



Stirling Stuff

Volume 62, No. 8

September 2018

Pastor's Letter

It is hard to believe that I'm writing my September newsletter article already. It seems I just finished my article for the summer newsletter yesterday! Yet, September is upon us, and that means everything ramps up again. In the summer we talk of relaxing and reading books and going on vacations. September comes and we talk about getting programs started, kids going back to school, music rehearsals starting again, and committees meeting again. But, does it have to be that way?



Yes, things have to get started up again, but we don't have to lose ourselves in the frenetic pace of fall that doesn't seem to stop until late June. I would encourage everyone to find ways to keep some of the simplicity of the summer throughout the year. Find times to continue reading books or just relaxing. Look upon these times as Sabbath-time for your soul. In the story of creation, as shared in the first chapter of Genesis, we hear that God rested on the seventh day. In the Ten Commandments, we hear the command to remember the Sabbath day and keep it holy. We are not to do any work on the Sabbath. We may not be able to give up a whole day, but we can program times in our weekly schedules to relax and allow ourselves to be re-created.

It will be better for you and others if we can do this. May God guide us as we move into the fall.

See you in Church!

Tom



The First Presbyterian Church of Stirling
Feeding Those Who Hunger

Worship Services and Scripture Passages for September

September 2, 2018

In Meyersville

- Pentecost 15B; Labor Day Sunday
- Sacrament of Holy Communion
- **Graze and Praise Service:**
 6:00 p.m. Pot-Luck Picnic
 7:00 p.m. Worship Service
 *** **NO MORNING WORSHIP SERVICE** ***
 Song of Solomon 2:8-13; Psalm 45:1-2, 6-9;
 James 1:17-27; Mark 7:1-8, 14-15, 21-23

September 9, 2018 *** Back in Stirling, 10:00 a.m. ***

- Pentecost 16B
 Proverbs 22:1-2, 8-9, 22-23; Psalm 125;
 James 2:1-17; Mark 7:24-37
 An Imperfect Jesus?

September 16, 2018

- Pentecost 17B; Sunday School Rally Day
- Narthex Dedication
 Proverbs 1:20-33; Psalm 19;
 James 3:1-12; Mark 8:27-38
 Ignorance Is Not Bliss

Worship begins at 10:00 a.m. on Sunday mornings,
 followed by Fellowship Hour in Pollard Hall.
 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.



September 23, 2018

- Pentecost 18B
- Sacrament of Baptism
 Proverbs 31:10-31; Psalm 1;
 James 3:13-4:3, 7-8a; Mark 9:30-37
 Being On the Way, But Not Of the Way

September 30, 2018

- Pentecost 19B
 Esther 7:1-6, 9-10, 9:20-22; Psalm 124;
 James 5:13-20; Mark 9:38-50
 Which Is It, Words or Rituals?

**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 **Saturday, September 8th, 9:00 a.m.**, at the Stirling House Diner. We talk about whatever is on your mind. Come join the fellowship and conversation.



Church Offering

If you missed some Sundays during the summer, please remember to bring your offering up-to-date. Our finances are very tight, and summer is traditionally a difficult time for the church financially.



Shrine of St. Joseph to Host 9/11 Memorial Service

Once again, 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 Tuesday, Sept. 11th**, the seventeenth anniversary of the 9/11 terror attacks. Rev. Peters will be participating in the service.



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 invited to remember and pray as they gong the bell. Attendees are encouraged to bring lawn chairs. In case of rain, the service will be held in the Shrine Chapel.

Annual Argyle Fish & Chips Dinner – September 22nd

- Rev. Peters

Our fifth **Fish & Chips Dinner** is fast approaching. The organizing committee has been meeting since mid-July to get things ready. Now we need to begin asking for help from you, the members and friends of the church. **Please read this entire article:**



- The committee has set a goal of selling 300 tickets. This is ambitious, and it gives us something to strive for. (We have to sell at least 200 in order to get the best discount from Argyle, allowing us to make the most money per meal.) In order to know how we are doing, we need you to sell tickets and also to report to Kai Ihringer by Sunday, September 2nd, how many you have sold to that date. Yes, please do continue selling and reporting after that. The committee needs to keep track of the sales.
- Please save both plastic and paper grocery bags to use for the take-out dinners. If you are a member of Costco or BJ's, we ask you to pick up a few clean cardboard fruit and vegetable flats that they have available for people to use to carry their purchases. These are used for large take-out orders.
- We still have a number of flyers that people can place around Long Hill Twp. and neighboring towns, in your places of business, or to give to friends. If you have not already done so, please take some.
- Because of the September date, we will not have our usual crew of college-age servers, since they will be in school. If you have family or friends who can help us out, please invite them to join our staff for that day, and let us know who they are.
- We are starting a sign-up sheet for people who can help on that day with any number of functions. Please sign-up for yourself, family, and friends so we know who we have available to help. This sheet will be in Pollard Hall. You may also call the church to let us know who is helping, and we will put their names on the sheet.

This is an All-Hands-On-Deck event for our church. Please help in any way you can. **Let's all have fun. This is a fundraiser for the church, but it is also a time to enjoy being together as a church family and as a community.**

Handbell Choir

Bells are Ringing Again – the Travnicek Memorial Ringers will begin practicing again on **Monday, September 10th, at 7:30 p.m.** If you are interested in joining the handbell choir, or would like more information at it, please speak to Rev. Peters.



Church Narthex Dedication

During morning worship on **Sunday, September 16th**, we will dedicate the newly-refurbished church narthex, which includes the new sanctuary doors, carpet, and painting. Donations received in memory of Ellen and Robert Easty and Rene' Phelan were used to fund this project, and it will be dedicated in their names. Their families will be invited to attend this special service.

Many thanks to the Facilities & Property Management Committee for their efforts in the planning and completion of this work. And, a special thank you to Tom and Janet Parziale for painting the new doors and the narthex on some brutally hot summer days.



New Providence Area CROP Hunger Walk

- Debra Sprague

Mark your calendar now for the CROP Walk - **Sunday, October 21st**

Our church plans to participate again this year in the **CROP Hunger Walk in New Providence on Sunday, October 21st, at 1:30 p.m.** The 3-mile walk will begin and end at the United Methodist Church, 1441 Springfield Avenue, New Providence, and we ask people to sponsor us to raise money for local and far-reaching hunger programs. Fully one-quarter of the funds raised go to a local entity, generally St. John's Soup Kitchen in Newark, which serves the local homeless population.



Walk. Give. Change the world.

Donation envelopes for walkers will be available in September. **In the mean- time, we encourage everyone to visit our team's home page, where walkers can sign up to walk, and everyone can donate to the team:**

<https://www.crophungerwalk.org/newprovidencenj/FirstPresStirling>

Send this link to friends and family, and invite them to support us...and invite them to walk with us, too!

CROP began in 1947 under the wing of Church World Service (CWS). CROP Hunger Walks are interfaith hunger education and fundraising events sponsored by CWS and organized by CWS local offices across the U.S. For more information about CROP Walks, visit: <https://www.crophungerwalk.org/Static/About-Us>

- Walkers are asked to bring a jar of peanut butter on the day of the Walk. These go to the Starfish Food Pantry.
- Arrive 1:00-1:15 to check in for the 1:30 Walk.

The Concert Series in Stirling

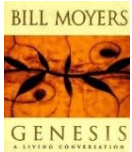
Our 2018-19 concert series will begin on Sunday, October 14th, at 2:00 p.m. Plan to join us for these free musical offerings, and invite family and friends to come along with you. We will let you know in the next few weeks who the performer will be for our October concert.



If you would like to help with the concert series, please contact Rev. Peters, Howard Kupferman, or Debra Sprague.

Christian Education Committee

- Lore Pateman



Adult Bible Study

- Rev. Peters

Our **Bible Study** of the book *Genesis: A Living Conversation*, by Bill Moyers, continues on **Thursday mornings from 10:30 a.m. – noon** in the meeting room.

Rally Day - September 16th

- Lore Pateman



Wow, is summer going fast! It's already time to start preparing for September and back to school. Sunday School will start again on **Sunday, Sept. 16th**, following the Children's Talk. There will be 2 classes: one for Pre-K/Kindergarten and a second for older youth.

For Pre-K/Kindergarten, the same story will be used for a month, with different activities for each session. The same format will be used for each class: greeting, prayer, story, activity, snack, closing.

For older youth, we will be using *Seasons of the Spirit* curriculum for 12 to 14 year olds. This curriculum follows the lectionary, so the students will be studying the same Gospel readings as worship.

We are looking for teachers and aides for both classes. Typically, for older youth, there are 2 classes a month. Since Pre-K/Kindergarten is new, we will see how it goes. You can take a month or more. Just let us know what class you are interested in, whether as a teacher or aide, and when.



We will schedule time to go over the curriculum, supplies, etc., and answer any questions you have. Please seriously consider helping the youth of our church learn about God. Just contact one of us from the CE committee if you are interested or just considering and need more information.

Thank you! Lore Pateman, Rev. Peters, Tom Parziale, Debra Sprague, and Susan Brodziak

Fourth Sunday Focus, September 23rd

- 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. 23rd 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 23rd; we always have lively discussions on a wide variety of topics. **If you have a topic you'd like to discuss, contact Tom Parziale.**



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

Sept. 2	Meyersville	Sept. 23	Janet Parziale
Sept. 9	Jan Somers	Sept. 30	Open
Sept. 16	Tom Parziale		



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

On **Sunday, September 2nd**, we will resume our schedule of **odd month communion Sundays at Meyersville** and **even month communion Sundays at First Presbyterian Stirling.**

Labor Day Sunday Worship Service, September 2nd

This will be a ***Graze and Praise*** service at **Meyersville Church**, beginning with a **pot-luck picnic at 6:00 p.m.** Grill items will be provided; side dishes, salads, and desserts are welcome. The **worship service will begin at 7:00 p.m.** ***There will be no morning worship service on Sept. 2nd.**



***** On Sunday, September 9th, we return to Stirling and our 10:00 a.m. worship time.*****

Deacons' Corner**- Janet Parziale****Mission of the Month**

Our ***Mission of the Month*** for September and October is the **CROP Walk**. There is more information on the Crop Walk on page 4 of this newsletter. Please consider joining our group of walkers, sponsoring them, or making a donation to CROP using one of the special *Mission of the Month* envelopes in the pew racks.

Fellowship Hour

Fellowship Hour is a very special time following each weekly worship service. It is a chance to share stories of the week and catch up with each other. Please consider helping with this important part of our church life by signing up to host one yourself or with a partner or simply by donating money to be used to provide some delicious goodies for the morning. If you wish to donate money, please give it to a Deacon, or place it in the offering plate in an envelope marked "Fellowship Hour."

In an effort to save money and be more ecologically responsible, the Deacons have decided to use the ceramic coffee cups we have in the kitchen. If you are hosting Fellowship Hour, we hope you will join us in this effort. Thank you.

Visiting Nurse

Joyce Koenig has volunteered to be a Visiting Nurse for members of our church. She will be making visitations on her own and with Rev. Peters and is also available to answer your health-related questions.

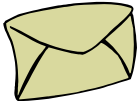


Church Flowers

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.**

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



Our next commitment date for preparing 40 lunches is: **Friday, Sept. 7th, 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 Jean. If you'd like to help with this program, please speak to Jean.

Upcoming dates: Oct. 5, Nov. 2, Dec. 7

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.

There is a collection canister in the church office. Thank you.



On-Going Church Fund Raiser - iGive**- Debra Sprague**

I set our church up on **iGive** some years ago. It adds just a bit to our church's 'cause' anytime people shop online. It's not a huge fundraiser, but sometimes those little bits can add up.

Dear Supporter,

We're donating \$3 for each new person supporting First Presbyterian Church, Stirling through iGive. No purchase necessary. On top of the **free \$3**, your group earns more every time supporters shop at over 1,900 great stores. An average of 3% is donated via iGive - that adds up quickly.

So simple - just [click here](#). When you join by 9/16/18, and after you've tried the free **iGive Button** for 90 days, we'll **automatically credit** First Presbyterian Church, Stirling with that \$3 donation.

Here's another easy way to spread the word - just post this link:
<https://iGive.com/welcome/warmwelcome.cfm?c=60807> on Facebook, your site, or wherever possible donors hang out.

Every travel purchase can help; Walmart, QVC, and Staples, too. Supporters will be donating to First Presbyterian Church, Stirling easily because the **Button** means you'll never forget.

P.S. We hope that everybody uses our great IOS and Android apps to help First Presbyterian Church, Stirling, but this \$3 new member promotion is limited to people who try the [iGive Button](#).

**Church Archives****- Jan Somers**

Please continue to forward news clippings, bulletins, programs, pictures, or other memorabilia regarding any member of our church family so our archives can be kept up-to-date. **Please be sure items are dated and, if possible, the names of church members and/or families are highlighted.** 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 & Facebook Page**

To keep up-to-date with what's happening at our Church, make it a point to check in regularly on the Church website, www.fpcstirling.org, and Facebook page, <https://www.facebook.com/fpcStirling/>. They are good sources for church news, the Church calendar, Stirling Stuff, upcoming events/programs, Pastor's sermons, Scripture readings, Church history, and more.

These Days

"To nurture the daily practice of prayer and the reading of Scripture, there is solid help in the pages of 'These Days.' The devotions wrestle faithfully with the doubts, joys, and challenges of the Christian life."



Our Church has a subscription for copies of this devotional booklet; they are available in the Church narthex.

Free Gentle Yoga Class – Meyersville Presbyterian Church – Resumes September 11th

Roseann McGraw, a certified yoga teacher, offers 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.



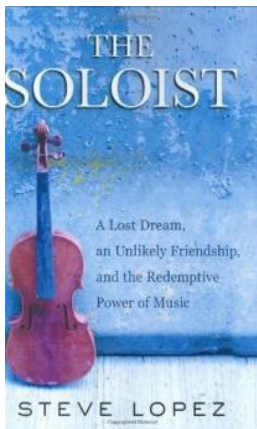
You will not be sitting or lying on the floor, so just bring yourself in comfortable clothes, and invite friends along. The classes are appropriate for all, the flexible as well as the tight. Injuries will be accommodated. Yoga is relaxing, as well as good for general health; so, come give it a try.

Call or email Roseanne with questions or concerns: 908-508-1435, rosanne.mcgraw@gmail.com.

Meyersville Presbyterian Church Book Club**- Jan Somers**

The Book Club is currently reading "Loving Frank," a novel by Nancy Horan. They will meet in the parlor at Meyersville on Tuesday, September 11th, 7:30 p.m. to discuss the book.

The next book is a non-fiction selection, The Soloist: A Lost Dream, an Unlikely Friendship, and the Redemptive Power of Music, by Steve Lopez. Copies will be distributed on the 11th. Everyone is welcome to join the group.



The unlikely friendship between Steve Lopez, a Los Angeles Times columnist, and Nathaniel Ayers, a homeless musician, has inspired newspaper columns, a book, and a movie.

When Lopez met him, Ayers was a homeless musician on Skid Row in Los Angeles. Lopez learned Ayers had been a promising violinist, and that he had left the prestigious music program at the Juilliard School because of his struggle with mental illness.

Lopez chronicled Ayers' struggle in several columns in the Los Angeles Times. These columns inspired readers to send instruments to Ayers through Lopez. The friendship that Lopez formed with Ayers eventually helped the musician get off the street, settle into an apartment, and find treatment for his schizophrenia.

Lopez says his friendship with Ayers has "always been a two-way street, it's not just me doing for him." The writer explains that the musician re-ignited his passion for journalism and gave him a sense of well-being: "You know, there's this humility, there's this good feeling I have from giving something," Lopez says.

Member-Abilia**Welcome Baby**

Congratulations to Brooke and David Parziale on the birth of their daughter, Eleanor Gates Parziale, on Friday, July 13th. Janet and Tom Parziale are currently in Des Moines, Iowa, meeting their new granddaughter who, Tom tells me, is a lucky Friday the thirteenth baby! Our best wishes to the whole family.

**Congratulations Newlyweds**

Congratulations to Karina and Greg Andrus who were married on Saturday, August 18th, in Evanston, Illinois. Pictured here with the newlyweds are the groom's parents, Rosemary and Mitchell Andrus, former members of our congregation. Our best wishes to the happy couple as they begin their life together.

Thank You

The following note was received from Bill Combs:

*Dear Folks,
Many thanks for all your thoughts and prayers
as we remember and celebrate Lynne.
Bill*

Bill's note is posted on the bulletin board outside of Pollard Hall. Take a minute to read the quote from Maya Angelou on the front of the note card. It is a wonderful description of how Lynne lived her life.

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.

Somerset Patriots Baseball Game**- Jan Somers**

On Saturday evening, August 18th, a group of 15 from FPC-Stirling attended a Somerset Patriots baseball game in Bridgewater, thanks to the organizing efforts of Tom Parziale. The game was scheduled to start at 7:05 p.m. But, apparently when Tom picked up the tickets, he forgot to order nice weather:

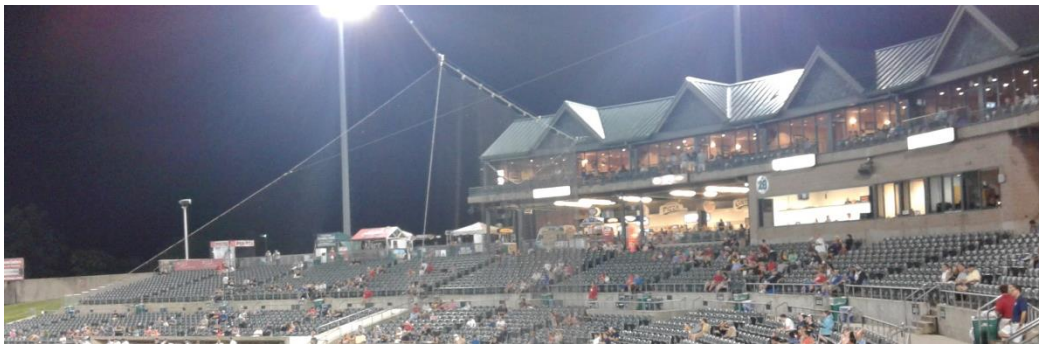
This is how the field looked at 7:05 p.m.



After a 90-minute rain delay, we sat in our wet seats, and the game finally started. Our group: Janet & Tom Parziale; Barbara & Tom Peters; Lore Pateman; Debra Sprague; Sue & Ed Gerecht; Judy, Bill, & Cheyenne Carbone; Jan Somers and her grandchildren, Aidan, Paige, & Kylin



Then, the rain came again . . .



And again, and again . . .



And, only the strong survived!



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 food 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 Yvonne Fletcher.

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 September 20th. 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?

