



Stirling Stuff

Volume 58, No. 10

November 2014

Pastor's Letter

How appropriate that the month of November begins with All Saints Day and almost ends with Thanksgiving. When we think of Thanksgiving, we generally think of a big dinner, followed by a tryptophan-induced state of sleepiness, a parade and, for some, football. Lately, Thanksgiving has also meant the beginning of the holiday shopping season with stores opening on Thanksgiving and trying to induce people to shop by offering big sales. It is no secret that I find this a perversion of Thanksgiving by implying that we should be thankful that we can shop and save money.

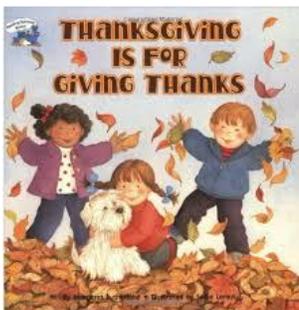
Thanksgiving, to me, is about recognizing and giving thanks for relationships --for the people who have been an important part of our lives--some are still with us, and many are enjoying the next life. Thanksgiving is about recognizing that God has blessed us with these people by making our lives intersect. I recognize that Thanksgiving is a difficult time for some families because of strained relationships within the family. However, if we recognize that we all are part of our human families, whether we like it or not, and part of God's human family, then we might be able to enjoy being together, and that would certainly be worth giving thanks.



I'm reminded of the poster and words of the author Alex Haley who wrote the book, *Roots*. He had an unusual picture hanging on his office wall. It was a picture of a turtle on top of a fence post. When asked, "Why is that there?," Alex Haley answered, "Every time I write something significant, every time I read my words and think that they are wonderful and begin to feel proud of myself, I look at the turtle on top of the fence post and remember that he didn't get there on his own. He had help."

That is the basis of thankfulness—to remember that we got here with the help of God working by the Spirit through other people. Thanksgiving recognizes that God is the provider of every blessing we have.

Take time this month of thanksgiving to say thanks for those who are no longer with you, but also to say thanks in audible words to those who are still with you. It will mean a lot to them and you.



See you in Church!

Tom

The First Presbyterian Church of Stirling
Feeding Those Who Hunger

Worship Services and Scripture Passages for November

November 2, 2014

- *Sacrament of Holy Communion*
 - *Twenty-First Sunday after Pentecost*
 - *All Saints Service of Remembrance*
 - *Non-Perishable Food Collection*
Joshua 3:7-17; Psalm 107:1-7, 33-37;
I Thessalonians 2:9-13; Matthew 23:1-12
- Playing Games***

November 9, 2014

- *Twenty-Second Sunday after Pentecost*
Joshua 24:1-25; Psalm 78:1-7;
I Thessalonians 4:13-19; Matthew 25:1-13
- Knowing What Has Gone Before
Affects What Comes After***

November 16, 2014

- *Twenty-Third Sunday after Pentecost*
 - *Sacrament of Baptism*
Judges 4:1-7; Psalm 123;
I Thessalonians 5:1-11; Matthew 25:14-30
- Getting It Together Time***

*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.*



November 23, 2014

- *Christ the King Sunday*
Ezekiel 34:11-16, 20-24; Psalm 100;
Ephesians 1:5-23; Matthew 25:31-46
- A Comma Makes All the Difference***

November 30, 2014

- *First Sunday of Advent*
 - *Heritage Sunday*
Isaiah 64:1-9; Psalm 80:1-19;
I Corinthians 1:3-9; Mark 13:24-37
- What To Do While You Wait***

**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.



Pastor's Coffee Klatch

The next Coffee Klatch will be on **Sat., Nov. 1st, 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.



Sacrament of Baptism

On Sunday, **Nov. 16th**, we will celebrate the baptism of Mason Duane Grier, the son of Terry and Keith Griner of our congregation. The Griners hope everyone will join in the celebration of this sacrament.

Ordination and Installation

On Sunday, Oct. 19th, Megan Gallagan was ordained and installed as Elder to fill an unexpired term. She had been elected at a special congregational meeting held on Sept. 28th.

Annual Congregational Election Meeting

At the Annual Election Meeting held on October 26th, the following members were re-elected to 3-year terms: for Elder: Joyce Koenig and Edward Gerecht; for Deacon: Beth Badilla, Susan Gerecht, and Katherine Ihringer. They will be installed on February 1, 2015. One 3-year Elder position remains unfilled.

Session Meeting Highlights

- Madeline Hahl

Here is a short summary of key discussions from the October Session meeting:

- Session approved the membership transfer of Ted Peck to the Fifth Avenue Presbyterian Church.
- Session approved the request to celebrate the baptism of Mason Duane Griner on November 16, 2014.
- An audit of the church accounts was conducted and results were very satisfactory. Our thanks to Ed Chang, Warren Hoffman, and Bill Hopcraft who conducted the audit. Thanks also to Paulette for her work all year.
- Session thanks the Deacons for "volunteering" to host Fellowship Hour when no one is signed up to do it. The congregation is encouraged to help with this when possible.
- The *Food Pantry Feasibility Committee* has met again and is continuing to research what the needs are in the community for such an endeavor.
- Session has voted to host a **Fish & Chips Fundraising Dinner**, with the food provided by Argyle Restaurant, on Saturday, **June 6, 2015**. Mark your calendars now!

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

Christian Education Committee

- Lore Pateman

CROP Walk 2014

- Debra Sprague



THANK YOU to those who walked and to those who supported them in this year's CROP Walk! Our church was one of 8 churches and one nursery school participating in the New Providence event, with a total of 55 walkers. As of the day of the walk, the New Providence walk had raised \$5,546 - and donations are still coming in.

One quarter of the funds raised are going directly to St. John's Soup Kitchen in Newark; the other 75% will help support Church World Service projects - so donations help projects near and far. You may still donate at:

<http://tinyurl.com/FPCScropwalk>

Pictured here are: (Front) Brooke Kupferman and Josh Rodriguez; (Back) Tom Parziale, Shaylyn Gallagan, Robin Schmidt, Debra Sprague, Kai Ihringer, Elaine Giordano, and Katherine Ihringer

Adult Education

- Debra Sprague

Education Program - Pot-Luck Brunch and a Movie

On Sunday, **Nov. 9**, we will look at the topic of Immigration, starting with a 40-minute film from Sojourners' entitled, "**The Stranger**." A few people saw the film this summer during our joint-church summer series and thought it was worthy of further conversation. The movie talks about the topic of Immigration from a Christian perspective, and it highlights aspects that some of us hadn't considered before. We hope that everyone can join us for this screening and discussion. Invite a friend! Please sign-up in Pollard Hall for this pot-luck brunch and program.

Fourth Sunday Focus

- 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 next "Fourth Sunday Focus" gathering will be on **Nov. 23rd** in Pollard Hall. 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, Nov. 2nd

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.

All Saints Sunday, Nov. 2nd

On **Nov. 2nd**, 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.

Liturgists for November

Following are the names of the Liturgists for the month of November. In the future, we will try to have dates assigned at least one month in advance. Please take a look at the sign-up sheet in Pollard Hall, and pick a Sunday when you can help out.

If you have never been the Liturgist, give it a try. Paulette sends you the information a few days ahead so you can read it over. You can read the Scriptures from the large pulpit Bible or from your own Bible. If you have questions, speak to one of the members of the Worship Committee: Janet Parziale, Phyllis Clemson, Lynne Combs, Jan Somers.

Nov. 2	Lore Pateman	Nov. 23	Jan Somers
Nov. 9	Madeline Hahl	Nov. 30	Debra Sprague
Nov. 16	Debra Sprague		

Peacemaking Offering

Our annual Peacemaking offering was received on World Communion Sunday, October 5th. **The total was \$545**, of which 25% will be donated to a local organization, to be voted by Session. Thank you to everyone who supported this Presbytery program that is so important to the peace process here at home and around the world.

Mission Committee

- Madeline Hahl

Bridges Outreach Lunch Program

- Jean Hoffman, Coordinator



Our next commitment date for preparing 40 lunches is: **Friday, Nov. 7th, 9:30 a.m.**, in Pollard Hall. We are in need of small cartons of juice, snacks of pudding, cookies, nuts, Goldfish, pretzels, etc., fruit cups, and plastic spoons. Of course, cash donations are always appreciated and help with the purchase of bread and lunch meat. This is really an economical method of feeding the needy. You can drop items off in Pollard Hall on Sunday mornings, or give cash donations to Madeline or Jean. Thank you!

*** We will collect leftover Halloween candy to add to the lunches as a special treat.**

Upcoming dates: Dec. 5, Jan. 16, Feb. 6

Update on Bridges

For a number of years, the Mission Committee has been preparing 480 brown bag lunches a year for the Bridges Outreach Program located in Summit. Their efforts are geared toward the homeless in New York City, Irvington, Newark, and Summit. Recently they have opened *Project Connect* at *St. John's Soup Kitchen*, which has long been a beacon for Newark's most vulnerable homeless population.

At *Project Connect*, the homeless have access to a range of medical and social services, with the ultimate goal of finding them housing. In the last six months, more than 600 people have been assisted, and 350 people have received help in obtaining NJ State IDs, without which a person cannot receive benefits or find a bed in a shelter.

Bridges Facts for the Year:

- Total Outreach Runs 108
- Average Number of People Served Per Week 400
- Number of People Served 21,000 (up 8%)
- Number of People Assisted by Caseworkers: 600 +
Medical/Social Services/Housing
- Number of Brown Bag Meals Delivered 63,000 +
- Cups of Soup, Lemonade, Hot Chocolate Served 49,000
- Pairs of New Socks and Underwear Given 10,000
- Number of New Backpacks Given to Children 1,000
- Holiday Gifts Delivered 1,700

In every one of the lunches we prepare, we include the following: meat sandwich, packet of mustard, fruit cup, snack of pudding cup or cookies, fruit drink or small bottle of water, plastic spoon, and napkin. All your donations are very much appreciated.

Family Promise - Paper Products Collection

During the month of October, we collected paper products for the *Family Promise of Morris County (Interfaith)* network. This program helps people right in our own "backyard," and we thank everyone who participated in making this our most successful collection ever.

Thanksgiving Turkey/Ham Donations, Nov. 23rd

The supermarkets are once again promoting free turkeys/hams during the holiday season. If you are eligible to receive a turkey/ham that you will not be using, please consider donating it. As you know, the list of hungry people grows longer each day, and the food banks cannot keep up with the demand.



We will be collecting the turkeys (please keep them frozen) and hams at church on the Sunday before Thanksgiving, Nov. 23rd, and Lynne & Bill Combs will deliver them to the Market Street Mission in Morristown for distribution. Your support of this program is very much appreciated.

Community Food Bank - Nov. 22nd

- Kai Ihringer

Please consider joining us on our next trip to the Community Food Bank in Hillside on **Sat., Nov. 22nd**. This is a great opportunity to help fulfill our church's mission of "Feeding the Hungry," while also enjoying the comradery of our fellow volunteers. Relevant information:

Date: Sat., Nov. 22nd

Departure: Meet at 8:00 a.m. in the church parking lot to carpool; leave by 8:15

Food Bank Slot: 9:00 a.m. - 11:00 a.m.

Return: Back at church parking lot by noon

If you plan to join us, please **contact Kai Ihringer asap** so that he can provide the Food Bank with a fairly accurate estimate of the size of our group. And don't forget to reach out to non-church members who may want to join us.

Family Promise of Morris County

- Phyllis Clemson & Jan Somers

Our church is responsible for hosting *Family Promise* at the Shrine of St. Joseph on **Friday, Nov. 21st through noon on Saturday, Nov. 22nd**. There will be a sign-up sheet in Pollard Hall listing the specific areas where we will need help. Please help in any way you can in this much-needed and personally rewarding on-going mission program.

Deacons Corner

- Katherine Ihringer

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.

Deacons Fund

There are green envelopes in the pews for donations to the Deacons Fund. This fund helps support the Mission work of the Board of Deacons. Thank you.

Emergency Clean-Up Buckets

The Deacons are participating in a Church World Service program by collecting supplies to make **Emergency Clean-Up Buckets**. These supplies enable people to begin the overwhelming job of cleaning up after a flood, hurricane, tornado, or other disaster here in the US. Our goal is to make at least ten complete buckets. **The congregation will assemble the buckets after church on November 23rd**. Please give supplies to any of the Deacons, or they can be left on the pew inside Pollard Hall. If you have any questions, ask one of the Deacons. We appreciate any donations of supplies or money to purchase supplies. The buckets are sent out when they are needed. After Hurricane Sandy, buckets were sent to New Jersey to help us recover from the disaster. The list of supplies is as follows:

- ✓ 5-gallon bucket with resealable lid
- ✓ 5 scouring pads
- ✓ 7 sponges (assorted sizes)
- ✓ scrub brush
- ✓ 18 cleaning towels (like *Easy Wipes*)
- ✓ 50-78 oz. box of dry laundry detergent
- ✓ 12 oz. bottle of liquid concentrated household cleaner (like *Lysol*)
- ✓ 24-28 oz. bottle of liquid disinfectant dish soap (like *Dawn*)
- ✓ pkg. 48-50 clothespins
- ✓ 100 ft. or 2 50 ft. of clothesline
- ✓ 5 dust masks
- ✓ 2 prs. latex gloves
- ✓ pair of work gloves
- ✓ 24-28 heavy duty 30-45 gallon trash bags
- ✓ 6-9 oz. bottle of insect repellent (pump, drops, or lotion - not aerosol)

**Church World Service School Kits in action:**

<http://www.cwsglobal.org/newsroom/news-features/cws-school-kits-alabama.html>

<http://www.cwsglobal.org/newsroom/news-features/cws-kits-help-fire-survivors-in-chicago.html>

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.

**Church Communications - Reminder**

If you have something that needs to be communicated to the church office, please take the initiative and do it yourself, rather than relying on someone else to remember to do so. Send an email, make a call, or leave a note - they're all good ways to reach our office manager. And an occasional "Thank you" goes a long way, too.

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.

These Days

"These Days has been the concrete expression of the church's witness to the love of Jesus Christ to the world for more than three decades."

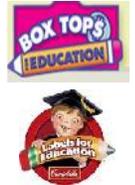
Our Church has a subscription for multiple copies of this devotional booklet; it is available in the Church narthex.

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 MacDonald House to help fund their programs for hospitalized children and their families. There is a collection canister in the church office. Thank you.



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

Non-perishable items can be left in baskets labeled "Food Pantry Donations" in the Church narthex 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: \$50, \$100
- ✓ Gift 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
December issue of Stirling Stuff to:
jsomers17@hotmail.com
by **Nov. 20th**. Thank you!

Why not invite a friend to church?



Stirling Stuff is the newsletter of the

The First Presbyterian Church of Stirling

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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.