



Stirling Stuff

Volume 66, No. 7

Summer 2022

Dear Church Family,

"Don't think of this as getting older, but as attaining mythic stature."

Birthday card message



I have a significant birthday coming up this summer and, though I am fairly sure it will not bring me "mythic stature," I am trying to think of it as an opportunity to think about some of the larger, more important aspects of this life that God has given us all.

I read a story that a woman told about her mother, a late middle-aged matriarch who made an announcement to her children regarding her upcoming birthday. She said, "This is it! No more birthdays after this. I'm not celebrating anymore; I don't want to hear about birthdays anymore. I don't want you counting. I don't want to keep track. Is that understood?"

Her children were not too pleased about this, but, as this was what their mother wanted, they consented. The day of Mother's birthday came. The doorbell rang; she answered it, and there was a florist's delivery man holding a beautiful bouquet of flowers. The bouquet was gorgeous, but the delivery man was long-faced and mournful. She showed him into the living room where he placed the flowers on the mantle. Then he turned in an unusually pastoral manner, patted her on the shoulder, and said, "I am thinking of you today." Sadly nodding his head, he walked out. She wondered what that was all about. She was puzzled until she read the card on the bouquet. It was from her children, and it read, "Mom, wishing you a great day on this, your last birthday."

I may want to stop counting birthdays, but it is not time to stop counting blessings, and perhaps even begin to look around with more conscious awareness of the treasure that is human life. We human beings hold a special place in God's creation. And God continually reaches out to remind us of our unique position in the universe and our unique responsibility for caring for the earth and its marvels. It is to us that God sends prophets to speak God's Word. And it is to us that God has given a Savior. It is to us that God has given the ability to love –imperfectly to be sure – but love that enlivens and gives meaning to our relationships with family, friends, community.

On second thought, I think I will continue to count birthdays. All that counting will remind me to count my blessings as well.

Yours in Christ,
Barbara



The First Presbyterian Church of Stirling
Feeding Those Who Hunger

Summer Worship Schedule – 9:30 a.m.**- Rev. Aspinall**

The Meyersville Presbyterian Church and the First Presbyterian Church of Stirling will continue joint indoor worship services for the summer. We will wear face masks, social distance, and sign-in for purposes of contact tracing, if needed. Our online services will also continue each week and are accessible through a link delivered by email and on the church website, www.fpcstirling.org. The service can be viewed at any time. DVDs of the service are also available and may be requested through Janet Parziale.



Following is the schedule for summer services:

All Sundays in July will be at Stirling at 9:30 a.m.

All Sundays in August will be at Meyersville at 9:30 a.m.

If you need a ride to either church, please feel free to call upon a Deacon or fellow church member; we are happy to help. Reminder--at Meyersville, there is an elevator to use instead of walking up the front steps to the sanctuary.

Notices of these dates will be posted on the church doors so if there is confusion, there will be time to dash to the other church and just be a few minutes late. Latecomers are always welcome!

Twelve Baskets Food Pantry Has Moved to Our Church!

Our local Food Pantry, **Twelves Baskets**, currently housed at All Saints' Church in Millington, **will be temporarily moving to our church for the months of July, August, and September.** Jointly sponsored by our church, All Saints', Meyersville, and LHT Cert, the food pantry has been serving guests two Saturday mornings per month. Shelf stable food as well as meat, dairy products, eggs, and fresh produce are available for food insecure families in our area.



Some of the food will be stored at our church, and guests will come there on scheduled Saturday mornings. Volunteer help will be needed to set up tables and put out the food in Pollard Hall. Help is also needed for picking up food from the distribution center in Hillside. There is plenty to do and the volunteer opportunities are well organized.

Please contact Lynn Blakeslee or Barbara Aspinall if you would like to contribute an hour or two of your time.

Stewardship**Weekly Contributions**

Whether you worship in person or on-line, please try to keep your pledges current. Financial commitments still need to be met. Expenses for maintaining the buildings and grounds, paying our staff, or keeping up with our mission support are ongoing. You can send your weekly offering/pledge (in your offering envelope) to the church office or directly to Elsie Turqman.



Deacons' Corner**- Janet Parziale****Mission of the Month - July and August**

For July and August, the Deacons have selected **Twelve Baskets Food Pantry** as the **Mission of the Month**. As noted on page 2, Twelve Baskets Food Pantry has moved to our church for the months of July, August, and September. The program has been a great success; within the first quarter of 2022, they have distributed about 5,612 pounds of food.



Feel free to use the special envelopes available in the church pews or send your gift directly to the church or Elsie Turqman. Please note "**Mission of the Month**," and remember to include your name and/or your envelope number if you would like your donation to be recorded. The dollars collected will allow the folks at Twelve Baskets to purchase some much needed items. Thank you for being a part of our mission to end local hunger!

Looking Ahead - Mission of the Month - September and October

The Deacons are once again working with Church World Service (CWS) and their "**Blanket Month Appeal**" for our **September and October Mission of the Month**. In the past few years, CWS has distributed thousands of woolen blankets throughout the world, and they are hoping to do the same this year. The blankets, which **cost \$10 each**, have been used in many ways – to help families who have been driven from their homes due to hurricanes, tornados, or other disasters; to keep the homeless warm; to carry personal belongings; to cover a window broken in a storm to keep the cold air out; and as a tent or ground covering to name just a few ways.

**Flowers to Beautify Our Sanctuary**

With summer now here, our gardens are full of beautiful blooms! Whether they are from flowering plants or bushes, would you consider sharing a bunch or two for a Sunday morning service **in July at FPC**? Are you the artistic one who enjoys arranging flowers from your garden into a vase to be placed on the chancel at church? Or do you have lots of flowers and would prefer that someone else do the arranging? The flowers can come from your garden, or you can pick from a beautiful selection at ShopRite in their flower department.



Deacon Kim Ridgway (908-458-0333) loves to make arrangements and could help you with that if you call her ahead. Kim (or another Deacon) will take care of arranging them into one or two vases. If you need greens to fill out your arrangement, there are beautiful ferns along the side of the church by the Memorial Garden walkway. If you are interested in sharing your flowers for a Sunday service, please call the office (908-647-1030) and give Paulette the information (your name and who the flowers are in honor/memory of) for the bulletin. Thank you very much in advance for helping beautify our sanctuary with wonders of spring and summer!

Know Someone Who Needs a Card?

We know what the power of prayer can do in helping give strength to all those involved. If you know of someone who is in need of our prayers, please let Janet Parziale know so that a card can be sent. Janet can be reached at janetparziale@comcast.net or 908-647-2212.



Fellowship Hour is Returning in July!

Prior to the Covid pandemic, Fellowship Hour was always a special part of our Sunday mornings. It was a chance to catch-up with our friends and folks we don't see during the week. Since the pandemic, we have only had a few special ones (Heritage Sunday, the Memorial Garden Rededication and, recently, our farewell to Izzy and Evelyn).



We are bringing back these wonderful gatherings on the front lawn following worship services in July at FPC. If you would like to provide some goodies to share, there is always a Deacon who would be glad to help you set up the table and show you where cups, plates, and napkins are stored. We plan to keep it simple and will not be serving hot drinks. Juice/Lemonade/Iced Tea and water are perfect for a warm summer morning. The Deacons plan to have powdered lemonade or iced tea available and can help you prepare a pitcher full.



Please consider helping with this important part of our church life by volunteering to host one yourself or with a partner or simply donating money to be used by the Deacons 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." Again, if you need help setting up, please feel free to ask any Deacon or other member of the congregation. Our Fellowship Hours are fun to do and are thoroughly appreciated by everyone.

Please **sign up in Pollard Hall or call Deacon Marie Darby (908-647-0714) and let her know which Sunday you would like to host.**

ShopRite Gift Cards

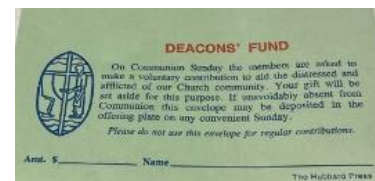


For the past several years, the church has been selling ShopRite gift cards (known as our *Voucher Program*). For every \$100 sold, the church earns \$5; that is, we get 5% of all sales. Over the course of a year, at times that has translated to more than a \$1,000 earned.

The gift cards come in \$20, \$50, and \$100 denominations. They never expire; you can continue to use them until the balance is used up. To purchase these gift cards for yourself or as a gift, **please contact Yvonne Fletcher. She will be more than happy to help you out with your purchase.** Thank you in advance for helping in this special way.

Deacons' Fund

The Deacons' Fund is supported by the contributions and offerings so generously given by you in the **little green envelopes found in the church pews**. In recent years, this fund has been used to purchase the name plaques on the memorial boards in Pollard Hall, candles and oil for the sanctuary, stamps for cards sent to the congregation, provisions for the Bridges Lunch program, special items like the cable for the remote TV used in Pollard Hall, and support for some of the mission projects of the Deacons. Every dollar is greatly appreciated and put to good use.



You may send your donation directly to Elsie Turqman or use the little green envelopes in the pew on Sunday morning. Please note "Deacons' Fund" in the memo section of your check. Thank you very much!

Worship Committee**- Janet Parziale****Sacrament of Holy Communion and Non-Perishable Food Collection**

We will celebrate the Lord's Super in **Stirling on July 3rd**. Please remember **to bring an item or monetary donation for the "Twelve Baskets Food Pantry," housed at our church for July, August, September.** Our church has been working along with Meyersville and All Saints' churches and Long Hill Twp. CERT to make this program available to those local residents who need assistance. For more information, please speak with Lynn Blakeslee or Rev. Aspinall.



If you or someone you know is in need of food or other non-grocery items, please call the food bank office at 908-647-0067 (Ext. 4) and leave a confidential message.



Food items: baby food, applesauce, shelf-stable milk, cold cereal, crackers, chips, coffee, dried herbs and spices, canola oil, olive oil

Non-food items: toiletries, diapers, baby wipes, paper towels, toilet paper, household cleaners

There is a more complete list of needed items on the table in the narthex.

Memorial Service for Beth VanBrunt and Special Fellowship Hour

Our morning worship in Stirling on **Sunday, July 31st**, will include a Memorial Service for Beth VanBrunt. Beth passed away on May 21st at the Center for Hope Hospice Care in Scotch Plains. We always enjoyed seeing her smiling face on Sunday mornings. Beth's family and friends will be attending worship with us that morning and hosting a special Fellowship Hour following the service.



Click this link to read the wonderful obituary written about Beth, a lover of mathematics, a wonderful math teacher, awesome tutor, and friend. [Beth's Story](#)

Liturgists Needed for Worship Services

We need Liturgists each week to do readings for both the in-person and on-line worship services. **For the month of JULY, we will be worshipping in Stirling; recordings will be done in Meyersville; for the month of AUGUST, we will be worshipping in Meyersville; recordings will be done in Stirling.** Recordings are typically on Thursday early evenings (other arrangements can be made, if needed).

To sign up, please contact Jan Somers. If Jan contacts you about reading, **please let her know as soon as possible if/when you will be available.** Rev. Aspinall will send you a copy of your readings and confirm the location and time for the on-line recording. **Thank you!**

Summer Lectionary Readings**July 3 – 4th Sunday after Pentecost**

Isaiah 66:10-14; Psalm 66:1-9; Galatians 6: (1-6) 7-16; Luke 10:1-11, 16-20

July 10 – 5th Sunday after Pentecost

Deuteronomy 30:9-14; Psalm 25:1-10; Colossians 1:1-14; Luke 10:25-37

July 17 – 6th Sunday after Pentecost

Genesis 18:1-10a; Psalm 15; Colossians 1:15-28; Luke 10:38-42

July 24 – 7th Sunday after Pentecost

Genesis 18:20-32; Psalm 138; Colossians 2:6-15 (16-19); Luke 11:1-13

July 31 – 8th Sunday after Pentecost

Ecclesiastes 1:2, 12-14; 2:18-23; Psalm 49:1-12; Colossians 3:1-11; Luke 12:13-21

August 7 – 9th Sunday after Pentecost

Genesis 15:1-6; Psalm 33:12-22; Hebrews 11:1-3, 8-16; Luke 12:32-40

August 14 – 10th Sunday after Pentecost

Jeremiah 23:23-29; Psalm 82; Hebrews 11:29-12:2; Luke 12:49-56

August 21 – 11th Sunday after Pentecost

Isaiah 58:9b-14; Psalm 103:1-8; Hebrews 12:18-29; Luke 13:10-17

August 28 – 12th Sunday after Pentecost

Proverbs 25:6-7; Psalm 112; Hebrews 13:1-8, 15-16; Luke 14:1, 7-14

Mission Programs**Bridges Outreach Lunch Program**

- Janet Parziale

We continue to provide lunch bags to the Bridges Outreach organization for distribution to the homeless in Newark, Irvington, and NYC. Currently, one person is making sandwiches and one person is filling the brown bags. The children from the Montessori School often decorate the bags and write messages to the recipients. The sandwiches, drinks, and non-perishable goodies are delivered to Summit monthly.



We are always in need of small bottles of water or cartons of juice; snacks of cookies, nuts, Goldfish, pretzels; and small fruit cups, applesauce, pudding, etc. Cash donations are also appreciated to help with the purchase of bread and lunch meat. You can drop items off in Pollard Hall (call the office to confirm that someone is there) or send monetary donations to Elsie Turqman.

Pop-Top Can Tabs

- Jan Somers



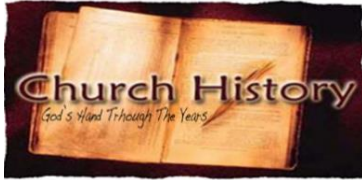
Please continue to save pop-top can tabs, any size. **The can tabs are sold by weight to recycling centers, and the proceeds are donated to Ronald McDonald House Charities**—a nonprofit family and children's charity dedicated to supporting families with sick children in their time of need. You can give them to me any Sunday morning, or I can pick them up from you. Thank you for supporting of this program!

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/?ref=aymt_homepage_panel. They are good sources for church news, Stirling Stuff, Pastor's sermons, Scripture readings, Church history, and more.

Church Archives

- Jan Somers



Please continue to save 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.** Items can be mailed to the Church (labeled "Archives"), or you can save them until you are in the building and put them in the "Archives" mailbox outside the church offices. Thank you.

Memorial Day Ceremony

On Monday, May 30th, Rev. Aspinall offered the Invocation in front of Central School in Stirling at the conclusion of the Long Hill Township Memorial Day Parade.



Meyersville Presbyterian Church

Rummage Sale Returns!! August 6

Coming this summer to Meyersville Church is the return of their rummage sale and the collection has begun. Household, kitchen, decorative items, and books are welcome (no clothes, upholstered furniture, large sports equipment, or computer printers).

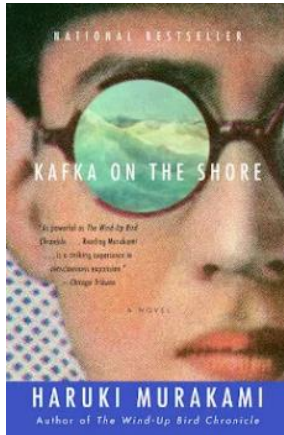


You can start bringing your treasures to the church. Office hours are Tuesdays from 9:30 am to 3:00 pm, Thursdays, from 9:30 am to 3:00 pm and Fridays, from noon to 3:00 pm. Please do not leave rummage outside or in the hall. Larger items need to be okayed.

Contact Kelly Roshto with questions. Please let your neighbors and friends know that we have begun collecting. You might even offer to pick their stuff up and bring to the church! We also need volunteers to help on the day of the sale. Please contact Kelly (908 626-0511) or kellyroshto@hotmail.com.

Meyersville Book Club

The Book Club's current selection is, ***"Kafka on the Shore,"*** a novel by Haraki Murakami. The group will **meet via Zoom on Wednesday, August 3rd, 7:30 p.m.** to discuss the book. Everyone is welcome to join the group; please contact Rev. Aspinall so she can send you the Zoom link. The book is available at local libraries.



Comprising two distinct but interrelated plots, the narrative runs back and forth between both plots, in alternating chapters:

The odd-numbered chapters tell the 15-year-old Kafka's story as he runs away from his father's house to escape an Oedipal curse and to embark upon a quest to find his mother and sister. After a series of adventures, he finds shelter in a quiet, private library in Takamatsu, run by the distant and aloof Miss Saeki and the intelligent and more welcoming Oshima. There he spends his days reading the unabridged Richard Francis Burton translation of "One Thousand and One Nights" and the collected works of Natsume Sōseki until the police begin inquiring after him in connection with the murder of his father that he does not know he has committed. Oshima brings him to the forests of Kōchi Prefecture, where Kafka is ultimately healed.

The even-numbered chapters tell Nakata's story. They start with military reports of a strange incident in Yamanashi Prefecture where multiple children, including Nakata, collapse in the woods - Nakata, after the incident, is the only one of the children who came out of the incident without any memory and unable to read and write. The incident is initially blamed on poisonous gas, but it is later revealed that it was the result of a lustful teacher beating Nakata. Later in the book, it is shown that due to his uncanny abilities, Nakata has found part-time work in his old age as a finder of lost cats. Having finally located and returned one particular cat to its owners, Nakata finds that the circumstances of the case have put him on a path which, unfolding one step at a time before him, takes the illiterate man far away from his familiar and comforting home territory. Nakata kills a man named Johnnie Walker, a cat murderer. He takes a gigantic leap of faith in going on the road for the first time in his life, unable even to read a map and without knowing where he will eventually end up. He befriends a truck driver named Hoshino, who takes him on as a passenger in his truck and soon becomes very attached to the old man. He heads for Takamatsu, an unknown force driving him there.

Ongoing Mission Programs:

Bridges Outreach Lunch Program
 Family Promise of Morris County
 Twelve Baskets Food Pantry

Please e-mail submissions for the
 September 2022 issue of Stirling Stuff to:
jsomers17@hotmail.com
 by **August 25th**. Thank you!

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 from 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

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!

