



# *Stirling Stuff*

**Volume 62, No. 5**

**May 2018**

## ***Pastor's Letter***

Is Spring going to get here? I'm a little more hopeful today as the temperature is going up to the mid-fifties. Hope springs eternal. However, I am aware that on Saturday, April 14, the temperature was in the low 80's and then on Sunday it was back down in the 30's and 40's. The flowers are definitely going into the ground later this year.

I thought of this as I reflected on the Day of Pentecost that we will celebrate on May 20<sup>th</sup>. Pentecost is when we celebrate the coming of the Holy Spirit. Until the 4<sup>th</sup> century AD Pentecost was a celebration of Ascension Day, the day Christ ascended to be with God and the coming of the Holy Spirit. During the 4<sup>th</sup> century the two were moved apart and celebrated each separately. Ascension Day is now celebrated on the Thursday 10 days before Pentecost. Pentecost, meaning "the fiftieth day," is held on the fiftieth day after Easter. It has a connection in Judaism as it refers to the festival celebrated on the fiftieth day after [Passover](#), also known as the "Feast of Weeks" (a harvest festival) in the [Septuagint](#), the early Greek version of the Old Testament.

It is interesting because a connection can be made between the meaning of Pentecost in the Jewish tradition and the Christian tradition. As I said, in the Jewish tradition the Feast of Weeks or Pentecost was a celebration of the bounty of the winter harvest. In the Christian understanding Pentecost was when the disciples, infused with the Holy Spirit, went into the world and the church began to spread to the four corners of the world. In Acts 2:41 we read that on the first Pentecost "about three thousand" people were baptized and brought into the fellowship. In Luke 10:2 we hear Jesus say, "the harvest is plentiful, but the workers are few." Remember, the author of Luke wrote both the gospel and the book of Acts where we find the Pentecost story. We get the sense that the author was celebrating the Spirit that began to grow the church.

Often, we talk about Pentecost being the "birthday of the church." However, this really does a disservice to the power of the movement started by Jesus through the disciples. Pentecost was a day when fear and trembling was cast aside, and courage and purpose was taken on by the disciples. Whether you believe the story as it is actually recorded, or you believe that the disciples had a eureka moment together in the upper room, the truth is they became filled with power and conviction. They took on the mantle that Christ had left for them and gave birth to the movement that would eventually become the Christian Church.

I hope you will join us for our Pentecost celebration on Sunday, May 20<sup>th</sup>. Wear red as a sign of the Spirit God has given you and your passion to share the Gospel of Christ to the world.

See you in Church!

*Tom*

The First Presbyterian Church of Stirling  
**Feeding Those Who Hunger**



## Worship Services and Scripture Passages for May

### May 6, 2018

- 6<sup>th</sup> Sunday of Easter / Sacrament of Communion
- **Service at Meyersville Presbyterian Church**  
Acts 10:44-48; Psalm 98;  
1 John 5:1-6; John 15:9-17.  
**Preaching, Rev. Barbara Aspinall**

### May 13, 2018

- 7<sup>th</sup> Sunday of Easter / Mother's Day  
Acts 1:15-17, 21-26; Psalm 1;  
1 John 5:9-13; John 17:6-19.  
*What Do We Do With Judas?*

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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 20, 2018

- The Day of Pentecost  
Ezekiel 37:1-14; Psalm 104:24-34;  
Acts 2:1-21; John 15:26-27: 16:4b-15.  
*From Sighing To Spiritual Breathing*

### May 27, 2018

- Trinity Sunday  
Isaiah 6:1-8; Psalm 29;  
Romans 8:12-17; John 3:1-17.  
*Adoptive Persuasion*

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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: <http://www.fpcstirling.org>, click on:  
"Sermon Archive," then select the sermon  
and/or scripture reading date you would like.



### **Pastor's Coffee Klatch**

Because of a Saturday morning practice session for the bell concert on May 6<sup>th</sup>, the **Coffee Klatch will gather at the diner on Saturday, May 12<sup>th</sup>, 9:00 a.m.**, at the Stirling House Diner. We talk about whatever is on your mind. Come and join in the conversation!



### **Handbell Choir**

On Sunday, May 6<sup>th</sup>, at 4:30 PM, at Wilson Memorial Church, 7 Valley Rd., Watchung, our own Travnicsek Memorial Ringers will join with the Ost Memorial Ringers of Wilson Memorial Church and the Village Ringers of Union Village United Methodist Church will present a concert of handbell music. Some of the music will also include a trumpet, organ, and flute. Plan to join us for this special concert. Following the concert there will be a potluck supper in the fellowship hall at Wilson Church. If you plan to attend the potluck please bring a dish to share.

**The Concert Series in Stirling****- Debra Sprague**

Our next concert will be on **Sunday, May 20<sup>th</sup>, at 2:00 p.m.**, when we will present the [Mosaic Flute Duo](#) Natasha Loomis and Mitzy Nonaka.

The concert is free; a free-will offering is accepted. A short reception follows the concert, during which guests may meet the performer. Refreshments will be served. We hope you will invite your family and friends and join us for beautiful music played in our sanctuary.

**Christian Education Committee****- Lore Pateman****Adult Bible Study****- Rev. Peters**

Our **Bible Study of the Gospel of Luke** continues on **Thursday mornings from 10:30 a.m. – noon**. We invite you to join us in our study of Rev. Dr. Fred Craddock's book, *Luke*.

**Fourth Sunday Focus, April 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 27<sup>th</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. **If you have a topic you'd like to discuss, contact Tom Parziale.**

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

May 6	At Meyersville	May 20	open
May 13	Tom Parziale	May 27	open



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

**Pentecost Sunday**

Sunday, May 20<sup>th</sup>, is the Day of Pentecost, when we celebrate the beginning of the Christian Church. The Worship Committee has planned a special worship service and fellowship hour for the congregation. Please remember to wear something red.

## Non-Perishable Food Collection, May 6<sup>th</sup>

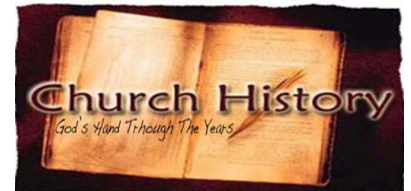
**On the first Sunday of each month**, we collect donations of non-perishable food during the worship service. While we are receiving the Lord's Supper, we also want to provide for others. The food is donated to the township food pantry at St. Vincent Church. We continue to collect non-perishable food in the baskets located in the church entry-ways during the rest of the month.



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 6<sup>th</sup>, please consider bringing this item (preferably the kind in juice and not syrup) to donate when we are there.

## Archive Sunday, April 29<sup>th</sup>

The Worship Committee will be hosting a special **Fellowship Hour and Archive Sunday on April 29<sup>th</sup>** following morning worship. The books filled with our church's history will be on display for everyone to peruse. At that time, everyone will be invited to share a special/favorite memory of the church.



## Deacons' Corner

**– Janet Parziale**

### Mission of the Month -



The Deacons are working with the Church World Service (CWS) and their "[Blanket Month Appeal](#)" for our mission of the month. In 2017, CWS distributed thousands of woolen blankets throughout the world. They are hoping to do the same this year. The blankets, which cost \$10, 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 homeless persons 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 coffee hour. During the entire month of May, we will be collecting \$10 per blanket. You may use the special envelopes in the pews to enclose your gift or give it to Janet Parziale or another deacon. We hope you will share in this worthy endeavor.

## Deacon's Memorial Fund Donations

The Deacons accept donations in memory of loved ones who have died. The Deacon's Memorial Fund has allowed the church to complete special projects like the renovation of the narthex and make special purchases such as the pulpit bible, the handbell tables, and the table pads. If you have recently lost someone special, please consider making a donation to the memorial fund in their name.



## Fellowship Hour



Fellowship Hour is a very special time following each weekly worship service. It is a chance to share stories of the week and catch up with each other. Please consider helping with this important part of our church life by signing up to host one yourself or with a partner or simply by 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."

Recently we began using the Syracuse ceramic coffee cups found in the kitchen cupboards in place of the paper hot cups. The Deacons have received lots of positive feedback and thank everyone for joining them in this effort to save money and be ecologically responsible. Thank you!



## Visiting Nurse

Joyce Koenig has volunteered to be a Visiting Nurse for members of our church. She will be making visitations on her own and with Rev. Peters and is also available to answer your health-related questions. Thank you, Joyce; your assistance is greatly appreciated.

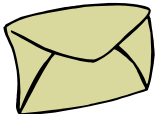


## Church Flowers

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.



## 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.**

## 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



Our next commitment date for preparing 40 lunches is: **Friday, May 4<sup>th</sup>, 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. If you'd like to help with this program, please speak to Jean.

Upcoming dates: June 8, July 13, Aug. 3, Sept. 7, Oct. 5, Nov. 2, and Dec. 7

#### **Update on our Bridges Project:**

Recently Toni Hopcraft and I delivered a carload of men's clothing to the *Bridges Outreach Program* in Summit. The clothing was donated by *Wilson Church's* thrift shop (The Frippery).

As a result of that visit, we decided we will collect **only seasonal men's casual clothing** until further notice. Toni delivers the lunches we make once a month and will take whatever clothing we have gathered in the meantime. Suggestions: jeans, work type pants, T-shirts, sweaters, lightweight jackets, sneakers, casual shoes.

When we delivered the clothing, the workers were getting ready that evening for the two stops they would make in New York. We asked how many people they could expect to serve, and they told us a minimum of 60 per stop. They have a very busy operation going in their Summit quarters, where the homeless come to take showers and collect food, particularly at the end of the month when their money runs low.

You can be assured your food and monetary contributions are much needed and appreciated. And now we can add good used clothing for the needy!

### **Family Promise of Morris County**

- Jan Somers



A huge thank you to everyone who helped to make our Holy Week hosting of Family Promise a success! Volunteers from all of the Shrine communities, our supporting churches, and from "off the hill" as well worked to make our guests welcome. This was a difficult time of year to find volunteers, but everyone stepped up. We even had to turn down 4 volunteers because all of the spots were filled. A special thank you to Meyersville Presbyterian who filled in our Holy Thursday overnight and a four-hour spot on Saturday and to Father Charley who helped with the Sunday overnight and helped transport our guests to Easter Sunday mass.

### **Building and Grounds**

- Tom Parziale

A big thank you to Paul Wermuth and Israel Sierra for their work on the church grounds over the past few weeks. They have removed multiple truckloads of tree debris due to the damages done by the series of March winter storms.

Note: There are multiple trees with damage that remain unattended at this time. A tree service has been contracted to take that damage to the ground. That will occur after April 21. In a cost saving approach, the contract involves taking the debris to the ground. Paul and Izzy will assist in the subsequent removal from the property.



## **Maundy Thursday Service**

On Maundy Thursday, First Presbyterian Church hosted the potluck supper and worship service in Pollard Hall. This was a shared service with Meyersville Presbyterian Church led by Rev. Peters and Rev. Aspinall. Members of both churches shared a delicious dinner before worshipping together. The tone of the service was set by Rev. Peters' beautiful atmospheric table set at the center of the room with large purple and maroon cloths, warm candles, communion chalice, and crown of thorns. At each table, participants served communion to each other. Below are a few pictures depicting scenes from this special event.



## **Easter Service**

Below are two pictures taken during our Easter service on April 1<sup>st</sup>. The Travnicsek Memorial Ringers played "Festive Intrada", by Cynthia Dobrinski as our introit, and "Up From the Grave He Rose", arranged by John C. Dare for our anthem. Since this was also the first Sunday in April, communion was also celebrated. Thank you to everyone who contributed towards the flowers for Easter. The daffodils, tulips, lilies, and azaleas certainly made our sanctuary a place of beauty and spiritual joy.



## **Community Food Bank, May 19th**

**- Kai Ihringer**

I am pleased to announce that our first food bank trip of 2018 has been scheduled for **Saturday May 19th**. 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 slightly better place!

Here is the relevant information:



**Date:** Saturday May 19th, 2018

**Departure:** Meet at 8AM in the church parking lot. Leave by **8:15AM**

**Food Bank Slot:** 9AM to 11AM

**Return:** Back at church parking lot between 11:30AM and 12 Noon

If you plan to attend please speak to me on Sunday or email me so that I can provide the Food Bank with an accurate estimate of the size of our group. Also let me know if you are willing to drive and if so, how many available seats you have.

## **Church Archives**

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. There is a **Church Archives** mailbox outside the church offices for this purpose. When newspaper articles, pictures, etc. are submitted, **please be sure they are dated and, if possible, the names of church members and/or families are highlighted.**



© Can Stock Photo - csp15722762



## **Church Website**

Our Church website, [www.fpcstirling.org](http://www.fpcstirling.org), is a good 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**

*"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.



## **Free Gentle Yoga Class – Meyersville Presbyterian Church**

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 at any time.

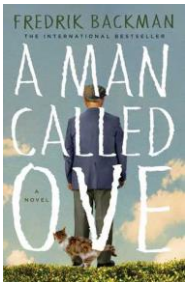


You will not be sitting or lying on the floor, so just bring yourself in comfortable clothes, and invite friends along. The classes are appropriate for all, the flexible as well as the tight. Injuries will be accommodated. Yoga is relaxing, as well as good for general health; so, come give it a try.

Call or email Roseanne with questions or concerns: 908-508-1435, [rosanne.mcgraw@gmail.com](mailto:rosanne.mcgraw@gmail.com).

## **Meyersville Presbyterian Church Book Club**

**- Jan Somers**



The Book Club is currently reading the novel, **"A Man Called Ove,"** by Fredrik Backman. They will meet in the parlor at Meyersville on Tuesday, May 1<sup>st</sup>, 7:30 p.m. to discuss the book. Everyone is welcome to join the group. Please contact Rev. Aspinall or Jan Somers for a copy of the book.

*"Ove (Rolf Lassgård) is the quintessential angry old man next door. An isolated retiree with strict principles and a short fuse, who spends his days enforcing block association rules that only he cares about, and visiting his wife's grave, Ove has given up on life. After a boisterous young family moves in next door and accidentally flattens Ove's mailbox, an unlikely friendship forms."*

## **Computer Classes in Meyersville**

Ruud Zijdel from the Meyersville Church is offering a **12-week series of computer classes, which began on Saturday, April 7<sup>th</sup>.** The class runs from **9:00-11:00 a.m.** each Saturday morning. This **hands-on training of Windows 10** will include: getting started and customizing Windows 10; Microsoft Word, Excel, and Publisher; surfing the web; sending and receiving emails; working with files; performing day-to-day tasks with Apps; editing documents; sharing your computer; and implementing security. To sign up and/or get specific dates for topics you are interested in, email Ruud at [ruudz@aol.com](mailto:ruudz@aol.com).



**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. Thank you.

**Session News**

As of May 15<sup>th</sup>, we will be welcoming new tenants, Nela and Fernando Peraza and their two children, into the Manse. Session met with and approved the prospective tenants on April 12<sup>th</sup>.

**Community Events****Boy Scout Troop 59****- Ed Gerech**

A big thank you to the group of boy scouts who volunteered to do additional yard work at the church on Saturday, April 28<sup>th</sup>, sprucing up our beautiful grounds.

**Raptor Trust Fundraiser****- Jan Somers**

Once again, Ross Griswold is spearheading a **Benefit Concert and Auction for the Raptor Trust**. It will be held on **Sunday, May 20<sup>th</sup>, from 2-8 p.m., at the Stirling Hotel**. All the information is on the poster shown here. I hope you will come out and support Ross's efforts on behalf of our local treasure!

**Annual Fish and Chips Dinner**

**Our Fifth Annual Argyle Fish & Chips Fundraising Dinner will be held on Saturday, June 9<sup>th</sup>!**

Mark your calendar and **Save the Date!** This is our big fundraising event for the year, and it takes a LOT of volunteers to make it a success. More details to come.

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!



### 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.

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#### 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

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**Please e-mail submissions for the March issue of Stirling Stuff to:**

[jsomers17@hotmail.com](mailto:jsomers17@hotmail.com)

by **May 17<sup>th</sup>**. Thank you!

***Stirling Stuff*** is the newsletter of

**The First Presbyterian Church of Stirling**

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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.

