

TRINITY NEWS

April 2016

Trinity Reformed Church
North Plainfield, N.J. 07063

Rev. Scott R. Harris, Pastor
Ginger Smellie, Editor

Members & Friends,

Strong, deep spirituality, emotional health and the life and health of a church are inseparable. Until we learn that, we can have the slickest presentations, the latest gimmick from growth gurus and the nicest buildings and grounds and our church simply will not grow. Jesus put it this way in His parable of the sower; ²⁰As for what was sown on rocky ground, this is the one who hears the word and immediately receives it with joy; ²¹yet such a person has no root, but endures only for a while, and when trouble or persecution arises on account of the word, that person immediately falls away.^[c] (Matthew 13:20-21 NRSV) The way to counter-act this, to make sure that we aren't shallow, rocky soil or plants with no root is to make prayer and spending time with God a priority in our lives. That is easier said than done! We live in a fast-paced world that values productivity. The best many of us can do is to throw up a few "pop-corn" prayers while running from one activity to the next. The result is that we have a spirituality that is a mile wide, but only an inch deep!

When God made the world and set things in motion, God provided a thing called Sabbath. On the seventh day of creation, God stopped, rested and declared that day "hallowed" or holy. While I do not advocate a Pharisaical adherence to no work on the Sabbath, I do believe that there is wisdom in what God did. Each of us needs to stop; cease our busy work, take a deep breath, slow down, enjoy the creation that God has provided for us and delight in God's presence. And this need not be relegated to only one day of the week; ideally we can pause two to three times a day for five to twenty minutes to simply "be" in the presence of God and enjoy the gift of the creation. Thomas Merton called this "practicing the presence of God."

If you love God and love our church (and I know that you do), can I encourage you to find a way to pause in your busy day each day, to practice the presence of God? As our soil gains depth, the seeds which God scatters among us will begin to yield a harvest "in one case a hundredfold, in another sixty, and in another thirty." (v.23)

Grace & Peace,
- Pastor Scott

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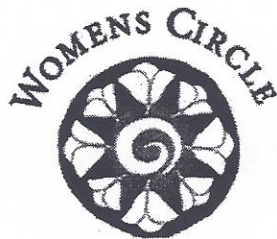
In February we had sermons on the following topics;

On February 7th our sermon was "Transformed & Transforming" with scriptures from Exodus 34:29-35, 2 Corinthians 3:12 - 4:2, and Luke 9:28 - 43. The story of the Transfiguration lets us know that we, as those having faith in Jesus, have been transformed from our status as those who have fallen into sin, who have lost that former glory that was ours in the beginning at the creation, who could not dare to be in the presence of the glory of God, into Christ's image! Having been transformed into God's image we now have work to do: to transform the world in which we live into the place where God's shalom is a reality, where God's will is done the way that it is in heaven.

On February 14th the scripture readings were from Deuteronomy 26:1-11, Romans 10:8b-13 and Luke 4:1-13. The sermon title was; "The Word on Our Lips." We learned that all people who call on the name of the Lord Jesus Christ with heart integrity will be saved. As a result we can be confident in our status as those redeemed by God and destined for eternal life.

On February 21st our scriptures were from Genesis 15:1-12, 17-18, Philippians 3:17 - 4:1 and Luke 13:31-35. The sermon title was; "Standing Firm". Christians are called to be embracers of the cross - not those who seek to escape suffering, but those who live for others. Realizing this, we seek to live our lives with the "mind of Christ" who embraced the cross and stood firm, knowing that through His suffering He was to do the work of fulfilling the covenant God made with Abraham

On February 28th our lessons were Isaiah 55:1-9, 1 Corinthians 10:1-13 and Luke 13:1-9 and our sermon was titled; "Examples of What NOT to do." In this sermon we acknowledged the fact that we are called to pursue God and God's kingdom and righteousness rather than our "idols" whatever they may be. In response we seek God first and foremost and seek to produce fruit for the Kingdom of God!



BROEK CIRCLE – will meet on Tuesday, April 12th at 1:00 p.m. at the home of Betty Jane Tingley. Hostess Ginger Smellie

BROEK COOKS will have Florentine Chicken Soup available on May 15th. An order form is on the hall bulletin board.

JACOBA CIRCLE – will meet on Monday, April 11th at 7:30pm in the Library Lounge. Tina Wich Hostess



April, 2016

- 7. Timothy Harris
- 14. Shawn Borelli
- 16. Barbara Nuber
- 20. Sarah Coppola
- 23. Tom Wagner
- 30. David Zolkiwsky



Church World Service Blanket Sundays
April 17th and 24th

CWS Blankets will be displayed along with information, and an envelope. Blankets are now \$10 each, but any donation you care to make will be gratefully accepted- and matched by the Benevolence Fund! Make checks payable to Church World Services.

Thank you
Ginger Smellie



“In Memoriam”

Cassie Forgash

at rest 3/6/2016

MAY Newsletter DEADLINE -

Thursday, April 14th





Bible Study Continues on Wednesday night's at 7:30pm in the Library Lounge.

Wednesday, March 30th: The Salt of the Earth

Filmed on location at Sardis.

Wednesday, April 6th: Where Satan Lives

Filmed at Pergamum.

Wednesday, April 13th: The Mark of the Beast

Filmed on location in Ephesus.

Wednesday April 20th: Hot or Cold

Filmed in Laodicea, site of one of the churches mentioned in Revelation.

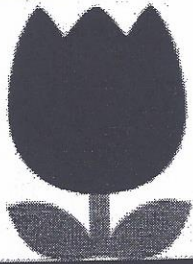
JACOBA CIRCLE is continuing to sponsor a food & hygiene collection to be delivered to St. Joseph Church Annex in North Plainfield

We would greatly appreciate your support with donations of the items listed:

**Tuna
Macaroni & Cheese
Spaghetti Sauce
Canned Vegetables
Canned Spaghetti
Soup
Cereal
Parmalat Milk
Peanut Butter
Jelly
Canned Fruit
Juice
Spam, Corned Beef, & Beef Stew**

**Toothpaste
Deodorant
Hand Soap
Shampoo
Toilet Paper
Paper Towels
Laundry Detergent**





April



Sun

Mon

Tue

Wed

Thu

Fri

Sat

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|---|-----------------------------|------------------------|-------------------------------|---|---------------------------------------|-----|
| Every Sunday 10:00 a.m. Worship in Sanctuary | | | | | 1. APRIL FOOL'S DAY | 2. |
| 3. | 4. Consistory 7:30 pm | 5. | 6. Bible Study 7:30 pm | 7. Choir 7:30 pm | 8. | 9. |
| 10. | 11. Jacoba 7:30pm | 12. Broek 1:00pm | 13. Bible Study 7:30 pm | 14. Newsletter Deadline Choir 7:30 pm | 15. | 16. |
| 17. Blanket Sunday | 18. | 19. | 20. Bible Study 7:30 pm | 21. Choir 7:30 pm | 22. | 23. |
| 24. Blanket Sunday | 25. | 26. | 27. Bible Study 7:30 pm | 28. Choir 7:30 pm | 29. | 30. |