



Stirling Stuff

Volume 60, No. 7

Summer 2016

Pastor's Letter

This summer is promising to be a difficult one with two political conventions and the turmoil surrounding them, and the Olympics in Rio that is beset with all kinds of issues, not the least of which is the Zika virus. The heat this summer could be a lot more than just the hot days of summer. We've already had a taste of what it could be like with the results of the Brexit vote last week in England, which has created all kinds of angst in the lives of people, not just in England, but also around the world. It would be easy to get caught up in the collective angst of our nation and the world.



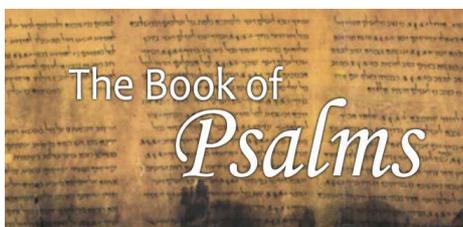
However, I would like to challenge you to not let that happen. Think this summer of pacing yourself by not becoming locked in to the anxiety being thrown at us from the news and media. Give yourselves permission to turn it off for periods of time. Read a book that takes you away from the world in a healthy way. Read your Bible--the Psalms are a good place to start. Even the Psalms that start out by talking about difficulties in life generally end up as statements of faith in God. The writers trust that God will see them through.

It's easy to think that these are the worst times our nation has ever faced, but we have been here several times before, and even in worse places. History is like a pendulum - it swings back and forth from good to difficult and back. It is imperative that we be knowledgeable about the issues of our day, but it is also imperative that we keep them in perspective by seeing the rest of our lives and the lives of those around us. It is important that we keep God first before everything else because that will help us keep our perspective as to what is important and what isn't.

So don't panic; sit back and trust God to see you through. Enjoy your summer, and may it be filled with relaxation, new things, new places, books, and reconnecting with family and friends.

Happy Summer!

Tom



The First Presbyterian Church of Stirling
Feeding Those Who Hunger

Worship Services and Scripture Passages for July & August

July 3, 2016 9:30 a.m. - Stirling

- *Seventh Sunday after Pentecost*
- *Sacrament of Communion*
- *Non-Perishable Food Collection*
2 Kings 5:1-14; Psalm 30;
Galatians 6:7-16; Luke 10:1-11,16-20
Rev. Peters preaching

July 10, 2016 9:30 a.m. - Stirling

- *Eighth Sunday after Pentecost*
Amos 7:7-17; Psalm 82;
Colossians 1:1-14; Luke 10:25-37
Rev. Aspinall preaching

July 17, 2016 9:30 a.m. - Stirling

- *Ninth Sunday after Pentecost*
Amos 8:1-12; Psalm 52;
Colossians 1:15-28; Luke 10:38-42
Rev. Aspinall preaching

July 24, 2016 9:30 a.m. - Stirling

- *Tenth Sunday after Pentecost*
Hosea 1:2-10; Psalm 5;
Colossians 2:6-15; Luke 11:1-13
Rev. Aspinall preaching

July 31, 2016 9:30 a.m. - Stirling

- *Eleventh Sunday after Pentecost*
Hosea 11:1-11; Psalm 107:1-9, 43;
Colossians 3:1-11; Luke 12:13-21
Rev. Aspinall preaching

*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 9:30 a.m. on Sunday mornings,
followed by Fellowship Hour.*

August 7, 2016 9:30 a.m. - Meyersville

- *Twelfth Sunday after Pentecost*
- *Sacrament of Communion*
Isaiah 1:1, 10-20; Psalm 50:1-8, 22-23;
Hebrews 11:1-3, 8-16; Luke 12:32-40
Rev. Peters preaching

August 14, 2016 9:30 a.m. - Meyersville

- *Thirteenth Sunday after Pentecost*
Isaiah 5:1-7; Psalm 80:1-2, 8-19;
Hebrews 11:29-12:2; Luke 12:49-56
Rev. Peters preaching

August 21, 2016 9:30 a.m. - Meyersville

- *Fourteenth Sunday after Pentecost*
Jeremiah 1:4-10; Psalm 71:1-6;
Hebrews 12:18-29; Luke 13:10-17
Rev. Peters preaching

August 28, 2016 9:30 a.m. - Meyersville

- *Fifteenth Sunday after Pentecost*
Jeremiah 2:4-13; Psalm 81:1, 10-16;
Hebrews 13:1-8, 15-16; Luke 14:7-14
Rev. Peters preaching

**These scriptures are the lectionary readings
for each Sunday and are provided here for
your own Bible reading. The sermons will not
necessarily be drawn from these readings.**

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., July 2nd, 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.



Rev. Peters' Vacation

Rev. Peters will leave for Chautauqua Institution on Friday, July 15th, and return on Saturday, July 30th. If you are in need of pastoral care during that time, please call Israel Sierra or Paulette Irlander, and they will contact Rev. Aspinall.

Summer Worship Schedule

During July and August, our worship services will begin at 9:30 a.m. on Sunday morning. **In July, Meyersville Presbyterian Church members and friends will be worshipping with us in Stirling.** Rev. Aspinall will be preaching on the last 4 Sunday of July. **During August, we will go to the Meyersville Presbyterian Church,** and Rev. Peters will be preaching. On Sunday, Sept. 4th, we will worship at Meyersville at 9:30 a.m., and the service will be followed by a pot-luck brunch.



We hope you will make every effort to attend worship during the summer months.

Summer Offering

As we enter 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.

**Annual Fish & Chips Dinner****- Rev. Peters**

Thanks to all who helped make our Annual Argyle's Fish & Chips Dinner on June 4th another success. While we did not raise as much money as we did the first two years, we still raised just over \$1,900. This money will help us with paying bills this summer. We are grateful for all those who put so much time into making it happen. Many thanks to the youth who are friends of our youth, boy scouts, and fencing club members who served the people and helped us clean up afterwards. We could not have done it without them.

Christian Education Committee**- Lore Pateman****Adult Education****- Debra Sprague****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.

Joint-Church Summer Discussion Series - Wed., July 6 - August 10 - 7:30-9:00 p.m.

The Summer Series is back – six weeks of smart discussions for adults and teens. **All six sessions will be held in Stirling in one of our air-conditioned meeting rooms.** Sessions begin at 7:30 and end by 9:00 and will be led by pastors or lay people from one of the three participating churches.



Adults and teens (whether they go to a church or not) are invited to these insightful and thoughtful discussions on a wide range of topics. Each session is a stand-alone topic; you are invited to come when you can, to one session, or to all six.

Date	Leader	Title / Topic
July 6	Rev. Tom Peters	"Civility: American Politics and Christian Responses"
July 13	Rev. Barbara Aspinall	"Leonardo's 'Last Supper': A Conventional Scene with Theological Depth"
July 20	Rev. Barbara Aspinall	"Leonardo's 'Last Supper': More Insights"
July 27	Heather Harris-Galgoci	"This Is YOUR Land?!" What does our role as stewards of God's creation mean, and what should be our priorities?
August 3	Rev. Tom Peters	"Simplicity as a Spiritual Discipline"
August 10	Andrew Galgoci	"Consumerism: A Biblical Perspective"

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

Neither Debra nor Rev. Peters will be available for the July 20th session. So, we need someone to arrive early and unlock, set up, and be the contact person for the leader, Rev. Aspinall. If you are available to do this, please contact Debra ASAP.

Fourth Sunday Focus, July 24th

- 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 24th**, 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.

Music Series

- Ed Gerecht

As you are aware, thanks to Howard Kupferman, our Church has begun hosting a Music Series, providing free music concerts to the community. Our first concert series utilized the following talent:

Oct. 25	Pianist: Yukiko Tanaka
Dec. 6	Flute Duo: Natasha Loomis & Mitzy Nonaka; Pianist: Fumi Kuwajima
Feb. 21	Pasquale Grasso Jazz Quartet
March 13	Pianist: Dr. Clipper Erikson
April 10	Pianist: Yukiko Tanaka
May 15	Pianist: Joseph Hauer
June 12	Violinist: Sayuri Lyons; Pianist: Olga Gurevich

At each concert, attendees are invited to make a donation to cover the cost. We have also received a donation from a local bank and are pursuing grant funds from Newton Presbytery. If you have attended any of these concerts, I'm positive you have enjoyed the experience. If you have yet to attend, you have missed a terrific musical experience. Please invite friends and family to attend and enjoy the music. We average about 48 attendees at each concert. We are looking to increase attendance because it helps put our Church in the public eye.

Our next series will begin in September with the talented Pasquale Grasso Jazz Quartet. Watch for more information on upcoming concerts in future newsletters.

Worship Committee

- Janet Parziale

Liturgists for July

July 3	Tom Parziale	July 24	Tom Parziale
July 10	Madeline Hahl	July 31	Janet Parziale
July 17	Israel Sierra		



Non-Perishable Food Collection, July 3rd

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) | Breakfast food: Pancake mix, jelly, coffee, tea |
| White Rice: 2 or 5 pound bags | Jell-O Gelatin |
| Macaroni and Cheese | Canned Beans: Cannellini, Garbanzo |
| Canned vegetables: | Dry Beans: Black, Kidney, Pinto |
| corn, carrots, beets, mixed veggies, yams | Spaghetti (long pasta only) |

Deacons Corner**- Katherine Ihringer**

I just want to remind everyone that during the summer months (not August as we are worshipping in Meyersville), we need Fellowship Hour signups. Fellowship Hours can be very simple-in fact coffee is not even necessary! Cold lemonade and iced tea are great drinks during the summer.

Our Deacon Mission Offering for July is **Family Promise of Morris County**. Our church has been involved with Family Promise for years, and it is a great cause. If you would like to donate, we would greatly appreciate it!

If anyone took home flowers in the vases after our Fish and Chips dinner, it would be great if you could return the vases.

The Deacons would like to wish that everyone has a great summer!

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 summer commitment dates for preparing 40 lunches are: **Fridays, July 8th and August 12th, 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!

Upcoming Dates: Sept. 8, Oct. 14, Nov. 11, Dec. 9

Family Promise of Morris County**- Phyllis Clemson & Jan Somers**

Our next responsibility for hosting Family Promise at Trinity House in Stirling is Tuesday, August 30th. Since we will be worshipping in Meyersville during August, the sign-up sheet will be posted in Pollard Hall during July. We will have more information on the number of guests as the date approaches. If you can help out in any way, please sign-up or contact Phyllis or Jan. Thank you!

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

After the June 28th class, classes will resume in September. No classes during July and August.

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.

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 at FPC-Stirling.

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.

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.



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 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 21st**. Thank you!

Why not invite a friend to church?



Stirling Stuff is the newsletter of the

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

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.