



# Stirling Stuff

Volume 54, No. 6

June 2010

## **Pastor's Letter**

In an article entitled "Relationship of Music and Spirituality," Richard Pettinger writes:



*"Spirituality and music can never be separated. If music awakens our inner aspiration, we will be inspired to dive deep within."*

Sri Chinmoy says of music:

*"When we play soulful music, we elevate our consciousness most rapidly. Soulful music is a form of aspiration, a form of meditation."*

I thought of this because yesterday in our church and again in the next few weeks, we had and have the opportunity to see the connection between music and spirituality. As I listened to the big sounds of the Bach Prelude and Fugue in C Minor, and the gentle, childlike melody of the Schumann Träumerei, and everything in between on the organ, I found my spirit being led by the different sounds, tempos, and volumes of the pieces that were played. Those of us who have participated in the Taizé services know this as we feel our spirit grow calm and deep as we sing the simple chant-like songs over and over. It is important to remember that in the Bible the most spiritual book is the music portion that we call the Psalms. In the Psalms, we have the opportunity to meditate with the authors of the various psalms on the highs and lows of life and God's presence within those movements of ones life.

On Sunday, June 6<sup>th</sup>, at 4:30 p.m., our Travnicek Memorial Ringers will be joining the Ost Memorial Ringers at the Wilson Memorial Church for a concert of bell music. We are playing a number of different pieces that certainly invoke different feelings. I hope you will come and let your spirits move with the sounds of the bells.

On Tuesday evening, June 15<sup>th</sup>, we will gather for our second session on *Spirituality 101*. The topic for that night is how we can practice spirituality in our lives, and I certainly will be mentioning how music can be a part of that. On Sunday, June 20<sup>th</sup>, during morning worship we will be celebrating Music Sunday with a look at the spirituality of the Spirituals. When we look at the songs given to us by blacks who worked as slaves, we hear of a powerful trust in God and God's presence. I hope you will join us for all of these events.

I also hope you will join us for *Christian Education Recognition Sunday* on June 13<sup>th</sup>, which will be followed by our church picnic on the front lawn. As I've said before, we have a **very good program**, led by some very dedicated individuals, and I hope you will come to say thanks for all they do, which is a lot!

See you in church!

*Tom*

## Worship Services and Scripture Passages for June

### June 6, 2010

- *Tenth Sunday in Ordinary Time*
- *Sacrament of Holy Communion*  
I Kings 17:8-24; Psalm 146;  
Galatians 1:11-24; Luke 7:11-17

### June 13, 2010

- *Eleventh Sunday in Ordinary Time*
- *Christian Education Recognition Sunday*  
I Kings 21:1-21; Psalm 5:1-8;  
Galatians 2:15-21; Luke 7:36-8:3  
*Church Picnic after Worship*

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*Worship begins at 10:00 a.m. on  
Sunday mornings, followed by Coffee Hour  
fellowship in Pollard Hall.*

*Child Care is provided in the Nursery.*

*Children join their families  
in church and then leave  
for Christian Education classes  
after the Children's Talk.*

### June 20, 2010

- *Twelfth Sunday in Ordinary Time*
- *Music Sunday; Father's Day*  
I Kings 19:1-15; Psalm 42 & 43;  
Galatians 3:23-29; Luke 8:26-39  
*The Spirituality of the Spirituals*

### June 27, 2010

- *Thirteenth Sunday in Ordinary Time*  
2 Kings 2:1-14; Psalm 77;  
Galatians 5:1, 13-25; Luke 9:51-62

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**Please note that the Scripture readings may be different in Worship. These are the lectionary readings and are provided here for your own personal reading and meditation.**

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Rev. Tom's sermons are posted on the church website. Visit: [www.fpcstirling.org](http://www.fpcstirling.org), click on: "Sermon Archive," then select the Sermon date.



### Memorial Day Coffee Table

Once again this year, on Memorial Day, May 31<sup>st</sup>, we will be offering free lemonade, coffee, and Munchkins to the people on the parade route. We need to be set up and ready around 8 a.m. If you can help, please sign up in Pollard Hall or contact the church office (908-647-1033).



## **An Afternoon with Bells**



Since this concert was so enjoyed by members and friends of both churches, the Travnicek Memorial Ringers will once again be joining the Ost Memorial Ringers of Wilson Memorial Church in Watchung for a concert of handbell music. The program will be held at **4:30 p.m. on Sunday, June 6<sup>th</sup>**, at Wilson Memorial Church (7 Valley Road, Watchung). (Please note time change.) The choirs will each be ringing solo pieces, and they will also perform together. Some pieces also include trumpet, timpani, and organ accompaniment. Admission to the program is free.

Following the concert, there will be a potluck dinner in Fisher Hall. Please bring a dish that you can share. There will be cheese, fruit, crackers, coffee, and iced tea available while the tables are being set up. The members of both choirs hope that you can attend this concert. We are sure it will be an afternoon of great music and fellowship.

## **Organ Concert**



On Sunday, May 23<sup>rd</sup>, we celebrated our new organ with a dedication concert. Four organists shared their gifts of music: Tatiana; Beverly Weber, who has been our substitute organist a number of times and who tried the organ out before we purchased it; Roberta Keller, the organist for Meyersville Presbyterian Church; and, Roberta Smith, the organist for the Wilson Memorial Church in Watchung.

Our thanks to everyone who participated in this event and to those who organized the reception following the concert. It was a very enjoyable afternoon.

Pictured from the left are: Tatiana Akhounzianova, Rev. Tom Peters, Roberta Keller, Beverly Weber, and Roberta Smith

## **Mission**

**-Yvonne Fletcher**

## **Bridges Outreach Lunch Program**

**- Jean Hoffman, Coordinator**

Our next commitment for preparing lunches is Friday, **June 4<sup>th</sup>**, 9:30 a.m., in Pollard Hall. We can always use juice boxes and fruit cups.



## **Buildings & Grounds**

**- Tom Parziale**

### **Church Sign**

The church sign now stands proudly at the entrance to the church driveway again. Our thanks to Dale Monetti for an excellent restoration job.

**Community Food Bank of NJ****- Tom Parziale**

On Saturday, May 8th, a group of church volunteers worked at the Community Food Bank of NJ in Hillside. We were small in number, but our production was large. We labeled hundreds of soup cans that were donated to the food bank because the labels had been left off during the manufacturing process. They can now be sent to local food banks for distribution. Our team that morning included: Dawn & Sandy Mackay, Mariann Powell, Rich Pateman, Debra Sprague, Katherine Ihringer, Juliana Engler, Jan Somers, and Tom Parziale.

To quote one of the volunteer coordinators at the food bank:

**“Thank you all for being the difference by volunteering.”**



Receiving instructions



Labeling cans

**Church Yard Sale****- Jean Hoffman, Mariann Powell**

It was wonderful that so many people pitched in to make the yard sale such a success. It was an entire church event. We had people donating, baking, setting up, selling, buying, breaking down, and boxing. We raised a total of \$1330.80, which is terrific! All proceeds will go towards the heating loan. To all who contributed in any way. . .

**Christian Education****- Lore Pateman, Debra Sprague****CE Recognition Sunday & All-Church Picnic**

On Sunday, **June 13<sup>th</sup>**, we will recognize our Sunday School students and staff during worship.

Everyone is then invited to stay for the church picnic on the front lawn. Come to church dressed for the picnic. Bring your lawn chair, a dish to share, and something to grill. Join us for some games, food, fellowship, and fun. Please sign up in Pollard Hall so we know how many will be coming.

### **Child Care**

Our Sunday School program ends on June 13<sup>th</sup> and resumes on Rally Day, September 12<sup>th</sup>. For the twelve weeks in-between, we need to provide child care during worship. If you haven't had the opportunity to spend time with this sweet group of children, now's your chance to get to know them. Two adults, or one adult and one teen/pre-teen helper, are needed for Child Care each Sunday. Please sign up in Pollard Hall, or speak to Lore or Debra if you have any questions.

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### **Meyersville Presbyterian Church Vacation Bible School**

School will be out soon, and family vacations and summertime fun begins for many children. If you are looking for an adventure, you must save the mornings during the week of **August 9-13** and attend the annual Vacation Bible School program at the Meyersville Presbyterian Church. Children from the preschool level through fifth grade are invited to attend.

The week promises to be filled with fun crafts, outside games, music, skits, and storytelling. Last year, the week ended with special skits and music presentations by each grade level, as well as a splashing good time on a giant water slide. This year will include some special role playing by some of the adults. Rev. Peters will be taking on the role of Elijah as he helps out this year.

If you are interested in attending or helping out, please contact the Rev. Barbara Aspinall at the Meyersville Church office (647-0390). She will be happy to take your registration and provide you with additional information.

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### **Johnsonburg Presbyterian Camp**

Many of our children have gone to summer camp at Johnsonburg and/or been counselors there. It's a wonderful program. Brochures are available in Pollard Hall, or you can speak to Lore Pateman. Also, the church has a half-campership available.

A message from Chrissie Parziale: I was a camper at Johnsonburg, starting in third grade, and a staff member there for several years. My years at camp gave me the opportunity to meet many different people and form friendships with people from all over the state as well as the world. As a counselor, I had the opportunity to grow as a leader. All of these experiences truly shaped the person I have grown into today. If you are considering sending your children to camp (or recommending it to a friend), but have any questions at all, I would be happy to talk with you further about it and/or get answers for you.

The Johnsonburg brochure is also available at: [www.campburg.org/pdf/2010-summer-brochure.pdf](http://www.campburg.org/pdf/2010-summer-brochure.pdf)



### **Easter Bulletin Board**

We hope everyone has had a chance to enjoy the beautiful Easter bulletin board, located at the entrance to Pollard Hall. In Lore's absence, Shaylyn Gallagan graciously stepped in and provided the inspiration for this year's Easter board. Please take a moment to thank Shaylyn.

**Mile of Pennies**

Our annual mission for sponsoring Kenyan student scholarships is underway. So far for 2010, we have collected about **\$133.94** towards our goal of **\$844.80**. To be on track to get to our goal by the end of the year, we need to collect \$70.40 per month. So, by end of May, we should have collected around **\$352**.

Please don't forget to bring your change to church, and help us reach our yearly commitment. Education is so very important! The collection jar is in Pollard Hall during coffee hour every Sunday.

**Adult Education****- Debra Sprague**

Several opportunities for Adult Education will be available in the coming weeks; we hope you can take advantage of one or more:

**Spirituality 101**

On Tuesday evening, **June 15<sup>th</sup>**, we will again discuss "Spirituality 101" as our Adult Ed topic. What, exactly, is *Spirituality*? Please join us at 7:30 p.m. as we explore this topic further.

**Fourth Sunday Focus****- Tom Parziale**

Everyone is invited to join us at the next "Fourth Sunday Focus" gathering on **June 27<sup>th</sup>** as we celebrate our one-year anniversary of the first Fourth Sunday gathering.

*Fourth Sundays* give us an opportunity to connect with other members of our church family in a relaxed atmosphere: a pot of tea, a Box o' Joe, Munchkins . . . and conversation.



**We start around 8:45 a.m.** and end by about 9:45 a.m. --- but come and join us whenever you can. *We may meet in the Memorial Garden, weather permitting -- or else in Pollard Hall.* If you have a topic you'd like to discuss, please contact Tom Parziale.

**Fifth Tuesday**

Tuesday evening, **June 29<sup>th</sup>**, is the next of our "Fifth Tuesday" joint church Adult Education sessions. In June, the topic will be Bible based and led by our own Rev. Peters. Watch for the title to be announced in the bulletin, and plan to join us at 7:30 p.m.

**Summer Joint Church Adult Ed**

This program is being planned for Wednesday evenings in July and August at 7:30 p.m. (Dates: **July 7, 14, 21, 28, August 4, 11**) As we did last year, we will meet at our church for 6 weeks of stand-alone topics, led by pastors and lay people.

*If you have a particular topic that you'd like to have included, or if you have an interest in leading a session, please contact Debra Sprague or Rev. Peters.*

**Deacon's Corner****- Matthew Gerecht****Pot Missing**

A white, electric pot that we use in the kitchen to make coffee/tea water is missing. Any ideas where it may have been put?

**Church Flowers**

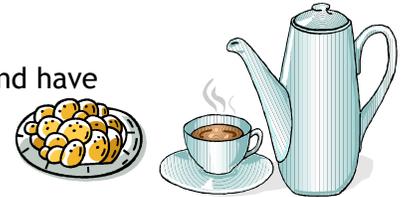
If you would like to place flowers on the chancel for Sunday worship in honor or memory of someone, contact Matthew Gerecht. Allow enough lead time to have them ordered for the date you would like. The cost is \$30. Currently, we are using artificial flowers, but fresh flowers look and smell so beautiful and add so much to the service.

**Worship Help**

The Worship Help chart is posted in Pollard Hall. Please sign up for dates when you can help out as Liturgist, Usher, or host/donor of Coffee Hour. If you have questions about any of these duties, please speak with any Deacon.

**Coffee Hour**

Would you be willing to supply goodies or make a donation for Coffee Hour and have someone else actually host? Would you be willing to host coffee hour if someone else sponsors it? Coffee Hour need not be anything fancy--just some basic goodies, coffee, tea, and juice will suffice. Please sign up on the chart in Pollard Hall as host or donor, or speak to Rene' Phelan or Jan Somers. Thank you!

**Graduates**

*Congratulations!*

CLASS OF  
2010

Graduating from Central School, Stirling and heading to Watchung Hills Regional High School in September:

Garrett Blakeslee  
Chris DeMatteo  
George Filippatos



Graduating from Watchung Hills Regional High School:

Megan Gallagan  
Shaylyn Gallagan  
Lisa Monetti  
Jessica Wilfong



Our high school graduates have not all finalized their future plans; look for more information in the next issue.

College Graduates:Alison Peters

Ali graduated with Honors from the College of Wooster (Ohio), with a Bachelor of Arts Degree, *summa cum laude*. Her awards/honors include Phi Beta Kappa, James R. Turner Prize, and Phi Alpha Theta. This summer, Ali will be working at the Presbyterian House in Chautauqua, NY, and then she will be looking for a job and possibly re-locating to Philadelphia.

Tyler Young

Tyler graduated from Rowan University, with a major in Spanish and a Business minor. He is working now and preparing for a backpacking trip in Europe with a friend.

If any graduates have been omitted, please forward the information to Jan (SS Editor), and they will be included in the next issue. Also, please let her know about any special awards, future plans, etc. Thanks!

**Session and Deacons**

Listed below are the current members of the Session and Board of Deacons and their specific responsibilities. Please refer to this list if you need information about a particular area in the life of the church or community-at-large, i.e., church events, website, building/property, programs. It can guide you to the right contact person. Their numbers are listed in the church directory, or you can get them from the church office (908-647-1033).

<b><u>Session:</u></b>	Ed Gerecht	Personnel
	Chrissie Parziale	Communication (Website), Nominating
	Debra Sprague	Christian Education
	Lynne Combs	Worship
	Gary Jolliffe	Finance & Stewardship
	Madeline Hahl	Presbytery Representative
	Yvonne Fletcher	Mission
	Susan Brodziak	Nominating
	Michael Nugent	Buildings & Grounds
	Entire Session	Evangelism
<b><u>Deacons:</u></b>	Jackie Dickson	Coffee Hour
	Rene' Phelan	Moderator, Visitation Coordinator, Flowers
	Bruce Coultas	Treasurer
	Carolyn Malfatone	Vice-Moderator, Secretary, Nominating Committee, Funeral Receptions, Paraments
	Sue Sanders	Corresponding Secretary
	Matthew Gerecht	Newsletter, Flowers

## Ongoing Mission Programs

### Mile of Pennies

Change (and more) collected during coffee hour supports scholarships for Kenyan students. We're into our fourth year/mile now. Please help us reach our goal.

### Food Pantry

Items can be left in baskets marked "Food Pantry Donations."

### Toiletries

Full-sized bars of soap and "courtesy" sizes of soap, shampoo, conditioner, and shower caps are donated to various causes. Place on the table outside Pollard Hall.

### Sneaker Project

Place used pairs of sneakers (any size) on the pew inside Pollard Hall. To date, we have collected **137** pairs, which are sent to the Somerset Food Bank.

### Eyeglasses, Sunglasses, Cell Phones

Place used glasses and cell phones on the table outside Pollard Hall.

### Yarn & Cotton Material

Yarn is used to make lap robes for wounded veterans; any color is acceptable. Fabric (with the exception of wool and stretchables) of about 1/2 yard is used to make small bears for children, totes for wheelchair patients, etc. Place on pew inside Pollard Hall.

## Ongoing Fundraiser

### Grocery Store Gift Cards

- ✓ No additional cost to you to use
- ✓ Church earns **5%**
- ✓ Denominations available:
  - **ShopRite** in \$20/\$50/\$100
  - **Pathmark** in \$25/\$50/\$100

Gift cards are available each week during coffee hour, or call Jean Hoffman (908) 756-1075.

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*Please e-mail submissions for the  
Summer issue of Stirling Stuff to:  
[jsomers17@hotmail.com](mailto:jsomers17@hotmail.com)  
by June 24<sup>th</sup>. Thank you!*



## First Presbyterian Church

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