



Stirling Stuff

Volume 57, No. 2

February 2013

Pastor's Letter

I recently came across this poem by the Old Testament scholar and writer, Rev. Dr. Walter Brueggemann. I offer it to you as we look to the beginning of Lent on Ash Wednesday, February 13th.

Marked by Ashes

Ruler of the Night, Guarantor of the day . . .

This day — a gift from you.

This day — like none other you have ever given, or we have ever received.

This Wednesday dazzles us with gift and newness and possibility.

This Wednesday burdens us with the tasks of the day, for we are already halfway home
halfway back to committees and memos,
halfway back to calls and appointments,
halfway on to next Sunday,
halfway back, half frazzled, half expectant,
half turned toward you, half rather not.

This Wednesday is a long way from Ash Wednesday,
but all our Wednesdays are marked by ashes —
we begin this day with that taste of ash in our mouth:
of failed hope and broken promises,
of forgotten children and frightened women,
we ourselves are ashes to ashes, dust to dust;
we can taste our mortality as we roll the ash around on our tongues.

We are able to ponder our ashness with
some confidence, only because our every Wednesday of ashes
anticipates your Easter victory over that dry, flaky taste of death.

On this Wednesday, we submit our ashen way to you —
you Easter parade of newness.
Before the sun sets, take our Wednesday and Easter us,
Easter us to joy and energy and courage and freedom;
Easter us that we may be fearless for your truth.
Come here and Easter our Wednesday with
mercy and justice and peace and generosity.

We pray as we wait for the Risen One who comes soon.

See you in church!

Tom



Worship Services and Scripture Passages for February

February 3, 2013

- *Fourth Sunday after Epiphany*
- *Sacrament of Holy Communion*
- *Ordination and Installation of Officers*
- *Non-Perishable Food Collection*
Jeremiah 1:4-10; Psalm 71:1-6;
I Corinthians 13:1-13; Luke 4:21-30
Copping Out On the Truth

February 10, 2013

- *Transfiguration Sunday*
Exodus 34:29-35; Psalm 99;
2 Corinthians 3:12-4:2; Luke 9:28-43
The New Exodus

February 13, 2013

- *Ash Wednesday – Service of Ashes*
- *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
Rev. Barbara Aspinall Preaching
Anthem by the Travnicek Memorial Ringers

*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.*



February 17, 2013

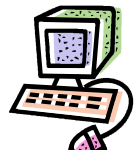
- *First Sunday in Lent*
Deuteronomy 26:1-11; Psalm 91:1-2, 9-16;
Romans 10:8b-13; Luke 4:1-13
Go into the World . . . O God, Not That!
1. *Who Am I?*

February 24, 2013

- *Second Sunday in Lent*
Genesis 15:1-12, 17-18; Psalm 27;
Philippians 3:17-4:1; Luke 13:31-35
Go into the World . . . O God, Not That!
2. *Who's the Old Man with the
Long Gray Hair?*

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.



Lenten Sermon Series

During Lent, Rev. Peters will offer a sermon series on, "How do we talk with others about God?" The mandate is to go into the world and make disciples (Matthew 28). We don't like doing that, but that does not negate the mandate. In not talking about what we believe, we have let others who do talk about their faith frame the mission and description of the Christian Church, and many have been turned off by what they *hear* the church is about. It is time for us to redefine for people what we believe the Church is about, and this sermon series will attempt to do that. The scripture passages provided are the lectionary passages for each of the Sundays, but Rev. Peters will not be using the lectionary passages for his Lenten sermon series.

Confirmation Class**- Rev. Peters**

On Sunday, Jan. 20th, a group of 15 people from our church and Meyersville P.C. attended worship at the Orthodox Cathedral of the Holy Virgin Protection in lower Manhattan. This is the fifth time Rev. Peters has taken the confirmation class to attend worship there. We had 8 confirmands and 7 adults attend this year. As in the past, Father Christopher (the Dean of the Cathedral) and Deacon Michael talked with the group before and after the two-hour service. During the service, Rev. Mike (a former Presbyterian Minister who is now a member there) explained what was happening. He also explained to the confirmands that Rev. Peters likes them to worship there to help them understand what Christian worship has descended from. Rev. Peters believes that in Orthodox worship you see the bridge from Judaism to Christianity.


After attending coffee hour, the group went to St. John the Divine Episcopal Cathedral in upper Manhattan. There Revs. Peters and Aspinall talked with the group about the Cathedral and what the architecture said about their worship and beliefs. The group left Long Hill Twp. at 7:20 a.m. and returned at 4:00 p.m.

The Confirmation Class will continue to meet in February at the Meyersville Presbyterian Church. However, on February 3rd, we will meet at the Leski's house for a Super Bowl party. Let's plan to gather at 6:15 p.m.; the game begins at 6:30 p.m.

Feb. 10 th	<i>Working in the World for Peace, Justice, Freedom, and Human Fulfillment</i>
Feb. 13 th	Ash Wednesday Service at Stirling, 7:30 p.m.; class will serve as liturgists
Feb. 17 th	<i>The Global Mission of the Presbyterian Church (USA)</i>
Feb. 24 th	<i>The Presbyterian Story</i>

REMINDER – I STILL NEED MONEY FOR THE JOHNSONBURG RETREAT (Feb. 9th) FROM SOME OF YOU!

Per Capita Apportionment

 The **Per Capita Apportionment for 2013 is \$32**. This is the amount that the church is assessed per member to help defray the expenses of the Presbytery, Synod, and General Assembly for ecclesiastical purposes. Please use the *Per Capita* envelope in the front of your offering envelopes box to help the church in meeting this requirement. Thank you.

New Beginnings**- Lore Pateman**

At the Annual Congregational Meeting on Jan. 27th, Lore Pateman distributed an information sheet listing areas of need in the community. The list was compiled by the New Beginnings leaders after meeting with people serving in various capacities in the township. Lore asked that we select two items on the list that we "were most passionate about." If you were not at the meeting and would like to express an interest you may have, please contact Lore. (We were not asked to put our name on our paper; it is just for feedback purposes.) The list is as follows:

1. Need-based scholarships for sports and community programs
2. Provide free meals periodically, open to the community
3. Lounsberry regular social events
4. Bridges lunches
5. Family Promise of Morris County (Interfaith Hospitality Network)
6. Anti-bullying education programs for community
7. After-school programs for middle school students:
 - ✓ Tutoring/mentoring
 - ✓ ESL for kids and/or parents
8. Mental illness program
9. Social gathering place for Spanish people in the community; in particular, for young men in town

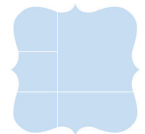
Christian Education Committee**- Lore Pateman****Souper Bowl Collection**

The “Souper Bowl of Caring” collection by the youth of the congregation will take place on Super Bowl Sunday, Feb. 3rd. Please support this program by making a (cash) donation following morning worship. Last year, our youth collected \$191.36, which they decided to split 50-50 between: Market Street Mission, Morristown and Family Promise of Morris County.

You can learn more about Souper Bowl of Caring at: <http://www.souperbowl.org/resources>

Soup Lunch & Scrapbooking – Feb. 10th

Our Pot Luck Soup Lunch and Scrapbooking event will be held on **Sunday, Feb. 10th, after fellowship hour**. We are still collecting old Christian Education pictures, so it's not too late to include them.

**Christmas Pageant**

This year's pageant was presented by our Church School students on December 23rd during morning worship. Many thanks to Beth Badilla for directing and to everyone who participated in this wonderful program.

Adult Education**- Debra Sprague*****Mark your calendars!***

Plan to join us as we meet with those from Trinity United Church (TUC) and Meyersville Presbyterian Church (MPC) for the fifth year of our **Joint-Church Lenten Sunday Soup Supper and Study Series**, which will be held on five Sundays in Lent: February 17 through March 17, 5-7 p.m. This year's topic:

The Teachings of Jesus: The Beatitudes and What They Mean for Our Lives Today

Jesus himself lived out the Beatitudes in his earthly life and called his followers to do the same. We will examine our lifestyle in the light of Jesus' radical teaching and determine how best to live out these values now. We hope that this two-pronged approach to studying the Beatitudes will deepen our understanding of Jesus and challenge our personal values and help us understand how they should impact our approach to major global issues, such as environmental pollution and the deep-seated hostilities and injustices that afflict our world.

<u>Date</u>	<u>Church</u>	<u>Leader</u>	<u>Topic</u>
Feb. 17	MPC	Tom Peters	Living Well: Introducing the Beatitudes
Feb. 24	FPC	Barbara Aspinall	Living Openly (<i>Matthew 5:3-4</i>)
March 3	TUC	Tom Peters	Living Purposefully (<i>Matthew 5:5-6</i>)
March 10	FPC	Heather Harris-Galgoci	Living Lovingly (<i>Matthew 5:7-8</i>)
March 17	TUC	Barbara Aspinall	Living Differently (<i>Matthew 5:9-10</i>) and a summary of the course

Each session begins with a shared soup supper at 5:00 p.m., followed by interactive study, and ending by 7:00 p.m. We are hosting this series twice, on February 24th and March 10th — which means that twice we'll be providing a soup supper (soup, bread, beverage, and dessert) and child care.

We could use someone to coordinate the soup supper for one or both dates. Please contact Debra Sprague if you can help with this. We'll also need volunteers to provide soup, bread, dessert, and child care. Thank you in advance for thinking about how you can participate.

Fourth Sunday Focus

- 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. We start around **8:45 a.m.** and end by about 9:45 a.m. --- but join us whenever you can. Our next "Fourth Sunday Focus" gathering will be on **Sunday, February 24th**. If you have a topic you'd like to discuss, please contact Tom Parziale.



Family Promise of Morris County

- Phyllis Clemson, Chris Scott

Our next hosting responsibility at the Shrine of St. Joseph is **Fri., Feb. 8th – Sat. Noon, Feb. 9th**. We still need some volunteers to help on these days. A sign-up sheet is posted in Pollard Hall. Please help with this important on-going mission of our church.

Looking ahead to future 2013 date: Tues., Nov. 19th

Worship Committee

- Janet Parziale

Non-Perishable Food Collection, Feb. 3rd



On the first Sunday of each month, we collect donations of non-perishable food during the worship service. The food is donated to the township food pantry at St. Vincent Church. Please keep your food items with you in church for the children to collect. We continue to collect non-perishable food in the baskets located in the entry-ways to the church during the rest of the month.

Ordination and Installation of Church Officers, Feb. 3rd

The Ordination and Installation of Church Elders and Deacons will take place during worship on Feb. 3rd.

Deacons Corner

- Katherine Ihringer

Worship/Fellowship Hour Help

We need people to sign up for Liturgist, usher, and coffee hour for the upcoming weeks. Remember that Fellowship Hour does not have to be fancy. All you need is coffee, tea, juice, and cookies. Fellowship Hour is an excellent way for everybody to talk after church, and it tends to have more people if there is food.

Water Available During Worship

There will be a pitcher of water and cups available in the Church narthex in case you need a drink during worship, especially during the winter months when the air is very dry. Please feel free to help yourself or signal an Usher to bring it to you.

Church Flowers

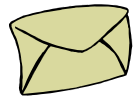
Don't forget to sign-up on the Flower Chart in Pollard Hall if you would like to place flowers on the chancel for Sunday morning worship in honor or memory of someone. Allow enough lead time to have them ordered for the date you would like. The cost is \$30, and cash or checks (made payable to Flowers 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 Envelopes

Please remember to use the green *Deacons' Fund* envelopes for donations to help the Deacons with their Mission work. These envelopes are available in the pew racks or in the church office and may be placed in the offering plate. Thank you!

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

Our next commitment date for preparing 40 lunches is: **Friday, Feb. 8th, 9:30 a.m.**, in Pollard Hall. We welcome donations of juice boxes, small water bottles, fruit/pudding cups, snacks of all kinds, fruit, and plastic spoons. You can drop these items off in Pollard Hall on Sunday mornings. We appreciate all the support you have given to this much-needed program.

Upcoming date: **March 8th**

Fundraising Committee**- Jean Hoffman****On-Going Book Sale**

We have many new books, so please take a look at the "Book Table" in the hallway outside Pollard Hall. To date, we have raised more than \$135, which benefits the Church Roof Loan. For more information, please speak to Ellen Eastty or Jean Hoffman.

Johnsonburg Camp & Conference Center

Information regarding Camp Johnsonburg for the Summer 2013 program (summer camp, job opportunities, and volunteer opportunities) is available in Pollard Hall and the church office. You can also go to their website: www.campjburg.org.

All-Church Winter Retreat**- Chrissie P**

We are excited to join members of the Kitchell Memorial Church for our annual church retreat. This year's retreat will be held on **Sat., Feb. 9th**, at **Johnsonburg Camp & Conference Center**.

Those who attended in the past have enjoyed a fun day of events including sledding, hiking, singing, a craft project, good food, worshipping, a scavenger hunt, a book chat, and, of course, good fellowship. The book review will focus on, *The Immortal Life of Henrietta Lacks*, by Rebecca Skloot. The local libraries have copies, and it is also available at Amazon.com for about \$9. We will have access to the cozy fireplace in the dining hall throughout the day!

The retreat fee is between \$20 –\$31, depending upon which meals you decide to attend. The activities run from right after breakfast through dinner. Registration forms are available at church. If you have any questions, contact Chrissie P.



Pictured: Rev. Peters leading book study in front of the fireplace at 2012 retreat.

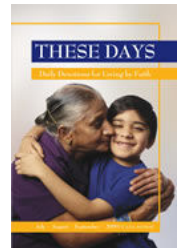
Church Website

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*.

"Featuring daily meditations and devotions wonderfully written by clergy and lay leaders, These Days continues to be the source of comfort and hope throughout the world and has been for thirty-five years." (Taken from *These Days* website)



The latest issue is available in the Church narthex.

Labels/Box Tops for Education; Pop-Top Can Tabs**- Jan Somers**

Please continue to cut out "Labels for Education" and "Box Tops for Education" coupons that can be found on many food and paper products. Please bring them to church and put them in the collection canister in the church office or in Pollard Hall on Sunday. The coupons we collect will be donated to the schools where members of our church families attend.



Ronald McDonald House collects pop-top can tabs and earns money from recycling centers based upon weight. It's an easy way to support RMH and make a difference for families and children. If you would like to support this project, please put the tabs in the same collection canister.

Thank you for supporting these programs.

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 labeled "Food Pantry Donations" located in the Church narthex and on the table outside of Pollard Hall.

Toiletries

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

Sneaker Project

Place used pairs of sneakers (any size) on the pew inside Pollard Hall. To date, we have collected **180** pairs, which are sent to the Somerset Food Bank and other charities.

Eyeglasses, Sunglasses, Cell Phones

Place used glasses and cell phones on the pew inside 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

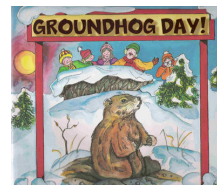
- ✓ No additional cost to you to use
- ✓ Purchase cards at face value
- ✓ Church earns **5%**
- ✓ Denominations available: \$20, \$50, \$100
- ✓ Cards are available each week during fellowship hour

iGive

- ✓ No cost to you
- ✓ Log on / sign up / find out more at:
<http://www.igive.com/FirstPresbyterianChurch-StirlingNJ>
- ✓ E-mail this link to your friends

*Please e-mail submissions for the
February issue of Stirling Stuff to:
jsomers17@hotmail.com
by February 23rd. Thank you!*

Why not invite a friend to church?



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