



Stirling Stuff

Volume 56, No. 6

June 2012

Pastor's Letter

It is so hard when there is something you really want to start, but for good reasons the time is not right. You worry about being able to keep the energy up to do it until the time is right. Jesus even experienced this as he slowly educated his disciples about faithful living. When Jesus was at the wedding in Cana and they ran out of wine, his mother, Mary, reported this to him. He said, *"My time has not come yet."* Even Jesus understood that there was a time for all things - just like the writer of Ecclesiastes wrote in his famous verses, *"For every thing there is a season, and a time for every matter under heaven..."*



The leaders of our New Beginnings program have all agreed that we should start the program the second week of September so that we are not doing it over the summer when many people are away. The leaders felt that they needed some time to assimilate the information they received at the two-day cluster event, and, by then we would be into the summer months. However, that does not mean that we cannot all be doing something during this time as we prepare for the program. As you attend various events in and around town during the summer months, or as you talk with your neighbors, ask people what they think is needed in our community. What is missing in this area? Write down their responses/suggestions somewhere so that you don't forget them. Don't judge any ideas as being too small or too big. You might also spend some time in reflection about what you are passionate about and what gifts you have. Your responses to these questions will eventually become grist for the discussions in your small groups. This does not mean that our church's eventual new beginning will reflect your passion, etc., but it becomes an important part of the dialogue.

Currently, we are in a process of doing *"Minute for Beginnings"* presentations during our worship service. On June 17th, the leaders will begin signing people up to participate in the small groups/house meetings that will start in September. It is important that we get as many people as we can to participate in this program. Your voice is important to the dialogue; and, even if some of your thoughts do not make it into the final proposal, you will gain an understanding of the process and how/why we ended up where we did. When you are asked to be part of one of these groups, please say yes.

If you have questions about the process, you may contact any of the members of the leadership team: Ed Chang, Madeline Hahl, Bill Hopcraft, Joyce Koenig, Lore Pateman, Chris Scott, Israel Sierra, Paul Wermuth, and me.

See you in church!

Tom



Worship Services and Scripture Passages for June

June 3, 2012

- *Trinity Sunday*
- *Sacrament of Holy Communion*
- *Christian Education Recognition Sunday*
- *Non-Perishable Food Collection*
- *Church Picnic following worship*
Isaiah 6:1-8; Psalm 29;
Romans 8:12-17; John 3:1-17
Whose Image of God Is Right?

June 10, 2012

- *Tenth Sunday of Ordinary Time*
1 Samuel 8:4-20; Psalm 138;
2 Corinthians 4:13-5:1; Mark 3:20-35
Family Values?

*Worship begins at 10:00 a.m. on Sunday mornings,
followed by Fellowship Hour 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 17, 2012

- *Eleventh Sunday of Ordinary Time*
- *Father's Day*
1 Samuel 15:34-16:13; Psalm 20;
2 Corinthians 5:6-17; Mark 4:26-34
We've Been Given a Seed

June 24, 2012

- *Twelfth Sunday of Ordinary Time*
- *Special Offering for Presbytery Disaster Assistance*
- *Travnicek Memorial Ringers and Professional Cellist*
1 Samuel 17:32-49; Psalm 9:9-20;
2 Corinthians 6:1-13; Mark 4:35-41
Don't you Care?!

Scriptures that are listed after the first Gospel reading are non-lectionary passages that will be used in the sermon. All the scriptures are provided here for any weekly Bible reading you may do.

Rev. Peters' sermons and the scripture readings are posted on the church website.

Visit: www.fpcstirling.org, click on:

"Sermon Archive," then select the sermon and/or scripture reading date you would like.



Per Capita Apportionment



Just a reminder that the **Per Capita Apportionment for 2012 is \$29** (no increase for the past 2 years). This is the amount that the church is assessed per member to help defray the expenses of the Presbytery, Synod, and General Assembly for ecclesiastical purposes. Please use the Per Capita envelope in the front of your offering envelopes box to help the church in meeting this requirement. Thank you.

Travnicek Memorial Ringers

During the month of June, the ringers will be playing their last two times of this program year.

On Sunday, **June 10th** at 4:30 p.m., the Travnicek Memorial Ringers will be ringing with the Ost Memorial Ringers of Wilson Memorial Church. The concert will take place at Wilson Memorial Church, located at the foot of Hillcrest Road in Watchung. This is the fourth annual concert given by these two bell choirs. In addition to the handbells and chimes, there will be parts played by organ, trumpet, viola da gamba, tympani, and flute. Come, sit back, and enjoy the music.



There will be a collection of food items for Starfish of Plainfield, so you are invited to bring non-perishable food items to donate. Following the concert, there will be a pot-luck supper and all are invited. Please bring a dish to share.



On Music Sunday, **June 24th**, the Travnicek Memorial Ringers will play during morning worship. The song is *You Raise Me Up*, and they will be joined by Marnie Keller, a professional cellist from the Morristown Presbyterian Church. Marnie served with Tom on the Presbyterian Disaster Assistance (PDA) team that met at Stony Point, and she agreed to do this piece in order to raise funds for PDA. There will be a special offering taken that morning for PDA. So, come and enjoy the music and be generous with you donation to PDA.

Christian Education Committee

- Lore Pateman

Summer Child Care

Please sign up in Pollard Hall to help with child care coverage during the summer. We need two people for each Sunday. It's play time and snacks with a really sweet group of children, and, as a bonus, the nursery is air-conditioned.

Camp Johnsonburg

We have received the brochures for this summer's camping program at Camp Johnsonburg in Johnsonburg, NJ. They have programs for children from 4 years old (which can include a parent) through high school, a family camp, and a special needs camp. There are half-week camps and full-week camps. There are camps with special themes (i.e., sports, safe sitter, music, art, drama, photography, rope & rock climbing, canoeing, Lifeguard training, Leadership Training, etc.). If you, your child, or someone you know might like to attend, pick up a brochure, and get registered now. The brochures are on the Christian Education Board in Pollard Hall.

Special CE Project

The CE committee is collecting pictures of the church school children over the years. If you could go through your pictures and bring them in, we'd appreciate it. There is a box in Pollard Hall for the pictures. Down the road, we will schedule a fellowship event to put together scrap books. Thank you to everyone who has already brought in their pictures!



Adult Education**- Debra Sprague****Fourth Sunday Focus, June 24th****- Tom Parziale**

Just want to remind everyone about Fourth Sunday Focus gatherings. We meet at 8:45 a.m. and end at 9:45 a.m., but come and join us whenever you can. We have a Box o' Joe, a Pot of Tea, some Munchkins, and some conversation. Tom Parziale facilitates the sessions, and we look forward to seeing you at one of the upcoming discussions. If you have a topic you'd like to discuss, please let Tom know.

**Educational Resources**

We subscribe to *The Thoughtful Christian* (www.thethoughtfulchristian.com) and use it as a source for many studies. Our subscription ends in June, so please take time to look at the website. Any downloadable studies you are interested in can be downloaded for no extra cost. Just let Debra Sprague know what studies you'd like. The studies can be for adult education, youth education, or for your own use.

Worship Committee**- Janet Parziale****Canned Food Collection, June 3rd**

On the first Sunday of each month, we collect donations of non-perishable food during the worship service. The food is donated to the township food pantry at St. Vincent Church. Please keep your food items with you in church for the children to collect. We continue to collect non-perishable food in the baskets located in the entry-ways to the church during the rest of the month.

Guest Preacher

On Sunday, May 6th, Elder Francis Maina of Nairobi, Kenya was our guest preacher. Elder Maina is a member of the Kayole Parish, a church in the Nairobi East Presbytery and part of the Presbyterian Church of East Africa. He is one of three elders from Nairobi visiting churches in the Newton Presbytery as part of a partnership exchange between the presbyteries.



In 2006, Rev. Peters spoke at churches in Nairobi when he visited various mission projects there that are supported by our church and other churches in the Newton Presbytery. These projects include a water pipeline that brings water to villages so that people do not have to carry it over long distances and the Kasasule Rural Health Centre in the African bush outside of Kibwezi, Kenya, which provides the only source of medical care for thousands of people. Our church also supports Kenyan students through our annual "Mile of Pennies" drive, since children in Kenya must pay to attend primary and secondary school.

Following a pot-luck luncheon, where attendees had the opportunity to learn more about the Kayole Parish and projects supported by Newton Presbytery, Rev. Peters presented Elder Maina with a commemorative plate from the 125th anniversary of our church.

Gifts of Women and Men Sunday, May 20th

During morning worship on May 20th, our congregation celebrated Gifts of Women and Men Sunday by recognizing Elaine Giordano and Bill Hopcraft. Following worship, the Worship Committee hosted a special fellowship hour in their honor.

Elaine lives in Gillette with her husband, Howard Kupferman, and teenage daughter, Brooke, and has been a member of our church for 3 years. She is a "Jersey Girl" at heart, who grew up in Bloomfield and spent summers at the Jersey shore.

She is a member of the Christian Education Committee and teaches the Pre-K Sunday school class, in which she takes great pride as it is one of her joys. She loves teaching the class, watching the children grow and develop. "We laugh, we play, and now we sing." She is also involved with organizing trips and activities for the youth of the church.

Elaine volunteers her time with the school PTA, band activities, and YMCA. She is certified in group exercises--Pilates and Zumba, and teaches Body Pump, Cardio Interval, and Sculpt classes at the Y. Twenty years ago, Elaine volunteered at the law library in the evening. She now works full time for Rutgers Law School in Newark as the Departmental Administrator and is the Assistant to the Dean of the law library.

Elaine is a big animal lover, often being known as a "cat whisperer." She loves to read fantasy and science fiction, especially in the summertime in New Hampshire or Cape May. Her claim to fame is making the best blueberry and apple pies.

Bill is a Garden State native, having grown up in Summit, and has been a member of our church for 20 years. He has been elected to several terms on Session and has served on the Buildings & Grounds and Finance Committees. In 2008, he became the Church Treasurer.

Bill's son, Will, teaches English in Costa Rica, and his daughter, Sharon, is enrolled in a doctoral program at Mt. Sinai School of Medicine. She recently accompanied our Travnicek Handbell Ringers on her flute during morning worship. In 1984, Rev. Peters officiated at the marriage of Bill and Toni. They share their home in Millington with 2 dogs and 3 cats, so they don't consider themselves as "empty nesters."

Professionally, Bill has had several careers. Currently in manufacturing support, he is doing computer-aided design and manufacturing work through his latest venture, Precision Design Craft. Bill has been involved in local government for a number of years, as a member of both the Planning Board and Environmental Commission. In 2003, he was elected to the Township Committee and served for one year.

During his free time, Bill enjoys "tinkering in my workshop." He is an avid reader of non-fiction and biographies, and he finds crosswords, Sudoku, and other puzzles hard to resist.

Summer Worship Services

Please note: Starting on Sunday, July 1st, and through Sunday, Sept. 2nd, Sunday morning worship services will start at 9:30 a.m. Our regular worship schedule, 10:00 a.m., will resume on Sept. 9th.

Deacons Corner**- Katherine Ihringer****Worship/Fellowship Hour Help**

Once again we are in need of upcoming Sunday worship help as liturgist, hosts of fellowship hour, and ushers. The summer months do not have very many people signed up. Remember that fellowship hour can be as simple as iced tea and cookies! Also, child care help is needed for the summer months (an adult and a teen for each Sunday). Since many people will be traveling over the summer, please sign up to help out in these areas for Sundays when you know you will be in town. Thanks!

Church Flowers

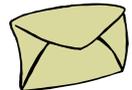
Don't forget to sign-up on the Flower Chart in Pollard Hall if you would like to place flowers on the chancel for Sunday morning worship in honor or memory of someone. Allow enough lead time to have them ordered for the date you would like. The cost is \$30, and cash or checks (made payable to Flowers on the Ridge) should be given to Israel Sierra.



When you sign up on the flower chart, please be specific, i.e. *in memory, honor, given by,* and print clearly.

Deacons' Fund Envelopes

Please remember to use the green *Deacons' Fund* envelopes for donations to help the Deacons with their Mission work. These envelopes are available in the pew racks or in the church office and may be placed in the offering plate. Thank you!

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

Our next commitment date for preparing 40 lunches is: **Friday, June 8th**, 9:30 a.m., in Pollard Hall. We can always use juice containers, bottled water, fruit cups, packets of cookies or other snacks, and plastic spoons. You can drop these items off in Pollard Hall on Sunday mornings. We appreciate all the support you have given to this much-needed program.

Upcoming dates: July 13th, August 10th, Sept. 7th

Family Promise of Morris County**- Phyllis Clemson****Come out to Zebu Restaurant and Support Family Promise**

On **Monday, June 4th**, 6-8 p.m., **Zebu Restaurant, 9 South St., Morristown**, will donate a portion of all proceeds to Family Promise of Morris County. All you have to do is enjoy the warm café atmosphere and some bakery fresh pizza, sandwiches, and salads and you'll be making a donation!

Call Zebu at 973-538-0890 for a menu. Invite your family & friends! We hope to see you on the 4th!

Congratulations to the Class of 2012 Graduates!

Please send all the information about your graduates—from preschool to post-grad (name, school, future plans, etc.) to be included in the next issue of Stirling Stuff. You can send it to the church office, put it in the Newsletter mailbox outside the offices, or send it to Jan.



Fundraising Committee

- Jean Hoffman

On-Going Book Sale

We are always getting more books, so please take a look at the "Book Table" in the hallway outside Pollard Hall. All proceeds benefit the Church Heating Loan. For more information, please speak to Ellen Easty or Jean Hoffman.



Visitation Schedule

- Rev. Peters

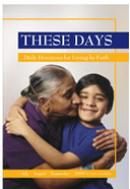
There is a sign-up sheet posted in Pollard Hall with dates and times when I will be available to make visitations. If you would like to have me visit you, please sign up for a time that is convenient. This does not affect emergency visitations, if you are in the hospital or at home ill. This is for general weekday visits. I hope this will facilitate my meeting with you to talk about life and faith and also give you the opportunity to ask questions or share thoughts you may have. If you do not have the opportunity to sign up in Pollard Hall, please contact me to arrange a convenient time for a visit.

Church Website

Reminder: Our Church website, www.fpcstirling.org, is your source for church news, the Church calendar, Stirling Stuff, upcoming events/programs, Pastor's sermons, Scripture readings, Church history, and more. Please make it a point to log on regularly and keep up-to-date with what's happening.

These Days

Our Church has a subscription for multiple copies of the devotional booklet, *These Days*.



"Featuring daily meditations and devotions wonderfully written by clergy and lay leaders, *These Days* continues to be the source of comfort and hope throughout the world and has been for thirty-five years." (Taken from *These Days* website)

The latest issue is available in the Church narthex.

Things God Wants Us to Know About

- Jan Somers, Editor

A suggestion at a recent Worship Committee meeting has prompted a new feature in Stirling Stuff. Think of it as a way to "get the word out" about something that might be helpful to others. It can be websites, information about government programs or benefits, community programs, etc.

Please try to keep your articles brief, and send them to me or put them in the *Newsletter* mailbox outside the church offices. They will be considered for inclusion in a future issue when space allows. Thank you.

Ongoing Mission Programs

Mile of Pennies

Change (and more) collected during coffee hour supports scholarships for Kenyan students. Please help us reach our goal.

Food Pantry

Items can be left in baskets labeled "Food Pantry Donations" located in the Church narthex and on the table outside of Pollard Hall.

Toiletries

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

Sneaker Project

Place used pairs of sneakers (any size) on the pew inside Pollard Hall. They are sent to the Somerset Food Bank and other charities.

Eyeglasses, Sunglasses, Cell Phones

Place used glasses and cell phones on the pew inside 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 Fundraisers

ShopRite Gift Cards

- ✓ No additional cost to you to use
- ✓ Purchase cards at face value
- ✓ Church earns 5%
- ✓ Denominations available: \$20, \$50, \$100
- ✓ Cards are available each week during fellowship hour.

iGive

- ✓ No cost to you
- ✓ Log on / sign up / find out more at:
<http://www.igive.com/FirstPresbyterianChurch-StirlingNJ>
- ✓ E-mail this link to your friends

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

Why not invite a friend to church?



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