



Stirling Stuff

Volume 60, No. 10

November 2016

Pastor's Letter

Normally, my November newsletter article is about Thanksgiving, and it is about Thanksgiving again this time. However, I would like to look at it in a little different way other than thanksgiving for what we have. In some ways, what I want to talk about is thanksgiving for seasons--not just the four seasons, but the seasons of our lives. It is easy to give thanks for the good times of our lives, but it is a little harder to see how it is possible to give thanks for the difficult times of our lives.

I'm mindful of last winter when we had the very heavy snowfall. It was beautiful when we could just stay in and enjoy looking out at the deep white drifts; but, the time came when we had to go out and shovel it. As people began to get around, it became black and made life difficult for a long time. We were so grateful when it all melted and spring arrived. We could endure the hard time because we knew spring was coming.



This Thanksgiving, I am mindful of the ending of the election season. I think we all are pretty upset at how this presidential election campaign has gone. This is true for people are both sides of the political spectrum. We can be thankful that on November 9th it will be over. We will pass into the post-election season. While we may worry about how some people will react to the results, there will be no more debates, no more language our children should not hear, no more 24/7 news cycles talking about the latest faux-pas. We will pass out of the season and into something new. We can take a collective breath and rebuild relationships that have been hurt during this election season. Perhaps we can begin to once again see the humanity of each other and respect each other. This can be true just as surely as when the snow melts and the grass becomes visible again. We do have so much to be thankful for. We must not let this election season destroy the relationships we cherish. People are more than their political thoughts. They are people we have a history with, people who have been a part of us in wonderful ways. We need to let *the winter of our discontent* and anger melt into the spring of our rekindling of friendships and family relationships. If we cannot do that, we risk living in a winter of despair for a long time. I'm reminded of the first book in the *Chronicles of Narnia* by CS Lewis. It starts out with Narnia being under the rule of the evil white queen who made it be winter all of the time, with no Christmas, no joy ever. We cannot let that happen in our lives.

Let us be thankful for the seasons of our lives that allow us to move from seasons of darkness to seasons of light. May God give us the courage to make that happen.

Happy Thanksgiving,
Tom

The First Presbyterian Church of Stirling
Feeding Those Who Hunger

Worship Services and Scripture Passages for November

November 6 **at Meyersville Presbyterian Church**

- *Twenty-Fifth Sunday after Pentecost*
- *All Saints' Sunday*
- *Sacrament of Holy Communion*
Haggai 1:15b-2:9; Psalm 145:1-5, 18-22;
2 Thessalonians 2:1-5, 13-17; Luke 20:27-38
Rev. Barbara Aspinall preaching

November 13

- *Twenty-Sixth Sunday after Pentecost*
Isaiah 65:17-25; Isaiah 12:2;
2 Thessalonians 3:6-13; Luke 21:5-19
Could We Start Again Please?

*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.*



November 20

- *Reign of Christ Sunday*
- *Travnicek Memorial Ringers*
Jeremiah 23:1-6; Luke 1:68-79;
Colossians 1:11-20; Luke 23:33-43
Dominionism and the Gospel

November 27

- First Sunday of Advent*
- *Heritage Sunday*
Isaiah 2:1-5; Psalm 122;
Romans 13:11-14; Matthew 24:36-44
Should We Continue to Hope?

**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., November 5th, 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.



Handbell Choir

Bells are Ringing Again – the Travnicek Memorial Ringers will be ringing on **November 20th** during the morning worship service. Come welcome our newest ringer!

Musica Gratis – The Concert Series in Stirling

Our concert series continues on **Sunday, November 13th, 2:00 p.m.**, when we welcome mezzo soprano Sahoko Sato Timpone and pianist Yukiko Tanaka for an afternoon of classical music in our sanctuary. Yukiko was part of our series last season, and was so well received we invited her back. We hope you will invite your friends and join us.



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.

On **December 11th**, we will welcome pianist Joseph Hauer back. He will be accompanying a cellist in a Christmas-themed concert.

Christian Education Committee**- Lore Pateman****Adult Bible Study****- Rev. Peters**

We are continuing the study of the Book of Revelation at **10:30 a.m. every Thursday in the meeting room**. We are using "*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*."

Fourth Sunday Focus, November 27th**- Tom Parziale**

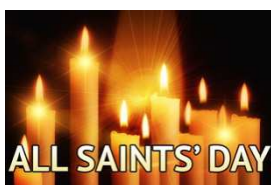
Fourth Sundays give us an opportunity to connect with other members of our church family in a relaxed atmosphere: a pot of tea, a Box o'Joe, Munchkins . . . and conversation. Our next "Fourth Sunday Focus" gathering will be on **November 27th** in the meeting room. We start around **8:45 a.m.** and end by about 9:45 a.m., but join us whenever you can. **If you have a topic you'd like to discuss, contact Tom Parziale.**

**Worship Committee****- Janet Parziale****Liturgists for November:**

Nov. 6	Meyersville Church	Nov. 20	Susan Gerecht
Nov. 13	Tom Parziale	Nov. 27	Tom Parziale



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

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. Plan to join us for this meaningful service.

Non-Perishable Food Collection, November 6th - at Meyersville Presbyterian Church

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)
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
Jello Gelatin
Canned Beans: Cannellini, Garbanzo
Dry Beans: Black, Kidney, Pinto
Spaghetti (long pasta only)

Heritage Sunday



On **November 27th**, the church will be celebrating Heritage Sunday. Once again, we have invited bagpiper, Dave Paladino, who will play the tune Richard Streeton composed for our church entitled, "Stirling on the Hill." The service will include the *Blessing of the Tartans*.

Following worship, there will be a special coffee hour with lots of Scottish treats to enjoy. The Worship Committee invites anyone who enjoys baking to bring their favorite Scottish goodies to share. Some of the planned goodies include scones, shortbread and, of course, a fine pot of tea!



Please plan to join us for this festive service as we celebrate our church's Scottish heritage, and remember to wear or bring a piece of plaid.

First Sunday of Advent

November 27th is also the first Sunday of Advent, and we will begin a special program that will continue for the four Sundays in the season of Advent. Members of the congregation will be asked to read and light the Advent candles. Please plan to join us as we begin our journey to Christmas.



Deacons Corner

– Susan Gerecht

Mission Offering in November

Our special mission offering for November will be for the **Community Food Bank of NJ, located in Hillside**. We hope you will be generous with this offering. You may use the special offering envelopes (with grapes on them) in the pew racks to make a donation.



We have a group of volunteers going to the food bank on the morning of **Saturday, November 12th**. Please contact Kai Ihringer if you would like to join them and help with this project.

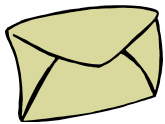
Thanksgiving Turkey/Ham Donations

Thanksgiving is November 24th. The supermarkets are once again promoting free turkeys/hams during the holiday season. As you sit down to enjoy Thanksgiving with your family, please remember those less fortunate than you and consider donating a turkey or ham. This is the time of year when there is a great need for food donations for holidays and when organizations like the Market Street Mission reach a large volume of people and provide a decent meal for them for the holiday.



The church will be collecting the turkeys (please keep them frozen) and hams at church on the Sunday before Thanksgiving, November 20th. They will be brought to the Market Street Mission in Morristown for distribution. Your support of this program is very much appreciated.

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, Nov. 11th, 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 date: Dec. 9

On-Going Fund Raiser: Shop-Rite Gift Cards

- Madeline Hahl, Coordinator

From January through September 2016, this program has raised \$1,872, which helps our church financially. It is easy to participate: purchase the cards for face value (\$20, \$50, \$100) 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. Gift Cards are available each Sunday during Fellowship Hour or by contacting Madeline.



CROP Walk**- Debra Sprague**

On Sunday, October 16th, 11 walkers from our church joined others in the 3-mile CROP walk in New Providence and raised almost \$800. The group of 71 walkers raised approximately \$4500, which will be donated to Church World Service and a local mission. Last year, \$2,000 was directed to the St. John's Soup Kitchen in Newark. It's not too late to make a donation to our team. Go to the website: <https://www.crophungerwalk.org/newprovidencenj/Team/View/28468/First-Presbyterian-Church-of-Stirling>



Thanks to everyone for your support of our 2016 team of walkers!

Pictured here is our team (from the left): Jan Somers, Debra Sprague, Ed Gerecht, Janet & Tom Parziale, Lisa Wernett, Katherine & Kai Ihringer, Elaine Giordano, Brooke Kupferman, and Joyce Koenig

Meyersville Presbyterian Church Free Computer Basics Classes

Meyersville Presbyterian Church is once again offering free computer basics classes, to be held for 12 weeks on Saturdays, 9:00-11:00 a.m., from Nov. 5 through Feb. 11. This MS Windows 7 basics computer training is for novice windows computer users. You can attend the entire 12-week course or just certain topics. The training is part lecture, but mainly hands-on in our state-of-the-art computer lab (see picture).



Seating is limited, so reserve your spot if you are interested. The course book is free for use in the classroom or \$10 to purchase. Following is the list of topics and dates:

<u>Session</u>	<u>Topic</u>	<u>Date</u>	<u>Session</u>	<u>Topic</u>	<u>Date</u>
1	Choose a Computer	Nov. 5	7	Personal Internet	Jan. 7
2	Explore your computer	Nov. 12	8	Excel	Jan. 14
3	Windows Basics	Nov. 19	9	Music and Speech	Jan. 21
4	Word	Nov. 26	10	Photography	Jan. 28
5	Communication	Dec. 10	11	Gadgets and Gizmos	Feb. 4
6	Surfing the Internet	Dec. 17	12	Manage Your Computer	Feb. 11

Please contact Rudy Zydel from the Meyersville Church at ruudz@aol.com to reserve your seat.

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.

Member-Abilia

Following the baptism of Nolen Mascola on October 18th, we received the following letter:

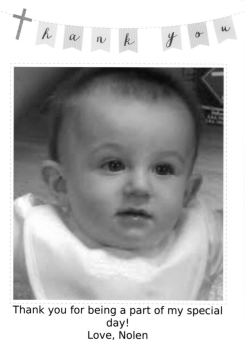
Rev. Tom Peters and the Congregation of First Presbyterian Church,

Thank-you so much for welcoming our family into your church. The First Presbyterian Church of Stirling exemplifies the love, care, and atmosphere of God. We are very grateful that you opened your doors, arms, and spirit to celebrate the baptism of Nolen Kenneth welcoming him into the Christian community. The First Presbyterian Church has always provided a feeling of family and community throughout my (Kenny's) life and it is wonderful to know that Nolen has been baptized in the very location that I was baptized many years ago.

Furthermore, thank-you for allowing our family to gather in Pollard Hall to celebrate this event. We were very happy to share the celebration with the church family and members of the congregation. It was exciting to see the joy that so many of you had while getting to see Nolen explore Pollard Hall in his walker. The many praises and gifts we received were beyond generous and very appreciated. Moreover, we are very appreciative of those that helped clean Pollard Hall at the conclusion of our celebration.

Although First Presbyterian Church of Stirling is not in close proximity, it will continue to be part of our family. I know that Nolen's great-grandmother, Carolyn Malfatone, will continue to share his adventures and growth.

With much gratitude,
Kenneth, Kaleena, and Nolen Mascola



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.

Church Communications

If you have things that need to be communicated to the church office, please take the initiative, and contact Paulette directly. Send an email, make a call, or leave a note - they're all good ways to reach our office manager.



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.

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.

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.



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 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
December issue of Stirling Stuff to:

jsomers17@hotmail.com

by November 25th. Thank you!

Stirling Stuff is the newsletter of

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Why not invite a friend to church?



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.



Turn your clocks
BACK 1 Hour on
Saturday night,
Nov. 5th