



Stirling Stuff

Volume 55, No. 5

May 2011

Pastor's Letter

The following comes from Ted Loder's book, *Guerrillas of Grace*. May this prayer be your prayer for this Easter season:

I Praise You for this Resurrection Madness

Lord of such amazing surprises
as put a catch in my breath
and wings on my heart,
I praise you for this joy,
too great for words,
but not for tears and songs and sharing;
for this mercy
that blots out my betrayals
and bids me begin again,
to limp on,
to hop-skip-and-jump on,
to mend what is broken
in and around me,
and to forgive the breakers;

for this YES
to life and laughter,
to love and lovers,
and to my unwinding self;

for this kingdom
unleashed in me and I in it forever,
and no dead ends to growing,
to choices,
to chances,
to calls to be just;
no dead ends to living,
to making peace,
to dreaming dreams,
to being glad of heart;

for this resurrection madness
which is wiser than I
and in which I see
how great you are,
how full of grace.
Alleluia!



Worship Services and Scripture Passages for May

May 1, 2011

- *Second Sunday of Easter*
- *Sacrament of Holy Communion*
Acts 2:14a, 22-32; Psalm 16;
I Peter 1:3-9; John 20:19-31
Rev. Janet Pederson preaching

May 8, 2011

- *Third Sunday of Easter*
- *Sacrament of Baptism*
- *Gifts of Women Sunday*
- *Mother's Day*
Acts 2:14a, 36-41; Psalm 116:1-4, 12-19;
I Peter 1:17-23; Luke 24:13-35
When You Think You Have it Figured Out

May 15, 2011

- *Fourth Sunday of Easter*
- *Ordination & Installation of Deacons*
Acts 2:4-47; Psalm 23;
I Peter 2:19-25; John 10:1-10;
The Shepherds Fire
7:30 p.m. - Taizé Service

*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.*

May 22, 2011

- *Fifth Sunday of Easter*
Acts 7:55-60; Psalm 31:1-5, 15-16;
I Peter 2:2-10; John 14:1-4
Guest Preacher

May 29, 2011

- *Sixth Sunday of Easter*
- *Memorial Day Sunday*
Acts 17:22-31; Psalm 66:8-20;
I Peter 3:13-22; John 14:15-21
How Well Do You Know Your God?

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.



Rev. Peters on Vacation

Please note that Rev. Peters will be on vacation from Monday, April 25th through Monday, May 2nd. There will be a pastor on call; should you need pastoral assistance, please contact the church office or Phyllis Clemson.

Guest Minister

On Sunday, May 1st, we will once again welcome the Rev. Janet Pederson to our worship service. Rev. Pederson graduated from Drew Theological School in 1998. She has served as an interim associate pastor at the Morris Plains Presbyterian Church, Central Church in Summit, and the First Presbyterian Church in Red Bank. A member of the Elizabeth Presbytery as a specialized minister, Rev. Pederson has been working as a hospice chaplain in the Union County area for the past several years. Rev. Pederson and her husband, Brent, live in Berkeley Heights, where they have enjoyed the challenges of owning a fixer-upper. They attend the Presbyterian Church in New Providence, where Brent is active in the praise band. They have five children and 11 grandchildren.

2011 Confirmation Class

The 2011 Confirmation Class attended a wonderful Shabbat service at Temple Har Shalom on the Friday night before Passover. Upcoming plans include attending a Catholic mass. Soon they will begin working on their individual Statement of Faith.

Please continue to keep George Filippatos, Garrett Blakeslee, and Chris DeMatteo in your prayers as they continue their journey.



Travnicek Memorial Ringers

Mark your calendar now: On the afternoon of **June 5th**, our Travnicek Memorial Ringers will join other ringers at Wilson Memorial Church for the **Third Annual Bell Choir Concert**. More details to follow in upcoming weeks.

Adult Education

- Debra Sprague

Lenten Sunday Soup Supper and Study Series

The Lenten Sunday Soup Supper and Study Series was another joint-church success. There were 48 people who attended at least one of the sessions over the 5 weeks of the series, including 18 people from our own church family. **Thank you** to all of those who provided delicious soup, bread, and dessert. And thank you to those who provided child care for the two evenings that we hosted. We hope that all who participated in this Adult Education event enjoyed the discussion, food, and fellowship.

Deacons Corner**- Matthew Gerech****Ordination and Installation**

At a special meeting on April 10th, the congregation voted to increase the number of members on the Board of Deacons from six to nine. At the same meeting, Ruth Young, Janet Parziale, and Tracy Higgins were elected to fill the three additional positions. They will be Ordained and Installed on **Sunday, May 15th**, during morning worship.

Church Flowers

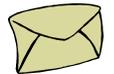
If you would like to place flowers on the chancel for Sunday morning worship in honor or memory of someone, please contact Israel Sierra, Jr. Allow enough lead time to have them ordered for the date you would like. The cost is \$30, and cash or checks (made payable to Cash) should be given to Israel or Carolyn Malfatone. 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.

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

Our next commitment date for preparing 40 lunches is: **Friday, May 13th**, 9:30 a.m., in Pollard Hall. This year to date, we have prepared 160 lunches. We welcome donations of bottled water, juice drinks, snacks, fruit cups, plastic spoons, and paper napkins. You can drop these items off in Pollard Hall on Sunday mornings. Upcoming date: June 10th. Thank you to all who have supported this program through donations and by helping to prepare the lunches!

Easter Food Donations

Thank you to everyone who donated turkeys/hams for Easter and to Lynne and Bill Combs for delivering them to the Market Street Mission in Morristown. Thank you for your continued support of this program.

Fundraising Committee**- Jean Hoffman****Breadsticks**

Our thanks to Karen Peck for leading the Breadstick Project again this Easter. She donated ingredients, prepared the dough, and gave up 2½ days of her professional time. We made over 90 boxes of breadsticks, resulting in approximately \$540 in profit, which will be used to reduce the Heating Fund Loan. Our volunteers were Lynne Combs, Ellen Eastty, Madeline Hahl, Jean Hoffman, Mariann Powell, and Elsie Turqman. Special thanks to all who made purchases and supported this project!

On-Going Book Sale

Please take a look at the "Book Table" in Pollard Hall. The sale is going well and, therefore, we could use more current books/paperbacks. We could also use some children's books. Proceeds will benefit the Kenya Scholarship Fund. For more information, please speak to any committee member: Ellen Easty, Jean Hoffman, or Mariann Powell.



Worship Committee

- Janet Parziale

**Talk with the Children**

Here is a great picture of Rev. Peters and his captive audience during his Talk with the Children on Easter morning. Our sanctuary was bursting at the seams as everyone joined to celebrate Christ's resurrection.

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 **May 15th**.

Gifts of Women Sunday

The Worship Committee has been receiving your nominations, and on **Sunday, May 8th**, we will celebrate Gifts of Women Sunday with a special recognition during worship and a delicious coffee hour. Mark your calendar, and plan to join us to celebrate this wonderful event and learn who this year's honoree will be.

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.

The Presbytery of Newton

Camp Johnsonburg

Camp Johnsonburg will have a mission group on-site the week of July 17th. They are looking for a connection with an off-site work project for one or two days on July 18, 19, or 20. If you know of a church or not-for-profit organization that would benefit from a day of work from a group of approximately 20 people, please contact Kurt or Harry at camp: 908-852-2349, kurt@campjburg.org, or harry@campjburg.org.

Big Tent Registration



This summer, thousands of Presbyterians will gather to celebrate the mission and ministry of the Presbyterian Church (U.S.A.). The Big Tent (**June 30-July 2**) combines nine national church conferences under one roof. Children and youth are vital participants of Big Tent too! There will be children and youth programs, and older youth will have the option to participate in a Pathways event that will run in tandem with the Big Tent.

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.

Happy Birthday!

During coffee hour on Easter morning, we all helped Edna Sanders celebrate her birthday. Pictured here are Edna and her daughter, Sue.



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 160 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
June issue of Stirling Stuff to:
jsomers17@hotmail.com
by May 22nd. Thank you!*



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