



Stirling Stuff

Volume 60, No. 4

April 2016

Pastor's Letter

There is a wonderful little story by the late Fr. Anthony de Mello that I've always loved:

*I used to be stone deaf. I would
See people stand up and go through
All kinds of gyrations. They called
It dancing. It looked absurd to me
----until one day I heard the music!*



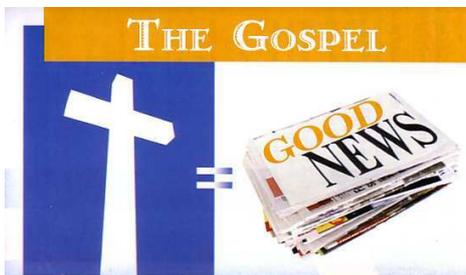
We have just come through Lent and heard the good news of Easter. *He is not here. He has risen!* I sometimes wonder if we have heard that music. Has the good news of the resurrection created a new life within us? April is a month of new life. All the tree buds pop out, the grass turns green, and the Spring flowers begin to bloom. Easter should give new life to our trust in God. It is the good news that gives us the will and courage to be God's disciples in our various worlds.

For the disciples of Jesus, post-Easter is when they took over and began to be the people that Jesus challenged them to be. They had the courage to preach the good news in the temple and the communities. They finally heard the music and began dancing.

As we hear the Easter season readings, it is my hope that we, too, will hear the music and dance!

See you in church!

Tom



The First Presbyterian Church of Stirling
Feeding Those Who Hunger

Worship Services and Scripture Passages for April

April 3, 2016

- *Second Sunday of Easter*
- *Sacrament of Holy Communion*
- *Non-Perishable Food Collection*
Acts 5:27-32; Psalm 118:14-29;
Revelation 1:4-8; John 20:19-31
Who Is This Man?

April 10, 2016

- *Third Sunday of Easter*
Acts 9:1-20; Psalm 30;
Revelation 5:11-14; John 21:1-19
You Can Never Go Home Again

*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.*

*Worship begins at 10:00 a.m. on Sunday mornings,
followed by Fellowship Hour in Pollard Hall.*



April 17, 2016

- *Fourth Sunday of Easter*
Acts 9:36-43; Psalm 23;
Revelation 7:9-17; John 10:22-30
Could You Stay With Simon?

April 24, 2016

- *Fifth Sunday of Easter*
Acts 11:1-18; Psalm 148;
Revelation 21:1-6; John 13:31-35
What Exactly Is The New Jerusalem?

**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., April 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.



Here are pictures of the February and March Coffee Klatch groups.

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 4th**. Please mark your calendars now! If you are interested in helping plan this event, please see Lore or Paul.

**New Member Welcomed**

On Palm Sunday, March 20th, Joann Murphy joined our congregation by Reaffirmation of Faith. Please join me in welcoming Joann.

**Travnicek Memorial Ringers****- Rev. Peters**

I want to say a big thank you to the hand bell ringers for the work they put into the pieces they played for Palm Sunday and Easter. I really appreciate the work the choir puts into each Monday night practice to be prepared.

Christian Education Committee**- Lore Pateman****Adult Bible Study****- Rev. Peters**

Our Bible Study class meets at **10:30 a.m. every Thursday in the meeting room**. We are continuing to work our way through the Gospel of John. Anyone is invited to attend at any time. Rev. Peters still has two books for \$27 if someone wants a copy.

Joint-Church Lenten Sunday Soup Supper and Study Series**- Debra Sprague**

The 2016 **Joint-Church Lenten Sunday Soup Supper and Study Series** met on 4 Sunday evenings during Lent, rotating amongst the three host churches (Meyersville, Trinity United, and Stirling). We had 35 people attend one or more sessions, with an average of 19 participants per session. This was our 8th year of holding this joint program. Each week started with a soup supper, provided by the host church, which also provided child care; supper was followed by our study. This year's program was "**The Last Week: What the Gospels Really Teach About Jesus's Final Days in Jerusalem**," based on a book of the same title by Marcus Borg and John Dominick Crosson. We want to thank our leaders, Heather Harris-Galgoci of Trinity United Church, the Rev. Barbara Aspinall of Meyersville, and our own Rev. Tom Peters for doing such a great job in leading us through this study.



Thank you to all who provided delicious soups, as well as bread, crackers, and desserts, and to those who helped with set-up and clean-up (including washing all of those soup bowls!). Thank you also to Shaylyn Gallagan, who provided child care for both sessions our church hosted.

Fourth Sunday Focus, April 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. Our next “Fourth Sunday Focus” gathering will be on **April 24th** in the meeting room. We start around **8:45 a.m.** and end by about 9:45 a.m., but join us whenever you can.



In March, our topic was *Feast*. **If you have a topic you’d like to discuss, please contact Tom Parziale.**

Spring Spruce-Up Day at Johnsonburg

Join Us on Saturday, April 23 from 9:00 a.m. to 4:00 p.m.

We provide the lunch; you provide the hands.



This day is great for:

- Families (all ages welcome)
- Youth groups
- Men's groups
- Women’s groups
- EVERYONE!

Projects Planned:

- Invasive Removal
- Firewood
- Butterfly Garden Clean Up
- Opening Cabins
- Small Carpentry Projects
- More!

Johnsonburg Presbyterian Center, 822 Rte. 519, Johnsonburg, NJ 07825

Questions? Call the office at (908) 852-2349

Looking Ahead

- Christian Education **Recognition Sunday** will be held on **June 12th**.
- Our **Annual Church Picnic** will be held on the front lawn of the church on **May 22nd**, following worship.

Worship Committee

- Janet Parziale

Liturgists for April

April 3	Tom Parziale	April 17	Lore Pateman
April 10	Susan Gerecht	April 24	Amanda Gerecht



Non-Perishable Food Collection, April 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.



***Following is a list of items most needed at the food pantry:**

- | | |
|---|---|
| Spaghetti Sauce (large jar) | Breakfast food: Pancake mix, jelly, coffee, tea |
| White Rice: 2 or 5 pound bags | Jell-O Gelatin |
| Macaroni and Cheese | Canned Beans: Cannellini, Garbanzo |
| Canned vegetables: | Dry Beans: Black, Kidney, Pinto |
| corn, carrots, beets, mixed veggies, yams | Spaghetti (long pasta only) |

Deacons Corner

- Susan Gerecht

Mission Offering in April

During the month of April, the Deacons will be collecting a special mission offering for the Presbyterian Disaster Assistance Program. Please look for special envelopes in the pews to be used for this purpose.

**Deacons' Fund**

Please remember to use the green *Deacons' Fund* envelopes for donations to help the Deacons with their Mission work. These envelopes are available in the pew racks or in the church office and may be placed in the offering plate. Thank you!

**Worship/Fellowship Hour Help**

We need people to sign up to usher and host Fellowship Hour in the upcoming weeks. There are always Deacons around on Sunday mornings to help with the set up. If you would like to donate towards it and have someone else host, speak to one of the Deacons.

Church Flowers

Please 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.

Mission Programs**Easter Turkey/Ham Donations**

Thank you to everyone who donated turkeys/hams for Easter. Rev. Peters delivered 6 turkeys and 1 ham to the Market Street Mission in Morristown to help feed the needy.

**Family Promise of Morris County**

- Phyllis Clemson & Jan Somers

We are hosting Family Promise at Trinity House in Stirling on Tuesday, April 5 through Wed. a.m. We need volunteers to provide salad, bread, and dessert. We also need hosts for dinner from 5-9 p.m. Please sign-up in Pollard Hall if there is any area where you can help out with this important ongoing program. Thank you!

Ending Homelessness One Family at a Time

Bridges Outreach Lunch Program

- Jean Hoffman, Coordinator



Our next commitment date for preparing 40 lunches is: **Friday, April 8th, 9:30 a.m.**, in Pollard Hall. We are in need of small bottles of water and cartons of juice; snacks of cookies, nuts, Goldfish, pretzels, etc.; 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 for your continued support of this very important and much appreciated program!

Upcoming Dates: May 13, June 10

One Great Hour of Sharing (OGHS)

The three groups in the Presbyterian Church (USA) that benefit from our OGHS offering are: Presbyterian Hunger Program, Self-Development of People, and Presbyterian Disaster Assistance (PDA). We reach many people in desperate need through this offering and, unless people direct their giving specifically to them, this is the only way these three vital organizations receive funding. There are special OGHS envelopes in the church pews for this purpose; **they will be collected early in April.** Thank you.

**Buildings & Grounds**

Thank you to all our volunteer painters who did such a great job sprucing up the hallway and kitchen areas of Pollard Hall: Shaylyn Gallagan, Israel Sierra, Jeanne Wyatt, and Paul Wermuth. It looks so bright and clean!

Music Series

On Sunday, March 13th, approximately 43 people attended a concert by Dr. Clipper Erickson, pianist from the Westminster Conservatory of Music, which is part of Ryder University. We heard works from Bach, Chopin, and Beethoven, but we were also treated to music by Nathaniel Detts, about whom Dr. Erickson is a world authority. We also heard the world premiere of *Variations on Rachmaninoff*, by Laurie Altman, a contemporary composer of classical music. We look forward to having Dr. Erickson return for a future concert.

On **Sunday, April 10th, at 2:00 p.m.**, we will welcome back Yukiko Tanaka, the pianist who inaugurated our music series last October. Raphael Klayman, the violinist who was planning to come in April, has asked to be rescheduled to June. Please pass the word and invite everyone to hear Yukiko! We've been pleased with the attendance at the concerts. The musicians have been very good. Our church is getting a very good reputation for the music series. We hope you will help spread the word.

**Earth Day 2016 - April 22nd - Trees for the Earth**

Over the next five years, as **Earth Day** moves closer to its **50th anniversary**, we're calling on you to help us achieve one of our most ambitious goals yet — **we're planting 7.8 billion trees** and we're starting now. **Trees help combat climate change. Trees help us breathe clean air. Trees help communities. Let's get planting!**

Meyersville Presbyterian Church Free Computer Basics Classes

Meyersville Presbyterian Church is organizing free computer basics classes, to be held for 12 weeks on Saturdays from 10 a.m.-noon, from April 9 to June 25. This MS Windows 7 basics computer training is for novice windows computer users. The training is part lecture, but mainly hands-on in our state-of-the-art computer lab.



Seating is limited, so reserve your spot if you are interested. The course book is free for use in the classroom or \$10 to purchase. Following is the list of topics and dates:

<u>Session</u>	<u>Topic</u>	<u>Date</u>	<u>Session</u>	<u>Topic</u>	<u>Date</u>
1	Choose a Computer	April 9	7	Personal Internet	May 21
2	Explore your computer	April 16	8	Excel	May 28
3	Windows Basics	April 23	9	Music and Speech	June 4
4	Word	April 30	10	Photography	June 11
5	Communication	May 7	11	Gadgets and Gizmos	June 18
6	Surfing the Internet	May 14	12	Manage Your Computer	June 25

Whether you are interested in attending the entire 12-week course or just certain topics, please contact Rudy Zydel from the Meyersville Church at ruudz@aol.com to reserve your seat.

Free Gentle Yoga Class - Meyersville Presbyterian Church

Roseanne McGraw, a certified yoga teacher for 15 years, is teaching a free gentle yoga class in the parlor at Meyersville Presbyterian Church on **Tuesdays from 9:00-10:00 a.m.** The class is on-going, so you can join at any time.



You will not be sitting or lying on the floor, so just bring yourself in comfortable clothes, and invite friends along. This class will be appropriate for all, the flexible as well as the tight. Injuries will be accommodated. Yoga is relaxing, as well as good for general health; so, come give it a try.

Call or e-mail Rosanne with any questions or concerns: 908-508-1435, rosanne.mcgraw@gmail.com

Church Archives



Please remember to forward news clippings, bulletins, programs, pictures, or other memorabilia regarding any member of our church family to Rene' Phelan so she can keep our church archives up-to-date. There is a mailbox outside the church offices for this purpose. 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.



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.

Pictures from Maundy Thursday and Easter

The Worship Committee hosted a potluck supper on Maundy Thursday, followed by the worship service. Our friends from Meyersville Presbyterian Church joined with us, and Rev. Barbara Aspinall and Rev. Peters lead the worship. Here are pictures from the service:



Our Easter morning worship service included a special Talk with the Children. Here Rev. Peters is telling them about the Resurrection of Jesus, using the example of a caterpillar turning into a butterfly.

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
May issue of Stirling Stuff to:
jsomers17@hotmail.com
by **April 24th**. 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

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.