



# Stirling Stuff

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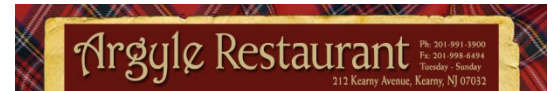
## **Pastor's Letter**

As May begins, we find ourselves in the season of Easter, or Eastertide. The event of the resurrection is much more than can be dealt with in one Sunday, so we have seven weeks to reflect on the resurrection of Jesus and the beginning of the church. Of course, you've heard me say that every Sunday worship service is a celebration of the resurrection. This season begins with the Day of Resurrection and ends with the Day of Pentecost, which this year will be on June 8<sup>th</sup>. During this season, the Old Testament reading is replaced with a reading from the Book of Acts. Just as the season of Epiphany is about the revelation of Jesus as the anointed one, the season of Easter, in general, focuses on the appearances of Jesus after the resurrection and then moves to how we, as disciples, follow the risen Christ.



Also in the next month, we will continue moving forward on our new peaked roof over the office wing. We've already started the process of obtaining the building permit by getting new copies of the plans drawn up, and the trusses will be ordered soon. I cannot tell you how grateful I am to the Buildings and Grounds Committee for their work on this. I am also grateful to you, the members of the church, who have worked around the buckets, garbage cans, and bins that have been collecting water leaking through the roof. We hope that soon this will all be just a bad memory.

Last, but certainly not least, you will read in this newsletter about the Session having approved a Fish and Chips Dinner catered by the Argyle Restaurant in Kearny. The details will be provided shortly, but I want to impress upon you that all of us must do our part to sell tickets to this event. This is going to be a major fund-raiser for our church, and we need everyone to really work at selling tickets. We have many things being addressed with our building and grounds this year, and we are operating under a deficit budget; so, it is imperative that we have a big turnout for this dinner.



Please note a new addition to the newsletter from the Clerk of Session. This will be a monthly report of key items that were discussed at our Session meetings.

See you in Church!

*Tom*

First Presbyterian Church of Stirling  
Feeding Those Who Hunger

## Worship Services and Scripture Passages for May

### May 4, 2014

- *Third Sunday of Easter*
- *Sacrament of Holy Communion*
- *Non-Perishable Food Collection*  
Acts 2:14a, 36-41; Psalm 116:1-4, 12-19;  
1 Peter 1:17-23; Luke 24:13-35  
**“Has the Word Become Flesh For You?”**

### May 11, 2014

- *Fourth Sunday of Easter*
- *Mother’s Day*  
Acts 2:42-47; Psalm 23;  
1 Peter 2:19-25; John 10:1-10  
**“We Didn’t Know We Were Poor”**

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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.*



### May 18, 2014

- *Fifth Sunday of Easter*  
Acts 7:55-60; Psalm 31:1-5, 15-16;  
1 Peter 2:2-10; John 14:1-14  
**“What Happened to Jesus’ Mercy?”**

### May 25, 2014

- *Sixth Sunday of Easter*
- *Memorial Day Weekend*  
Acts 17:22-31; Psalm 66:8-20;  
1 Peter 3:13-22; John 14:15-21

**We will worship at Meyersville Presbyterian Church. Rev. Peters will be in Germany.**

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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.



### **Rev. Peters Traveling**

Rev. Peters will be traveling to Germany on May 23<sup>rd</sup> and returning on May 31<sup>st</sup>. This trip is with members of the Masterwork Chorus, and they will be singing several concerts in churches in Germany. They will be joining the Caecilienchor, who visited our area a year ago from Germany. If you need pastoral care while Tom is away, please contact Madeline Hahl or the church office.



**Session Meeting Highlights****- Madeline Hahl**

Here is the summary of key discussions from the April 10<sup>th</sup> Session meeting:

- The roof project is coming along nicely. Buildings & Grounds Committee expects the work to start in June, after Montessori School is done for the year.
- A “fish & chips” dinner is planned as a fund raising event, June 7<sup>th</sup>, from 5:30 p.m. to 7:30 p.m. The food will be provided by Argyle Restaurant. As soon as tickets are available, we will ask the congregation to sell them and spread the word. Paul Wermuth is coordinating this project.
- The book study series was very successful, and Rev. Peters is already planning the next one. If you know of a book you would like to discuss, please let Rev. Peters know.

A copy of the Session minutes is available in the church office.

**Pastor’s Coffee Klatch**

The next Coffee Klatch will be on **Sat., May 3<sup>rd</sup>, 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.

**Christian Education Committee****- Lore Pateman****Fourth Sunday Focus, May 18<sup>th</sup>****- Tom Parziale**

Since we will be worshipping in Meyersville on May 25<sup>th</sup>, our next “Fourth Sunday Focus” gathering will be on **May 18<sup>th</sup>**.



*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. If you have a topic you’d like to discuss, please contact Tom Parziale.

**Worship Committee****- Janet Parziale****Non-Perishable Food Collection, May 4<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.

**Worship Service at Meyersville Presbyterian Church**

On **Sunday, May 25<sup>th</sup>** we will worship at Meyersville Presbyterian Church at **10:00 a.m.** Rev. Peters will be in Germany during that week, so we will be joining with the congregation in Meyersville.

## Gifts of Men Sunday, June 15<sup>th</sup>

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 Father's Day, June 15<sup>th</sup>**. Nominations are open for all men who have made a difference by serving others. Those men previously honored are Warren Hoffman, Tom Parziale, Bill Hopcraft, and Bill Combs.

**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 June 1<sup>st</sup>**. 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 June 15<sup>th</sup> to honor a very special person!

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## Holy Week Services

Holy Week began with the observance of Palm Sunday and the celebration of Christ's entry into Jerusalem. The congregation waved palms and shouted their Hosannas. We then heard a reading of the Passion of Christ and music by the Travnicek Memorial Ringers.

On Maundy Thursday, we shared a pot-luck supper with members and friends of the Meyersville Presbyterian Church. Rev. Peters and Rev. Aspinall then led a communion service with those at each table serving each other the bread and the cup.



Rev. Barbara Aspinall



Israel Sierra serving Debra Sprague



Debra serving Rev. Peters

On Good Friday, we worshipped at Meyersville Church, observing a Tenebrae service (darkness), reflecting on what Jesus suffered on the cross.



Easter morning began with a service at Hillview Farm in Meyersville, and we then celebrated Christ's resurrection in the sanctuary and again enjoyed music by the Travnicek Memorial Ringers and the organ. The church was decorated with beautiful flowers, and some of those in attendance were very color-coordinated.

Pictured:  
Bill & Toni Hopcraft with Easter tulips

**Travnicek Memorial Ringers Concert**

Our handbell choir will be participating in a concert on **Sunday, May 4<sup>th</sup>, 4:30-5:30 p.m.**, at Wilson Memorial Union Church, Watchung. The choirs will ring several selections individually and as a group. Plan to attend this wonderful afternoon of music.

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

Our next commitment date for preparing 40 lunches is: **Friday, May 9<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.

**Upcoming Dates:** June 6, July 18**NJ Community Food Bank****- Kai Ihringer, Coordinator**

Our church is scheduled to volunteer at the NJ Community Food Bank on **Sat., May 17<sup>th</sup>**. The food bank, located in Hillside, is always looking for workers, and this project is a great way to help people right here in New Jersey who need our assistance. In return for our efforts, we get to enjoy fellowship and camaraderie with our church family and friends.

**Date:** Sat., May 17<sup>th</sup>**Departure:** Meet at 8:00 a.m. in the church parking lot. Leave shortly thereafter.**Food Bank Slot:** 9 a.m. to 11 a.m.**Return:** Back at church parking lot between 11:30 a.m. and Noon

If you plan to attend, please contact Kai Ihringer asap so that he can provide the Food Bank with an estimate of the size of our group. Also, we always carpool, so please let him know if you are willing to drive. And, don't forget to reach out to non-church members who may want to join our group.

One final note: Please mark your calendars for our next scheduled volunteer date at the Food Bank:

**Sat., Nov. 22<sup>nd</sup>, 9:00 – 11:00 a.m.****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 fellowship hour. The same people are continuing to do these multiple times. Fellowship hour does not have to be elaborate; a box of cookies, juice, and coffee are all that are 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.

**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.

**Fish & Chips Dinner Fund Raiser****- Paul Wermuth**

Session has approved a Fish & Chips Dinner fund raising event for **Saturday, June 7<sup>th</sup>, 5:30 p.m. to 7:30 p.m.** The food is being provided by Argyle Restaurant in Kearny. Tickets will be available beginning May 11<sup>th</sup> following worship; the cost is as follows: Adults - \$18; Seniors 65+ - \$15; Children under 12 - \$12. Session is encouraging the support of all our members and friends in selling tickets to this dinner so that we can raise funds that are needed for several important buildings and grounds projects. Please contact Paul for additional information.

**Buildings & Grounds****- Tom Parziale**

A time to be thankful:

- A big Thank You to Paul Wermuth for his efforts in removing the substantial debris from the front lawn of the church that was due to the damage incurred by the large white pine tree this winter. Over the past few weeks, Paul has cut up the debris and made the pile disappear!
- A big Thank You to Boy Scout Troop #59, which meets at our church. On Sunday afternoon, April 6<sup>th</sup>, a contingent of scouts, under the leadership of Ed Gerecht, did our outdoor spring cleanup, including much needed trimming of our shrubbery!

Both of these efforts resulted in improving the look of the church grounds and also saved us money.



Pictured: Members of Boy Scout Troop #59

## **Community Events**

### **Raptor Trust Fundraiser**

On April 2<sup>nd</sup>, the Meyersville Inn hosted a fund raiser for the Raptor Trust. Ross Griswold, son of Barbara and Larry Griswold, was involved in planning this event, which raised \$2,500 to help defray the cost of repairing and rebuilding areas of the RT that were damaged by storms. Several church members and friends attended the event in support of this project.



Pictured here: Joyce Koenig; Carolyn Malfatone; Jan Somers' daughter and son-in-law, Denise and George; grandchildren Aidan, Paige, & Kylin; Ross Griswold (standing); Jan

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### **Johnsonburg Camp & Conference Center**

Information regarding Camp Johnsonburg for the Summer 2014 program is available in Pollard Hall and the church office. You can also go to their website: [www.campjburg.org](http://www.campjburg.org).

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### **Church Website**

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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### **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.




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### **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.

## 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 Fundraisers

### 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  
June issue of Stirling Stuff to:  
[jsomers17@hotmail.com](mailto:jsomers17@hotmail.com)  
by May 22<sup>nd</sup>. 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.