



Stirling Stuff

Volume 59, No. 5

May 2015

Pastor's Letter

A few years ago we went through our New Beginnings process. At that time, we determined that the passion of our church was to feed the hungry. We want to feed those who are hungry physically, emotionally, and spiritually. We came up with some ideas for each of those categories. In terms of the feeding those who are physically hungry, we wanted to see if we could work with other churches in Long Hill Township and the surrounding communities and start a food pantry for our area. After talking with different people and groups, it was determined that, while there are hungry people in our area, there are not enough to necessitate an independent food pantry. Recently, the team working on this decided that what we needed to do was to work with the people who run the St. Vincent de Paul food pantry.

We had a good conversation with Randa Wallisch, who is the head of the food pantry at St. Vincent's. They serve 40 to 60 people one morning a month, and it pretty much clears out their cupboards. While most of these people come from the Plainfields, there are a few from town. We recognize that there may be more people in our area but, because of pride, they do not want to come to the pantry where they may be recognized. We will be continuing our conversation with Randa to find ways that we might reach out to these people. For now, we are helping them when they need help and bringing food to be handed out.

Randa shared with us what foods are best for them to give out and serve the people nutritionally and for more meals. You will find that list on page 2 of this newsletter. We will be updating this list each month. Please try to buy foods that are on this list. While we have a collection on each communion Sunday morning during worship, you can bring food anytime and put it in the basket by the Pollard Hall entrance. We also ask that you check the expiration dates on the food you donate. Randa asks that the expiration date on be at least 5 months after the time you are donating the food. She will not give out any food that is three months beyond the expiration date. We don't want to give out leftovers, but good, nutritious food.

We appreciate your help and will keep you informed as we continue to work with St Vincent's to find ways to reach more local people who may not want to come to the food pantry. If you know of someone, please let me know, and I will work with Randa and Fr. Richard to find a way to get food to them.

See you in church!

Tom

The First Presbyterian Church of Stirling
Feeding Those Who Hunger

Worship Services and Scripture Passages for May

May 3, 2015

- *Easter 5B*
- *Sacrament of Holy Communion*
- *Non-Perishable Food Collection*
Acts 8:26-40; Psalm 22:25-31;
1 John 4:7-21; John 15:1-8
Conversation, Not Dialogue

May 10, 2015

- *Easter 6B*
- *Mother's Day*
Acts 10:44-48; Psalm 98;
1 John 5:1-6; John 15:9-17
Their Sound Is Gone Out!

May 17, 2015

- *Easter 7B*
Acts 1:15-17, 21-26; Psalm 1;
1 John 5:9-13; John 17:6-19
Almost, But Not Quite

*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 24, 2015

- *Day of Pentecost*
- *Travnicek Memorial Ringers playing*
Acts 2:1-21; Psalm 104:24-34, 35b;
Romans 8:22-27; John 15:26-27, 16:4b-15
We've Got Something to Say!

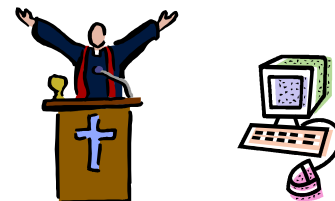
May 31, 2015

- *Trinity Sunday*
- ***Worship will be at Meyersville
Presbyterian Church***
Isaiah 6:1-8; Psalm 29;
Romans 8:12-17; John 3:1-17
Rev. Barbara Aspinall Preaching

**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.



Food Pantry Items Needed

In connection with "Pastor's Letter" on pg. 1, here is a list of the items they are in most critical need of at the food pantry at St. Vincent's:

- Spaghetti Sauce (large jar)
- Canned vegetables, specifically: corn, carrots, beets, mixed veggies, yams
- Dry Beans: Black, Kidney, Pinto
- Canned Beans: Cannellini, garbanzo
- Breakfast food: Pancake mix, jelly, coffee, tea
- White Rice: 2 or 5 pound bags
- Jello gelatin
- Macaroni and Cheese
- Spaghetti noodles (long pasta only PLEASE)

Pastor's Coffee Klatch

The next Coffee Klatch will be on **Sat., May 2nd, 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

Johnsonburg Camp & Conference Center

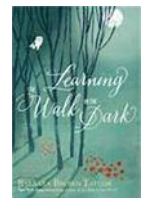
Information regarding Camp Johnsonburg's Summer 2015 program is available in Pollard Hall and the church office. One-week sessions for ages 6-17 begin on June 29th. You can also go to their website: www.campjburg.org, or call them at 908-852-2349.

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, May 19th, 7:30 p.m.**, when we will discuss Chapters 7 & 8. We still need to find a place to meet; if you can host the group, please talk to Rev. Peters.

Fourth Sunday Focus, May 24th

- 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 April, we discussed Athletics and Christianity. We came up with a summary of similarities: Endurance - Courage – Discipline as a foundation for Action.

Our next "Fourth Sunday Focus" gathering will be on **May 24th**. 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 3rd

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.

***Please see pg. 2 of this newsletter for a list of items most needed at the food pantry.**



Liturgists for May:	May 3	Susan Gerecht	May 24	Madeline Hahl
	May 10	Madeline Hahl	May 31	Meyersville Church
	May 17	Jan Somers		



Pentecost Sunday, May 24th

Sunday, May 24th, is the Day of Pentecost, when we celebrate the beginning of the Christian Church. Our Travnicek Memorial Ringers will be playing, and the Worship Committee has planned a special remembrance of the day for the congregation. **Please remember to wear something red.**

Worship Changes

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, May 1st, 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 Date: June 12

Easter Turkey/Ham Donations

- Jean Hoffman

We collected 5 turkeys and 1 ham on Palm Sunday. Thank you to Bill Combs for delivering them to the Market Street Mission in Morristown and to those who made the donations. There is such a great need for food, and they were very appreciative of our donations.



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

- Lore Pateman

STOP HUNGER NOW

This event will be held on **Sat., May 2nd**, at the Community Presbyterian Church, 220 Main St., Chester. We will be attending the **10:00 – Noon work session**; lunch will be served at noon.

If you did not sign up but would like to attend, please contact Lore Pateman. We can car pool together to Chester.

Family Promise of Morris County

- Phyllis Clemson & Jan Somers

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. Most of our sign-up sheet is filled -- **THANK YOU!** However, we still need donations of baked potatoes. Please speak to Phyllis or Jan if you can help out.

Community Food Bank

- Kai Ihringer

Please consider joining us on our next trip to the **Community Food Bank in Hillside on Sat., May 9th**. This is a great opportunity to help fulfill our church's mission of "feeding the hungry" while also enjoying the comradery of our fellow volunteers. Also consider reaching out to people who aren't church members but might be interested in joining us.

We will meet in the church parking lot at 8:00 a.m. to carpool; we will leave at 8:15 a.m. Our work slot is 9:00 a.m. to 11:00 a.m.. We will return to the church between 11:30 and noon.

If you plan to attend, please contact Kai ASAP so that he can provide the Food Bank with an accurate number of volunteers. Also, let Kai know if you can drive. Thanks.



Next Food Bank Work Date: November 21st

Deacons Corner

- Beth Badilla



Fellowship Hour is "Cooling Down" for the summer! Have you been avoiding hosting Fellowship Hour due to hot pot fears? Sign up for June and July, and keep it cool with lemonade and iced tea (in the cupboard).



Want to share in the fun? Double up with a Deacon for Fellowship Hour—you donate the dough, and we will make the cake and cookies! See any Deacon after church to set it up!



A huge Thank You to Paul Wermuth and Israel Sierra for planting the leftover Easter flowers around our grounds.

Please remember to use the green envelopes that can be found 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.



National Day of Prayer, May 7th

The **National Day of Prayer** is an annual day of observance held on the first Thursday of May, designated by the United States Congress, when people are asked "to turn to God in prayer and meditation." Each year since its inception in 1952, the president has signed a proclamation, encouraging all Americans to pray on this day.

Annual Fish & Chips Dinner

- Lore Pateman & Paul Wermuth

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

Church Archives

- Rene' Phelan



A reminder that Rene' is working hard to keep our church archives up-to-date. Please forward to her news clippings, bulletins, programs, or other memorabilia regarding any member of our church family. **Rene' is specifically looking for pictures taken at last year's fish dinner.**

Voucher Fund

- Jean Hoffman

Kings gift cards will no longer be available. My daughter, who does not live locally, has been my only customer. We will lose about \$200 per year, but I am hopeful that with the enhancements to Shop Rite, sales of their certificates will increase. Should the situation change in the future and a few people change their shopping habits, I will be glad to reinstate the Kings gift cards.



My thanks to all who faithfully use these certificates. Remember, even a \$20 voucher returns \$1 to the church. Funds are dedicated to building maintenance. Recently, most of this fund was used toward paying for the new church roof. It is a valuable resource.

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.

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 Gift Cards

- ✓ No additional cost to you to use
- ✓ Purchase cards at face value
- ✓ Church earns 5%
- ✓ Denominations available are:
ShopRite: \$20, \$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
June issue of Stirling Stuff to:
jsomers17@hotmail.com
by May 21st. 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.