



Stirling Stuff

Volume 57, No. 9

October 2013

Pastor's Letter

In the past three months, I have been approached twice by people wanting to know if I believe in the same God they believe in. These people knew what they believed and wanted to see if I spoke the same language about God that they did. Both seemed rather incredulous when I didn't speak their language and that I was a minister. I'm sure they both think I am leading all of you to a very unpleasant place.

They wanted to know if I believe in heaven and hell. My response to them was that I really did not think much about heaven and hell. I shared with both of them that I believe Jesus and all of the prophets and prophetesses of the Bible want us to be more concerned about how we lived this life. Our job is to do all that we can to create, with God's help, heaven on earth, or at least in our own little part of earth. Neither of my inquisitors wanted to hear about that. They only wanted to hear that the right beliefs led to rewards in heaven, and wrong beliefs led to the other place.

Jesus and the disciples challenged the people to live lives of justice and love for all people, and not just those we like. That is what Jesus meant when he said, "I am the way, the truth, and the life." Not that we had to go *through* him, but that we had to live *like* him. We have to live the life he lived. I share all of this because during the month of October we will have several opportunities to reflect and contribute to bringing the Kingdom to our part of the world and elsewhere.

On October 6th, we will once again celebrate communion with Christians around the world – a reminder that it is not just about us, but God's people are in every nook and cranny of this ball we call *Earth*. This came home to me recently when we were in the throes of deciding whether to bomb Syria because of their alleged use of chemical weapons. The Presbyterian Church (USA) sent out a letter that it had received from The National Evangelical Synod of Syria and Lebanon in which they asked that the "international powers refrain from the use of power against Syria as it would only multiply the suffering and human destruction." World Communion reminds us that we all are accountable to each other because, through God, we are a part of each other. On October 6th, we will also begin collecting our annual offering for peacemaking, which reminds us of our vocation to be peacemakers.

During the Session and Deacons retreat at Chatham Township Presbyterian Church on October 12th, we will be looking at our new mission statement and deciding what we want to accomplish this year towards that statement and how we can do that. On Sunday, October 20th, we will once again participate in the New Providence CROP walk. It is an opportunity to raise funds to combat hunger and be a visible presence to remind everyone that there are hungry people around us all the time – even in the richest nation in the world.

So, this month I ask you to help out in any way you can. Let's be about the business of creating a just and peaceful kingdom.

See you in church!

Tom

Worship Services and Scripture Passages for October

October 6, 2013

- *Ordinary 27C*
- *World Communion Sunday*
Lamentations 1:1-6; Psalm 137;
2 Timothy 1:1-14; Luke 17:5-10

What is Faith?

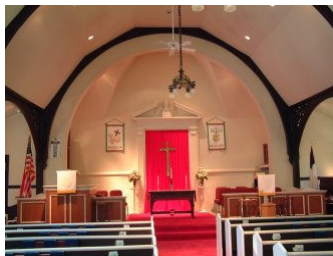
October 13, 2013

- *Ordinary 28C*
Jeremiah 29:4-7; Psalm 66:1-12;
2 Timothy 2:8-15; Luke 17:11-19

Blooming Where You Are Planted

*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.*



October 20, 2013

- *Ordinary 29C*
- *Children's Sabbath*
Jeremiah 31:27-34; Psalm 119:97-104;
2 Timothy 3:14-4:5; Luke 18:1-8

Do We Feel the Urge?

October 27, 2013

- *Ordinary 30C*
- *Reformation Sunday*
Jeremiah 31:31-34; Psalm 65;
Romans 3:19-28; John 8:31-36

God's Pursuit Of Us

These readings are for Reformation Sunday.

**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.



You will notice that Rev. Peters is using a new classification for the *Ordinary* Sundays, which are those Sundays that fall between *Epiphany* and *Transfiguration*. They resume after *Pentecost* and continue until *Reign of Christ Sunday*. They are called *Ordinary* because there are no special celebrations during those times. They are services/readings for the ordinary days in the life of the church. They are numbered consecutively, with *Baptism of the Lord Sunday* being Ordinary 1 and Ordinary 33 being the Sunday before *Reign of Christ Sunday*.

Lent and Easter move every year due to the 325CE, the Council of Nicaea determination that Easter Sunday be held on the first full moon on or after the vernal equinox (March 21st). For this reason, some *Ordinary* Sundays are not celebrated every year. The "C" in the classification means that we are in the "C cycle" of the lectionary; there are three yearly cycles (A,B,C). For every Sunday and special celebration in the lectionary, there are 4 readings: Old Testament, Psalm, New Testament, and Gospel.

Stirling Street Fair

Many thanks to all who helped staff our booth at the Street Fair on Sunday, Sept. 22nd. A good time was had by all. Our little church bell got rung many, many times. Thanks also to the Parziales for the use of their tent - although Rev. Peters did not stay under it enough and got sunburn on the top of his head. And, thanks to Paul Wermuth for being the “trucking company” and getting the booth down and back.

Pastor’s Coffee Klatch

On **Sat., Oct. 5th, 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.

Christian Education Committee**- Lore Pateman**

The new Christian Education year is underway. Once again, Tom Parziale is teaching our high school students. Lore Pateman and Elaine Giordano are coordinating the activities for younger students and hoping to have volunteers sign up for monthly teaching responsibilities. Please let them know if you’d like to help.

Adult Education**- Debra Sprague****Fourth Sunday Focus, October 27th****- 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 **Oct. 27th**. If you have a topic you’d like to discuss, please contact Tom Parziale.

**Adult Book Study**

Rev. Peters will be offering a book study this fall on Robin Meyers’ *The Underground Church: Reclaiming the Subversive Way of Jesus*. If you would like to be part of this study group, please sign up in Pollard Hall and note the best time for you to attend.

CROP Walk 2013**"Feeding Those Who Hunger" - Support the CROP Walk!**

Please set aside **Sunday, October 20th**, to participate in the 2013 New Providence CROP Walk at 1:30 p.m. This is not just the kids and not just CE - we hope *everyone* will join us or support us. *Talk about "Feeding Those Who Hunger"!!* This is a perfect opportunity to make our Church's Vision and Mission Statements come alive!



So, what is a CROP Walk?

CROP Hunger Walks are community-wide events sponsored by Church World Service and organized by religious groups, businesses, schools, and others to raise funds to end hunger at home and around the world.

Plan to join us on October 20th in New Providence for the CROP Walk - or support our church by sponsoring one or more walkers! Participation envelopes are available at church, but we'd like people to **sign up online!** Here's how:

- Go to: http://hunger.cwsglobal.org/site/TR/2013FallCROPHungerWalk/TR-Fall2013?pg=entry&fr_id=17145
- Click on "Sign Up," then click on "Join an Existing Team."
- You'll see "First Presbyterian Church of Stirling" - click on "Join Team," then follow the instructions to sign up.

Be sure to send the web-site to others who can join us or support our walk. I'll bet we can raise a lot this year to Help Stop Hunger!

If you can't join the walk, but want to support our team, you can make a donation online, and/or catch one of the walkers after church, and sign their donation envelopes as a sponsor.

We hope we can rely on everyone's support! - and THANKS!!

World Food Day 2013 – October 16th

World Food Day highlights the urgent issue of chronic hunger and promotes positive action through events in some 150 countries.



On October 16, 1945, the Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations was founded, built upon its belief that the goal of freedom from want of food, suitable and adequate for the health and strength of all people can be achieved. Celebrated around the world, World Food Day honors that day and our commitment to defeating hunger. Many think that hunger is about too many people and too little food. But that's not true. Our planet produces enough food to feed every woman, man, and child. Instead, hunger is about power. Its roots lie in inequalities in access to resources. Right now, many farmers in poor countries—the people who grow the food the world relies on—don't have the power to access the resources they need to thrive.

Worship Committee

- Janet Parziale

Non-Perishable Food Collection, October 6th

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 wagon (pictured here). We continue to collect non-perishable food in the baskets located in the entry-ways to the church during the rest of the month.



Thank you to Janet Parziale for repairing and painting our wagon. It looks great!

World Communion Sunday, October 6th



World Communion Sunday originated in the Presbyterian Church (USA). In 1936, for the first time, the first Sunday in October was celebrated 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. Please plan to join with Christians around the world on **October 6th** as we celebrate the Sacrament of Holy Communion together.

We will also begin collecting our annual Peacemaking offering that morning.

Looking Ahead:

All Saints Sunday, November 3rd

On **Nov. 3rd**, we will be observing *All Saints Sunday*, a day when Christians give thanks for all the good people God has placed in their lives. During this service, we will take time to remember those special people we have lost during the past year, and a candle will be lit as each name is read.

Please complete the form below with your name, the name(s) of anyone you would like to have remembered, **and** their relationship to you. Please place the form in the offering plate at church or send it to the church office **by October 27th**. Forms will also be available in the Church bulletins. Thank you.

All Saints' Sunday, Nov. 3rd

Please print clearly

Your Name: _____

Person's Name: _____ Relationship to You: _____

Please place this form in the offering plate or send it to the church office **by October 27th**. Thank you.

Mission Committee**- Madeline Hahl****Family Promise - Paper Products Collection**

During the month of October, we will be collecting paper products for the *Family Promise of Morris County (Interfaith)* network. Suggested items include: facial tissues, paper towels, bath tissue, and napkins, which can be placed on the pew inside Pollard Hall. This program helps people right in our own "backyard," and it would be wonderful if we could surpass last year's donations!

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

Our next commitment date for preparing 40 lunches is: **Friday, Oct. 11th, 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.

Upcoming Dates: Nov. 8th, Dec. 6th, Jan. 10th

Deacons Corner**- Katherine Ihringer**

Welcome back everyone from the summer! As the summer comes to a close, the church begins its Christian Education program once again. We just wanted to remind everyone that we need more sign-ups for Fellowship Hour, ushers, and liturgist, so please sign up. Fellowship Hour does not have to be elaborate: lemonade, coffee, and cookies are fine! Also, please donate small pocket change and low dollar bills in the green envelopes for Deacons. Any amount would be greatly appreciated!

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.

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.

Ongoing Mission Programs**Township Food Pantry**

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

Toiletries

Full-sized and "courtesy" sized bars of soap, shampoo, and 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 & Fabric

Yarn is used to make lap robes for wounded veterans, afghans for battered women, and hats for newborns in hospitals; 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
November issue of Stirling Stuff to:
jsomers17@hotmail.com
by October 20th. Thank you!**

Stirling Stuff is the newsletter of the

First Presbyterian Church

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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.

Why not invite a friend to church?



**First Presbyterian Church of Stirling
Feeding Those Who Hunger**