

The Inkling

The News of First Presbyterian Church

September 2012

Blest Be The Ties That Bind

The summer season has drawn to an end. And what a summer it has been at First Presbyterian Church of New Haven. Co-Pastors Bill Goettler and Maria LaSala are back from their sabbatical days. Many thanks to Steve Jungkeit, whose warm heart, keen mind, and compassionate ways inspired, challenged and cared for the First Presbyterian Church community week in and week out. This Inkling includes highlights from just a few of the summer programs, even as we look to the fall. Visitors have been arriving all summer long. Some are new students, others new to town, still others searching for a church home, looking for a new community in which to live out their faithful responses to the blessings of God. It is quickly apparent that people don't stay visitors for long! We look forward to continuing our wide welcome.



The First Presbyterian Church community will return to its regular schedule on Sunday, September 9th. Christian Education for all ages also begins that morning. A Rally Day for adults and children alike starts at 9:30 a.m. in the Miller Gathering Hall. Come and hear about the fall program offerings. Children will have a chance to meet with their Sunday School teachers and hear a bit about the ongoing programs available each Sunday. There are opportunities for learning and growing in faith, singing in the Children and Youth Choir, and participating in a special Children's Time each Sunday following the Time for Children in worship. The Children and Youth Choir is directed by Beth Aura Miller and accompanied by Ken Balakrishnan. Beth Aura and Ken are excited to start rehearsing, so please let either of them know if you'd like to be a part of the choir. All God's children have a place in the choir!

Teaching our children and youth this year are: Sue Balakrishnan, Elizabeth Gill, Betty Whitney, Betsy Mussmann, Gary Cline, and Bryce Wiebe, and serving as Youth Group Advisors are Anna and Joel Hamaguchi. We will welcome and commission them for service during the Rally Day celebration on September 9.

Adults will hear of the classes planned for the fall season of Adult Education, as well as other opportunities for Bible Study, and service to the community.

Coffee, tea, juice, and breakfast treats will be available.

Sunday morning worship moves to the Sanctuary on September 9th. After three months of worshipping in the Owens Community Building, we will once again find ourselves in the beauty of the sanctuary building. Worship will begin at 10:45 a.m. and Co-Pastor Bill Goettler will be the preacher for the morning. We will be joined by the Elm City Girls' Choir, who return for another year to lead us in song.

Following worship on September 9, all are welcome to the Church Picnic. Burgers (both meat and meatless) will be on the grill. Please bring a side dish, salad, or dessert to share. Rain or Shine, plan to stay.

Adult Education – *The Bible and Our Tradition*

Bruce Gordon, Titus Street Professor of Ecclesiastical History and member of First Presbyterian Church of New Haven, will lead off our fall Adult Education Program. Join Bruce on September 16, 23, and 30 at 9:30 a.m. in the Miller Gathering Hall. His class *The Bible and Our Tradition*, will be a chance to see how in many ways we profess the Bible as the foundation of our faith, worship and witness. The reformers declared 'scripture alone' to be our authority, not the decisions of the church. What does that mean? How has the Bible been read and interpreted in communities from the Reformation to our time? Who decides that one interpretation is more valid than another? What does it mean to read the Bible literally? What are the different voices speaking to and about scripture in our time? We will take a tour from the Reformation to the contemporary church and witness the surprisingly varied and contested life of our most sacred text.

Meet our New YDS Intern Hannah Dreitcer

"Hello! My name is Hannah Dreitcer (don't be alarmed by the spelling or pronunciation - my parents made it up), and I'm a second-year M.Div at Yale Divinity School seeking ordination in the PC(USA). Raised by a family of Presbyterian ministers in the San Francisco Bay Area, I did my B.A. in Religious Studies at Occidental College in Los Angeles, where I was active in on-campus ministry and multi-religious initiatives. As a life-long Californian, I face the upcoming winter with great trepidation (despite the fact that I survived the last one). If you can't find me at church or school, I'm likely hiking, eating delicious food with old friends and new, or (most often) dancing. I took my first ballet class when I was four, and have taken any dance class I can get my hands on since, from hula to Haitian and everything in between. I'm so excited to be a part of this wonderful community at First Presbyterian, and I'm greatly looking forward to worshipping, learning, and serving with you this year!"

Welcome New Administrative Assistant, Miriam Samuelson

We are pleased that Miriam Samuelson will be joining the First Presbyterian Church staff this fall. Miriam is a first year student in the M.Div. program at Yale Divinity School. She is a graduate of St. Olaf College in Minnesota, and most recently served in the Career Services office at St. Olaf. Miriam is the daughter of Lutheran Co-Pastors and is well acquainted with church life! Welcome Miriam. We are grateful to Patrick Cline for his good work all summer long, attending to the Sunday morning bulletins and the Summer Inkling, as well as other church administrative needs. Thank you, Patrick!

The Presbytery of Southern New England to Meet in Wilton

The Presbytery of Southern New England will gather on Saturday, September 8th beginning at 9:30 a.m. at the Wilton Presbyterian Church. The meeting will include reports about this year's General Assembly. First Presbyterian Church's own Arthur Shippee and Christopher McCloskey will share highlights of their time in Pittsburgh. Chris, son of Jean and Tim McCloskey, and a senior at Clark University, has also been invited to lead worship that morning. Another important part of that day will be celebrating with Sharon Anderson Damelio as she is approved to become a Candidate for ordination. Sharon, with her husband Anthony, moved to Atlanta after graduating from Yale Divinity School in May. Sharon now works for a not-for-profit homeless advocacy organization located at Central Presbyterian Church. Please keep Arthur and Chris and Sharon, and Moderator Ned Castner, as well as the members of Presbytery in your prayers that day.

Join us for Bible Study

Thursdays at 11 a.m. in the Miller Gathering Hall. Bryce Wiebe will continue to lead the Bible Study through September. New faces around the table are always welcome for this hour-long study of the scriptures texts for the upcoming Sunday morning.

The texts for September are:

September 2: S. of Sol. 2:8–13; Ps. 45:1–2, 6–9; James 1:17–27; Mark 7:1–8, 14–15, 21–23

September 9: Prov. 22:1–2, 8–9, 22–23; Ps. 125; James 2:1–10 (11–13) 14–17; Mark 7:24–37

September 16: Prov. 1:20–33; Ps. 19; James 3:1–12; Mark 8:27–38

September 23: Prov. 31:10–31; Ps. 1; James 3:13–4:3, 7–8a; Mark 9:30–37

September 30: Esth. 7:1–6, 9–10; 9:20–22; Ps. 124; James 5:13–20; Mark 9:38–50



CCA Wheelbarrow full to overflowing!

Thank you to all who have contributed to the Christian Community Action (CCA) food bank by filling the green wheelbarrow. Food insecurity doesn't take a summer vacation. The Connecticut Food Bank offered these statistics: 493,000 people in Connecticut are food insecure including 99,610 children in our service area who do not have adequate amounts of food for an active, healthy life. Our monthly food donation to the CCA is one way our congregation is involved with social justice and mission in our community. If you have questions or would like to assist with food delivery, please contact Jane Hindenlang at jane.hindenlang@gmail.com.

Afghanistan Memorial Cairn Service – September 3rd

With the 2000th U.S. military death recently in Afghanistan, Reclaiming the Prophetic Voice will again be marking the cost of the continuing violence there and in Iraq 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 3, 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. Members of the Shalom UCC Community will lead the service.

Children's Garden Update by Caty Poole

In June, Dick Hasbany, Martha Smith and Jessica Walker came out on a very hot day to help prepare the ground and install two garden beds marking a new 'Children's Garden' at FPC. The garden includes both flowers and vegetables and we look forward to working with the Christian Education committee in the coming weeks and months to incorporate aspects of the garden into the children's activities. We hope you will see flowers from the garden in the sanctuary or in Miller Gathering Hall. We also hope to share vegetables at fellowship hour and regular potluck luncheons. This garden is meant to be shared so all are welcome to weed, plant & share in its growing. A special thank you goes out to local artisan, Trevor Youngberg and his fledgling company, Urban Canopy, for building and installing the beds using oak taken from a felled tree in Milford. Please contact Caty Poole (215-694-5549 or via email at nsimone1056@yahoo.com) to offer your help and input.

The First Presbyterian Church Choir will begin its rehearsals for the fall season on Wednesday, September 5, at 7:00 p.m. We will not have the usual Sunday morning rehearsal next Sunday, September 9, since the Elm City Girls' Choir will be singing. But we will rehearse again on September 12, and sing in the worship service for the first time on September 16. We always welcome new singers! We enjoy learning an eclectic range of music, from Renaissance motets to Bach to spirituals and contemporary music in various styles, and bringing these different voices to our worship services. As in previous years, we will present our Advent and Christmas music on the Third Sunday of Advent, December 16, and we welcome anyone who would like to sing during this season, even if you cannot commit to being with us for the whole year. Also, in a special endeavour this year, we are joining with the choir of Bethesda Lutheran Church in a performance of Mozart's Requiem on June 2, 2013, in a performance in their Sunday afternoon concert series. We will present select individual movements of the Requiem through the fall, winter, and spring. If you want to join us, speak with Pat McCreless or a member of the choir.

Walk and Talk with the Combatants for Peace: A Reflection by Cressida Lui

Summer is not usually associated with peace. Especially not this summer when the fun and excitement of the season was far too often interrupted by disconcerting reports of gun violence and shooting rampages. Yet in July, our church joined over thirty local congregations and faith-based organizations in making a loud statement for peace.

An earlier event was instrumental to our July activities on peace. On one pleasant Sunday evening in April, our church gathered to watch a documentary film called "The Billboard from Bethlehem" and to hear Bruce Barrett, the film's director and IWagePeace's founder, share his views and vision. The film tells an inspiring tale of the formation of the Combatants for Peace, a coalition of former Israeli soldiers and former Palestinian militants who have laid down their arms and committed themselves to a peaceful solution to the bitter conflict between the two peoples. The film ends with uplifting scenes of Israeli and Palestinian children working together to hand paint a giant peace billboard in the West Bank. At the event, Bruce told us that IWagePeace was making arrangements for two Combatants for Peace to visit Connecticut for a week-long speaking tour in July and invited our participation. Being passionate about the cause of peace, our church quickly signed on to co-sponsor the speaking tour's kick-off event, an interfaith peace walk in New Haven, and to participate in a Jewish Shabbat service hosted by Congregation Mishkan Israel.

Many of us were involved in the preparatory work and the events. Some wrote brief but thoughtful reviews of the film, "The Billboard from Bethlehem", to encourage those among us who had missed the April event to check out the DVD. Several of our children replicated what the Israeli and Palestinian children did in the film by painting a miniature version of the Billboard from Bethlehem. We enthusiastically participated in the Walk on July 16th and the Jewish service on July 20th. For the Shabbat service, we also contributed a prayer, scripture reading, music and food (for the reception).

As many peacemakers are fond of reminding us, peacemaking is not easy work. Parties in conflict always seem to find it easier to resort to violence than voice. Even those who yearn for peace are likely to have very sensitive sentiments. Thus, all too often, a small doubt or a slight perception of unfairness or injustice can quickly derail any peace effort. During the events, we were reminded again and again of this tough reality. IWagePeace had to make a last-minute change of the final destination of the peace walk as a result of the displeasure of some members of Masjid al Islam with an Op Ed piece in the New Haven Register penned by Bruce Barrett. At the Shabbat service, there was a clear sense of urgency in the visiting Combatants' messages – they repeatedly emphasized that the window of opportunity for a peaceful two-state solution is fast closing as Jewish settlements keep expanding.

Yet there were also unmistakable signs of hope: Jewish, Muslim and Christian people marching together to communicate their shared commitment to peace, Masjid al Islam board president's participation in the walk and public affirmation of the importance of dialogue and neighborliness in spite of the mosque's decision to not serve as the walk's final destination, Kids4Peace's (visiting high school youths from Israel and Palestine and their American counterparts) cheerfully singing a peace song in Arabic, Hebrew and English during the walk, a Jewish walker happily holding both the Israeli and the Palestinian flags, the whole congregation singing "This is My Song" at the Shabbat service, earnest conversations that we had with our friends at Mishkan Israel and the list can go on and on.

During the walk, Nour Shehada, the visiting Palestinian Combatant for Peace, had some encouraging words for one of our church members who told him that at 80, she still longed for peace and justice. He said to her, "Don't give up, not until we breathe our last breath." Peacemakers certainly face daunting challenges. But it is definitely not a time for giving up. After all, seemingly improbable things have happened before – to name a few, the collapse of the Berlin Wall, the dismantling of Apartheid in South Africa, and more recently, the election of Aung San Suu Kyi, a Nobel Peace Prize winner, to the Parliament in Myanmar.

Most important of all, nothing is impossible in God.
"O hear my prayer, thou God of all the nations; a song of peace for their land and for mine." From "This Is My Song"

Presbyterian Promise News!

Lunch with MLP Executive Director, Patrick Evans, September 22

You are invited to join friends from First Presbyterian Church, Presbyterian Promise, and others from around the Presbytery of Southern New England for a lunch with Patrick Evans, the new Interim Director of More Light Presbyterians (MLP). MLP has been one of the major forces calling our denomination to welcome its LGBT members fully into the life of the church and to honor their calls to leadership. First Presbyterian Church is a More Light Church. Patrick will be meeting with the board of Presbyterian Promise prior to the lunch.

Lunch will begin at 12:30 in the Miller Gathering Hall and will be informal. Patrick will share how MLP will continue to carry out its mission for welcome and inclusion for all God's children, and how More Light Churches can continue their work of welcome and advocacy effectively. You are warmly invited to hear and talk with Patrick.

Presbyterian Undergraduates at Yale

An important part of our community involvement in New Haven is our ministry to the college students at Yale. Did you know that Presbyterians comprise the largest protestant denominational population among undergrads? That means slightly more than 3% - so it's not a huge number, but even so, our church reaches out to every student that self-identifies as Presbyterian when they enroll. Jenny Davis, our campus chaplain, sends out a welcome email to all of them, inviting them to participate in the life at First Pres. She also invites them to join Presbyterian Undergraduates at Yale – a student run group registered with Yale Religious Ministries. The group even has a website – www.yalepresbyterians.com – and are on facebook with the slogan, “John Calvin is our homeboy.”

It's been in existence in one form or another for many years, and many from our congregation have lead Bible study, retreats, and mission trips for the group. In 2005 they went with Justin Ray and Jenny, as well as other church members to Cuba, in 2009 Pastor Maria joined the students to take a trip to Egypt, and in 2010 they went to Louisiana, working with the Methodist and Lutheran campus groups to help with ongoing repairs post-Katrina. (We called the group for that trip the “Presbyluthidists.”)

Perhaps the most important aspect of First Presbyterian Church's ministry to these students is the weekly email and Bible study. Jenny writes the students a devotional email based on the Lectionary passages for the following Sunday every Friday, and leads the students in Bible study on Sunday afternoon on campus. She then invites every new freshman (and active upperclassmen as well) to have coffee with her sometime in the fall, with the hope that, even if they choose to decline involvement with our community, they will recognize that there is someone they can turn to in crisis.

Bo Reynolds, a faithful worship attender with us, is president of the group this year, and both he and Jenny welcome your involvement. Would you like to lead a Bible study or host a student for dinner? Please speak to Jenny Davis, and she will get you plugged in! You can also visit the website or like the group on facebook (under the name, “Presbyterian Undergraduates at Yale”).

Line Dancing with Bill Fischer and the Wry Bred Band

“Swing Your Partner” will echo through the Miller Gathering Hall on Saturday evening, September 29th. Line Dancing with Bill Fischer and the Wry Bred band, is on the calendar this month. Join friends from First Presbyterian Church as we dance the afternoon away. The program begins at 4 p.m. and end at 6 p.m. A light dinner, veggie and meat subs, will be available. Donations will be accepted at the door. Put on your dancing shoes and come on out! For more information, please talk with CLOC chair Julie Ray.

Organ Update

The First Presbyterian Church organ has been dismantled and is undergoing its first complete rebuild since it was installed 40 years ago. You are welcome to walk into the sanctuary this morning following worship; you will find a stack of organ pipes being stored in the Copeland Room, and a see-through organ... quite an interesting sight! The work on the organ is expected to be completed by the end of September.

New Members' Luncheon – September 16

This summer has brought many new people through the doors of the Owens Community Building to worship God and to be a part of our community of faith. A new members' luncheon will be held on Sunday, September 16th, following the Friendship Hour. We will have a chance to talk a bit about Christian faith and our own stories, as well as the story of the First Presbyterian Church's mission and ministry in New Haven. If you are interested in being part of that lunch conversation, please talk with Co-Pastor Bill Goettler or Maria LaSala.

YAD Christopher McCloskey on GA Commission

Youth Elder and Young Adult Advisory Delegate to this year's General Assembly Christopher McCloskey has been appointed by the Moderator of the PCUSA Neal Pressa to serve on the Mid Council Commission. This commission has been authorized by the General Assembly to organize new synods and divide, unite, or otherwise combine synods or portions of synods previously existing; and approve the organization, division, uniting, or combining of presbyteries or portions of presbyteries by synods. They will also review the nature and function of the Presbyterian Mission Agency (formerly General Assembly Mission Council) and the Office of the General Assembly, specifically with respect to their relationship with and support of mid councils as they serve the vitality and mission of congregations in our changing context. Christopher will have his work cut out for him this year! Let's keep Chris and the Mid Council Commission in our prayers.

Be a Friendship Hour Host!

Every Sunday following worship during the summer, our congregation stays behind in the Miller Gathering Hall for Friendship Hour, a time of fellowship and socializing. Friendship Hour is usually hosted by two or three people. Preparatory work for hosting Friendship Hour is rather flexible: the hosts may choose to serve participants using the treats and drinks purchased by our church, or they can bake or shop for the treats; the church is happy to reimburse for the purchases. The church also supplies coffee, tea, paper goods, etc. You are all welcome to sign up to host Friendship Hour at the Welcome Table. Need more information on how to host Friendship Hour? Please talk to Art Hunt, Teddy Hogle, Dick Hasbany or Cressida Lui.

August

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October

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28	29	30	31			

September 2012

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
August 26 9:30 AM Choir & CE 9:30 AM Worship 10:30 AM Friendship Hour	27 3:30 PM Musical Folk 6 PM Tai Chi	28	29 9:30 AM Staff Meeting 9:30 AM Musical Folk 7 PM Choir Rehearsal	30 9 AM Yoga 11:30 AM Bible Study	31	September 1 Columbus House 9 AM Kundalini Yoga 9:30 AM Women's AA
2 9:30 AM Choir & CE	3 3:30 PM Musical Folk 6 PM Tai Chi	4 7 PM CE Committee 7:30 PM Mission Committee 7:30 PM CLDC Meeting	5 9:30 AM Staff Meeting 9:30 AM Musical Folk 7 PM Choir Rehearsal	6 9 AM Yoga 11:30 AM Bible Study	7	8 9 AM Kundalini Yoga 9:30 AM Women's AA
9 9:30 AM Choir & CE	10 3:30 PM Musical Folk 6 PM Tai Chi	11	12 9:30 AM Staff Meeting 9:30 AM Musical Folk 7 PM Choir Rehearsal	13 9 AM Yoga 11:30 AM Bible Study	14	15 9 AM Kundalini Yoga 9:30 AM Women's AA
16 9:30 AM Choir & CE	17 3:30 PM Musical Folk 6 PM Tai Chi	18 7:15 PM Session	19 9:30 AM Staff Meeting 9:30 AM Musical Folk 7 PM Choir Rehearsal	20 9 AM Yoga 11:30 AM Bible Study	21	22 9 AM Kundalini Yoga 9:30 AM Women's AA
23 9:30 AM Choir & CE	24 3:30 PM Musical Folk 6 PM Tai Chi	25	26 9:30 AM Staff Meeting 9:30 AM Musical Folk 7 PM Choir Rehearsal	27 9 AM Yoga 11:30 AM Bible Study	28	29 9 AM Kundalini Yoga 9:30 AM Women's AA
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First Bookends 9:00 AM

9:00 AM - 4:00 PM

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 ...

The family and friends of the Rev. Dr. James M. Phillips. Jim, a beloved member of this community of faith, died on August 2nd after complications from a fall. A funeral service was held on Saturday, August 25th.

Ron Clave, who is at Kindred Crossing Rehabilitation Center in New London.

Of thanksgiving on the birth of Raymond John Wallman, born on July 20th to Sarah and Keith Wallman.

Of thanksgiving on the birth of Olivia Rose Caplan, born on July 22nd to Jessica Tanis and Jeff Caplan.

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 has been deployed to Afghanistan with the U.S. Army.

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

Those whose lives and homes have been changed by Hurricane Isaac.

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

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

CO-PASTORS: BILL GOETTLER & MARIA LASALA

DIRECTOR OF MUSIC: PATRICK McCRELESS

CAMPUS CHAPLAIN TO YALE: JENNIFER DAVIS

YDS INTERN: HANNAH DREITCER

PARISH ASSOCIATE: SUE ASHER

ADMINISTRATIVE ASSISTANT: MIRIAM SAMUELSON

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Web site: www.fpcnh.org

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

Worship: 10:45 a.m.

**First Presbyterian Church
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06511**

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