



# Stirling Stuff

Volume 60, No. 5

May 2016

## Pastor's Letter

In his book, *The Heart of the Enlightened*, the late Fr. Anthony de Mello tells the following story.

*After thirty years of watching television, a husband said to his wife, "Let's do something really exciting tonight." Instantly she conjured up visions of a night in town. "Great," she said. "What shall we do?" "Well," her husband said, "let's exchange chairs."*



I thought of this story because, for me, it speaks a truth about the power of the Holy Spirit in our lives. During worship on May 15<sup>th</sup>, we will be celebrating Pentecost. Pentecost is the celebration of the coming of the Holy Spirit on the disciples and upon God's people, the church. We like to call it the birthday of the church because it was from this experience that the disciples went out into the world and began their ministry.

Pentecost is more than a birthday though. It is the beginning of the dynamic power of God entering the world through the believers. However, we do not often claim that power. For most of us, the coming of the Holy Spirit is just a nice thing to celebrate, but with no real power or energy. It is the exchanging of chairs. Pentecost is about power -- power that caused Peter to stand up in the temple and before the religious hierarchy and proclaim the truths of the gospel. Pentecost is about the power we can claim to fuel our own proclamation of the gospel to the world. But we have to claim it. We have to believe we have it. This is the question for our celebration: Will we be God's people filled with power, or will we just change pews? How do you answer that question?

See you in church!

*Tom*



The First Presbyterian Church of Stirling  
Feeding Those Who Hunger

## Worship Services and Scripture Passages for May

### May 1, 2016

- Sixth Sunday of Easter
- Sacraments of Holy Communion and Baptism
- Non-Perishable Food Collection  
Acts 16:9-15; Psalm 67;  
Revelation 21:10, 22-22:5; John 14:23-29  
**Reclaiming the Old Word "Abide"**

### May 8, 2016

- Seventh Sunday of Easter
- Mother's Day  
Acts 16:16-34; Psalm 97  
Revelation 22:12-14, 16-17, 20-21; John 17:20-26  
**\*\*Worship at Meyersville Presby. Church**

### May 15, 2016

- The Day of Pentecost
- Travnicek Memorial Ringers will be playing  
Acts 2:1-21; Psalm 104:24-34, 35b;  
Romans 8:14-17; John 14:8-17, 25-27  
**When Was the Golden Age of the Church?**

*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.*



### May 22, 2016

- Trinity Sunday
- Church Picnic following Worship  
Proverbs 8:1-4, 22-31; Psalm 8;  
Romans 5:1-5; John 16:12-15  
**Is There Stuff We Cannot Know Yet?**

### May 29, 2016

- Second Sunday of Pentecost
- Memorial Day Sunday  
First Kings 18:20-39; Psalm 96;  
Galatians 1:1-12; Luke 7:1-10  
**Looking Inside the Book Before  
You Judge It**

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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.



### Pastor's Coffee Klatch

The next Coffee Klatch will be on **Sat., May 14<sup>th</sup>, 9:00 a.m., (the 2<sup>nd</sup> Sat. of the month)** 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.



**Sacrament of Baptism**

On **Sunday, May 1<sup>st</sup>**, we will be celebrating the baptism of Greyson Alexander Brown. Greyson is the son of Jillian and Todd Brown, the brother of Addison, and the grandson of Dawn and Sandy Mackay. Come join the celebration of welcoming Greyson into the family of God.

**Mother's Day, May 8<sup>th</sup>**

On **Sunday, May 8<sup>th</sup>**, our worship service will be held at the **Meyersville Presbyterian Church at 10:00 a.m.** Rev. Peters and his family will be in Tennessee to celebrate with his mother-in-law as she receives an award from a philanthropic organization during their state convention.

**Travnicek Memorial Ringers**

The Travnicek Memorial Ringers will be playing during worship on **Pentecost Sunday, May 15<sup>th</sup>**. They will be playing, "*Spirit of God, Descend Upon my Heart.*"

**Annual Fish & Chips Dinner****- Lore Pateman & Paul Wermuth**

The plans for our **Annual Argyle's Fish & Chips Dinner**, which will be held on **Saturday, June 4<sup>th</sup>**, are well underway. If you can help by selling tickets, please contact Kai Ihringer. There will also be several opportunities to help with clean-up and other projects around the Church grounds as we get closer to this event.

**Christian Education Committee****- Lore Pateman****Adult Education****- Debra Sprague**

We offer several regular opportunities for adults through our Christian Education program:

- A **small-group Bible Study** on Thursday mornings
- **Fourth Sunday Focus** on the fourth Sunday of each month, meets for about an hour before worship
- Joint-church **Lenten Sunday Soup Supper** series
- **Summer Wednesdays** - a summer Wednesday evening series of diverse topics (being planned again for this summer)

**CHRISTIAN  
EDUCATION**

So... what Adult Ed sessions and what topics would interest YOU? We are looking for topics (and leaders!) for the summer sessions. We also generally plan a few after church brunch sessions during the year...but we need to know, **what topics would YOU like?**

**Please take a moment** to email or talk to a member of the CE Committee (Lore Pateman, Tom Parziale, Rev. Peters, Debra Sprague) so we can help plan the programs that interest YOU! Thank you!

**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.

**Fourth Sunday Focus, May 22<sup>nd</sup>**

- 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 **May 22<sup>nd</sup>** 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.



Last month we discussed *April Showers*. **If you have a topic you’d like to discuss, please contact Tom Parziale.**

**Annual Church Picnic, Sunday, May 22<sup>nd</sup>**



Our annual church picnic will be held on the front lawn of the church following morning worship on **May 22<sup>nd</sup>**. We’ll fire up the charcoal grill, so feel free to bring something to cook, as well as a dish to share. Bring a lawn chair if you like (we can bring metal chairs outside if needed). Wear your picnic clothes to church... and get ready for the annual egg toss!

**Looking Ahead**

- Christian Education **Recognition Sunday** will be held on **June 12<sup>th</sup>**

**Worship Committee**

- Janet Parziale

**Liturgists for May**

May 1	Ed Gerecht	May 22	Madeline Hahl
May 8	<b>Meyersville Church</b>	May 29	Evelyn Smith
May 15	Debra Sprague		



**Non-Perishable Food Collection, May 1<sup>st</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.



**\*These items are most needed:**

- Spaghetti Sauce (large jar)
- White Rice: 2 or 5 pound bags
- Macaroni and Cheese
- Canned vegetables:  
corn, carrots, beets, mixed veggies, yams

- Breakfast food: Pancake mix, jelly, coffee, tea
- Jell-O Gelatin
- Canned Beans: Cannellini, Garbanzo
- Dry Beans: Black, Kidney, Pinto
- Spaghetti (long pasta only)

**Pentecost Sunday, May 24<sup>th</sup>**

**Sunday, May 24<sup>th</sup>**, 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 service for the congregation. **Please remember to wear something red.**

**Deacons Corner****- Susan Gerecht****Mission Offering in May**

The Mission Offering in May will be for "**Jersey Battered Women's Services.**" This organization, located in Morris County, is a domestic violence and abuse prevention agency with volunteer opportunities. The services include a 24-hour hotline; counseling; safe house; transitional living; children's services; life skills education; vocational counseling; batterers' intervention; legal assistance; teen dating violence services; and professional training, education and youth prevention programs. Please use the special offering envelopes in the pews to contribute to this worthy cause.

**Kitchen Clean-Up Day**

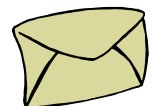
The Deacons would welcome help with cleaning up the kitchen on **Saturday, May 14<sup>th</sup>, 1:00 p.m.**

**Fellowship Hour Help**

The Deacons would appreciate it if people would sign up to host a Fellowship Hour. If you would like to donate towards it and have someone else host, speak to one of the Deacons.

**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!

**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****Community Food Bank, May 7<sup>th</sup>**

- Kai Ihringer

It's not too late to join us on our next trip to the Community Food Bank in Hillside, scheduled for **Sat., May 7<sup>th</sup>**. This is a great opportunity to help fulfill our other volunteers. Also consider reaching out to people who aren't members of our church who might be interested in joining us.

Here is the relevant information:



**Date:** Sat., May 7<sup>th</sup>

**Departure:** Meet at 8 a.m. in the church parking lot; leave by **8:15 a.m.**

**Food Bank Slot:** 9 a.m. to 11 a.m.

**Return:** Back at church parking lot between 11:30 a.m. and 12 Noon

Mark your calendars for our next Community Food Bank trip: **Sat., Nov. 12<sup>th</sup>**

**Family Promise of Morris County**

- Phyllis Clemson &amp; Jan Somers

Thank you to everyone who volunteered by hosting, providing food, making donations, and sleeping overnight when we hosted Family Promise at Trinity House in Stirling on April 5<sup>th</sup>. This program would not be successful without the help of many volunteers, and your help is very much appreciated.

Our next responsibility to host is Tuesday, August 30<sup>th</sup>. Please watch for more information in the summer newsletter.

**Ending Homelessness One Family at a Time****Bridges Outreach Lunch Program**

- Jean Hoffman, Coordinator



Our next commitment date for preparing 40 lunches is: **Friday, May 13<sup>th</sup>, 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 also appreciated to 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 Date: June 10

**Music Series**

On **Sunday, May 15<sup>th</sup>, at 2:00 p.m.**, we will welcome pianist Joseph Hauer to our concert series. He is a child prodigy from Wisconsin who, at age 23, has already performed concertos with the Oberlin Orchestra, Fox Valley Symphony, Madison Symphony Orchestra, and Wisconsin Chamber Orchestra. He is currently pursuing a Masters in Piano Performance with Eteri Andjaparidze at the NYU Steinhardt School of Music. Please pass the word and invite everyone to hear Joseph!



**Arbor Day****- Jan Somers**

In honor of Arbor Day, April 29<sup>th</sup>, here is an update on the 8' red maple tree we planted in the front yard of the church in 2013. At that time, it looked like a tall, thin stick. But, with God's help, three years later it's grown several feet and it's full of beautiful buds.

**Meyersville Presbyterian Church Free Computer Basics Classes**

The free computer basics classes at Meyersville Presbyterian Church will continue on Saturdays from 10 a.m.-noon, through 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 their computer lab. The course book is free for use in the classroom or \$10 to purchase. Following are the remaining topics and dates:

<b><u>Session</u></b>	<b><u>Topic</u></b>	<b><u>Date</u></b>
5	Communication	May 7
6	Surfing the Internet	May 14
7	Personal Internet	May 21
8	Excel	May 28
9	Music and Speech	June 4
10	Photography	June 11
11	Gadgets and Gizmos	June 18
12	Manage Your Computer	June 25

If you are interested in attending any of the remaining classes, please contact Rudy Zydel from the Meyersville Church at [ruudz@aol.com](mailto: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](mailto: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](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.

## **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 in schools 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.





**Ongoing Mission Programs****Road to Bridges**

Change (and more) is collected during Fellowship Hour and supports Bridges Program, providing 40 lunches per month to NJ/NY homeless.

**Township Food Pantry**

Non-perishable items can be left in baskets labeled "Food Pantry Donations" in the Church narthex and outside Pollard Hall.

**Items collected for various causes; may be placed on the pew in Pollard Hall:**

- ✓ Full-sized and "courtesy" sized bars of soap, shampoo, conditioner, shower caps
- ✓ Used pairs of sneakers (any size)
- ✓ Cell phones, eyeglasses, sunglasses
- ✓ Fabric: about ½ yard minimum, used to make small bears for children, totes for wheelchair patients, etc.
- ✓ Yarn: used to make lap robes for wounded veterans, afghans for battered women, and hats for newborns in hospitals

**Ongoing Fundraisers****ShopRite Gift Cards**

- ✓ No additional cost to you to use
- ✓ Purchase cards at face value
- ✓ Church earns 5%
- ✓ Denominations available are:

**\$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 22<sup>nd</sup>. Thank you!**

**Why not invite a friend to church?**



**Stirling Stuff** is the newsletter of the

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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.