table in the room outside the sanctuary. At the May 17<sup>th</sup> meeting of the church Session, we voted to host Abraham’s Tent for the same week this coming year—January 16-22, 2012. Please mark your calendars. We will apply to the Presbytery for special funding for this third year—the final year we are eligible for this funding.

### **Christian Community Action**

During March and April our congregation made a special effort to collect healthy canned goods during the Feinstein challenge. We collected our highest total of food to date, with the help of the youth drive for food. In addition, we sent our annual contribution (\$1,000.00) to CCA during April, to be included in the Feinstein challenge. Hungry people rely on CCA for food all summer. Please bring a “meal a month” to the wheel barrow during June, July, and August! Thank you.



## Connecticut Food Bank's Walk Against Hunger

On May 1, First Presbyterian Church participated in the Connecticut Food Bank's *Walk Against Hunger*. Seven young people and fifteen adults walked the 5K route from East Rock Park through the neighborhood and back. Nancy McLaren organized our youth's participation and Cressida Lui, Jane Splawn, and Nancy Rupp organized the adults. Over \$2,000 was raised for the Connecticut Food Bank, thanks to many generous contributors. The amount is a record for our congregation. See the photo of our group below:



## Bread for the World

Following worship on May 8<sup>th</sup>, church people wrote letters to our senators and representatives in support of Bread for the World's legislative agenda for this year: encouraging our leaders to support more effective foreign assistance. All together, we mailed some 89 letters to Washington. This spring we sent our annual support (\$500) to Bread for the World, making us a "Bread Church." Mission Committee co-chairs Gary Cline and Nancy Rupp are registered to attend Bread's Lobby Day on June 14<sup>th</sup>. We will visit the offices of our Connecticut senators and representatives in support of more effective foreign assistance.

Current Mission Committee members welcome your comments and suggestions. Speak to any of the following: Joanne Anderson, Wanda Castner, Gary Cline (co-chair), Brian Gray, Jane Hindenlang, Mary Hunt, Ralph Jones, Maria LaSala, Nancy Rupp (co-chair), Pat Wales, Jim Whitney, Nancy Woodington.

## Meal-a-Month

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

- 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.

<b>Meal-a-Month GROCERIES</b>	
<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

## Forces join to voice caution about Free Trade Agreement with Colombia

The Presbyterian Peace Fellowship, Fellowship of Reconciliation, the PCUSA Washington Office and other peace groups are joining forces to press the President to refrain from renewing the Free Trade Agreement with Colombia. The 2010 General Assembly approved a social action teaching calling the PCUSA to lobby the President and Congress to put forward a Peace Accord to end the nearly 50 years of conflict and exploitation in Colombia. The month of June will be a month of letter writing and public advocacy asking our government not to renew the Free Trade Agreements. There will also be a public fast from June 5 – 12. You are also welcome to participate in "Break-Fast Dinners," to be held at the church on Tuesday June 7 and Wednesday June 8, from 6-7:15 p.m. Please bring a dish to share. If you can't fast, pray, write, and advocate! There will be information about Public Fasting on the Welcome Table or see church Elder Teddy Hogle.

## Forty-Year Refurbishing of our Hillebrand Tracker Organ

As I noted in my annual report for 2010, the caretakers of our organ, Joe Dzeda and Nick Thompson-Allen, wrote to me late in 2009 that they think that, since the organ is now 40 years old, it is due for a thorough cleaning, inspection, and repair. On their recommendation, I invited Scot Huntington, a tracker-organ builder in Stonington, to come and evaluate the organ, and draw up an estimate of the cost of doing the work that he finds necessary. Scot spent a Saturday morning here in September, and sent me his estimate in late November. Although the organ has been essentially trouble-free for 40 years, there is now considerable work which needs to be done to keep it performing consistently and well: it needs a new blower; the electrical circuits need to be updated; a number of parts need to be replaced; and the organ needs to be taken apart, both for a check of its inner workings, and for a thorough, once-in-40-years cleaning of all the pipes and chests. Scot's estimate of \$57,000 for all that needs to be done is a bit daunting, but it is essential that we maintain the organ carefully and responsibly, since we want it to last another forty years and more. Accordingly, the Session voted earlier this year to go ahead with the project, and to contract with Scot Huntington to do the work.



We do not have a formal contract yet, but he has definitively agreed to take on the project, and to do it early next year—sometime in the period from early January to mid-March. We have not secured funding for the entire project, although there is an existing organ fund which will get the work started. Stay tuned for more on the organ project and its funding!

Pat McCreless  
Director of Music

## 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 ...

Bruce Gordon's brother Brian, who died in May.

Pat Wales' aunt Lois, who is hospitalized.

Mary, mother of Fiona Scott Morton, as she struggles with the late stages of ALS.

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

Joan Wells, who is recovering from a fall.

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

Christopher Asher, Sue Asher's nephew, who is deployed to Afghanistan.

Jordan Matos, who is training in Fort Sam Houston in San Antonio, and for his brothers, Nathanael and Jonah, and his mother Karina.

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.

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

CHURCH ADMINISTRATOR: HANNAH ROH

First Presbyterian Church

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**Christian Education for all ages**

9:30 a.m.

**Worship**

10:45 a.m. on June 5 and 12

9:30 a.m. beginning June 19

Office Hours

Tuesday - Thursday

8:30 a.m. - 12:30 p.m.

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**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](http://fpcnh.org)! Please note that for privacy reasons, the e-copy may be slightly different than the hard copy.*