



Stirling Stuff

Volume 56, No. 7

Summer 2012

Pastor's Letter

Well the Supreme Court has spoken on the Affordable Healthcare Act, the election campaigns are in full attack mode, the summer is hot, and we have to wait another month for the Olympic Games. In many ways, it feels like it is going to be a long hot summer, literally and figuratively. People are angry, and civility has been out the window for some time now. I want to encourage each of you to practice grace for yourself and for others.

Some time ago, I was getting very upset by what I was reading on blogs and hearing on the news. I felt that our country was heading into a deep pit. A friend of mine gave me permission to step back and not worry about it. I have taken that bit of advice to heart. Now when I feel like things are getting too hot or dark, I just stop reading the blogs and stop listening to the news. It is a way of being graceful to myself. I was also captured by the quote by Johann von Goethe that I started my June 24th sermon with:



A person should hear a little music, read a little poetry, and see a fine picture every day of their life, in order that worldly cares may not obliterate the sense of the beautiful which God has implanted in the soul.

As things heat up this summer, consider being graceful to yourself and do what Goethe suggests. Listen to music, read poetry or a fun book, or look at a fine picture. If you can't go to an art museum or gallery, then look one up on the computer and contemplate it online. Many of the pictures I use on the front of the church bulletins come from the website, www.biblical-art.com. You can find many great pieces of artwork on biblical themes and passages on this website. Be kind to yourself and find ways to experience good things in your life. Look for good news and funny news rather than political and economic news.

When it comes to others, if someone expresses a viewpoint you don't agree with and you don't want to be drawn into an argument with them, then don't. Just say to them, "that is one way to look at that," and move on. Relationships are too important to let hot issues and temperatures get in the way. Of course, Jesus knew this as he was building relationships everywhere he went. He built relationships with tax collectors, Pharisees, emotionally unstable people, people with diseases, etc. His life encourages us to live the same way.

Also, I would remind you that you can get out of the heat by coming to church at 9:30 a.m. on Sundays during July and August and on September 2nd. (Except on July 15th and 22nd when the service will be at the Meyersville church at 9:00 a.m.)

Stay cool and see you in church.

Tom

Worship Services and Scripture Passages for July and August

July 1, 2012

- *Thirteenth Sunday of Ordinary Time*
- *Sacrament of Holy Communion*
- *Non-Perishable Food Collection*
2 Samuel 1:1, 17-27; Psalm 130;
2 Corinthians 8:7-15; Mark 5:21-43
When You're On Your Way And Life Interrupts

July 8, 2012

- *Fourteenth Sunday of Ordinary Time*
2 Samuel 5:1-5, 9-10; Psalm 48;
2 Corinthians 12:2-10; Mark 6:1-13
It's A Matter Of Perspective

July 15, 2012

- *Fifteenth Sunday of Ordinary Time*
2 Samuel 6:1-5, 12b-19; Psalm 24;
Ephesians 1:3-14; Mark 6:14-29
9:00 a.m. Worship at Meyersville
Rev. Barbara Aspinall preaching

July 22, 2012

- *Sixteenth Sunday of Ordinary Time*
2 Samuel 7:1-14a; Psalm 89:20-37;
Ephesians 2:11-22; Mark 6:30-34, 53-56
9:00 a.m. Worship at Meyersville
Rev. Barbara Aspinall preaching

July 29, 2012

- *Seventeenth Sunday of Ordinary Time*
2 Samuel 11:1-15; Psalm 145:10-18;
Ephesians 3:14-21; John 6:1-21
Why Are We Following?
9:30 a.m. Worship at Stirling

During July and August and on Sept. 2nd, worship begins at 9:30 a.m. on Sunday mornings, followed by Fellowship Hour in Pollard Hall. Child Care is provided in the Nursery.

On July 15th and 22nd, we will worship at the Meyersville Church at 9:00 a.m.

August 5, 2012

- *Eighteenth Sunday of Ordinary Time*
- *Sacrament of Holy Communion*
- *Non-Perishable Food Collection*
2 Samuel 11:26-12:13a; Psalm 51:1-12;
Ephesians 4:1-16; John 6:24-35
Looking For A Break

August 12, 2012

- *Nineteenth Sunday of Ordinary Time*
1 Kings 19:4-8; Psalm 130;
Ephesians 4:25-5:2; John 6:35, 41-51
Food For The Journey

August 19, 2012

- *Twentieth Sunday of Ordinary Time*
1 Kings 2:10-12, 3:3-14; Psalm 111;
Ephesians 5:15-20; John 6:51-58
A Declining Market For Words

August 26, 2012

- *Twenty-First Sunday of Ordinary Time*
1 Kings 8:1, 6, 10-11, 22-30, 41-43; Psalm 84;
Ephesians 6:10-20; John 6:56-69
When The Stakes Get High

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.

Long Hill Township Memorial Day Parade

Pictured here are members and friends of our church who gathered on Memorial Day morning to greet parade participants and viewers and offer them refreshments and fellowship.



Christian Education Committee

- Lore Pateman



Vacation Bible School will be held at Meyersville Presbyterian Church from July 30th - August 3rd, from 9:00 a.m. - Noon. The theme for this year's session is, *Playing the Stories*. A \$25 donation is requested. There are registration forms on the fellowship bulletin board in Pollard Hall.

Yoga Class at Meyersville

Rosanne McGraw, a certified yoga teacher for 15 years, is offering a free "gentle" yoga class in the Fellowship Hall of Meyersville church on Tuesdays from 9-10 a.m. You will not be on the floor, but in chair; so, just bring comfortable clothes. This class is appropriate for all, the flexible as well as the tight.

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.

Adult Education

- Debra Sprague

Joint Church Summer Adult Ed Series

For the fifth year, our congregation will be joining with Trinity United Church and Meyersville Presbyterian Church to offer a series of Christian Education classes. Sessions will run on five consecutive Wed. evenings in July and August, beginning on July 11th. All classes begin at 7:30 p.m., end by 9:00 p.m., and will be held in the air-conditioned child care room at our church.

This year's series includes a diverse range of topics, led by pastors and lay members of the three congregations. If you cannot attend the entire series, please join us when you can as each week's topic "stands alone." Following is the schedule for this series, along with a brief description of each discussion.

July 11 - Tom Peters – "Divine Inspiration and the Word of God"

There is a huge difference between declaring that we are inspired by Psalm 23 and declaring that Psalm 23 is the inspired word of God. One depends upon our understanding; the other lies in the nature of Scripture itself. It is this latter claim that constitutes the subject of this study. We will explore understanding the concept of the Bible as revelation and the concept of inspiration.

July 18 - Barbara Aspinall – "Books That Didn't Make the Bible and Why"

How did Christians decide which books got into the New Testament? What about all the ones that didn't...and should we care?

July 25 - Heather Harris-Galgoci - "The Gospel According to Judas"

How should Christians view the recently published Gospel of Judas? Does it help us understand the life and ministry of Jesus? Or does it confuse things?

August 1 - Tom Parziale – "What the Bible Says About Ecology"

The Bible may not use terms such as "global warming" or "fossil fuels," but it does teach us our place and responsibility in the Creation story, which can guide our actions today.

August 8 - Cyndy Reames – "Will They Know We Are Christians By Our Love?"

In this session, we will explore the ways in which we give and receive love. Based on the books of Dr. Gary Chapman, we will discover our own primary love language and how to "speak" the languages of others.

Fourth Sunday Focus

- Tom Parziale

There will be no "Fourth Sunday Focus" gatherings in July or August. Everyone is invited to join us at the next gathering on September 23rd.

Congratulations to the Class of 2012 Graduates!

On Sunday, July 1st, the congregation recognized the following graduates and honored them with a special fellowship hour. Our congratulations and best wishes to all graduates!

Graduate School

Brian Monetti

From: Brown University
Master of Science in Innovation Entrepreneurship

High School

Emily Benz

Granddaughter of Warren and Jean Hoffman
From: Westfield High School
To: High Point University in North Carolina

Laura Brodziak

From: Watchung Hills Regional High School
To: Curry College in Milton, Mass.

Kate Coultas

From: Watchung Hills Regional High School
To: AMDA College and Conservatory of the Performing Arts



Elen Filippatos From: Watchung Hills Regional High School
To: Penn State University

Matthew Gerecht From: Oratory Preparatory School
To: Fairleigh Dickinson University

Central Middle School

Ian Blakeslee
Chris Coultas
Amanda Gerecht
Lucas Ihringer

To:
Watchung Hills Regional High School
Watchung Hills Regional High School
Mount Saint Mary Academy
Watchung Hills Regional High School



Worship Committee

- Janet Parziale

Canned Food Collection, July 1st and August 5th



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.

Summer Worship Services

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

Please note: On July 15th and 22nd, we will worship at the Meyersville Presbyterian Church at 9:00 a.m., with Rev. Barbara Aspinall preaching.

Handbell Concert

On Sunday, June 10th, the Travnicek Memorial Ringers joined with the Ost Memorial Ringers of Wilson Memorial Church for their fourth annual [handbell concert](#). The choirs performed separately and jointly, accompanied at times by organ, trumpet, viola da gamba, tympani, and flute. It was a wonderful afternoon of beautiful music and fellowship.



Music Sunday

On June 24th, we celebrated Music Sunday. Rev. Peters incorporated several meaningful hymns into his sermon. The Travnicek Memorial Ringers played a special anthem, *You Raise Me Up*, accompanied by professional cellist, Marnie Kaller. Marnie also played *Arioso*, accompanied by our organist, Tatiana.

In 2005, Marnie traveled to Kenya on behalf of the Newton/Nairobi Presbyteries partnership and played the cello for Presbyterian congregations in Nairobi and Kibwezi. At Marnie's request, in return for her playing during our worship service, a special offering to benefit Presbyterian Disaster Assistance was collected.



Deacons Corner

- Katherine Ihringer

Worship/Fellowship Hour Help

We are in need of worship help as liturgist, hosts of fellowship hour, and ushers during the summer months. 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, July 13th**, 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: August 10th, Sept. 7th

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. To date, we have raised **\$78.65**, which benefits the Church Heating Loan. For more information, please speak to Ellen Easty or Jean Hoffman.

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*. The latest issue is available in the Church narthex.

"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)

Things God Wants Us to Know About

A suggestion at a 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 Jan Somers or put them in the *Newsletter* mailbox outside the church offices. They will be considered for inclusion in a future issue when space allows.

Editor's Note

The next issue of Stirling Stuff will be for September. Please send me any information you would like to have included by the August 23rd deadline. Thank you and enjoy your summer!

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 the 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
September issue of Stirling Stuff to:
jsomers17@hotmail.com
by August 23rd. Thank you!*

Why not invite a friend to church?



Stirling Stuff is the newsletter of the

First Presbyterian Church

158 Central Avenue
Stirling, NJ 07980

Editor: Jan Somers

The Rev. Dr. Thomas T. Peters, Pastor
pastor@fpcstirling.org
Paulette Irlander, Office Manager
Secretary@fpcstirling.org
Church Office: 908-647-1033
Website: www.fpcstirling.org