



Stirling Stuff

Volume 59, No. 7

Summer 2015

Pastor's Letter

On Music Sunday (June 21), we sang and considered hymns that dealt with God's creation. I shared with the congregation my belief that God's amazing and diverse creation is a wonderful witness of God's presence in the world and also provides ways for us to understand God and God's work in the world. I also shared a hymn entitled, *Hymn of Promise*, by Natalie Sleeth. The first verse is:



*In the bulb there is a flower; in the seed, an apple tree;
in cocoons, a hidden promise: butterflies will soon be free!
In the cold and snow of winter, there's a spring that waits to be;
unrevealed until its season, something God alone can see.*

This hymn shows us ways we can look at flowers, trees, and seasons and see the promise of the resurrection. The problem is that often we are too busy or distracted to see these symbols and witnesses. As you go through these summer months, I encourage you to look for these symbols and witnesses that say something about God. Make it your mission to look for one every day of the summer. Perhaps you could even write them down each day in a little book. You could write what you saw, where you saw it, and what it was a symbol or witness of. I encourage you to see this exercise as a way of bringing God into your daily life.



I hope you have a wonderful Spirit-filled summer full of fun, relaxation, and joy. Barbara and I will be at Chautauqua Institution from July 17 – August 1. We will be home for a week and then, as some of you know, we will be taking a river cruise on the Rhine River from Amsterdam, the Netherlands, to Basel, Switzerland. We will leave on Aug. 8 and return on Aug. 16. I pray that all of us may have safe travels this summer.

See you in church!

Tom

The First Presbyterian Church of Stirling
Feeding Those Who Hunger

Worship Services and Scripture Passages for July & August

July 5, 2015

Stirling

- *Sixth Sunday after Pentecost*
- *Sacrament of Holy Communion*
- *Non-Perishable Food Collection*
2 Samuel 5:1-5, 9-10; Psalm 48;
2 Corinthians 12:2-10; Mark 6:1-13
I Am God and You're Not
Rev. Peters preaching

July 12, 2015

Stirling

- *Seventh Sunday after Pentecost*
2 Samuel 6:1-5, 12b-19; Psalm 24;
Ephesians 1:3-14; Mark 6:14-29
Rev. Aspinall preaching

July 19, 2015

Stirling

- *Eighth Sunday after Pentecost*
2 Samuel 7:1-14a; Psalm 89:20-37;
Ephesians 2:11-22; Mark 6:30-34, 53-56
Rev. Aspinall preaching

July 26, 2015

Stirling

- *Ninth Sunday after Pentecost*
2 Samuel 11:1-15; Psalm 14;
Ephesians 3:14-21; Mark 6:1-21
Rev. Aspinall preaching

*Worship begins at 9:30 a.m. on Sunday mornings,
followed by Fellowship Hour in Pollard Hall.*

Child Care is provided in the Nursery.



August 2, 2015

Meyserville

- *Tenth Sunday after Pentecost*
- *Sacrament of Holy Communion*
2 Samuel 11:26-12:13a; Psalm 51:1-12;
Ephesians 4:1-16; Mark 6:24-35
How To Kill A Conversation
Rev. Peters preaching

August 9, 2015

Meyserville

- *Eleventh Sunday after Pentecost*
2 Samuel 18:5-9, 15, 31-33; Psalm 130;
Ephesians 4:25-5:2; Mark 6:35, 41-51
Rev. Aspinall preaching

August 16, 2015

Meyserville

- *Twelfth Sunday after Pentecost*
1 Kings 2:10-12, 3:3-14; Psalm 111;
Ephesians 5:15-20; John 6:51-58
Guest Preacher

August 23, 2015

Meyserville

- *Thirteenth Sunday after Pentecost*
1 Kings 8:1, 6, 10-11, 22-30, 41-43; Psalm 84;
Ephesians 6:10-20; John 6:56-69
Trying To Believe In the Dark
Rev. Peters preaching

August 30, 2015

Meyserville

- *Fourteenth Sunday after Pentecost*
Song of Solomon 2:8-13; Psalm 45:1-2, 6-9;
James 1:17-27; Mark 7:1-8, 14-15, 21-23
Sometimes the Church Needs Dirty People
Rev. Peters preaching

Summer Finances

During the summer, many of us may be away on vacation; but, the truth is that the church still has to pay its bills and staff. **Please keep your pledge current**, because we have very little to fall back on to meet our obligations.



Argyle's Fish & Chips Dinner, June 6th

- Rev. Tom Peters

How can we put that day in perspective? It was a wonderful day of fellowship, serving the community, and hard work that was a joy to do. One of the gentlemen from Argyle's said it was the most organized dinner they had ever worked at. We had hoped to make \$3,500 this year; we earned a profit of \$3,565!



Thanks to all of you who helped by selling tickets and working the day of the dinner. I want to say a special thank you to our youth who did a wonderful job of serving the people and helping to tear down after the dinner. We had friends of some of our youth as well as some members of *Kids Can Fence*, which meets in our church. We would have had a very difficult time without them.

I also want to say a big thank you to Lore Pateman for her leadership on the organizing committee and working hard to pull it off. It was more work this year, since we had to fix up the back rooms that had been damaged by water from the roof leaks in case we

needed to seat people indoors. The committee, consisting of Debra Sprague, Kai Ihringer, Carolyn Malfatone, Ed Gerecht, Tom Parziale, Paul Wermuth, Shaylyn Gallagan, Lynn Blakeslee, and Tom Peters, worked hard and put in a lot of time.

The gorgeous day we had means this year's dinner will be one that future dinners will be measured against. We now have a fund-raiser for which we are known.



Once again, members of the Rampant Lion Pipe and Drums, under the direction of David Palladino, entertained guests.



Here are just some of our workers, near the end of a very busy day.

Christian Education Committee

- Lore Pateman

Adult Education

- Debra Sprague

Summer Discussion Series - Wednesdays, July 8 - Aug. 12, 7:30 p.m.

Once again, we will join with Meyersville Presbyterian Church and Trinity United Church (Warren) to hold a summer series of discussions on a variety of theological topics. All six Wed. evening sessions will held in Stirling in one of our air-conditioned meeting rooms. The discussions will begin at 7:30 and end by 9:00 and will be led by pastors or lay people from one of the three churches.



In the past, we've had people from at least 6 different churches joining in the discussions - although participants do not have to be affiliated with any church in order to attend. Each session is a stand-alone topic, so people are invited to come when they can, to one session, or to all six.

Date	Leader	Topic / Title
July 8	Rev. Tom Peters	"Civil Disobedience" <i>How do Jesus' challenges to the authorities of his day provide an example for us?</i>
July 15	Rev. Barbara Aspinall	"Floozies of the Bible" <i>Who are these women, and what are they doing there?</i>
July 22	Andrew Galgoci	"Ethical Challenges of Climate Change" <i>What responsibilities do Christians have toward those most affected by global climate change?</i>
July 29	Rev. Barbara Aspinall	"What Is Heaven Like?" <i>Angels with harps, pearly gates, a place, a state of mind, unity with divine consciousness? What does the Bible say? What do you believe?</i>
August 5	Rev. Tom Peters	"Spirituality: How Does it Change Through our Lifetime?"
August 12	Heather Harris-Galgoci	"Are You Saved?" <i>What DOES this mean??</i>

Please sign up in Pollard Hall. For more information, speak to Debra or Rev. Peters.

Fourth Sunday Focus, July 26th

- 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 July 26th, in the air-conditioned meeting room. Due to the earlier worship time of 9:30 a.m., we will start around 8:30 a.m. and end by about 9:15 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, July 5th

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 PLEASE) |

Liturgists for July:

July 5	Madeline Hahl	July 19	Evelyn Smith
July 12	Susan Gerecht	July 26	Jan Somers



Summer Worship Schedule



During July and August and on Labor Day weekend, worship will begin at 9:30 am. It is a little cooler at that time of day. During July, our brothers and sisters from Meyersville will join us here at the Stirling church. Rev. Aspinall will be preaching on 3 of the 4 Sundays, Rev. Peters will be preaching on July 5th. During August, we will worship at Meyersville, and Rev. Peters will be preaching on 3 of the 5 Sundays. Rev. Aspinall will preach on Aug. 9th, and we will have a guest minister on Aug. 16th. On Sept. 6, we will be back at our church still at 9:30 am.

On Sunday, Sept. 13th, we will return to our usual worship time of 10:00 a.m. Please plan to attend whenever you are not traveling.

Mission Committee

- Madeline Hahl

Bridges Outreach Lunch Program

- Jean Hoffman, Coordinator



Our next commitment date for preparing 40 lunches is: **Friday, July 10, 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!

Upcoming dates: Aug. 7, Sept. 18, Oct. 9, Nov. 6, and Dec. 4

Family Promise of Morris County

- Phyllis Clemson & Jan Somers

Our next responsibility to host is Tues., July 7th, at Trinity House, which is located at the corner of Long Hill Road and Central Ave. in Stirling. Our dinner menu will be chicken, corn on the cob, salad, and dessert. We plan to purchase cooked chicken, so we would appreciate monetary donations for that purpose. Please sign up in Pollard Hall if you can help out by hosting for the evening, staying overnight, or providing something for dinner. If you have any questions, please contact Phyllis or Jan. Thank you!

Deacons Corner

- Katherine Ihringer

Please take a look at the sign-up sheet in Pollard Hall and see if there is a Sunday when you can help out with Fellowship Hour or Ushering on a Sunday in July when you will not be away.

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.

Lost and Found

During a recent cleaning day, an earring was found in one of the Church pews. Please contact Carolyn Malfatone for more information.

Church Archives

- Rene' Phelan

Rene' 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. Articles about graduations, awards, sports, etc. are great to include. You can give your articles to Rene' or place them in the mailbox outside the church offices. 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.

Ongoing Mission Programs

Road to Bridges

Change (and more) collected during Fellowship 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
September issue of **Stirling Stuff** to:
jsomers17@hotmail.com
by **August 20th**. Thank you!

Why not invite a friend to church?



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.