

# The Inkling

## September 11<sup>th</sup> Commemoration

It's been ten years since the catastrophic attack on American soil. For many of us, that morning brought shock and fear. The children in our midst know these events only as history. Our youth learned about it in schools, but were protected from the gruesome images of the news media. Churches held prayer services. First Presbyterian Church held a noontime service followed by a lunch, and then of course continued in prayer and reflection during the weeks and months that followed. All over the country people mourned and grieved wondering why such a thing had happened.

Soon followed first one war, then another. The evil that prompted the 9/11 attacks had to be destroyed, we were told, and we were the only ones to do it. The battles still raging in Afghanistan and Iraq are proof that war has once more failed to offer an answer to the life struggles, the cultural differences, and the practices and beliefs of extremists.

On Sunday, September 11<sup>th</sup> our nation will pause to commemorate the events of that Tuesday morning ten years ago, when two hijacked jet airplanes flew into the World Trade Center in New York City, and another commercial jet overtaken by hijackers crashed in a field in Pennsylvania killing all on board, and at the Pentagon in Washington, DC. Many lives were lost that day. And all of our lives were changed.

At First Presbyterian Church, a revised morning schedule has been designed to provide space and time for our prayers and shared reflections, as well as for our morning worship. We will begin in the Miller Gathering Hall at 10 a.m. with a time of song and of prayer, and for a time of telling some of our stories of remembrance, as we reflect on what has happened to us as a nation and as a people in the ten years since that attack. Together we will pray for peace and understanding, for tolerance, and for God's continued presence in our life and in our world.

At 10:45 a.m. we will gather for worship in the sanctuary, returning to our sanctuary space for worship. Co-Pastor Bill Goettler will be the preacher for that morning, talking about the biblical mandate of forgiveness. The Elm City Girls' Choir will be our guest artists, leading us in song.

Later that afternoon Interfaith Cooperative Ministries will host an Interfaith Service of Remembrance and Reconciliation on the New Haven Green. That service, bringing together people from many different religious traditions, will begin at 4 p.m.

Let us pray for peace and understanding as this anniversary draws near.

## Christian Education News

**Rally Day is September 18!** After a summer rest, the Christian Education programs will begin on Sunday, September 18<sup>th</sup> with a Rally Day at 9:30 a.m. in the Miller Gathering Hall. We will begin the morning singing songs and telling stories. Children will meet their Sunday school teachers, and adults will hear about the offerings this fall. Breakfast treats will be provided as we take this time to remember and give thanks to God from whom all blessings flow.

Beginning on September 25<sup>th</sup>, children ages 4-10 will gather on Sunday mornings beginning at 9:30 a.m. in the Children and Worship room for a sing-along and story time. Middle school and high school youth will meet in their classrooms beginning at 9:30 a.m. Adults will gather for their class in the Miller Gathering Hall where coffee and tea will be provided each week.

Another exciting year is upon us!

### **Bryce Wiebe returns to First Presbyterian Church as our Christian Educator**

Bryce Wiebe will spend another year at First Presbyterian Church. Having served last year as one of our Yale Divinity School interns, Bryce will now serve as the Christian Educator for our children and youth. He will oversee the Christian Education program, provide leadership to the teachers and be a joyful presence in the classrooms and with our children and families. Bryce will lead the singing and story time for the children and coordinate the Children in Worship activities. Bryce will also direct the Homework @ First tutoring program.



Bryce is a 2011 graduate of Yale Divinity School. He hails from Nebraska, but has made the east coast his home now for four years. He is a singer, a bread baker, and a gardener. Welcome back, Bryce!

**New Youth Group Advisors** This year we welcome Sharon Anderson and Anthony Damelio as youth group advisors. Sharon, a new member of our congregation, is a third year divinity school student at Yale. She is a graduate of Williams College and is an Inquirer under care in the Presbytery of Southern New England. Last year Sharon was an intern with Columbus House, and did much of the coordination work for the Abraham's Tent program. Anthony Damelio is also a third year divinity school at Yale. He is a graduate of Fordham University, and is a candidate under care in the Presbytery of Western Reserve. Last year Anthony served as an Intern at Westminster Presbyterian Church in West Hartford. Sharon and Anthony are engaged to be married in December. They are looking forward to working with our youth this year. Welcome Sharon and Anthony.

**Sunday School Teachers** are all set for the church school year. Teaching our children and youth this year are: Sue Balakrishnan and Elizabeth Gill teaching our pre-school and 5 year olds; Melissa Socolow will teach our 1<sup>st</sup> and 2<sup>nd</sup> graders, Betty Whitney, with occasional help from Betsy Mussmann, will teach our 3<sup>rd</sup>, 4<sup>th</sup>, and 5<sup>th</sup> grade class; Gary Cline and Taylor Purvis, who graduates from Yale this May, will return as the dynamic duo for our Middle School youth; and, Candice Gray will lead our Senior High youth on their faith journey. Please keep the Church school teachers and our children and youth in your prayers.

### **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 Bible Study will resume on Thursday, September 15.* The **texts for September** are:

**September 4:** Exodus 12:1-14; Psalm 149:1-9; Romans 13:8-14; Matthew 18:15-20

**September 11:** Exodus 14:19-31; Psalm 114:1-8 or Exodus 15:1b-11, 20-21; Romans 14:1-12; Matthew 18:21-35

**September 18:** Exodus 16:2-15; Psalm 105:1-6, 37-45; Philippians 1:21-30; Matthew 20:1-16

**September 25:** Exodus 17:1-7; Psalm 78:1-4, 12-16; Philippians 2:1-13; Matthew 21:23-32

## Adult Education News

This fall the Adult Education series will be all about the Bible, the sacred text which tells the story of God's love for all creation. The Bible is a book you can read more than once and through many lenses.

Beginning on September 25<sup>th</sup> Bruce Gordon will lead a two-part class on the King James Bible. 2011 marks the four hundredth anniversary of the King James Bible. Many of us were brought up on this version of scripture and can recite from memory such beloved passages as Psalm 23. For all of us, an astonishing number of the expressions, metaphors, and euphemisms that spice our conversation can be traced to this remarkable Bible. In its day, however, the KJV was highly controversial and much disliked. In these two sessions we shall talk about how and why the Bible came to be and something of the culture that produced it. We shall then turn to the legacy of the KJV, looking at examples in British and American literature. Finally, it is important to consider the place of the Bible in American religious life. How did the KJV come to occupy its place as the 'authentic' Bible (the King James Onlyists)? And what has been its enduring influence on the broader sweep of American religious life?

Coming in October, our conversation about the Bible will continue, with classes focused on how the Bible was ordered, why some books are included and others were not. And late in October, Wayne Meeks will lead a three-part class on "ways of reading, and not reading the Bible."

It is sure to be an exciting fall term! Join us on Sunday mornings at 9:30 a.m. in the Miller Gathering Hall. Coffee and tea will be provided.

## Community Life News

### Church Picnic!

Plan now to stay after worship on Sunday, September 18<sup>th</sup> for the annual fall church picnic. Hamburgers, veggie burgers, and hot dogs will be cooking on the grill. And a feast will be prepared. Please come to church that day with a side dish, salad, or dessert to share. If it rains, we'll move the picnic indoors to the Owens Community Building.



### Dinner with Friends

The first "Dinner with Friends" this fall is scheduled for 6:00 on Saturday, September 24. A sign-up sheet will be on the Welcome Table. The hosts usually prepare a main dish and guests take salad, dessert, vegetable, or appetizer. For more information, email Bonnie Sherman or Candice Gray. This is a wonderful way to catch up with old friends and make new ones!

### Women at the Well

All women of the congregation are invited to a supper of soups and breads and a time for prayer and reflection on Wednesday, September 14<sup>th</sup> at this month's *Women at the Well*. If you'd like to make a pot of soup or bring a loaf of bread or dessert, please indicate that on the sign up sheet on the Welcome Table.

### Calvin's Brothers to Meet

Men of the congregation are invited to attend the evening supper program, Calvin's Brothers on Thursday evening, September 29<sup>th</sup> beginning at 6 p.m. Please sign up at the Welcome Table.

August

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# September 2011

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
August 28 9:30 AM Worship 10:30 AM Friendship Hour	29	30	31 10:30 AM Staff Meeting	September 1 9 AM Yoga	2	Columbus House 9 AM Kundalini Yoga 9:30 AM Women's AA
4 9:30 AM Worship 10:30 AM Friendship Hour	5 3:30 PM Musical Folk 6 PM Tai Chi	6 11:30 AM Dancing with Parkinsons 7:30 PM Mission Committee 7:30 PM CLDC Meeting	7 9:30 AM Musical Folk 10:30 AM Staff Meeting 7 PM Choir Rehearsal	8 9 AM Yoga	9 7 PM Evening with Chris Roseland	10 9 AM Kundalini Yoga 9:30 AM Presbytery Meeting - YDS 9:30 AM Women's AA
11 10 AM 9/11 Commemoration Event 10:45 AM Worship 12 PM Friendship Hour 4 PM ICM 9/11 Remembrance Service	12 3:30 PM Musical Folk 6 PM Worship Committee 6 PM Tai Chi	13 11:30 AM Dancing with Parkinsons	14 9:30 AM Musical Folk 10:30 AM Staff Meeting 5:30 PM Women at the Well 7 PM Choir Rehearsal	15 9 AM Yoga	16	17 9 AM Kundalini Yoga 9:30 AM Women's AA
18 9:30 AM Choir 9:30 AM CE for All Ages 10:45 AM Worship 12 PM Friendship Hour	19 3:30 PM Musical Folk 6 PM Tai Chi	20 11:30 AM Dancing with Parkinsons 7:15 PM Session	21 9:30 AM Musical Folk 10:30 AM Staff Meeting 7 PM Choir Rehearsal	22 9 AM Yoga	23	24 9 AM Kundalini Yoga 9:30 AM Women's AA
25 9:30 AM Choir 9:30 AM CE for All Ages 10:45 AM Worship 12 PM Friendship Hour	26 3:30 PM Musical Folk 6 PM Tai Chi	27 11:30 AM Dancing with Parkinsons	28 9:30 AM Musical Folk 10:30 AM Staff Meeting 7 PM Choir Rehearsal	29 9 AM Yoga 6 PM Calvin's Brothers	30	October 1 Columbus House 9 AM Kundalini Yoga 9:30 AM Women's AA



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## **Mission News**

### **Iraq/Afghanistan Memorial Stone**

Reclaiming the Prophetic Voice will again be marking the cost of the continuing wars in Iraq and Afghanistan by placing the August stone on the Memorial Cairn at the intersection of Broadway, Elm and Park streets in New Haven on Monday evening, September 5 at 6 p.m.. This stone will be inscribed with the August 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 to join us in this public reminder that the wars are not over, no matter what presidents and generals may say.

### **Worldwide Mission Conversation – September 9**

Hunter Farrell, Director of PCUSA Worldwide Mission, was the scheduled speaker on Friday, September 9<sup>th</sup> but has been called away to attend a summit meeting on the relationship of the PCUSA and the Presbyterian Church of Mexico (INPM). It appears that after 139 years of partnership in mission, the INPM has voted to sever the relationship with the PCUSA in response to our denomination's change in its ordination standards. Hunter will be part of a panel working to determine where we go from here.

In his place, Chris Roseland, Associate in Mission, will lead the conversation about worldwide mission. He hopes to invite mission co-worker, Marta Bennett who is on furlough from Kenya. Together they will talk a bit about the strength of the PCUSA's mission work around the world, and answer any questions you might have about our role in supporting the mission of the PCUSA.

World Mission is one of the Presbyterian Church's greatest legacies. Shifts in how we do World Mission have brought both opportunities and challenges. World Mission has begun to work intentionally in "communities of mission practice." To truly make a difference, Presbyterians must coordinate their work with each other and with the church's global partners. We will learn about concrete and successful programs that work in collaboration. Working together, we have identified three critical global issues:

- Addressing the root causes of poverty, especially as it impacts women and children
- Strengthening the capacity of the global church to witness to God's love in Christ, and
- Working for reconciliation in cultures of violence, including our own.

The program will begin at 7 p.m. Refreshments will be served.

### **Mission Committee Peace and Justice Friends**

The Peace and Justice Friends invites you to join them. The group held five Peace and Justice Wednesdays during July and August with presentations by Ralph Jones on Reducing Gun Violence, Ned and Wanda Castner on Health Care for All, Teddy Hogle on Changing America's Policies to Promote Justice for Columbia's Poor, Alan Hogle on Reducing Hunger and Art and Mary Hunt on the plight of Immigrants who have been imprisoned simply for working in America without documentation. The group will continue to meet and support one another's work on these and other issues of interest to the group. Please see Art or Mary Hunt or speak to any member of the group during coffee hour if you would like to be on their email list.

### **Continue to Pray For Justice For Columbia's Poor**

Please continue to pray for and act on behalf of the members of the Colombia Presbyterian Church and our brothers and sisters in Colombia. They are in need of our prayers and support to ensure that the Free Trade Agreement on the table in Washington is significantly improved so that it can truly be a Fair Trade Agreement that ensures that the Colombian government protects the rights of Columbia's poor. Please contact the President Obama and your representatives in Congress and urge them to rework the Columbia Free Trade Agreement until it is a Fair trade agreement. A Fair trade agreement will benefit both the working poor of Columbia and the working poor of America. It will protect the environment of both countries and ensure that workers rights and small farmers' rights are respected.

## Presbytery of Southern New England

The Presbytery of Southern New England will meet on Saturday, September 10<sup>th</sup> at Yale Divinity School's Marquand Chapel. The meeting begins at 9:30 a.m. and will include a visit from the Director of Worldwide Mission, Hunter Farrell. If you'd like to hear Hunter's presentation to the Presbytery, the worship service will begin at 9:45 a.m. and will be followed at 10:45 a.m. by a power point presentation and time for questions and answers about the trends of mission work around the world. All are welcome.

## Meet New YDS Intern Sungduk Yun

*Hello. My name is Sungduk Yun. I know it is difficult to pronounce, but it is all my grandfather's fault, who picked this name from traditional philosophical concepts of Korea. I am a third year M.Div. student at Yale Divinity School. I like the languages and history of ancient Israel and Mesopotamia, and in studying them, I began to discover the joy of ministry. I like the music of most string instruments (classical or popular) and art works of Impressionists. I like to watch stars and to hike under trees deep in a mountainous area. I would like to find a right sport activity for me, but I have no clue yet. I am married to Younghwa, whom I met in Jerusalem, Israel. She is good at Modern Hebrew and enjoys teaching. I also have two daughters: Anny is a 9th grader at Wilbur Cross High School, plays piano and violin, and loves to write stories. Jenny is a 6th grader at Worthington Hooker and a passionate animal lover, especially horses. I am so grateful to the First Presbyterian Church for this opportunity of internship. I would like to learn from our co-pastors and the congregation how they built this beautiful faith community and how they return the Lord's blessings to the neighbors in the city of New Haven. I pray the Lord will allow me to witness God's own ministry carried out through this church during this year.*

## A Note from Jordan Matos

Jordan Matos, son of Karina Wolke, is on his way to Vilsek, Germany. He sent us this email last week:  
*My mom has been telling me about all the support I've been getting back home and I thought I would let you all know that it is much appreciated. I know the hurricane is supposed to hit this weekend and I hope everyone stays safe. My family and I have the congregation in our prayers. I've been gone for 6 months now. I was in Missouri for 2 months going through basic training. I spent 4 months here in San Antonio, TX getting MOS qualified. I just graduated Friday so I'm officially a combat medic. I'm no longer a trainee so I'll be going to my first real unit out in Germany. That's where I'll be for the next year or two. I was given a chance to take some down time but I decided against it. I've been waiting for my first assignment and I want to make sure that my unit knows that they have one hell of a medic. I'll be coming home hopefully this Nov/Dec and if I do I'll be sure to drop by. It makes you feel good when civilians shows their appreciation to you because we don't do it for the government or the pay check. We'd be pretty dumb if we did! We give our lives so other people can continue living theirs. I love my job and I think I may have found my calling. I get to travel the world like I always wanted to so I'm pretty much living the dream. I'm very happy and I hope to see you all soon!*  
Much love, Jordan Matos

## 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 ...

Jan Forman who suffered a stroke and is nearing the end of her life.

All who are still struggling without power, water, and whose homes were damaged in last weekend's hurricane.

Joan Wells who is recovering from shoulder surgery.

Former church member Jean Kirby who is nearing the end of her life.

Anita Shaffer as she continues to grieve the death of her husband, Lee, on July 24<sup>th</sup>. A memorial service was held at FPC on Wednesday, July 27<sup>th</sup> and burial took place on July 30<sup>th</sup> in Connellsville, PA.

Christians living in Syria who are experiencing persecution.

Christy Purnell's sister Joey Shoemaker, and Joey's son Todd.

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

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

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

Jordan Matos, who is stationed in Vilsek, Germany.

Those who are unable to worship with us on a regular basis: Jim Tenney, Ken Jetter.

Other people and situations in need of our supplications.

CO-PASTORS: BILL GOETTLER & MARIA LASALA

DIRECTOR OF MUSIC: PATRICK McCRELESS

CHRISTIAN EDUCATOR: BRYCE WIEBE

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

Beginning on September 11:

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

10:45 a.m. Worship

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**

*Please find your e-copy on the church website at [fpcnh.org](http://fpcnh.org)! We hope to stop printing most copies of the Inkling this fall, moving to an entirely digital format. So take a moment today to check out the newsletter online.*