



Stirling Stuff

Volume 54, No. 8

October 2010

Pastor's Letter

On September 19th, I began a three-week series on peacemaking. This series will end on World Communion Sunday. The focus of this series has been on war/violence, nuclear arms, and economics. However, there is another aspect to peacemaking that I have been reminded of and that is peacemaking through caring for others. The wonderful hymn, *O For A World*, speaks to this kind of peacemaking.

O for a world where everyone
Respects each other's ways,
Where love is lived and all is done
With justice and with praise.

O for a world where goods are shared
And misery relieved,
Where truth is spoken, children spared,
Equality achieved.

We welcome one world family
And struggle with each choice
That opens us to unity
And gives our vision voice.

The poor are rich, the weak are strong,
The foolish ones are wise.
Tell all who mourn: outcasts belong,
Who perishes will rise.

October is a month that gives us opportunities to reflect on this kind of peacemaking. While peacemaking through working against war, fighting for the abolishing of all nuclear weapons, and working for an economic structure that is just is important business for all of us to be about, it is also easy to feel that it is too big for us to do anything about. In many ways, the month of October reminds us that peacemaking in the big things begins in the smaller things. In October, we find not only *World Communion* (Oct. 3), but also *Domestic Violence Awareness* (Oct. 10), *World Food Day* (Oct. 16), *Children's Sabbath* (Oct. 17), and *United Nations Day* (Oct. 24). We can easily do things for most of these. We can support shelters for women and children to get out of abusive relationships. We can walk to raise funds for hunger in the annual CROP Walk. We can give food and work at food pantries and food banks. We can stand up for the safety and rights of children.

In our daily lives we have a number of opportunities to be peacemakers. I'm reminded of a quote by the late Ralph Bunche who was the first black person to ever win the Nobel Peace Prize. He won it for his work for peace in Palestine. He was also instrumental in the formation and administration of the United Nations.

Peace, to have meaning for many who have only known suffering in both peace and war, must be translated into bread or rice, shelter, health, and education, as well as freedom and human dignity.

What can you do to make peace in your daily life?

See you in church!

Tom

Adult Christian Education Series

On Tuesday, **October 12th**, and for the following three Tuesdays, at 7:30 p.m. Rev. Peters will lead a series on *The Religion of Islam*. The topics will be:

- Oct. 12 Islam: The When, Where, Who, How, and Why
- Oct. 19 The Koran: Its Form and Content
- Oct. 26 What Do Muslims Believe?
- Nov. 2 Dialogue with Turkish-American Muslims from the Interfaith Dialogue Center of Central New Jersey

This study and dialogue are desperately needed in our nation today. There are many false stereotypes being propagated today about Muslims and their beliefs. Please come and allow yourself to be open to understanding your Muslim neighbors a little better. This series will also be announced to the community.

World Communion



On Sunday, **October 3rd**, we will celebrate the Sacrament of Communion with Christians around the world. Plan to join us for this special service. The older youth in our church will be participating in this service

Interfaith Hospitality Network

- Phyllis Clemson, Chris Scott

Our last responsibility for 2010 will be Thursday, **October 7th**. This date also marks the end of our **21st year** of involvement in this most worthy cause.

Please help us with this ongoing Mission Project; look for the sign-up sheet in Pollard Hall. The homeless of Morris County need our help!

Worship Services and Scripture Passages for October

October 3, 2010

- *World Communion Sunday*
- *Twenty-Seventh Sunday in Ordinary Time*
Lamentations 1:1-6; Jeremiah 29:1, 4-7;
Psalm 137; 2 Timothy 1:1-14;
Luke 17:5-10; Matthew 20:1-6
Voices of Peace:
3. *A Fiscally Compassionate Faith*

October 10, 2010

- *Twenty-Eighth Sunday in Ordinary Time*
Lamentations 3:19-26; Psalm 66:1-12;
2 Timothy 2:8-15; Luke 17:11-19
Guest Preacher

October 17, 2010

- *Twenty-Ninth Sunday in Ordinary Time*
Jeremiah 31:27-34; Psalm 119:97-104;
2 Timothy 3:14-4:5; Luke 18:1-8
Members of Session will be leading worship and preaching.

7:30 p.m. – Taizé Service

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.

October 24, 2010

- *Thirtieth Sunday in Ordinary Time*
Joel 2:23-32; Psalm 65;
2 Timothy 4:6-8, 16-18; Luke 18:9-14
Competitive Virtue

October 31, 2010

- *Thirty-First Sunday in Ordinary Time*
Habakkuk 1:1-4, 2:1-4; Psalm 119:137-144;
2 Thessalonians 1:1-4, 11-12; Luke 19:1-10
The Joy of Being Noticed

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.

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



Mission**- Yvonne Fletcher**

We have received \$1896 in interest earned on funds allocated for mission.
It is being distributed as follows:

Somerset Food Bank	\$300
Interfaith Hospitality Food Pantry	\$300
Presbytery Disaster Relief	\$300
Bridges Outreach Lunch Program	\$600
Possible future emergency	\$396

A large quantity of school supplies—notebooks, pens, pencils, etc.—was delivered to the Somerset Food Bank. Our church was the largest provider of school supplies. We also donated drinks and fruit cups for backpacks for needy children, as well as sneakers, toiletries, and video tapes.

Many thanks to all for your contributions!

Bridges Outreach Lunch Program**- Jean Hoffman, Coordinator**

Our next commitment date for preparing 40 lunches is: **Friday, October 8th**, 9:30 a.m., in Pollard Hall. We welcome donations of bottled water, juice drinks, snacks, and fruit cups. You can drop them off in Pollard Hall on Sunday mornings. Thank you for your continuing support of this very important program! Looking ahead, the last dates for this year are: Nov. 12 and Dec. 10.

CROP Walk

On Sunday, **October 17th**, at 1:30 p.m., members of our church will be walking to fight hunger. They will be participating in the annual New Providence CROP Walk. The money set aside for local efforts to combat hunger—one quarter of the amount raised, will go to the St. John's Soup Kitchen in Newark, NJ. Walkers are also asked to bring a jar of peanut butter as this is a very good high protein food item for hungry people. The peanut butter will be given to the Starfish Food Pantry in Plainfield, NJ.



I hope you will walk the three miles for hunger (we have six so far – see Rev. Tom if you want to walk to get your packet). But, I also hope you will sponsor one of our walkers with a donation and/or donate a jar of peanut butter. Our walkers so far are: Lore Pateman, Tierney Gallagan, Laura Brodziak, Rosie Andrus, Janice Monetti, and Rev. Tom.

Fellowship**Session Fellowship Event**

On Sunday, **October 24th**, the Session will be hosting a fellowship event after church. There will be a simple brunch and a program about our church. Plan now to attend and share in the fellowship and discussion. Your voice is important! The program will be very different from what most people have done in the past, and it will be fun for people of almost all ages. There will be something for the young children of our church as well.

Adult Education**- Debra Sprague****Fourth Sunday Focus****- Tom Parziale**

Everyone is invited to join us at our next "Fourth Sunday Focus" gathering on **October 24th**.

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 nursery.* If you have a topic you'd like to discuss, please contact Tom Parziale.

Worship**- Janet Parziale****World Communion Sunday, October 3rd**

World Communion Sunday, originally called World Wide Communion Sunday, which occurs on the first Sunday in October, originated in the Presbyterian Church (USA). It was celebrated for the first time in 1936 in Presbyterian churches in the United States and overseas. From the beginning, it was planned so that other denominations could make use of it and, after a few years, the idea spread beyond the Presbyterian Church. This year on World Communion Sunday, the youth of the church will be participating in the worship service. In addition, the Worship Committee invites everyone to dress up in the garb of your particular nationality or country. The clothing item could be as simple as a vest.

Also, if you have made paper cranes using the instructions Rev. Peters handed out in church, please bring them so that they can be placed on the Communion table. Don't forget to write your prayer for peace on the wings.

Looking Ahead:**All Saints Sunday**

On **November 7th**, we will be celebrating *All Saints Sunday*, a day when Christians give thanks for all the good people God has placed in our lives. At this service, we will take time to remember those special people who have passed away during the past year. If you are unable to be in church over the next few weeks, please contact the church office with the names of anyone you would like remembered **and** their relationship to you. Also, feel free to add a few words telling us who this person is and why they are special to you. There will be a form in the bulletin during October that you may complete and leave in the offering plate.

Heritage Sunday

On **November 28th**, the church will be celebrating Heritage Sunday. As in the past, we will have a guest bagpiper, Dave Paladino, play the tune Richard Streeton composed for our church, "Stirling on the Hill." The service will include a special ceremony called the Kirkin' of the Tartan. This ceremony comes out of Scottish history when it was against the law to wear a tartan and secret services were held to bless the tartans.

Following worship, there will be a special coffee hour with lots of Scottish goodies to enjoy. We invite anyone who enjoys baking to bring their favorite Scottish goodie to share. Also, bring along the recipe, as you're sure to be asked for it. Some of the goodies we're expecting are scones and shortbread. Of course, a fine pot of tea will also be served! We hope you will plan to celebrate our church's Scottish heritage with us. Also, remember to wear a wee bit of plaid.



Deacon's Corner

- Matthew Gerecht

Equal Exchange Coffee

We have been looking into purchasing a different brand of coffee at the church in order to support a program called "Equal Exchange." We have decided to purchase the first case of Equal Exchange coffee to see if this is something we want to continue buying to help these farmers. Each case contains five pounds of coffee. Here is a description of the mission behind the coffee.

"Through Equal Exchange's Interfaith Program, your congregation, school, or office can enjoy delicious, fairly traded products while supporting small-scale farmers across the world. Farmers earn a fair price for their products, have access to affordable credit, and can invest in education, health care, and sustainable agriculture, enabling them to build a better future for their families."

Please remember to continue to use the green Deacons Fund envelopes to help the Deacons purchase items including the coffee.

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 towards Coffee Hour and have someone else actually host? Or, 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!



Buildings & Grounds

- Tom Parziale



The committee continues to work through a list of items needing attention. With the help of Eric Gargiulo, our sexton, several outside projects have been completed. Following the work done by Eric in some cases and contractors in others, we will soon turn our attention to additional jobs inside our building.



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 **147** pairs, which are sent to the Somerset Food Bank for distribution.

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 you can contact Jean Hoffman (908-756-1075).

*Please e-mail submissions for the
November issue of Stirling Stuff to:
jsomers17@hotmail.com
by October 21st. Thank you!*



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