



Stirling Stuff

Volume 61, No. 8

September 2017

Pastor's Letter



It doesn't take a rocket scientist to know there's a lot of anger in our country today. I've heard from many, even from my own family, that they don't watch the news because it's too depressing and filled with anger. I get that, and I feel that way at times. However, I am also aware that if we don't stay in touch, or see and feel the anger of others, we cannot do anything to alleviate the situation, or at least create small bridges between people.

As most of you know by now, the Christian Education Committee, on my recommendation, has chosen *The Cross and the Lynching Tree*, by Dr. James H. Cone, as the book for a two-session study on the last two Sundays in October. This book was chosen well before the events of Charlottesville but, because of those events, it is truly needed. In his praise for the book, Rev. Dr. James A. Forbes, Jr., the Senior Pastor Emeritus of Riverside Church in New York City, wrote the following:

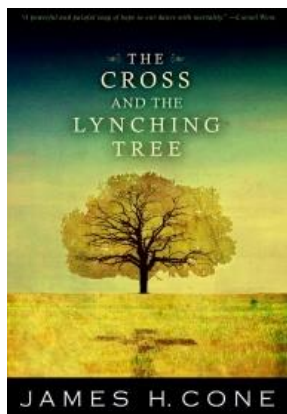
This is a book that doctors of democracy, justice, and compassion have prescribed to help us deal with our country's malaise of anger, violence, and amnesia. It forces us to acknowledge the horrors of the past and to see more clearly the mutant forms of racism in the present. Then, it shows us how Grace upstages disgrace through the power of the Cross. It points a way toward forgiveness, reconciliation, and the restoration of the beloved community.

I hope you will join us for this study. I'm writing about it in this newsletter so that you have time to read the book, as it is a slow read. It is only 166 pages, but it takes time to read it. You may order it on [Amazon.com](https://www.amazon.com). We need people and we need the church to be reconcilers of the community we live in today. The Confession of 1967 of the P.C.U.S.A. calls all people to be "reconciled to God and to one another." We are to be the agents of that reconciliation with the Spirit of God working through us.

I hope you will get the book and join us on October 22nd and 29th.

See you in Church!

Tom



The First Presbyterian Church of Stirling
Feeding Those Who Hunger

Worship Services and Scripture Passages for September

September 3, 2017**At Meyersville, 9:30 a.m.**

- *Pentecost 13A*
- *Sacrament of Holy Communion*
- *Labor Day Sunday*
- *Non-Perishable Food Collection – Fruit Cocktail*
Exodus 3:1-15; Psalm 105:1-6, 23-26;
Romans 12:9-21; Matthew 16:21-28

September 10, 2017**At Stirling, 10:00 a.m.**

- *Pentecost 14A*
- *Rally Day*
- *Presentation of Third Grade Bible*
Exodus 12:1-14; Psalm 149;
Romans 13:8-14; Matthew 18:15-20
Rituals and Do-Overs

*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 17, 2017****At Meyersville, 10:00 a.m.**

- *Pentecost 15A*
Exodus 14:19-31; Psalm 114;
Romans 14:1-12; Matthew 18:21-35
Rev. Peters on Vacation

September 24, 2017**At Stirling, 10:00 a.m.**

- Pentecost 16A*
Exodus 16:2-15; Psalm 105:1-6, 37-45;
Philippians 1:21-30; Matthew 20:1-16
Grace or Comparisons

**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 monthly Coffee Klatch will be on **Sat., Sept. 2nd, 9:00 a.m.**, at the Stirling House Diner. We talk about whatever is on your mind. Join us for fellowship and conversation.



Handbell Choir

Handbell Choir practice will resume on **Monday, Sept. 18th, at 7:30 p.m.** We are in need of several more bell ringers. Remember, you can have a terrible voice and still play bells! You don't even have to know how to read music! You only have to be able to count to eight, with a few *ands* and other syllables thrown in from time to time. Talk to Rev. Peters if you have even the smallest bit of interest. Not only do we practice on Monday nights, we also laugh a lot; and, you know that they say laughter is the best medicine.



Shrine of St. Joseph to Host 911 Memorial Service

The Shrine of St. Joseph, on Long Hill Road in Stirling, invites everyone to an ecumenical candlelight vigil service at the Tower of Remembrance at **7:00 p.m. on Monday, Sept. 11th**, the sixteenth anniversary of the 9/11 terror attacks.



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.

Pictured here is the 2016 service.

Racism Awareness Seminar

On Saturday, **Sept. 30th, from 9:00 a.m. – 3:30 p.m.**, members of Newton Presbytery and Elizabeth Presbytery will gather at the Madison Presbyterian Church in Madison for a program entitled, ***Complicit! Understanding US Dominant Culture and Systemic Racism and How the PCUSA is Wrapped in it.*** The cost of the program is \$10 for the lunch. Rev. Peters is going and will be glad to have other members of the church go along. You can register at the presbytery website, newtonpresbytery.org. Put your mouse over the calendar, and then click on "Upcoming Events." Click on the link to the *Anti-Racism Training Workshop* for more information and to register.

Monthly Concert Series

Join us on **Sunday, Sept. 10th, at 2:00 p.m.**, as we begin our new season of monthly concerts by welcoming **classical pianist, Olga Gurevich.**

Olga is enjoying her career as a concert pianist, chamber musician, and a piano teacher. Her concert appearances include Carnegie Hall Weill Recital Hall, the 92nd Street Y in NYC, Smirna Opera Theatre in Delaware, Westport Concert Series in Connecticut, and Scuola Civica in Cagliari, Italy. Her performances have been broadcast by National Television in Azerbaijan, First TV Channel in Russia, and RAI Tre in Italy.



Admission is free; donations to the program are welcome. A short reception will follow the concert, during which guests may meet the performer. Refreshments will be served. We hope you will invite family, friends, and neighbors to attend.

Christian Education Committee

- Lore Pateman



Rally Day - Sept. 10th

Our 2017-2018 Christian Education program will start on Sept. 10th. We will be presenting a Bible to our 3rd grader, Mae Higgins. Come join us as we start our Fall C.E. program.

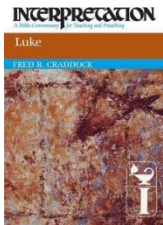
Sunday School Teachers Needed

- Elaine Giordano

The first day of Sunday School is Sept. 10th, and we need teachers. It takes only an hour a week; you can teach for one week, one month, or several months. I will provide you with 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. Thanks!

Adult Bible Study

- Rev. Peters



Bible Study continues on Thursday mornings from 10:30 a.m. – noon; we are studying the Gospel of Luke. Our discussions are thought provoking and informative, and there is laughter as well-- not to mention coffee and, sometimes, tantalizing sweets! We invite you to join us if you are able. We are using Rev. Dr. Fred Craddock's book. **Luke**.

Fourth Sunday Focus, Sept. 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 **Sept. 24th** 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've never participated or haven't attended for a while, why not join us on the 24th; we always have lively discussions on a wide variety of topics. **If you have a topic you'd like to discuss, contact Tom Parziale.**

Sunday Brunch Program, Sept. 24th

There will be a special Sunday Brunch Program on Sept. 24th following morning worship. This program, "**Bipolar Disorder and the Effects on the Individual**," will be presented by Katherine Ihringer, who recently graduated from The College of Saint Elizabeth with a BA in Psychology. She is now working on her Masters in Counseling, with a specialization in School Counseling.



Bipolar disorder is a severe mental illness that is widely misunderstood. Katherine's goal for the presentation is to inform people, change their perception of the illness, and help them become an ally for those who have it.

Bring a dish to share and join us for this special presentation!

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. Please read the book, and then join us in October. (See Pastor's Letter on page 1 of this newsletter.)

Worship Committee**- Janet Parziale****Liturgists for Sept.:**

Sept. 3 Meyersville Church
 Sept. 10 Tom Parziale

Sept. 17 Meyersville Church
 Sept. 24 Israel Sierra, Jr.



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

September Worship Schedule**Labor Day Sunday Worship Service, Sept. 3rd, 9:30 a.m., at Meyersville Church**

On Sept. 3rd, we will resume our schedule of *odd month* communion Sundays at Meyersville and *even month* communion Sundays at First Presbyterian. **The service on Sept. 3rd will still be at 9:30 a.m. and will be followed by a pot-luck brunch.** Please bring a dish to share and join us for worship, fellowship, and good food.

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

On Sunday, Sept. 17th, worship will be at the Meyersville Church at 10:00 a.m. Rev. Peters will be off that Sunday, following Trevor's wedding on Sat., the 16th.

**Non-Perishable Food Collection, Sept. 3rd - in Meyersville**

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.



The congregation at Meyersville Presbyterian Church has pledged to donate canned mixed fruit, sometimes labeled "fruit cocktail," to the township food pantry. Since we will be worshipping at Meyersville on **Sept. 3rd**, please consider bringing this item (preferably the kind in juice and not syrup) to donate when we are there.

Worship Committee Meeting

The Worship Committee will be meeting on **Sunday, Sept. 10th, following morning worship**. If you think you might like to be part of this committee, please join us in the meeting room (after you get some coffee, etc.), and find out what our role is in the life of the church.

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.



Deacons Corner**- Katherine Ihringer****Mission of the Month**

Our ***Mission of the Month*** for September is **Presbyterian Disaster Assistance**. The funds collected will be directed to victims of Hurricane Harvey. Please support this much-needed program.



Fellowship Hour

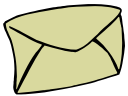
I just want to remind everyone to sign up to host Fellowship Hour. It does not have to be complicated. Or, if you don't want to host, but would like to donate towards someone else hosting, that would be great, too.

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!

Buildings & Grounds – Facilities**- Tom Parziale**

A lot of work has been done to clean up the complex. Included in this effort, was priming and painting the two main doors (entrance to Pollard Hall and entrance to the main hallway). The units have been painted blue.

The committee asks for your cooperation in maintaining these areas. Please **do not put tape on the painted areas of the doors**. If signage is needed, please be sure the tape is on the glass areas only. Thank you.

Mission Programs**School Supplies Collection****- Jean Hoffman**

We had a wonderful response to our collection of school supplies this summer. With your help, many children in local towns will be returning to school with the items they need. Thank you to everyone who donated to this program.

Bridges Outreach Lunch Program

- Jean Hoffman



Our next commitment date for preparing 40 lunches is: **Friday, Sept. 1st, 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.

Upcoming dates: Oct. 6, Nov. 3, Dec. 8, and Jan. 5

CROP Walk

- Debra Sprague

SAVE THE DATE: Sunday, October 15th - To Take a Walk to End Hunger

Mark your calendar for the annual **CROP Walk** in New Providence! The 3-mile walk will start at 1:30 p.m. at the United Methodist Church, 1441 Springfield Avenue, New Providence, where we will join walkers from other churches and groups. Walkers are invited to bring a jar of peanut butter to donate to a local food bank.



See Debra Sprague for walker/sponsor forms. Also, we need a backup coordinator for this year's Walk. Please contact Debra if you can help.

Money raised helps support Church World Service, as well as a local food pantry and/or soup kitchen.

Ongoing Collections

- Jean Hoffman



Wool and other fabric (excluding stretch fabric), about ½ yard minimum, is used to make small bears for children and totes for wheelchair patients. Yarn is used to make lap robes for wounded veterans, afghans for battered women, and hats for newborns in hospitals.

We also collect toiletries/personal items that cannot be purchased with food stamps, i.e.: deodorant, toothbrushes, toothpaste, soap, and laundry detergent. These items are much in demand and very much appreciated. They can be placed on the pew in Pollard Hall. Thank you for your ongoing support of these collections.

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.



If you are interested in helping to 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.

Free Gentle Yoga Class – Meyersville Presbyterian Church

Roseanne McGraw, a certified yoga teacher, programs, Roseann McGraw, a certified yoga teacher, is teaching free yoga classes in the parlor at Meyersville Presbyterian Church on Tuesdays, from 9:00 – 10:00 a.m. The classes are 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. The classes are 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 email Roseanne with questions or concerns: 908-508-1435, rosanne.mcgraw@gmail.com.

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.

Community News/Items of Interest

- Jan Somers

Please forward items you would like to have included in upcoming Stirling Stuff issues to Jan Somers, or place them in the "Stirling Stuff" mailbox outside the church offices. Thank you.

Ongoing Mission Programs

Road to Bridges

Change (and more) is collected during Fellowship Hour and supports the Road to 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
- ✓ Cell phones, eyeglasses, sunglasses
- ✓ 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

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 October issue of Stirling Stuff to:
jsomers17@hotmail.com
by **Sept. 21st**. Thank you!

Stirling Stuff is the newsletter of

The First Presbyterian Church of Stirling

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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.