

The Inklings

The News of First Presbyterian Church

July/August 2011

Summer Worship and Study Opportunities

The First Presbyterian Church community will continue to worship and study through the summer! Our summer worship schedule began on June 19th and will continue through Labor Day Sunday, September 4th. The summer preaching series "Preaching Peace in a Time of War" begins on July 3. Worship begins at 9:30 a.m. in the air-conditioned Miller Gathering Hall. A light Friendship Hour will follow the service.

The Children in Worship program will continue through the summer, inviting children age 5 through 11 to a time of prayer, sharing joys and concerns, and a craft activity.

Sunday evenings in July will feature hymn singing ... from the hymnal or from your heart. On July 10 and July 24, musicians from the congregation will lead us in song. The hymn sings will begin at 7 p.m. and last about an hour. Lemonade and cookies will be shared.



Interested in a time to eat and a time to learn? Join friends around tables for pot-luck suppers and study of five social justice issues. Our "Peace and Justice Studies" will take place on Wednesday evenings, beginning at 6 p.m. Each week a different topic will be explored, inviting those who gather to pray and reflect and then begin to think of ways for people of faith to act. Issues to be explored are: hunger, immigration, health care reform, justice for the people of Colombia, and gun violence. The first of these dinners takes place on Wednesday, July 13. Please see the separate article in this month's Inklings for more information.

And for those with children age 4 through 10 ... "All God's Critters" the summer Vacation Bible School is for you! The program which we are sharing with First and Summerfield UMC, Bethesda Lutheran Church, and Church of the Redeemer UCC, will take place from Monday, August 22 through Thursday, August 25. Please see the more detailed article in this Inklings.

"Reclaiming the Prophetic Voice" – Iraq/Afghanistan Memorial Cairn Service

First Presbyterian Church will lead the Interfaith Iraq/ Afghanistan Memorial Cairn service on Monday, July 4th at 6 p.m. at the War Memorial Monument on Elm and Broadway, across from Barnes and Noble Bookstore and Christ Episcopal Church. This fifteen-minute worship service offers a time for prayer and reflection on the lives lost – both military and civilian – in the ongoing wars in Iraq and Afghanistan. The memorial stone, inscribed with the numbers of deaths in both wars, will be present in worship on Sunday, July 3. As we give thought to the national holiday which celebrates our independence, we ought to give thought to the reality that freedom comes at a cost of human lives and potential. Begin your Fourth of July celebration by taking time to pause and ponder the loss of life in these two wars. Please note that the Memorial Cairn Service takes place on the first Monday of each month at 6 p.m. Become a regular witness! For more information, talk with Maria LaSala.

Summer Preaching Series! “Preaching Peace in a Time of War”

The summer preaching series will begin on July 3rd and continue through August 21. Join us on Sunday mornings at 9:30 a.m. as we hear sermons and stories about peace ... personal, political, transformative ... peace. The preaching schedule is:

July 3 – Bill Goettler
July 10 – Steve Davis
July 17 – Justin Ray
July 24 – Maria LaSala
July 31 – Nancy McLaren
August 7 – Diane Goudreau
August 14 – Jenny Davis
August 21 – Phil Yoo



Each of these preachers will bring their unique voice and perspective to this topic. Together we can, in the words of St. Francis of Assisi, be “channels of God’s peace.”

Summer Pastors and Elders on Call

Co-Pastors Bill Goettler and Maria LaSala will be on vacation from Sunday, July 31 through Sunday, August 21. During their vacation, clergy from the congregation will be available for pastoral emergencies. If you have a need for a pastoral visit, please call the church office at 203-562-5664. The pastor on call for that week will return your call. An elder will also be on call each week to handle any congregational concerns.

Children in Worship Programming Continues through the Summer....

This summer, children ages 5-10 are invited to continue meeting during the Children in Worship time during regular worship. The group is working on a special project series this summer: in July, they will work to create a multitude of origami peace birds, which will ultimately soar above us in the Children in Worship room. In August, we will work together to create a mural in the Children in Worship room, depicting the Tree of Life from the book “The Blessing Seed,” an adaptation of the Creation story. Please join us!

Christopher Woodington – Eagle Scout Court of Honor – July 23

All are welcome to attend Christopher Woodington’s Eagle Scout Court of Honor on Saturday, July 23rd at 2 p.m. Christopher’s Eagle Scout project was to create the bicycle rack and walkway on the side of the Owens Community Building. With his volunteer crew, Christopher designed and installed the rack, and then worked to create a beautiful landscape by the parking area. Christopher is the son of Nancy Woodington and John Meeske, and brother of Eagle Scout David Meeske. A light reception will follow.

*All God's Critters have a place in the choir,
some sing low, some sing higher some sing out loud on the telephone wire,
some just clap their hands... or paws... or anything they've got!*

Join us for the 2011 Vacation Bible School! This year, we are mixing it up by joining with three other New Haven churches (First and Summerfield United Methodist Church, the Church of the Redeemer UCC, and Bethesda Lutheran Church) to offer a fabulous VBS to all God's 'critters.' Though we will be joined by other churches, the program will take place at FPC each day, Monday through Thursday, August 22nd-25th from 9:00 am-2:00 pm. We have wonderful and creative activities arranged for children ages 4-10, and plenty to do for volunteers of all ages! Registration forms and information about the program will be located on the Welcome Table throughout the summer. Interested volunteers should contact Co-Pastors Maria and Bill, or Nancy McLaren.

Some details about the program: The theme of this year's VBS, "All God's Critters," derives from the Creation story. Each day, we will look at a different aspect of Creation and our Creator, and respond to the Bible lessons through song, art, imagination, and movement. Specific stations will be designated for each of these activities, led by adult volunteers. We will also go on a few 'field-trips,' including a visit to the Eli Whitney Museum, East Rock Park, and Edgerton Park, where we will embark on special adventures each afternoon. One day we will offer a blessing of the (stuffed) animals. There may even be water balloons and slip-n-slide action.... But you'll have to come to find out!

A special request: There are a few items for intended projects that we are hoping to collect from home. If you have any of these kicking around, please consider donating them to VBS. There will be a big plastic box located in the breezeway for this collection. The items include:

Newspapers
Magazines/Catalogues
Toilet paper and paper towel rolls (without paper on them)
Coffee cans
Plastic grocery bags
Tin cans
Shoe boxes
'Bits of Nature'--rocks, shells, pressed leaves, nuts, etc...

Congratulations!

Leah Miller, daughter of Beth Aura and David Miller, participated in the Science Olympics for Young Women this spring. Leah will be in the Honor Science Research Program at Amity High School next year. Congratulations Leah!

Alex Rupp-Coppi, son of Kathy Rupp and Paolo Coppi, and his Odyssey team came in second in the state finals and went to participate in the world finals in Baltimore. They built vehicles powered by mousetraps and made a skit with songs they wrote themselves. Congratulations Alex!

Abraham's Tent Kick-Off Meeting – July 27

Columbus House and Interfaith Cooperative Ministries (ICM) thank you again for your effective efforts this past winter and welcome your participation for Winter 2012. On Wednesday, July 27 at 12 p.m., there will be a Kick-Off Meeting at 560 Whalley Terrace (Community Room- Columbus House supportive housing for the elderly). Bring a sandwich and join us for an overview on how Winter 2012 will work, fine tune the schedule and answer questions. RSVP to the church office at firstpresbyterianchurch@gmail.com by July 13.

June

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July 2011

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
June 26 9:30 AM Worship 10:30 AM Friendship Hour 7 PM Jenny Davis Ordination	27	28	29	30 9 AM Yoga 11:30 AM Bible Study	July 1	2 Columbus House 9 AM Kundalini Yoga 9:30 AM Women's AA
3 9:30 AM Worship 10:30 AM Friendship Hour 7 PM Hymn Singing	4 Independence Day 6 PM Iraq/Afghanistan Memorial Calm Service	5 7:30 PM Mission Committee 7:30 PM CLDC Meeting	6	7 9 AM Yoga	8	9 9 AM Kundalini Yoga 9:30 AM Women's AA
10 9:30 AM Worship 10:30 AM Friendship Hour 7 PM Hymn Singing	11 7 PM Christian Education Meeting	12	13 6 PM Peace and Justice Dinner	14 9 AM Yoga	15	16 9 AM Kundalini Yoga 9:30 AM Women's AA
17 9:30 AM Worship 10:30 AM Friendship Hour 7 PM Hymn Singing	18	19 7:15 PM Session	20 6 PM Peace and Justice Dinner	21 9 AM Yoga	22	23 9 AM Kundalini Yoga 9:30 AM Women's AA 2 PM Christopher Woodington Eagle Scout Court of Honor
24 9:30 AM Worship 10:30 AM Friendship Hour 7 PM Hymn Singing	25	26	27 12 PM Abraham's Tent Kick-Off Meeting 6 PM Peace and Justice Dinner	28 9 AM Yoga	29	30 9 AM Kundalini Yoga 9:30 AM Women's AA
31 9:30 AM Worship 10:30 AM Friendship Hour 7 PM Hymn Singing	August 1	2 7:30 PM Mission Committee 7:30 PM CLDC Meeting	3 6 PM Peace and Justice Dinner	4 9 AM Yoga	5	6 Columbus House 9 AM Kundalini Yoga 9:30 AM Women's AA

July

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September

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August 2011

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14 9:30 AM Worship 10:30 AM Friendship Hour	15	16 7:15 PM Session	17	18 9 AM Yoga	19	20 9 AM Kundalini Yoga 9:30 AM Women's AA
21 9:30 AM Worship 10:30 AM Friendship Hour	22 9 AM Vacation Bible School	23	24	25 9 AM Yoga	26	27 9 AM Kundalini Yoga 9:30 AM Women's AA
28 9:30 AM Worship 10:30 AM Friendship Hour	29	30	31	September 1 9 AM Yoga	2	3 Columbus House 9 AM Kundalini Yoga 9:30 AM Women's AA

Mission Committee Peace and Justice Wednesdays

Everyone is invited to join in fellowship, scripture, prayer, song, food and learning a bit about a different peace and justice issues on Wednesday evenings beginning on July 13.

The Wednesday evening gatherings and the sharing of personal stories will seek to expand our imagination of what is possible for peace and justice activities. We will mostly use resources created by the General Assembly but will also include items of personal interest to our leaders. Issues to be covered

July 13 – Hunger, led by Alan Hogle

July 20 - Humane Treatment for Immigrant Prisoners, led by Art and Mary Hunt

July 27 – Changing America’s Policies to Promote Justice for Colombia's poor, led by Teddy Hogle

August 3 - Gun Violence, led by Ralph Jones

August 10 – Health Care for All, led by Ned and Wanda Castner

There will be an introduction each week reflecting on why peace and justice issues are important to the Presbyterian Church.

The gatherings will begin at 6 p.m. and finish by 7:30 p.m. The general format will be:

- Gather and social time
- A song or two (probably the same songs each week)
- Grace
- Dinner (pot luck sides with a main course provided)
- Introduction and background on our Peace and Justice planning with brief explanation of the biblical basis for peace and justice activities and why/how the Church is called to respond to injustice.
- Scripture Reading related to the peace and justice weekly topic
- Program
 - A brief presentation (about 15 minutes) on one of five topics
 - A knowledgeable active person from each area will be invited to present and answer questions.
- Discussion and Q&A
- A song or two
- Close

Child care will be provided for children 10 and under.

Please join us for one or all of the Peace and Justice Wednesdays!

Food Donations Needed!

Please bring healthy non-perishable items for “meal a month” at Christian Community Action. Food donations are perhaps even more crucial during summer months: children during summer often have no school lunch (or school breakfast) program to provide one meal, at least, each weekday. Leave your food items in the green wheel barrow. We’ll deliver all items at the end of the month. Thank you!

Hunter Farrell, Head of World Mission for the PCUSA, to Speak at First Presbyterian Church – September 9

Friday, September 9, First Presbyterian Church will have a special opportunity to hear the Rev. Hunter Farrell, Director of Presbyterian World Mission. Mr. Farrell has held that position since 2007, having started his mission service at age 23 as a volunteer in mission in Zaire. Since that time he has served for a decade in Peru with a mission focus on the problem of lead poisoning of children coming from smelting operations there. Service in Africa began in the late 1980's in the Democratic Republic of the Congo. In Africa his work with African mission partners dealt with health, evangelism, general education, and theological education.

Farrell received his B.A. in political science and Latin American studies from the University of Texas at Austin and his M. Div. from Fuller Theological Seminary in cross-cultural studies. Hunter and his wife, Ruth, have three children, Ndaya, Billy, and Andrew. He spent a year studying in Lima, Peru, at the Pontificia Universidad Catolica del Peru. Farrell is fluent in English, Spanish, French, and Tshiluba (a language spoken in the south central Congo).

Mark your calendars today!

A Note from Joan Wells

Thanks and Appreciation to My Church Family,

After a two month absence it was a great blessing to be able to attend worship on June 26. I want to thank everyone for your special prayers and the cards sent to me during the time I was in the hospital and a month of rehab at The Reservoir in West Hartford. Your care and concern are greatly appreciated. I will be undergoing several weeks of physical therapy, which I pray will result in a full recovery to my left shoulder and my legs.

Joan Wells

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 ...

Lee Shaffer, who is hospitalized.

Judy Owens, who will face surgery on July 8.

Justin Ray's grandmother, Ethel, who is receiving hospice care.

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

Joan Wells, who is recovering from a fall.

Alan Hogle, who continue to face issues with his health.

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

Jordan Matos, who is training in Fort Sam Houston in San Antonio.

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

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Worship

9:30 a.m. through Labor Day Sunday

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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 in the fall, moving to an entirely digital format. So take a moment today to check out the newsletter online.