



Stirling Stuff

Volume 57, No. 4

April 2013

Pastor's Letter

As I write this on the Monday of Holy Week, it is snowing outside. Now I've been around long enough to know that sometimes we have late March and early April snow. However, two Fridays ago I was out playing golf! In the last two years, we have had two *storms of the century* in our area, not to mention the early October snow storm in 2011 that took down many trees in our area and wreaked havoc on our power grid. Scientists are saying that all this "unruly" weather is due to global climate change -- that ice caps and glaciers are melting at an accelerated pace. Our own country is experiencing lasting droughts, the likes of which have not been seen since the *dust bowl* of the 1930's.



Some would say that this climate change is not man made -- that it is just part of the cycle of things. My response is that many of the scientists are saying it is man made and, even if we doubt them, is it not prudent for us to do all we can to live greener lives just in case they are right? Otherwise, we may find ourselves down the road and it becomes clear it is man made, but it is too late to do anything about it. Last summer at Chautauqua I heard lectures on the theme of *Water on Our Planet*. The lecturers made it clear that our planet's water supply is suffering. They said we still have time to reverse it, but we have to act soon.

I bring this up because on Sunday, April 21st, we will celebrate Earth Day. Earth Day in the Church reminds us that, as servants of God, we are to be stewards of the earth, the environment that God has blessed us with. Not just for ourselves, but for others as well -- even those who come after us. D. Elton Trueblood, the late Quaker scholar and writer who lived in the town where I grew up wrote:

"A man has made at least a start on discovering the meaning of human life when he plants shade trees under which he knows full well he will never sit."

This is an expression of great love and faith for the future, and I would suggest that the opposite is true as well: *There is no evil greater than the evil done when one generation deprives future generations of shade trees and a healthy, sustainable environment.*



Our town has lost a lot of trees over the past two years. Perhaps you will consider planting a new tree in your yard or someplace else. The township has a Challenge Grant to help residents replace trees. You can get information about it at: <http://www.longhillnj.us/content/120/212/default.aspx>

There are many ways we can "go green," and it is our faithful response for all that God has given us. Won't you consider doing more to live a "Green" sustainable life? I hope you will join us on the 21st as we celebrate this big, diverse ball we call *Earth* and pledge ourselves to do all we can to pass it along to future generations full of good health and vitality.

See you in church!

Tom

Worship Services and Scripture Passages for April

April 7, 2013

- *Second Sunday of Easter*
- *Sacrament of Holy Communion*
- *Non-Perishable Food Collection*
Acts 5:27-39a; Psalm 150;
Revelation 1:4-8; John 20:19-31

Has There Ever Been A Religious Utopia?

April 14, 2013

- *Third Sunday of Easter*
Acts 9:1-20; Psalm 30;
Revelation 5:11-14; John 21:1-19

Opening Ourselves to God's Agenda

*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.*



April 21, 2013

- *Fourth Sunday of Easter*
- *Gifts of Men Sunday*
- *Earth Day Celebration*
Acts 9:36-43; Psalm 23;
Revelation 7:9-17; John 10:22-30

It Has Existed From The Beginning

Genesis 1:1-15; Hebrews 6:9-12
Matthew 10:40-42

April 28, 2013

- *Fifth Sunday of Easter*
Acts 11:1-18; Psalm 148;
Revelation 21:1-6; John 13:31-35

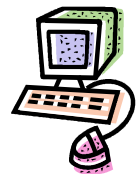
Crossing Boundaries

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.



Session Minutes

- Madeline Hahl

The Session has voted to make the final version of Session minutes available to the congregation. Session members felt this would be a good way to keep the congregation up-to-date on their actions and decisions. The minutes will be in a binder in the church office, where they may be reviewed, but they may not be removed from the office.

Confirmation Class**- Rev. Peters**

Listed below is the schedule for the Confirmation Class for the month of April:

Thursday, April 10 th	<i>Attend Session Meeting</i>
Sunday, April 14 th	<i>Demonstrating a New Quality of Life - Meyersville</i>
Friday, April 19 th	<i>Movie</i>
Sunday, April 21 st	STATEMENTS OF FAITH ARE DUE!
	<i>Attend worship at a different church</i>
Sunday, April 28 th	<i>Living Responsibly in Relationships</i>

Pastor's Coffee Klatch

Next Coffee Klatch will be:

Saturday, April 6th, 9:00 a.m., Stirling House Diner, Valley Road

As announced in last month's newsletter, Rev. Peters is offering us the opportunity to meet with him on the first Saturday of each month at the Stirling House Diner. You can sit down with a cup of coffee or tea and talk informally about faith, theology, church matters, etc. Plan to stop by some Saturday and look for Rev. Peters sitting in a booth.

**Christian Education Committee****- Lore Pateman****Fourth Sunday Focus, April 28th****- 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 **April 28th**. If you have a topic you'd like to discuss, please contact Tom Parziale.

**Worship Committee****- Janet Parziale****Non-Perishable Food Collection, April 7th**

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. Recently, the collectons have been so large that we will soon be looking for a bigger wagon! We continue to collect non-perishable food in the baskets located in the entry-ways to the church during the rest of the month.

Gifts of Men Sunday, April 21st

Over the past several years, our congregation has celebrated Gifts of Women & Men Sundays. This year, the Worship Committee will host **Gifts of Men Sunday on April 21st**. Nominations are open for all men who have made a difference by serving others.

Those men previously honored are Warren Hoffman, Tom Parziale, and Bill Hopcraft.

Please complete the nomination form included in the church bulletin and place it in the offering plate, or e-mail your suggestions for this year's honoree to Janet Parziale by April 7th. To help the committee in making their decision, please note areas where your nominee has demonstrated outstanding effort in our church and community. Thank you, and please plan to join us on April 21st to honor a very special person!

Deacons Corner**- Katherine Ihringer**

The Deacons have bought a lot of cups, plates, and drinks. If you are hosting Fellowship Hour and need supplies, ask one of the Deacons to get you the supplies! Also, the Deacon's budget is becoming extremely tight, and it would be appreciated if you could donate some money in the green envelopes available in the pew racks. We still need more people to sign up for Fellowship Hour. It does not have to be elaborate, and you do not have to bring any drinks; so, please sign up!

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.

Water Available During Worship

There will be a pitcher of water and cups available in the Church narthex during worship. Please feel free to help yourself or signal an Usher to bring it to you.

Mission Committee**- Madeline Hahl****Bridges Outreach Lunch Program****- Jean Hoffman, Coordinator**

Our next commitment date for preparing 40 lunches is: **Friday, April 12th, 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 dates: May 3, June 7

Easter Turkey/Ham Donations

Thank you to everyone who donated their turkey/ham to the Market Street Mission where they will be distributed to needy families in the area. Thank you, also, to Lynne and Bill Combs who delivered our donations to Morristown.

EARTH DAY 2013 - April 22nd

“Earth Day aims to inspire awareness of and appreciation for earth’s environment.”

Best picture ever taken of Earth:

“Nothing inspires awe and a sense of our place in the universe like seeing our planet from outer space, and a 2012 picture taken by a Russian weather satellite is being hailed as **THE ultimate picture of Earth**. The satellite was orbiting the planet 22,000 miles above the equator and sending back images every 30 minutes. As NASA scientist Robert Simmon points out, the images are made up of light from four different wavelengths combined to illuminate topographical details such as vegetation. The end result is a breathtaking look at our humble little home.”



Arbor Day 2013 - April 26th

Arbor Day is a holiday in which individuals and groups are encouraged to plant and care for trees. It originated in Nebraska City, Neb., in the United States in 1872. J. Sterling Morton is the founder of Arbor Day. The first Arbor Day (from the Latin arbor, meaning tree) was held on April 10, 1872, and an estimated 1 million trees were planted that day.

Trees are an important component of the natural landscape because of their prevention of erosion and the provision of a weather-sheltered ecosystem in and under their foliage. They also play an important role in producing oxygen and reducing carbon dioxide in the atmosphere, as well as moderating ground temperatures. (With material from Wikipedia)

Fundraising Committee

- Jean Hoffman

On-Going Book Sale



Take advantage of our over supply of books and stock up for summer reading: paperbacks 15¢ each and hardcovers 25¢ each. Proceeds will be deposited directly into the Church Roof Fund. We have many new books, so please take a look at the “[Book Table](#)” in the hallway outside Pollard Hall. For more information, speak to Ellen Easty or Jean Hoffman.

Spring Gardening Suggestions**- Ruth Young**

First, the Christian should plant 5 rows of Peas:

Perserverance, Preparedness, Politeness, Prayerfullness, Promptness

Next to them, plant 3 rows of Squash:

Squash Gossip, Squash Criticism, Squash Indifference

Then, plant 5 rows of Lettuce:

Let Us Be Faithful, Let Us Be Truthful, Let Us Love One Another, Let Us Be Loyal,

Let Us Be Unselfish

And, no garden is complete without Turnips:

Turn Up for Church, Turn Up with a Smile, Turn Up with a New Idea,
and Turn Up with Real Determination!

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.

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" 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 to everyone who has been 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. They 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

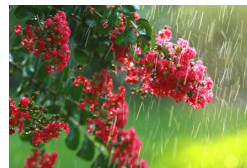
- ✓ No additional cost to you to use
- ✓ Purchase cards at face value
- ✓ Church earns 5%
- ✓ Denominations available: \$20, \$50, \$100
- ✓ Cards are available each week during fellowship hour

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
May issue of Stirling Stuff to:
jsomers17@hotmail.com
by April 25th. Thank you!*

Why not invite a friend to church?



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