



Stirling Stuff

Volume 57, No. 6

Summer 2013

Pastor's Letter

Little Wesley, age 9, once wrote to his pastor saying:

Dear Pastor,

Do I have to say grace before every meal? Even when I am only having a peanut butter and jelly sandwich?



How would you respond? I sometimes wonder how many people even bother to say grace anymore. The truth is that saying grace is not just about thanking God for the food we have, but it is also about keeping God in our consciousness. When we pray, it is not just about the petition or thought of the prayer, it is also a recognition that God is a part of our daily lives. The more we pray, the more we are aware that God is active in our lives.

As most of us take our vacations or find ourselves outside more often, it is a good idea to say prayers of thanks for what we see and hear. As Meister Eckhart, a German theologian, philosopher, and mystic who lived from 1259-1327, wrote:

If the only prayer you said was thank you, that would be enough.

Saying *thank you* is about remembering that there is a benevolent force in the universe that seeks to bless us, and much of what is beautiful in the world is not brought about by our own personal work and achievements. So, this summer thank God for the quiet times of reading, or the beauty of a place, or gathering with friends over good food and conversation. Say *thank you*, for God is near and active in your life.



See you at the end of July!

Tom



Worship Services and Scripture Passages for July & August

In Stirling during July, 9:30 a.m.

July 7, 2013

- *Fourteenth Sunday in Ordinary Time*
- *Sacrament of Holy Communion*
- *Non-Perishable Food Collection*
2 Kings 5:1-14; Psalm 30;
Galatians 6:1-17; Luke 10:1-11, 16-20
Rev. Barbara Aspinall preaching

July 14, 2013

- *Fifteenth Sunday in Ordinary Time*
Amos 7:7-17; Psalm 82;
Colossians 1:1-14; Luke 10:25-37
Rev. Barbara Aspinall preaching

July 21, 2013

- *Sixteenth Sunday in Ordinary Time*
Amos 8:1-12; Psalm 52;
Colossians 1:15-28; Luke 10:38-42
Rev. Barbara Aspinall preaching

July 28, 2013

- *Seventeenth Sunday in Ordinary Time*
Hosea 1:2-10; Psalm 85;
Colossians 2:6-19; Luke 11:1-13
Healing Broken Covenants
Rev. Tom Peters preaching

*During July and on Sept. 1st, Sunday
worship begins at 9:30 a.m. in Stirling,
followed by Fellowship Hour in Pollard Hall.*

Child Care is provided in the Nursery.



In Meyersville during August, 9:30 a.m.

August 4, 2013

- *Eighteenth Sunday in Ordinary Time*
- *Sacrament of Holy Communion*
Hosea 11:1-11; Psalm 107:1-9, 43;
Colossians 3:1-11; Luke 12:13-21
Rev. Barbara Aspinall preaching

August 11, 2013

- *Nineteenth Sunday in Ordinary Time*
Isaiah 1:1, 10-20; Psalm 50:1-8, 22-23;
Hebrews 11:1-3, 8-16; Luke 12:32-40
The Power of Our Faith
Rev. Tom Peters preaching

August 18, 2013

- *Twentieth Sunday in Ordinary Time*
Isaiah 5:1-7; Psalm 80:1-2, 8-19;
Hebrews 11:29-12:2; Luke 12:49-56
God's Idea of Family Values
Rev. Tom Peters preaching

August 25, 2013

- *Twenty-First Sunday in Ordinary Time*
Jeremiah 1:4-10; Psalm 71:1-6;
Hebrews 12:18-29; Luke 13:10-17
The Drama of Worship
Rev. Tom Peters preaching

September 1, 2013 – 9:30 a.m. in Stirling

- *Twenty-Second Sunday in Ordinary Time*
- *Labor Day Sunday*
- *Sacrament of Holy Communion*
- *Non-Perishable Food Collection*
Rev. Tom Peters preaching

Meyersville Vacation Bible School

Meyersville Presbyterian Church invites you and your children to join them for a new family-focused evening format of Vacation Church School on three weekday evenings this summer, July 23, 24, and 25. Come to one evening, or come to them all! The sessions will be from 6:00 p.m. to 8:00 p.m., and supper will be served as part of the evening's activities.

They will be playing out three Bible stories, one each evening. The stories will be read together from the Bible, the parts chosen, and costumes and props gathered. Performance is not part of this; it is all about the playing! There will be parts for both outgoing and shy children. There will also be small helping parts for adults. Let them know if you will be joining. Invite your friends and neighbors!

To register, call Meyersville Church at 908-647-0390, or email secretarympc@aol.com.

Congratulations to All Our Graduates**College**

Alexandra Scott

Alex graduated with a BA in Liberal Arts from Bennington College in Vermont on June 1st, completing a dual major in Japanese and Elementary Education. In July, Alex will travel to Japan where she will be teaching English as a second language to students in grades 5-9. She will be living in Maebashi, a city in the middle of Japan's largest island. Her assignment is for one year, and she is very excited about this opportunity.

Greg DeMatteo

Greg graduated from Rutgers and has accepted a job with Bank of America, Charlotte, NC.

High School

Nicole Honegger

From: Watchung Hills Regional High School

To: University of Maryland

Katherine Ihringer

From: Watchung Hills Regional High School

To: College of St. Elizabeth

**Christian Education Committee**

- Lore Pateman

CE Recognition Sunday

On Sunday, June 9th, those who have helped out during the past school year were recognized for their work: Elaine Giordano, teacher, preK thru 1st grade; Tom Parziale, teacher, youth class; Beth Badilla for her work on the Christmas Pageant; Debra Sprague for her work organizing the CE adult classes; Rev Peters for his work in leading various adult lessons; and Shaylyn Gallagher for her photography of the children throughout the year. Our children and youth were recognized for their participation in the weekly Sunday School classes.

Following worship, a delicious potluck picnic was enjoyed by several families as they chatted and relaxed on the front lawn. A competitive game of Bocci was played by several youth members, and about twenty adults and children participated in an exciting egg toss. Many were able to continue after their eggs bounced on the ground but didn't break! The winning team was Amanda Gerech and Nicole Honegger. Everyone who attended the picnic had a fun day!



Adult Education

- Debra Sprague

Fourth Sunday Focus, July 28th

- 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. **Our summer session will be held in our air-conditioned child-care room on July 28th, starting around 8:15 a.m., but join us whenever you can. The topic will be Summer Camp.**



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

Join us on Wednesday evenings, July 10th – Aug. 14th, 7:30 p.m. (*in our air-conditioned child care room!*) for our Fifth Annual Joint-Church Summer Series! We'll be exploring questions on a number of topics, and we hope you'll be part of the discussion!

The schedule is as follows:

- July 10 Heather Harris-Galgoci
"Justice! What Does Christianity Say About It?"
- July 17 Rev. Barbara Aspinall
"What's the Least I Can Believe and Still Be a Christian? What Matters Most?"
- July 24 TBA – watch the church bulletin and website for more information on the session
- July 31 Tom Parziale & Lore Pateman
"The Gift of Friendship...Is Friendship a Dying Art?"
- Aug 7 Rev. Tom Peters
"God, Yahweh, Father, Mother, Creator: What's in a Name?"
- Aug 14 Rev. Tom Peters
"Discerning - How Do We Listen and Hear God?"

The series is open to the community; bring a friend, and join us! (*Open to high school age and up.*)

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, July 7th**

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.

Summer Worship Schedule

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 in Stirling 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 Stirling on Labor Day Sunday, Sept. 1st, at 9:30 a.m.

We will return to our regular 10:00 a.m. worship schedule on Sept. 8th. Please plan to join us whenever you are not traveling.

Deacons Corner**- Katherine Ihringer**

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.

Come and enjoy fellowship time outside on the front lawn following worship during the summer. The Deacons are purchasing a light-weight table to be set up outside for this purpose. Cold, refreshing drinks and goodies will be provided. Please join us!

There has been a good response for summer sign-ups for Fellowship Hour and Child Care. Thank you.

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, July 12th, 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: **August 9, Sept. 6**

School Supplies Being Collected

We will be collecting school supplies which the Somerset Food Bank will distribute to needy students. The deadline is Sunday, July 28th. Please place them on the pew inside Pollard Hall. Thank you!

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.

Editor's Note**- Jan Somers**

The next issue of Stirling Stuff will be for September. Please send me any information you would like to have included in that issue by the August 22nd deadline. Thank you, and enjoy your summer!

Recipe

As requested, here is Janet Parziale's recipe for the salad she prepared for our brunch held on June 23rd:

Delicious Broccoli Salad***Ingredients***

- 4-5 Broccoli floret bunches
- 1 lb (or less) bacon
- 2 tablespoons cider vinegar
- 1 cup mayo
- 2 tablespoons sugar
- 1/3 cup raisins

Instructions

- ✓ Remove stalks from broccoli, and cut up into small bite-size pieces
- ✓ Cook bacon on paper towels and paper plates in the microwave, and let cool.
- ✓ Break bacon into tiny pieces, and add to the broccoli pieces
- ✓ Mix in the remaining ingredients
- ✓ Refrigerate overnight
- ✓ Stir before serving

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
 September issue of Stirling Stuff to:
jsomers17@hotmail.com
 by August 22nd. 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.