



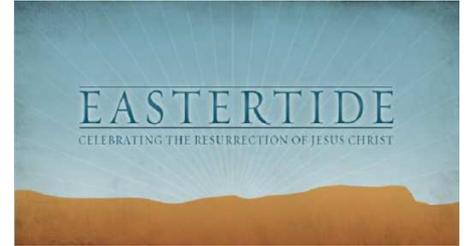
Stirling Stuff

Volume 61, No. 5

May 2017

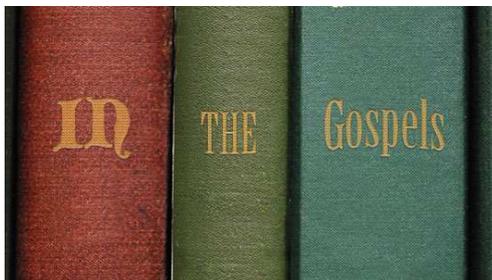
Pastor's Letter

We have now entered the season of Easter or, what we used to call, *Eastertide*. It is recognition that the resurrection was such a big event that we need a whole season to plumb the riches of the resurrection experience. The scripture readings during this season are all from the New Testament as Easter marks the beginning of the break away from Judaism. It still takes over a hundred years for the early church to begin to materialize. It wasn't until the time of the Roman Emperor Constantine (Emperor from 306-337) that the church began to become the Christian Church. The scriptures for the season of Easter tell of the teachings and struggles that the disciples and the Christian faith went through in order to later become the Church.



In that very early time, much of the work was deciding what to believe. As you can imagine, people had different ideas regarding what Jesus was all about. Three of the gospels were written approximately 60 years after his death. The earliest, Mark, was written approximately 40 years after his death. There were also many other gospels and writings about Jesus and the faith that came along later and were refuted as heresies. There was also this new sect called *People of the Way* (later Christianity) that was hated and persecuted by Jews and Romans for different reasons. The season of Easter contains all of this. It speaks powerfully to the Church in our time as we struggle to define what it means to be the Church of Jesus Christ. Is it to believe and have faith in Jesus? Is it to do the works that Jesus did for the outcasts of society? Is it our job to purify the Church, or are we to let Jesus take care of that? This season and its readings are designed to help us answer some of those questions.

I hope you will you will join us as we explore these questions and more during this season of Easter.



See you in church!

Tom

The First Presbyterian Church of Stirling
Feeding Those Who Hunger

Worship Services and Scripture Passages for May

May 7 2017

Service at Meyersville

- Fourth Sunday of Easter
- Sacrament of Holy Communion
- Non-Perishable Food Collection – Fruit Cocktail
Acts 2:42-47; Psalm 23;
1 Peter 2:19-25; John 10:1-10
Rev. Barbara Aspinall Preaching

May 14, 2017

- Fifth Sunday of Easter
- Mother's Day
Acts 7:55-60; Psalm 31:1-5, 15-16;
1 Peters 2:2-10; John 14:1-14
Learning From A Life Lived

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 21, 2017

- Sixth Sunday of Easter
Acts 17:22-31; Psalm 66:8-20;
1 Peter 3:13-22; John 14:15-21
It's Not A Memory; It's A Presence

May 28, 2017

- Ascension Sunday
- Memorial Day Sunday
Acts 1:1-11; Psalm 68:1-10, 32-35;
Ephesians 1:15-23; Luke 24:44-53
Where Are You Looking?

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 monthly Coffee Klatch will be on **Saturday, May 6th, 9:00 a.m.**, at the Stirling House Diner.
We talk about whatever is on your mind. Join us and join in the fellowship and conversation.



Christian Education Committee

- Lore Pateman

Adult Bible Study

- Rev. Peters

We continue to meet from **10:30 a.m. to Noon on Thursdays in the church meeting room**. We recently began to study the Gospel of Luke, using Dr. Fred Craddock's *Interpretation Commentary Series* book on the Gospel of Luke. There is always coffee, and sometimes there are delectable baked goods from some of our members. The conversation is enlightening and fun; yes, we even laugh! If you're not sure if it is for you, you don't have to buy the book right away; come and try us out. If you like it, you can buy the book later.

Fourth Sunday Focus, May 28th**- 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 28th** 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.**

**Jazzy Mother's Day - Second Sunday Concerts - The Music Series in Stirling**

Join us on **Sunday, May 14th**, for our final "Second Sunday" concert before we break for the summer. The **Sam Bischoff Quartet** will bring their cool Philly jazz sound back to Stirling. The group was a huge hit the last time they were here, and we are excited to welcome them back!

The concert starts at 2:00 p.m. and ends by 4:00 p.m. Plan to treat your Mom (or ANY Mom) to some cool jazz, and make your dinner reservations for afterwards. Admission is free; donations to the program are always welcome.

A short reception will follow the concert, during which guests may meet the performers. Refreshments will be served. We hope you will invite your moms and friends and join us.

Below are pictures from recent "Second Sunday" concerts:



March 12th: Rev. Kelvin Quince & the Reconciliation Band performed their special brand of Jazz/Gospel.



April 9th: Jack Furlong and His Jazz Quartet

Annual Fish & Chips Dinner

- Edward Chang

Our Fourth Annual Argyle Fish & Chips Fundraising Dinner will be held on Saturday, June 3rd!

Mark your calendar! We continue to hold our annual event on the first Saturday of June; this year we have adjusted the hours, so it will **start at 5:00 pm** and run **until 7:00 pm**. We have also added an option this year for **chicken instead of fish**, which people can opt for when they purchase tickets. And, our bagpiper WILL be returning this year!



This is our big fundraising event for the year, and it takes a LOT of volunteers to make it a success. The biggest ways to help?

- **Selling tickets**
- **Cleanup projects leading up to the event**
- **Day-of-the-event assistance**

Please see Kai Ihringer for tickets, and let Edward Chang know if we can count on your help for the days leading up to and the day of the event.

Also: Ed Gerecht is coordinating our solicitations of **donations from local businesses**. If you have a relationship with a business that might like to donate, or if you would like to help with this phase, please contact Ed G.

Support of the congregation and lots of friends working together has made this a memorable event in years past. We hope we can count on everyone to help create another great event this year!

Worship Committee

- Janet Parziale

Liturgists for May:

May 7	Meyersville Church	May 21	Tom Parziale
May 14	Madeline Hahl	May 28	Janet Parziale



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, May 7th

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.

The congregation at Meyersville Presbyterian Church has pledged to donate canned mixed fruit, sometimes labeled "fruit cocktail," to the township food pantry. Since we will be worshipping at Meyersville on May 7th, please consider bringing this item (preferably the kind in juice and not syrup) to donate when we are there.



Deacons Corner**– Katherine Ihringer**

I just want to remind everyone to sign up for coffee hour. Coffee hour does not have to be complicated. Or, if you don't want to host, but you would like to donate money, that would be great, too.

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.

Easter Plants and Flowers

Thank you to everyone who ordered Easter plants and flowers which looked so beautiful in Church on Easter morning. Those that were not picked up will be planted around the church grounds.

Deacons' Fund

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

Remember to put your name on the envelope so you can receive credit for your donation. 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.

**Mission Programs****Bridges Outreach Lunch Program****- Jean Hoffman, Coordinator**

Our next commitment date for preparing 40 lunches is: **Friday, May 5th, 9:30 a.m.**, in Pollard Hall. We are always 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: June 9

Easter Turkey/Ham Donations

Thank you to everyone who donated to this very worthy program. And, thanks to Lynne and Bill Combs, who delivered several turkeys and hams to the needy at the Market Street Mission in Morristown.



Community Food Bank, May 20th**- Kai Ihringer**

Please join us for our first 2017 trip to the Community Food Bank in Hillside on **Sat., May 20th**. This is a great opportunity to help fulfill our church's mission of "Feeding Those Who Hunger," while also enjoying the company of our fellow volunteers. Also, consider reaching out to people who aren't members of our church who might be interested in joining us as all are welcome!

Here is the relevant information:



Date: Sat., May 20th

Departure: Meet at 8:00 a.m. in the church parking lot; leave by **8:15 a.m.**

Food Bank Slot: 9:00 a.m. to 11:00 a.m.

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

If you plan to attend, please contact Kai so he can provide the Food Bank with a fairly accurate estimate of the size of our group. Also, let him know if you are willing to drive and, if so, how many available seats you have.

Please mark your calendars for the next 2017 food bank trip which will be on Sat., October 21st.

Family Promise of Morris County**- Rev. Peters & Jan Somers**

Thank you to everyone who volunteered by hosting, providing food, making donations, and staying overnight when we hosted Family Promise at Trinity House in Stirling on March 28th. This program would not be successful without the work of many volunteers, and your help is very much appreciated. The evening was made special for one guest who celebrated his 16th birthday with a cake provided by Rev. Peters.



Ending Homelessness One Family at a Time

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 archives can be kept up-to-date. There is a **Church Archives** mailbox outside the church offices for this purpose.



© Can Stock Photo - csp15722792

If you are interested in helping to keep the archives current, please speak to Rev. Peters or Jan Somers.

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.

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 on the table 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.



Community News

- Jan Somers

Raptor Trust Day, Stirling Hotel, May 21st

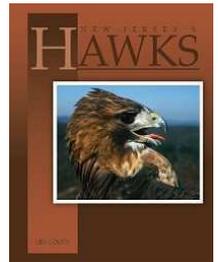
The 2nd Annual Raptor Trust Day at the Stirling Hotel on **May 21st, from 2:00 – 8:00 p.m.**, is a family-friendly, fun-filled event. A \$5 donation at the door is suggested and appreciated! All proceeds from the event benefit the work of The Raptor Trust, which is located on White Bridge Road, in Millington.

The event includes music (featuring our own Ross Griswold), a silent auction, and live hawks and owls.

New Publication

New Jersey's Hawks, by Len Soucy

Len Soucy, the founder of The Raptor Trust, completed the manuscript for this new book on New Jersey's hawks shortly before his death in 2014. Since then, our team of friends, colleagues, and staff has been working behind the scenes to bring Len's final work to life.



This timely work is beautifully illustrated by Michael McNelly and includes a Forward by Governor Thomas H. Kean. With additional color photos by Len Soucy and others, it is a perfect companion piece to Len's 2000 book, *New Jersey's Owls*. Buy the new Hawk book and get the Owl book 1/2 price.

Iconic Oak Tree, Basking Ridge

On Monday, April 24th, workers began taking down the 600-year-old white oak tree. The landmark tree has called the Basking Ridge Presbyterian Church home for centuries and has watched over parishioners and the adjacent graveyard for the past 300 years.



By Wednesday, April 26th, it was all gone except for the stump and many memories.



Please forward items you would like to have included in upcoming Stirling Stuff issues to Jan Somers, or place them in the "Stirling Stuff" mailbox outside the church offices. Thank you.

Remembering Rev. James MacKellar

As was noted in the April issue of Stirling Stuff, Rev. James MacKellar, who was the pastor of our Church from 1965-1976, passed away on March 24th in Vermont at the age of 85. Following are some highlights of a life well lived:



Rev. MacKellar was born in 1931 Wilkes-Barre, PA. His family lived in the New York City area briefly, and then moved to River Edge, NJ. He graduated from Hackensack HS and earned a Bachelor of Arts degree, with a major in Philosophy, from Cornell University. That was followed by a Master of Divinity from Princeton Theological Seminary. While at Cornell, he met his wife of 61 years, Eugenia (Gene). They raised three children and have five grandchildren.

He was ordained to the Presbyterian ministry in 1955. He served as Pastor of Presbyterian churches in Dryden, NY; Waverly, NY; Stirling, NJ; and, Lyons Falls, NY, and as Interim Pastor of the East Craftsbury, VT, Presbyterian Church. In 1970, he was elected Stated Clerk of the Presbytery of Newton. In 1975, he was elected Stated Clerk of the Synod of the Northeast, an office he held until he retired in 1996. He served on many committees and councils of the Presbyteries of Cayuga-Syracuse, Binghamton, Newton, Utica, and Northern New England and the Synods of New York, New Jersey, and the Northeast. He became a Registered Parliamentarian and was recognized as a dependable advisor on parliamentary procedure.

Rev. MacKellar served six years on the Permanent Judicial Commission of the General Assembly of the Presbyterian Church (USA), the denomination's ecclesiastical Supreme Court. Then he served six years on the General Assembly's Advisory Committee on the (Church's) Constitution, four as its moderator. In 2004, he was the second person to receive the Constitutional Service Award. He had a life-long interest in inter-church relations and served as President of the Vermont Ecumenical Council and Bible Society and chaired ministerial associations in Tompkins County, NY; the Waverly area; Watchung Hills, NJ; and, Lewis County, NY. He represented the Presbyterian Church on the Board of the NJ Council of Churches and the Church Plan Association for the New York, New Jersey, and Connecticut Metropolitan Area.

For 20 years, Rev. MacKellar was active as a volunteer counselor and director of church camp programs for teenagers. He believed that service to the community was an important part of his ministry. He was a 14-gallon blood donor and served on the boards of Red Cross chapters in Waverly, NY; the Summit Area, NJ; and, Newport, VT. Following the example of his parents, he was active in first aid squads, was a charter member and first Captain of the Township of Passaic First Aid Squad (now the Long Hill First Aid Squad). He was Moderator of the Town of Newport, VT, 1993- 2002.

Over a thirty-year period, he and Gene raised nineteen guide dog puppies for The Seeing Eye. From his childhood in the Kingston, PA, Presbyterian Church, choral music was important to his spiritual life and ministry. He loved to sing hymns and encouraged his congregations to sing. He sang in choirs and community choral groups, often as tenor soloist. He was a member of the Princeton Theological Seminary touring choir for a year and a half and, with that choir, sang for many military and mission installations in Korea and Japan for two months in 1953. In the past [25] years, he sang with Northsong and some years with the Northeast Kingdom Chorus.

He liked the verse of "What Wondrous Love Is This" that says:

*"And when from death I'm free, I'll sing on.
And when from death I'm free, I'll sing and joyful be,
And through eternity I'll sing on, I'll sing on."*

A memorial service will be held in the East Craftsbury Presbyterian Church on May 6th at 11:00 a.m. In lieu of flowers, memorial gifts may be sent to the Church at 1097 Ketchum Hill Rd., Craftsbury, VT 05826, or to The Seeing Eye, P.O. Box 375, Morristown, NJ 07963

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 June issue of Stirling Stuff to:
jsomers17@hotmail.com
by **May 18th**. Thank you!

Stirling Stuff is the newsletter of

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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.

