



Stirling Stuff

Volume 60, No. 9

October 2016

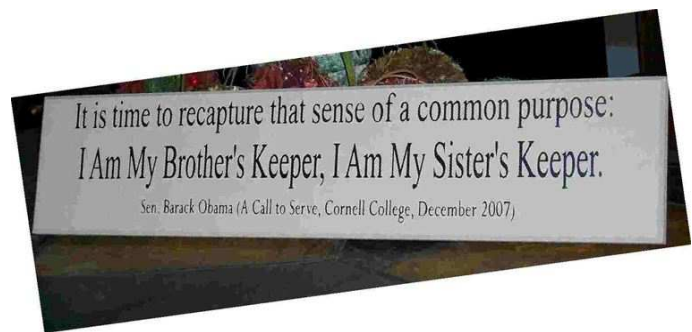
Pastor's Letter

Three years ago, my "Pastor's Letter" was about being accountable to other people. It included the following:

The Presbyterian Church (USA) sent out a letter that it had received from The National Evangelical Synod of Syria and Lebanon in which they asked that the "international powers refrain from the use of power against Syria as it would only multiply the suffering and human destruction."

We can see now that the writers of the letter knew what they were talking about. Syria is a mess for all the people, no matter what their religion. We are so entangled that we are having a hard time keeping track of who is fighting who.

Cain asked God the question we all struggle with today, "Am I my brother's keeper?" What is our responsibility to the refugees fleeing the Middle East? What is our responsibility to those who are hungry in our country? What is our responsibility to blacks who are gunned down by police even though they are unarmed? What is our responsibility to the police who are killed for revenge? Do we bear any responsibility for these events or the aftermath of them? As I'm sure you can guess, I believe we have responsibilities in these matters. More importantly, I believe God demands that we be accountable for at least being aware that these things are happening and why.



More importantly, I believe God demands that we be accountable for at least being aware that these things are happening and why.

During the month of October, we have a number of events to help us understand our responsibility to our fellow human beings. We will begin on October 2nd with our celebration of World Communion when we will gather with our brothers and sisters around the world at Christ's table and share in that celebration of love. Our brothers and sisters from the Meyersville Presbyterian Church will be joining us for the service. Following worship, there will be a potluck brunch in Pollard Hall. During the brunch, there will be a program sponsored by the Christian Education Committee entitled, *Feeding Those Who Hunger: How Do WE Respond to the Refugee Crisis?* On the other four Sundays of October, I will be doing a sermon series on the *Belhar Confession*. This confession was accepted into our denominations Book of



CONFESSION OF
BELHAR

Confessions at the General Assembly this past June. It is a confession that came out of the Dutch Reformed Mission Church during apartheid in South Africa. It speaks of oppression, reconciliation, and unity, and I find it very apropos of our times today.

On Sunday, October 16th, members of our church will once again participate in the New Providence CROP Walk. This walk supports ministries that feed people who are literally hungry. I hope you will consider joining this 3-mile walk and getting people to sponsor you. If you cannot walk, please consider giving a generous donation to someone who is walking.

Please look at the individual articles in this newsletter about the things I have mentioned. Jesus made it very clear that we are our brother's and sister's keeper when he said, "When you did it to one of the least of these who are members of my family, you did it to me." (Matthew 25:40) If we want peace in our lives, then we have to help others have peace in their lives.

May God grant us peace in our days,

Tom

The First Presbyterian Church of Stirling
Feeding Those Who Hunger

Worship Services and Scripture Passages for October

October 2, 2016

- *Twentieth Sunday after Pentecost*
- *World Communion Sunday*
- *Sacrament of Holy Communion*
- *Meyersville Presbyterian Church will join us*
Lamentations 1:1-6, 3:19-26; Psalm 137;
2 Timothy 1:1-14; Luke 17:5-10
We Are All Immigrants
Deuteronomy 10:12-22

October 9, 2016

- *Twenty-First Sunday after Pentecost*
Jeremiah 29:1, 4-7; Psalm 66:1-11;
2 Timothy 2:8-15; Luke 17:11-19
The Belhar Confession
1. What Is It?
Ephesians 4:1-6

October 16, 2016

- *Twenty-Second Sunday after Pentecost*
Jeremiah 31:27-34; Psalm 119:97-104;
2 Timothy 3:14-4:5; Luke 18:1-8
The Belhar Confession
2. A Case for Unity
Ephesians 4:10-16; John 17:20-24

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 23, 2016

- *Twenty-Third Sunday after Pentecost*
- *Travnicek Memorial Ringers*
Joel 2:23-32; Psalm 65;
2 Timothy 4:6-8, 16-18; Luke 18:9-14
The Belhar Confession
3. A Case for Justice
Isaiah 11:1-9; Matthew 25:31-46

October 30, 2016

- *Twenty-Fourth Sunday after Pentecost*
- *Reformation Sunday*
Habakkuk 1:1-4, 2:1-4; Psalm 119:137-144;
2 Thessalonians 1:1-4, 11-12; Luke 19:1-10
The Belhar Confession
4. A Case for Reconciliation
2 Corinthians 5:16-21; Matthew 22:34-40

**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., October 1st, 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 30th** to elect new church officers. During the meeting, we will also begin a conversation on the financial situation of our church. Please make every effort to attend this important meeting.

**Handbell Choir**

Bells are Ringing Again – the Travnicek Memorial Ringers will be ringing on **October 23rd** during the morning worship service. We will be ringing *Sagina*, which is the tune for the hymn, *And Can It Be*. Come welcome our newest ringer!

**Musica Gratis – The Concert Series in Stirling**

Our concert series continues on **Sunday, October 9th, 2:00 p.m.** The Sam Bishoff Quartet, featuring his jazz sax, will bring their Philadelphia Sound to Stirling.

Admission is free; a free-will offering is accepted. A short reception will follow the concert, during which guests may meet the performers. Refreshments will be served.

Fall Fund Raiser

On **Saturday, October 22nd**, at **8:00 p.m.**, we will be hosting a **Comedy Night Fundraiser** in Pollard Hall. We will need snacks and help to set up, serve, and clean up after the program. **We have to sell tickets, which are \$35**, so please start talking it up to friends and neighbors. If you can help out, please contact Ed Gerect.



Christian Education Committee

- Lore Pateman

Sunday School Teachers

- Elaine Giordano



We still need Sunday School teachers for January through June. It takes only an hour a week; I will provide you with the materials. Teaching is a very rewarding/learning experience for you (as well as the student), it is fun, and every week there is a new blessing. Please let me know, if you would like to teach.

Adult Education

- Debra Sprague

Adult Bible Study

- Rev. Peters



Our Bible Study class continues the study of the Book of Revelation. We meet at **10:30 a.m. every Thursday in the meeting room**. The first book we will be studying is "*Revelations: Vision, Prophecy, and Politics in the Book of Revelation*," by Dr. Elaine Pagels. We will then do a verse by verse study of Revelation using Dr. Bruce Metzger's book, "*Breaking the Code: Understanding the Book of Revelation*."

Pot-Luck Brunch, Sunday, October 2nd

- Debra Sprague

Feeding Those Who Hunger: How Do WE Respond to the Refugee Crisis?

Plan to join us after church on **October 2nd**, World Communion Sunday, as we discuss a topic that connects us to the world: the plight of refugees. We will have a potluck brunch following morning worship, and the folks from Meyersville also will be with us that day. Please bring a dish to share, and plan to participate as we discuss this important topic.



Fourth Sunday Focus, October 23rd

- 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 **October 23rd**. We start around **8:45 a.m.** and end by about 9:45 a.m., but join us whenever you can.



Our topic in September was "*Christian Stuttering*." **If you have a topic you'd like to discuss, contact Tom Parziale.**

Worship Committee

- Janet Parziale

Liturgists for October:

Oct. 2	Sue Gerecht	Oct. 23	Madeline Hahl
Oct. 9	Kai Ihringer	Oct. 30	Madeline Hahl
Oct. 16	Tom Parziale		



If you would like to serve at Liturgist, sign up on the sheet in Pollard Hall or speak to Jan Somers.

Non-Perishable Food Collection, October 2nd

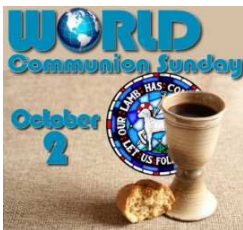
On the first Sunday of each month, we collect donations of non-perishable food during the worship service. While we are receiving the Lord’s Supper, we also want to provide for others. The food is donated to the township food pantry at St. Vincent Church. We continue to collect non-perishable food in the baskets located in the church entry-ways during the rest of the month.



***Following is a list of items 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:
corn, carrots, beets, mixed veggies, yams | Dry Beans: Black, Kidney, Pinto |
| | Spaghetti (long pasta only) |

World Communion Sunday, October 2nd

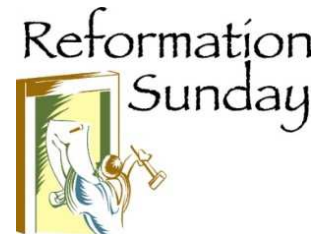


On October 2nd, we will celebrate World Communion Sunday. The congregation of the Meyersville Presbyterian Church will join us in Stirling for this service.

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. We will symbolize this day by using different breads for communion. We hope you will join us for this special service.

Reformation Sunday

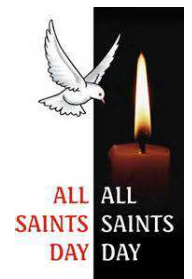
October 30th is Reformation Sunday. This is the day Presbyterians celebrate the tradition that grounds their faith. It is always the last Sunday in October, marking the occasion in 1517 when Martin Luther posted his 95 theses on the church door in Wittenberg, Germany. Martin Luther contributed to major 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 6th

Our worship service on November 6th will be held at the Meyersville Presbyterian Church.

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 on the following page**, and place it in the offering plate during morning worship, or send it to the church office **by October 30th**. Forms will also be available in the Church bulletins.

All Saints' Sunday, November 6th

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 30th. Thank you.

✂ _____ ✂ _____ ✂ _____ ✂ _____ ✂ _____ ✂ _____

Deacons Corner

- Carolyn Malfatone

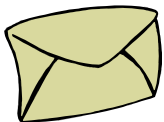
Mission Offering in October "PEACE I leave with you; my peace I give to you" (John 14:27)

Our special mission collection for the month of October will be our annual **Peacemaking offering**. The money from this offering is used to fund efforts to promote peace at the local level (25%), the presbytery level (25%), and the national or General Assembly level (50%). We have used our local funds in the past to feed hungry people, for the Oasis of Peace in Israel, and other programs. Please give generously to this offering. You may use either the special offering envelopes (with grapes on them) or the Peacemaking offering envelopes to make a donation.



The Deacons have decided to donate the September offering of school supplies to the Plainfield school system for distribution to their students as needed. Thank you for your support of this collection.

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.

Mission Programs

Bridges Outreach Lunch Program

- Jean Hoffman, Coordinator



Our next commitment date for preparing 40 lunches is: **Friday, Oct. 14th, 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.

Upcoming dates: Nov. 11 and Dec. 9

CROP Walk

Take a Walk to End Hunger - October 16th

- Debra Sprague

Plan to join us this year - we always have fun! If you can't walk, please consider sponsoring one or more of our walkers. See Rev. Peters or Debra Sprague for a participation envelope or more information...or check out the website:



<https://www.crophungerwalk.org/newprovidencenj/Team/View/28468/First-Presbyterian-Church-of-Stirling>

The 3-mile walk will start at the United Methodist Church, 1441 Springfield Avenue, New Providence. **We'll carpool from our church at 12:45 for the 1:30 walk.**

Our 2015 walk raised over \$8,100 for CWS, with more than \$2,000 directed to the St. John's Soup Kitchen in Newark.

World Food Day



The Crop Walk happens to fall on October 16th this year, which is also **World Food Day**, a day of action against hunger. 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**.

On-Going Fund Raiser: Shop-Rite Gift Cards

- ✓ No additional cost to you to use
- ✓ Purchase cards at face value
- ✓ Church earns 5%
- ✓ Never expire
- ✓ Denominations available are:
\$20, \$50, \$100

So far in 2016, this program has raised \$1,872, which helps our church financially. It is easy to participate: purchase the cards for face value and use them when you go to Shop-Rite. Any balance left on the card can be used at a later date; it never expires. Everyone buys groceries, so please consider supporting the church in this way. Jean Hoffman will no longer be handling this fund raiser; Madeline Hahl is now the contact person. Thank you to Jean for coordinating this program for many years. Gift Cards are available each week during Fellowship Hour or by contacting Madeline.

Welcome Little Ones

On Sunday, September 11th, the newest members of our Church family joined us during Fellowship Hour following morning worship. Twins, Samantha and Thomas DiBartolo, brought along mom and dad, Chrissie (Parziale) and Bill. Hard to believe the twins are 4 months old already, and they are just so very cute! Grandma and grandpa, Janet and Tom Parziale, were also on hand to help out.



Happy Anniversary

In the Summer issue of Stirling Stuff, Phyllis and Jim Clemson were on the August anniversary list. Since then, I have learned that **Phyllis and Jim celebrated their 55th wedding anniversary on August 26th**. Congratulations; hope it was a great one, and may you have many more!

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.

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.

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.

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.



Family Promise of Morris County Fund Raiser

Amazon.com will donate 0.5% of your purchases to Family Promise Morris County. You pay the same prices for merchandise & Amazon.com automatically sends a donation to the charity of your choice!

Here's how:

1. STARTING NOW, shop by going to smile.amazon.com. (If you've bookmarked Amazon, PLEASE change it to this new address.)
2. FIRST TIME ONLY: You'll be asked to designate a charitable organization. PLEASE search for **Family Promise of Morris County** and SELECT US!
3. Enjoy the same Amazon shopping experience while helping to support our families!



amazonsmile
You shop. Amazon gives.



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 ½ 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 Madeline Hahl.

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 20th**. Thank you!

Stirling Stuff is the newsletter of

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.

Why not invite a friend to church?

