



Stirling Stuff

Volume 59, No. 9

October 2015

Pastor's Letter

As I sit and write my letter for this month, I am mindful that today is the Autumn Equinox, or the beginning of the season of Autumn. In my devotional book, (*A Book of Wonder: Daily Reflections for Awakened Living* by Edward Hays), the thought for today talks about Autumn being a time of retirement, of full barns, and harvested fields. The season of growing is done. Granted this sense is a feature of an agrarian society, but perhaps it needs to be a sense of our spiritual and social lives as well.



We live lives full of action and business. We have been taught that old Protestant work ethic which basically says that if you're not busy working at something then you are wasting your time. However, let us take a look at the cycle of creation. Summer is the season of growth; Fall is the season of harvest and beginning to quiet down. Winter is the season of lying fallow and resting; Spring is the season of energy and new growth. There is a wisdom to *cycling* and, perhaps, we can learn from it. Fall is a time of color and crispness, a time to sit back and take in, to allow ourselves time for relaxing and receiving instead of working and giving.

As we go through this season of Autumn, and especially the month of October, I want to encourage you to find opportunities to be awed by the creation around us, to allow yourselves to be re-created. I think if we can do that, we will find November and December much more manageable, and we won't be as stressed out.

May we all find the beautiful colors of the world in our spirits as well.

Peace,

Tom



Worship Services and Scripture Passages for October

October 4, 2015

- *World Communion Sunday*
- *Pentecost 19B*
- *Non-Perishable Food Collection*
Job 1:1, 2:1-10; Psalm 26;
Hebrews 1:1-4, 2:5-12; Mark 10:2-16
When the Thread Is Pulled

October 11, 2015

- *Pentecost 20B*
Job 23:1-9, 16-17; Psalm 22:1-15;
Hebrews 4:12-16; Mark 10:17-31
Learning What Has Value

*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.*



October 18, 2015

- *Pentecost 21B*
Job 38:1-7, 34-41; Psalm 104:1-9, 24, 35c;
Hebrews 5:1-10; Mark 10:35-45
Of All the Audacity!

October 25, 2015

- *Pentecost 22B*
- *Reformation Sunday*
- *Annual Congregational Election Meeting*
Job 42:1-6, 10-17; Psalm 34:1-8, 19-22;
Hebrews 7:23-28; Mark 10:46-52
**When the Blind See Better Than
Those With Sight**

**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., Oct. 3rd, 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 to be held immediately following morning worship on **October 25th** to elect new church officers. The new officers will be ordained and installed on February 7, 2016.

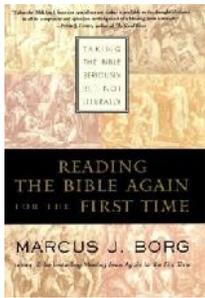
Christian Education Committee

- Lore Pateman

Adult Bible Study

- Rev. Peters

As I announced in last month's Stirling Stuff, I am beginning a weekly Bible study in October. The class will meet at 10:30 on Thursday mornings, beginning on October 15th. Coffee will be provided and, if anyone wants to bring something to go with the coffee, I am sure it will not be refused. Since I'm not sure at this point what book of the Bible people will be interested in studying, I want to start in a general way.



In 2001, Dr. Marcus Borg, who had been a professor of Religion and Culture at Oregon State University, wrote a book entitled, *Reading the Bible Again for the First Time*. This book was a best seller and highly acclaimed. This followed on the heels of his bestseller, *Meeting Jesus Again for the First Time*. Dr. Borg passed away earlier this year.

This will not be a lengthy book study; I hope to cover it in 5-6 weeks, and then we will decide what book of the Bible we want to study. You may order a copy of the book on Amazon at: http://www.amazon.com/s/ref=nb_sb_noss?url=search-alias%3Dstripbooks&field-keywords=Reading+the+Bible+again

There is a sign-up sheet in Pollard Hall on the Christian Education bulletin board (to the left of the entrance to Pollard Hall from the sanctuary), so I know how many will be attending.

Fourth Sunday Focus, Oct. 25th

- 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. 25th 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, Oct. 4th

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)

White Rice: 2 or 5 pound bags

Macaroni and Cheese

Canned vegetables, specifically:

corn, carrots, beets, mixed veggies, yams

Breakfast food: Pancake mix, jelly, coffee, tea

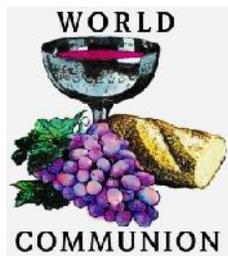
Jello Gelatin

Canned Beans: Cannellini, Garbanzo

Dry Beans: Black, Kidney, Pinto

Spaghetti (long pasta only)

World Communion Sunday, October 4th



In 1936, the first Sunday in October was celebrated as World Communion Sunday in Presbyterian churches in the United States and overseas. After a few years, the idea spread beyond the Presbyterian Church.

World Communion will be celebrated on Sunday, Oct. 4th, when we will gather around the communion table with our brothers and sisters from around the world to celebrate in unity in Christ. We will symbolize this by using different breads for communion. We hope you will join us for this special service.

Peacemaking Offering

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

We will once again collect our annual peacemaking offering beginning on World Communion Sunday, October 4th. This offering is used by our church and the Presbyterian Church (USA) to work for peace around the world. The Deacons are currently working on deciding where our 25% will go. We hope you will give generously to this offering, which we will collect during the month of October. We are certainly living in a time when we need to expand our efforts for peace, not only in other parts of the world, but also right here in our own country.



CROP Walk 2015, Sunday, October 18th

- Debra Sprague



The annual **CROP Walk** is on **Sunday, October 18th**, 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.

We will start and end at the New Providence Methodist Church, on Springfield Ave. The walk begins at 1:30 p.m. and is 3 miles long. If you cannot walk, please sponsor a walker. Some of us will have our sponsor envelopes at the Fellowship Hours on Sundays until the 18th. If you want to walk, please get a sponsor envelope from Shaylyn Gallagan.

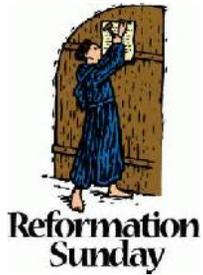


What is World Food Day?

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**.



Reformation Sunday, October 25th

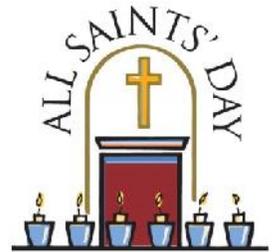


On Sunday, Oct. 25th, we will observe Reformation Day during morning worship. This is the day Presbyterians celebrate the tradition that grounds their faith. It is always the last Sunday in October, marking the occasion in 1517 when Martin Luther posted his 95 theses on the church door in Wittenberg, Germany. Martin Luther contributed to major theological reform by translating the Bible into vernacular German, which allowed people to hear and read the gospel of Jesus Christ in their own language.

Plan to join us for this important day in our Church's history.

All Saints Sunday, November 1st

On Nov. 1st 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 25th**. Forms will also be available in the Church bulletins.

All Saints' Sunday, Nov. 1st

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 25th. Thank you.

Fellowship

- Rev. Peters

Annual Softball Game, Sunday, October 4th

Our annual game with Meyersville P.C. will be played on Sunday, Oct. 4th at 4:00 pm. We will be at Meyersville field, and there will be a potluck supper at Meyersville church afterwards—always a good time to discuss the great plays made during the game. If you are playing or cheering, please bring a dish to share following the game. Please sign up in Pollard Hall, and note whether you will be playing or watching.

Mission Committee

- Madeline Hahl

Bridges Outreach Lunch Program

- Jean Hoffman, Coordinator



Our next commitment date for preparing 40 lunches is: **Friday, Oct. 9, 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 Dates: Nov. 6, Dec. 4

Deacons Corner

- Katherine Ihringer

Please remember to sign up as Usher or to host Fellowship Hour in the upcoming weeks.

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.

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.

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 Directory Update



Paulette is in the process of updating our Church Directory. 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.

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.

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
November issue of *Stirling Stuff* to:
jsomers17@hotmail.com
by October 22nd. Thank you!

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.

Why not invite a friend to church?

