



Stirling Stuff

Volume 61, No. 7

Summer 2017

Pastor's Letter

On Sunday, June 18th, Father's Day, I talked about the importance of laughter. A statistic I shared that I found startling was that children 7 and under laugh about 150 times a day. There is a legend that they laugh on average of 300 times a day, but no one can find the research that backs up this statistic. Adults laugh on average 15-17 times a day. Adults are way too serious. 😊



It got me to thinking about the anger and poison in the relationships in our country today. Could it be that we are not laughing enough? Research has shown that relationships where both parties laugh a lot are better and stronger than those where the parties do not laugh a lot. According to research, this is true in marriages as well. This laughter is not laughing at each other but with each other, at the foibles of our selves.



Living in a family with a member who does some stand-up comedy and a lot of improv comedy, I have the luxury of enjoying laughter often. Of course, it is going to be hard when Ali goes to seminary this August. Barbara and I will have to find ways to create our own laughter and comedy. All of this leads me to wonder if there are ways to raise the number of times we laugh in a day.

In my sermon, I talked about how seeing the incredulous things God does in the world today through human people causes me to laugh. So, we need to look at what is happening around us in our daily lives, and celebrate the joy and laughter that those things bring about. We can also immerse ourselves in humor. Read funny books, watch comedians on Netflix (although some are better and more wholesome than others), watch funny movies. There are a lot of things we can do to raise our daily laughter numbers. I shared how Norman Cousins was diagnosed with an incurable disease. He checked himself out of the hospital, got a movie projector, and watch old Marx Brothers and Candid Camera films. It not only made him feel better -- it also reversed his incurable disease.



During the *dog days of summer*, try to find ways to laugh and just enjoy your life. That's my prescription for a hot summer. 😊

See you in church!

Tom

Here are some really cute pictures of the Parziale-DiBartolo twins to get you started.

Worship Services and Scripture Passages for July and August

July 2, 2017**9:30 a.m. in Stirling**

- Pentecost 4A
- Sacrament of Holy Communion
- Non-Perishable Food Collection
Genesis 22:1-14; Psalm 13;
Romans 6:12-23; Matthew 10:40-42

Rev. Barbara Aspinall preaching**July 9, 2017****9:30 a.m. in Stirling.**

- Pentecost 5A
Genesis 24:34-38, 42-49, 58-67; Psalm 45:10-17;
Romans 7:15-25a; Matthew 11:16-19, 25-30

Rev. Tom Peters preaching**July 16, 2017****9:30 a.m. in Stirling**

- Pentecost 6A
Genesis 25:19-34; Psalm 119:105-112;
Romans 8:1-11; Matthew 13:1-9, 18-23

Rev. Barbara Aspinall preaching**July 23, 2017****9:30 a.m. in Stirling**

- Pentecost 7A
Genesis 28:10-19a; Psalm 139:1-2, 23-24;
Romans 8:12-25; Matthew 13:24-30, 36-43

Rev. Barbara Aspinall preaching**July 30, 2017****9:30 a.m. in Stirling**

- Pentecost 8A
Genesis 29:15-28; Psalm 105:1-11, 45b;
Romans 8:26-39; Matthew 13:31-33, 44-52

Rev. Barbara 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 6, 2017****9:30 a.m. in Meyersville**

- Pentecost 9A
- Sacrament of Holy Communion
Genesis 32:22-31; Psalm 17:1-7, 15;
Romans 9:1-5; Matthew 14:13-21

Rev. Tom Peters preaching**August 13, 2017****9:30 a.m. in Meyersville**

- Pentecost 10A
Genesis 37:1-4, 12-28; Psalm 105:1-6, 16-22, 45b
Romans 10:5-15; Matthew 14:22-33

Rev. Tom Peters preaching**August 20, 2017****9:30 a.m. in Meyersville**

- Pentecost 11A
Genesis 45:1-15; Psalm 133;
Romans 11:1-2a, 29-32; Matthew 15:21-28

Rev. Tom Peters preaching**August 27, 2017****9:30 a.m. in Meyersville**

- Pentecost 12A
Exodus 1:8-2:10; Psalm 124;
Romans 12:1-8; Matthew 16:13-20

Rev. Tom 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 monthly Coffee Klatch will be held on **Sat., July 8th, 9:00 a.m. (please note it is on the 2nd Saturday this month)**, at the Stirling House Diner. We talk about whatever is on your mind. Join us and join in the fellowship and conversation.

**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.



Summer Worship Schedule

During July and August, our worship services **begin at 9:30 a.m.** on Sunday morning. **For the month of July, Meyersville Presbyterian Church members and friends will be worshipping with us in Stirling.** Rev. Aspinall will be preaching on most of the Sundays in July. **During August, we will go to the Meyersville Presbyterian Church,** and Rev. Peters will be preaching. **On Sunday, Sept. 3rd, 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.



Special Coffee Hour

- Rev. Peters

Coffee Hour Celebrating the upcoming wedding of Trevor Peters & Nancy Dalin

On **Sunday, August 20th, at 11:30 a.m.**, Barbara and I will be hosting a special coffee hour at the Wilson Memorial Church in Watchung (7 Valley Rd., Watchung NJ – at the base of Hillcrest Rd.). We are hosting it at Wilson Church since the fellowship hall is bigger and can accommodate both churches. Because both churches have been a special part of Trevor’s life and we cannot invite everyone to the wedding, we would like to invite you to come and share in the celebration of these two wonderful people. It will also be an opportunity for you to meet Nancy’s parents. **No gifts please.** This is an opportunity for everyone to share in this celebration.

Annual Fish & Chips Dinner

Thanks to everyone who helped make our **Fourth Annual Argyle’s Fish & Chips Dinner** on June 3rd such a success. Special thanks to Ed Chang for chairing this year’s event. To date, we have earned a profit of \$2,478, which will be used to fund our Church programs. Below are some pictures from the day:



Christian Education Committee

- Lore Pateman

C.E. Recognition Sunday

On Sunday, June 4th, we honored those involved in our C.E. program during the past school year. Pictured here are: Lore Pateman, Katherine Ihringer, Elaine Giordano, Cheyenne Carbone, Lynn Blakeslee, Shaylyn Gallagan, Tom Parziale, Rev. Peters, and Evelyn Smith.



Adult Bible Study

- Rev. Peters

Our study of the Gospel of Luke will continue throughout the summer except when Rev. Peters is away. We meet from **10:30 a.m. to noon on Thursdays** in the Church meeting room.

Nursery Care for July

We need one person per week for the month of July to be “on call” for Nursery Care. Please speak to Debra Sprague if you can help out.



2017 Summer Wednesday Evening Series

- Debra Sprague

Our Joint-Church Summer Discussion Series is back and will be held for six weeks from July 12th through August 16th. Plan to come when you’re in town for some good discussions with members and friends from several churches as well as community members. Six weeks, five topics - each week stands alone, so attend one or all. Sessions are open to everyone high school age and above. All sessions are held from **7:30 - 9:00 pm at our Church** in the air-conditioned meeting room.

Leading the sessions are: Rev. Peters; Rev. Aspinall of Meyersville Presbyterian Church; Rev. Joel Biggers, pastor of both Trinity United Church in Warren and Watchung Avenue Presbyterian Church in North Plainfield; and Kay Hurd, parish nurse at Trinity United Church.

Listed below is the schedule:

<u>Date</u>	<u>Leader</u>	<u>Topic</u>
July 12	Rev. Tom Peters	Rethinking Recycling
July 19	Rev. Barbara Aspinall	The Recent American Protestant Experience: <i>some sources and expressions of Protestant faith in our country today</i> <i>Where did the fundamentalist, evangelical, social gospel movements come from? What sort of theologies are they based on? What are their expressions today?</i>
July 26	Rev. Barbara Aspinall	The Recent American Protestant Experience: <i>some sources and expressions of Protestant faith in our country today</i> <i>Where did the fundamentalist, evangelical, social gospel movements come from? What sort of theologies are they based on? What are their expressions today?</i>

Aug. 2	Rev. Joel Biggers	Is Jesus the Only Way?
Aug. 9	Kay Hurd <i>Parish Nurse, TUC</i>	Body and Soul: <i>The 18-Inch Journey between your Head and Heart</i>
Aug. 16	Rev. Tom Peters	The “Clobber Passages” – <i>What DOES the Bible say about LGBTQ?”</i>

Fall Book Study

- Rev. Peters

On October 22nd and 29th, Rev. Peters will be leading a study on the book, *The Cross and the Lynching Tree*, by Dr. James H. Cone. Dr. Cone is a Professor at Union Theological Seminary in NYC, and he is one of the most respected theologians in the world today. This study will take place following coffee hour on these two Sunday mornings. Include the book in your summer reading, and then come join us in October.

Fourth Sunday Focus, July 30th

- 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 actually be on the Fifth Sunday, July 30th**, in the meeting room. We’ll 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, contact Tom Parziale.**



Digital Projector

The Christian Education Committee is looking for donations to purchase a new digital projector for the church. Our current one has some issues, and so the committee has decided to purchase a new one. The cost is approximately \$800. We use it for brunch programs, joint education programs, and other special events such as movie nights. If you can make a donation, please write a check and note “digital projector” on the memo line. Any help you can give would be gratefully appreciated. Also, let Lore Pateman or Rev. Peters know so we can keep track. Thank you.

Worship Committee

- Janet Parziale

Liturgists for July:

July 2	Tom Parziale	July 23	Madeline Hahl
July 9	Madeline Hahl	July 30	Janet Parziale
July 16	Jan Somers		



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

Non-Perishable Food Collection, July 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 delivered 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

The Meyersville congregation has an on-going pledge to **donate canned mixed fruit (fruit cocktail) to the township food pantry**. Since we will be receiving the Lord's Supper in **Meyersville on August 6th**, please consider bringing this item (preferably the kind in juice, not syrup) to donate when we are there.

**Deacons Corner****Mission of the Month**

The Deacon's *Mission of the Month* for July and August is **Family Promise of Morris County**. Our church is in the 28th year of supporting this program, both monetarily and by hosting families several times a year. The Family Promise motto is Ending Homelessness One Family at a Time; there are envelopes in the pew racks that can be used to make a donation towards helping this happen.

Fellowship Hour for July

During the summer, Fellowship Hour can be as simple as iced tea, lemonade, and cookies. Please consider hosting or donating money to one of the Deacons, and we will be happy to host for you! There is a sign-up sheet in Pollard Hall.

**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.

Deacons' Fund

Please use the green Deacons' Fund envelopes for donations to help the Deacons with their Mission work. They are available in the pew racks or in the church office and may be placed in the offering plate. **Remember to put your name on the envelope so you can receive credit for your donation.** Thank you!

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.

**Mission Programs****Bridges Outreach Lunch Program**

- Jean Hoffman, Coordinator



Our summer commitment dates for preparing 40 lunches are: **Fridays, July 14th and August 4th, 9:30 a.m.**, in Pollard Hall. We are always 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 important program.

Upcoming Date: September 1st

Ongoing Mission Programs

We are no longer accepting donations of sneakers; however, we continue to collect the following items, which may be placed on the pew in Pollard Hall:

- ✓ Full-sized and “courtesy-sized” bars of soap, toothbrushes, toothpaste, deodorant, shampoo, and conditioner; shower caps
- ✓ Laundry detergent
- ✓ Cell phones, eyeglasses, sunglasses
- ✓ Fabric: (no stretch fabric) about ½ yard minimum, to make small bears for children, totes for wheelchair patients, etc.
- ✓ Yarn: to make lap robes for wounded veterans, afghans for battered women, and hats for newborns in hospitals

Church Archives

Please remember to forward news clippings, bulletins, programs, pictures, or other memorabilia regarding any member of our church family to the church office so our archives can be kept up-to-date. There is a **Church Archives** mailbox outside the church offices for this purpose.



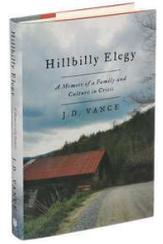
The binders are all in the bookcase in back of Pollard Hall. Please take a few minutes to look at them. If you would like to help keep the archives current, please speak to Rev. Peters or Jan Somers.

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.

Meyersville Presbyterian Church Book Club

The MPC Book Club is now reading, ***Hillbilly Elegy***, by J.D. Vance. It is a memoir which sheds light on the oft-overlooked lives of the white working class. Vance focuses on the “hillbillies” of Appalachia, using his own experiences to illustrate the challenges facing hillbilly society generally.



Rev. Aspinall and Jan Somers have extra copies of the book, which will be discussed on **Tues., August 1, 7:30 p.m., in the parlor at MPC**. If you'd like to join the group, please contact Rev. Aspinall or Jan to get a copy and start reading!

Free Gentle Yoga Class - Meyersville Presbyterian Church

*There will be **no yoga for the summer**. Classes will resume in September.

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 on the table 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 assist people on dialysis. (This is a new program we will be supporting.) 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 Outreach 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, and conditioner, shower caps
- ✓ Cell phones, eyeglasses, sunglasses
- ✓ Fabric: about 1/2 yard minimum, to make small bears for children, totes for wheelchair patients
- ✓ Yarn: 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 September issue of Stirling Stuff to:
jsomers17@hotmail.com
by **August 24th**. Thank you!

Stirling Stuff is the newsletter of

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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?



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