



Stirling Stuff

Volume 57, No. 6

June 2013

Pastor's Letter

Last Sunday, we approved our new Vision and Mission Statements (see page 3 of newsletter). It was an exciting time, but now we have to do the hard work to begin to follow our new vision and mission. I say *hard work* because to really be intentional about it we have to change our way of thinking. This became even clearer to me in a recent article sent out by our new Presbytery Leader, Rev. Jeanne Radak (Rev. Radak will be preaching here on June 23rd on the topic of being a missional church). Jeanne quotes a friend of hers, Rob Moss, who wrote:



We've decided to quit being a welcoming church. No kidding. We're giving it up. It won't be easy, but we're committed to it...Like so many churches, we've sunk an amazing amount of time and energy into becoming a welcoming church. We changed worship styles, we trained greeters and ushers, we wore name tags, we percolated coffee, we went to workshops on hospitality, we put our friendliest people in the most prominent places on Sunday mornings...Here's what we're doing instead. We are becoming an Inviting Church. That's different. You see, "welcoming," from a missional perspective, is passive. It denotes waiting for visitors and guests to drop by...Welcoming is about us, not about them.

"Inviting," however, is different. That means we leave the comfort of our congregational home-court advantage. The main activity doesn't happen in our worship space when people drop in, but in the neighborhood when we go out. It isn't so much welcoming them into our place, but going out into their place and meeting them there.

Being a missional church is not about us, but is about the other person, about the community. This is a new way of thinking for us. It is not about "saving" our little church, but being the ministry of Christ in our community, in our stores, at the ball fields, along the parade route, wherever we are. We are definitely a welcoming church, but now let's become an inviting church!

See you in church!

Tom



Worship Services and Scripture Passages for June

June 2, 2013

- *Ninth Sunday in Ordinary Time*
- *Sacrament of Holy Communion*
- *Non-Perishable Food Collection*
1 Kings 18:20-39; Psalm 96;
Galatians 1:1-12; Luke 7:1-10

How Are Those Other Gods Working for You?

June 9, 2013

- *Tenth Sunday in Ordinary Time*
- *Christian Education Recognition Sunday*
1 Kings 17:8-24; Psalm 146;
Galatians 1:11-24; Luke 7:11-17

Will the Real Disciple Please Stand Up

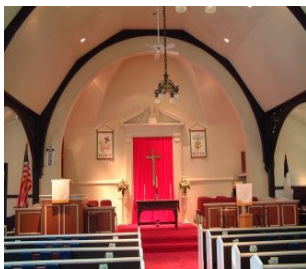
June 16, 2013

- *Eleventh Sunday in Ordinary Time*
- *Father's Day*
1 Kings 21:1-21a; Psalm 5:1-8;
Galatians 2:15-21; Luke 7:36-8:3

Our Response to Sin

*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 23, 2013

- *Twelfth Sunday in Ordinary Time*
1 Kings 19:1-15a; Psalm 42;
Galatians 3:23-29; Luke 8:26-39
Rev. Jeanne Radak preaching
Pot-Luck Brunch

June 30, 2013

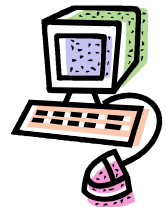
- *Thirteenth Sunday in Ordinary Time*
- *Music Sunday*
2 Kings 2:1-2, 6-14; Psalm 77:1-2, 11-20;
Galatians 5:1, 13-25; Luke 9:51-62
O Freedom

**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.



New Members

On Sunday, May 19th, we welcomed five new members into the life of our church. We celebrate with Ian Blakeslee, Amanda Gerech, Nicole Honegger, Lukas Ihringer, and Brooke Kupferman on their successful completion of the 2012-2013 confirmation class. This year's class was a first in two respects: for the first time in 22 years, the class began in September instead of January; and, it was the first time the class was a joint effort between Meyersville Presbyterian Church and our church. Following the service, the Worship Committee hosted a special Fellowship Hour in their honor.



Picture on the left:
 Front row: Brooke, Amanda, Ian, Lukas, and Nicole
 Second Row - Rev. Peters, with Sponsors: Shaylyn Gallagher, Debra Sprague, Kai Ihringer, Elaine Giordano, and Tom Parziale



Our Church's New Vision and Mission Statements

Last year, our church embarked on a process of *New Beginnings* - listening for what God is calling us to do in our community and then following that call. This spring, Session member Paul Wermuth recruited a Task Force that was charged with writing our new Vision and Mission Statements. Our Task Force consisted of nine people meeting together to prayerfully consider what we have been trying to determine over the past year. What the Task Force came up with - statements defining *Who we are* and *What we feel called to do* - is the next step in the New Beginnings process.



At the Congregational Meeting held on Pentecost Sunday (May 19th), our five new confirmands had the opportunity to join the rest of the congregation in voting on our proposed new Vision and Mission Statements. The statements, which were passed unanimously, are:

Our Vision:

Feeding those who hunger



Our Mission:

Jesus said, "Feed My Sheep." This welcoming and caring family, empowered by the love of Christ, shares the grace and peace of God's blessings by serving those who are hungry in body or spirit.



The Task Force, the Session, and now the congregation are excited about our new Vision and Mission Statements, and we look to the Holy Spirit to continue to guide us in our own New Beginning! We thank the members of the Task Force for their work on our behalf:

- | | | |
|---------------------|--------------------|----------------------|
| <i>Paul Wermuth</i> | <i>Chris Scott</i> | <i>Joyce Koenig</i> |
| <i>Rene' Phelan</i> | <i>Ed Chang</i> | <i>Kai Ihringer</i> |
| <i>Tom Parziale</i> | <i>Sue Sanders</i> | <i>Debra Sprague</i> |

Pastor's Coffee Klatch

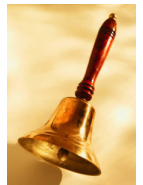
On Sat., June 1st, at 9 a.m., Rev. Peters will be at the Stirling House Diner. If you have a question, just want to talk, or have a friend you want to introduce to our church, plan to join him. Since he will not be doing any counseling, if you come and someone else is sitting with him, pull up a chair and join them.

**Millington Downtown Day**

Sunday, June 2nd, is Millington Downtown Day, sponsored by the Long Hill Township Chamber of Commerce. The event runs from 11 a.m. until 3 p.m., and our church will have a table. We plan to display the new church banner we have ordered, which will include our new Vision Statement. We will also have brochures about our church available to hand out to the community.

Handbells at Brandywine

On **Monday, June 10th**, the Travnicek Memorial Ringers will be putting on a concert at Brandywine Assisted Living on Mountain Blvd. in Watchung. They will be performing 7 pieces they have played since last September. Rev. Peters conducts a Wednesday afternoon worship service at Brandywine twice a month.

**Christian Education Committee****- Lore Pateman****CE Recognition Sunday**

On **Sunday, June 9th**, we will observe CE Recognition Sunday during the morning worship service. We will recognize our teachers and students, and those who have participated regularly during the 2012-13 year will receive their certificates and pin bars.

**Annual Church Picnic**

Our Annual Church Picnic will also be held on **Sunday, June 9th**, on the front lawn of the church following morning worship. We'll fire up the charcoal grill, so feel free to bring something to cook as well as a dish to share for the pot-luck meal. Bring a lawn chair if you'd like (we'll also bring some metal chairs outside), wear your picnic clothes to church, ...and get ready for the Annual Egg Toss!

Adult Education**- Debra Sprague****Book Study on Tues., June 18th, 7:30 p.m.**

The Immortal Life of Henrietta Lacks, by Rebecca Skloot, was named by more than 60 critics as one of the best books of 2010. One reviewer said, "Vivid . . . Reads like a novel . . . A Deftly crafted investigation of a social wrong committed by the medical establishment as well as the scientific and medical miracles to which it led."

Her name was Henrietta Lacks, but scientists know her as *HeLa*. She was a poor black tobacco farmer whose cells – taken without her knowledge in 1951 – became one of the most important tools in medicine, vital for developing the polio vaccine, cloning, gene mapping, in-vitro fertilization, and more. Henrietta's cells have been bought and sold by the billions, yet she remains virtually unknown, and her family can't afford health insurance.

Book Study (Cont'd)

Join us on **Tues., June 18th, 7:30 p.m.**, as we discuss some of the issues raised in this excellent book concerning ethics, race, medicine, and bioethics. Lore Pateman and Debra Sprague will have copies of the book available to borrow for those who would like to participate. *(This was the book slated to be discussed at the Johnsonburg winter retreat.)*

Fourth Sunday Focus, June 23rd

- Tom Parziale

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 join us whenever you can. Our next "Fourth Sunday Focus" gathering will be on **June 23rd**. If you have a topic you'd like to discuss, please contact Tom Parziale.

Joint-Church Summer Adult Ed - Wed. Evenings, July 10 - August 14, 7:30 p.m.

Mark your calendars for summer Wednesdays again this year for the fifth year of our Adult Ed Summer Series. We meet at 7:30 p.m. *in our air-conditioned child care room* to discuss a wide variety of topics. Plan to attend whenever you're not away on vacation. Topics are varied, as are the leaders, and we also invite the community. We've had people from six different churches participate in past years.

This summer's series has not yet been finalized; so, if you have a topic you'd like to see on the schedule, or if you're interested in leading a session, please contact Debra Sprague.

Summer Child Care

Please sign up in Pollard Hall to help with child care coverage during the summer. Many people will be traveling, so please sign up to help out when you will be in the area. Our church is responsible for the Sundays during July, when Meyersville will be joining us. We need two people for each Sunday. It's a fun time with a really sweet group of children, and, as a bonus, the nursery is air-conditioned.

Worship Committee

- Janet Parziale

Non-Perishable Food Collection, June 2nd

On the first Sunday of each month, we collect donations of non-perishable food during the worship service. While we are receiving the Lord's Supper, we also want to provide for others. 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 in our "new" larger wagon. We continue to collect non-perishable food in the baskets located in the entry-ways to the church during the rest of the month.

New Presbytery Leader Preaching

The Rev. Jeanne Radak, the new Presbytery Leader of Newton Presbytery, will be here on **Sunday, June 23rd**. Jeanne was hired for her skills in helping churches transform and become missional churches. She will preach at our morning worship service, which will be followed by a pot-luck brunch in Pollard Hall and then a time of discussion about missional churches. Plan to join us and learn about how we can transform our church. Please sign-up in Pollard Hall.

Music Sunday

On **Sunday, June 30th**, we will celebrate our annual Music Sunday. Since this is the Sunday before Independence Day, Rev. Peters has titled the Music Sermon time, *O Freedom*. We will be singing and listening to songs and hymns that speak to the desire for, and cost of, freedom.

Summer Worship Schedule

Starting July 7th and going through Labor Day Sunday, Sept. 1st, our Sunday morning worship service will be held at 9:30 a.m. During the month of July, worship will be held at our church with Rev. Aspinall preaching while Rev. Peters is on vacation. During the month of August, we will worship at Meyersville Church with Rev. Peters preaching while Rev. Aspinall is on vacation. We will then be back in our church on Labor Day Sunday, Sept. 1st, at 9:30 a.m. We will return to our regular 10:00 a.m. schedule on Sept. 8th. Please plan to join us whenever you are not traveling.

**Deacons Corner****- Katherine Ihringer**

The annual church picnic is **Sunday, June 9th**, after church! Please come and join us for food and games. Please bring a food, drink, or dessert to the picnic.

Also, if you have flowers that are just sitting in your yard that you would like to share with the church on a Sunday morning, please bring them and contact Israel.

Once again, we have a shortage of people who are signed up for Fellowship Hour, liturgist, and ushers. Please sign up!

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.

Mission Committee**- Madeline Hahl****Bridges Outreach Lunch Program****- Jean Hoffman, Coordinator**

Our next commitment date for preparing 40 lunches is: **Friday, June 7th, 9:30 a.m.**, in Pollard Hall. We welcome donations of juice boxes, small water bottles, fruit/pudding cups, snacks of all kinds, fruit, and plastic spoons. You can drop these items off in Pollard Hall on Sunday mornings. We appreciate the on-going support you have given to this much-needed program.

Upcoming dates: July 12, August 9, Sept. 6

Buildings & Grounds**- Tom Parziale**

I have received a number of questions about the outside lighting at the church, specifically spotlights that need bulbs replaced. Given the condition of the church parking lot, this makes walking to your car somewhat dangerous when it is dark. Replacement is challenging because of the height of the lights. As in the past, Ed Gerech is in the process of making arrangements with the Fire Department for their assistance.

The work on the rug area by the entrance to Pollard Hall has been completed.

Fundraising Committee**- Jean Hoffman****Shop Rite and Kings Gift Cards**

Reminder: We have gift cards from ShopRite and Kings available. You purchase them at face value. When you shop, the total you spend is deducted from the card, the balance (if any) remains for future use, and it never expires. The church earns 5% of every dollar sold in Gift Cards. There is no down side to this fund raiser; it's easy to run, and the cards are easy to use.



We invite everyone who uses ShopRite or Kings (any location) to purchase gift cards. They are available in Pollard Hall on Sunday mornings during Fellowship Hour or by contacting Jean Hoffman.

Congratulations to All Our Graduates

Congratulations to Kimberly Pateman, daughter of Lore and Rich, who graduated from Hawaii Pacific University in Oahu in December. She received her Bachelors of Science in Nursing (BSN) with proud mom, dad, and brother, Steven, there to share the celebration with her. Kim is now working as a nurse's aide in the orthopedic area at Castle Hospital in Kailua, Oahu in preparation for taking her nursing license exam.



In Hawaii, new nurses are sometimes required to be an aide for one-to-two years. Kim is hoping to be admitted to Castle Hospital's new grad program in September, which will speed up the process to becoming a nurse.

Lore stated, "We are very proud of Kim. It was a lot of hard work for her. She loves nursing and is very attuned to patients' needs. She even promised to take care of her parents in their old age!"

We want to keep up-to-date with all the graduates in our church families. Please send your information – from preschool to post-grad and beyond (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 e-mail it to Jan by June 27th. Thanks!

Johnsonburg Camp & Conference Center

Information regarding Camp Johnsonburg for the Summer 2013 program is available in Pollard Hall and the church office. You can also go to their website: www.campjburg.org.

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.

Labels/Box Tops for Education; Pop-Top Can Tabs

- Jan Somers



Please continue to cut out “[Labels for Education](#)” and “[Box Tops for Education](#)” that can be found on many food and paper products. Please bring them to church and put them in the collection canister in the church office or in Pollard Hall on Sunday. The coupons we collect will be donated to the schools where members of our church families attend.



 Ronald McDonald House collects [pop-top can tabs](#) and earns money for their programs from recycling centers based upon weight. It's an easy way to support RMH and make a difference for families and children. If you would like to support this project, please put the tabs in the same collection canister.



Thank you for your continued support of these programs.

A Message from the Editor

- Jan Somers

My first issue as editor of Stirling Stuff was September 2008. Before then, I had worked on the newsletter in my capacity as Church secretary (mid 80's to mid 90's). Since then, there have been several changes to the format we use, but one thing has not changed. Every month, I spend a lot of time “chasing down” information for the upcoming issue. I'm usually aware of recent and upcoming services, programs, meetings, etc., but I don't always have the specifics. And, I want to be sure they are included so everyone will be aware of what's happening in our Church. Call me “overly conscientious,” but that's the only way I know how to be. If I'm going to do the job, I'm going to do it right and on time.

The deadline is established so that everyone will receive Stirling Stuff by the first of the month and not miss any important dates. The deadlines are posted on the Church calendar well in advance, printed in the weekly bulletin, and announced in Church. Everyone is busy—I know I am. But, if you are responsible for getting items into the newsletter, **please get the complete information to me on time**. If you find you are not able to meet the deadlines, perhaps you can ask someone else to take on that responsibility. I enjoy working on Stirling Stuff, and I try to make it interesting and pleasant to read, while still providing everyone with all the information they need. Please help me to do my job with a little less stress! Thank you.

Ongoing Mission Programs**Township 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 Fundraiser**ShopRite & Kings Gift Cards**

- ✓ No additional cost to you to use
- ✓ Purchase cards at face value
- ✓ Church earns 5%
- ✓ Denominations available are:
 - ShopRite: \$20, \$50, \$100
 - Kings: \$25, \$50, \$100
- ✓ Cards are available each week during Fellowship Hour or by contacting Jean Hoffman

iGive

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

**Please e-mail submissions for the
Summer issue of Stirling Stuff to:
jsomers17@hotmail.com
by June 27th. Thank you!**

Stirling Stuff is the newsletter of the

First Presbyterian Church

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Why not invite a friend to church?



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