



Stirling Stuff

Volume 54, No. 7

Summer 2010

Pastor's Letter



It is July, and, not only does that mean summer has arrived, this year it means that our denomination's General Assembly is meeting. It's being held in Minneapolis, Minnesota this year from July 3rd through July 10th. As a pastor, I always worry a little during the General Assembly (G.A.) because you never know what may come out of it and what items the news organizations may pick up. Of course it helps that now we only have to go through this exercise of ecclesiastical government every two years rather than every year, as it was not that long ago. Sometimes needing to save money has its perks!

While I worry about what may come out of the process of a G.A., I am also amazed at what does get accomplished. Having attended three G.A.s in an official capacity, I can say they are a wonderful experience of seeing the Holy Spirit at work. When you realize that many different people come from all over the country with different agendas, gather for committee meetings and then plenary sessions that last until late in the evening, it is amazing that anything gets done. Yet, many wonderful things happen in the course of a G.A.



This year, there are several important business items coming before the G.A. Perhaps the biggest item is to approve a new, *AND THINNER*, Book of Order. Over the past several years, a committee has been working on how we can make our Book of Order, which is the book that describes our government and procedures, simpler and more streamlined. Their final product is coming before this G.A. There will also be new motions concerning the removing of the sections of the Book of Order and the Book of Confessions that do not allow for the ordination of gays and lesbians. The commissioners will hear a report from a committee that has been working for several years on the situation between Israel and Palestine. They will also be considering a recommendation to add a new confession to our Book of Confessions. And, they will be voting on a new moderator of the denomination who will moderate this meeting and serve as moderator of the denomination until the next G.A. in two years. Fifteen new missionaries and six who have been reappointed will be commissioned at this year's assembly. Plus, there will be a lot of new items from presbyteries and commissioners.



If you want to keep up with what is happening at G.A., you can go to www.pcusa.org, and you will find various sites to log onto for updates. The one thing we can all do is pray for the commissioners and the new moderator. They will be working long, hard hours, and we need to ask God to bless them with energy and wisdom.



See you in church!

Tom

Worship Services and Scripture Passages for July and August

July 4, 2010

- *Fourteenth Sunday in Ordinary Time*
- *Sacrament of Holy Communion*
- *Independence Day*
2 Kings 5:1-14; Psalm 30;
Galatians 6:1-16; Luke 10:1-11; 16-20

July 11, 2010

- *Fifteenth Sunday in Ordinary Time*
Amos 7:7-17; Psalm 82;
Colossians 1:1-14; Luke 10:25-37

July 18, 2010

- *Sixteenth Sunday in Ordinary Time*
Amos 8:1-12; Psalm 52;
Colossians 1:15-28; Luke 10:38-42
Mrs. Betty Shuman preaching

July 25, 2010

- *Seventeenth Sunday in Ordinary Time*
Hosea 1:2-10; Psalm 85;
Colossians 2:6-19; Luke 11:1-13
Rev. Barbara Aspinall preaching

*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

Rev. Peters' sermons are posted on the church website. Visit: www.fpcstirling.org, click on: "Sermon Archive," then select the Sermon date.

August 1, 2010

- *Eighteenth Sunday in Ordinary Time*
Hosea 11:1-11; Psalm 107:1-9, 43;
Colossians 3:1-11; Luke 12:13-21

August 8, 2010

- *Nineteenth Sunday in Ordinary Time*
Isaiah 1:1, 10-20; Psalm 50:1-8, 22-23;
Hebrews 11:1-3, 8-16; Luke 12:32-40

August 15, 2010

- *Twentieth Sunday in Ordinary Time*
Isaiah 5:1-7; Psalm 80:1-2, 8-19;
Hebrews 11:29-12:2; Luke 12:49-56

August 22, 2010

- *Twenty-First Sunday in Ordinary Time*
Jeremiah 1:4-10; Psalm 71:1-6;
Hebrews 12:18-29; Luke 13:10-17

August 29, 2010

- *Twenty-Second Sunday in Ordinary Time*
Jeremiah 2:4-13; Psalm 81:1, 10-16;
Hebrews 13:1-8, 15-16; Luke 14:1, 7-14

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.

If you should need pastoral care while Rev. Peters is on vacation, please contact the Church office at 908-647-1033 or Phyllis Clemson, Clerk of Session, and they will contact someone for you.

A Night at the Ballpark

- Tom Parziale



On Friday, July 2nd, a group from the church will be attending a Somerset Patriots minor league baseball game in Bridgewater against the Lancaster Barnstormers. The game starts at 7:05 p.m. and will be followed by fireworks. There are still a few tickets available, for the bargain price of \$5. If you are interested, please contact Tom Parziale.

Mission

- Yvonne Fletcher

Bridges Outreach Lunch Program

- Jean Hoffman, Coordinator

Our summer commitment dates for preparing lunches are: **Fridays, July 9th and August 13th**, 9:30 a.m., in Pollard Hall. We can always use juice boxes and fruit cups. Thank you for your continuing support of this very important program!

**Adult Education**

- Debra Sprague

Summer Joint Adult Education Series

We will again be holding a series of joint adult education classes on Wednesday evenings for six weeks during July and August with our Adult Education partners, *Meyersville Presbyterian Church* and *Trinity United Church*. Expand your horizons this summer! We are offering a variety of topics. Most sessions "stand alone," so feel free to attend any or all that may interest you, as your vacation plans permit.

The sessions will be held at 7:30 p.m. at our church. Since we are hosting this series, please contact Debra Sprague if you would like to help out by providing a cool beverage or snack for one or more of the sessions. The topic and leader schedule is as follows:

- July 7:** **Was Our Country Founded as a Christian Nation?**
Rev. Tom Peters and Debra Sprague
- July 14:** **Water: Have We Destroyed Our Life Source?**
Rev. Tom Peters
- July 21:** **The Parables of Dr. Seuss**
Heather Harris-Galgoci
- July 28:** **The Book of Judges: Tragedy, Comedy, Ribaldry, and . . . Theology***
Rev. Barbara Aspinall
- Aug. 4:** **The Book of Judges: Tragedy, Comedy, Ribaldry, and . . . Theology***
Rev. Barbara Aspinall
- Aug. 11:** **Why Is It So Difficult to Talk About Racism?**
Rev. Tom Peters

* The Book of Judges: Tragedy, Comedy, Ribaldry, and . . . Theology

More information about this topic: Good kings, bad kings, heroes, battles, murdering women, bathroom humor, a haircut, and a secret password all come together in the story of God's people conquering the land God has given them. Join us as we discuss God's Word to us in this wonderful book in the Old Testament. Though not necessary, it would be helpful for participants to read the book of Judges prior to the class. (This is the only topic in the series that

is in two parts; feel free to come to one or both. There will be a brief "recap" of the first session at the beginning of the second.)

Fourth Sunday Focus

- Tom Parziale

Everyone is invited to join us at our summer "Fourth Sunday Focus" gathering on **August 22nd**.
(Please note: There will be no July session.)

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 the (air-conditioned) nursery. If you have a topic you'd like to discuss, please contact Tom Parziale.

Fifth Tuesday

Tuesday evening, **August 31st**, 7:30 p.m., is the next of our "Fifth Tuesday" joint church Adult Education sessions. We will explore some of the discussions from July's General Assembly.

Christian Education

- Lore Pateman, Debra Sprague

Child Care

Although the Christian Education program is in recess, we need to continue providing child care during worship throughout the summer. 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. Please sign up in Pollard Hall, or speak to Lore or Debra if you have any questions. And, please note --- the nursery is air-conditioned.

Meyersville Presbyterian Church Vacation Bible School

School is out, 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.

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.

The Johnsonburg brochure is also available at: www.campburg.org/pdf/2010-summer-brochure.pdf

Deacon's Corner**- Matthew Gerecht****Church Flowers**

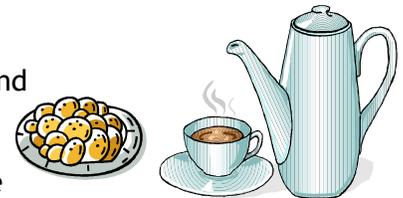
If you would like to place flowers on the chancel for Sunday worship in honor or memory of someone, contact Matthew Gerecht. Allow enough lead time to have them ordered for the date you would like. The cost is \$30. Currently, we are using artificial flowers, but fresh flowers look and smell so beautiful 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. **There are still several open dates during the summer; please sign up for a Sunday when you will be around and can help out.**

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!

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

Our updated total from the Church Yard Sale is \$1,515.50, which will be used to pay down the church heating loan. Thank you all again!



Update on some of our Watchung Hills Regional High School graduates:

- ✓ Megan Gallagan will be attending Gettysburg College in PA.
- ✓ Jessica Wilfong will be attending Queen's University in Ontario, Canada.
- ✓ Lisa Monetti will be attending Montclair State College, majoring in Spanish. In June, Lisa had a photography exhibit at Angelfire Studio at the Dewy Meadow Mall and, in July, she will be going to Ecuador and the Gallapagos Islands as a People to People student ambassador.

Our congratulations and best wishes to you all!

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.

*Please e-mail submissions for the
September issue of Stirling Stuff to:
jsomers17@hotmail.com
by August 19th. Thank you!*



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