



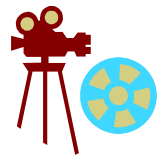
Stirling Stuff

Volume 55, No. 3

March 2011

Pastor's Letter

Most people enjoy going to the movies at some point in their lives. In fact, if you ask just about anybody what their favorite movie is, they can probably name one or several. There is something about watching others live their lives in the past, present, or future that draws us in and that we can relate to—even if it's only acted out. The truth is that movies allow us to step outside ourselves and look at how we live life, both as individuals and as a society. In this way, they help us see ourselves, warts and all, in a way that can slip through our personal filters of how we feel about ourselves.



Because of this, movies are invaluable in helping us face truths about ourselves. This is true in terms of spiritual issues as well. In 2003 and 2004, I did a Lenten and Advent series of sermons based on movies, and they were well received. On four Sundays during Lent this year, I will once again use movies to lift up Lenten themes. The schedule of movies is as follows:

March 20 th	<i>My House in Umbria</i>	Dealing with emptiness in our lives
March 27 th	<i>Shadowlands</i>	Dealing with grief and loss
April 3 rd	<i>Restoration</i>	Transforming our lives
April 10 th	<i>Gran Torino</i>	How people can work with God to create resurrections

It is my hope that you can watch these movies before the Sunday that they are used in the sermon. To that end, I am willing to work with someone who can help me show the movies on Friday evenings at the church. If you can do this, please contact me.

I pray that this series will help us to let the season of Lent slip through our personal filters and touch us in our deep places. This is, after all, what the season of Lent is all about—being touched and transformed in deep places so that the good news of the resurrection becomes truly good news for us, rather than a day of eggs and new clothes.

I hope you will join us on this Lenten pilgrimage through the camera lens. Let me know if you can help with the Friday movie viewings.

See you in church!

Tom

Worship Services and Scripture Passages for March

March 6, 2011

- *Transfiguration Sunday*
- *Sacrament of Holy Communion*
Exodus 24:12-18; Psalm 2;
2 Peter 1:16-21; Matthew 17:1-9
Waiting for the Day to Dawn

March 9, 2011

- *Ash Wednesday*
- *Sacrament of Holy Communion*
Joel 2:1-2, 12-17; Psalm 51:1-17;
2 Corinthians 5:20b-6:10; Matthew 6:1-6, 16-21
Getting to the Heart of the Matter
7:30 p.m.



March 13, 2011

- *First Sunday in Lent*
Genesis 2:15-17, 3:1-7; Psalm 32;
Romans 5:12-19; Matthew 4:1-11
Rev. Barbara Peters preaching

*Worship begins at 10:00 a.m. on
Sunday mornings, followed by
coffee hour fellowship 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.*

March 20, 2011

- *Second Sunday in Lent*
Genesis 12:1-4a; Psalm 121;
Romans 4:1-5, 13-17; John 3:1-17
Lent Through the Camera Lens Series
1. *When Life Goes Dry*
(Movie: *My Home in Umbria*)
7:30 p.m. Taizé Service

March 27, 2011

- *Third Sunday in Lent*
Exodus 17:1-7; Psalm 95;
Romans 5:1-11; John 4:5-42
Lent Through the Camera Lens Series
2. *Grief and Hope*
(Movie: *Shadowlands*)
Guest Preacher
*Rev. Peters will be in NYC with the
Confirmation Class.*

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.



2011 Confirmation Class

The Confirmation Class of Garrett Blakeslee, Chris DeMatteo, and George Filippatos has begun meeting with Rev. Peters following Sunday morning worship. During the first weekend in March, they will be on a retreat at Johnsonburg with other confirmation classes. Tom Parziale and Kai Ihringer will be chaperoning them. Also in March, they will be attending worship services at The Shrine of St. Joseph, Temple Har Shalom, and the Orthodox Cathedral of the Holy Protection in New York City. They will also visit St. John the Divine to see a large European-style cathedral. They will be interviewing members of the church to understand why church is important to people. Please keep them in your prayers as they continue their journey.

Travnicek Memorial Ringers

On **Sunday, March 6th**, the handbell choir will be hosting a special coffee hour for BJ Cardinali, who will be relocating to Hackettstown in a few weeks. BJ is the daughter of June Travnicek, in whose memory she donated the handbells to the church.

Christian Education Committee

- Lore Pateman

Grades 7 & Up – Update

- Tom Parziale

The Focus Scripture at this time has been the Gospel of Matthew. We have been discussing the rules in the early Christian church, tolerance, and diversity. Recently we discussed change and touched on John Mayer's "Waiting On the World to Change." We have tried to focus on the idea that no matter how small their action or how small they see themselves among the billions of people in the world, they can help change things for the better—one good action at a time. We are getting ready to discuss more in the area of diversity and differences. The youth in our program are insightful and genuinely interested in being at Sunday School. We are thankful for their thoughts and participation. There is a lot to be learned from them.

2010 Mile of Pennies Campaign



Our 2010 campaign was successful! We reached our annual goal of \$844.80, and now our 2011 drive is underway. Thank you to everyone who has supported this program!

Donations for Christian Education Classrooms

We have received a donation of a second tv, which will be used in the downstairs classroom for watching DVDs. We are asking for a donation of (gently used or new):

- Movable tv stand (on wheels) with a shelf for a DVD player
- DVD player

If you have one of these items to donate, please contact Lore Pateman, Debra Sprague, Tom Parziale, or Rev. Peters. Thank you!

Adult Education**- Debra Sprague****Lenten Movie-Themed Series**

Rev. Peters will once again be doing a Lenten sermon series based on movies which have been chosen to highlight certain Lenten themes. (See *Pastor's Letter*.) We need volunteers to help host and set-up the movie showings on Friday nights during Lent in "Pollard Park." Bring a comfy lawn chair to watch the movie. If you can help out, please contact Rev. Peters or Lore Pateman.

Lenten Sunday Soup Supper and Study Series

For many Christians, Lent provides an opportunity to look inward, to more deeply explore their faith. There is a chance to do just that this year—but you don't have to take the journey alone. Take advantage of this opportunity for your own introspection, along with fellowship and food, at our joint-church Lenten Sunday Soup Supper and Study Series.

Our topic deals with consumerism. The title, *Countering Pharaoh's Production-Consumption Society Today* reminds us that living in a consumer-driven society is nothing new. We'll look to the Bible for clues on how to be better Christians in this world. Our guide will be renowned Old Testament scholar, Dr. Walter Brueggemann, in this DVD series from Living the Questions.

Each week's soup supper will be hosted by one of the three churches, and discussions will be facilitated by various church leaders: Rev. Barbara Aspinall of Meyersville Presbyterian Church; Heather Harris-Galgoci, adult education coordinator at Trinity United Church; and, our own Rev. Tom Peters.

Please plan to join us on Sunday evenings during Lent for soup, fellowship, adult education, and discussion. Sessions begin at 5:00 p.m. and end by 7:00 p.m. at the sites listed here. Child care is provided.

March 13 th	<i>The Way Out</i> Rev. Aspinall will lead	Trinity United Church 118 King George Road, Warren 732-469-5044
March 20 th	<i>The Decalogue</i> Heather Harris-Galgoci will lead	First Presbyterian Church 908-647-1033
March 27 th	<i>Countering Caesar</i> Heather Harris-Galgoci will lead	Meyersville Presbyterian Church 223 Hickory Tavern Road, Gillette 908-647-0390
April 3 rd	<i>An Act of Imagination</i> Rev. Aspinall will lead	First Presbyterian Church
April 10 th	<i>On Not Doing God Any Favors</i> Rev. Tom Peters will lead	Meyersville Presbyterian Church

A sign-up sheet will be posted on the Fellowship Board in Pollard Hall. We ask that you sign up so we can plan for soup suppers and child care. (If you forget to sign up, or if your plans change, please join us anyway. We always have an extra bowl of soup!)

Hosting Help Needed

Our church is scheduled to host two soup suppers during this joint church Lenten series: March 20th and April 3rd. Each host church provides the room, soup supper (soup, bread and butter, beverages, dessert), and child care.

Elen Filippatos has volunteered to coordinate child care for both dates. If you would like to assist with child care, please see Elen.

Lore Pateman is coordinating our hosting responsibilities for March 20th. If you can coordinate the April 3rd session, please see Lore or Debra Sprague.

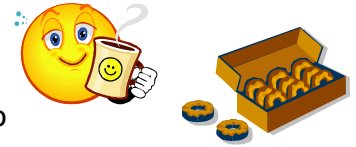
Please sign up in Pollard Hall to help set up the room (after coffee hour) on these two Sundays, and if you can provide soup, bread and butter, or dessert. Thank you!

Fourth Sunday Focus

- Tom Parziale

Everyone is invited to join us at our next "Fourth Sunday Focus" gathering on **March 27th**. *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.

We start around 8:45 a.m. and end by about 9:45 a.m. --- but come and join us whenever you can. We meet in Pollard Hall. If you have a topic you'd like to discuss, please contact Tom Parziale.



Upcoming Events from Newton Presbytery

Growing in Faith Together

This program will be held at the First Presbyterian Church of Sparta on **Sunday, March 20th**, from 1-4 p.m. The keynote speaker and workshop leader is Gradye Parsons, Stated Clerk of the General Assembly, Presbyterian Church (U.S.A.). This educational event includes workshops for officer training, Presbyterian women, youth, and church school.

You can hear Rev. Parsons discuss the topic on You Tube: <http://www.youtube.com/gradyeparsons>

Lunch will be provided to registered attendees. Child care will be provided upon request.

Presbyterian Women of Newton Presbytery 2011 Get Away with God! Approaching Holy Week

Dates: **Friday, April 8th through Sunday, April 10th**. Come for the whole experience or part.

Starts Friday with registration at 4 p.m. and dinner at 6 p.m.; ends Sunday at noon.

Location: Villa Pauline, 350 Bernardsville Road, Mendham (973-543-9058)

Leader: The Rev. Judy Kolwicz

Lent is a time of solemn remembrance and reflection. It is a time to share our faith and recall the Gospels' account of our Lord's last days. During Lent, we walk a road from light to darkness. The shadow of the cross is cast upon us. It is cast in a way that exposes all that we are in the light of Christ. **COME, EXPLORE!**

Bring: An item (relic) that represents your mother or grandmother's special way to celebrate Easter (recipe, table item), Bible, towels, soap, and personal items, and leave your worries home.

Cost: 2 nights/5 meals - \$155; 1 night/3 meals - \$105; Sat., 8 a.m. - 4 p.m./2 meals - \$70

There are 3 single rooms, 1 four-person/bath, 1 2-person/bath for those with special needs (first come).

Deadline for registration is March 25th.

Please see the flyer with registration forms on CE bulletin board in Pollard Hall.

Mission Committee**- Yvonne Fletcher****Bridges Outreach Lunch Program****- Jean Hoffman, Coordinator**

Our next commitment date for preparing 40 lunches is: **Friday, March 18th**, 9:30 a.m., in Pollard Hall. We welcome donations of bottled water, juice drinks, snacks, and fruit cups. You can drop them off in Pollard Hall on Sunday mornings. Upcoming dates: April 8, May 13, and June 10. Thank you to all who have supported this program through donations and by helping to prepare the lunches!

Worship Committee**- Janet Parziale****Taizé Service**

Our Taizé service is held on the third Sunday of each month at 7:30 p.m. It is a service that helps people to find peace and center their thoughts on God. The service is generally 45 minutes long. Our next Taizé service will be on **March 20th**.

Deacons Corner**- Matthew Gerech****Church Kitchen**

The Deacons have started their "Spring cleaning" early. We cleaned the kitchen at our last meeting and ask that it be kept clean and in order. Also, we have ordered a new coffee pot to replace the broken one.

**Easter Plants/Flowers**

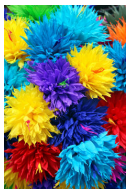
The Deacons will be coordinating the ordering of plants/flowers to be placed on the chancel for Easter morning in memory or honor of someone special in your life. Additional information and order forms will be available in the April issue of Stirling Stuff and in upcoming church bulletins.

Meeting Date Changed

Reminder: The March meeting date for the Board of Deacons has been changed to **Thursday, March 24th**.

Church Flowers

If you would like to place flowers on the chancel for Sunday morning worship in honor or memory of someone, please contact Israel Sierra. 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 Murphy Garden Center) should be given to Israel or Carolyn Malfatone ahead of time since we have to pay for the flowers when they are delivered. Thank you.

**Worship Help**

The Worship Help chart is posted in Pollard Hall. Please sign up for dates when you can help out as Liturgist, Usher, or host/donor of Coffee Hour. If you have questions about any of these duties, please speak with any Deacon. Thank you!

Deacons' Fund Envelopes

Please remember to use the green *Deacons' Fund* envelopes to help the Deacons purchase items. These envelopes are available in the pew racks or in the church office and may be placed in the offering plate.

Winter Retreat at Johnsonburg**- Chrissie & Tom Parziale**

Members of our congregation joined those from the Kitchell Memorial Presbyterian Church for their 30th Annual Retreat at Johnsonburg Presbyterian Center on Saturday, February 12th. Activities included breakfast at 8 a.m., crafts at around 9:30 a.m., Bible study with Rev. Crowl right before lunch, a hike around the grounds led by Bill DiBartolo, devotions led by Rev. Peters, games led by Chrissie Parziale, and dinner around 5:30 p.m. Craft activities continued most of the day for those interested and a mesmerizing fire was kept going in the dining hall fireplace for most of the day. The wonders of a snow-covered camp and the fellowship of the day provided joy for all of those in attendance.

Here are some pictures from our retreat day and the beautiful winter scene at Johnsonburg:



Visitation Schedule**- Rev. Peters**

From time to time, there will be a poster board in Pollard Hall with dates and times when I will be available to make visitations. If you would like to have me visit you, please sign up for a time that is convenient. This does not affect emergency visitations, if you are in the hospital or at home ill. This is for general weekday visits. I hope this will facilitate my meeting with you to talk about life and faith and also give you the opportunity to ask questions or share thoughts you may have. If you do not have the opportunity to sign up in Pollard Hall, please contact me so that we can arrange a convenient time for a visit.

Lenten Retreat Day at Johnsonburg

On **Thursday, March 10th, from 9:00 a.m.-4:00 p.m.**, there will be a Lenten Retreat Day at Johnsonburg Presbyterian Center. The program, "Listening for God's Voice in the Wilderness," will address the questions, *How does God speak to us in the wilderness?* and *What might we learn from our encounter there?*

The day begins with a snack and fellowship and includes worship, lunch, group reflection, and individual retreat time. Dress for time in the outdoors, or stay inside if you prefer.

Cost: \$35 for lunch and program

Child Care is available if you call ahead (\$15).

To sign-up, call 908-852-2349, or register on-line at www.campjburg.org.

Church Website

Reminder: 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

Our Church has a subscription for multiple copies of the devotional booklet, *These Days*. The latest issue is available in the Church narthex.

Ongoing Mission Programs

Mile of Pennies

Change (and more) collected during coffee hour supports scholarships for Kenyan students. Please help us reach our goal.

Food Pantry

Items can be left in baskets marked "Food Pantry Donations."

Toiletries

Full-sized bars of soap and "courtesy" sizes of soap, shampoo, conditioner, and shower caps are donated to various causes. Place on the table outside Pollard Hall.

Sneaker Project

Place used pairs of sneakers (any size) on the pew inside Pollard Hall. To date, we have collected **159** pairs, which are sent to the Somerset Food Bank for distribution.

Eyeglasses, Sunglasses, Cell Phones

Place used glasses and cell phones on the table outside Pollard Hall.

Yarn & Cotton Material

Yarn is used to make lap robes for wounded veterans; any color is acceptable. Fabric (with the exception of wool and stretchables) of about 1/2 yard is used to make small bears for children, totes for wheelchair patients, etc. Place on pew inside Pollard Hall.

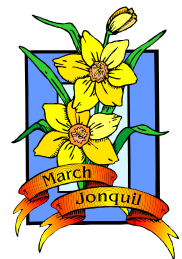
Ongoing Fundraiser

ShopRite Gift Cards

- ✓ No additional cost to you to use
- ✓ Church earns 5%
- ✓ Denominations available:
 - \$20/\$50/\$100

Gift cards are available each week during coffee hour, or you can contact Jean Hoffman (908-756-1075).

*Please e-mail submissions for the
April issue of Stirling Stuff to:
jsomers17@hotmail.com
by March 20th. Thank you!*



Stirling Stuff is the newsletter of the

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