



Stirling Stuff

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May 2010



Pastor's Letter

What is spirituality? Is it different than prayer? Is spirituality only for monks and people who are really into praying? Have you ever had questions like these? Perhaps you've heard me say that religion is for people afraid of going to hell; spirituality is for people who have been there. I bring this up because in May we will be celebrating the Day of Pentecost (May 23rd) when God sent the Spirit to the disciples and the Church was born. Spirituality is about recognizing that the Spirit is there for us and accessing it for our lives.

I will once again have third Tuesday Adult Education Programs on May 18th and June 15th at 7:30 pm. The topic for these two nights will be *Spirituality 101*. I hope that it can be a time to reflect on spirituality as we look ahead to the summer when life is a little less hectic for most of us. One of my goals for myself at the CREDO conference was to become more intentional about my spiritual life, and this is an invitation for you to join me in that journey. I hope to see you on the 18th.

Please be sure to read this newsletter in its entirety as there are some big things coming up in May and June that we want you to be aware of.

See you in church!

Tom

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Tom on Vacation

On Monday, May 3rd, Tom will be flying out to Omaha to pick up his in-laws' van to drive back to New Jersey, with stops in Missouri to visit his brother; in Richmond where he grew up; and, then in Wooster, OH where Alison will be graduating from the College of Wooster. He will return on Monday evening, May 10th. If you need pastoral care during that time, please call Phyllis Clemson or Paulette Irlander, and they will contact someone for you.



Worship Services and Scripture Passages for May

May 2, 2010

- *Fifth Sunday of Easter*
- *Sacrament of Holy Communion*
Acts 11:1-18; Psalm 148;
Revelation 21:1-6; John 13:31-35
Series: #4
The Function of the Church of Jesus Christ

May 9, 2010

- *Sixth Sunday of Easter; Mother's Day*
Acts 16:9-15; Psalm 67;
Revelation 21:10, 21:22-22:5; John 5:1-9
Rev. Dorothy Morris - Preaching

May 16, 2010

- *Seventh Sunday of Easter*
Acts 16:16-34; Psalm 97;
Revelation 22:12-21; John 17:20-26

*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..*

May 23, 2010

- *The Day of Pentecost*
Acts 2:1-21; Psalm 104:24-34, 35b;
Romans 8:14-17; John 14:8-17, 25-27
Travnicek Memorial Ringers will be playing.

May 30, 2010

- *Trinity Sunday*
- *Memorial Day Sunday*
Proverbs 8:1-4, 22-31; Psalm 8;
Romans 5:1-5; John 16:12-15

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



Organ Dedication Concert

On Sunday, May 23rd (the Day of Pentecost), we will celebrate our new organ with a dedication concert. At 3 p.m., four organists will be sharing their gifts of music on the organ. Tatiana will be playing, as will Beverly Weber who has been our substitute organist a number of times and who tried the organ out before we purchased it. Roberta Keller is the organist for Meyersville Presbyterian Church and has played for us for funerals and weddings as well as on Good Friday at times. Our fourth organist is Roberta Smith, the organist for the Wilson Memorial Church in Watchung.



We are planning a reception in Pollard Hall after the concert. Please sign up if you can help out. Plan to come and bring your friends to enjoy this time. Let's celebrate that we now have an organ we can feel free to invite people to come and play!

Handbell Concert



By popular demand, 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 concert will be held at 3:00 p.m. on Sunday, June 6th, at Wilson Memorial Church (7 Valley Road, Watchung). The choirs will be ringing five pieces together, and each choir will ring two pieces on their own. Plan to join us for an afternoon of great music and fellowship.

New Handbell Table Covers

In May, the Travnicek Memorial Ringers will be receiving their new table covers, which were provided by monies received in memory of Roy Rinehart. The bell covers will be used for the first time during worship on May 23rd.

Memorial Day Coffee Table

Once again this year, on Memorial Day we will be offering free coffee, lemonade, 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.

Deacon's Corner

- Matthew Gerecht

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 2010 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. Thank you!

Buildings & Grounds

- Tom Parziale

Church Sign

The church sign, which stands proudly at the entrance to the church driveway, has been removed temporarily for some much needed repairs. A banner sign is now in its place. Once the repairs are completed, the church sign will be returned to its usual position.

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

The church is planning another volunteer morning at the Community Food Bank on **Saturday, May 8th, from 9-11:30**. We usually meet at the church around 8:00 and carpool to Hillside. The minimum age for volunteers is 12 years old. The Community Food Bank of New Jersey is located at 31 Evans Terminal Road in Hillside. Please contact Tom Parziale if you can join the team that will be helping that morning, or sign-up in Pollard Hall.

Volunteers provide the needed function of getting donated food and grocery products sorted for distribution. Without the sorting, the food can't be distributed!

Mission**-Yvonne Fletcher****Bridges Outreach Lunch Program****- Jean Hoffman, Coordinator**

Our next commitment for preparing lunches is Friday, **May 7th, 9:30 a.m., in Pollard Hall**. We can always use juice boxes and fruit cups. We have sufficient snacks and paper supplies at this time. Looking ahead... upcoming preparation date: June 4th.

**Breadstick Report****- Jean Hoffman**

Once again, we owe a big thank you to Karen Peck for inviting us into her beautiful kitchen, making batch after batch of breadstick dough, and helping us raise approximately \$480 towards the Heating Loan.



We turned out 80 boxes of breadsticks in time for Easter entertaining. The kitchen crew was comprised of Lynne Combs, Ellen Eastty, Barbara Griswold, and Rene' Phelan. And, of course, we can't forget to thank all of you who supported the project with your purchases!

Girl Scout Project

Long Hill Township Girl Scout Troops 2211 and 2169 are collecting items for a Haitian orphanage. The girls' section of the orphanage was completely destroyed in the January earthquake. Brooke Kupferman has set up a box in Pollard Hall to collect the following items: clothing and shoes, in good condition, children to adult sizes (skirts are especially needed); new undergarments; towels; soap; shampoo; toothpaste and toothbrushes; and, socks. The items will be collected through May 9th, and the troops will then hold a bake sale to raise money to ship them to Haiti.

Church Yard Sale**- Jean Hoffman, Mariann Powell****Fri., May 14, 10-2 & Sat., May 15, 9-3**

Rummage, rummage, rummage! Get that Spring cleaning jump-started, and donate your cast-off "treasures" to the church yard sale. Then come and rummage through everyone else's stuff, and take home some new "treasures" on the dates listed above!

Seriously, you may begin bringing items any time that is convenient for you when the church building is open. Place them in Pollard Hall behind the screen on the far right-hand side of the room so that we can begin pricing. If you have small furniture, place it along the wall so it will not interfere with groups using the building. Once priced, pre-sales are welcome. In this case, we would prefer checks dropped off in the church office.

If you can help on our sale dates, please contact Mariann Powell or Jean Hoffman. We can work out agreeable time slots. We really need and appreciate your help. We will need sturdy shopping bags with handles. If you have some to donate, please put them behind the screen.

Remember: On **Saturday only**, we will also have a "**Goodie Sale**" - mostly for baked goods. Homemade candy, jelly, or relish, are also welcome.

Proceeds from the Yard Sale will go towards the Heating Loan. It has been on the books for some time now, and every little bit we can make to pay it down helps.

Tips for Cleaning Out Clutter

We thought we'd pass along some ideas for cleaning and "de-cluttering." Hope it helps!

- ✓ Take a deep breath. It doesn't have to be overwhelming.
- ✓ Pick a spot to start, and then work around the room in one direction.
- ✓ Have a helper who can tell you when it's time for something to go.
- ✓ Sort items into 4 piles: keep, throw away, give away, donate or sell.
- ✓ Use baskets and shelves to organize.
- ✓ Pack items you can't bear to part with. If you haven't used it in 3 months, get rid of it.
- ✓ Congratulate yourself on a job well done!

Christian Education**- Lore Pateman, Debra Sprague****Fourth Sunday Focus on Connections****- Tom Parziale**

Everyone is invited to join us at the next "Fourth Sunday" gathering on **May 23rd** in Pollard Hall. "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. If you have a topic you'd like to discuss, please contact Tom Parziale.

**Interfaith Hospitality Network****- Phyllis Clemson**

We have received information regarding an opportunity to support the Interfaith Council for Homeless Families of Morris County simply by designating this organization as the recipient of a donation from participating stores when you shop on-line. Registration is free, and there are over 700 participating retailers. It's an easy way to support this Morris County program that does so much good for so many people. For more information, please go to www.iGive.com/ICHF-MC, or **look for the flyer posted in Pollard Hall.**

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, as we begin our 2010 drive. 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.

*Please e-mail submissions for the
June issue of Stirling Stuff to:
jsomers17@hotmail.com
by May 24th. Thank you!*



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