

THE MESSENGER

The Newsletter of

MEYERSVILLE PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH

223 Hickory Tavern Road at the Circle in Meyersville

Gillette, NJ 07933-1038

The Rev. Barbara F. Aspinall, Pastor



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FEBRUARY 2015

ANNUAL CONGREGATIONAL MEETING

and

SOUPER BOWL SUNDAY LUNCH



Our church's Annual Congregational Meeting and Souper Bowl Sunday Lunch will be on Sunday, February 1, after worship. It is important for all active members to attend to hear reports from the committees and boards of the church. We will be electing new officers for 2015 and voting on the Session's recommendations for the terms of the Pastor's call. This is also a chance to make suggestions and changes regarding the life and ministry of our church.

After the meeting, we will enjoy a **Souper Bowl Sunday Lunch**. The Mission Committee is asking for a donation of \$5 per person (\$20 max per family) which will benefit the Community Soup Kitchen and the Interfaith Food Pantry. These funds will be used to buy fresh produce which will be distributed to those who come to the Food Pantry. Fresh produce is difficult to come by on a very low food budget and we will be helping to provide a healthier diet to the



Pantry patrons. If you can bring a pot of soup or a salad to share for our Sunday lunch, please speak with Kelly Roshto. We are also looking for non-perishable food for the Food Pantry.



email: baspinall223@aol.com
February 2015



As Jesus passed along the Sea of Galilee, he saw Simon and his brother Andrew casting a net into the sea—for they were fishermen. ¹⁷And Jesus said to them, “Follow me and I will make you fish for people.” ¹⁸And immediately they left their nets and followed him. ¹⁹As he went a little farther, he saw James son of Zebedee and his brother John, who were in their boat mending the nets. ²⁰Immediately he called them; and they left their father Zebedee in the boat with the hired men, and followed him. (Mark 1:14-20)

Dear Church Family,

One of gospel writer, Mark's, favorite words is “immediately.” He used it many times in his gospel and it gives an air of urgency to the story of Jesus' life and ministry. In the story of Jesus' call to the disciples, Simon, Andrew, James and John, this “immediately” also gives urgency to the disciples' ministry. They didn't stop to think and wonder and weigh alternatives. “Immediately they left their nets and followed him.”

This immediate response of those four fishermen is amazing, inspiring, and yet daunting because it sets the bar for discipleship so incredibly high. Leave family, job, home, security to follow an itinerant preacher into an unknown and possibly dangerous future... immediately? To be honest, I find it hard to imagine doing this. I expect most people do. I think we would all have serious and sincere reservations about doing this. So does that make us failures as Christians? Does that mean we are less faithful than Andrew and Peter and James and John? Well, perhaps, but remember that Mark also tells us that those same disciples ended up disappointing, denying and abandoning Jesus at various points later in the story anyway.

So what was Mark's point here? By the time he was writing his gospel, it was impossible to follow the earthly Jesus the way these four did. So what exactly was Mark seeking to inspire? What kind of example did he intend? Presumably Mark's message to his readers in the 1st century and to us in the 21st is more about following Jesus in a general sense than specifically leaving everything – family, job, home - to traipse along with Jesus through the Galilean countryside.

Except that following Jesus “in a general sense” doesn't really mean anything. We live, work, choose, love, in the particular. We follow Jesus not by literally walking behind him, but in the way we live

every day, the priorities we make in our lives. But again, these priorities, this “way we live” has to be expressed in the particular, or to use Mark’s “immediately” in a different way, in the immediate.

Merely thinking of ourselves as good people or as Christian believers is not following Jesus. Following Jesus is something that must be done immediately – in the immediate – in the way we interact with particular people, how we connect person to person, as the choir and their friends invited folks to the concert on January 11th, as the Deacons serve dinner and engage in conversation with the homeless folks at the Family Promise program, as we visit our homebound members, as we sponsor a particular Village to Village child.

I really think the way we let the Holy Spirit enliven us and our church is by listening to what Mark has to say about immediacy, about particularity, about personal connections. Jesus taught the crowds and fed thousands, but he called his disciples one and two at a time - as individual, particular people. And this is how ministry happens; this is how church growth happens; this is how the good news of Jesus Christ is shared – one person at a time, one personal connection, one invitation at a time. We, each one of us, has a word of good news to share. May we, each one of us, be inspired, have the courage, find the will, to speak, to invite, to share with particular, individual people... immediately.

Yours in Christ,

Barbara

Thanks to Outgoing Church Officers

**thank
you!**

Our deepest thanks and appreciation go to our church officers who have completed one, three or six year terms of office on the Session or the Board of Deacons. These folks have been dedicated to the ministry of Christ in Meyersville, using God’s gifts of intelligence, imagination and love. Their energy and devotion have enabled and served the worship and work and fellowship life of our congregation.

Many thanks!

From the Session: Kelly Roshto

From the Board of Deacons: Marjolein Zijdel, Marcie Skrobacz,
Lynn Hilf, John Skrobacz and Jenna Leski.

And special thanks to the Gallagher family for sharing our beloved Linda who truly had the heart of a deacon.



Ash Wednesday Service February 18th, 7:30 pm

We will be beginning the season of Lent with an Ash Wednesday service in our sanctuary. We will be joined by our friends from First Presbyterian, Stirling. The lectionary Scripture readings for the day are:

Joel 2:1-2, 12-17 or Isaiah 58:1-12
Psalm 51:1-17
II Corinthians 5:20b-6:10
Matthew 6:1-6, 16-21

Lenten Music on Sundays at 4 pm Songs of the Bible

From 4 to 4:30 on the Sundays in Lent, Roberta Keller and various members of our choir will be presenting a brief program of Lenten music which will contribute to the more contemplative spirit of the season of Lent.

We think of the Bible as God's Word to us but we forget that God's Word is often expressed in song. We no longer know exactly what the music of the various Biblical periods sounded like, but certain texts were clearly meant to be sung. Included in this category are of course, the Psalms, which were sung in the liturgy of the temple, but there are also other songs in both the Old and New Testaments, and significantly, they were often songs sung by women. There is Miriam's song sung in celebration after the Israelites crossed the Red Sea, Hannah's song when her long awaited child, Samuel is born, Deborah's song, Mary's song, and others. This years Lenten music will be based on these songs.

The timing of this program is planned so that attendance at the Three Church Lenten Soup and Study is possible. These two programs together will make an excellent opportunity for Lenten observance - a combination of worship, contemplation with music, Christian education and table fellowship.



Three Church Lenten Soup and Study

“Seeing Ourselves in Those Confronted by Jesus”

Songs of the Bible

A man ran up to Jesus, knelt before him and asked, “Good Teacher, what must I do to inherit eternal life?” This is a question that is central to the life of the Christian faith and Jesus’ answer is both reassuring and troubling. Our five week **Three Church Lenten Study** this year will focus on some of the groups of people with whom Jesus interacted and how Jesus affirmed or challenged their understandings of what it means to be a person of faith, a follower of God. Join us as we learn about the Pharisees, Sadducees, the Essenes and Zealots, the disciples, the women who followed Jesus and how we folks of the 21st century might also be affirmed and challenged by how Jesus responded to these groups.

Each of the three churches will have opportunities to host the Lenten Soup and Study programs and the discussions will be led by the pastors and lay folk. The group will begin on the Sunday evenings below with a soup supper at 5 pm followed by the study and discussion. The evening will conclude by 7 pm. Child care provided.

In addition, Roberta Keller, organist and choir director at Meyersville, is planning a short (½ hour) Lenten contemplative musical program based on the *Songs of the Bible* – Esther’s song, Miriam’s song, Mary’s song. This will begin at 4 pm which will allow folks time to get to the Soup and Study as well.

Date	Topic	Host	Leader
February 22	<i>Pharisees and Sadducees</i>	MPC	Barbara Aspinall
March 1	<i>The Essenes</i>	TUC	Tom Peters
March 8	<i>The Zealots</i>	MPC	Tom Peters
March 15	<i>The Disciples</i>	FPC	Heather Galgoci
March 22	<i>The Women</i>	TUC	Barbara Aspinall

MPC = Meyersville Pres Church, 223 Hickory Tavern Rd, Gillette

TUC = Trinity United Church, 118 King George Rd, Warren

FPC = First Presbyterian Church, 158 Central Ave, Stirling



Friday the 13th Lucky Game Night! Friday, February 13th 6 pm

Do you have a passion for Scrabble? Are you a bridge player, or is Twister more your game? Join us on Friday evening, February 13th at 6 pm for an evening of board games, pizza and fun with our friends at First Presbyterian, Stirling. We will meet in Pollard Hall at FPC and order a pizza supper. Bring your favorite board game! The young and not- so-young are all invited and welcome!

MANSE PROPERTY CLEAN UP Saturday, February 14th

A work day is scheduled for the 14th of February, weather permitting. This is outside work. Dress warmly and bring clippers, gloves, and a chainsaw if you have one.



Results of Stewardship Pledge Campaign

Once again, our church family has pledged its support for the continuing life and ministry of Meyersville Church. Our financial secretary, Dan Gallagher, has reported that with those who have pledged and those who reliably contribute regularly, we have a total commitment of \$55,000 for 2015. This accounts for not quite half of our 2015 budgeted income. The rest of our budget is supported by our fund raiser events and the use of our manse and church building.

Education Program at First Presbyterian, Stirling

On Sunday, February 8th, at 11:15, our Presbyterian friends at the Stirling Church are hosting a potluck soup lunch and a program on "White Privilege." The discussion will be about questions such as "What does the phrase, "white privilege" mean?" Does it really exist? Do we participate in it?" Please bring a soup, stew, bread, crackers, cheese or dessert, or just show up! All are welcome to participate in this study and discussion.

Almost Spring Rummage & Pancake Breakfast, March 21, 9am-5pm



Coming soon is our Almost Spring Rummage Sale and Pancake Buffet. You may bring items to Fellowship Hall at the church starting Sunday February 22. Clothing, household items, books are welcome, but please do not bring upholstered furniture or large sports equipment or computer printers. The last day to bring your treasures is Tuesday, March 17. Please let your neighbors and friends know that we have begun collecting. You might even offer to pick their stuff up to bring to the church!

We are also in need of volunteers to help out on the day of the sale. Please contact Kelly (626-0511) or kellyroshto@hotmail.com.



Weber Grill Raffle

As part of our Almost Spring Rummage Sale, (and before) we will be selling raffle tickets for a beautiful new Weber grill, the Weber Genesis S-330, that has a retail value of \$950.00. The grill winner will have the options of propane or natural gas and may use the value of the grill toward an even fancier grill if desired.

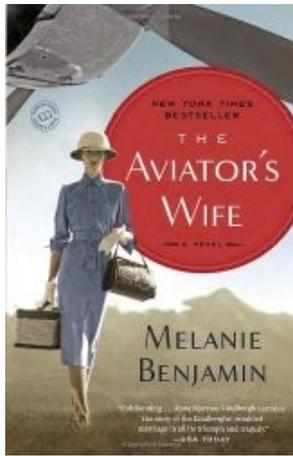
The drawing will be on Friday evening, June 19th at a special spring dinner that our church will be hosting. The raffle tickets will be \$20 each and \$100 for 6 tickets. There will be a limited number of tickets sold. We will begin selling tickets shortly. Tell your friends! Sell some tickets! The "specs:"

- total cooking area: 637 sq. inches
- three stainless steel burners.
- 38,000 BTU per hour input main burners.
- 12,000 BTU per hour input flush mounted side burner.
- 10,000 BTU per hour input sear station
- 7 mm diameter stainless steel rod cooking grates
- stainless steel flavorizer bars
- stainless steel shroud
- center-mounted thermometer
- stainless steel work surface
- fuel gauge

Meyersville Church Book Club
Friday, February 6, 2015, 7:30 p.m.

The Meyersville Church Book Club will meet on Friday, February 6th to talk about a historical fiction novel about Anne Morrow Lindbergh called *The Aviator's Wife* by Melanie Benjamin. From the *Booklist* review of the novel:

*Benjamin delivers another stellar historical novel based on the experiences of an extraordinary woman. In this outing, she spotlights Anne Morrow Lindbergh, wife of wildly famous Charles Lindbergh and pioneering aviatrix and accomplished author in her own right. Though their courtship is the stuff of every girl's romantic fantasy, time and reality combine to reveal a much different story. Plagued by tragedy and often stifled by her domineering husband, she eventually manages to carve out a quasi-independent life and career for herself. Fictional biography at its finest; serious readers may want to pair this with the recently published *Against Wind and Tide*, the sixth and final volume of Anne Morrow Lindbergh's copious letters and journal entries.*



Bible Study of the Old Testament
Continues

Sundays at 11:15 a.m.



On Sundays, resuming on February 8th, after the worship service, we are continuing with our study of the Old Testament. The group meets in the Parlor for approximately an hour.

In the coming weeks, we will be considering the Israelite monarchy - its successes and failures, its principles and personalities. Who was David? What happened with Solomon? And then with the end of the period of the great kings, how did God speak to God's people through the prophets?

February 8 *King David* I Samuel 16-31, II Samuel, I Kings 1-2

February 15 *From King Solomon to PreClassical Prophecy*

I Kings 3 - II Kings 17

February 22 *The Prophets and the Fall of the North*

I Kings 16- II Kings 17, Amos, Hosea

Generous Support for December Special Mission

The Session's decision to change our special mission for the month of December was clearly a popular one! Our mission focus was on water supply mechanisms of various sorts which help families in different parts of the world to have the clean water essential to life and health. Due to one especially generous contribution and good additional support, we raised a total of \$1737 for water supply equipment. We bought one community well, two rainwater catchment systems and five treadle pumps for people who have little or no access to clean water.

\$1250 Garden Well (We bought 1)

A well provides clean water for drinking, bathing, washing, and irrigation to an entire community. It helps countless people by giving them a reliable and convenient source of water.



\$65 Treadle Pump (We bought 5)

Crop irrigation is a primary concern for farmers around the world. Without water, crops will wither and die, leaving behind starving communities. One treadle pump can help ensure that these precious crops will come to harvest.

\$75 Rainwater Catchment System (We bought 2)

For many, water is hard to find. Access to water in homes is even rarer. Our donation means that a family in Central America gets a connection to a potable water system in their own home. Rainwater can be a precious resource when collected, stored, and filtered properly.





February Mission: Interfaith Food Pantry

The Interfaith Food Pantry in Morristown provides groceries for families to take home to cook for themselves. From the Interfaith Food Pantry website:

Established in 1994, the Interfaith Food Pantry was formed when a group from local houses of worship decided to address the growing issue of hunger by consolidating their food assistance programs.

There was a growing awareness that there were many families, especially senior citizens, who needed assistance in securing food. The group decided to consolidate their programs and work together out of one central distribution center in Morristown. The Interfaith Food Pantry is a non-denominational, non-profit organization helping families make ends meet by supplementing their monthly groceries in times of need.

The Pantry is currently distributing more than 5 tons of food to 300 families each week! The Pantry's clients are primarily senior citizens living on fixed incomes and low-income working families in Morris County. Groceries are provided to anyone from Morris County in need who has appropriate facilities to cook the food given. Our current clients include senior citizens, disabled individuals, low-income wage earners, unemployed workers and families in crisis. Each family visits the Pantry every two weeks where they shop off the Pantry shelves from a given grocery list, selecting what they need for their families.

Current needs are:

Peanut Butter	Brown and white rice (1 and 2 pound bags)
Parmalat (shelf stable 32oz size)	Pasta / Whole wheat pasta
Dry milk (individual packets)	Spaghetti / Tomato Sauce /
Cereal, Oatmeal and Breakfast Items	Mac 'n Cheese
Dry Beans, Canned	Side Dishes
Pork and Beans	Tea
Canned Fruit (low sugar or lite-syrup)	Quart-size re-sealable plastic
Canned meats, fish and meals	bags
Hearty Soups, Low Salt Soups	

These items or other non-perishables may be brought to our Souper Bowl Sunday lunch or to fellowship hall throughout the month of February.

Church Officers

On February 1st, at our congregational meeting, we will be electing new church officers. The expected configuration of officers will then be the following:

Session

Class of 2016 Marion Barker, Laura Zijdel, Douglas Smith
Class of 2017 Doris Mertz, Sandra Seymour, Laura Minaian
Class of 2018 Barbara Grillo, Rosanne McGraw, Robert Kielblock

Board of Deacons

Class of 2016 James Thorn, Ruud Zijdel, Julia Minaian
Class of 2017 Karen Leski, TBD (any volunteers???)
Class of 2018 Gail Duffe, Lisa Kielblock, Carol Boyle

Financial Secretary Daniel Gallagher

Audit Committee John Skrobacz, John Arnold



COFFEE HOUR HOSTS NEEDED!!

We sure could use a few new coffee hour hosts! There are many helpers and information available if you haven't done it before. Please sign up on bulletin board.

Free Gentle Yoga Class

Our member, Rosanne McGraw, a certified yoga teacher for 15 years, has been teaching a free gentle yoga class in our Parlor on Tuesdays from 9-10 AM. We are lucky to have such an experienced teacher whose special gift is adapting the various poses for individual needs. We will not be sitting or lying on the floor, so just bring yourself in comfortable clothes. Please invite your friends along.

This class will be appropriate for all, particularly those who may not be very flexible. Injuries will be accommodated. Yoga is relaxing as well as good for general health, so come give it a try.

Call or email Rosanne with any questions or concerns. 908 508-1435, rosanne.mcgraw@gmail.com.



NEWS FROM OUR CONGREGATION

Happy Birthday

February 2 Joshua Leski
February 9 Jean Stapperfenne
February 14 Rosemarie Kielblock
February 17 Bill McCoy
February 20 Jake and Brad Gallagher
February 24 Rosanne McGraw



Happy Anniversary

February 5 Carol and Richard Skidmore

Barbara Aspinall on the Mend

Dear Church Family,

I am so very grateful for all your good wishes, prayers, cards, and dinners as I recover from foot surgery. I have found enforced "sofa surfing" confining, but because of technology, still able to do some of my work, stay in touch with friends and even attend to presbytery responsibilities with Skype. I've had several visits; Doug is home at night to fetch and carry; and Rusty keeps me company in the daytime so I haven't been lonely. I hope to be crutch-free in the very near future!

With thanks, Barbara



MULTIPLE CHOICE!

Taught by skilled members of our own congregation, our church offers three continuing and very different learning experiences. **Gentle Yoga** is taught by a certified yoga instructor, Rosanne McGraw; **Rug Braiding** is taught by Peg Arnold who has been making braided wool rugs for many years; and the **computer classes** are taught by the very knowledgeable Ruud Zijdel. Members and friends are most welcome to participate in any (or all!) of these free classes.

Gentle Yoga: Tuesday mornings at 9:00

Rug Braiding: Tuesday mornings at 1000

Computer Basics: Saturdays at 10:00 through Feb 21

WE PRAY FOR:

Mike Ambrosio, friend of Doug Smith
Jessica Arico and daughter, friends of Carol Boyle
Sal Badalamenti, friend of Barbara Aspinall
George Barker, Marion Barker's brother
Marilyn Barker, Marion Barker's sister-in-law
Margaret Bauknight, friend of Lynne Hilf
Bird Family, community friends
Clark Carson, husband of Claudia
Claudia Carson, former member
Ellen Dreyer, sister-in-law of Barbara Grillo
Pat Edmonds and family, cousin of Gail Duffe
Betty Garrett, friend of Lynne Hilf
Betty Lembrich, church member
Eleanor Matthews, friend of Peg Arnold
Stella Mauro, church member
George McDaniel, relative of the Skidmore family
Tyler McGuire, cousin of Michele Urbanski
Quaid Mobus, friend of Roberta Keller
Ian Rahimi, friend of Minaian family
Adrienne Schmitt, Deborah Schmitt's mother
Beth Shaw, Kielblock cousin
Garland Smith, Joanne Smith's brother
Theresa Soeth, Marcie Skrobacz's aunt
Mary Stapperfenne, Jean's daughter-in-law
Robert and Elva Wenz, Jean Stapperfenne's sister & brother-in-law
Charlene Wilverding, friend of Kelly Roshto



Pastoral Visits

If there are those who would like a pastoral visit, or know of a member who is in the hospital, please let Barbara Aspinall or Paulette Irlander in the church office know.

February 2015



Lectionary Readings

February 1 - Fourth Sunday after Epiphany

Deut. 18:15-20; Ps. 111; 1 Cor. 8:1-13; Mark 1:21-28

February 8 - Fifth Sunday after Epiphany

Isa. 40:21-31; Ps. 147:1-11, 20c; 1 Cor. 9:16-23; Mark 1:29-39

February 15 - Transfiguration of the Lord

2 Kings 2:1-12; Ps. 50:1-6; 2 Cor. 4:3-6; Mark 9:2-9

February 22 - 1st Sunday in Lent

Gen. 9:8-17; Ps. 25:1-10; 1 Peter 3:18-22; Mark 1:9-15



February 1, 2015 COMMUNION

Preparing Elements: John and Marcie Skrobacz

Elders Serving Communion:

Class of 2016: Marion Barker, Laura Zijdel, Doug Smith

Call to Worship

Feb. 1	Art England
Feb. 8	Barbara Grillo
Feb. 15	Ruud Zijdel
Feb. 22	Marion Barker

Special Mission

Interfaith Food Pantry