

First Notes

*The First
Presbyterian Church
in the City of New York*

Volume XVIII Issue 7-8

July-August 2010

From the Pastor's Desk

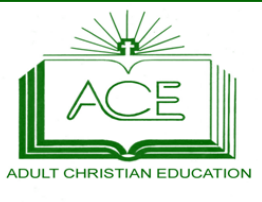
On July 1, I will be heading to Minneapolis for the General Assembly of the Presbyterian Church (USA). This meeting, which is held every two years, is part convention, part political caucus, part prayer meeting, and part family reunion. Equal numbers of clergy and lay commissioners will come from all of the presbyteries across the nation. For the first twenty years of my ministry I paid little notice to Assembly life. As a young pastor, you are generally not invited to attend as a commissioner from the presbytery, and the ins and outs of national church concerns have never really been my passion. I much prefer the pulse and beat of the local congregation: its births, deaths, member receptions, worship, fellowship dinners, pastoral visits, and daily life. The great actions of amending the Book of Order, or making pronouncements about war, or entering into ecumenical or interfaith alliances have never been as immediate to me. But with the debate over ordination standards that dates to the Albuquerque Assembly some eleven years ago, I realized that the work of 6A affects and shapes the life of the local congregation. As I became more involved in the ministry of the Covenant Network, I found a constructive outlet for my passion for justice and for a more inclusive national church.

This year—along with overtures to address same-gender marriage (both pro and con), the need to remove all barriers to the ordination of gay and lesbian leaders in the church, and the right and responsibility of pastors to officiate at marriage ceremonies in those states where same-gender marriage is permitted—there is another issue that will perhaps capture even more media attention. A study commission known as the Middle East Study Committee (MESC) will be making a report to the Assembly reviewing its two-year study of issues in Israel-Palestine, and making recommendations on what the Presbyterian Church and the U.S. should do in response. The report rightly expresses concern over the dwindling number of Christians in the Middle East. It discusses the growing disparity

and dislocation of Palestinian people and the problems of living outside the Separation Barrier. It points to the difficult problems created by Israeli occupation of the West Bank, Gaza, and expanded settlements in East Jerusalem. It expresses concern for the aggressive posture of the current Israeli administration toward blockading peaceful materiel from Palestine and hostile actions on the Mediterranean Sea. On these points many Israelis and American Jews have expressed concern as well.

But the 173-page MESC report is highly biased and in the end neither a fair analysis of the problems in Israel-Palestine nor a feasible plan for how to move toward a better place. For one thing, the committee did not consult with American Jewish leaders, spokespersons, or voices. The breadth and diversity of opinion in this country is influential in Israel, and the committee has overlooked that fact altogether. The report does not include the Israeli narrative in any meaningful way, and describes certain historical turning points such as the 1967 War in a strongly pro-Palestinian, anti-Israeli way. Because of the many flaws, biased perspectives, and disturbing elements of the report, I have joined eighteen other pastors, seminary presidents, and leaders in the Presbyterian Church in signing a letter to be sent to every commissioner of the 219th General Assembly and to be published in the *Presbyterian Outlook*. I don't know what influence this may have on the Assembly's consideration of the MESC report. The letter calls for the rejection of the report. But if the Assembly decides to adopt the report, I can only hope that its most offensive and biased elements will have been amended or deleted to express a more balanced perspective. Not being a Commissioner, I cannot speak to the Assembly, but being an Observer, I will be there hoping and praying for a just and helpful outcome.

The Rev. Dr. Jon M. Walton



BIBLE STUDY IN JULY AND AUGUST 2010

Sundays at 10:00 a.m.

in the Esther Morrow Room of the South Wing

led by members of the Adult Education Committee

Dates and Topics:

July 18—Types of Literature in the Bible

July 25—Does God Demand Blood?

August 1—God in the Bible

August 8—Was America Founded a Christian Nation?

August 15—Jesus' Brother James

Leaders:

Mark Fontaine

Pat Nunez

David Wilson

Richard Marmet

Thomas Cathcart

SUMMER MOVIE SERIES

Tuesday Evenings at 6:30 p.m.

Mezzanine Room, South Wing

July 13, 20, and 27; August 3

Popcorn and refreshments

Discussion following movie

JULY 13 – UP (96 mins.)

Discussion Leader: Rita Johnson



From Pixar Animation Studios and the director of *MONSTERS, INC.*, this film tells the hilarious and uplifting story of Carl Fredricksen, a retired balloon salesman, who ties thousands of balloons to his house and lifts off in search of the lost world of his childhood dreams. Russell, an overeager 8-year old Wilderness Explorer, finds himself in the wrong place at the wrong time—Carl's front porch! The world's most unlikely duo reaches new heights and meets fantastic friends together in the wilds of the jungle and realize that sometimes life's biggest adventures aren't the ones you set out for.

JULY 20 – A SERIOUS MAN (106 mins.) Discussion Leader: Richard Marmet

A darkly humorous tale exploring questions of faith and familial responsibility, *A Serious Man* introduces us to physics professor Larry Gopnik (Michael Stuhlbarg) and his search for clarity in a universe of misfortune. It is 1967, and Larry's wife is leaving him; his unemployed brother is sleeping on the couch; his son is a discipline problem at Hebrew school; his daughter Sarah is filching money from his wallet in order to save up for a nose job; and an anonymous hostile letter-writer is trying to sabotage Larry's chances for tenure at the university. Struggling for equilibrium, Larry seeks advice from three different rabbis. Can anyone help him cope with his afflictions and become a *mensch*—a righteous person; a "serious man"?



JULY 27 – UP IN THE AIR (109 mins.) Discussion Leader: Thomas Cathcart

From Jason Reitman, the Oscar-nominated director of *Juno*, comes *Up in the Air*, the timely odyssey of Ryan Bingham (George Clooney), a corporate downsizer and modern business traveler who, after years of staying happily airborne, suddenly finds himself ready to make a real connection. Ryan has long been content with his unencumbered lifestyle in America's airports, hotels, and rental cars. When he falls for a fellow traveler, Ryan begins to contemplate what it might actually mean to have a home.



AUGUST 3 – THE SOLOIST (117 mins.) Discussion Leader: David Wilson

Oscar winner Jamie Foxx and Oscar nominee Robert Downey Jr. star in this poignant tale based on the true story of a Los Angeles journalist's unlikely friendship with a street musician. Steve Lopez, a disenchanted *L.A. Times* columnist, is at a dead end in both his career and personal life. Walking through L.A.'s Skid Row, he meets the mysterious street performer Nathaniel Ayers playing a two-stringed violin. At first approaching Ayers as another story idea, Lopez makes it his mission to bring Ayers off the streets and back into the world of music. But even as he fights to save Ayers' life, he becomes transformed by Ayers—with his unsinkable passion, his freedom-loving obstinacy, and his valiant attempts at connection and love.



The Membership-Fellowship Committee of the First Presbyterian Church cordially invites you to its

Summer BBQ Cookouts

Wednesdays in July and August
6:00 p.m. – 8:00 p.m.

First Presbyterian Church
12 West 12th Street, North Lawn



Please join us for our weekly Wednesday cookouts through August 25. All are welcome, so invite your friends and family! You provide the food; we've got the rest: a hot grill, soft drinks, ice, and condiments. We look forward to seeing you there!

Weather related cancellations are made at 4:30 p.m. on the day of the cookout. For further information, call the church office at (212) 675-6150.

Families:

Save These Dates for Fall

Sunday, September 12

Child Care Reception for Parents of children under 3
10:15 a.m. on the 3rd floor of the Mellin-Macnab building

Sunday, September 19

11:15 a.m.: Family Music Ministries Homecoming

Sunday, September 26

First Day of Church School/Family Music Ministries

Sunday, September 19

Celebration Sunday Picnic & Potluck

Church School:

Early Registration Opportunity

You may register for Church School anytime during the summer! Please email Ian Gibbs in the Communications Office at igibbs@fpcnyc.org to request a registration form.

Summer Sundays Schedule July 4—September 5

10:00-10:45 a.m.....	Adult Education (EXCEPT July 4 & September 5)	Parlor
10:45-12:15 p.m.....	Child Care	Morrow Room
11:00 a.m.-12:15 p.m.....	Worship Service	Sanctuary
12:15 p.m.....	Coffee Hour	Parlor

Save the Date!

Homecoming Sunday Picnic & Potluck



Sunday, September 19

Gardens and Walkways after the Service

Reservations required.

Sign-up sheets available in the Mellin-Macnab Building lobby starting September 6; or call the church at (212) 675-6150.

The North lawn will again be reserved for families with small children.

A free-will donation will be collected.

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
<p>The First Presbyterian Church in the City of New York 12 West 12th Street (at Fifth Avenue) New York, NY 10011 Tel: (212) 675-6150 Fax: (212) 675-8674 All data subject to change without notice. Check with Church Receptionist at (212) 675-6150 for confirmation and details. ♥ indicates volunteer opportunities</p>	<p>Note: Sunday Worship will continue in the Sanctuary July 4th - September 5 Coffee Hour will be in the Morrow Room</p> <p><i>Staff Holiday</i></p>	<p>DEACONS FOR THE MONTH: Chantal Forger (917) 885-9834 David Kipin (718) 457-7558</p>		<p>1 8:00 N.S. Summer Program 12:15 AI Anon Close at 5:00 p.m.</p>	<p>2 8:00 N.S. Summer Program 6:15 NA/DA Groups</p>	<p>3 GENERAL ASSEMBLY CONVENES MINNEAPOLIS</p>
<p>4 INDEPENDENCE DAY <i>14th Sunday in Ordinary Time</i> 10:45 Child Care in Morrow Room 11:00 Worship ♥ Communion <i>The Rev. McCaslin preaching</i> 12:15 Coffee Hour ♥</p>	<p>5</p>	<p>6 6:15 A.A. Groups</p>	<p>7 10:30 Staff Meeting 12:00 Sanctuary Open for Meditation 6:00 Fellowship Cookout</p>	<p>8 12:15 AI Anon Close at 5:00 p.m.</p>	<p>9 6:15 NA/DA Groups</p>	<p>10 GENERAL ASSEMBLY ENDS</p>
<p>11 <i>15th Sunday in Ordinary Time</i> 10:45 Child Care in Morrow Room 11:00 Worship ♥ <i>The Rev. McCaslin preaching</i> 12:15 Coffee Hour ♥ 12:30 Pre-baptism meeting</p>	<p>12 Close at 5:00 p.m.</p>	<p>13 6:15 A.A. Groups 6:30 Summer Movie Series <i>Up</i></p>	<p>14 10:30 Staff Meeting 12:00 Sanctuary Open for Meditation 6:00 Fellowship Cookout 6:00 Shelter Organization Meeting 7:00 New Sanctuary Movement</p>	<p>15 12:15 AI Anon Close at 5:00 p.m.</p>	<p>16 6:15 NA/DA Groups</p>	<p>17</p>
<p>18 <i>16th Sunday in Ordinary Time</i> 10:00 Bible Study 10:45 Child Care in Morrow Room 11:00 Worship ♥ Baptism <i>Dr. Walton preaching</i> 12:15 Coffee Hour ♥</p>	<p>19 9:00 AGO Students in Sanctuary Close at 5:00 p.m.</p>	<p>20 6:15 A.A. Groups 6:30 Summer Movie Series <i>A Serious Man</i></p>	<p>21 10:30 Staff Meeting 12:00 Sanctuary Open for Meditation 6:00 Fellowship Cookout 7:00 Tartan Fair Craft-Making</p>	<p>22 60+ CIRCLE COMMITTEE TRIP TO STONY POINT 12:15 AI Anon Close at 5:00 p.m.</p>	<p>23 6:15 NA/DA Groups</p>	<p>24</p>
<p>25 <i>17 Sunday in Ordinary Time</i> 10:00 Bible Study 10:45 Child Care in Morrow Room 11:00 Worship ♥ <i>Dr. Walton preaching</i> 12:15 Coffee Hour ♥</p>	<p>26 Close at 5:00 p.m.</p>	<p>27 6:15 A.A. Groups 6:30 Summer Movie Series <i>Up in the Air</i></p>	<p>28 10:30 Staff Meeting 12:00 Sanctuary Open for Meditation 6:00 Fellowship Cookout</p>	<p>29 12:15 AI Anon Close at 5:00 p.m.</p>	<p>30 6:15 NA/DA Groups</p>	<p>31</p>

AUGUST 2010

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
1 18th Sunday in Ordinary Time 10:00 Bible Study 10:45 Child Care in Morrow Room 11:00 Worship ♥ Communion <i>The Rev. Anderson-Piccolo preaching</i> 12:15 Coffee Hour ♥ <i>Close at 5:00 p.m.</i>	2 <i>Close at 5:00 p.m.</i>	3 6:15 A.A. Groups 6:30 Summer Movie Series <i>The Soloist</i>	4 10:30 Staff Meeting 12:00 Sanctuary Open for Meditation 6:00 Fellowship Cookout	5 12:15 AI Anon <i>Close at 5:00 p.m.</i>	6 6:15 NA/DA Groups	7
8 19th Sunday in Ordinary Time 10:00 Bible Study 10:45 Child Care in Morrow Room 11:00 Worship ♥ <i>The Rev. McCaslin preaching</i> 12:15 Coffee Hour ♥ 12:30 Pre-baptism Meeting <i>Close at 5:00 p.m.</i>	9 <i>Close at 5:00 p.m.</i>	10 6:15 A.A. Groups	11 10:30 Staff Meeting 12:00 Sanctuary Open for Meditation 6:00 Shelter Organization Meeting 6:00 Fellowship Cookout 7:00 New Sanctuary Movement First Notes and Calendar Due	12 12:15 AI Anon <i>Close at 5:00 p.m.</i>	13 6:15 NA/DA Groups	14 4:30 Wedding Rehearsal Blocher/Sokolov <i>The Rev. McCaslin, officiant</i>
15 20th Sunday in Ordinary Time 10:00 Bible Study 10:45 Child Care in Morrow Room 11:00 Worship ♥ Baptism <i>The Rev. McCaslin preaching</i> 12:15 Coffee Hour ♥ 4:30 Wedding Blocher/Sokolov <i>The Rev. McCaslin, officiant</i>	16 <i>Close at 5:00 p.m.</i>	17 6:15 A.A. Groups	18 10:30 Staff Meeting 12:00 Sanctuary Open for Meditation 6:00 Fellowship Cookout 7:00 Tartan Fair Phonathon	19 12:15 AI Anon <i>Close at 5:00 p.m.</i>	20 6:15 NA/DA Groups Wedding Rehearsal (<i>time TBD</i>) Lewis/Gill <i>The Rev. Mitchell, officiant</i>	21 6:00 Wedding Lewis/Gill <i>The Rev. Mitchell, officiant</i>
22 21st Sunday in Ordinary Time 10:45 Child Care in Morrow Room 11:00 Worship ♥ <i>The Rev. McCaslin preaching</i> 12:15 Coffee Hour ♥ <i>Close at 5:00 p.m.</i>	23 <i>Close at 5:00 p.m.</i>	24 6:15 A.A. Groups	25 10:30 Staff Meeting 12:00 Sanctuary Open for Meditation 6:00 Fellowship Cookout	26 12:15 AI Anon First Notes Mailing Team ♥ <i>Close at 5:00 p.m.</i>	27 5:00 Wedding Rehearsal Talbot/Castellani <i>The Rev. McCaslin, officiant</i> 6:15 NA/DA Groups	28 6:00 Wedding Talbot/Castellani <i>The Rev. McCaslin, officiant</i>
29 22nd Sunday in Ordinary Time 10:45 Child Care in Morrow Room 11:00 Worship ♥ <i>The Rev. McCaslin preaching</i> 12:15 Coffee Hour ♥ <i>Close at 5:00 p.m.</i>	30 <i>Close at 5:00 p.m.</i>	31 6:15 A.A. Groups	DEACONS FOR THE MONTH: Neville Carmical (212) 755-2575 Chantal Forger (917) 885-9834	Note: <i>Sunday Worship will continue in the Sanctuary July 4th - September 5</i> <i>Coffee Hour will be in the Morrow Room</i>	The First Presbyterian Church in the City of New York 12 West 12th Street (at Fifth Avenue) New York, NY 10011 Tel: (212) 675-6150 Fax: (212) 675-8674 All data subject to change without notice. Check with Church Receptionist at (212) 675-6150 for confirmation and details. ♥ indicates volunteer opportunities	

Volunteer Opportunities

Welcome to the *VOLUNTEER OPPORTUNITIES CALENDAR*, published monthly to let you know of events where you can help.

- **COFFEE HOUR HOSTING** – Hosts, coffee pourers, and greeters are needed for Coffee Hour after church. To volunteer, contact **HEATHER MEE** at (212) 366-0341 or hmee@earthlink.net.
- **USHERS FOR WORSHIP SERVICES** – Volunteers are needed to usher for **Sunday morning services and special services**. To volunteer, call **JOAN RYAN** at (212) 765-2141, or **SUZANNE FREEMAN** at (646) 827-4559.
- **FIRST NOTES** – Volunteers are needed to help assemble and label **FIRST NOTES** mailings. For the next mailing, volunteers will meet at the Church at 10:00 a.m. and work until about 1:00 p.m. on **Thursday, August 26**. Call **PAULETTE GRIEFEN** at (212) 942-0620 to help.

- **LAYREADERS** – Those interested in participating as lay readers are asked to call **DENISE JACKSON** at (212) 675-4366.
- **CROSS BEARER** – To explore the possibility of carrying the processional cross at worship, please contact **MEG HARPER** at (718) 624-1516 or harpermeg@hotmail.com, or **NADINE STEWART** at (212) 206-7725 or nadineanddavid@rcn.com.
- **IN THE KITCHEN** – If you can help with Fellowship Suppers after Wednesday Worship, please call **JAMES HOLLANDER** at (646) 335-2969 or e-mail hollander_james@yahoo.com. For all other events call **JACKIE FIKE** at (914) 793-4017 or e-mail jackiecf@verizon.net.

Wednesday, September 8—Fellowship Supper

Wednesday, Sept. 8—3:00 - 8:00 p.m. Pr, Sr, Clean-up

Sunday, September 19—Celebration Sunday Picnic

Thursday, Sept. 16—3:00 - 6:00 p.m. Set-up

Friday, Sept. 17—11:00 a.m. - 4:00 p.m. Prep.

Saturday, Sept. 18—11:00 a.m. - 4:00 p.m. Prep.

Sunday, Sept. 19—9:00 - 11:00 a.m. Prep.

Sunday, Sept. 19—12:30 - 3:30 p.m. Serve, Clean-up

100% FAIR TRADE
JUST COFFEE
NOT JUST A MARKET. BUT A MOVEMENT

MISSION SERVICE TRIP TO MEXICO: JUST COFFEE COOPERATIVE

Saturday, November 6, through Sunday, November 14, 2010

In 2009, First Church organized a mission service trip to Mexico's northern border with Arizona to learn about the work of PC (USA)'s Bi-national Border Ministry, Frontera de Cristo.

Part of their ministry is participation in the Just Trade Center to which the **Just Coffee Cooperative** belongs. As a result of the 2009 trip, First Church now buys **Just Coffee** for use at its functions.

The 2010 trip will be an opportunity to experience the life of the coffee growers in Salvador Urbina, Chiapas, southern Mexico on the border with Guatemala. Participants will live in growers' homes, learn about the multi-step process of producing coffee, and have an opportunity to harvest the ripe coffee "cherries." The **Just Coffee Cooperative** is unique in its control of the entire coffee-making process, including the roasting which is normally done in the purchaser's country, not the grower's. By eliminating several middlemen, **Just Coffee** insures that the profits stay within Mexico and enable the growers to provide their families with a decent standard of living. This means that families are not split apart by the necessity to find better-paying jobs in other Central American countries or in the U.S.

The approximate per-person cost of the trip will be \$1,650—subject to revision due to changes in airfare. The cost includes room and board, airfare, ground transportation in Mexico, and a contribution to the facilitating organization.

To sign up, add your name to the list on the kiosk in the lobby of the Mellin-Macnab Building by Sunday, September 12. If you have any questions, please call Grania Marcus at (917) 579-0199. Grania volunteered for three years with Frontera de Cristo and will be happy to share her knowledge of Mexico.

MISSION SERVICE COMMITTEE LOOKING FOR MEMBERS

Anyone interested in helping to plan the mission service trips and the local work projects sponsored by the Mission Service Committee is cordially invited to join the Committee. The next meeting will be on Sunday, September 12, after worship. Please call Rich Korchak, Mission Service Committee Chair, at (212) 477-7150 if you would like to join or if you want to explore the possibility.

HELP US STAY IN TOUCH!

First Notes is now primarily distributed by email. If we do not have your email address, or if your email address has recently changed, please let us know at igibbs@fpcnyc.org.



IT'S BEGINNING TO LOOK A LOT LIKE ... CHRISTMAS?

We Presbyterians take the long view, so we know that now is the time to send donations for this year's Tartan Christmas (December 3, 4, and 5). For the Fair's Silent Auction, we especially need your silver, china, art work and antiques. Or, can you donate tickets to plays or sporting events, computer lessons, dog-walking, dinner for six at your home, or special personal services? If so, contact Rebecca Brown (rader0703@gmail.com). For the White Elephant and Book sales, we need your gently used housewares and books. Bring them to church any weekday (from 8:00 a.m. to 9:00 p.m.) or on Sundays.

This summer, after several of the Wednesday evening barbecues and on some Saturday mornings, we'll be sorting and pricing the Books and White Elephant donations. If you can help with Books, please contact Diana Pardue at diana_pardue@nps.gov; to help with White Elephant donations, contact Jane Ritter at jmr719@aol.com.

And Santa's crafty elves take note: We will have a summer craft-making night after the cookout on **Wednesday, July 21**. Mark your calendar! Let Ellie Garlow at ellie2@nyc.rr.com know if you can make it.

Summer Child Care



Child care for children under three years old is provided in the Morrow Room of the South Wing during the 11:00 a.m. worship services in July and August.

Summer Pledges

If you will be away during the summer, please keep your Annual Fund pledge up-to-date. The church's financial obligations continue throughout the summer.

In fact, some bills—like electricity—are even higher than usual. Mailing your contributions before you leave for vacation helps your church keep current with ongoing expenses. Mid-year contribution statements will be mailed in early July. If you have questions, please contact the Business Office at (212) 675-6150.



Two Months of Sundays

July and August Worship at FPC

SUNDAY, JULY 4

Fourteenth Sunday in Ordinary Time

Independence Day

Sermon: The Rev. Sarah S. McCaslin preaching

Sacrament: Communion

SUNDAY, JULY 11

Fifteenth Sunday in Ordinary Time

Sermon: The Rev. Sarah S. McCaslin preaching

SUNDAY, JULY 18

Sixteenth Sunday in Ordinary Time

Sermon: The Rev. Dr. Jon M. Walton preaching

Sacrament: Baptism

SUNDAY, JULY 25

Seventeenth Sunday in Ordinary Time

Sermon: The Rev. Dr. Jon M. Walton preaching

SUNDAY, AUGUST 1

Eighteenth Sunday in Ordinary Time

Sermon: The Rev. Kellie Anderson-Picallo preaching

Sacrament: Communion

SUNDAY, AUGUST 8

Nineteenth Sunday in Ordinary Time

Sermon: The Rev. Sarah S. McCaslin preaching

SUNDAY, AUGUST 15

Twentieth Sunday in Ordinary Time

Sermon: The Rev. Sarah S. McCaslin preaching

Sacrament: Baptism

SUNDAY, AUGUST 22

Twenty-First Sunday in Ordinary Time

Sermon: The Rev. Sarah S. McCaslin preaching

SUNDAY, AUGUST 29

Twenty-Second Sunday in Ordinary Time

Sermon: The Rev. Sarah S. McCaslin preaching

DEADLINE FOR SEPTEMBER 2010 *FIRST NOTES*:

WEDNESDAY, AUGUST 11

DEACONS FOR JULY: Chantal Forger, (917) 885-9834; and David Kipin, (718) 457-7558.

DEACONS FOR AUGUST: Neville Carmical, (212) 755-2575; and Chantal Forger, (917) 885-9834.

First Notes

*The First
Presbyterian Church
in the City of New York*

Calendar of Events

CHURCH HOUSE
12 WEST 12TH STREET NEW YORK, NY 10011

Return Service Requested

**The First Presbyterian Church
in the City of New York**

12 West 12th Street, New York, NY 10011
Tel: (212) 675-6150 Fax: (212) 675-8674
<http://www.fpcnyc.org>

Jon M. Walton, Pastor
Sarah Segal McCaslin, Associate Pastor
Barbara E. Davis, Minister of Christian Education
Mark D. Hostetter, Associate Pastor
William F. Entriken, Organist and Choirmaster
Emily Scott, Director of Family Music Ministries

