

The Inkling

June 3rd is the day of the Church School Celebration and the last day of Church School for children and youth.

The celebration will begin at 9:30 a.m. in the Miller Gathering Hall. Children will receive certificates, teachers will be honored and thanked, and the children will perform their annual spring play. We will also give thanks to Bryce Wiebe who has served as our Christian Educator this year. We are grateful to Bryce for his leadership and creativity, his love for all the children, and his fun and inspiring ways to teach the love of God to all.



June 10th is the Church Picnic!

The grills will be hot and filled with burgers, both meat and meatless. Bring a side dish, salad, or dessert to share. We'll hope for sun, but if it rains, we will move to the Owens Community Building.

9:30 a.m. worship in the Miller Gathering Hall begins on June 17th.

The hymnals will be ready, the bulletins out, and with a little help from friends, the chairs will be set as we begin our summer worship in the air-conditioned Owens Community Building. Members of the choir will take turns leading us in song, and the children will continue with their special Children in Worship programs. A light Friendship Hour will follow at 10:30 a.m. each Sunday. If you would like to be a part of the set up on Sunday mornings, please talk with Rona Johnston Gordon, chair of the Worship Committee, or Bruce Peabody, member of the Worship Committee.

Vacation Bible School Returns in August!

Once again, First Presbyterian Church will join with Church of the Redeemer, Bethesda Lutheran Church, and First and Summerfield United Methodist Church for a four day Vacation Bible School program. The dates are August 20-23 from 9 a.m. until 2 p.m. Activities will take place in the Owens Community Building at FPC with some field trips

Co-Pastors Maria LaSala and Bill Goettler Begin Sabbatical

Co-Pastors Bill Goettler and Maria LaSala will begin a sabbatical later this month. A part of the terms of call for our pastors is a three month sabbatical after seven years of service. Bill and Maria had their last sabbatical during the summer of 2005, after completing seven years at First Presbyterian Church. This summer marks fourteen and a half years as our pastors, and this coming sabbatical has been in the works for the last year. Seven years ago, our pastors spent their sabbatical in Italy and then in Scotland. This sabbatical they will be closer to home, doing a bit of travelling within the country, and then spending an extended time on Cape Cod. We will look forward to welcoming them back on Sunday, August 19, in plenty of time to prepare for the beginning of the fall worship and program schedule. If you have any questions about Maria and Bill's

The Rev. Dr. Steve Jungkeit is our Sabbatical Pastor

Steve and his wife Rachael have been known to this church community for nearly 15 years. Steve completed his Master of Divinity degree at Yale Divinity School, then spent two years in a full time Lilly Endowment Pastoral Ministry fellowship at the Bryn Mawr Presbyterian Church outside of Philadelphia. Steve then returned to New Haven and received his PhD in theology from Yale. Steve was ordained to ministry in the Presbyterian Church, and spent a year in full time chaplaincy as a CPE resident at Bridgeport Hospital. For the last year he has been teaching at Harvard Divinity School, a post to which he will return next fall. Steve has been a regular and very well received guest preacher at First Presbyterian Church over the years. In addition to his two years of pastoral ministry at Bryn Mawr, Steve also served as a sabbatical pastor in a UCC Congregation in northern Vermont last summer. Steve and Rachael have three children, Sabina, Elsa, and August. Steve will work half time in this position this summer, leading worship and preaching, offering pastoral care as needed, and holding together the administrative work of the church. He will moderate the Session meeting in June, and attend some committee meetings. Let us look forward to Steve's ministry among us at First Presbyterian Church in the months to come,

Wanderlust: Conversations on the Spiritual Life

The walk: one of the most overlooked and potent acts of human expression. Thoreau wrote about walking to stimulate a nascent environmentalism in industrial America, while gentlemen of leisure strolled the streets of Paris in that same era with turtles, offering themselves to one another as strange objects of contemplation. As often as not, the civil rights movement proclaimed its message of integration through a series of conflict-laden walks, while generations of religious people have walked to sacred sites around the world as an act of devotion. The Israelites walked out of Egypt and toward the Promised Land, Jesus walked to Galilee and Jerusalem, and the writer of Isaiah famously declared that the feet of the one bringing good news shall be blessed. In our own time, the Jesuit philosopher and theologian Michel de Certeau wrote about walking in the city as a means of reclaiming our bodies and our urban environments from the depredations of consumer capitalism. What is it about this most ordinary and yes, pedestrian of human acts that stimulates creativity and resistance, awareness and self-display, devotion and contemplation?

On Thursdays at noon during the month of July (the 5th, 12th, 19th, and 26th) bring a bag lunch to the church and join us for a series of conversations about walking and the spiritual life led by Steve Jungkeit. We'll be reading some essays from Rebecca Solnit's book *Wanderlust: A History of Walking* to stimulate our conversations. Solnit is interested in the ways the simple act of walking connects us to our bodies, our neighbourhoods and cities, our environment, and our own deepest selves. What would it mean to take this most simple act seriously as a practice of faith? What would it mean to read all the stories and passages in the Bible about walking not as incidental to the stories, but as crucial pieces of insight about our human predicament? What sorts of energies and dreams are unleashed in the act of walking, and how is that related to other forms of cultural expression? Come to the church on Thursdays at noon in July for a set of free-ranging conversations on contemporary spirituality, set in motion by Solnit's soulful meditations on the meanings of walking. If you're interested, there will be a sign up sheet in the Copeland Room that will let us know how many people may join us.

Iraq/Afghanistan Memorial, May stone, Monday, 6/4

For their ongoing memorial days, Reclaiming the Prophetic Voice will again be marking the cost of the continuing violence in Iraq and Afghanistan by placing the May stone on the Memorial Cairn at the intersection of Broadway, Elm and Park streets in New Haven on Monday evening, 6 p.m., June 4. This stone will be inscribed with the May death total of US military personnel and the approximate documented numbers of Iraqi and Afghani civilians killed during that same period of time.

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.

The texts for June are:

June 3: Isa. 6:1-8; Ps. 29; Rom. 8:12-17; John 3:1-17

June 10: 1 Sam. 8:4-11 (12-15) 16-20 (11:14-15); Ps. 138; 2 Cor. 4:13-5:1; Mark 3:20-35

June 17: 1 Sam. 15:34-16:13; Ps. 20; 2 Cor. 5:6-10 (11-13) 14-17; Mark 4:26-34

June 24: 1 Sam. 17:(1a, 4-11, 19-23) 32-49; Ps. 9:9-20; or 1 Sam. 17:57-18:5, 10-16; Ps. 133; 2 Cor. 6:1-13; Mark 4:35-41



Meet the Combatants for Peace!

A couple of months ago, our church screened a documentary film, "The Billboard from Bethlehem", which tells an inspiring and uplifting tale of the formation of The Combatants For Peace, a coalition of former Israeli soldiers and former Palestinian militants in the Holy Land who have decided to renounce violence and to jointly seek a peaceful solution to the Israeli-Palestinian conflict. Good news: A couple of Combatants for Peace will visit Connecticut in July! Please plan on joining them in the interfaith I Wage Peace Walk to be held in New Haven on July 16th, Monday, at 6pm, as well as another evening event during the same week in which the Combatants will share their stories and take questions. The Walk is organized by I Wage Peace (a non-government organization which produced "The Billboard from Bethlehem") and co-sponsored by our church. More details about the events will follow --- stay tuned!

Did you miss "The Billboard from Bethlehem" when our church screened it a couple of months ago? You are welcome to check out the DVD --- please contact Kathy Rupp or Cressida Lui.

Wednesday Family Nights at First Pres!

The First Pres Peace and Justice Group invites you to an evening of fellowship, food, songs, a fun activity and a great discussion on Wednesday June 20, June 27 and July 11. Wednesday Family Nights at First Pres is planned to be fun and informative for all ages from children to seniors. We will start at 5:45 and will end by 7:15. Childcare for younger children will be provided. The Peace and Justice Action Group is planning a different fun activity for each night designed to stimulate a conversation about the kind of nation we want to live in, our national budget priorities and how we as Christians faithfully provide for the public good. No need to bring anything, a wonderful summer dinner will be provided.

We also invite you to join us on the New Haven green (Temple and Elm) at 6 pm on Monday July 16 for the third annual I Wage Peace walk. For more information on the walk see <http://iwagepeace.org/iwagepeacewalk.html>.

Web resources for Africa advocacy

To follow on recent Sunday class discussions, the following are a list of websites related to the Africa topics that have been broached. The first is the website for the Ecumenical Advocacy Days conference, on which are posted videos of the keynote presentations from the conference, plus information about all the various workshops presented. Especially recommend is the video of the plenary message by Dr. Gary Dorrien on Saturday, March 24th - a very rich, insightful and articulate assessment of current realities. Then the rest are merely a beginning point for exploring these issues, but you can follow the rabbit trails (hopefully useful ones!) from there.

Ecumenical Advocacy Days, March 23-26, 2012: www.advocacydays.org

General Resources: Pcusa.org/compassion-peace-justice; www.afjn.org (Africa Faith and Justice Network); www.oxfamamerica.org (Oxfam America); www.actionaid.org (Action Aid International/USA);

International Aid and Development Policies: www.afrodeb.org (African Coalition on Debt and Development)

Militarization of Aid: www.congojustice.org (Congo Justice)

Land Issues: www.agrisolenergy.com (Agrisol Energy)

May

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June 2012

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
May 27 Pentecost 9:30 AM Choir & CE 10:45 AM Worship - Nora Tubbs Tisdale Preaching	28 3:30 PM Musical Folk 6 PM Tai Chi	29	30 9:30 AM Staff Meeting 9:30 AM Musical Folk	31 9 AM Yoga 11:30 AM Bible Study	June 1	2 Columbus House 9 AM Kundalini Yoga 9:30 AM Women's AA
3 9:30 AM Church School Celebration 10 AM Choir 10:45 AM Worship	4 3:30 PM Musical Folk 6 PM Tai Chi	5 7 PM CE Committee 7:30 PM Mission Committee 7:30 PM CLDC Meeting	6 9:30 AM Staff Meeting 9:30 AM Musical Folk	7 9 AM Yoga 11:30 AM Bible Study	8	9 9 AM Kundalini Yoga 9:30 AM Women's AA
10 10 AM Choir 10:45 AM Worship 12 PM Church Picnic	11 3:30 PM Musical Folk 6 PM Tai Chi	12	13 9:30 AM Staff Meeting 9:30 AM Musical Folk	14 9 AM Yoga 11:30 AM Bible Study	15	16 9 AM Kundalini Yoga 9:30 AM Women's AA
17 9:30 AM Worship 10:30 AM Friendship Hour	18 3:30 PM Musical Folk 6 PM Tai Chi	19 7:15 PM Session	20 9:30 AM Staff Meeting 9:30 AM Musical Folk	21 9 AM Yoga 11:30 AM Bible Study	22	23 9 AM Kundalini Yoga 9:30 AM Women's AA
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July 2012

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
July 1 9:30 AM Choir & CE 9:30 AM Worship 10:30 AM Friendship Hour	2 3:30 PM Musical Folk 6 PM Tai Chi	3 7 PM CE Committee 7:30 PM Mission Committee 7:30 PM CLDC Meeting	4 Independence Day 9:30 AM Staff Meeting 9:30 AM Musical Folk 7 PM Choir Rehearsal	5 9 AM Yoga 11:30 AM Bible Study	6	7 Columbus House 9 AM Kundalini Yoga 9:30 AM Women's AA
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“God, expose the lies,” has been the persistent prayer of the Christian community in Egypt for the past 16 months since the January 25th, 2011 Revolution of Egypt.

It all began with the Referendum of March 2011, where a simple vote on a handful of constitutional amendments turned into a religious sectarian war, with fundamentalist Islamist clergy and public figures boiling down the amendments to one article concerning the implementation of Shariaa (Islamic Law). Their trusting, mostly uneducated followers followed orders and voted yes for the referendum, which basically meant starting the parliamentary and presidential elections before forming a new constitution. They did not realize that their “yes” vote meant taking away significant authorities from the Parliament, while granting additional ones to the Supreme Council of Armed Force (SCAF) – a move that since then has sent Egyptians down tragic rabbit trails, costing us many lives and taking us further and further away from the initial goals ignited by the January revolution for a modern, democratic, civil state.

The Referendum was only the first link in a long chain of lies since the Revolution. Since then we’ve had lies covering up attacks of churches and Coptic Christians in the Moqatam and Maspero incidents, lies justifying trying civilians in military courts, lies to plant fear about security issues internally and externally especially relating to our border with Israel, lies around elections for university and professional unions, the Parliament, and finally the senate. And climax with the current presidential race.

Violence in Abbassia:

Some of you have heard of recent violence in the immediate neighborhood of the seminary in Abbassia. We thank many of you for your concerned prayers and communication. Before we explain the background and implications of these recent events, we wish to assure you first that we’re all safe and that we are grateful to God that none in our community nor the campus suffered any physical damage. Admittedly, that week had several emotionally and psychologically trying days, especially on Friday (May 4th) when we had to cancel classes and shut down the campus, due to audible sounds of gun fire one block away, and news of 9 deaths, and several hundred injured. Still, we’re grateful for God’s tangible protection amidst this violence.

QuickTime™ and a
TIFF (Uncompressed) decompressor
are needed to see this picture.

The conflict began several weeks ago, when one of the presidential candidates, Hazzem Salah Abu Ismael, a Salafi Islamist candidate, was found ineligible due to his mother’s American citizenship. This was a breach of Egyptian law requiring the president to have two exclusively Egyptian parents. Despite thorough and proper investigations from the Egyptian Foreign Affairs Department and its American counterpart presenting sufficient evidence to the Presidential Elections Committee, the charismatic Abu Ismael convinced his huge trusting following that this was a conspiracy against Islam itself and that the whole thing was made up. And if insisting on his blatant lie was not bad enough, he went on to encourage his followers to publicly protest in front of the Defense Ministry near Abbassia Square.

In a post revolution setting, where security afforded by Egyptian police is almost always absent, and emergency responses by SCAF are almost always fatally delayed, public demonstrations have tended to turn into violent riots very quickly. So as marches left various locations around Cairo towards Abbassia square, they were infiltrated by the expected appearance of hired thugs and criminals, who are mostly paid to spread more chaos and violence. Part of the daily lie we live in is the absence of a proper explanation of who is funding these thugs and to what end.

A Dramatic Learning Curve:

Since that Friday, and the rising tally of deaths and injuries, the general public has turned dramatically against the Islamist wave that has overwhelmed Egypt since March 2011. This has shifted the tension from between Muslims and Christians (as promoted by Islamic Fundamentalists during the past year), to a rising tension between Fundamentalist/Ultra Conservative Islamists on one side and the rest of the nation comprised of moderate Muslims, Sufis, Christians, secularists, socialists . . .

authority by appointing their own members and supporters to the “100-Member Committee for the Formation of the New Constitution”. Through a process of political critiques and Supreme Court appeals, the decision was rejected within a month, and the proposed committee peacefully dissolved.

Please join us in praying for . . .

- More lies to be exposed daily, and the light of truth to quickly penetrate darkness. Our prayers continue to be answered, and God remains faithful to his church in Egypt, and His promise to bless the nation through her

The CCA Wheelbarrow remains ready for your food donations.

CCA's food pantry is one of the largest in the region, serving more than 600 people a month, 50 percent of them children. It is available to families with children, senior citizens and people with disabilities in the Hill section of New Haven. Over the years the agency has served more than 40,000 people. Starting in 2001, they have offered a "Client Choice" program. Food pantry participants are given the opportunity to "shop" for their food items rather than receiving a pre-packed bag. CCA maintains membership with the Connecticut Food Bank but relies on others for donations. The green wheel barrow parked in the Copeland Room was overflowing with food during March and April. The need has not lessened, so please continue to bring a few items each week. On the last Sunday of each month, a volunteer packs up the bags filled with food and delivers them to the CCA food pantry. If you'd like to volunteer, please contact Jane Hindenlang at jane.hindenlang@gmail.com. Remember that low-sugar cereal, rice, beans, canned tuna, low sodium soups, pasta, pasta sauce, and coffee are much needed items. Thank you for your generosity.

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 ...

Ned Castner, as he begins his year as the moderator of the Presbytery.

Ron Clave, who is hospitalized.

Roger Giler, Mary Evan's companion, who is hospitalized.

Sylvia Turner, Paul Turner's mother, who is hospitalized in Syracuse.

Anna Balakrishnan, who will spend the summer as a mission worker in the Dominican Republic.

Karla Koll, mission co-worker in Guatemala, who is undergoing treatment for breast cancer.

Blanca Thiebaut and her colleague Montserrat Serra, who were abducted in Kenya. Blanca and Montserrat work for the Spanish division of Doctors Without Borders.

Bryan McCloskey, nephew of Tim and Jean McCloskey, who was deployed to Afghanistan with the U.S. Army.

Jordan Matos, who is stationed in Vilsek, Germany with the U.S. Army.

Those who are unable to worship with us on a regular basis.

Prayers for other people and situations in need of our supplications.

SABBATICAL PASTOR: STEVEN JUNGKEIT
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

First Presbyterian Church
704 Whitney Avenue
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.

First Presbyterian Church
704 Whitney Avenue
New Haven, Connecticut
06511

Please find your e-copy on the church website at fpcnh.org! We hope to stop printing most copies of the Inkling, moving to an entirely digital format. So take a moment today to check out the newsletter online.