



Stirling Stuff

Volume 58, No. 6

June 2014

Pastor's Letter

As I write this, I am preparing to go to Germany with The Masterwork Chorus. We will sing four concerts with the Cäcilian-Chor of Frankfurt, Germany. I have my little English-to-German dictionary ready to pack. I thought of this because on June 8th we will be celebrating the Festival of Pentecost. Pentecost is our celebration of when the disciples received the Holy Spirit. One of the evidences of the spirit was that the disciples began to speak in the different languages of the world. Now whether you believed this actually happened or not, the larger truth was that the good news was for everyone and not just those of Aramaic descent; the good news was even for those who do not think like us.



I thought of this as I contemplated the month of June. We will begin on June 1st with the recognition of the students and staff of our church school program. The following Saturday, the 7th, we will be hosting our fish and chips fundraiser. We hope many will come not only for the purpose of raising money, but also to build a possible connection with our church. This will be a time to reach out to people who might not know much about us.

On June 22nd, we will be celebrating Music Sunday, a time to remember that we all like different kinds of music. Some feel comfortable with the old hymns, but others like the more modern songs that do not have the Elizabethan language (i.e. thee, thou, doth, etc.) In February, we had our *Lord's Prayer* brunch, and it was very evident that people had different ideas about what they were comfortable with when it comes to saying the Lord's Prayer.

In this day and age, our church needs to be aware that we have to reach out to people who may like things a different way than we do. Some people don't think the same way we do, and we have to be able to say that it is ok. Last Sunday in my sermon, I talked about the importance of interfaith dialogue. The future life of humanity demands that we be able to talk with and live with people of other faiths. The same is true in our individual churches. The future of our churches demands that people feel welcomed just because they are part of the human family, because they are God's beloved. We need to speak their language too, or they will not feel welcomed. Can we have a Pentecost event in our church? I hope so.

See you in Church!

Tom

Worship Services and Scripture Passages for June

June 1, 2014

- *Seventh Sunday of Easter*
- *Christian Education Recognition Sunday*
- *Sacrament of Holy Communion*
- *Non-Perishable Food Collection*
Acts 1:6-14; Psalm 68:1-10, 32-35;
1 Peter 4:12-14, 5:6-11; Luke 24:44-53
“Staying in Touch”

June 8, 2014

- *Day of Pentecost – Wear Red*
Acts 2:1-21; Psalm 104:24-34, 35b;
1 Corinthians 12:3b-13; John 7:37-39
“Can We Take Down the Barricades?”

June 15, 2014

- *Trinity Sunday*
- *Father’s Day*
- *Gifts of Men Sunday*
Genesis 1:1-2:4a; Psalm 8;
2 Corinthians 13:11-13; Matthew 28:16-20
“How Are We To Understand Genesis?”

*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 22, 2014

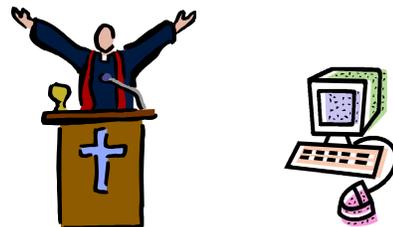
- *Twelfth Sunday in Ordinary Time*
- *Music Sunday*
- *General Assembly Sunday*
- *Church Picnic*
Meyersville Presby. Church worshipping with us
Genesis 21:8-21; Psalm 17;
Romans 6:1b-11; Matthew 10:24-39
Music Sunday Theme:
Christian Education

June 29, 2014

- *Thirteenth Sunday in Ordinary Time*
Genesis 22:1-14; Psalm 13;
Romans 6:12-23; Matthew 10:40-42
“It’s Not About You”

**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.



Session Meeting Highlights**- Madeline Hahl**

Here is the short summary of key discussions from the April 10th Session meeting:

- The fund raising “fish and chips” dinner is in the works; it will be held on June 7th from 5:30 to 7:30 p.m. Tickets will be available for sale soon, and we trust everyone will do their utmost to sell lots and lots of tickets. Our goal is to serve 200 plus dinners.
- The treasurer reported that our financial situation is precarious, to say the least, and we have to find ways to improve it soon.
- The roof project is coming along, despite a lot of red tape.
- Summer services will again be shared with Meyersville: July in Stirling with Rev. Aspinal preaching, and August in Meyersville with Rev. Peters preaching.

A copy of the Session minutes is available in the office.

Pastor’s Coffee Klatch

The next Coffee Klatch will be on **Sat., June 7th, 9:00 a.m.**, 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 Rev. Peters at the Diner. 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.

Fish & Chips Fundraising Dinner

On **Sat., June 7th, from 5:30 to 7:30 p.m.**, we are hosting a **Fish & Chips Fundraising Dinner**, with the food provided by Argyle Restaurant. Tickets are: Adults - \$18; Seniors (65+) - \$15; Children (12 & under) - \$9. There will be take-out orders available. The *Rampant Lion Pipe and Drums*, under the direction of David Palladino, will be playing between 6:30 and 7:00 p.m.



There are many ways you can help. You can help sell tickets and/or volunteer to help with the event. We know that everyone has their own special gifts, and we realize not everyone can sell tickets or be able to volunteer to help. Whatever you can do will be greatly appreciated.

Help is needed for: Set up, check in, take out table, drink table, dessert table, servers/runners, parking, clean up, and general help. To volunteer and/or get tickets to sell, please contact someone on the organizing team: Paul Wermuth, Ed & Jenny Chang, Debra Sprague, & Lore Pateman. If you have a church shirt, please wear it that day; if not, please wear a “baby blue” shirt (if possible) so the workers can all match.

This fundraiser is for the benefit of the new roof. Please support it in any way you can!

LET’S RAISE THE ROOF!

Christian Education Committee**- Lore Pateman****Christian Education Recognition Sunday, June 1st**

Please join us at church on **Sunday, June 1st**, to recognize our students and teachers for the Sept 2013 to June 2014 year.

Students who attended regularly this year and will receive certificates and pin bars are:

Cheyenne Carbone	Ian Blakeslee
Lukas Ihringer	Amanda Gerech
Brooke Kupferman	George Filippatos
Garrett Blakeslee	

The teachers being recognized this year are:

Tom Parziale	Older Youth
Elaine Giordano	First Grade
Katherinie Ihringer	Frist Grade
Brooke Kupferman	First Grade
Lynn Blakesleee	First Grade
Lore Pateman	Frist Grade
Shaylyn Gallagan	Assistant Teacher
Rev. Tom Peters	Adult Education



Special thanks to Tom Parziale who has been teaching our youth for so many years. He puts a lot of time into preparing each week. His dedication and love of his students is greatly appreciated.

Elaine Giordano also put in a great deal of extra time this year. Instead of ordering prepared CE materials this year, Elaine prepared the curriculum, coordinated and got all the teachers lined up, and taught some, too.

We are blessed to have all our teachers, but Tom and Elaine are the keystones to our programs. Please make sure that you give them an extra thank you.

"Welcome, Summer" Church Picnic, Sunday, June 22

Our annual picnic will be held on the front lawn of the church after the worship service on **June 22nd** -- a little later this year because it's such a busy June. We'll fire up the charcoal grill, so feel free to bring something for the grill as well as a dish to share. Bring a lawn chair if you like (we can bring metal chairs outside if needed). Wear your picnic clothes to church... and get ready for the annual egg toss!

**Adult Education****- Debra Sprague****Joint-Church Summer Study Series**

Plans have not yet been finalized, but the **6-week series is scheduled to begin on Wed., July 9th, 7:30-9 pm** at our church, in the **air-conditioned** child care room, with a different topic each week. Please watch for details in the summer issue of Stirling Stuff and weekly bulletins.

Fourth Sunday Focus, June 22nd

- Tom Parziale

Our next “Fourth Sunday Focus” gathering will be on June 22nd.

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. If you have a topic you’d like to discuss, please contact Tom Parziale.

**Worship Committee**

- Janet Parziale

Non-Perishable Food Collection, June 1st

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

**Pentecost Sunday, June 8th**

Sunday, June 8th, is the Day of Pentecost, when we celebrate the beginning of the Christian Church. The Worship Committee has planned a special remembrance of the day for the congregation. Please remember to wear something red.

Gifts of Men Sunday, June 15th

Over the past several years, our congregation has celebrated Gifts of Women & Men Sundays. This year, the Worship Committee will host **Gifts of Men Sunday on June 15th**. Nominations are open for all men who have made a difference by serving others.

Those men previously honored are Warren Hoffman, Tom Parziale, Bill Hopcraft, and Bill Combs.

Please complete the nomination form included in the church bulletin and place it in the offering plate, or e-mail your suggestions for this year’s honoree to Janet Parziale by May 31st. To help the committee in making their decision, please note areas where your nominee has demonstrated outstanding effort in our church and community. Thank you, and please plan to join us on **June 15th** to honor a very special person!

Music Sunday

On **Sunday, June 22nd**, we will celebrate our annual Music Sunday. The theme for this year’s Music Sunday will be *Christian Education*. Our brothers and sisters from Meyersville Presbyterian Church will be worshipping with us on this Sunday because Rev. Aspinall will be attending General Assembly.

Summer Worship Schedule

Starting July 6th and going through Sunday, Sept. 7th, 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 Sunday, Sept. 7th, at 9:30 a.m. We will return to our regular 10:00 a.m. schedule on Sept. 14th. Please plan to join us whenever you are not traveling.

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

Our next commitment date for preparing 40 lunches is: **Friday, June 6th, 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 Date: July 18**Food Bank****- Kai Ihringer, Coordinator**

We had a group of 10 volunteers at the NJ Community Food Bank in Hillside on the morning of May 17th. Thank you to everyone for your work in helping people right here in NJ who need our assistance. In return for our efforts, we all enjoyed fellowship and camaraderie with our church family and friends.



Pictured here: Ian & Lynn Blakeslee; Katherine, Lukas, & Kai Ihringer; Brooke Kupferman, Grace Nielsen, Joshua Rodriguez, Tom Peters, & Tom Parziale

One final note: Please mark your calendars that we are scheduled to volunteer at the Food Bank again this fall on **Sat., Nov. 22nd** (also from 9 a.m. to 11 a.m.)

Deacons Corner**- Katherine Ihringer**

It is almost summertime, which means hot weather. That means that coffee hour can be much more simple. Instead of serving hot beverages, you can serve lemonade or ice tea. Therefore, if coffee hour intimidates you, doing it in June and July is a good time to do so. However, for the summer and the future, if coffee hour makes you nervous because you do not know how to work the coffee pot, just ask a Deacon for help, and we will assist you!

The fish and chips dinner fundraiser is coming up on Sat., June 7th, from 5:30 to 7:30. If you could help out by selling tickets, that would be greatly appreciated. It would also be great if you could attend and bring other friends and family. The fish and chips dinner is so important for our church, and any help would be wonderful. We are hoping that you will join us, and that the dinner will be a great success.

Special Coffee Hour

There will be a special coffee hour following worship on **Sunday, June 8th**, to say farewell to Chris and Mike Scott. They are moving to Massachusetts to become the new proprietors of the Staveleigh House Bed and Breakfast in Sheffield, MA. Please join us in thanking Chris and Mike for their friendship and hard work as members of the FPC Stirling and wish them well in their new endeavor.
(Please see a letter from Chris on [page 8](#) of this newsletter.)



Deacons Fund



There are green envelopes in the pews for donations to the Deacons Fund. This fund supports their Mission work. 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.

Water Available During Worship



There is a pitcher of water and cups available in the Church narthex in case you need a drink during worship. Please feel free to help yourself or signal an Usher to bring it to you.

Congratulations to All Our Graduates

College Graduates:

- Megan Gallagan earned a B.A. in Psychology from Gettysburg College
- Lisa Monetti earned a BA in Anthropology with a concentration in Community Development from Montclair State University



High School Graduates:

- George Filippatos will be following the family tradition and attending Penn State, majoring in Physics
- Garrett Blakeslee will be attending NJ Institute of Technology, where he will major in Electrical Engineering
- Chris DeMatteo will be attending Johnson & Wales University in Rhode Island

Kindergarten Graduate:

- Paige Szewczuk, granddaughter of Jan Somers, is graduating from kindergarten at Conley School in Bethlehem Twp., NJ



August Graduation:

- Jon Andrus will be graduating from the University of North Dakota with a degree in Commercial Aviation. He will be commissioned as a Second Lieutenant in the U.S. Army the same day as graduation.

More Congratulations:

- Lore Pateman's husband, Rich, received the 2014 Long Hill Township EMT award at a special event held at Overlook Hospital to recognize First Aid Squads.
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A Letter from Chris Scott

Dear Church Family;

As most of you know, Mike and I have chosen to retire from our jobs and move on to a new venture. We will very soon be the new proprietors of the Staveleigh House Bed and Breakfast in Sheffield, MA. We have worked toward this dream for some time, and now it has become a reality.

So, it is with great sadness that we say goodbye to all of you. We will miss each and every one of you greatly. We thank you for all of the love and support that you have given us over the past twenty three years. It has been a true blessing to be able to work and play, laugh and cry with all of you.

We hope that you will come stay with us. If you have never been to the Berkshires of western MA, you are in for a real treat. The area is absolutely beautiful, with rolling mountains all around and beautiful forests and lakes. There are many cultural sites to visit as well as opportunities to bike, hike, and ski. The area is only 2½-3 hours from Stirling. We would love to have you visit anytime. Look us up on the internet, and give us a call. God bless all of you.

With Much Love,
Chris

Johnsonburg Camp & Conference Center

Information regarding the 2014 Camp Johnsonburg Summer Program is available in Pollard Hall and the church office. You can also go to their website: www.campjburg.org.

"Do Not Call" Registry

If you would like to "opt out" of annoying phone calls, just call: [1-888-382-1222](tel:1-888-382-1222). You can "opt out" for home phones and cell phones, but you must call from the phone you want to register.

Church Website

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.

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

Please continue to save Labels for Education, Box Tops for Education, and pop-top can tabs. The labels are used by parent organizations to earn educational and recreational items for students. The can tabs are sold by weight to recycling centers, and the proceeds are donated to Ronald MacDonal House to help fund their programs for hospitalized children and their families. There is a collection canister in the church office. Thank you.



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**Road to Bridges**

Change (and more) collected during coffee hour supports Bridges Program, providing 40 lunches per month for NJ/NY homeless.

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
Summer issue of Stirling Stuff to:
jsomers17@hotmail.com
by June 22nd. 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

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.