



Stirling Stuff

Volume 60, No. 6

June 2016

Pastor's Letter

I recall when churches were told they needed to have a sexual misconduct policy. Many people in our church were aghast that the church needed a sexual misconduct policy! However, experts in the field of misconduct were adamant that churches were very susceptible to sexual misconduct for the very reason that people would not imagine that someone in a church would sexually harass or assault adults and children. History since that time has given proof that those experts were right.

With the rise of gun violence in schools and churches, as well as violent child custody disputes between parents, our church has had to take another precaution. In recent months, parents in the Long Hill Montessori School have expressed concern that the door by the mailbox is open all day when the secretary or I are in the office, and anybody can walk in undetected. They asked that we install a door intercom and electronic door lock for that door. Now, when school is in session, that door will be kept locked, and you will have to use the intercom to identify yourself. Then Paulette or I will push a button to release the door.

Since this is predominately being done for the school, they are covering half of the cost. Door locks and misconduct policies are an important way for the church to love all of God's children – both young and old and everyone in between. We want people to feel that our church is a safe place.



Another part of making the church a safe place is the purchase of an Automated External Defibrillator (AED) by the Montessori school for the church. It is placed in the entry way of the school by their door. Soon, we will be offering a course to teach people how to use the AED and also how to do CPR. The church and school staff will be taking the course, and everyone is invited to take advantage of this training. Please let me know if you are interested, and I will add your name to the list.



I look forward to working with all of you at this year's Fish and Chips dinner on the 4th. Let's have fun, and let's let people know that our church is not only a safe place, but a place where we enjoy learning about and being God's disciples in this community.

See you in church!

Tom

The First Presbyterian Church of Stirling
Feeding Those Who Hunger

Worship Services and Scripture Passages for June

June 5, 2016

- *Third Sunday after Pentecost*
- *Sacrament of Holy Communion*
- *Non-Perishable Food Collection*
1 Kings 17:8-24; Psalm 146;
Galatians 1:11-24; Luke 7:11-17
She Didn't Ask!?

June 12, 2016

- *Fourth Sunday after Pentecost*
- *Christian Education Recognition*
1 Kings 21:1-21a; Psalm 5:1-8
Galatians 2:15-21; Luke 7:36-8:3
The Take Away

*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.*



June 19, 2016

- *Fifth Sunday after Pentecost*
- *Father's Day*
- *Music Sunday*
1 Kings 19:1-15a; Psalm 42 & 43;
Galatians 3:23-29; Luke 8:26-39
The Favorite Hymns of Our Church Family

June 26, 2016

- *Sixth Sunday after Pentecost*
2 Kings 2:1-2, 6-14; Psalm 77:1-2, 11-20;
Galatians 5:1, 13-25; Luke 9:51-62
A Cranky Jesus

**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 4th, 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 Fish & Chips Dinner

Our Annual Argyle's Fish & Chips Dinner is almost here – **Sat., June 4th**. The last week is usually when the most tickets are sold, so please keep selling tickets, and let Kai or Debra know as you sell them.

- Lore Pateman & Paul Wermuth



Need New Color Printer for Office

The church office is in need of a new color printer. Rev. Peters has been using his daughter's color printer, but the cartridges do not last long and are expensive. We are looking at a reconditioned color laser printer or a new Eco-Tank Supertank color inkjet printer. Both of these would be much more economical to use, and we can get either one of them for about \$370. If you can help out by donating towards the purchase, please speak with Rev. Peters. It is our hope that with one of these printers we can produce more bulletins with the art work on the cover in color.

Church Beautification

Over the past several Saturdays, groups of people have been meeting to spruce up our church. Weeds have been pulled, the front sanctuary doors have been repainted, mulch has been spread, and dead trees and bushes have been removed. Many thanks to Lore Pateman for organizing these clean-up sessions. **We also thank Ed Gerecht and members of Boy Scout Troop 59, which is sponsored by our church. They trimmed the bushes, pulled out dead trees, and did other work.**

Summer Offering

As we enter late spring and early summer, please remember that we still have bills to pay at the church. If you are going away and will miss some Sundays, please keep your offering up-to-date by donating for those Sundays ahead of time or promptly when you return. Our finances are very tight, and summer is traditionally a difficult time for the church financially.



Christian Education Committee

- Lore Pateman

CE Recognition Sunday

During morning worship on Sunday, **June 12th**, 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 join us.

Adult Education

- Debra Sprague

Our **Joint-Church Summer Series** is being planned again for this summer. It is scheduled to run for six Wednesday evenings in July and August, from 7:30 - 9:00 p.m., in our air-conditioned meeting room. Although the topics have not been finalized yet, we generally set it up as 6 stand-alone topics. You are invited to come to all or just one or two sessions, working around your vacation schedule - so you don't have to worry that you'll be 'missing something' if you can't attend more than a couple.

Scheduled dates are: July 6, 13, 20, 27; August 3, 10. Topics and leaders are still being determined. If YOU have an IDEA for a **topic** - or if you are interested in **leading** a session - please contact Debra Sprague ASAP!



Adult Bible Study

- Rev. Peters

Our Bible Study class meets at **10:30 a.m. every Thursday in the meeting room**. We are continuing to work our way through the Gospel of John. Anyone is invited to attend at any time.

Fourth Sunday Focus, June 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 **June 26th** in the air-conditioned meeting room. 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.**



In May, we discussed how we spend our "free" time, using the following poem, written by Tom Parziale:

The After Time

Each morning arrives
The alarm does beep
Off go the covers
Ended is sleep.

Getting ready each day
A shower ensue
On come the socks
Next is the shoe.

While darkness prevails
Lights are turned on
The neighborhood sleeps
The mind game con.

It isn't so early
As the news does blare
On with the jacket
Then the blank stare.

The car does roll
The day is underway
Off to the office
A captive to stay.

The power is on
The screens portray
The email challenges
For each and every day.

Sometimes it happens
You roll up your sleeve
You wipe your forehead
You just want to leave.

But lo is the time.
When day does end.
Onward to free time
For you to spend.

Music Series

On **Sunday, June 12th**, classical pianist **Olga Gurevich** and violinist **Sayuri K. Lyons** will perform a program including Beethoven, Stravinsky, Brahms, Dvorak, and Kreisler. Ms. Gurevich earned her Master's degree in Piano Performance and Piano Pedagogy at Gnesin Academy of Music and completed her post graduate studies at Maimonides State Academy in Moscow, Russia. She is the winner of numerous international piano competitions. Sayuri K. Lyons is currently the Lyons Chamber Players Concertmaster and has performed extensively throughout North America, Europe, and Asia. Join us once again for a truly incredible show!

This will be the seventh and final concert in the Church’s concert series for the 2015-2016 season. Admission, as always, is free. A short reception will follow the concert at which attendees may meet the performers. Refreshments will be served.

Worship Committee

- Janet Parziale

Liturgists for June

June 5	Madeline Hahl	June 19	Tom Parziale
June 12	Evelyn Smith	June 26	Madeline Hahl



Non-Perishable Food Collection, June 5

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.



***These items are most needed:**

- Spaghetti Sauce (large jar)
- White Rice: 2 or 5 pound bags
- Macaroni and Cheese
- Canned vegetables:
corn, carrots, beets, mixed veggies, yams

- Breakfast food: Pancake mix, jelly, coffee, tea
- Jell-O Gelatin
- Canned Beans: Cannellini, Garbanzo
- Dry Beans: Black, Kidney, Pinto
- Spaghetti (long pasta only)



Music Sunday

During morning worship on **Sunday, June 19th**, we will celebrate our Music Sunday service. Rev. Peters would like to arrange the service around the favorite hymns of our congregation. Please fill out a form in the church bulletin or e-mail him your favorites. They do not need to be hymns that are in our church hymnals.

Deacons Corner

- Katherine Ihringer

Mission Offering in June

June’s Mission of the Month is our **Bridges Outreach Lunch Program**. Keep an eye out for donation envelopes.

Fellowship Hour Help

I want to remind everyone that we need Fellowship Hour sign-ups for the summer months. Coffee is not even necessary; lemonade and ice tea are great.

Deacons’ Fund

Please remember to use the green *Deacons’ Fund* envelopes for donations to help the Deacons with their Mission work. These envelopes are available in the pew racks or in the church office and may be



placed in the offering plate. Thank you!

Church Flowers

Please 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.

Mission Programs

Bridges Outreach Lunch Program

- Jean Hoffman, Coordinator



Our next commitment date for preparing 40 lunches is: **Friday, June 10th, 9:30 a.m.**, in Pollard Hall. We are in need of small bottles of water and cartons of juice; snacks of cookies, nuts, Goldfish, pretzels, etc.; and plastic spoons. Cash donations are also appreciated to 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!

Community Food Bank

- Kai Ihringer

I want to offer a huge thank you to all 14 volunteers who helped make our trip to the Community Food Bank in Hillside on Sat., May 7th, a huge success! We assembled over 400 boxes of food that will be given to senior citizens in need.



Pictured here are some of the volunteers, which also included members of the Meyersville Presbyterian Church and the Moms Club that meets at our church:

First Preby. Church, Stirling: Susan & Ed Gerecht; Madeline Hahl; Kai, Katherine, & Lukas Ihringer; Ian Blakeslee; Brooke Kupferman

Meyersville Preby. Church: Art England and Doug Smith

Moms Club: Heather Dugar, Katherine Lauber, Katherine

Alpalka, and Alycia Ross

Mark your calendars for our next Community Food Bank trip: **Sat., Nov. 12th**

Buildings & Grounds

- Tom Parziale

During our annual congregational meeting in January, there was discussion regarding the upkeep of the Memorial Garden, specifically replacing the dead plants. There are currently 6 dead arborvitae trees, many original plantings from at least a decade ago. We had planned to replace them, but found out that would be too costly. We are currently reviewing an estimate for the removal and disposal of these dead trees.



As Rev. Peters mentioned previously, we now have a secure entrance to the main hallway. A buzzer system has been installed, and the door will be locked when the Montessori School is in session. Visitors must identify themselves through an intercom, and Rev. Peters or Paulette can then release the door.

Rev. Peters and Sandy Mackay have constructed new steps leading outside from the meeting room. The previous steps were long overdue for replacement. Many thanks to Rev. Peters and Sandy for their work.



We now have a **BLUE** recycling bin in the hallway outside Pollard Hall. We encourage everyone to put your recyclable cans, bottles, and plastic in the bin to help reduce our toxic footprint.

I recently took the food collection from our Communion Sunday and ongoing weekly donations to the food bank across the street at St. Vincents. The amount of food was noteworthy, and we should pat ourselves on the back for the accomplishment of this collection each month.

Congratulations to Our Graduates and Their Proud Families!

Elen Filippatos has graduated from Penn State University and is looking for a teaching position in New York City.

Matthew Gerecht has graduated from Fairleigh Dickinson University with a Bachelor Degree in Business.

Ian Blakeslee is graduating from WHRHS and will attend Stevens Institute of Technology. He will be majoring in Engineering and will be joining the Stevens fencing team.

Lukas Ihringer is graduating from WHRHS and will attend the College of New Jersey.

Amanda Gerecht is graduating from Mount Saint Mary Academy and will attend Susquehanna University in Pennsylvania.



Church Archives



Please remember to forward news clippings, bulletins, programs, pictures, or other memorabilia regarding any member of our church family to Rene' Phelan so she can keep our church archives up-to-date. There is a mailbox outside the church offices for this purpose. Thank you.

Meyersville Presbyterian Church Free Computer Basics Classes

The free computer basics classes at Meyersville Presbyterian Church will continue on Saturdays from 10 a.m.-noon, through June 25. This MS Windows 7 basics computer training is for novice Windows computer users. The training is part lecture, but mainly hands-on in their computer lab. The course book is free for use in the classroom or \$10 to purchase. Following are the remaining topics and dates:

<u>Topic</u>	<u>Date</u>
Music and Speech	June 4
Photography	June 11
Gadgets and Gizmos	June 18
Manage Your Computer	June 25

If you are interested in attending any of the remaining classes, please contact Rudy Zydell from the Meyersville Church, ruudz@aol.com.

Free Gentle Yoga Class - Meyersville Presbyterian Church

Roseanne McGraw, a certified yoga teacher for 15 years, is teaching a free gentle yoga class in the parlor at Meyersville Presbyterian Church on Tuesdays from 9:00-10:00 a.m. The class is on-going, so you can join at any time.



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.

HUGE RUMMAGE SALE!

Trinity United Church, 118 King George Rd., Warren, is holding a Rummage Sale on **Sat. June 4th, 9:00 a.m. to 3:00 p.m.**

PLANTS • HOUSEHOLD Items • Jewelry • YOU NAME IT! • AND, LARRY'S FAMOUS BARBEQUED HOT DOGS!

For more information, call: 732-469-5044

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.

Ongoing Mission Programs

Road to Bridges

Change (and more) is collected during Fellowship Hour and supports Bridges Program, providing 40 lunches per month to NJ/NY homeless.

Township Food Pantry

Non-perishable items can be left in baskets labeled "Food Pantry Donations" in the Church narthex and outside Pollard Hall.

Items collected for various causes; may be placed on the pew in Pollard Hall:

- ✓ Full-sized and "courtesy" sized bars of soap, shampoo, conditioner, shower caps
- ✓ Used pairs of sneakers (any size)
- ✓ Cell phones, eyeglasses, sunglasses
- ✓ Fabric: about 1/2 yard minimum, used to make small bears for children, totes for wheelchair patients, etc.
- ✓ Yarn: used to make lap robes for wounded veterans, afghans for battered women, and hats for newborns in hospitals

Ongoing Fundraisers

ShopRite Gift Cards

- ✓ No additional cost to you to use
- ✓ Purchase cards at face value
- ✓ Church earns 5%
- ✓ Denominations available are:
\$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 26th. 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?



Have a safe, relaxing summer. We hope to see you in Church when you are not traveling!