



Stirling Stuff

Volume 61, No. 2

February 2017

Pastor's Letter

As we leave January with all of its special services and the annual meeting, we enter a full month of *Ordinary Time*, or *Sundays after Epiphany*. I find that this is quite appropriate. With the season of Epiphany focusing on the revelation of Jesus as the Son of God, it is easy to miss it during these ordinary days. During the month of February, when winter seems to stretch on, we are reminded to look for revelations of Jesus in the everyday, routine moments. It is easier to experience the revelation of Jesus at Christmas and on Baptism of the Lord Sunday; but, now the Sundays are the same. The decorations are gone, the crèche is gone, and the church is back to its normal self again. The good news is that God is still breaking into our world if we have eyes to see it and ears to hear it. You may see it in the beauty of a Cardinal flitting around the bird feeder; you may hear it when someone says *I'm thinking of you*; you may experience it when someone brings you a pot of soup just because they were thinking about you.



Over the course of the month, make it a practice to look for revelations of Jesus in your life and in the world around you. It is a great way to brighten a drab day, which we have had many of lately.



I want to take this time to thank you for your generosity once again this past Christmas season. I am always touched by your kindness. You all mean so much to me.

See you in church!

Tom

'Ordinary' time

- For learning
- For growing
- For exploring the Christian story
- We remember the Church's mission

The First Presbyterian Church of Stirling
Feeding Those Who Hunger

Worship Services and Scripture Passages for February

February 5

Meyersville Presbyterian Church will join us

- *Fifth Sunday after Epiphany*
- *Sacrament of Holy Communion*
- *Non-Perishable Food Collection*
Isaiah 58:1-9a; Psalm 112:1-9;
1 Corinthians 2:1-12; Matthew 5:13-20
The Value Of Salt

February 12

- *Sixth Sunday after Epiphany*
Deuteronomy 30:15-20; Psalm 119:1-8;
1 Corinthians 3:1-9; Matthew 5:21-27
The Responsibility Of Our Choices

*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.*



February 19

- *Seventh Sunday after Epiphany*
Leviticus 19:1-2, 9-18; Psalm 119:33-40;
1 Corinthians 3:10-11, 16-23; Matthew 5:38-48
How Do We Love Self?

February 26

- *Transfiguration of the Lord Sunday*
Exodus 24:12-18; Psalm 2;
2 Peter 1:16-21; Matthew 17:1-9
Why The Secrecy?

**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 **Saturday, February 4th, 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.



Second Sunday Concerts – The Music Series in Stirling

On **Sunday, February 12th, at 2:00 p.m.**, Mosaic Flute Duo, Natsha Loomis and Mitzy Nonaka will be performing works for flute duo, accompanied by pianist, Fumi Kuwajima. They were here in December 2015 and their performance was greatly enjoyed and appreciated. Admission is free; a free-will offering is accepted. A short reception will follow the concert, during which guests may meet the performers. Refreshments will be served. We hope you will invite your friends and join us.

Upcoming concert: March 12: Rev. Kelvin Quince & the Reconciliation Band and their Special Brand of Jazz/Gospel

Christian Education Committee

- Lore Pateman

Adult Bible Study

- Rev. Peters

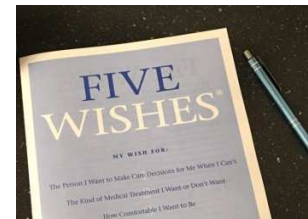


We continue the study of the Book of Revelation at **10:30 a.m. on Thursdays** in the church meeting room.

Five Wishes

On Sunday, January 22nd, 31 people joined together for a pot-luck brunch and discussion on the *Five Wishes* program. As we learned, *Five Wishes* is a program that talks about our personal, emotional, and spiritual needs, as well as our medical wishes, when we are seriously ill and cannot voice our own wishes. The five wishes in the program are:

1. The person I want to make care decisions for me when I can't
2. The kind of medical treatment I want or don't want
3. How comfortable I want to be
4. How I want people to treat me
5. What I want my loved ones to know



If you were unable to attend this program and are interested, please talk to Rev. Peters, and he will schedule a time to go over it with you. For those of you who were there, we mentioned the booklet, *Next Steps*. The booklet is \$5 for up to 9 copies and \$2 for 10 or more. Let Tom know if you would like a copy and, if there is enough interest, we will be able to get the lower rate. You can also order yourself a copy at the website printed on the back of your *Five Wishes* booklet. This book covers the following:

1. How to talk to loved ones about *Five Wishes*
2. How to talk with your doctor(s)
3. How to be by the bedside
4. Answers to questions about *Five Wishes*

Please speak with Rev. Peters or any member of the Christian Education Committee if you have any questions.

Fourth Sunday Focus, February 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. Our next "Fourth Sunday Focus" gathering will be on **February 26th** 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. **If you have a topic you'd like to discuss, contact Tom Parziale.**



Worship Committee

- Janet Parziale

Liturgists for February:

Feb. 5	Madeline Hahl	Feb. 19	Jan Somers
Feb. 12	Tom Parziale	Feb. 26	Madeline Hahl



If you would like to serve as Liturgist during worship, sign up on the sheet in Pollard Hall or speak to Jan Somers.

Non-Perishable Food Collection, February 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.



Looking Ahead:

On **Wednesday, March 1st**, we will begin our Lenten Journey with the celebration of **Ash Wednesday**. There will be more information about the service in the March newsletter.



Deacons Corner

– Katherine Ihringer

I just wanted to let everyone know that we have very few people signing up for coffee hour in the upcoming weeks. If you could sign up to do coffee hour, it would be much appreciated. Or, if you rather donate money for coffee hour and not set up and clean up, you can give your donation to one of the Deacons. Lately, the Deacons have been doing coffee hour almost every week, which has been too much work and cost for us. We originally were assigned a week as a back-up plan if someone did not sign up, but it seems that we are doing coffee hour almost every week that we are assigned. Coffee hour is a wonderful way for all the members of our church to talk to and connect with and we would hate to see it stop. So please sign up or donate money for coffee hour so we can continue to have it after worship. Thank you again.



For **February**, our **Mission of the Month will be the Souper Bowl of Caring**. If you would like to contribute, please place it in the special offering envelopes (with grapes on them) in the pew racks on any Sunday during February.

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.

Mission Programs**Bridges Outreach Lunch Program**

- Jean Hoffman, Coordinator



Our next commitment date for preparing 40 lunches is: **Friday, Feb. 10th, 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.

Upcoming date: March 3, April 7, May 5, and June 9

Family Promise of Morris County

- Jan Somers

Thank you to everyone who helped with our hosting responsibilities on January 10th at Trinity House. The guests were all very appreciative. Our next hosting date is Tuesday, March 28th.

Join us on **Saturday, February 4th** for a wonderful day filled with winter fun! Bring your family and friends to the place you love for hot cocoa around the fire and seasonal activities outside.

Time: 10:00 a.m. – 3:30 p.m.

Cost: \$10 includes a tasty homemade lunch

Call the office at 908-852-2349 or email us to let us know you are coming!

**Church Archives**

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

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.



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.

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 MacDonald 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
- ✓ Cell phones, eyeglasses, sunglasses
- ✓ Fabric: about 1/2 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 Madeline Hahl.

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 **February 23rd**. Thank you!

Stirling Stuff is the newsletter of

The First Presbyterian Church of Stirling

158 Central Avenue
Stirling, NJ 07980

Editor: Jan Somers

Why not invite a friend to church?



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.

