



Stirling Stuff

Volume 57, No. 5

May 2013

Pastor's Letter

Recently, I came across the following:

A father took his 5-year-old son to several baseball games where "The Star-Spangled Banner" was sung before the start of each game. Then the father and son attended church on a Sunday shortly before Independence Day. The congregation sang "The Star-Spangled Banner" and, after everyone sat down, the little boy suddenly yelled out, "PLAY BALL!!!"

I like this because it captures the Spirit of the Day of Pentecost, which we will celebrate on May 19th. The disciples experienced an indwelling of the Holy Spirit and left the upper room where they had been hiding in fear, and they began to truly be disciples of Jesus Christ. They shared the good news of Jesus. Pentecost is about playing ball, getting to work, doing what we have been called to do.



This year our Pentecost celebration is all the more special because we will be welcoming the members of our Confirmation Class into the membership of the church. They will be promising to not only believe in Jesus as their Lord and Savior, but also to follow him – to be Jesus' disciples. As they begin their journey, we can celebrate with them and pray for them, but we can also use their public profession to challenge ourselves to be better disciples. We can let them challenge us to do a better job in sharing the good news. They are part of the Confirmation Class because people shared the good news with them. Let us do it for others as well.



See you in church, and let's "Play Ball!"

Tom

Worship Services and Scripture Passages for May

May 5, 2013

- *Sixth Sunday of Easter*
 - *Sacrament of Holy Communion*
 - *Non-Perishable Food Collection*
Acts 16:9-15; Psalm 67;
Revelation 21:10, 22-22:5; John 14:23-29
- Can You Reflect God?***

May 12, 2013

- *Seventh Sunday of Easter*
 - *Mother's Day*
Acts 16:16-34; Psalm 97;
Revelation 22:12-14, 16-17, 20-21; John 17:20-26
- Demonstrating a New Quality of Life***

*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.*



May 19, 2013

- *Day of Pentecost*
 - *Confirmation Class Joins*
Acts 2:1-21; Psalm 104:24-34, 35b;
Romans 8:14-17; John 14:8-17
- On the Road Again***

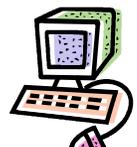
May 26, 2013

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

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.



Travnicek Memorial Ringers

The Travnicek Memorial Ringers will be playing on Sunday, May 5th. The song is *How Can I Keep From Singing?* This is a different piece as it utilizes the singing bell technique. It has a very different sound from what you are used to hearing with the bells.



Pastor's Coffee Klatch

On **Sat., May 4th, at 9 a.m.**, Rev. Peters will be at the Stirling House Diner. If you have a question, or 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. At the April Coffee Klatch, five people joined him for a discussion about what was on their minds.

**Blessing of the Animals**

On **Sat., May 4th, at 5 p.m.**, there will be a *Blessing of the Animals* at the Wilson Memorial Union Church at the base of Hillcrest Road in Watchung. You are invited to bring your beloved pet or stuffed animal to be blessed. Rev. Tom will be helping Rev. Barbara with the service, which will be held outside or, if it is raining, it will be held in their fellowship hall.

Christian Education Committee**- Lore Pateman****Fourth Sunday Focus, May 26th****- 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 **May 26th**. If you have a topic you'd like to discuss, please contact Tom Parziale.

**Worship Committee****- Janet Parziale****Non-Perishable Food Collection, May 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.

Confirmation Sunday**- Rev. Peters**

On **Sunday, May 19th**, during morning worship our Confirmation Class will be making their profession of faith and becoming members of the church. While the confirmation part of their faith journey will be completed, in many ways the journey is just beginning. We hope their faith will be professed in words and actions throughout their lives. Please keep them in your prayers as they continue this journey. Let us also thank those who have loved, nurtured, and taught the faith to these new members as they confirm the promises made when they were baptized. I hope you will join us on May 19th to welcome Lukas Ihringer, Ian Blakeslee, Amanda Gerech, Brooke Kupferman, and Nicole Honneger.

**Pentecost Sunday, May 19th**

May 19th is also Pentecost Sunday, when we celebrate the beginning of the Christian Church. Please remember to wear something red.

Gifts of Men Sunday

On Sunday, April 21st, we celebrated Gifts of Men Sunday by recognizing Bill Combs for his contributions to our church and the community. Following worship, the Worship Committee hosted a special fellowship hour in Bill's honor.



Bill and his wife, Lynne (married almost 49 years), were born on the same day. They grew up in Chatham and attended kindergarten through high school together. Bill went on to college in Philadelphia, earning his Bachelor's degree in Economics from the Wharton School at the University of PA. His interest in finance and the stock market led him to Merrill Lynch, from where he retired in 2001 after 36 years.

Bill and Lynne have three grown children, Whitney, Elizabeth, and Will, and have been blessed with six grandchildren. They enjoy traveling, especially when it includes a visit with family. In 1977, Lynne and Bill joined our church. Bill subsequently became chairman of the "Major Mission" campaign (a national Presbyterian fund raiser), served 2 terms on Session, and helped with annual financial audits. Currently, he is Financial Secretary and chairman of the Endowment Fund.

You could say that Bill never sits still! Running has always been part of his life. For ten years, he served as Race Director of the township's 5-Mile Run held every July. He spends five weeks every spring and fall helping with the VNA rummage sale in Far Hills. And, one of his proudest accomplishments is having completed a 3½-month bike trip with Lynne from the Jersey shore to the Oregon shore.

In 2010, Lynne and Bill joined a group of 40 volunteers from the Liberty Corner Presbyterian Church to work in the small city of Entrada, Honduras. Over the past 10 years, this annual mission trip has enabled children to attend a grammar school built by the Church. Honduras is one of the few countries in the world where schooling is not provided by the government. The program also offers dental care to the children and eye examinations to all residents of Entrada, which is where Bill worked during the week's mission. Bill states that the joy of this involvement in a very poor part of the world was very fulfilling.

Bill has managed to accomplish all this while still fulfilling his love of traveling. He has been to 75 countries and all 7 continents and is eager to see more.

Another passion Bill eluded to was his lifelong love of collecting: post cards, stamps, coins, baseball cards, stock certificates, and beer coasters.

Bill admits there just aren't enough hours in a day to accomplish all that he wants to do, but he'll keep trying!



Deacons Corner

- Katherine Ihringer

The Deacons have bought a lot of cups, plates, and drinks. If you are hosting Fellowship Hour and need supplies, ask one of the Deacons to get them for you! We still need more people to sign up for Fellowship Hour. It does not have to be elaborate, and you do not have to bring any drinks; so, please sign up! Also, the Deacon's budget is becoming extremely tight, and it would be appreciated if you could donate some money in the green envelopes available in the pew racks.

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, May 3rd, 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 date: June 7

Community Food Bank, Hillside

- Kai Ihringer, Coordinator

On Friday, March 29th (Good Friday), 10 of us volunteered at the Community Food Bank in Hillside. Our task, which we had never done before, was located at an annex building up the street. We worked on their "back pack" program,



putting together, assembly-line style, plastic bags filled with food and drinks. The bags are given to school-aged children on Fridays to bring home, in their backpacks, for the weekend. For some children, this is the only nutritional food they will eat all weekend. The 10 of us worked hard for two hours and produced 942 bags of food. Based on the reaction of the food bank worker who supervised and assisted us, we produced an amazing number of bags. In fact, we used up the allocated amount of supplies they had provided for us to use during our time slot. On a weekly basis, the food bank provides over 4,000 of these bags to school children in our region.

Pictured, left to right: Food bank worker, Brooke Kupferman, Katherine Ihringer, Tom Parziale, Grace Nielsen, Kai Ihringer, Nicole Honneger, Lukas Ihringer, Tom Peters, Shaylyn Gallagan, and Ian Blakeslee

Buildings & Grounds

- Tom Parziale

Church Powerwashed

Our church complex was recently professionally power washed, free of charge, by Eric Calabrese of Top Notch Powerwashing & Sealing (908-285-0470). Our sincere thanks to Eric and Top Notch for donating the time, materials, and expertise to do this much-needed work on our behalf!

New Tree Planted

Through a program sponsored by the Long Hill Twp. Shade Tree Commission, Chatham Environmental Commission, Township Committees, and Morris County Soil Conservation District, and their joint efforts to assist communities in replacing trees lost in recent storms, our church obtained an 8' red maple tree. It was planted on April 20th on the hill at the corner of Central Ave. and Chestnut St., near the spot where a tree came down during Hurricane Sandy.



Pictured above: Rev. Peters, Tom Parziale, Debra Sprague, Paul Desch, and Jan Somers

As part of our Earth Day service on April 21st, the congregation gathered outside following the benediction and Rev. Peters offered a blessing for the tree and the amazing environment with which God has blessed us.



Please note: We received very specific guidelines about caring for the tree, and a few people have been assigned with this task. Although you may have good intentions, please do not water, trim, or fertilize the tree. Thank you.

Fundraising Committee

- Jean Hoffman

Book Sale Corner



Our Book Sale Corner has been disbanded. The remaining books were donated to the upcoming VNA rummage sale. Thank you to everyone who supported this program with book donations and purchases and helped pay down the church heating loan and contribute to the roof fund.

Shop Rite and Kings Gift Cards

We now have gift cards from **Kings** available. They work the same way as ShopRite cards. You purchase them at face value (\$20, \$50, or \$100). 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. Thank you!

Johnsonburg Camp & Conference Center

Information regarding Camp Johnsonburg for the Summer 2013 program (summer camp, job opportunities, and volunteer opportunities) 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 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.



CHURCH DIRECTORY ALERT

We are updating our church directory. If your name, address, phone #, or e-mail has changed, please fill out this form with **YOUR NAME AND THE NEW INFORMATION**, and place it in the collection plate, or drop it off/mail it to the church office. Also, please include any cell phone #s (and whose they are) if you would like them included in the directory. You do not need to complete this form if your information is correct as shown in the current directory.

Name: _____

Address: _____

Email: (Name): _____

(Name): _____

Home Phone: _____

Cell Phone: (Name): _____

Cell Phone: (Name): _____



Please return this form by May 15th. 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 Fundraiser

ShopRite & Kings 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
June issue of Stirling Stuff to:
jsomers17@hotmail.com
by May 26th. 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