



# Stirling Stuff

Volume 58, No. 1

January 2014

## Pastor's Letter

The following words were spoken by the Rev. Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. on the steps of the Lincoln Memorial during the March on Washington on August 28, 1963.



*And so even though we face the difficulties of today and tomorrow, I still have a dream. It is a dream deeply rooted in the American dream.*

*I have a dream that one day this nation will rise up and live out the true meaning of its creed: "We hold these truths to be self-evident, that all men are created equal. . ."*

*. . . I have a dream that one day every valley shall be exalted, and every hill and mountain shall be made low, the rough places will be made plain, and the crooked places will be made straight; "and the glory of the Lord shall be revealed and all flesh shall see it together."*

I bring this up not to talk about the racial issues of our time, but to help us realize that great movements in history generally start out as dreams. The dreams work in the lives and conscience of the dreamer and others until the dreams become an alternate reality and then true reality.

In 2013, we began the process of dreaming in our *New Beginnings* program. The dreams were transformed into a possible alternate reality in our Mission Statement and our Vision Statement. We said we believed that God is calling us to be about "Feeding those who Hunger."

Some of us have also been reading and talking about Robin Meyers' book, *The Underground Church*. Meyers believes the church is in a time of great decision-making. Will we be the Church of Jesus Christ, which he says is not embodied in much of the Christian Church today, or will the Christian Church die?

We have a dream at the First Presbyterian Church of Stirling. Be a part of making it our reality by attending the Annual Meeting on Jan. 26<sup>th</sup> and talking about where we have been and where we need to go.

See you in Church!

*Tom*



## Worship Services and Scripture Passages for January

### January 5, 2014

- *Second Sunday after Christmas*
- *Sacrament of Holy Communion*
- *Non-Perishable Food Collection*  
Jeremiah 3:7-14; Psalm 147:12-20;  
Ephesians 1:3-14; John 1:1-18

#### ***Stars in Our Eyes***

Using Scriptures for Epiphany:

Isaiah 60:1-6; Matthew 2:1-12

### January 12, 2014

- *Baptism of the Lord Sunday*
- *Renewal of Baptism Service*  
Isaiah 42:1-9; Psalm 29;  
Acts 10:34-43; Matthew 3:13-17

#### ***Why Was Jesus Baptized?***

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*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.*



### January 19, 2014

- *Second Sunday after Epiphany*  
Isaiah 49:1-7; Psalm 40:1-11;  
I Corinthians 1:1-9; John 1:29-42

#### ***Hanging With the Son***

### January 26, 2014

- *Third Sunday after Epiphany*
- *Annual Meeting of the Congregation*  
Isaiah 9:1-4; Psalm 27:1, 4-9;  
I Corinthians 1:10-18; Matthew 4:12-23

#### ***A Radical Idea***

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**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.**

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Rev. Peters' sermons and the scripture readings are posted on the church website.

Visit: [www.fpcstirling.org](http://www.fpcstirling.org), click on: "Sermon Archive," then select the sermon and/or scripture reading date you would like.



## **Annual Congregational Meeting**

Session has called for the Annual Meeting of the Congregation and Corporation of the First Presbyterian Church of Stirling to be held in Pollard Hall on **Sunday, January 26<sup>th</sup>**, following morning worship. The purposes of this meeting are to hear and receive the annual reports of the committees of the congregation and of groups sponsored by the church; to elect a financial secretary for a term of one year; to elect one Elder, one Deacon, and members of the Nominating Committee; and to affirm the 2014 church budget. Please plan to attend this important event in the life of our Church as we look back over the past year and ahead to 2014.

## **Pastor's Coffee Klatch**



The January Coffee Klatch will be held on Saturday, January 4<sup>th</sup>. Rev. Peters will be at the Stirling House Diner at 9:00 a.m.

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.

## **New Members Welcomed into the Congregation**

On Sunday, December 15<sup>th</sup>, we welcomed three new members to our church family. Kai Ihringer and Keith Griner were received by Reaffirmation of Faith, and Terry Griner joined by Letter of Transfer from the Pompton Reformed Church.

## **Christian Education Committee**

**- Lore Pateman**

### **Christmas Pageant**

This year's Christmas Pageant, "*Reflections*," by Margaret Aron, was presented by our Church School students on December 22<sup>nd</sup> during morning worship. Many thanks to Beth Badilla, Shaylyn Gallagan, Tom Parziale, and everyone who participated in this wonderful program.

## **Adult Education**

**- Debra Sprague**

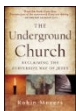
### **Fourth Sunday Focus, January 26<sup>th</sup>**

**- 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 January 26<sup>th</sup>. If you have a topic you'd like to discuss, please contact Tom Parziale.



## **Adult Book Study**



The Book Study on "*The Underground Church: Reclaiming the Subversive Way of Jesus*," by Robin Meyers, will continue on Tuesday, Jan. 14<sup>th</sup> at 7:30 p.m.

## **Worship Committee**

**- Janet Parziale**

### **Non-Perishable Food Collection, January 5<sup>th</sup>**

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.



## Christmas Eve Candlelight Service

We gathered on a crisp, snowy evening for our annual Christmas Eve Candlelight Service of Lessons and Carols, with luminaries lighting the path to the sanctuary. Thank you to everyone who helped make our sanctuary look so beautiful for this special service celebrating the birth of our Savior, Jesus Christ.



### Mission Committee

- Madeline Hahl

#### Bridges Outreach Lunch Program

- Jean Hoffman, Coordinator



Our next commitment date for preparing 40 lunches is: **Friday, Jan. 10<sup>th</sup>, 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.

### Family Promise of Morris County

- Chris Scott & Phyllis Clemson

Our church is responsible for hosting *Family Promise* at the Shrine of St. Joseph on **Tues., January 7<sup>th</sup>**. Please help with this important on-going mission of our church — as we begin our 25<sup>th</sup> year of participation. We still need help in some areas; the specific information is noted on the sign-up sheet in Pollard Hall, or you can speak to Chris or Phyllis. Please help in any way you can in this much-needed and personally rewarding program.

Upcoming date: **Thurs., February 27<sup>th</sup>**

**“Road to Bridges” Program**

Our new Mission program, Road to Bridges, has started. The *Bridges* organization provides meals for homeless people in New Jersey and New York. Our church provides 40 lunches per month, and this collection will help defray some of the costs of the project. We hope you will participate with your usual generosity. Please look for the collection cannister in Pollard Hall or the Church office. Thank you.

**Blankets & Baby Food Collection****- Jean Hoffman**

We continue to collect blankets and baby food for St. Joseph’s Social Services in Elizabeth. These items are very much needed and appreciated. Please place items on the pew inside Pollard Hall. Thank you!

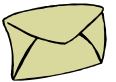
**Deacons Corner****- Katherine Ihringer****Community Christmas Carol Sing & Ring**

More than 40 members, friends, and neighbors enjoyed a wonderful evening of beautiful music performed by our handbell choir; singing Christmas carols by candlelight on the front lawn of the church; and, then warming up in Pollard Hall with Christmas wassail, hot chocolate, and cookies. It’s a wonderful holiday tradition that our church hosted for many years in the past, and several of those attending said how happy they were that it had been brought back.

Thank you to everyone who helped make this event possible, including the Board of Deacons, handbell choir, those who provided cookies, and everyone who helped with set up and clean up.

**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.

**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.

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## **Church Website**

Reminder: Our Church website, [www.fpcstirling.org](http://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.

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## **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 formore than thirty-five years."* (Taken from *These Days* website)

The latest issue is available in the Church narthex.

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## **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.



## 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

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### 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

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

**Why not invite a friend to church?**



**Stirling Stuff** is the newsletter of the

## First Presbyterian Church

158 Central Avenue  
Stirling, NJ 07980

Editor: Jan Somers

The Rev. Dr. Thomas T. Peters, Pastor  
[pastor@fpcstirling.org](mailto:pastor@fpcstirling.org)  
Paulette Irlander, Office Manager  
[Secretary@fpcstirling.org](mailto:Secretary@fpcstirling.org)  
Church Office: 908-647-1033  
Website: [www.fpcstirling.org](http://www.fpcstirling.org)

### 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**