



# Stirling Stuff

Volume 57, No. 8

September 2013

## **Pastor's Letter**

Recently, I came across the following quote by Pete Seeger that was once printed in *Rolling Stone Magazine*:

*Do you know the difference between education and experience? Education is when you read the fine print; experience is what you get when you don't.*

In many ways, this is so true when it comes to education about religious and spiritual matters. Many people say they can learn about God by just reading the Bible; or, by taking a walk in some beautiful part of God's creation, they can experience God. I beg to differ. The Bible is a book that was written by many different people who lived very differently than we do now. Their cultures were very different from ours. I recall Rabbi Randy Musnitsky, of Temple Har Shalom in Warren, telling the confirmation class that Jews believe all the answers we need are found in the Torah – the first five books of the Old Testament. However, I'm sure she would add that to find those answers, we need to carefully study the scriptures.



The Bible is not a book you can just pick up and read and understand, especially if you want to understand how it relates to your life and living in a 21<sup>st</sup>-century world. Your Christian Education Committee has, for some time now, worked to include adult education programs in the life of our church. We just completed a wonderful summer series of six different programs with our friends from Meyersville and Trinity United. We want to continue that.

In September, I will be doing a sermon series on the importance of education entitled, *How To Grow In Our Relationship With God*. I will also be offering another book study this fall and asking for your suggestions as to the best time to meet. The book we will be discussing is Robin Meyers' *The Underground Church: Reclaiming the Subversive Way of Jesus*.

The Christian Education Committee comes up with program ideas; but, if you have a question or topic you would like to discuss, please let me or the committee know so that we can develop a program on that topic. The truth is, if it's something you have a question about, then it is highly probable that others have the same question.



Let's work on the fine print.

See you in church!

*Tom*

## Worship Services and Scripture Passages for September

### **September 1, 2013 – 9:30 a.m. - Stirling**

- *Twenty-Second Sunday in Ordinary Time*
- *Labor Day Sunday*
- *Sacrament of Holy Communion*  
Jeremiah 2:4-13; Psalm 81:1, 10-16;  
Hebrews 13:1-8, 15-16; Luke 14:1, 7-14

#### ***Honorable Labor***

### **September 8, 2013 – 10:00 a.m. - Stirling**

- *Twenty-Third Sunday in Ordinary Time*
- *Christian Education Rally Day*  
Jeremiah 18:1-11; Psalm 139:1-6, 13-18;  
Philemon 1-21; Luke 14:25-33

#### ***How to Grow in Our Relationship With God***

#### ***1. The Ethics of Discipleship***

### **September 15, 2013**

- *Twenty-Fourth Sunday in Ordinary Time*  
Jeremiah 4:11-12, 22-28; Psalm 14;  
1 Timothy 1:12-17; Luke 15:1-10

#### ***How to Grow in Our Relationship With God***

#### ***2. How Has What I Believe Changed?***

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*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.*



### **September 22, 2013**

- *Twenty-Fifth Sunday in Ordinary Time*  
Jeremiah 8:18-9:1; Psalm 79:1-9;  
1 Timothy 2:1-7; Luke 16:1-13

#### ***How to Grow in Our Relationship With God***

#### ***3. When What I Believe Feels Like It's Not Working***

### **September 29, 2013**

- *Twenty-Sixth Sunday in Ordinary Time*  
Jeremiah 32:1-3a, 6-15; Psalm 91:1-6;  
1 Timothy 6:6-19; Luke 16:19-31

#### ***Acceptable Servanthood***

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**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.**

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Rev. Peters' sermons and the scripture readings  
are posted on the church website.  
Visit: [www.fpcstirling.org](http://www.fpcstirling.org), click on:  
"Sermon Archive," then select the sermon  
and/or scripture reading date you would like.



## **Worship Schedule**

We will be back in Stirling on Labor Day Sunday, **Sept. 1<sup>st</sup>, at 9:30 a.m.**  
We will return to our regular 10:00 a.m. worship schedule on Sept. 8<sup>th</sup>.

## **Christian Education Committee**

**- Lore Pateman**

Join us for the 2013 Christian Education **Rally Day, Sept. 8<sup>th</sup>**.

**Adult Education**

- Debra Sprague

**Fourth Sunday Focus, Sept. 22<sup>nd</sup>**

- 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 **Sept. 22<sup>nd</sup>**. If you have a topic you’d like to discuss, please contact Tom Parziale.



**CROP Walk 2013**

Please set aside **Sunday, October 20<sup>th</sup>**, to participate in the 2013 New Providence CROP Walk at 1:30 p.m. Once again Debra Sprague will be our coordinator for the walk. Please watch for further information to sign up or sponsor participants.

**Worship Committee**

- Janet Parziale

**Non-Perishable Food Collection, Sept. 1<sup>st</sup>**



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

**Deacons Corner**

- Katherine Ihringer

We need people to sign up for Liturgist, usher, and Fellowship Hour for the upcoming weeks. Remember that Fellowship Hour does not have to be fancy. All you need is coffee, tea, juice, and cookies. Fellowship Hour is an excellent way for everybody to talk after church, and it tends to have more people if there is food.

**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, Sept. 6<sup>th</sup>, 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.

## **Fellowship Committee**

### **An Evening at the Ballpark**

On Sat., August 17<sup>th</sup>, a group of members and friends of our congregation enjoyed watching a Somerset Patriots baseball game in Bridgewater. It was a perfect night for a game. In addition to baseball, the evening included lots of snacks and fellowship. Aidan (Jan's grandson) had his glove ready throughout the game, but no foul balls came our way. The evening ended with a fireworks display. Thanks again to Tom Parziale for organizing this fun event.




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### **Annual Softball Game**



On **Sunday, Sept. 29<sup>th</sup>**, we will join our friends from Meyersville church for our annual softball game at the Meyersville field at 4:00 p.m. Everyone is invited to join us to play or to cheer (or to laugh). Meyersville Church will host a covered dish picnic following the game. Speak to Tom Parziale for more information.

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### **Remembering 9/11**

The Tower of Remembrance, located at the Shrine of St. Joseph, Long Hill Road, Stirling, is a place where everyone can reflect on the sacredness of lives remembered. A bell tolls four times at forty-six minutes after each hour starting at 8:46 a.m. and ending at 8:46 p.m., in remembrance of the lives lost at the North Tower, at the South Tower, at the Pentagon, and in the field in Pennsylvania.

This Tower of Remembrance emerging from the rubble of violence reminds us that in God there is hope; that as we remember, we heal.



**Church Website**

Reminder: Our Church website, [www.fpcstirling.org](http://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 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.



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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.

**Congratulations to the Newlyweds**



On July 3<sup>rd</sup>, Chrissie Parziale and Bill DiBartolo, Jr. were married at Chatham Presbyterian Church. Rev. Tom Peters officiated. Pictured here: the joyous couple after the ceremony and the bride enjoying a dance with her dad, Tom.



On August 24<sup>th</sup>, Sharon Hopcraft and Tony Alongi were married at Wilson Memorial Union Church in Watchung, with Rev. Tom Peters officiating. They are pictured here making their vows and then the bride sharing a dance with her dad, Bill.

Several members of our congregation, who have watched these two young women grow up, were present to witness their special day. Congratulations and best wishes to these couples and their families!

**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  
 October issue of Stirling Stuff to:  
[jsomers17@hotmail.com](mailto:jsomers17@hotmail.com)  
 by September 22<sup>nd</sup>. 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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**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.

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