



Stirling Stuff

Volume 59, No. 6

June 2015

Pastor's Letter



A man had a heart attack and was rushed to the hospital. He could receive little company and was not to be excited. While he was in the hospital, a rich uncle died and left him a million dollars. His family wondered how to break the news to him with the least amount of excitement. It was decided to ask the preacher if he would go and break the news quietly to the man. The preacher went and gradually led up to a question. The preacher asked the patient what he would do if he inherited a million dollars. He said, "I think I would give half of it to the church." The preacher dropped dead.

I have a running joke when I see people playing bingo or running a 50/50 -- I remind people that they need to remember that the church gets 50%. I've even done it when the chorus I am in runs a 50/50 among the chorus members.



Over the past year, we have sent out a number of requests for money for the church budget for some of the building projects we have had to accomplish, and people have responded. Since November, we have spent over \$101,000 dollars to put a new roof over the office wing, a new roof on the steeple, replace the parking lot, and install new carpet in the choir/parlor room and the childcare room.

We did all of this and only had to borrow \$30,000 from our Endowment Fund. People came through, and we also had money we had been saving for a "rainy day." We used a large amount of the voucher fund to help pay for the roof. We received several large checks for the parking lot, we received several checks from the insurance company, and people have been giving money over time to the roof fund. These projects are done, and there is nothing big on the horizon that needs to be done. And we did all of this as we struggled to keep the operating fund of the church solvent.



God has been with us and watching over us. Now we need to work to answer the question, "Now that the major work on the building and grounds is done, what are we going to do with it?" As I often say, it is not about us. It is not about keeping things nice for ourselves. It is about keeping these resources up so that we can use them to minister to others. How can we use our nice facilities to feed those who are hungry? I hope you will help us respond to that question.

See you in church!

Tom

**The church
has left
the building.**



The First Presbyterian Church of Stirling
Feeding Those Who Hunger

Worship Services and Scripture Passages for June

June 7, 2015

- *Second Sunday after Pentecost*
- *Sacrament of Holy Communion*
- *Non-Perishable Food Collection*
1 Samuel 8:4-11, (12-15), 16-20 (11:14-15);
Psalm 138;
2 Corinthians 4:13-5:1; Mark 3:20-35

June 14, 2015

- *Third Sunday after Pentecost*
- *Christian Education Recognition*
- *Church Picnic*
1 Samuel 15:34-16:13; Psalm 20;
2 Corinthians 5:6-10, (11-13), 14-17; Mark 4:26-34

*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 21, 2015

- *Fourth Sunday after Pentecost*
- *Music Sunday; Travnicek Memorial Ringers*
- *Father's Day*
1 Samuel 17: (1a, 4-11, 19-23), 32-49;
Psalm 9:9-20;
2 Corinthians 6:1-13; Mark 4:35-41
Celebrating God's Creation

June 28, 2015

- *Fifth Sunday after Pentecost*
2 Samuel 1:1, 17-27; Psalm 130;
2 Corinthians 8:7-15; Mark 5:21-43

**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., June 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.



Session Meeting

At its April meeting, the Session made the decision to move the childcare/nursery room to what used to be the choir room/parlor, and the childcare/nursery will now become a meeting room. We will use the meeting room for adult education programs and our Session and Board of Deacons meetings. The red choir chairs that have been stacked in the choir loft of the sanctuary will be moved to the meeting room.

Annual Fish & Chips Dinner

- Lore Pateman & Paul Wermuth

It's almost here: our Annual Argyle's Fish & Chips Dinner will be held on **Sat., June 6th**. If you are interested in helping with the event, please contact Lore or Paul.

Please contact Kai Ihringer at 908-361-2845 or by email at ihringer1@verizon.net to arrange to have ticket stubs and payments picked up for any tickets you have sold.



We also want to report the progress of our ticket sales. Contact Kai with that information so he can keep the congregation informed as the sale proceeds.

Christian Education Committee

- Lore Pateman

CE Recognition Sunday

During worship on Sunday, **June 14th**, we will recognize our Christian Education program by thanking our teachers and celebrating with our students for the work they have done during the past school year. Please plan to join us.

Johnsonburg Camp & Conference Center

Information regarding Camp Johnsonburg's Summer 2015 program is available in Pollard Hall and the church office. One-week sessions for ages 6-17 begin on June 29th. You can also go to their website: www.campjburg.org, or call them at 908-852-2349 for more information.

**Adult Education**

- Debra Sprague

**Book Study Group**

The **final book study group** will be held in the meeting room of the church on Tuesday, June 9th, 7:30 p.m. to finish *Learning to Walk in the Dark*, by Rev. Barbara Brown Taylor. We will be reviewing Chapters 7-9.

Fourth Sunday Focus, June 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 next "Fourth Sunday Focus" gathering will be on **June 28th**. 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 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.



***Following is a list of items most needed at the food pantry:**

- | | |
|---|---|
| Spaghetti Sauce (large jar) | Breakfast food: Pancake mix, jelly, coffee, tea |
| White Rice: 2 or 5 pound bags | Jello Gelatin |
| Macaroni and Cheese | Canned Beans: Cannellini, Garbanzo |
| Canned vegetables, specifically: | Dry Beans: Black, Kidney, Pinto |
| corn, carrots, beets, mixed veggies, yams | Spaghetti (long pasta only PLEASE) |

Liturgists for June:

June 7	Susan Gerecht	June 21	Debra Sprague
June 14	Madeline Hahl	June 28	Jan Somers



Mission Committee

- Madeline Hahl

Bridges Outreach Lunch Program

- Jean Hoffman, Coordinator



Our next commitment date for preparing 40 lunches is: **Friday, June 12, 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. Cash donations are always appreciated and help with the purchase of bread and lunch meat. You can drop items off in Pollard Hall on Sunday mornings, or give cash donations to Madeline or Jean. Thank you!

Presbytery Project: Stop Hunger Now

- Lore Pateman



On Saturday, May 2nd, a group from our church traveled to the Community Presbyterian Church in Chester to work on a project entitled, Stop Hunger Now. They packaged **thousands** of nutrient-rich meals by working in an assembly line, each doing a different job. Volunteers fill bins with raw ingredients, scoop ingredients into meal bags, weigh and seal the bags, and box and stack them on pallets. It is amazing how much can be accomplished by working together for just a few hours to help assemble these much-needed meals.



Thank you to all of our workers, pictured here (in their hair nets):

Rev. Peters, Tom Parziale, Shaylyn Gallagan, Lore Pateman, Joyce Koenig, Rene' Phelan, and Madeline Hahl

Family Promise of Morris County

- Phyllis Clemson & Jan Somers

Thank you to everyone who helped make our hosting of the Family Promise program on May 5-6 so successful by providing dinner, hosting for the evening and overnight, or making a donation towards food. Your efforts were greatly appreciated by the program's guests.

Our next responsibility to host is **Tues., July 7th**. Please watch for more information in the Summer issue of Stirling Stuff.

Community Food Bank

- Kai Ihringer



Thank you to everyone who joined us to work at the Community Food Bank in Hillside on Saturday, May 9th.

This time we did something new--we assembled fliers that are mailed to thousands of homes in New Jersey asking for contributions to the food bank. These fliers, sent out every three months, result in approximately \$600,000 in annual donations. So, even though we didn't work directly with food and household items, we still had a positive impact on feeding the hungry in our area.

Mark your calendars now for our next Food Bank work date:
November 21st

Our team of volunteers included:

John Arnold	Tom Parziale
Lynne & Ian Blakeslee	Rev. Peters
Susan Brodziak	Doug Smith
Megan & Shaylyn Gallagan	Rudy Zeidel
Brooke Kupferman	Kathy Lare
Kai, Katherine, & Lucas Ihringer	

Deacons Corner

- Katherine Ihringer

It is hard to believe that June is already here, which means that summer is about to begin! On **June 14th**, we will have our annual church picnic outside immediately following church. It is always a lot of fun! Please come and bring a yummy item of food for the picnic.



On **June 28th**, we have a special coffee hour celebrating all of the Buildings and Grounds Committee members. They have done a lot of hard work and fixed our parking lot, so we want to show our appreciation for them.

Just a reminder, please donate to the Deacon's fund in the green envelopes. Every little bit helps the Deacons and will be truly appreciated.

Congratulations

Brooke Kupferman is graduating from Watchung Hills Regional High School and will be attending Rutgers University in September.



Update on Previous Graduates

Lore and Rich Pateman report that their children, Kim and Steven, have been traveling. Here they are at the Taj Mahal in Agra, India. They were amazed by the Taj Mahal, and the Himalayas were beautiful. They went to a place where the Dalai Lama was in exile and were impressed by the Buddhists. They ended their trip in Rajasthan riding camels in the desert. What touched Kim the most was how much poverty there was everywhere. They definitely learned a lot in their travels and met many lovely people.



In September, Steven will be attending the University of Colorado in Boulder to study Environmental Engineering.

Church Archives

- Rene' Phelan



Rene' continues to work hard to keep our church archives up-to-date. Please forward to her news clippings, bulletins, programs, or other memorabilia regarding any member of our church family. There is a mailbox outside the church offices for this purpose. Thank 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; they are 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 Fundraisers

ShopRite Gift Cards

- ✓ No additional cost to you to use
- ✓ Purchase cards at face value
- ✓ Church earns 5%
- ✓ Denominations available are:
ShopRite: \$20, \$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
Summer issue of Stirling Stuff to:
jsomers17@hotmail.com
by June 21st. 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.