



Stirling Stuff

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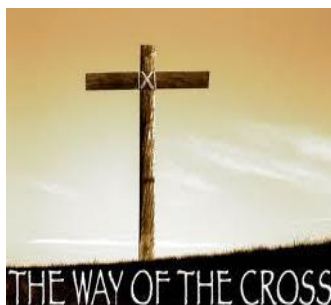
Pastor's Letter

Yesterday and today, I had the joy of sitting at the Department of Motor Vehicles waiting to get my drivers license renewed. The system that does the pictures was down statewide. I waited with a number of others to see if the system would come back up. I was there for three hours and finally left. This morning I went in to try again--the system was still down. I waited for several more hours and finally left. What was joyful about it was that none of the people waiting was getting upset. They knew what was going on because the supervisor would come out every so often and let us know what he knew. We also knew the problem was not at that license bureau, but was statewide. People would chat with others, play with their children. It was a very congenial group of people.

We hear so much about what is wrong with people today that it is nice to experience something that is right. There is also the sense that we were all in it together; we were all in the same boat, as it were. As I look ahead to the season of Lent, which begins on Wednesday, February 18th, it reminds me and us that that is true in all of life. None of us is perfect – none of us has it all together. We all sin and fall short of what God wants from us. In that sense, no one person is better than anyone else. Lent helps us think and work at being better; but, we are only human, and there will always be those times when we are too human and sin. What this reminds us is that, while being about how we all fall short, Lent is also about grace. It is about grace shared because God still loves us, even when we are too human. That is what Holy Week and Easter are all about.



Be sure to join us as we journey through Lent together. My sermon series during Lent is entitled *Walking the Via Dolorosa*, (Walking the Way of the Cross). The series will reflect on some of the people and attitudes we experience on our journeys.



See you in church!

Tom

The First Presbyterian Church of Stirling
Feeding Those Who Hunger

Worship Services and Scripture Passages for February

February 1, 2015

- *Epiphany 4B*
- *Sacrament of Holy Communion*
- *Non-Perishable Food Collection*
Deuteronomy 18:15-20; Psalm 111;
1 Corinthians 8:1-13; Mark 1:21-28
When in Community, Words Matter

February 8, 2015

- *Epiphany 5B*
- *Installation of Church Officers*
Isaiah 40:21-31; Psalm 147:1-11, 20c;
1 Corinthians 9:16-23; Mark 1:29-39
Service Is Not About Me

February 15, 2015

- *Transfiguration B*
2 Kings 2:1-12; Psalm 50:1-6;
2 Corinthians 4:3-6; Mark 9:2-9
Where Is The Lord, The God of Elijah?

*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.*



February 18, 2015

- *Ash Wednesday (Meyersville – 7:30 p.m.)*
Joel 2:1-2, 12-17; Psalm 51:1-17;
2 Corinthians 5:20b-6:10; Matthew 6:1-6, 16-21
Rev. Barbara Aspinall preaching

February 22, 2015

- *Lent 1B*
Genesis 9:8-17; Psalm 25:1-10;
1 Peter 3:18-22; Mark 1:9-15
Walking the Via Dolorosa
1. Overcoming Fear

**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.



Pastor's Coffee Klatch

The next Coffee Klatch will be on **Sat., February 7th, 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.



Per Capita Apportionment

This year the Per Capita amount we are assessed **per member is \$33**. This money enables the Presbyterian Church (USA) and its Councils (Presbytery and Synod) to do their work. The Presbytery is required to send the total money owed; therefore, when we do not pay our full amount, we are hurting our presbytery because they have to make up the difference. Please help out by paying the \$33 for each member of your family who is a member of the church. The Per Capita envelope can be found in the front of your offering envelopes box. Thank you.

Christian Education Committee

- Lore Pateman

Souper Bowl of Caring Collection, Sunday, February 1st

- Tom Parziale



In 1990 in South Carolina, a simple prayer: "Lord, even as we enjoy the Super Bowl football game, help us be mindful of those who are without a bowl of soup to eat" inspired a youth-led movement to help hungry and hurting people around the world. Once again, our church youth will be participating in this program. The money they collect will be donated locally as decided by the youth. Last year, they collected \$247, and they split the donation 50/50 between the Market Street Mission in Morristown and the Community Foodbank of New Jersey in Hillside.

The youth of our church take this responsibility seriously. **They will be collecting your donations on Super Bowl Sunday, Feb. 1st**, as you exit the sanctuary following morning worship; please consider supporting this worthy cause. You can learn more about Souper Bowl of Caring at: <http://www.souperbowl.org/resources>.

Adult Education

- Debra Sprague

Fourth Sunday Focus: Feb 1st and Feb. 22nd

- 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.



Our January Fourth Sunday Focus was rescheduled; it will be held on February 1st. The topic will be "Looking Back to Look Ahead."

Then, our next "Fourth Sunday Focus" gathering will be on **February 22nd**. 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.

Soup Lunch and Discussion: Education to Feed "Those Who Hunger" ... for Justice

Our Soup Lunch and Discussion planned for January 18th has been rescheduled to Sunday, **February 8th following worship**. We will discuss **"White Privilege?"** We've been hearing the term "White Privilege" a lot lately - what does it mean, and how prevalent IS "White Privilege?" If you haven't thought much about it, plan to come - you may be surprised! Please sign up in Pollard Hall to bring soup/stew, bread, cheese, dessert. Folks from Meyersville and the community are being invited to join us for this discussion.

Book Study Group

The book study on Barbara Brown Taylor's book, *Learning to Walk In the Dark*, will continue on **Tuesday., Feb. 10th, 7:30 p.m. Tom Peters will be hosting this session at his home.** If you did not join us in January, you are still welcome to journey with us. We will be discussing Chapter 1 & 2. Tom Peters still has books available at a cost of \$22.53. Please see Tom Peters if you need directions to his home. Upcoming meeting dates: 3/10, 4/14, 5/12

Joint-Church Lenten Sunday Soup Supper and Study Series

Five Sundays, Feb. 22nd to March 22nd, from 5:00–7:00 p.m.

“Seeing Ourselves in Those Confronted by Jesus” **Songs of the Bible**



A man ran up to Jesus, knelt before him and asked, “Good Teacher, what must I do to inherit eternal life?” This is a question that is central to the life of the Christian faith, and Jesus’ answer is both reassuring and troubling. Our five-week Three-Church Lenten Study this year will focus on some of the groups of people with whom Jesus interacted and how Jesus affirmed or challenged their understandings of what it means to be a person of faith, a follower of God. Join us as we learn about the Pharisees, Sadducees, the Essenes and Zealots, the disciples, the women who followed Jesus, and how we folks of the 21st century might also be affirmed and challenged by how Jesus responded to these groups.

Each of the three churches will have opportunities to host the Lenten Sunday Soup and Study programs, and the discussions will be led by the pastors and lay folk. The group will begin on the Sunday evenings listed below with a soup supper at 5:00 p.m. followed by the study and discussion. The evening will conclude by 7:00 p.m. Child care will be provided.

In addition, Roberta Keller, organist and choir director at Meyersville, is planning a short (½ hour) Lenten contemplative musical program based on the ***Songs of the Bible*** – Esther’s song, Miriam’s song, and Mary’s song. This will begin at 4:00 p.m., which will allow folks time to get to the Soup and Study as well.

Date	Topic	Host	Leader
February 22	<i>Pharisees and Sadducees</i>	MPC	Barbara Aspinall
March 1	<i>The Essenes</i>	TUC	Tom Peters
March 8	<i>The Zealots</i>	MPC	Tom Peters
March 15	<i>The Disciples</i>	FPC	Heather Harris-Galgoci
March 22	<i>The Women</i>	TUC	Barbara Aspinall

MPC = Meyersville Presby. Church, 223 Hickory Tavern Rd, Gillette

TUC = Trinity United Church, 118 King George Rd, Warren

FPC = First Presby. Church, 158 Central Ave, Stirling

Worship Committee

- Janet Parziale

Non-Perishable Food Collection, Feb. 1st

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.

Ash Wednesday

Please plan to join us as we journey through the Season of Lent, beginning with the Service of Ashes on **Ash Wednesday, Feb. 18th**. Our service will be held at the **Meyersville Church at 7:30 p.m.** with Rev. Barbara Aspinall preaching.

Piano Dedication

The Piano Dedication originally scheduled for January 25th will be held on a Sunday in March. It was postponed to allow for members of the extended family to be present.

Mission Committee

- Madeline Hahl

Bridges Outreach Lunch Program

- Jean Hoffman, Coordinator



Our next commitment date for preparing 40 lunches is: **Friday, Feb. 6th, 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. Of course, 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: March 6, April 10, May 1, June 12

Warm Clothing Collection

If you have blankets, jackets, coats, sweaters, or other warm clothing to donate, please place them on the bench in Pollard Hall. Men's wear will be donated to the *Bridges Outreach Program* and all other items, including children's clothing, will go to *St. Joseph's Social Services* in Elizabeth. Your donations are much appreciated.

Family Promise of Morris County

- Phyllis Clemson & Jan Somers

Thank you to everyone who helped host the Family Promise program at Trinity House on Tues., Jan. 27th. Our evening and overnight hosts and those who made donations of money and food all contributed to making this a comfortable stay for the families in the program.

Our next responsibility is Tues., July 7th

An Evening of Promise: Recognizing Volunteers & Community Service

Date: Thursday, March 26, 2015

Time: 6:30 p.m. - 9:30 p.m.

Place: Location: Meadow Wood Manor, 461 Route 10 East, Randolph, NJ



Please join us for the evening as we thank our volunteers and community partners who dedicate their time, energy, and resources to help eliminate homelessness in our community. Dinner will be served and there will be live music and our fabulous tricky tray! We are truly grateful for all you do and look forward to seeing you there!

For more information, please call 973-998-0820, or e-mail info@familypromisemorris.org.

Buildings & Grounds

- Tom Parziale

Roof Project - The Flat Roof and Steeple Roof replacements are now complete. With the new insulation and ceilings in the choir room and child care room installed, we will now be turning our attention to painting activities and new rugs for those rooms.

Parking Lot Paving Project - We are gathering additional estimates and hope to have the work done this spring.

Deacons Corner

- Katherine Ihringer

Even though 2015 is just beginning, we should still remember 2014 and all of the successes that we as a church accomplished! The Deacons want to thank everyone for their hard work and dedication that made 2014 wonderful. Some of our accomplishments include: decorating the church, the carol sing (and the cookie donations), emergency clean up buckets, and of course those who helped with coffee hour. Some events that are coming up this month include Installation Sunday, which is on February 8th, and Ash Wednesday, which is on February 18th. Once again, I would like to thank everyone for their dedication to the church in 2014 and hopefully 2015 will be even better!

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.

Deacons Fund

There are green envelopes in the pew racks for donations to the Deacons Fund. This fund helps support the Mission work of the Board of Deacons.

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.



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



Lucky Game Night

Come to our church on **Friday, February 13th** and have a fun time with people from our church and Meyersville PC eating pizza and playing games. Bring your favorite game and enjoy food and fellowship. We will begin at 6 PM. You can also help by bringing a beverage and a snack or dessert to share.

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: \$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
March issue of Stirling Stuff to:
jsomers17@hotmail.com
by Feb. 19th. Thank you!

Stirling Stuff is the newsletter of the

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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.