



Stirling Stuff

Volume 58, No.4

April 2014

Pastor's Letter



Recently, I came across the following:

One lady wrote to a question and answer forum: "Dear Sirs, Our preacher said on Easter that Jesus just swooned on the cross and that the disciples nursed Him back to health. What do you think? Sincerely, Bewildered."

"Dear Bewildered, Beat your preacher with a cat-of-nine-tails with 39 heavy strokes; nail him to a cross; hang him in the sun for 6 hours; run a spear thru his side...put him in an airless tomb for 36 hours, and see what happens. Sincerely, Charles."

A lot of people have theories about what happened to Jesus on the cross, and some of the theories have been around since the death of Jesus. What happened, though, is not nearly as important as why it happened. We often refer to the crucifixion and the events preceding it as the *Passion of Christ*. This understanding of the word "passion" comes from the Latin noun *passio*, meaning "suffering." Although, one could say that the passion of Christ was because of Christ's passion. In their book, *The Last Week*, Marcus Borg and John Dominic Crossan write in the preface:

We also use "passion" for any consuming interest, dedicated enthusiasm, or concentrated commitment...The first passion of Jesus was the kingdom of God, namely, to incarnate the justice of God by demanding for all a fair share of a world belonging to and ruled by the covenantal God of Israel. It was that first passion for God's distributive justice that led inevitably to the second passion by Pilate's punitive justice.

The pre-resurrection Christ lived his life bringing hope and justice to the fringes of society, to the people without a voice. We have to remember he grew up in a family that was in one of the lowest classes of society, the tradesman class, since his earthly father was a carpenter. How can we forget the beautiful words of his mother when she heard that she would give birth to God's Son?

"My soul magnifies the Lord, and my spirit rejoices in God my Savior, for he has looked with favor on the lowliness of his servant...He has shown strength with his arm; he has scattered the proud in the thoughts of their hearts. He has brought down the powerful from their thrones and lifted up the lowly; he has filled the hungry with good things, and sent the rich away empty."

Jesus was killed because he threatened power structures. Yet, even on the cross, he could not accuse those who killed him. He forgave them. That is the beginning of the promise of the resurrection as a result of his great love and grace. As we continue our journey to Jerusalem and the third day and beyond, may we become passionate about His love and justice for all people.

See you in Church!

Tom



Worship Services and Scripture Passages for April

April 6, 2014

- *Fifth Sunday in Lent*
 - *Sacrament of Holy Communion*
 - *Non-Perishable Food Collection*
Ezekiel 37:1-14; Psalm 130;
Romans 8:6-11; John 11:1-45
- “Visions of the Good News”**
- 5. Competing Visions**
- Gospel of Thomas 1-5, 20-21, 109-114
Infancy Gospel of Thomas 1:1-3:3, 19:1-5
Gospel of Mary selections

April 13, 2014

- *Palm / Passion Sunday*
Matthew 21:1-11; Psalm 118:1-2, 19-29;
Isaiah 50:4-9a; Psalm 31:9-16
Philippians 2:5-11; Matthew 26:14-27:66
- Dramatic Reading of the Passion
according to the Gospel of Matthew***

April 17, 2014

Service to be held at First Presbyterian Church

- *Maundy Thursday*
 - *Sacrament of Holy Communion*
 - ***Potluck Dinner at 6:30 p.m.***
 - ***Service at 7:30 p.m.***
Exodus 12:1-14; Psalm 116:1-4, 12-19;
1 Corinthians 11:23-26; John 13:1-17, 31b-35
- Rev. Barbara Aspinall Preaching**
Travicek 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.*

April 18, 2014

Service to be held at Meyersville Church—7:30 p.m.

- *Good Friday*
Isaiah 52:13-53:12; Psalm 22;
Hebrews 10:16-25; John 18:1-9:42
- Hope in the Darkest Hour**
Rev. Tom Peters Preaching
Mark 15:42-47

April 20, 2014

- *The Day of Resurrection*
 - 7:00 a.m. – Service at Hillview Farm on
Meyersville Road
 - 10:00 a.m. – Service in our Sanctuary
Acts 10:34-43; Psalm 118:1-2, 14-24;
Colossians 3:1-4; John 20:1-8
- We Cannot Cling to Jesus**
Travicek Memorial Ringers
A Festive Intrada
Hymn To Joy

April 27, 2014

- *Second Sunday of Easter*
Acts 2:14a, 22-32; Psalm 16;
1 Peter 1:3-9; John 20:19-31
- Who Ya Gonna Believe?**

**The passages above the sermon titles are the
lectionary passages for the day provided for
your own bible reading and study. If there
are passages under the title, those are the
ones upon which the sermon will be based.**

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

Rev. Peters will be on vacation from April 21-25. If you need pastoral care during this time, please contact Madeline Hahl or the church office.

Per Capita Apportionment - Reminder

If you have not already done so, please send your Per Capita (per member) assessment for 2014 of **\$32.22**. These funds are used by the Presbyterian Church (USA), Presbytery, and Synod to do their work. Please use the Per Capita envelope in the front of your offering envelopes box to help the church in meeting this responsibility. Thank you.

**Pastor's Coffee Klatch**

The next Coffee Klatch will be on Sat., April 5th, 9:00 a.m., at the Stirling House Diner.

If you have a question, just want to talk, or have a friend you want to introduce to our church, plan to join Rev. Peters at the Diner. Since he will not be doing any counseling, if you come and someone else is sitting with him, pull up a chair and join them.

One Great Hour of Sharing (OGHS)

During Lent, we will be focusing on the three groups in the Presbyterian Church (USA) that benefit from our OGHS offering: Presbyterian Hunger Program, Self-Development of People, and Presbyterian Disaster Assistance (PDA). We reach many people in desperate need through this offering and, unless people direct their giving specifically to them, this is the only way these three vital organizations receive funding. The Christian Education students have Fish banks for their donations, and they will be collected on Palm Sunday. The congregation's donation envelopes will be collected on Sunday, April 27th. Please give generously. Thank you.

**Christian Education Committee**

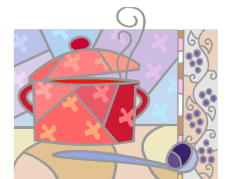
- Lore Pateman

Adult Education

- Debra Sprague

Joint-Church Lenten Sunday Soup Supper and Study Series

Our joint church Lenten Sunday Soup Supper and Study Series on *Forgiveness* will conclude on April 6th, 5:00 - 7:00 p.m., at Meyersville. This session, *Beginning Again: Reconciliation and Restoration*, will be led by Rev. Barbara Aspinall.



We have been joining with our sisters and brothers from Meyersville Presbyterian Church and Trinity United Church in Warren for this joint Lenten program and have enjoyed a variety of delicious soups and wonderful fellowship and discussions. Even if you have not attended previous sessions, please join us on April 6th.

Fourth Sunday Focus, April 27th

- 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 27th**. If you have a topic you'd like to discuss, please contact Tom Parziale.

**Worship Committee**

- Janet Parziale

Non-Perishable Food Collection, April 6th

On the first Sunday of each month, we collect donations of non-perishable food during the worship service. While we are receiving the Lord's Supper, we also want to provide for others. The food is donated to the township food pantry at St. Vincent Church. We continue to collect non-perishable food in the baskets located in the church entry-ways during the rest of the month.

HOLY WEEK**WORSHIP SCHEDULE**

Our observance of Holy Week begins with our **Palm Sunday** service at 10:00 a.m. on **April 13th**. Members of the congregation will be participating in the reading of the Passion of Christ, and the young people will pass out branches of eco-palms to the congregation.

On **Maundy Thursday, April 17th**, there will be a potluck supper at 6:30 p.m. in Pollard Hall to recall the Last Supper. (Please join us for the supper, even if you have not signed up.) The supper will be followed by a communion service at 7:30 p.m.

On **Good Friday, April 18th**, we will meet at the Meyersville Presbyterian Church at 7:30 p.m., for a service of worship led by Rev. Peters and Rev. Aspinall.

Resurrection of the Lord / Easter Sunday, April 20th, will find the congregation celebrating with two joyful services. We will join with the Meyersville Church at the Hillview Farm in Meyersville at 7:00 a.m. Then, we will celebrate Christ's resurrection with a service in our sanctuary at 10 a.m. The Travnicek Memorial Ringers will be playing two pieces during the service: *A Festive Intrada* and *Hymn To Joy*.

Please consider bringing a friend to any of the services during this significant time of year. Visitors are always welcome.

Mission Committee

- Madeline Hahl

Bridges Outreach Lunch Program

- Jean Hoffman, Coordinator



Our next commitment date for preparing 40 lunches is: **Friday, April 11, 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.

Upcoming Dates: May 9, June 6, July 18

Easter Turkey/Ham Donations

Local markets are offering their usual free turkeys, hams, etc. for Easter. If you qualify and do not intend to use your free item, please consider donating it to the needy. Lynne and Bill Combs will take our donations to the Market Street Mission in Morristown. There is such a great need for food, and they are always very appreciative of our donations.

Please bring your items to the church by Palm Sunday, April 20th. (Keep turkeys frozen.) Thank you.



Deacons Corner

- Katherine Ihringer

We want everyone to know that there is a gluten-free option offered during communion. If you are gluten free, please take the bread on the cupcake tinfoil.

There are not enough signups for ushers, liturgists, and coffee hour. The same people are continuing to do these multiple times. Coffee hour does not have to be elaborate; a box of cookies, juice, and coffee is all that is needed! Please sign up for the upcoming weeks.

Deacons Fund



There are green envelopes in the pews for donations to the Deacons Fund. This fund supports their Mission work. Thank 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.

Easter Flowers/Plants

There is a form on page 8 of this newsletter for ordering Easter flowers/plants to be placed in Church for Easter morning. Please return your completed order form to the church by Sunday, April 13th.

Water Available During Worship



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

Buildings & Grounds**- Tom Parziale**

Roof Project - On Tuesday, Feb. 25th, we had a successful meeting with the Long Hill Township Planning Board. This is another positive step as we get closer to being able to move ahead with the project.

Church Archives/Memorabilia**- Jan Somers**

Rene' Phelan has taken over the responsibility of maintaining our church archives/memorabilia. If you have news clippings, bulletins, programs, etc. regarding any member of our church family, please give them to Rene' or put them in the "Newspaper Clippings" mailbox outside the church offices. Thank you, Rene', for taking over this ongoing project!

**Community Events****"Restore the Raptor Trust" Fundraiser**

Date: April 2nd
Time: 6:00 p.m. to 9:00 p.m.
Place: Meyersville Inn
 632 Meyersville Rd., Gillette
 908-647-6302



The Raptor Trust is a non-profit facility located in the Great Swamp that rehabilitates injured birds of prey. Many of their cages have suffered storm damage recently, and we can all help raise funds for the rebuilding. Ross Griswold, son of Barbara and Larry Griswold, has been involved in planning this event. Ross and his band play at the Meyersville Inn every Wednesday night. **On Wednesday, April 2nd, the Inn will be donating 10% of all sales from 6:00-9:00 p.m.** So, whether you come by for a quick drink or dinner or hang out for the entire event, you'll be contributing. (Reservations recommended)

Warren Township, 4th Annual Green Fair
Sat., April 26th (Rain Date: May 3)

On **Sat., April 26th, from 10 a.m.-1 p.m.**, the Warren Township Green Team, in conjunction with the Warren Township Committee, will sponsor the annual Green Fair at the Warren Municipal Complex, 46 Mountain Blvd., adjacent to Bardy Road.

There will be activities, environmental information, recycling collections of hard-to-dispose-of items, shredding of your confidential papers, medicine collection, etc. Everyone is invited to this FREE event!

Collection of Hard to Recycle Items

Styrofoam
Papers to be shredded
Electronics including TV's, cell phones, computers, printers, monitors, keyboards, game consoles
Scrap Metal
Crayons - used, new, small, large

Bottle Caps
Shoes new or gently worn
Textiles & clothing
Medicines (see below)
Ink & toner cartridges
Medicines (see below)

Bring your unwanted or unused medicines for proper disposal. The collection site will be near the entrance of the Warren Police Station at 44 Mountain Boulevard. The service is free and anonymous.

Flushing medicines down the toilet in homes that use septic tanks can leach into the ground and seep into ground water. Pouring medicines down the sink or in the toilet in residences connected to wastewater treatment plants allows the medicines to pass through the treatment system and enter rivers and lakes. The medicines may contaminate community drinking water.

This is a truly secure way for everyone to make their medicine cabinets safer for children and the environment. Residents (and non-residents) are urged to participate.

Please check the Warren Township website, warrennj.com or [facebook.com/warrengreenteam](https://www.facebook.com/warrengreenteam) for updates.



The arrival of Spring brings thoughts of renewal and growth. The celebrations of **Earth Hour, Earth Day, and Arbor Day** at this time of year provide us with the opportunity to rededicate our focus on saving this amazing planet God created.

Reduce, Reuse, Recycle, Replenish, Restore – we're all familiar with these words, but are we *living* them? Celebrate Earth Day, April 22nd, and Arbor Day, April 26th, by doing your part to preserve and renew the resources and beauty of our world.



Church Website

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.

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

- Jan Somers



Please continue to save Labels for Education, Box Tops for Education, and pop-top can tabs. The labels are used by parent organizations to earn educational and recreational items for students. The can tabs are sold by weight to recycling centers, and the proceeds are donated to Ronald MacDonald House to help fund their programs for hospitalized children and their families. There is a collection canister in the church office. Thank you.



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.

EASTER FLOWERS/PLANTS ORDER FORM

The Deacons are coordinating the ordering of flowers/plants to be placed on the chancel for Easter morning in memory or honor of someone special in your life. Please use the order form below or the forms available in the Sunday bulletin to place your order. **The deadline to order is Monday, April 14th.**

	<u>What Color?</u>	<u>How many?</u>	<u>Total Price</u>
Azaleas \$16.00 ea. (Red, White, Pink)	_____	_____	_____
Daffodils \$10.50 ea. (All Yellow)	_____	_____	_____
Lilies \$11.00 ea. (All White)	_____	_____	_____
Tulips \$10.50 ea. (Yellow, Pink, or Purple)	_____	_____	_____
TOTALS		_____	_____

Flowers are purchased in **MEMORY / HONOR** of:

Please circle one

Given By: _____
Please print clearly

To be picked up following worship on Easter morning: _____ To be planted at Church: _____

Please submit your order and check to Israel Sierra or the church office, or place it in the offering plate.

Deadline to order: Monday, April 14

Make checks payable to: **Flowers on the Ridge** and note: **Easter Flowers** on your check. Thank you.

Church Officers for 2014

These are the Church officer responsibilities/committees for 2014. Please keep this information for future use.

2014 Session Responsibilities

Moderator	Rev. Peters
Official Clerk of Session:	
Data Entry into Records	Madeline Hahl
Clerk of Session:	
Take Minutes	Susan Brodziak, Chris Scott
President of Trustees	Kai Ihringer
Buildings & Grounds Liaison	Michael Nugent
Christian Education Liaison	Lore Pateman
Communications, Publicity	Madeline Hahl, Lynn Blakeslee
Finance Liaison	Kai Ihringer
New Beginnings Liaison	Susan Brodziak
Fund Raising Liaison	Ellen Eastty
Mission Liaison	Madeline Hahl
Nominating Chairperson	Paul Wermuth
Nominating Representative	Joyce Koenig
Personnel Liaison	Chris Scott
Presbytery Commissioner	Madeline Hahl
Property Administration Liaison	Lynn Blakeslee
Worship Liaison	Joyce Koenig

2014 Board of Deacons Responsibilities

Moderator	Carolyn Malfatone
Vice Moderator	Terry Griner
Recording Secretary	Susan Gerecht
Corresponding Secretary	Janet Parziale
Treasurer	Beth Badilla
Flowers	Israel Sierra
Nominating Committee	Carolyn Malfatone
Fellowship Hour	Barbara Nugent
Deacons Corner	Katherine Ihringer
Reception Coordinator	Carolyn Malfatone
Assistant Reception Coordinator	Terry Griner
Parameters	Shaylyn Gallagan
New Beginnings Liaison	Israel Sierra

Ongoing Mission Programs**Road to Bridges**

Change (and more) collected during coffee hour supports Bridges Program, providing 40 lunches per month for NJ/NY homeless.

Township Food Pantry

Items can be left in baskets labeled "Food Pantry Donations" in the Church narthex and on the table outside of Pollard Hall.

Toiletries

Full-sized and "courtesy" sized bars of soap, shampoo, and 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 & Fabric

Yarn is used to make lap robes for wounded veterans, afghans for battered women, and hats for newborns in hospitals; 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 & Kings Gift Cards**

- ✓ No additional cost to you to use
- ✓ Purchase cards at face value
- ✓ Church earns 5%
- ✓ Denominations available are:
ShopRite: \$20, \$50, \$100
Kings: \$25, \$50, \$100
- ✓ Cards are available each week during Fellowship Hour or by contacting Jean Hoffman

iGive

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

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

Why not invite a friend to church?



Stirling Stuff is the newsletter of the

First Presbyterian Church

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Our Mission

Jesus said, "Feed My Sheep." This welcoming and caring family, empowered by the love of Christ, shares the grace and peace of God's blessings by serving those who are hungry in body or spirit.

**First Presbyterian Church of Stirling
Feeding Those Who Hunger**