



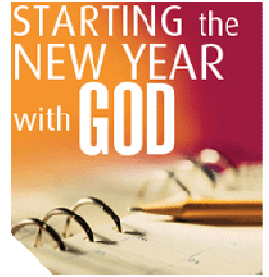
Stirling Stuff

Volume 61, No. 1

January 2017

Pastor's Letter

As we reach the end of the year, it is always easy to look back and see the past year as a series of good and not so good decisions and events. I always appreciate the beginning of a new year. It has the sense of a blackboard (now I'm showing my age) that has been washed clean. It is waiting for the words and thoughts of the new year to be written on it. With the inauguration of a new president in our country and other events happening around the world, it is a mystery how it will all turn out.



The good news for us is that we do not go into the mists of the new year alone. On January 8th, we will remember the baptism of Jesus and, once again, we will hear the voice from heaven declare Jesus as the beloved. The good news is that God sees all of us as God's beloved children. God will not let us go into the unknown future alone. If we have eyes and ears of faith, we can see God through the power of the spirit touching us with wisdom and guiding us through the lives of others in our world.

During the Sundays after Christmas, I use the third verse of *Away In A Manger*. The words are:

*Be near me Lord Jesus, I ask thee to stay
close by me forever, and love me I pray.
Bless all the dear children in thy tender care,
and fit us for heaven to live with thee there.*

Let that verse be our prayer for the coming year as we continue our journey to reach out to those who are hungry and do all that we can to feed and offer them hope for their lives.

See you in church!

Tom



The First Presbyterian Church of Stirling
Feeding Those Who Hunger

Worship Services and Scripture Passages for January

January 1 at Meyersville Presbyterian Church

- *First Sunday after Christmas*
- *Sacrament of Holy Communion*
- *Non-Perishable Food Collection*
Isaiah 63:7-9; Psalm 148;
Hebrews 2:10-18; Matthew 2:13-23

January 8

- *Baptism of the Lord Sunday*
- *Renewal of Baptism Service*
Isaiah 42:1-9; Psalm 29;
Acts 10:34-43; Matthew 3:15-17

January 15

- *Second Sunday after Epiphany*
Isaiah 49:1-7; Psalm 40:1-11;
I Corinthians 1:1-9; John 1:29-42

*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.*



January 22

- *Third Sunday after Epiphany*
Isaiah 9:1-4; Psalm 27:1, 4-9;
I Corinthians 1:10-18; Matthew 4:12-23

January 29

- *Fourth Sunday after Epiphany*
- *Annual Congregational Meeting Sunday*
Micah 6:1-8; Psalm 15;
I Corinthians 1:18-31; Matthew 5:1-12

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, January 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.



2017 Church Offering Envelopes

The 2017 Church Offering Envelopes are available to be picked up in Pollard Hall or the church office.



Per Capita Apportionment

The 2017 Per Capita amount we are being assessed **per member is \$35**. This money enables the Presbyterian Church (USA) and its Councils (Presbytery and Synod) to do their work. Please help out by paying the \$35 for everyone in 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.

Family Promise of Morris County

- Jan Somers

Our Church will begin its 27th year of supporting this program on **Tuesday, January 10th at Trinity House in Stirling**. We need dinner hosts (5-9 p.m.), overnight hosts (9 p.m.-7 a.m.), and donations of food for a lasagna/pasta dinner. If you can help, please sign-up in Pollard Hall or speak to Rev. Peters or Jan.

Travnicek Memorial Ringers

Our Handbell Choir can be seen and heard on our church's Facebook page. Just click on this link:

https://www.facebook.com/fpcStirling/?ref=aymt_homepage_panel

You do not have to be a Facebook user to access this link; it is a public page.



Handbell Choir practicing for the season of Advent.

Annual Congregational Meeting – January 29th

Session has called for the Annual Meeting of the Congregation and Corporation of the First Presbyterian Church of Stirling to be held in Pollard Hall on **Sunday, January 29th**, following morning worship. The purposes of this meeting are: to hear and receive the annual reports of the committees of the congregation and of groups sponsored by the church; to elect a financial secretary for a term of one year; to elect members of the 2017 Nominating Committee; and, to affirm the 2017 church budget. Please plan to attend this important event in the life of our Church as we look back over the past year and ahead to 2017.

Annual Reports

Reminder: **Please submit annual reports for your committee/group to the church office by Thursday, January 19th** so they can be assembled and distributed in time for the meeting on January 29th. Thank you.

Musica Gratis – The Concert Series in Stirling



Pictured here are pianist Joseph Hauer and cellist Jiafan Shi who gave a wonderful performance on December 11th entitled, “A Classical Christmas.”

Our concert series continues on **Sunday, January 8th, 2:00 p.m.**, when we welcome Broadway performer, **Christine Danelson**, for “**Broadway Comes to Stirling.**” Ms. Danelson was born in Union County and trained at the Paper Mill Playhouse in Millburn and the NJ Performing Arts Center in Newark. Invite your friends for an afternoon of Broadway music. More information is available on the church website.

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 concerts:

February 12: Mosaic Flute Duo, Natsha Loomis and Mitzy Nonaka, accompanied by pianist Fumi Kuwajima

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



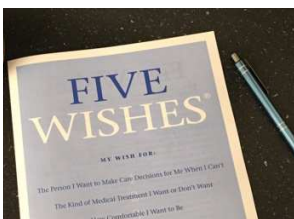
We continue the study of the Book of Revelation at **10:30 a.m. on Thursdays** in the church meeting room.

Potluck Brunch and Discussion, Sunday, January 22nd after Worship

End of Life issues are hard to talk about - and this conversation topic may be difficult to broach with our loved ones. These issues aren't something we generally want to think about; but, one of the greatest gifts we can give to our loved ones - and to ourselves - is to have this discussion and to make our wishes known.



We want to make it easier to talk about, so the CE Committee has decided to offer a session or two to get us started, using the tools offered by **Five Wishes**: <https://www.agingwithdignity.org/about-us/history-and-mission>
The mission of **Five Wishes** is: Helping to make dignified care a reality for all.



Plan to stay after church on January 22nd for a potluck brunch and a presentation on this important topic. You will not be asked to share anything that you don't want to share, but it is important to become aware of some of the issues that can arise, to think about them, and to make your wishes known to your loved ones. This is something we all need to do. Feel free to bring any of your loved ones or friends to this brunch as we learn how to broach this important conversation. A copy of the **Five Wishes** form will be available to you and whomever you bring along.

Fourth Sunday Focus, January 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 next “Fourth Sunday Focus” gathering will be on **January 22nd** 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 January:

Jan. 1	at Meyersville Church	Jan. 22	Susan Gerecht
Jan. 8	Madeline Hahl	Jan. 29	Ed Gerecht
Jan. 15	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.

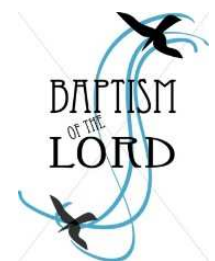
Non-Perishable Food Collection, January 1st - at Meyersville Presbyterian Church

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.



Baptism of the Lord Sunday, January 8th

The Worship Committee needs your participation in completing a special activity for Baptism Sunday. We are asking everyone to answer the question, ***"Why is my baptism important to me?"*** Since we will be worshipping in Meyersville on January 1st, **please e-mail or call Janet Parziale with your response asap**. The committee will display the responses in the sanctuary on Baptism Sunday. We hope you will help us make this special day a success. Also, everyone is invited to **wear something blue** to symbolize the water of our baptism.

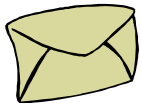


Deacons Corner

- Katherine Ihringer

First of all, I would like to wish everyone a Happy New Year! We hope that everybody had a wonderful Christmas. The Carol Sing and Ring was a success. Our church looked festive as usual. Despite the snow, there was a decent turnout. The Deacons would like to thank those who helped decorate the church. We would also like to thank everyone who attended the sing and ring, and especially those that helped set up, bring cookies, and helped clean it up.

For **January**, our **Mission of the Month will be the Morristown Soup Kitchen**. If you would like to contribute a donation, please place it in the special offering envelopes (with grapes on them) in the pew racks on any Sunday during January. Any amount of money would be greatly appreciated and will go to a great cause. I hope everyone has a great start to 2017 and hopefully it will be a great year!

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, Jan. 6th, 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: Feb. 10, March 3, April 7, May 5, and June 9

On-Going Fund Raiser: Shop-Rite Gift Cards

- Madeline Hahl, Coordinator

This on-going fund raiser helps our church financially. It is easy to participate: purchase the cards for face value (\$20, \$50, \$100) and use them when you go to Shop-Rite. Any balance left on the card can be used at a later date; it never expires. Everyone buys groceries, so please consider supporting the church in this way. Gift Cards are available each Sunday during Fellowship Hour or by contacting Madeline.

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.

**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.

Meyersville Presbyterian Church Free Computer Basics Classes

Meyersville Presbyterian Church's free computer basics classes continue on Saturdays, 9:00-11:00 a.m. through Feb.11. This MS Windows 7 basics computer training is for novice windows computer users. You can attend the entire course or just certain topics. The training is part lecture, but mainly hands-on in our state-of-the-art computer lab.

The course book is free for use in the classroom or \$10 to purchase. Following is the list of remaining topics and dates:

<u>Session</u>	<u>Topic</u>	<u>Date</u>
7	Personal Internet	Jan. 7
8	Excel	Jan. 14
9	Music and Speech	Jan. 21
10	Photography	Jan. 28
11	Gadgets and Gizmos	Feb. 4
12	Manage Your Computer	Feb. 11

Please contact Rudy Zydel from the Meyersville Church at ruudz@aol.com to register.

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.

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.



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.

Member-abilia

During Fellowship Hour on Sunday, December 11th, the congregation celebrated Rene' Phelan on her 90th birthday with a special cake and lots of good wishes and hugs. Congratulations, Rene'!



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 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 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 February issue of Stirling Stuff to:
jsomers17@hotmail.com
by **January 22nd**. Thank you!

Stirling Stuff is the newsletter of

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

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.