

HISTORICAL QUESTIONS WITH ANSWERS (2023)

1. Are you aware that at one time we had dogs in downstairs Pollard Hall?
In 1975 the 4 H Nifty Heelers started dog training for seeing eye dogs. Two of our members ran the program. Marge and Harold Rife.
2. What special type of wedding did we have in 1951?
The children of the Sunday School put on a Tom Thumb wedding.
3. Did we ever have a shipwreck in Pollard Hall?
Yes, In 1981 the Sr. Highs sponsored a dinner with that theme and asked guests to dress accordingly.
4. In which Stirling store did our church hold services for a year?
Dorsi's
5. Did you know the women of the church wrote a song at retreat?
In 1994
6. How many retreats did the women have at Johnsonburg?
The Ladies attended yearly retreats between 1982-1995.
7. Who turned over the 1st, shovel of ground to build the addition to Pollard Hall?
Albert Richter, longest time member. He was honored in 1977. He served as elder for 45 yrs and half time as treasurer.
8. Who was our first woman elder?
Carolyn Karthaeuser in 1958.
9. Who was the longest serving Pastor of First Presbyterian Church of Stirling?
Rev. Dr. Thomas T. Peters
10. Did we ever celebrate with a Seder supper on Maundy Thursday?
Yes, the first one was in 1976.
11. Who made our kneeling bench and has maintained our church sign over the years?
Dale Monetti
12. Did you know that through our Deacon's efforts, the Township Sr. Citizens group got its start?
Yes, In 1972.
13. Also did you know a committee of our church members started the project for "Fair Housing for Senior Citizens".
It is now Lounsberry Meadows.
14. What are church cherubs?
A choir of children, we had 10-12 at one time, red bows and all. The choir sang in the 60's and 70's.
15. Did we ever have a couples' club?
Yes, we met once a month, had dinner and had a social time. This was during the 50s-60s.
16. The Men's Group used to do annual Spaghetti Dinners in Pollard Hall. In 1999, who was the manager of the men for this occasion?
John Darby – check the March 1999 archives for some pictures.
17. When the Long Hill Senior Center was constructed, there were many volunteers as they positioned the A-frames. Which minister was part of the volunteers?
Rev. Tom Peters (when)
18. Did you know beginning in 2008, the nursery school that runs in the lower level of the church complex was renamed to be The Long Hill Montessori School. What was the original name of the school?
Young World Montessori School

19. Who was the church secretary before Paulette Irlander?
B.J. Cardinali
20. Who was the church treasurer after Carolyn Karthausler? This gentleman held this position for nine years!
Warren Hoffman (1995 - 2004)
21. What annual event was held on the church grounds during mid-December that usually involved hot cider and hot cocoa afterwards?
Christmas Caroling on the front lawn of the church. (pics when)
22. Who is currently (2023) the longest attending member at this time?
Joyce Koenig – check out our member enrollment book. She joined FPCS on October 5, 1956.
23. Did we ever work with the Morristown Habitat for Humanity to build a house? What year – 2000, 2002, 2004?
Yes, in March 2000, a group of members participated in building a house in Chester, NJ.
24. Who were the two members of the church who took a trans-American bike trip across the country in 1998? They also biked from Millington to Cape May and back in the summer of 1983. Check the archives for the answer.
Lynn and Bill Combs
25. Who wrote “Stirling on the Hill” for our church and when is it usually played? Hint: Check the archives for 1998.
Richard Streeton wrote the music for us and played it for us on Heritage Sunday, November 30, 1998.
26. Did we ever have a youth car wash in the church parking lot? When was the last one held?
Yes, 2001 – check the pictures.
27. Did the youth of our church ever go rafting on the Delaware River in the Poconos? If so, who went? Hint: check the archives for 2001.
Yes, they went in 2001. Some of those who went were Rev. Peters, Janice Monetti (both adult leaders), Brian Monetti, Greg Andrus, Trevor Peters, Chrissie Parziale, Dave Parziale, and Dani Clark
28. Who was the speech therapist and also a church member who, along with her partner (Carol Gray), created an instructional video “Oral Aerobics” to help actor Kirk Douglas after he had a stroke in 1996? Check for the article in the 1999 archive book.
Jackie Dickson
29. In 1999 who was the church member who was the treasurer of the Long Hill Historical Society?
Rene Phelan
30. Which church members created the beautiful banners that hang in the sanctuary of our church? Hint: check the 2001 archive book.
Marge Krummel primarily sewed the banners. Later, Ellen Eastty assisted Marge.
31. Did you know that a member of our church had a renowned quilt collection on display at the church on March 20, 1999? Who was this member?
Jack Walsh
32. What special dedication was held on June 6, 1999, during a worship service at church?
Dedication of our handbells in memory of June Travnicek, Barbara Cardinali’s mom.
33. Did you know that our Travnicek Memorial Bell Ringers had several concerts together with another church? Name the other church from the 2012 archive book.
Wilson Memorial – Rev. Barbara Peters’ church
34. At the turn of the century, in the year 2000, what was another special dedication that was held at our church?
Dedication of our church’s Memorial Garden
35. How did members of the church come dressed to the service on June 14, 1998? What was the special occasion?
In celebration of our 125th anniversary of the church, folks came dressed in outfits typical of the 1800’s time period.

36. Did you know that in June 2002, Rev. Peters blessed a communion cloth with Joan Dennick which was later presented to our sister church in Nairobi, Kenya? What was the name of that church?
Kamae Church in Nairobi, Kenya
37. Did you know Rev. Peters participated annually in the Remembrance Service at the Shrine of St. Joseph each year on September 11th?
Yes, check the pictures from one early event in 2002.
38. Did you know that one Archive Sunday was celebrated along with Mother's Day? The Men's group had a special coffee hour for the moms and the Worship Committee created the display of the Archives for all to view. Which year was this done – 2002, 2003, or 2004?
The event happened on Mother's Day, May 11, 2003.
39. Did you know in the year 2003, a long-time member of our church was honored for his service in the Korean War? Who was this member?
George Lare, husband of Bert Lare of Warren.
40. Who were the two church members who grew up in Chatham, were classmates in kindergarten, and later married?
Lynn and Bill Combs
41. Did you know our church housed an office of RSVP (Retired Senior Volunteer Program) for many years? Who was the church member who served 30 years with RSVP and was recognized in December 2003 for her work.
Carolyn Karthausser
42. Did you know that the women of the church held many annual cookie exchanges during the Christmas season? Find a picture in December 2003.
A beautiful picture showing many of the ladies involved with this annual event.
43. Did you know that for many years our church annually held a Spring Cleanup Day to spruce up the church property. These days were organized by the building and grounds group. Who helped at the April 25, 2004 cleanup day? *There were many helpers that day: Tom Peters, Tom, Dave, and Janet Parziale, Brian and Dale Monetti, Susan and Laura Brodziak, Amanda, Matt, and Ed Gerecht, Toni, Sharon, and Bill Hopcraft, Lore Pateman, Lynn, Garrett, and Ian Blakeslee, Bob Eastty, Debra Sprague, Shaylyn and Megan Gallagan, Barbara Griswold, Rene Phelan, Dani Clark, George Fillapatos, and Jessica Wilfong.*
44. Which member of our church later became a member of Brothers of the Beloved Disciple in SanAntonio, Texas, was ordained on May 29, 2004 and then had his first homecoming mass at St. Vincent de Paul church on July 16 of that year?
Father Will Combs, son of Lynn and Bill Combs
45. Did you know that after 94 years, the Long Hill Women's Club had to disband because of an aging population and dwindling membership. When in 2004 did their last gathering occur?
November 9, 2004 at the church
46. Did you know for many, many years, our church was known for its Christmas Pageants held during the Christmas season. Check out pictures from those held in 2005 and 2012.
See pictures near the end of each year
47. Did you know that Rev. Peters spent some time in Kenya visiting the Kamae Church and other places of interest? What month did he go to Kenya in 2006?
February 2006
48. Did you know that we held a special Mardi Gras celebration at FPCS on February 26, 2006? Look in the archives and check out the fun masks everyone made.
Check out the fun pics of those who attended.
49. Rev. Peters was known for the work he did to encourage local churches, synagogues, and mosques to get together for interfaith services. Did you know he participated in a Community of Faith service at St. Vincent de Paul church for Morris, Union, and Somerset counties in October 2006? Check out the pictures and news articles in the archive book for 2006.
See the associated articles and pictures in the archive binders.

50. Did you know members of our church got together in 2006 to hold a fun Halloween Party at FPCS? Check the archive books for super pictures of the costumes. Who came dressed as Rev. Tom and who came dressed as William Wallace from Braveheart?
Tom Parziale came dressed as Rev. Tom (and became known as "the other Rev. Tom") and Rev. Peters came dressed as William Wallace. The picture shows Rev. Peters wearing his own kilt!
51. Check out the pictures and statements of Faith from the big confirmation class of May 2007. How many students were involved and who were they?
Eight students were involved. They were Steven Pateman, Jonathan Andrus, Greg DeMatteo, Lisa Monetti, Jessica Wilfong, Shaylyn Gallagan, Alex Scott, and Megan Gallagan
52. MPC and FPCS were known to challenge each other each year for a friendly game of what sport? Check out the pics from 2007 and 2011 for pictures of this fun event.
Softball game at the Meyersville field (later at the Central School field). Whether at Meyersville or Stirling, there was always a time for fellowship while sharing dinner together.
53. Did you know the members of our church often volunteered at the Hillside Community Food Bank? See pictures from two such occasions from January and August 2008.
Yes, Tom Parziale and Kai Ihringer handled organizing the events held at the food bank.
54. Which church member earned his pilot's license on June 26, 2007?
Jonathan Andrus, son of Rosie and Mitch Andrus
55. Which church member won a prize worth \$3500 from the Millington Savings Bank during their 100th anniversary celebration as described in the Echoes Sentinel article of July 28th, 2011?
According to the article, Joyce Koenig used the money to travel to Paris, France – her dream come true trip!
56. Did you know that several members of our church got together on many occasions to attend a baseball game at the local Patriots stadium in Bridgewater, NJ? Check out the pictures and note some of the attendees at the games from August 2011 and August 2012. *From the pictures in the archives the following folks were in attendance – Tom and Barbara Peters, Tom and Janet Parziale, Debra Sprague, Shaylyn, Megan, and Tierney Gallagan, Lore and Rich Pateman, Elen Fillapatos, Jan Somers and her grandchildren, Ellen and Bob Easty, and Madeline Hahl.*
57. Did you know one of our young members started a local band, "Root Glen," and played in eateries around town in May 2011? Who was this young member of our church?
Ross Griswold, son of Barbara and Larry Griswold
58. Did you know that our church along with Meyersville Presbyterian and Trinity United held many joint soup suppers? What was the theme from the February 2012 series.
Yes, the theme was "Search for Answers to Big Questions."
59. What year is on the cornerstone of the church?
1872
60. Did you know the church building has been declared a historic site? Check the plaque hanging on the outside the building by the front doors to the sanctuary.
Yes – there is a nice plaque celebrating the building as a historical site.
61. How is the front of the church different from the original structure? Can you find a picture showing the difference?
The front of the church changed when the roof over the entrance with its prominent gingerbread trim was removed.
62. What shape does the interior of the sanctuary make? Hint: Stand by the vestibule and look inside. Remember to include the two wings right and left of the chancel.
A Cross!
63. Did you know the original church sanctuary had no center aisle as it does today? Why?
A former member of the church was getting married and wanted a center aisle, so they paid to have the pews cut in half and pushed to either side.

64. How many ministers do you remember serving at First Presbyterian Church of Stirling, including Rev. Stefanie Muntzel, our current pastor. Name them. (Hint: check out the third edition of “A History of The First Presbyterian Church Stirling, New Jersey.”)
Going backwards: Rev. Stefanie Muntzel, Rev. Dr Thomas T. Peters, Rev. Murray Blackadar, Rev. James Mackellar, Rev. James Thompson, and many, many more!
65. Who wrote the first edition of our pamphlet, “A History of The First Presbyterian Church Stirling, New Jersey?” The second edition? The third edition?
First edition: Fletcher Ingalls (1964) Second edition: Irma and Robert Mikulyak (1973) and Third edition: Worship Committee (1999)
66. Who was the first pastor of our church, First Presbyterian Church of Stirling?
Rev. Henry M. Grant
67. Did you know that at one time there were two services here at Stirling—one at 9:30 am and the other at 11:00 am and two Sunday School sessions as well? When did this occur?
1960 marked the beginning of holding two complete services, including Sunday School sessions for each.
68. What was the reason behind the 1963 addition in the rear of the sanctuary at a cost of \$60,000?
The Sunday School had grown so much, they needed to add on new classroom space.
69. The Pollard Hall addition (first floor and basement) was added in 1947-48. Who provided the majority of the funds and in whose memory was it dedicated?
George Pollard in memory of his sister, Grace Pollard, who was an active worker in the Stirling Church for many years.
70. What was the Y.M.C.A. building that sat on the part of the parking lot nearest to the church.
The Y.M.C.A. building was originally the coach barn, or carriage house, for the old hotel that used to stand about where the Karthaeusers’ house is now (behind the manse).