



Stirling Stuff

Volume 59, No. 4

April 2015

Pastor's Letter

As I sit and write this, I have just received the news that David Bird's body has been found and positively identified. While I am sure the family was hoping for a more positive outcome, they now can find some closure to this year-long mystery.

While many questions may remain unanswered, some important ones have been and will be answered. Not knowing is so difficult. The human mind is so conditioned to seeking resolutions. In music there are some chords that you don't put at the end of a song because they leave you hanging – you have to resolve them by moving to another chord.



I bring this up because this Easter the lectionary invites us to look at the resurrection account through the eyes of the writer of the Gospel of Mark. Of the four resurrection accounts, Mark's is probably the least favorite because it leaves one hanging:

So they went out and fled from the tomb, for terror and amazement had seized them; and they said nothing to anyone, for they were afraid. (16:8)

In the early centuries after Christ, other endings, as many as three, were added to resolve the uncomfortable feeling left by what most scholars believe to be the original ending in 16:8. We like resolution. We crave resolution. However, in the Gospel of Mark, the earliest of the four Gospels, the unresolved ending is very powerful because it empowers us to find resolution – to find the resurrection. We are encouraged to go back to Galilee. This will be the subject of my Easter sermon, and I encourage you to join us to, in the words of Paul Harvey, *hear the rest of the story*.

For now, we can continue to hold Nancy, her two teen-aged children, and the rest of the Bird family in our prayers and ask God to comfort and strengthen them. We can also remind ourselves that life does not always have resolutions, or ones that we like; but, God is with us – God has the last word. Christ, dead on the cross, demanded a resolution, and God gave it on the third day.

May God's peace and strength be with us as we prepare to go through the events of Holy Week.

Tom



The First Presbyterian Church of Stirling
Feeding Those Who Hunger

Worship Services and Scripture Passages for April

April 2, 2015 – Meyersville Presbyterian Church

- *Maundy Thursday*
 - *Sacrament of Holy Communion*
- 6:30 p.m. Potluck Supper – bring a salad or dessert**
7:30 p.m. Service will be held in the fellowship hall
 Exodus 12:1-14; Psalm 116:1-2, 12-19;
 I Corinthians 11:23-26; John 13:1-17, 31b-35
Rev. Barbara Aspinall preaching

April 3, 2015 – First Presbyterian Church – 7:30 p.m.

- *Good Friday*
- *Tenebrae Service (Service of Darkness)*
 Isaiah 52:13-53:12; Psalm 22;
 Hebrews 10:16-25; John 18:1-19:42
Love – Not Appeasement
Rev. Tom Peters preaching

April 5, 2015

- *The Day of Resurrection*
 - *Sacrament of Holy Communion*
 - *Non-Perishable Food Collection*
- 7:00 a.m. - Sunrise Service at Hillview Farm in Meyersville**
10:00 a.m. - Service in our Sanctuary
 Acts 10:34-43; Psalm 118:1-2, 14-24;
 1 Corinthians 15:1-11; Mark 16:1-8
Have You Seen Him?

*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 12, 2015

- *Second Sunday of Easter*
 Acts 4:32-35; Psalm 133;
 I John 1:1-2:2; John 20:19-31
Coming Out

April 19, 2015

- *Third Sunday of Easter*
 Acts 3:12-19; Psalm 4;
 I John 3:1-7; Luke 24:36b-48
Go Home, or Go Back

April 26, 2015

- *Fourth Sunday of Easter*
 Acts 4:5-12; Psalm 23;
 I John 3:16-24; John 10:11-18
Getting Lost in the Valley of the Shadow

**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.



Travnicek Memorial Ringers

Our handbell choir will be playing three times during holy week. On Palm Sunday, they will be playing *I Love to Tell the Story*. On Good Friday, they will play *When I Survey the Wondrous Cross*. And, on Easter, with Tatiana on the organ, they will play *Christ the Lord Is Risen Today*. We hope you will enjoy these three musical offerings.



Pastor's Coffee Klatch

The next Coffee Klatch will be on **Sat., April 6th, 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

Adult Education

- Debra Sprague

Book Study Group

Our study of Barbara Brown Taylor's book, *Learning to Walk in the Dark*, will continue on **Tuesday, April 14th, at 7:30 p.m.** Susan & Ed Gerecht will host this session at the Millington Fire Station Hall to discuss Chapters 5 & 6. Next meeting date: 5/12

Sunday Lunch/Study Session

The Sunday lunch/study session we held in February on "*White Privilege?*" was fairly well-attended, and participants seemed to appreciate the opportunity to learn and understand more about this important topic. For more information on this topic, please go to: <http://www.tolerance.org/article/racism-and-white-privilege>

Fourth Sunday Focus, April 26th

- 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.



In March, we discussed the idea of "*Jesus Visits for a Long Weekend*" and had some very interesting insight into how that might go. Our next "Fourth Sunday Focus" gathering will be on **April 26th**. 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, April 5th

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 & Easter Worship Schedule

Palm/Passion Sunday, March 29th: Our young people will pass out branches of eco-palms to the congregation, and we will celebrate with the Procession of the Palms, beginning in Pollard Hall. If you are able to join in the procession, please go to Pollard Hall when you arrive at church that morning.

Maundy Thursday, April 2nd: We will meet at Meyersville Presbyterian Church at 6:30 p.m. for a Potluck Dinner. Please bring a salad or dessert to share. At 7:30 p.m., the service will be held in the Fellowship Hall, with Rev. Barbara Aspinall preaching.

Good Friday, April 3rd: We will meet in Stirling at 7:30 p.m., with the congregation of Meyersville Presbyterian Church joining us for the Tenebrae Service. Rev. Peters will be preaching.

The Day of Resurrection, Easter Sunday, April 5th: Our Easter sunrise service will be held at 7:00 a.m. at Hillview Farm in Meyersville. We will then celebrate Christ's resurrection in our sanctuary at 10:00 a.m.

Liturgists for April:

April 5	Debra Sprague	April 19	Jan Somers
April 12	Susan Gerecht	April 26	Janet Parziale

**Looking Ahead**

On Sunday, May 3rd, the congregation of the Meyersville Presbyterian Church will be worshipping with us in Stirling. Rev. Peters will be preaching.

On Sunday, May 31st, we will be worshipping at the Meyersville Presbyterian Church while Rev. Peters is away attending a wedding. Rev. Barbara Aspinall will be preaching.

Mission Committee

- Madeline Hahl

Bridges Outreach Lunch Program

- Jean Hoffman, Coordinator

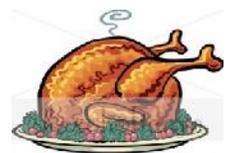


Our next commitment date for preparing 40 lunches is: **Friday, April 10th, 9:30 a.m.**, in Pollard Hall. We are in need of small cartons of juice; snacks of pudding, cookies, nuts, Goldfish, pretzels, etc.; fruit cups; and, plastic spoons. Cash donations are always appreciated and help with the purchase of bread and lunch meat. You can drop items off in Pollard Hall on Sunday mornings, or give cash donations to Madeline or Jean.

Thank you! Upcoming Dates: May 1, June 12

Easter Turkey/Ham Donations

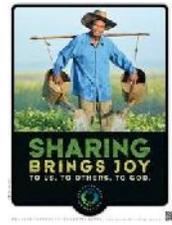
Local markets are offering their usual free turkeys, hams, etc. for Easter. If you qualify and do not intend to use your free item, please consider donating it to the needy at the Market Street Mission in Morristown. There is such a great need for food, and they are always very appreciative of our donations.



Please bring your items to church by Palm Sunday, March 29th. (Keep turkeys frozen.) **Thank you!**

One Great Hour of Sharing (OGHS)

Through our annual One Great Hour of Sharing offering, we reach many people in desperate need. The Christian Education students' *Fish* banks and the congregation's donation envelopes will be **collected on Sunday, April 12th**. Please give generously. Thank you.

Mission Opportunity - A Meal-Packaging Event for the Entire Presbytery

- Lore Pateman

STOP HUNGER NOW

This event will be held on **Saturday, May 2nd**, at the Community Presbyterian Church, 220 Main St., Chester. There will be 2 work sessions: **10:00 – Noon & 1:00 – 3:00**; lunch will be served to both groups at noon.

Pre-registration is required by April 1st (We need to advise STOP HUNGER NOW group how much food to bring.)

Cost is \$5.00 for each registrant – covers the cost of shipping the meals

Let's get a group together to attend this event. **There is a sign-up sheet on the Mission bulletin board in Pollard Hall, or email Lore Pateman at lore.pateman@adp.com. We can car pool together to Chester.**

Family Promise of Morris County

- Phyllis Clemson & Jan Somers

We have been asked to help out by taking an additional day due to some gaps in the schedule. So, we will be hosting the Family Promise program **starting with dinner on Tues., May 5th through the morning of Wed., May 6th**. The guests will be staying at Trinity House, which is located at the corner of Long Hill Road and Central Ave. We need evening hosts and donations for dinner (meal to be decided), as well as bread and desserts.

Please take a look at the sign-up sheet in Pollard Hall to see where you can help out, or speak to Phyllis or Jan.

Deacons Corner

- Katherine Ihringer

It's not too late to order your **Easter plants/flowers; the deadline is Monday, March 30th**. Complete the form in this newsletter and send it to the church office or contact Israel Sierra. Those flowers that are not picked up on Easter Sunday will be planted around the church grounds by Israel Sierra and Paul Wermuth.

I want to remind everyone about the green envelopes in the pews. They are for the Deacons and are our source of funding. Any donations will be greatly appreciated!

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. Thank you.

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

Update on the progress of the renovations of the property:

- ✓ We have received estimates for painting the damaged areas and carpeting the choir room and child care room
- ✓ We have taken inventory of the electrical equipment removed from the rooms
- ✓ We are negotiating with the insurance company to secure additional reimbursement
- ✓ Estimates are being received for the replacement of the church driveway and parking lot with commercial grade installation

Church Archives

- Rene' Phelan



Maintaining our archives is an important part of our church history. If you have news clippings, bulletins, programs, or other memorabilia regarding any member of our church family, please be sure to forward them to Rene' so she can keep our records up-to-date. You can give them to Rene' on Sunday mornings or place them in the "News Clippings" mailbox outside the church offices. Please take a look at the volumes of archives on the book case in Pollard Hall, and you will get an idea of the information that is included.

Annual Fish & Chips Dinner

- Lore Pateman & Paul Wermuth

Time is flying by, and we have started planning our Annual Argyle's Fish & Chips Dinner, which will be held on **Saturday, June 6th**. Please mark your calendars now. If you are interested in helping plan this event, please see Lore or Paul.

**Earth Day 2015, April 22nd**

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 Hour, March 28th 8:30 p.m.; Earth Day, April 22nd; and, Arbor Day, April 26th, by doing your part to preserve and renew the resources and beauty of our world.



Community News

- Jan Somers

At the Annual NJ Veterinary Medical Association Conference in March, Len Soucy and the Raptor Trust were inducted into the *2015 Animal Hall of Fame*. Len's son, Chris, who brought along a hawk, accepted the award on his behalf and spoke about his father's work:



"It's an honor to accept this award on behalf of The Raptor Trust, and especially on behalf of my father. He spent his entire lifetime as a devoted environmentalist and educator. He was committed to the idea that all wild creatures deserve our understanding. He helped those creatures directly through his rehabilitation efforts, and in the 30-plus years since The Raptor Trust's formation, we have cared for over 90,000 wild birds right here in Long Hill Township."

Go to: <https://vimeo.com/121926149> to watch a video about Len and the Raptor Trust.

(My daughter, Denise, is a Veterinary Technician and attended the conference.)

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.

These Days

"These Days has been the concrete expression of the church's witness to the love of Jesus Christ to the world for more than three decades."

Our Church has a subscription for multiple copies of this devotional booklet; they are available in the Church narthex.

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 MacDonal House to help fund their programs for hospitalized children and their families. There is a collection canister in the church office. Thank you.



Session and Deacon Responsibilities

Listed below are the Session and Board of Deacons responsibilities and liaisons for 2015. Please note that some of the committees of the church have been changed this year.

2015 Session Responsibilities

Moderator	Rev. Peters
Official Clerk of Session:	
Data Entry into Records	Megan Gallagan
Clerk of Session:	
Take Minutes	Susan Brodziak, Lore Pateman
President of Trustees	Kai Ihringer
Buildings & Grounds and Property	
Administration Liaisons	Lynn Blakeslee, Michael Nugent
Christian Education Liaison	Lore Pateman
Finance Liaison	Kai Ihringer
New Beginnings Liaison	Susan Brodziak
Mission Liaison	Ed Gerecht
Nominating Chairperson	Paul Wermuth
Personnel Liaison	Kai Ihringer
Presbytery Commissioner	Madeline Hahl
Worship Liaison	Joyce Koenig

2015 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
Paraments	Shaylyn Gallagan
New Beginnings Committee	Israel Sierra

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, March 30th.

	<u>What Color?</u>	<u>How many?</u>	<u>Total Price</u>
Azaleas, \$16.00 each (Red, White, Pink)	_____	_____	_____
Daffodils, \$10.50 each (All Yellow)	_____	_____	_____
Lilies, \$11.00 each (All White)	_____	_____	_____
Tulips, \$10.50 each (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, March 30th

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

Eye glasses, 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: \$50, \$100
- ✓ Gift 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 23rd**. Thank you!

Stirling Stuff is the newsletter of the

The First Presbyterian Church of Stirling

158 Central Avenue
Stirling, NJ 07980

Editor: Jan Somers

The Rev. Dr. Thomas T. Peters, Pastor
pastor@fpcstirling.org
Paulette Irlander, Office Manager
Secretary@fpcstirling.org
Church Office: 908-647-1033
Website: www.fpcstirling.org

Why not invite a friend to church?



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.