



Stirling Stuff

Volume 59, No. 10

November 2015

Pastor's Letter

Throughout our days, it seems that everywhere we go we are being asked to give money or to buy something. People are after the money we work hard for, and we are being told constantly that our society is built on the spending of our money. We have to spend so that people and companies can make a profit.

This is the time of the year when the church thinks about money with budgets and stewardship drives. However, I'm bringing it up for a different reason. On Sunday, November 8th, our Christian Education Committee will be hosting a brunch following worship. As you will read in this newsletter, the theme of the program is, *Does Money Buy Happiness?* We will be showing a video of a lecture that I attended at Chautauqua this past summer. It is very thought provoking.



Since money also represents a symbol of our values, it is important for us in the church to consider how we spend our money. It also behooves us to think about this as we prepare to enter the holiday season with stores opening on Thanksgiving Day, offering big sales to get people to come out and spend their money. We are told that this will save the budget of the businesses. But will it save our budget? Will it save our sense of what is really of value?

I hope you will join us for this brunch and enjoy not only the lecture and discussion, but also the fellowship we share around the tables.

See you in Church!

Tom

The First Presbyterian Church of Stirling
Feeding Those Who Hunger

Worship Services and Scripture Passages for November

November 1, 2015

- *All Saints' Day*
- *Sacrament of Holy Communion*
- *Non-Perishable Food Collection*
Isaiah 25:6-9; Psalm 24:1-10;
Revelation 21:1-6a; John 11:32-44
Can You Imagine It?

November 8, 2015

- *Pentecost 24B*
Ruth 3:1-5, 4:13-17; Psalm 127;
Hebrews 9:24-28; Mark 12:38-44
What's Behind Your Giving?

November 15, 2015

- *Pentecost 25B*
- *Travnicek Memorial Ringers playing*
1 Samuel 1:4-20; 1 Samuel 2:1-10;
Hebrews 10:11-14, 19-25; Mark 13:1-8
The Tenacity of Hope

*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.*

*Worship begins at 10:00 a.m. on Sunday mornings,
followed by Fellowship Hour in Pollard Hall.*



November 22, 2015

- *Reign of Christ Sunday*
- *Last Sunday of Church Year*
2 Samuel 23:1-7; Psalm 132:1-12;
Revelation 1:4b-8; John 18:33-37
Dueling Sovereigns

November 22, 2015

- *Thanksgiving Service – 7:30 p.m.*
Deuteronomy 26:1-11; Psalm 100;
Philippians 4:4-9; John 6:25-35
Bringing the Fruit of the Ground

November 29, 2015

- *Advent 1C*
- *Heritage Sunday*
Jeremiah 33:14-16; Psalm 25:1-10;
1 Thessalonians 3:9-13; Luke 21:25-36
The Voices of Advent
1. Isaiah – The Prophet of Advent
Isaiah 64:1-9

**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. 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.



Annual Congregational Election Meeting

At the Annual Congregational Election Meeting held on October 25th, the following members were elected/re-elected to serve 3-year terms effective February 2016:

Elders: Paul Wermuth
Yvonne Fletcher

Deacons: Carolyn Malfatone
Rene' Phelan

Rev. Peters and the congregation expressed their thanks and appreciation to Susan Brodziak, Michael Nugent, Barbara Nugent, and Janet Parziale for their years of service as Church officers as their terms come to an end.

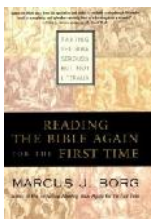
Music Series

I want to say a big thank you to Howard Kupferman for his vision of the music series at our church and for his work in putting the first one together. It was a great experience for our church as we enjoyed a beautiful concert performed by Ms. Yukiko Tanaka, a piano soloist and chamber musician. And, if you eat at the Stirling Hotel, I hope you will thank the owners for their support of our series with their 10% off for those who attended the concert.



Christian Education Committee

- Lore Pateman



Adult Bible Study

- Rev. Peters

Our weekly Bible study will continue on Thursdays at 10:30 a.m. on the book entitled, *Reading the Bible Again for the First Time*, by Marcus Borg. Please feel free to join the group, even if you did not attend the first session. The book can be ordered on amazon.com or barnesandnoble.com.

Sunday Brunch and Discussion: "Does Money Buy Happiness?"

The Christian Education Committee is hosting a **pot-luck brunch and discussion on Sunday, Nov. 8th**, following morning worship. The topic will be "Does Money Buy Happiness?"



Join us for fellowship, food, and spiritual growth. Following brunch, we will watch a video and Rev. Peters will lead us in a discussion based on a session he attended this summer at Chautauqua by Michael I. Norton, author of "Happy Money: The Science of Smarter Spending." Michael Norton is a professor of Business Administration at Harvard Business School. His research found that people value products far beyond their market value price when they assemble those products themselves, or "the IKEA effect." Rev. Peters was so excited about the session that he bought the video so he can share it with us.

The committee will provide drinks; please bring an item to share. There is a sign-up sheet on the CE bulletin board in Pollard Hall. We hope that you can join us.

Fourth Sunday Focus, November 22nd

- 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 **November 22nd** 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

Liturgists for November:

Nov. 1	Madeline Hahl	Nov. 22	Susan Gerecht
Nov. 8	Lore Pateman	Nov. 29	Evelyn Smith
Nov. 15	Jan Somers		

Non-Perishable Food Collection, November 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.



***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:
corn, carrots, beets, mixed veggies, yams | Dry Beans: Black, Kidney, Pinto |
| | Spaghetti (long pasta only) |

All Saints Sunday, November 1st

Plan to join us on **Sunday, November 1st**, when 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.



Thanksgiving Service, November 22nd

We are bringing back the Thanksgiving service this year. It will be held the Sunday before Thanksgiving, **November 22nd, at 7:30 pm.** We hope you will join us and invite family and friends to come and give thanks.

Heritage Sunday, November 29th



On **November 29th**, the church will be celebrating Heritage Sunday. As in past years, we have invited bagpiper, Dave Paladino.

Following our worship service, there will be a special coffee hour with lots of Scottish treats to enjoy. The Worship Committee invites anyone who enjoys baking to bring their favorite Scottish goodies to share. Some of the planned goodies include scones, shortbread and, of course, a fine pot of tea!



Please plan to join us for this festive service as we celebrate our church's Scottish heritage, and remember to wear a wee bit of plaid.

First Sunday of Advent

November 29th is also the first Sunday of Advent, and we will begin a special program that will continue for the four Sundays in the season of Advent. Members of the congregation will be asked to read and light the Advent candles, and Rev. Peters which be preaching a sermon series entitled, "The Voices of Advent." Please plan to join us on this journey to Christmas.



Christmas Eve Service - Survey



At our last Worship Committee meeting, we discussed the possibility of changing the time of our Christmas Eve service, which has been 8:00 p.m. for several years. Please complete the following survey and return it to a committee member, send it to the church office, or place it in the offering plate on Sunday morning. You can also call or e-mail one of the committee members with your preferences. No decision will be made until we receive the congregation's feedback.

I am most likely to attend the Christmas Eve service at:

- 8:00 p.m. _____
- 9:00 p.m. _____
- 10:00 p.m. _____

Ask your friends and family if they would be more likely to attend at:

- 8:00 p.m. _____
- 9:00 p.m. _____
- 10:00 p.m. _____

Please feel free to make additional suggestions below. A decision will be made in early November to allow time to place an article in the local newspaper. Thank you!

Worship Committee: Rev. Peters, Janet Parziale, Phyllis Clemson, Lynne Combs, Joyce Koenig, and Jan Somers

Deacons Corner

- Carolyn Malfatone

The Deacons are planning for the upcoming Christmas season. There will be an order form in the December Stirling Stuff and the church bulletins for poinsettias to decorate the chancel. The Deacons will decorate the church just before we host the Community Carol Sing on December 13th.

Church Flowers

Please sign up on the Flower Chart in Pollard Hall if you would like to place flowers on the chancel for a 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. Thank you.

Mission ProgramsBridges Outreach Lunch Program

- Jean Hoffman, Coordinator



Our next commitment date for preparing 40 lunches is: **Friday, November 6th, 9:30 a.m.**, in Pollard Hall. We are in need of small cartons of juice; snacks of cookies, nuts, Goldfish, pretzels, etc.; 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 for your continued support of this very important and much appreciated program!

Upcoming Date: Dec. 4

Community Food Bank - November 21st

- Kai Ihringer

Please consider joining us on our next trip to volunteer at the Community Food Bank in Hillside on **Sat., November 21st**. This is a great opportunity to help fulfill our church's mission of "Feeding Those Who Hunger," while also enjoying the comradery of our fellow volunteers. Consider reaching out to people who aren't members of our church who might be interested in joining us.



Date: Sat., Nov. 21st

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

Food Bank Slot: 9:00 – 11:00 a.m.

Return: Back at church parking lot between 11:30 a.m. and 12 Noon

If you plan to attend, please contact Kai so that he can provide the Food Bank with an estimate of the size of our group. Also, let him know if you are willing to drive and how many people can ride with you.

Thanksgiving Turkey/Ham Donations

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 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, November 22nd. They will be brought to the Market Street Mission in Morristown for distribution. Your support of this program is very much appreciated.

Family Promise of Morris County

- Phyllis Clemson & Jan Somers

Our final responsibility this year for hosting Family Promise clients will be **for dinner on Friday, November 20th, through breakfast on Sat., November 21st**, at Trinity House in Stirling. We need volunteers to provide dinner, serve as hosts for dinner, stay overnight with the guests, provide breakfast, and serve as hosts on Saturday morning. The dinner menu will include pizza, salad, and dessert. Breakfast will include pancakes. We would appreciate monetary donations, as well as salads and desserts. A sign-up sheet is posted in Pollard Hall. Come, help out, and get a taste for just how difficult it is to be homeless. Contact Phyllis Clemson or Jan Somers for additional information.

CROP Walk 2015

- Debra Sprague



The annual CROP Walk on October 18th was definitely a **"Feeding Those Who Hunger"** event. Seventy-seven people participated in the New Providence-Summit walk, and \$4700 has been raised so far.

Pictured here are 9 of the 10 "walkers" from our Church: Rev Peters, Debra Sprague, Elaine Giordano, Katherine Ihringer, Lisa Wernett, Tom Parziale, Brooke Kupferman, Kai Ihringer, and Shaylyn Gallagan. (Fiona had left before the picture was taken.)

Many thanks to those who walked, those who sponsored them, and Lore Pateman and Ed Gerech who raised money but were unable to join the walk.

Free Gentle Yoga Class – Tuesday Mornings, Meyersville Presbyterian Church

Roseanne McGraw, a certified yoga teacher for 15 years, will be teaching a free gentle yoga class in the Parlor at Meyersville Presbyterian Church on **Tuesdays from 9:00-10:00 a.m.**

You will not be sitting or lying on the floor, so just bring yourself in comfortable clothes, and invite friends along. This class will be appropriate for all, the flexible as well as the tight. Injuries will be accommodated. Yoga is relaxing as well as good for general health; so, come give it a try.



Call or e-mail Rosanne with any questions or concerns: 908-508-1435, rosanne.mcgraw@gmail.com

Church Archives

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

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 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
December issue of Stirling Stuff to:
jsomers17@hotmail.com
by November 19th. Thank you!**

Stirling Stuff is the newsletter of the

The First Presbyterian Church of Stirling

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.

Why not invite a friend to church?

