



Stirling Stuff

Volume 58, No. 8

September 2014

Pastor's Letter



In the past several weeks, we've had several events in our nation that have reminded us of how difficult life is for some people in our nation. With the suicide of comedian Robin Williams, who was suffering from severe depression, and the killing of the 18 year old unarmed black man, Michael Brown, in Ferguson, MO, and the subsequent riots, we are reminded that many people in this country are feeling a lot of pain and fear. With the riots, many of us fear we are headed into another 1960's kind of scenario. We also hear that suicides are a higher cause of death in our country than auto accidents. In 2013, there were 38,364 deaths by suicide.

What these two seemingly separate incidents have in common is that we have a number of people who feel that there is no way out of their suffering and their fear. They cannot find relief from their depression, and they cannot find a path to respectability and sustainability for their lives because they are stuck in low paying jobs, or they cannot find jobs, or they are not thought of as human. It also seems that Washington is stuck playing their political games and cannot, or will not, do anything to help the plight of these people who are suffering. We wonder – what can the church do to help alleviate this suffering and fear?

We can do a lot. We can and must stand up for the basic rights of people to be able to work and earn a wage that sustains their lives. They should not work a full-time job and then have to go on welfare to have enough to live or to have health insurance. We must stand up and demand respect for all people no matter the color of their skin, or how poor or rich they are, or any other human distinction we have devised. The church really is about the only institution that can do this. If you think of the times that Jesus lived with us, the Hebrew people were a beaten and depressed people because of the Roman occupation of Israel and Judah. People were fearful of the Romans, of the Jewish hierarchy and priesthood, because they were not helping much, and were much more concerned with keeping the laws in order to keep peace; but, many suffered under these laws. Into this came Jesus, preaching that he had come to proclaim release to the captives and recovery of sight to the blind, to let the oppressed go free, and to proclaim the year of the Lord's favor.

We need to reclaim that mandate for ourselves and our church. The times demand it, and God is calling for it. It might mean we need to stand in the breach between warring parties and demand that, in the name of the God we worship, they stop. It might mean we need to be with someone who is suffering and just be there with them and for them that they might make it through. We might need to march in solidarity with those who are suffering that through us their voice might be heard. We must remind everyone that each and every person is a beloved child of God. They are beloved even if they don't believe the same as we do. When we see someone being demeaned in a store or on the street, we must have the courage to say *stop*. These are the marks of a Christian. This is how we live the message of Christ. We cannot go backwards. We must continue to push forward and do our part in creating the Kingdom of God on earth. Perhaps we can help spread the news by sharing our belief in justice for all of God's people at the Stirling Street Fair on September 21st.

Peace and Strength be with all of you. See you in Church!

Tom

First Presbyterian Church of Stirling
Feeding Those Who Hunger



Worship Services and Scripture Passages for September

September 7, 2014 – 10:00 a.m. - Stirling

- *Thirteenth Sunday after Pentecost*
- *Sacrament of Holy Communion*
- *Rally Day*
- *Non-Perishable Food Collection*
Exodus 12:1-14; Psalm 149;
Romans 13:8-14; Matthew 18:15-20
A Whole Sacrifice

September 14, 2014 - 10:00 a.m. - Meyersville

- *Fourteenth Sunday after Pentecost*
Exodus 14:19-31; Psalm 114;
Romans 14:1-12; Matthew 18:21-35
Tom in St. Louis for niece's wedding

*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 21, 2014 – 10:00 a.m. - Stirling

- *Fifteenth Sunday after Pentecost*
Exodus 16:2-15; Psalm 105:1-6, 37-45;
Philippians 1:21-30; Matthew 20:1-16
If Only . . .

September 28, 2014

- *Sixteenth Sunday after Pentecost*
Exodus 17:1-7; Psalm 78:1-4, 12-16;
Philippians 2:1-13; Matthew 21:23-32
Cleaning House

**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.



Rev. Peters Away

Rev. Peters will be attending his niece, Carolyn Peters', wedding in St. Louis, MO, the weekend of Sept. 12-14. **We will be worshipping in Meyersville on Sunday, Sept. 14th.** If you need pastoral care during that time, you may call Paulette at the church office or Rev. Barbara Aspinall (908-803-6800) for assistance.

Pastor's Coffee Klatch

The next Coffee Klatch will be on **Sat., Sept. 6th, 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.



Stirling Street Fair

On **Sunday, Sept. 21st**, from 10:00 a.m. to 5:00 p.m., our church will once again have a booth at the Stirling Street Fair. Please sign up for slots to host the booth – we need everyone's voice and presence.

Christian Education Committee

- Lore Pateman

Sunday School - Rally Day is Sept. 7th

With the new school year quickly approaching, it marks the beginning of our Sunday School year. Rally Day will be on **Sunday, Sept. 7th**. This year we will have 2 classes. Tom Parziale will teach the older youth again this year; they will continue to use the Seasons of the Spirit curriculum.

The younger class will have rotating teachers, and Shaylyn Gallagan will be the assistant/photographer this year. Elaine Giordano is putting together the curriculum and organizing the teachers (see below).

Rally Day will start with all the students meeting in Pollard Hall for a community gathering. Each 2nd Sunday of the month there will be a community gathering with a special message and birthday celebrations.

Anyone interesting in teaching or being a special guest teacher or sub, please let anyone on the CE committee know. Committee members are: Rev. Peters, Tom Parziale, Debra Sprague, Elaine Giordano, and Lore Pateman.

Sunday School

- Elaine Giordano

Hope your summer is going well. I am writing about the upcoming Sunday School program for the elementary school children. I have been blessed with the honor and pleasure of teaching these wonderful children for the last few years. Last year, several of you stepped up and took a week or two or month, and we started a rotation. This year I am again giving you the opportunity to teach, interact, and learn from and with the young ones (before they grow too old).

Volunteers are needed to schedule to teach for a month or, if its better for you, just a couple weeks. You will have an assistant, I will provide you with curriculum (there are some great Bible stories coming up this year), snacks, advice (if you want it), and anything else you may need. There are usually between 1-5 children each week, sometimes more and yes, sometimes less, and yes, it is a lot of fun!!

Please contact me with what month (or weeks) you would like to reserve starting in September and continuing through May 2015 or if you have any questions.

Youth Mission Project - School Kits

- Debra Sprague

Back-to-School Shopping?

Help our Sunday School students with a hands-on Mission project to remind them (and us) about those who aren't in a position to just go out and buy what's needed for school. **Church World Service School Kits** help to provide basic school supplies for students who can't afford them or who have been affected by disasters.

As you go about your shopping in the coming weeks, watch for those sales, and help us to gather the supplies for a dozen (or more) kits. These are the items needed to assemble one School Kit:

- One pair of blunt metal scissors (rounded tip)
- Three 70-count spiral notebooks totaling 200-210 pages (**no loose-leaf or filler paper**)
- One 30-centimeter ruler (12")
- One hand-held pencil sharpener
- One large eraser
- Six new pencils with erasers
- One box of 24 crayons (**only 24**)
- One 12" x 14" to 14" x 17" finished-size cotton or lightweight canvas bag with cloth handles
(Please, no reusable shopping bags or backpacks.)



Those who like to sew may help by making bags. Each takes ½ yard of fabric. Copies of the pattern will be available at church, and it's also included on page 8 of this newsletter.

Supplies will be received at church on Sunday, Sept. 7th. Financial donations are also greatly appreciated to fill in needed supplies and to fund the processing/shipping costs (\$2 per kit). The children will put the kits together after church on Sept. 21st.

Thank you for your support!

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 **Sept. 28th** 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.

Joint-Church Summer Study Series

Our 6-Week Summer Adult Ed series was very well attended, with more than 30 people attending at least one session. It was a joint effort with Meyersville Presbyterian Church and Trinity United Church in Warren. Thank you to Debra Sprague for once again coordinating this program.

Adult Ed Potluck Brunch and Peacemaking Program

Plan to stay after church on **Sunday, Sept. 28th** for a potluck brunch, as we focus on **Peacemaking**.

Peace I leave with you; my peace I give to you. — John 14:27

CROP Walk 2014

Mark your calendar for **Sunday, Oct. 19th** for the annual Church World Service **CROP Walk** in New Providence. Watch for sign-up and sponsor sheets for this event.

Worship Committee

- Janet Parziale

Non-Perishable Food Collection, Sept. 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. We continue to collect non-perishable food in the baskets located in the church entry-ways during the rest of the month.

**Mission Committee**

- Madeline Hahl

Bridges Outreach Lunch Program

- Jean Hoffman, Coordinator



Our next commitment date for preparing 40 lunches is: **Friday, Sept. 12th, 9:30 a.m.**, in Pollard Hall. We are in need of small cartons of juice, snacks of pudding/cookies, 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!

Upcoming dates: Oct. 10, Nov. 7

Deacons Corner**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.

Emergency Clean-up Bucket Mission**- Rev. Peters**

At its June meeting, the Deacons made the decision to participate in a Church World Service (CWS) Emergency Clean-up Bucket mission. On **October 5th, World Communion Sunday, we will put the clean-up kits together during coffee hour.** A list will be posted on the Deacons board in Pollard Hall of what we need to put in the buckets. You can sign-up to donate items that are needed. Cash donations to purchase items that are not donated and to ship the kits to CWS will also be collected. We hope you will help us with this important mission project. The items we will be collecting are:

- ✓ 5-gallon bucket with resealable lid
- ✓ 5 scouring pads
- ✓ 7 sponges (assorted sizes)
- ✓ scrub brush
- ✓ 18 Easy wipes
- ✓ 50-75 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. of clothesline
- ✓ 5 dust masks
- ✓ 2 prs. latex gloves
- ✓ pair of work gloves
- ✓ box of 24-28 heavy duty 30-45 gallon trash bags
- ✓ 6-9 oz. bottle of insect repellent (pump, drops, or lotion - not aerosol)

You may also e-mail one of the Deacons to let them know what you want to donate, and they will put it on the list. Please **drop off your items by Sept. 28th** so the Deacons can see what they need to purchase to complete the buckets. Thank you for your help!

Deacons Fund

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

**Buildings & Grounds****- Tom Parziale**

The committee expresses a sincere thank you to Paul Wermuth and Israel Sierra for their continuing work on maintaining the church grounds. Their most recent project is working around the church sign.



There have been some changes in the plans for the new roof. Please look for an upcoming mailing which describes the changes and details of the new roof that will be installed in the upcoming month or two. If you would like more information, please contact a member of the committee or Session.

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.

People's Climate March - Sunday, Sept. 21st

Presbyterians for Earth Care is listed as one of the **750+** partnering organizations for the **People's Climate March**, to be held in New York City on Sunday, Sept. 21. Read more about the march at <http://peoplesclimate.org/>.



Read more about *Presbyterians for Earth Care* at <http://www.presbyearthcare.org/about-what.html>

Church Directory Update

Due to the problems in the building over the summer, the directory was not completed. So, it's not too late to update your listing. Please check your current listing, and send any changes/updates to the church office asap. Update forms are available in church and in the office, or just note the changes and send them to Paulette.

(Remember these?)

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.



Directions for sewing a school bag for the CWS School Kit project:

SCHOOL BAG PATTERN

MATERIALS NEEDED:

1/2 yd of "child-friendly" fabric

MAKE THE BAG:

Cut two pieces of fabric 13" X 17"

Place the two pieces together, right sides together, and sew a 1/2" seam down one side, across the bottom, and up the other side, leaving the top open.

Turn the bag so the seam is in the inside.

Turn under 1/2" on the top edge and press.

Turn under 2" at the top edge to form a hem and stitch.



MAKE THE HANDLES:

Cut two pieces of fabric 4" X 22"

Fold in half one of the 4" X 22" pieces with right sides together. Stitch with a 1/2" seam allowance and turn inside out, **or** turn under and press 1/2" on long side of fabric. Fold wrong sides together. Top stitch close to edge. Press.

Repeat for the second handle. Press.

Turn under raw edges and stitch to the top of the bag.

Finished bag will be approximately 12" X 14". Place CWS School Kit items in bag.

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: \$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
October issue of Stirling Stuff to:
jsomers17@hotmail.com
by Sept. 25th. Thank you!

Why not invite a friend to church?



Stirling Stuff is the newsletter of the

First Presbyterian 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.