



Steeplelight

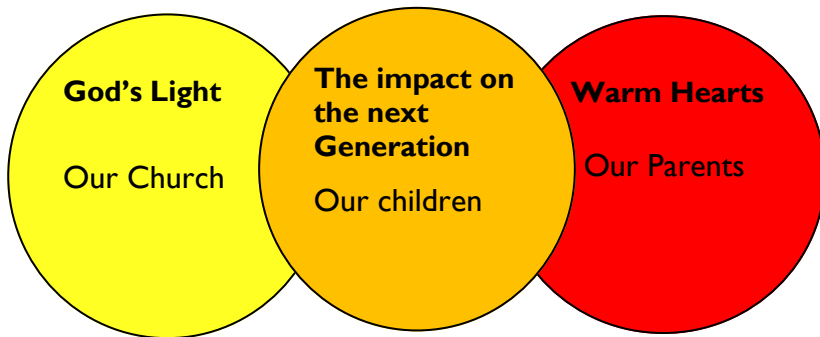
First Presbyterian Church

Steeplelight

September 2011

What IS Orange?

“Orange is a *strategy* that combines the family with the faith community to demonstrate the message of God’s story, in order to influence the next generation.”



Why the color orange? Could it be one of God’s favorite colors? He stuck it right between red and yellow as the second color in the rainbow. He decorates entire forests with shades of orange every autumn. It shows up in sunrises and sunsets and in the glow of the moon at the right time of the night. Maybe we should gain a new respect for orange?

Rally Day - September 18

Rally Day will be celebrated on September 18 with a special coffee hour following the worship service. As the new

school year kicks off, so does our education program for children and adults. We continue with our

Think Orange program, you will be hearing more about 'why Orange' in the weeks to come.

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Special points of interest:

- Color photos of Vacation Bible School week
- Learn about Bible Study opportunities
- Youth activities and Confirmation Class
- Mission update and World Communion

New Bible Study begins

New Bible Study will be offered mornings and evenings:

Wednesdays, September 21 - October 26, at 10:30 to noon

Thursdays, September 22 - October 27, at 7 to 8:30 p.m.

Theologian Paul Blackham writes about this study curriculum: "The Galatians had enjoyed the incredible freedom that Jesus gives us. However, 'religious' people had joined the Galatian fellowship, claiming to have deeper knowledge from the ancient Scriptures, claiming to have a bigger picture than the simple good news that they had heard.

These new teachings were robbing the Galatians of their freedom and confidence. They were falling into a kind of religious slavery, making them think more and more about their own religious efforts and leaving little room for Jesus. Paul was desperate to rescue the Galatians from this dreadful cult. Galatians shows us that the answer is

to be found in Jesus, the Messiah promised and hoped for since the beginning of the world. There is freedom in Him. All fleshly categories that constrain people are blown apart by His life, death and resurrection. When we come to Jesus we find the answer to all things. He is the hope and desire of the ages and the nations."

*September 22 will be an **open house and reunion** where you and your friends can check out the program, reconnect with ladies from past semesters.*

M.O.M.s of Faith moves to Thursdays

Moms, join us for a Thursday morning out this Fall! This Bible study will start September 22 at 9:30-11:30 a.m. on Thursday mornings for nine weeks and will study the Book of Acts. The first Thursday, we will

also do an exercise that evaluates our spiritual gifts. There will be a program for children with Bible lessons, crafts and music. Church members may sign up their children ages toddler to 5 as a drop

off babysitting service only for \$75 for the nine weeks. A one-time fee of \$25 for material for the semester. Contact the church office to sign up!



Choir Opportunities

The fall is a great time to try something you've considered but haven't acted upon. Why not share your love of music in our times of worship? Our Choir rehearses every Thursday at 7:30 pm and Sundays before the ser-

vice. Some sing all year, and others' schedules permit them only to sing seasonally. All are most welcome!

And, if you or your children are interested in learning to play hand bells or play an instrument and would like to

know of opportunities to offer your talents to the glory of God, please contact our Music Director, Laurie Birch, or Patti Law on the Worship Committee.

September 11th Remembrance

Our sanctuary service on Sunday, September 11 will include moments of solemn remembrance, and music, on the occasion of the tenth anniversary of 9/11 -- as well as the heartfelt prayers we share for a more peaceful future for our children.

Two additional opportunities to observe the 10th anniversary of Septem-

ber 11th are:

The Fairfield County Chorale will join choruses from across the nation who are performing the Mozart Requiem. A Sing-In will begin at 7:00 p.m. at St. Thomas Aquinas R.C. Church.

The Fairfield Clergy Association, the Tent of Abraham Interfaith group, The Council of Churches of Greater Bridgeport, and

the Fairfield Museum will have an interfaith observance on at 3:00 p.m., at the Fairfield Museum. Led by clergy from local Jewish, Christian and Muslim communities, the service will honor the memory of those lost, as well as the shared bonds of faith and hope which draw us together as a community.

Our sanctuary service on September 11 will include moments of solemn remembrance, and music, as well as the heartfelt prayers we share for a more peaceful future for our children.

New Books in the Reading Room

New books from

authors:

Rev. Tim Keller

Capt. Jeff

Struecker

and

Douglas Wood

No library card

needed!

It has been a busy summer in The Reading Room with the arrival of many new books. There are books available for all ages and interests.

There are two new books by Rev. Timothy Keller, pastor of Redeemer Presbyterian Church in Manhattan. *The Reason for God* offers a rational explanation of why we should believe in God now. His newest book *The Prodigal God* explores the parables of Jesus and reveals how the grace of God is available for all.

Captain Jeff Struecker, Baptist minister of Calvary Baptist Church in Georgia has written *The Road to Unafraid*. His memoir tells of an elite military unit sent to fight in some of the

worst conflicts. In the Mideast and how in the midst of calamity and chaos, he held on to his belief in God. His life story was the basis for the movie *Black Hawk Down*. Capt. Struecker has also coauthored two works of military fiction. The books are *Captain Jeopardy* and *Fallen Angel*. They are exciting military fiction written from realistic, first-hand knowledge of actual military campaigns and the dangers involved for all who participate.

Our featured children's books are the folk tale *Stone Soup*, newly illustrated and retold, and *Old Turtle*. *Stone Soup* helps children understand the value of sharing and generosity. One is illustrated by

Jon J. Muth in soft oriental drawings and the other illustrated and told by Heather Forest using the back drop of a southern, rural farm community. Each is beautifully done with many fine illustrations.

Old Turtle and *Broken Truth* authored by Douglas Wood are award winning books that offer a message of love and tolerance for all. *Old turtle* is the oldest and wisest of the animals and shares his wisdom and knowledge with all creatures. His reverence and love for all humans and animals is shown with remarkable simplicity and charm.

Do come in and see these and many other new books in The Reading Room.

Mission Committee Update

The Missions Committee would like to update you on some recent and upcoming activities. First, thanks to a strategic funding allocation from the David Munich Fund, our Church has been able to make some rather significant contributions, totaling \$10,620, to some of our long-standing local missions and some important new ones:

\$3,500 to Habitat for Humanity of Coastal Fairfield County

\$4,370 to support missions of our Presbytery, Presbytery of Southern New England, of which \$2,000 will go to the Presbyterian Frontier Fellowship (PFF). PFF is a new mission for our Church and one that promotes the awareness of Christianity to people in “unreached areas”.

\$1,750 to Haiti Lumiere to support the purchase of solar powered flashlights for children so that they can use to study at night.

\$1,000 to the Re-Entry Ministries (Bridgeport) to help women recover from substance abuse.

Each of these missions is dependent on financial contributions, but they are also dependent on our prayers and personal time commitment. If you are interested in volunteering any of your time to support one of these missions, please do not hesitate to contact John Winstead, Duke Louis or Dave Hill.

Second, throughout the fall, our Church will be conducting six separate “Minute for Missions” during our Sunday Church services. You will have the opportunity to hear about the many local missions that we support. The purpose of these “Minute for Missions” is to promote awareness of these missions and to provide each of us the opportunity to serve if there is interest. Following the Sunday worship services, representatives from the different missions we support will be available to us in Brooks Hall so that we can learn more about their mission work and how we can participate. Expect to hear exciting and heart-felt messages from the following missions:

Council of Churches of Greater Bridgeport, which is the parent of the Project Learn after-school program.

Pivot Ministries for substance abusers

Bridgeport Rescue Mission homeless shelter

Operation HOPE homeless shelter and food pantry

Haiti Lumiere to promote education in Haiti

Habitat for Humanity of Fairfield County Christian Housing Ministry that has built over 150 homes in Bridgeport and Stratford.

Third, on September 10, the Presbytery of Southern New England meeting will be held at

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Mission Committee update

(Continued from page 5)

Please stop by the Mission bulletin board and see the Peace Giving poster and other mission activities.

the Yale Divinity School. There will be a special focus on missions at this meeting. Representatives from our Missions Committee will be attending. If you are interested in attending please reach out

to John Winstead. Finally, on October 2, we will be celebrating World Communion Sunday. On this Sunday we will also be participating in the annual Peacemaking Offering, where we can support peacemaking ministries locally and around

the world.

The Missions Committee welcomes your input and participation. If you are interested in learning more about how you can participate, please reach out to John Winstead, Chairperson or Duke Louis, Vice Chairman.

World Communion Sunday

This offering supports the efforts of Presbyterians to work for justice and peace, through local congregations, the Presbytery, the Synod and the General Assembly.

On World Communion Sunday, October 2 when Christians around the world gather to eat the bread and drink the cup offered by Christ, the Prince of Peace, we will receive a Peacemaking Offering. World Communion Sunday is a time when we become mindful of our spiritual unity with Christ and each other and it is a time through our

actions, when we demonstrate unity with Christ and others.

Collecting the Peacemaking Offering and dedicating ourselves to the work of justice and peace is an example of how we can share in the unity we have with Christ and others. Seventy five percent of the offering collected will go to the Presbytery for distribution to Synod and

General Assembly. The other twenty five percent of the offering will be designated by the mission committee to a local peacemaking agency.

On four successive Sundays beginning on Sunday September 11, fliers will be in the Church bulletin explaining how peacemaking contributions from the previous years were put to use nationally and internationally.





First Presbyterian Church

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Steeplelight deadline is the 15th of
each month.

Submit articles to
First-Presbyterian@sbcglobal.net

Are you receiving our
weekly church email? If not,
please e-mail the church
office.

ADDRESS CORRECTION REQUESTED

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**DATED MATERIAL
PLEASE DELIVER
BY September 8th**

Impact and Varsity Activities

Activities abound for Impact and Varsity youth in the coming months! Lots of planning over the summer has created a schedule of events that is available on the church's website calendar. Highlights include the upcoming Re-

treating at Camp Hope the weekend of September 9-11, Tag Sale to raise funds for the 2012 summer mission trips, Bounce U, rock climbing, and Late Night events along with weekly meetings. In addition, a Confirmation Class will

begin on Sunday, September 25 for 8th and 9th graders, meeting from 5:30 to 6:30 p.m. To find out more about any of these events and be added to the Youth events mailing list, please contact PJ Drost.



Enjoying last year's Retreat at Camp Hope in Litchfield, CT