



Stirling Stuff

Volume 60, No. 8

September 2016

Pastor's Letter

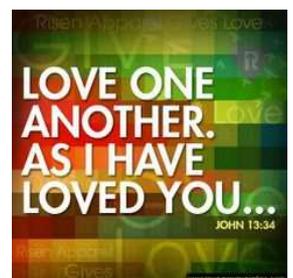
As I write this, the 2016 Olympics has just ended. The international games and hoopla are over. I did not watch much of the Olympics this year; I enjoy the winter version more than the summer version. However, the Olympics was not without its distractions, and most of it had nothing to do with Rio or Brazil hosting the games. Before the Olympics started, we heard horror stories of how the venues were not safe or, in some cases, not ready. We heard of security forces not having the time needed to practice security. We heard of the mosquito problem with the Zika virus. Yet, after all was said and done, the games came off very well. We only had the issues of the green water in the diving pool and a few other problems. The bigger problems were with the athletes themselves. We heard of athletes assaulting and harassing people. We heard of 4 members of the gold medal swim team filing a false report of being robbed at gunpoint. The story came out later, and is still being investigated, that they were drunk and had busted down a door and caused damage at a gas station.



We live in a time when there is a strong sense of entitlement by many people. I'm not talking about entitlements like health care, etc., but entitlements such as *I am allowed to get drunk and do things to others and their property and not be held responsible for it.* With celebrity comes this feeling of *I can do anything I want and I won't be held responsible because I'm famous.* We've seen it in professional sports players doing things that are destructive and they are not held responsible. I write about this because it seems to be an epidemic in our country with all of its money and celebrities.

If the Bible teaches us one thing, it is that we are personally responsible for our actions that hurt others. Jesus chastised the Jewish hierarchy of his day because they talked about caring for the people, but then they would do things like allowing for temple currency to be exchanged at a rate that brought in profit to the temple and priests. They talked about the sanctity of life and then allowed people to be stoned for not following the laws. The Gospel of Jesus Christ was about respect and love for each and every person, for all of our neighbors.

Each week we come to church to be reminded that we are all equal in God's sight. We come to worship the one who calls us to love our neighbors as ourselves. When we are bombarded day in and day out with the ways of the world that say "*We are entitled,*" "*You have to take care of yourself,*" we need a time to come and be touched by the grace and truth of Christ. We can be thankful that Jesus, the Christ, the anointed one of God, was like he was. I recall the words of Jesus when disciples of John the Baptist came to Jesus asking if he was the one or should they look for another. "*Go and tell John what you have seen and heard: the blind receive their sight, the lame walk, the lepers are cleansed, the deaf hear, the dead are raised, the poor have good news brought to them. And blessed is anyone who takes no offense at me.*"



As we begin our 2016-2017 program year, let us work to be in touch with Jesus and his way so that we can be in the world, but not of the world.

See you in church!

Tom

The First Presbyterian Church of Stirling
Feeding Those Who Hunger

Worship Services and Scripture Passages for September

September 4, 2016

Meyersville 9:30 a.m.

- *Sixteenth Sunday after Pentecost*
- *Labor Day Sunday*
- *Sacrament of Holy Communion*
Jeremiah 18:1-11; Psalm 139:1-6, 13-18;
Philemon 1-21; Luke 14:25-33
Rev. Aspinall Preaching
Pot-luck brunch following worship

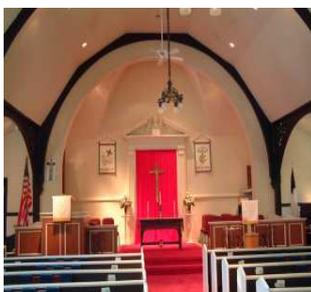
September 11, 2016

Stirling 10:00 a.m

- *Seventeenth Sunday after Pentecost*
Jeremiah 4:11-12, 22-28; Psalm 14;
1 Timothy 1:12-17; Luke 15:1-10
Is Ignorance An Excuse?

*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 18, 2016

- *Eighteenth Sunday after Pentecost*
- *Christian Education Rally Day*
- *Sacrament of Baptism*
Jeremiah 8:18-9:1; Psalm 79:1-9;
1 Timothy 2:1-7; Luke 16:1-13
Free Hugs

September 25, 2016

- *Nineteenth Sunday after Pentecost*
Jeremiah 32:1-3a, 6-15; Psalm 91:1-6, 14-16;
1 Timothy 6:6-19; Luke 16:19-31
When All Is Bleak...Buy!

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 **Saturday, Sept. 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.

**Travnicek Memorial Ringers**

The handbell choir will be starting up their practices again on **Monday, Sept. 12th, 7:30 p.m.** We will need some new players starting out the year; please talk to Rev. Peters if you have an interest in playing the bells. You don't need to be able to read music; you just have to be able to count.

Christian Education Committee**- Lore Pateman**

Sunday School rally day is Sept. 18th! We have an exciting curriculum planned: "*14 Great Women of the Bible*," including Elizabeth, Mary, Mary Magdalene, Jael, Miriam, Ruth, Hannah, Sarah, and Esther. Also being planned is a unit on "*God's Hand in Nature*." More volunteers are needed to teach; you can sign up for a month or week, and you will be provided with the materials. Please contact Elaine Giordano if you can help out.

Adult Education**- Debra Sprague****Joint-Church Summer Series**

Thank you to everyone who participated in our Joint-Church Summer Series during July and August. A special thanks to those who led the discussion groups: Rev. Barbara Aspinall, Heather Harris-Galgoci, Andrew Galgoci, and Rev. Tom Peters. If you have a topic you would like to suggest for a future session, please let Debra know.

Adult Bible Study**- Rev. Peters**

Our Bible Study class meets at **10:30 a.m. every Thursday in the meeting room.** On **Sept. 1st**, we will begin a study of the Book of Revelation. This is a complex book and one that almost didn't get into the New Testament canon. 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*." The cost of the two books together is \$21. If you want to join the group, please let Rev. Peters know so he can order the books for you.

Fourth Sunday Focus, Sept. 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 **Sept. 25th**. 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.**



Music Series Begins Again!

After the success of our inaugural concert series last fall through spring, we are starting a new series on **Sunday, Sept. 11th, at 2:00 p.m.** We will be welcoming back the Pasquale Grasso Jazz Quartet. They received wonderful accolades after their concert last winter. Plan now to invite your jazz-loving friends!

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.



Pasquale Grasso Jazz Quartet, Feb. 2016

September 11th is also the 15th anniversary of 9-11. Rev. Peters will be attending a service at the Shrine of St. Joseph that evening and everyone is invited to attend. He believes in the power of healing found in music. Jazz and blues help people express the pain in their lives and find healing. Please see information about this service on page 6.

Fall Fund Raiser

At the August Session meeting, it was decided to hold a fall fund raiser. We will host a **Comedy Night on Saturday, Oct. 22nd**, with the comedy group that came to the Millington Fire House last spring. We will have to sell tickets and provide snacks and beverages for the evening. Please see Rev. Peters if you would like to help organize this event.

Worship Committee

- Janet Parziale

Worship Schedule

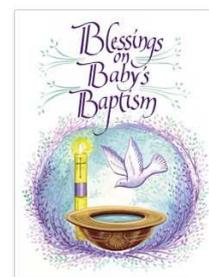
Our Worship service on Sunday, Sept. 4th, 9:30 a.m., will be held at Meyersville Presbyterian Church and will be followed by a pot-luck brunch. Rev. Barbara Aspinall will be preaching.

On Sunday, Sept. 11th, we return to Stirling Presbyterian Church and our 10:00 a.m. worship time.

Sacrament of Baptism

On **Sunday, Sept. 18th**, we will celebrate the **Sacrament of Baptism**. Nolen Kenneth Mascola, the great-grandson of Carolyn Malfatone, will be baptized during our worship service. Nolen is the son of Kaleena and Kenneth Mascola (Carolyn's grandson), and the grandson of Carolyn's daughter, Diane and her husband, Mike Mascola.

Nolen's family invites everyone to attend a luncheon in Pollard Hall following the service. Please plan to join us for this joyous celebration.



Deacons Corner

- Katherine Ihringer

Mission Offering in September

In Sept., the Deacons will be collecting school supplies for Church World Service. If you would like to contribute, please place the supplies on the pew in Pollard Hall.

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, Sept. 9th, 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: Oct. 14, Nov. 11, Dec. 9

A recent newspaper article on Bridges, noted the following: Founded in 1988, Bridges reaches out to the homeless in NYC, Newark, Irvington, and Summit every week. Last year, Bridges served 21,000 people. More than 2,6000 volunteers helped deliver more than 63,000 brown bag meals, served more than 49,000 cups of beverages, distributed 10,000 pairs of new socks and underwear, and provided 1,000 new backpacks to children in need.

Thank you for your continued support of this very important and much appreciated program!

Family Promise of Morris County

- Phyllis Clemson & Jan Somers

Our Church is scheduled to host Family Promise at Trinity House in Stirling on Tuesday, August 30th. Here are some current Family Promise statistics:

| | |
|---------------------|---|
| 200 Affiliates | more than 50,000 served annually |
| 42 States | 700,000 served since founding |
| 6,000 Congregations | 76% of those served find housing within 9 weeks |
| 170,000 Volunteers | 60% of those served are children, most under the age of 6 |

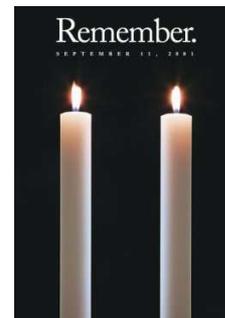
With Phyllis Clemson's leadership, our Church has been working with this program for 27 years! I will report on our most recent hosting date in the next issue.

Candlelight Vigil, 9-11

There will be a **candlelight vigil at the Tower of Remembrance at the Shrine of St. Joseph, Long Hill Road, Stirling, at 7:00 p.m. on September 11th, the 15th anniversary of 9-11.**



The Tower of Remembrance is a place where everyone can reflect on the sacredness of lives remembered. The 35-foot Tower Memorial is dedicated to the memory of all those who lost their lives on 9/11. This Tower, emerging from the rubble of violence, reminds us that in God there is hope; that as we remember, we heal.



At the conclusion of the vigil, all are welcomed to remember and pray as they ring the bell. Attendees are invited to bring chairs. In case of rain, the service will be held in the Shrine Chapel.

CROP Walk

SAVE THE DATE: Sunday, October 16th - To Take a Walk to End Hunger

The annual New Providence CROP Walk will be held on **Sunday, Oct. 16th, at 1:30 p.m.** The 3-mile walk will start at the United Methodist Church, 1441 Springfield Avenue, New Providence.



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

**Congratulations**

During Fellowship Hour following worship on Sunday, July 24th, the congregation joined Sue & Paul Wermuth in celebrating their 50th Wedding Anniversary. Everyone enjoyed a delicious cake marking this wonderful milestone.

Congratulations to Sue & Paul!



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 MacDonal House to help fund their programs for hospitalized children and their families. There is a collection canister in the church office. Thank you.

