



Stirling Stuff

Volume 58, No. 9

October 2014

Pastor's Letter

Perhaps some of you have heard me say recently that I finally “got smart.” What I mean by that is that my wife, Barbara, gave me a smart phone for my birthday. Now I can get my life organized and condensed onto this little handheld computer. It is my phone, my calendar, my texting apparatus, my game center, my email, my internet connection, my weather station, my clock, my alarm clock, my camera, my gps, my store, my music player, and other things I don't know about yet – not that I know how to do all the things I mentioned above.



It seems everyone has one of these little “smart” gadgets in their pockets or purses. Wherever you look, you see people perusing or talking on their phone, or taking pictures of one another or selfies. And it is not just in the United States. Recently, I came across an ad for a restaurant in Beirut, Lebanon where, if you surrender your cell phone to the restaurant when you enter, they will take 10% off the cost of the food. Their reasoning is so that patrons will socialize with one another and enjoy the meal cooked for them. Then, they can retrieve their phones on their way out.

Seems like a good idea to me. It also seems like something the church needs to be aware of. Cell phones make it easy for us to be self-absorbed. They make us feel so important that we need to have all of our contacts and other resources available to us at all times. We don't see those around us while we are looking at the little screen. October is a month when we consider the needs of other people -- the hungry, the children, those who suffer from domestic violence -- we even begin the month with World Communion when we sit at Christ's table with Christians from around the world.

I've always felt that the special awareness emphasis of October makes it a time to consider other people--the strangers around us. I hope that you find time to put down your phone and truly communicate with others during this month and every month. Perhaps you can create *off zones* in your life. *Off zones* would be those times and places where you turn your phone off and make yourself present to whatever is happening at that moment. Besides cars, restrooms, and performances, *off places* could also be in restaurants or for quiet times in your life when you can just sit and reflect. The wonderful thing about today's phones is that they have voicemail and caller ID, so when you turn your phone back on you can connect with someone you missed. We need to be connected, but we also need times when we are disconnected so we can notice the person in front of us or notice the person within us.

See you in Church!

Tom



Feeding Those Who Hunger

Worship Services and Scripture Passages for

October 5, 2014

- *World Communion Sunday*
- *Seventeenth Sunday after Pentecost*
- *Non-Perishable Food Collection*
Exodus 20:1-4, 7-9, 12-20; Psalm 19;
Philippians 3:4b-14; Matthew 21:33-46
Befriending Outcasts

October 12, 2014

- *Eighteenth Sunday after Pentecost*
Exodus 32:1-14; Psalm 106:1-6, 19-23;
Philippians 4:1-9; Matthew 22:1-14
What's the Dress Code?

*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 19, 2014**

- *Nineteenth Sunday after Pentecost*
- *Children's Sabbath*
- *CROP Walk Sunday*
Exodus 33:12-23; Psalm 99;
1 Thessalonians 1:1-10; Matthew 22:15-22
Children Are Not Political Pawns

October 26, 2014

- *Twentieth Sunday after Pentecost*
- *Annual Congregational Election Meeting*
Jeremiah 31:31-34; Psalm 46;
Romans 3:19-28; John 8:31-36
Who Has the Power?

**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.

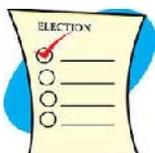
Visit: www.fpcstirling.org, click on:
"Sermon Archive," then select the sermon
and/or scripture reading date you would like.



October

Pastor's Coffee Klatch

The next Coffee Klatch will be on **Sat., October 4th, 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.

Annual Congregational Election Meeting

The Session has called a meeting of the Congregation for immediately following morning worship on **October 26th** to elect new church officers. The new officers will be ordained and installed on February 1, 2015.

Session Meeting Highlights

- Madeline Hahl

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

- Session voted to grant a contract to Capital Roofing Co. to do the roof work and repairs to the steeple.
- Plans are to have the parking lot redone before snow arrives.
- There are plans to hold a Christmas Boutique before the holidays. For more information, contact Ruth Young.
- Per capita is \$33.00 per member, and Session requests that we each try to pay our share.
- *New Beginnings* has begun working on the feasibility of a joint food pantry, in conjunction with other churches in the neighborhood. Also in the works is the possibility of serving free meals at regular intervals.

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

FellowshipAnnual Softball Game

Our annual joint church softball game with Meyersville Church has been **re-scheduled for Sunday, October 12th**, 4:00 p.m., at the field behind Central School in Stirling. Our church will be hosting a pot-luck supper following the game. Please sign up in Pollard Hall if you plan to play and/or join us for the supper. Fans are always welcome!

Christian Education Committee

- Lore Pateman

CROP Walk 2014

- Debra Sprague



The **CROP Walk** is coming up on **Sunday, October 19th**, in New Providence. CROP Hunger Walks are interfaith hunger education and fundraising events sponsored by Church World Service. For those who want to live out our vision of "**Feeding Those Who Hunger**," this is a wonderful way to be involved.

Consider joining us on the Walk this year! Email or see Debra Sprague for a form to get started. You can also sign up online and use tools on the website to let everyone know that you're participating; supporters can pledge online, too. If you cannot walk and still want to help, consider sponsoring one or more of our walkers and asking others to do the same. **Invite a friend (or group!) along to walk, too.** *Thank you for your support.*



You can sign up and/or support our team by pledging online. **Here's the link:**

http://hunger.cwsglobal.org/site/TR/2014FallCROPHungerWalk/TR-all2014?team_id=113470&pg=team&fr_id=19197

World Food Day, October 16thWhat is World Food Day?

World Food Day is a day of action against hunger. On October 16, World Food Day, join the global movement to end hunger. Be a part of the solution in your community and around the world. Because when it comes to hunger, the only acceptable number is **zero**.



The 2014 theme is *Family Farming: Feeding the World, Caring for the Earth*

Why care about hunger?

- Because the right to food is a basic human right
- Because the cost of neglect is too high
- Because it is solvable in our lifetime
- Because it can happen to anyone



National Observance of Children's Sabbath

On Sunday, **October 19th**, we will participate in the national observance of Children's Sabbath during morning worship. This year's theme is, "Precious in God's Sight: Answering the Call to Cherish and Protect *Every* Child." This event is a way for faith communities to celebrate children as sacred gifts and provide the opportunity for houses of worship to renew and live out their moral responsibility to care, protect, and advocate for all children.

Youth Mission Project - School Kits

- Debra Sprague

THANK YOU to all who contributed items and cash to our Church World Service **School Kit** campaign. Our Sunday School students assembled **18 bags** after church on Sept. 21st. Thank you to Elsie Turqman and Jan Somers for making all those beautiful bags in kid-friendly patterns. Thank you also to Lore Pateman for delivering them to the New Jersey drop-off location in Bloomfield.

Let's all support the next kit-assembling project that the Deacons are coordinating - **CWS Emergency Cleanup Buckets**. For more information go to: <http://www.cwsglobal.org/get-involved/kits/emergency-clean-up-buckets.html>

Adult Education

- Debra Sprague

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 **Oct. 26th** 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.

Looking ahead:

Mark your calendars for **Nov. 9th**, following morning worship: there will be a pot-luck brunch and discussion on Immigration, featuring the movie from Sojourners, ***The Stranger***.

Worship Committee

- Janet Parziale



Sunday, October 5th, is World Communion Sunday. 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 as we celebrate the Sacrament of Holy Communion together.

Peacemaking Offering

“PEACE I leave with you; my peace I give to you” (John 14:27)

Our annual Peacemaking offering will be collected on World Communion Sunday, October 5th. Please support this Presbytery program that is so important to the peace process here at home and around the world. Of the total collected, 25% will be donated to a local organization, as voted by Session.

Non-Perishable Food Collection, October 5th

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, November 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.

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 26th. Forms will also be available in the Church bulletins.

All Saints’ Sunday, Nov. 2nd

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 26th. Thank you.

Mission Committee

- Madeline Hahl

Bridges Outreach Lunch Program

- Jean Hoffman, Coordinator



Our next commitment date for preparing 40 lunches is: **Friday, Oct. 10th, 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!

* After Halloween, we will collect leftover candy to add to the lunches as a special treat.

Upcoming date: Nov. 7

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. They can be placed on the pew inside Pollard Hall. This program helps people right in our own “backyard,” and it would be wonderful to surpass last year’s donations!

Deacons Corner

- Katherine Ihringer

Sunday, October 5th, is World Communion Sunday! It is a very special communion because it gives our congregation the chance to experience Holy Communion in the context of the global community. There will be different types of bread from various cultures. We hope that you will join us on this special communion day.

The Deacons have decided to participate in a Church World Service program and start a collection at church 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 United States. **We will begin collecting on October 1st**, and our goal is to make at least ten complete buckets. The list of supplies is below. **The congregation will assemble the buckets after church on October 26th**. Please give supplies to any of the Deacons; and, 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.

- ✓ 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)



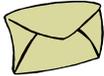
Church Flowers

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 supports the Mission work of the Board of Deacons. Thank you.

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 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

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.

Eye-glasses, 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.

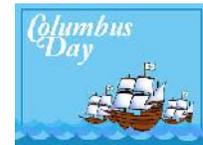
Ongoing Fundraiser**ShopRite & Kings Gift Cards**

- ✓ 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
November issue of Stirling Stuff to:
jsomers17@hotmail.com
by Oct. 23rd. Thank you!**

Why not invite a friend to church?

Stirling Stuff is the newsletter of the

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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.