



Stirling Stuff

Volume 63, No. 3

March 2019

Pastor's Letter

As I reflect on the month of March this year, I am mindful of the fact that when we do things over and over, it is easy to forget why we are doing them. We begin to do them by rote (mechanical or unthinking routine or repetition). From time to time, it is important to reflect on why we do things or say things. I'm reminded of a story I've used in sermons several times over the years.



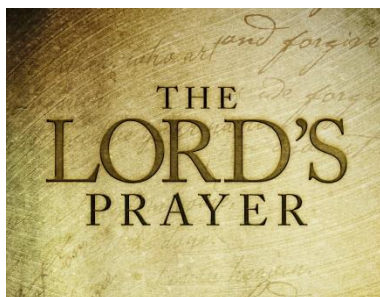
When the guru sat down to worship each evening, the ashram cat would get in the way and distract the worshippers. So he ordered that the cat be tied during evening worship.

After the guru died, the cat continued to be tied during evening worship. And when the cat expired, another cat was brought to the ashram so that it could be duly tied during evening worship.

*Centuries later, learned treatises were written by the guru's scholarly disciples on the liturgical significance of tying up a cat while worship is performed.
(Source: Anthony deMello, "The Song of the Bird")*

During Lent, I will be doing a series of sermons on the *Lord's Prayer*. We say it every Sunday and, at times, it is hard to really think about what we are saying. It is my hope that a sermon series on the topic will help us to reflect and bring us back to a consciousness of what it is we are praying for in the prayer. As I've said before, in many ways we have domesticated the prayer and, yet, it is a very radical and pointed prayer. I hope you will join me in reflecting on this important part of our worship service. I've titled the series, *What Are We Praying For Again?* Look for the individual titles in the *Worship Services and Scriptures* section on page 2.

May each of us have a blessed and reflective Lent.



See you in church!

Tom

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

Worship Services and Scripture Passages for March

March 3, 2019**Service in Stirling**

- *Transfiguration Sunday*
- *Sacrament of Holy Communion*
- *Non-Perishable Food Collection*
Exodus 34:29-35; Psalm 99;
2 Corinthians 3:12-4:2; Luke 9:28-36
Surviving the Bottom of the Mountain

March 6, 2019 Service in Meyersville – 7:30 p.m.

- *Ash Wednesday*
- *Service of Ashes*
Joel 2:1-2, 12-17; Psalm 51:1-17;
2 Corinthians 5:20b-6:10; Matthew 6:1-6, 16-21
Rev. Aspinall preaching

March 10, 2019

- *First Sunday in Lent*
Deuteronomy 26:1-11; Psalm 91:1-2, 9-16;
Romans 10:8b-13; Luke 4:1-13
What Are We Praying For Again?
1. How We Talk About God
Exodus 3:11-15; James 4:1-10
Matthew 6:9

*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.*

**March 17, 2019**

- *Second Sunday in Lent*
Genesis 15:1-12, 17-18; Psalm 27;
Philippians 3:17-4:1; Luke 13:31-35
What Are We Praying For Again?
2. Kingdom to Commonwealth
I Chronicles 29:10-13; I Thessalonians 2:9-12
Matthew 6:10

March 24, 2019

- *Third Sunday in Lent*
Isaiah 55:1-9; Psalm 63:1-8;
1 Corinthians 10:1-13; Luke 13:1-9
What Are We Praying For Again?
3. What Are We Asking For?
Proverbs 30:5-9; I Corinthians 11:17-22
Matthew 6:11

March 31, 2019**Service in Meyersville**

****Rev. Peters on vacation****

- *Fourth Sunday in Lent*
Joshua 5:9-12; Psalm 32;
2 Corinthians 5:16-21; Luke 15:1-3, 11b-32
Rev. Aspinall preaching

**The scriptures listed below the sermon title
during Lent are the ones that will be used during
worship. The readings above the sermon titles
are the lectionary readings for that Sunday
and are provided for your own personal
meditation and reflection.**

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, March 2nd** 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.



Rev. Peters on Vacation

Tom will be on vacation the weekend of March 30-31. He will be traveling with the Masterwork Chorus to join with the Worcester Chorus in Worcester, Mass., in singing the Verdi Requiem. **Our Church service will be held at Meyersville Presbyterian Church that Sunday morning, March 31st.**

Family Promise of Morris County**- Jan Somers**

Our next Family Promise hosting date is **Tuesday, March 19th** at Trinity House in Stirling. Dinner will be pizza, vegetables, salad, and dessert. We need hosts from 5-9 p.m. and overnight from 9:00 p.m. to 7 a.m. Please take a look at the sign-up sheet in Pollard Hall to see where you can help out.

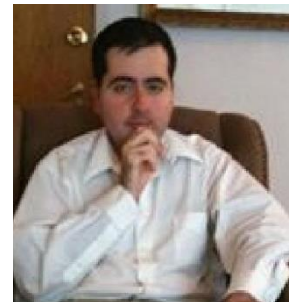


I realize this hosting responsibility comes soon after our February date. However, we will not be hosting again until the end of October. Any help you can give is greatly appreciated.

The Concert Series in Stirling

Our concert series continues on **March 10th at 2:00 p.m.** when we will welcome Soprano Ms. Nina Berman and Pianist Alessandro Simone.

It will be a concert of some opera and some art songs (an art song is a vocal music composition, usually written for one voice with piano accompaniment, and usually in the classical art music tradition). It promises to be a special concert, and we hope you will be there to hear it. Invite friends and family to join us for this time of music.



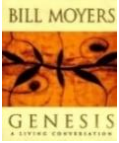
The concert is free; a free-will offering is accepted. A short reception follows the concert, during which guests may meet the performers. Refreshments will be served. If you would like to help with the concert series, please contact Rev. Peters, Howard Kupferman, or Debra Sprague.

Brunch and Program

On **Sunday, March 24th**, we will join our Meyersville sisters and brothers for a potluck brunch and program at **11:30 a.m. at Meyersville**. Everyone is invited to bring a dish to share and travel over to Meyersville following our worship service in Stirling.



The program will be about how interpretation of the scriptures has changed over the years and will be led by Rev. Aspinall and Rev. Peters. Join us to understand how we don't see scripture the same way people did just 20 - 50 years ago and why that is the case.

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!

Teachers and Assistants Needed**- Debra Sprague**

We need teachers and assistants for April and May for our 5th and 6th graders. Teaching is not every week. Questions about what is involved may be directed to Lore Pateman or Tom Parziale.

We also need two on-call people for child care each week. Many weeks we don't need nursery, but we do need to be ready when young ones come!

Fourth Sunday Focus, March 24th**- 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 24th; we always have lively discussions on a wide range of topics. If you have a topic you'd like to discuss, contact Tom Parziale.

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

March 3 Jan Somers
 March 10 Tom Parziale
 March 17 Evelyn Smith

March 24 Sue Gerech
 March 31 Meyersville



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 - March 3rd

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.



Ash Wednesday Service



The year, our Ash Wednesday service will be held at the **Meyersville Presbyterian Church at 7:30 p.m. on Wednesday, March 6th**. Rev. Aspinall will be preaching, and Rev. Peters will celebrate the Service of Ashes. Please join us for this important service which marks the beginning of our 2019 Lenten journey.

Worship Committee Survey



The committee created a short survey to assess the needs/interests of our congregation in attending shared worship services held at the Meyersville Presbyterian Church. If you have not already done so, please complete the survey and place it in the offering plate or give it to a member of the committee (Janet Parziale, Joyce Koenig, Jan Somers) There are copies available in the church narthex and in the office—it's on green paper) Thank you.

Deacons' Corner

- Janet Parziale

Mission of the Month

Our **Mission of the Month for March is One Great Hour of Sharing**. A gift to One Great Hour of Sharing enables the church to share God's love with our neighbors-in-need around the world by providing relief to those affected by natural disasters, provide food to the hungry, and help empower the poor and oppressed. This special offering will be collected throughout the month of March. Please use the special "Mission of the Month" offering envelopes in the pew racks, and remember to include your name or envelope # so you can receive credit for your donation. Thank you in advance for supporting this program.



Our Mission of the Month for February was Souper Bowl of Caring. As of last night, our final total was \$375; however, I was informed earlier today that 50% of the money received for Sunday's *Playathon* will be added to the donations. **This brings our total Souper Bowl donation amount to \$725 which will be shared equally between Family Promise of Morris County and the Market Street Mission in Morristown.** Thank you to everyone who donated so generously to this special mission program!

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

We have been keeping our Visiting Nurse, Joyce Koenig, quite busy. She makes visitations on her own and with Rev. Peters and is always available to answer your health-related questions. Thank you, Joyce!

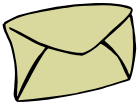


Church Flowers

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.



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 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.



Stewardship & Finance

- **Sandy Mackay**



On behalf of the Stewardship and Finance Committee, this is a gentle reminder that the **pledge drive for 2019 remains open**. For those who have pledged, thank you. For those still able to pledge, we encourage you to do so. It's not too late. We need your input so that we can better predict our overall income for the year.

There are Pledge cards available in the church office. Or, simply write your name, envelope #, and the amount/frequency of your pledge on a piece of paper. You can put it in your weekly offering envelope or another envelope, and place it in the offering plate. Your assistance in this matter is greatly appreciated. Thank you.

Mission Programs

Bridges Outreach Lunch Program

- **Jean Hoffman**



Our first 2019 commitment date for preparing 40 lunches is: **Friday, March 8th, 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: April 5th and May 3rd

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.

**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.

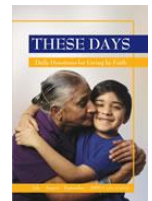
Church Archives**- Jan Somers**

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.

Since our last work day, we have accumulated quite a collection of articles to be added to the archives. If you are interested in helping with this project, please speak to Jan Somers. You can work on it at home in your free time.

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.

**Boy Scout Troop 59****- Ed Gerecht**

Boy Scout Troop 59, which our church sponsors, will be holding an Eagle Scout Court of Honor for Tom Garno, on Saturday, March 2nd, 3:00 p.m., in our sanctuary. Everyone is invited to attend this celebration of Tom's achievement.

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 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.

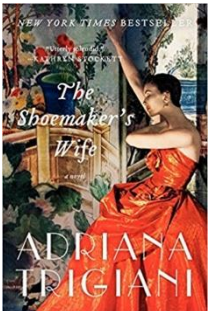
Almost Spring Rummage Sale



On **Saturday, March 17th, from 9:00 a.m. - 5:00 p.m.**, the Meyersville church will hold its Almost Spring Rummage Sale. Items may be brought to the church from March 3–10. Accepted items include household, kitchen, and decorative items, and books (no clothes this year). Please contact the Meyersville church office if you have questions about items to donate.

Meyersville Book Club

- Jan Somers



The Book Club's current selection is *The Shoemaker's Wife*, a novel by Adriana Trigiani. They will meet in the parlor at Meyersville on Tuesday, March 26th, 7:30 p.m. to discuss the book. Everyone is welcome to join the group. The book is available at local libraries.

Inspired by the lives of her own grandparents, who came to America from northern Italy in the early 20th century, it is an old-fashioned, romantic tale of two star-tangled lovers. Beginning in the Italian Alps, the story travels by various routes to New York's Little Italy, a Hoboken factory, backstage at the Metropolitan Opera, Minnesota's Iron Range, and the trenches of France. It's a love story, yes; but, also a paean to artisanal work, food, friendship, and family.

The next selection is the novel, *The Story of Arthur Truluv*, by Elizabeth Berg. Copies will be distributed on March 26th.

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.** You can sign-up for the entire 6-week course or just specific dates. The schedule is as follows:



<u>Date</u>	<u>Description</u>
April 6	Getting started and customizing Windows 10
April 13	Surfing the Web; sending/receiving e-mails; getting social with Windows
April 20	Performing day-to-day tasks with Apps; working with Images and Multimedia
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

Earth Hour 2019**- Jan Somers**

Earth Hour 2019 is Saturday, March 30th, from 8:30-9:30 p.m.
This Earth Hour, Shine A Light On Climate Action!

Earth Hour is a worldwide movement organized by the World Wide Fund for Nature (WWF). The event is held annually encouraging individuals, communities, and businesses to turn off non-essential electric lights for one hour, from 8:30 to 9:30 pm, as a symbol of commitment to the planet. It was started as a lights-off event in Sydney, Australia, in 2007. Since then, it has grown to engage more than 7,000 cities and towns across 187 countries and territories to raise awareness of energy consumption and effects on the environment. Every year, millions of people around the world join the Earth Hour movement and switch off their lights for one hour to show support for protecting our planet and stopping climate change.

**News of Interest****Performance of Verdi's Requiem**

The Masterwork Chorus will sing most of this piece on Saturday, March 16th, 7:30 p.m., at the Chatham United Methodist Church, 460 Main St., Chatham. It is a beautiful work that is sung by many choruses. It was composed in memory of Alessandro Manzoni, an Italian poet and novelist, whom Verdi admired. The first performance, at the San Marco church in Milan on May 22, 1874, marked the first anniversary of Manzoni's death.

**New Address for Arline Most**

Following is the new address for Arline Most, who was part of our community and our Travnick Memorial Ringers handbell choir for many years:

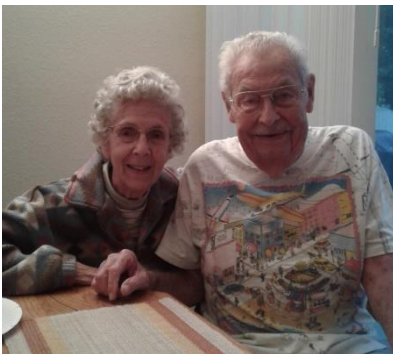
Attn: Arline Most
 30 Springcrest Ct.
 Greenville, SC 29607

Note: Be sure to put **ATTN: Arline Most** in the address.



We wish Arline good health and happiness in her new home.

It's a beautiful place; you can google it at: cascades-verdae.com

Special Friends**- Jan Somers**

I recently had the opportunity to visit with former long-time members of our congregation, Charlotte and Freeman Clarke, at their home in Laguna Hills, California. Although the weather did not cooperate during my trip, my time with Charlotte and Free was very special. They were full of questions about the church and their friends back in NJ and sent their love and lots of hugs back with me. Their son, Jim, and his wife, Pam, live close by in Laguna Niguel; and, their son, Eric, lives in Alaska. Eric traveled home in December, and they all had a wonderful holiday together.

Special Visitors

On Sunday, February 24th, some very special visitors joined us during Fellowship Hour. Janet and Tom Parziale's son, David, and his wife, Brooke, had traveled to New Jersey to introduce their daughter, 7-month-old Eleanor, to their extended family (which, of course, includes the church). As you can see, Eleanor is a beautiful little girl, who was smiling and interacting with everyone:



Rev. Peters



Marie Darby and Rev. Peters



Yvonne Fletcher



Jan Somers



and, back with dad and mom



Proud Grandpa Tom with Eleanor

The happy family is back home in Iowa now, where I understand they've had a bit of snow recently. Next time they visit, Eleanor will probably be running around in Pollard Hall, just like her dad did.

Session and Deacon responsibilities for 2019**2019 Session Responsibilities**

President of Trustees
 Clerk of Session
 Recording Clerk of Session
 Facilities & Property Management
 Christian Education
 Fellowship and Membership
 Stewardship and Finance
 Worship
 Nominating
 Personnel

Ed Gerecht
 Lynn Blakeslee
 Susan Brodziak
 Lynn Blakeslee
 Susan Brodziak
 Session
 Sandy Mackay
 Joyce Koenig
 Yvonne Fletcher
 Kai Ihringer

**2019 Board of Deacons Responsibilities**

Moderator
 Recording Secretary
 Corresponding Secretary
 Treasurer
 "Deacons Corner " for Stirling Stuff
 Fellowship Supplies
 Flowers
 Mission & Outreach
 Paraments
 Reception Coordinator
 Nominating Committee

Susan Gerecht
 Susan Gerecht
 Janet Parziale
 Elsie Turqman
 Janet Parziale
 Joanne Sama
 Israel Sierra
 Rev. Tom Peters
 Dawn Mackay & Shaylyn Gallagan
 Dawn Mackay



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 April issue of Stirling Stuff to:
jsomers17@hotmail.com
by **March 21st**. 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

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.

Why not invite a friend to church?

