



Stirling Stuff

Volume 59, No. 8

September 2015

Pastor's Letter

While visiting the big gothic cathedrals in Cologne, Strasbourg, Speyer, and Heidelberg, I was reminded of the fact that the church was the place where ones eyes were lifted heavenward by the mere suggestion of the architecture. Yet, the priests in those medieval times were the only ones educated enough to read and understand the Bible, or any other writing for that matter. They had all of the books as well. In Strasbourg, there was a statue of Gutenberg with a small printing press, because he invented the printing press and movable type while living there. Gutenberg started printing books and papers and his own Gutenberg Bible, which was written in Latin, in Mainz, Germany around 1445. Shortly after that, in 1522, Martin Luther translated the New Testament into German so that the common people could read it. Luther finished the entire Bible in 1534. Because of the printing press, Luther was able to get copies of the Bible out to people quickly.

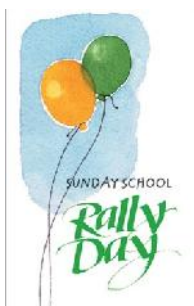
The people now had the Bible, but could they understand it? Did they understand the different viewpoints of the different writers? Did they understand the use of fact, myth, legend, and stories used in writing the Bible? These are the people who, prior to this time, could only learn about the life of Christ and the Bible by looking at the pictures in the stained glass windows of the cathedrals. Most of the cathedrals I visited had large stained glass windows that told the stories of the Bible in pictures. That was the only way people could study the stories of the Bible. They hungered for the real account, and some of the early Bible translators paid with their lives for translating the scriptures into a language other than Latin - the holy language, according to the ancient Roman Church.

I share all of this with you as we look ahead to September when we start our youth Christian Education program up again. I want to do a Bible Study during a regular time of the day each week – in the morning or evening. So often we think we know the Bible, but as I mentioned in the Wednesday night summer class about how our spirituality changes as we get older, as we mature we read the stories at a deeper level, and we get into understanding the background of the Biblical accounts. It was a big thing to put the Bible into the hands of the people. We honor their faith and strength when we take the time to read it and study it. Please let me know if you would like to be a part of such a study and what book or part of the Bible you would like to study. The physical church is only holy when the word is read, studied, and lived in it and outside of it.

We will celebrate Rally Day, the beginning of our Church School program, on Sunday, September 13th, during morning worship.

See you in church!

Tom



The First Presbyterian Church of Stirling
Feeding Those Who Hunger

Worship Services and Scripture Passages for September

September 6, 2015

Stirling - 9:30 a.m.

- Pentecost 15B
- Sacrament of Holy Communion
- Labor Day Sunday
- Non-Perishable Food Collection
Proverbs 22:1-2, 8-9, 22-23; Psalm 125;
James 2:1-10; Mark 7:24-37
What's Trickling Down?

September 13, 2015

10:00 a.m.

- Pentecost 16B
- Rally Day
- Meyersville Church will be worshipping with us
Proverbs 1:20-33; Psalm 19;
James 3:1-12; Mark 8:27-38
Jesus Is For Losers

*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.*



September 20, 2015

- Pentecost 17B
Proverbs 31:10-31; Psalm 1;
James 3:13-4:3, 7-8a; Mark 9:30-37
Wisdom Born In Gentleness

September 27, 2015

- Pentecost 18B
Esther 7:1-6, 9-10; Psalm 124;
James 5:13-20; Mark 9:38-50
What Would You Cut Out?

**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., Sept. 5th, 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.



Bell Choir Starting Up

The Travnicek Memorial Ringers will begin rehearsals again on **Monday, Sept. 14th, at 7:30 pm.** If you would like to try your hand at ringing bells, please talk to Tom Peters. As Tom always says, you only have to be able to count. We have a lot of fun at our rehearsals, and we try to play during worship at least once a month.

CROP Walk 2015, Sunday, October 18th

The annual New Providence CROP Walk will be held on **Sunday, Oct. 18th, at 1:30 p.m.** Debra Sprague, who has been our coordinator for the past several years, will not be available the day of the Walk. We need someone to work with Debra in coordinating our part of the walk -- handing out the donation forms to walkers and encouraging people to donate online. The coordinator is also our liaison with the organizers of the walk. Please let a member of the Deacons or Rev. Peters know if you can help out with this. You can also talk to Debra about what the job entails.

Christian Education Committee

- Lore Pateman

Adult Education

- Debra Sprague

Once again, our 6-week Joint Church Summer Discussion Series was very well attended. We enjoyed fellowship and lively discussions on a variety of theological topics with members of Meyersville Presbyterian Church and Trinity United Church (Warren). Thank you to our discussion leaders: Rev. Barbara Aspinall, Rev. Tom Peters, Andrew Galgoci, and Heather Harris-Galgoci and to Debra Sprague for once again coordinating this program.

Fourth Sunday Focus, Sept. 27th

- 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. 27th**. 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, Sept. 6th

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)

Mission Committee

- Madeline Hahl

Bridges Outreach Lunch Program

- Jean Hoffman, Coordinator



Our next commitment date for preparing 40 lunches is: **Friday, Sept. 18, 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 for your continued support of this very important program!

Upcoming Dates: Oct. 9, Nov. 6, and Dec. 4

News from Bridges:

In June, we received a thank-you letter from *Bridges*. In the letter, they offered the following:

Since we opened the doors at Project Connect in March 2014, we have assisted over 1,600 homeless people who are motivated to change their lives for the better. *Bridges* received a grant to partner with St. John's Soup Kitchen in Newark and, as a result, we have been able to hire a few people to assist homeless Vets and others obtain jobs and housing. To illustrate the impact this program has had on the life of one single mother and her family, the following is quoted:

"I'm a single mother of five children, two of whom have special needs, and I work part-time to support us. Earlier this year our rental apartment was foreclosed on, and we were suddenly homeless. I sought assistance from the Mayor's office, but they simply referred me to other agencies, none of which could help me. The Department of Welfare, and every other Newark agency and shelter, turned me away because I don't receive monthly financial assistance, and they wouldn't be reimbursed for assisting me. My son, who struggles with an anxiety disorder, was particularly affected by the uncertainty of not having a home. I hid it from my children, but I, too, was very frightened.

"Our situation improved suddenly when I received a call from Project Connect's manager. She and the staff made phone calls until they found an agency that would provide a few months of rental assistance. Next, they connected me with a realtor who waived the commission and search fees, and helped me find an affordable apartment.

"We're so happy in our new home. The rental assistance has helped me save money for my family's future, and put us on more solid financial ground. Project Connect stepped in when every other agency turned me away; I don't know where we'd be today if they hadn't reached out to me. Today, my son doesn't have to cope with uncertainty and my family has a clean, safe and secure home. I'll always be grateful to Project Connect."

Family Promise of Morris County

- Phyllis Clemson & Jan Somers

Thank you to everyone who helped make our hosting of the Family Promise program in July 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 is in November. Please watch for more information in the October Stirling Stuff.

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

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. Thank you.



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.

Note from Former Member . . .

We have received a donation from Laura Rinehart, who, along with her family, was a very active member of our congregation years ago. In her note, her daughter mentions that Laura very much enjoys receiving Stirling Stuff. Laura now lives at Devon House Assisted Living, 1930 Bevin Drive, Room 250, Allentown, PA 18103.

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.

Church Directory Update



Please check your current Church Directory 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.

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 MacDonal 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
October issue of Stirling Stuff to:
jsomers17@hotmail.com
by September 17th. 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.