



Stirling Stuff

Volume 63, No. 5

May 2019

Pastor's Letter

As you read this, we are in the midst of the Season of Eastertide, or just *Easter*. This season lasts for 7 weeks, until the Day of Pentecost, which is on June 9th this year. This season reminds us that the news of the tomb being empty is too big to celebrate for only one day. Granted, we don't hear the Easter story every Sunday during this season, but the scriptures ask us the question of, "How should the Good News of Christ's resurrection be reflected in our daily living?"



Two days ago, we were met with the scene of the great Notre Dame Cathedral burning. Even as the flames were rising above the stonework of the walls of the nave, the news commentators were already talking about how the great edifice would be rebuilt, and would it look like what it was before the fire. I think of this as I think about the resurrection of Jesus and how our lives should be radically different after Easter from before Easter. In relation to Notre Dame, I think of the bombed out hulk of the cathedral in Coventry, England. When it was time to rebuild, they left the ruins as a sacred spot dedicated to the horror and cost of war and built a modern gothic cathedral next to it. The following is a piece taken from the Coventry Cathedral website.

The interior of the iconic new Cathedral provides many surprises. During the Second World War, the then senior clergyman of the Cathedral, Provost Richard Howard, witnessed the way Christians of all denominations came together to pray – for themselves, for peace and for their enemies – and conceived of an ecumenical space within a future, new Coventry Cathedral. The revolutionary and boundary-breaking nature of this idea should never be under-estimated. The Chapel of Unity is that unique space.

The Chapel of Unity is a part of the cathedral complex. Like Cathedrals being transformed, we too should be transformed by the good news of the third day. The season of Easter, indeed every Sunday, is our opportunity to be transformed by the love and grace of our God who seeks to transform us into true disciples of Jesus Christ. How has the third day transformed you?

See you in church!

Tom

The First Presbyterian Church of Stirling
Feeding Those Who Hunger



Worship Services and Scripture Passages for May

May 5, 2019

Service in Stirling

- *Third Sunday of Easter*
- *Sacrament of Holy Communion*
- *Non-Perishable Food Collection*
Acts 9:1-6, (7-20); Psalm 30;
Revelation 5:11-14; John 21:1-19
Feeling Homeless

May 12, 2019

- *Fourth Sunday of Easter*
Acts 9:36-43; Psalm 23;
Revelation 7:9-17; John 10:22-30
Would You Rather Be Healed Or Cured?

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



May 19, 2019

- *Fifth Sunday of Easter*
Acts 11:1-18; Psalm 148;
Revelation 21:1-6; John 13:31-35
Living Life On A Leash

May 26, 2019

- *Sixth Sunday of Easter*
Acts 16:9-15; Psalm 67;
Revelation 21:22-22:5; John 5:1-9
Can We Love The Squeegie Man?

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

Our first Saturday of the month Coffee Klatch will be held on **Saturday, May 4th**, at the **Stirling House Diner**. We will gather at 9:00 AM for fellowship and food. The conversation will be about whatever you want it to be about.

Brunch and Program



We all grew up learning the saying, "April showers bring May flowers." On **Sunday, May 5th**, we will be joined by the congregation of the Meyersville Presbyterian Church for a potluck brunch, followed by a program on **the flowers and plants in the Bible**. Dorothy Smullen, wife of former township Mayor William Smullen, will be leading the program. Dorothy is respected in the field of mushrooms and is often consulted on questions regarding mushrooms. We look forward to hearing what she has to teach us. Plan to join us as we learn more about the plants of the Bible, and the flowers and plants of another part of our world. Everyone is invited to bring a dish to share.

The Concert Series in Stirling

On Sunday, May 19th, at 2:00 p.m., we will welcome back the **Pasquale Grasso Jazz Quartet** to our concert series.

The concert is free; a free-will offering is accepted. A short reception follows the concert, during which guests may meet the performers. Refreshments will be served. If you would like to help with the concert series, please contact Rev. Peters, Howard Kupferman, or Debra Sprague.

Sixth Annual Fish & Chips Dinner

Our **Sixth Annual Argyles Fish & Chips dinner** will be held **on Saturday, June 1st, from 5-7 p.m.** Once again, it will be held on the front lawn of the church – weather permitting. Kai Ihringer has the tickets; if you have not received tickets to sell, please contact Kai. We are asking everyone to sell as many as possible; the more tickets we sell in advance, the more successful the dinner will be. This year, we are also seeking sponsors who, for a fee, will get an ad placed on the placemats.



This event is not just a fund-raiser for the church; it is also a township event as we have people from the community who come and just enjoy the fellowship on the front lawn of the church.

This is an “all hands on deck” event for our church. We are asking for help with the many tasks to be done. Below are the time frames and tasks associated with each. If you can assist, please contact Tom Parziale and let him know how and when you can help out.

10 am – 2 pm Group 1: Set Up

Between 10 and 11 am, a group will go to the Millington Firehouse and pick up chairs and tables. This will involve some "muscle work."

11 am – 2 pm Group 2: Detailed Set Up

From 11 am-2 pm, this group will set up all tables and chairs on the lawn and in Pollard Hall, along with all of the various outside booths.

4 - 7 pm Group 3: Event Helpers

Servers should arrive by 4 pm. The Leaders will go over the location of supplies and the process servers will follow during the dinner. Servers will be deployed both on the outside lawn and in Pollard Hall.

7 - 9:30 pm Group 4: Take Down

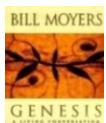
This involves many people taking down all of the items that were set up for the dinner. It also involves taking items back to the Millington Firehouse. While many helpers are needed in group 4, a smaller group of "muscle work" is involved.

Christian Education Committee

- Lore Pateman

Adult Bible Study

- Rev. Peters



We are continuing our Bible Study on Thursday mornings from 10:30 AM to 12 Noon. We are slowly making our way through the book of Genesis using the book, *Genesis*, by Bill Moyers. It is a study that takes us into many different discussions, which we enjoy. We'd love to have you join us. The coffee pot is always on!

Fourth Sunday Focus, May 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. We start around **8:45 a.m.** and end by about 9:45 a.m., but join us whenever you can. If you've never participated or haven't attended for a while, please join us on the 26th; we always have lively discussions on a wide range of topics. If you have a topic you'd like to discuss, contact Tom Parziale.

**Looking Ahead:**

Christian Education Recognition Sunday and the Annual Church Picnic are scheduled for **June 9**.

**Worship Committee****- Janet Parziale****Liturgists for May:**

May 5:	Susan Gerecht	May 19:	Janet Parziale
May 12:	Tom Parziale	May 26:	Jan Somers



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

Non-Perishable Food Collection - May 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.

**Lenten Worship Services**

During the Season of Lent, the Worship Committee displayed an "atmosphere table," adding a new item each week to coincide with Rev. Peters' sermon series on the Lord's Prayer.

On the left is the final scene prior to the Good Friday service.

On the right is the scene on Easter morning, celebrating the resurrection of Jesus Christ.



Deacons' Corner**- Janet Parziale****Mission of the Month - May**

Three historically black churches were intentionally burned over a period of ten days in the southern Louisiana St. Landry Parish. Each fire caused extensive damage to the churches. Fortunately, no deaths or injuries were reported. During the month of May, our congregation will take up a special collection in support of the three churches. Feel free to use the special envelopes in the pew racks at church. Remember to include your name and/or your envelope number if you would like your donation to be recorded. Thank you in advance for supporting this program.

Upcoming Mission of the Month - June

The Deacons are once again working with the Church World Service (CWS) and their "Blanket Month Appeal" for our June Mission of the Month. In 2018, CWS distributed thousands of woolen blankets throughout the world, and they are hoping to do the same this year. The blankets, which cost \$10 each, have been used in many ways – to help families who have been driven from their homes due to hurricanes, tornados, or other disasters; to keep the homeless warm; to carry personal belongings; and, to cover a window broken in a storm to keep the cold air out. A sample blanket will be available for you to see during Fellowship Hour. We will be collecting \$10 per blanket during the entire month of June. You may use the special envelopes in the pews to enclose your gift, or give it to Shaylyn Gallagan or another Deacon. We hope you will support this worthy endeavor.

**Easter Plants**

The Deacons would like to thank everyone who ordered the beautiful Easter plants that decorated our sanctuary on Easter Sunday. Also, thanks to Israel and Evelyn for picking the plants up from *Flowers on the Ridge* and setting them up in the sanctuary. Any plants that were not taken will be planted in our Memorial Garden.

**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.**

Fellowship Hour

Fellowship Hour is a very special time of fellowship following each weekly worship service. It is a wonderful time to share stories and catch up with each other after our busy weeks. Please consider helping with this important part of our church life by signing up to host one yourself or with a partner or simply donating money to be used to provide some delicious goodies for the morning. If you wish to donate money, please give it to a Deacon or place it in the offering plate in an envelope marked "Fellowship Hour."



The coffee, tea, plates, napkins, and cups are all available in the kitchen. You just need to provide milk (usually a quart), juice (or simply water), and some goodies (cookies, fruit, pretzels, popcorn, etc.). If you need help setting up the coffee and tea, please feel free to ask any Deacon or other member of the congregation. Your Fellowship Hour can be as simple or as elaborate as you want. They are fun to do and thoroughly appreciated by everyone.



Visiting Nurse

Joyce Koenig is our congregation's Visiting Nurse. She makes visitations on her own and with Rev. Peters and is always available to answer your health-related questions. Thank you, Joyce!

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.



Water Available During Worship

There is always 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



Our first 2019 commitment date for preparing 40 lunches is: **Friday, May 3rd, 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 Jean or Yvonne. If you'd like to help with this program, please speak to Jean or Yvonne.

Upcoming Dates: June 7th, July 5th, Aug 2nd, Sept 6th, Oct 4th, Nov 1st, Dec 6th

Community Food Bank, May 18th

- Kai Ihringer

I am pleased to announce that our first 2019 trip to the **Community Food Bank in Hillside is on Sat., May 18th**. Please consider joining us in our mission to "Feed the Hungry." You'll be helping a worthy cause and feel good knowing that you're making the world a better place!
Here is the relevant information:

**Date:** Sat., May 18th**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.

Easter Ham Donations

Thank you to everyone who participated in this program by donating a ham. Tom Parziale delivered 5 hams to the Market Street Mission in Morristown, and one was donated to a local family. Your support of this program is very much appreciated.

**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 assist people on dialysis. There is a collection canister in the church office.

**Buildings & Grounds**

- Tom Parziale

**Roof Repairs**

We have been notified that our project is scheduled to take place during the week of May 6th. Weather and other factors between now and then could alter the schedule, but it is encouraging news. While the work is ongoing, entering and exiting the building during the day will be through the sanctuary doors. You will be notified as the date gets closer.

Attic Clean Up

The first church attic cleanup in a long time took place in April. A big thank you goes to Lore Pateman and Janet Parziale who helped me with the project. Some items were donated to the VNA rummage sale.



Church Website & Facebook Page

To keep up-to-date with what's happening at our Church, make it a point to check in regularly on the Church website, www.fpcstirling.org, and Facebook page, https://www.facebook.com/fpcStirling/?ref=aymt_homepage_panel. They are good sources for church news, the Church calendar, Stirling Stuff, upcoming events/programs, Pastor's sermons, Scripture readings, Church history, and more.

Church Archives

- Jan Somers



Please continue to forward news clippings, bulletins, programs, pictures, or other memorabilia regarding any member of our church family so our archives can be kept up-to-date. **Please be sure items are dated and, if possible, the names of church members and/or families are highlighted.** There is a **Church Archives** mailbox outside the church offices for this purpose. Please speak to Jan or Rev. Peters if you'd like to help keep the archives up-to-date.

These Days

"To nurture the daily practice of prayer and the reading of Scripture, there is solid help in the pages of 'These Days.' The devotions wrestle faithfully with the doubts, joys, and challenges of the Christian life."



Our Church has a subscription for copies of this devotional booklet; they are available in the Church narthex.

Meyersville Presbyterian Church News

Free Gentle Yoga Class

Roseann McGraw, a certified yoga teacher, offers free yoga classes in the parlor at Meyersville Presbyterian Church on Tuesdays, from 9:00 – 10:00 a.m. The classes are on-going, so you can join any time.



You will not be sitting or lying on the floor, so just bring yourself in comfortable clothes, and invite friends along. The classes are 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 email Roseanne with questions or concerns: 908-508-1435, rosanne.mcgraw@gmail.com.

Art England Has Moved

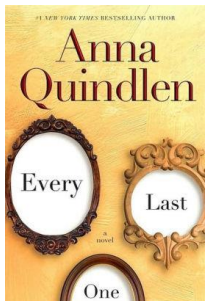
Art England has moved to North Carolina to be closer to his son. If you would like to send a note or card to him, especially when he turns 100 years old on July 12th this year, I'm sure he'd love to hear from you. Below is Art's new address:

Arthur England
Sunnybrook Assisted Living
306 Spring St. Apt. 211
Hendersonville, N.C. 28739

Meyersville Book Club

- Jan Somers

The Book Club's current selection is, **"Every Last One," a novel by Anna Quindlen.** The group will meet in the parlor at Meyersville on Tuesday, May 28th, 7:30 p.m. to discuss the book. Everyone is welcome to join the group. Copies of the book are available at local libraries.



Mary Beth Latham has built her life around her family, around caring for her three teenage children and preserving the rituals of their daily life. When one of her sons becomes depressed, Mary Beth focuses on him, only to be blindsided by a shocking act of violence. What happens afterward is a testament to the power of a woman's love and determination, and to the invisible lines of hope and healing that connect one human being to another. Ultimately, as rendered in Anna Quindlen's mesmerizing prose, Every Last One is a novel about facing every last one of the things we fear the most, about finding ways to navigate a road we never intended to travel.

The group's next selection is, **"Balzac and the Little Chinese Seamstress,"** a novel by Dai Sijie. Copies will be distributed on May 28th.

Free Computer Training

Ruud Zijdel is once again offering **Hands-On Windows 10 Training on Saturdays from 9-11 a.m. at the Meyersville Church.** The remaining schedule is as follows:



<u>Date</u>	<u>Description</u>
May 4	Editing documents, Microsoft Word
May 11	Working with files, Microsoft Excel
May 18	Sharing your computer; implementing security; maintaining Windows

To sign up or for more information, contact Ruud at: ruudz@aol.com

Community News**Warren/Watchung Green Fair 2019**

Warren and Watchung are hosting a joint **Green Fair on May 11th, from 10:00 a.m. – 1:00 p.m., at Warren Middle School, 100 Old Stirling Road, Warren.**

It's a great opportunity to properly dispose of those hard-to-recycle items, i.e., electronics, styrofoam.

**WARREN-WATCHUNG
GREEN FAIR
May 11, 10am - 1pm
Warren Middle School**



- Electric Car Display
- Electronics Recycling
- Paper Shredding

- Activities & Information
- Wildlife Show
- Styrofoam Collection



warrennj.org • watchungnj.gov

Ongoing Mission Programs

Road to Bridges

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

Township Food Pantry

Non-perishable food 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, to make small bears for children, totes for wheelchair patients, etc.
Yarn: 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 Yvonne Fletcher.

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
- ✓ Questions? Contact Debra Sprague

**Please e-mail submissions for the
June issue of Stirling Stuff to:
jsomers17@hotmail.com
by May 23rd. 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.

