

TRINITY NEWS

January 2016

Trinity Reformed Church
North Plainfield, N.J. 07063

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

Members & Friends,

January marks the start of the calendar year and new beginnings are a big part of that. In keeping with that, we are starting a new series in our Wednesday evening Bible study that meets in the Library Lounge at 7:30 p.m. I wish to share a little bit about what we will be doing.

I don't believe that I'm alone in my desire for our church to grow. When I was first called to be your pastor, I was candid and said that I didn't know HOW to make a church grow; I only knew how to love you. That was true then, and it remains true now. One thing I HAVE come to realize is that no ONE program to make a church grow works for everyone. We have tried a variety of ideas here and we continue to try them and yet our congregation remains small and worship attendance remains under somewhere just under the number 30. I have, however, begun to realize that in example after example, spiritual growth PRECEDES the numerical growth of a church. In a way, that's comforting because; while I can't control what other people do (whether they come to church or not, have faith or not) I CAN control what I do in terms of my spiritual growth and the state of my relationship with God in Jesus Christ. To that end, I have begun to hold Bible studies that focus on our spirituality and how to grow in our faith. The last had to do with prayer and how to pray. For January, we will be focusing on emotionally healthy and mature spirituality. Author Peter Scazzero, a pastor, realized the hard way that one cannot be spiritually mature and healthy if one is emotionally immature or unhealthy. And churches don't grow unless their members are emotionally and spiritually healthy and mature.

There will be eight sessions in this study that are designed to help us begin the journey of applying profound biblical truths to our personal lives, our small groups and our church. They will take us beyond merely reading about emotional health and contemplative spirituality and introduce us to a life with God that goes beyond "tip of the iceberg spirituality." A schedule for those sessions can be found in this newsletter and I hope that you will consider joining us for them. If you can't make it when these sessions are, please let me know if you are interested in meeting at another time; I would be glad to accommodate you!

Grace & Peace,
- Pastor Scott

Schedule for upcoming Bible Study sessions:

January 6th – The Problem of Emotionally Unhealthy Spirituality

The 7 Pathways to Emotionally Healthy Spirituality

January 13th – Know Yourself that You May Know God.

January 20th – Going Back in Order to God Forward

January 27th – Journey Through the Wall

February 3rd – Enlarge Your Soul Through Grief and Loss

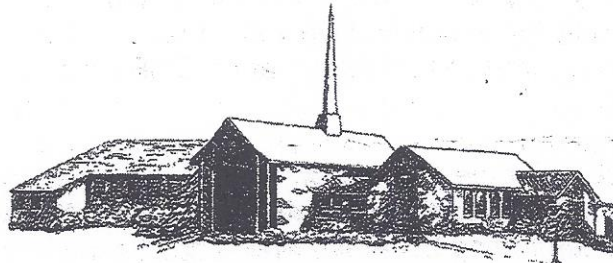
February 10th – ASH Wednesday

February 17th – Discover the Rhythms of the Daily Office and Sabbath

February 24th – Grow into an Emotionally Healthy Adult

March 2nd – Go the Next Step to Develop a “Rule of Life”

The premise of our study is that emotional health and contemplative spirituality, when interwoven together, offer nothing short of a spiritual revolution, transforming the hidden places deep beneath the surface of our lives.



CIRCLE THE DATE

January 24, 2016

On Sunday January 24th we will celebrate 50 years in North Plainfield. A buffet luncheon in the Library Lounge will follow our special 10:00 am anniversary service.

We plan to have Reverend Keith Schmidt, Reverend Steve Miller, and Reverend David Taylor join us for the anniversary service and the luncheon that follows.

Do you remember our first service in North Plainfield on a snowy, snowy morning January 23, 1966? I sure do!

Let's have a special 50 years reunion on January 24, 2016.

Following our luncheon while you are having a 2nd cup of coffee and maybe another cookie we will hold our congregational meeting.

Please join us for a special day.

Gordon Wich,
The Worship Committee



BROEK CIRCLE – will meet on Tuesday
January 12th at 1:00 p.m. at the home of Betty
Jane Tingley.

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JACOBA CIRCLE – will meet on Monday,
January 11th in the Library Lounge at 7:30pm.
Hostess Miep Devries.

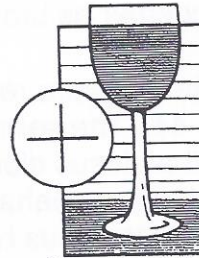


January, 2016

- 7. Donna Zolkiwsky
- 12. Jason Jackson
- 15. Kathy Harris

February Newsletter DEADLINE -

Sunday, January 17, 2016



Communion

Celebrate the New Year!

Holy Communion

10:00am January 3, 2016

ANNUAL CONGREGATIONAL MEETING

Sunday, January 24th, following worship.



Beautification Committee wishes to thank the
Secret Santa for the very generous gift.

D.Z.

In November we had sermons on the following topics;

On November 1st, Pastor Scott was on vacation and Pastor Keith Ross lead worship. In that service he spoke of the history of the relationship between Native Americans and the Christian Church, the current state of those relationships and a vision of a reconciled future together as brothers and sisters in Christ.

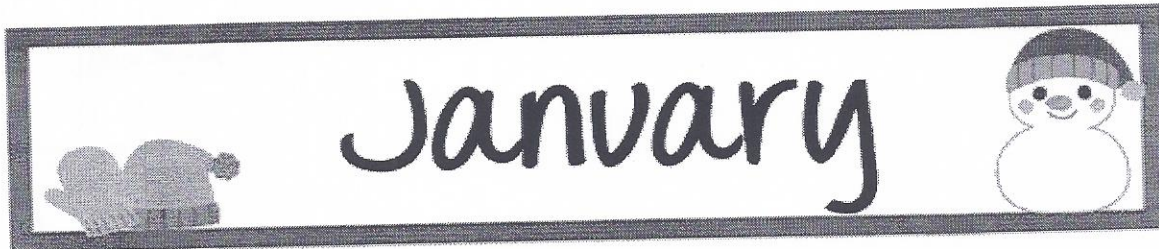
On November 8th the scripture readings were from Ruth 3:1-5, 4:13-17, Hebrews 9:24-28 and Mark 12:38-44. The sermon title was; "Offering Sacrifices." The good news of the gospel tells us that Jesus died in our place to pay for our sins. But that is not the total of Christ's work on our behalf! We do not recall Jesus' death on the cross to glorify death. Jesus came to teach us how to live. Looking at Jesus' example of sacrifice and worship we as Christians now consider what we have and what we are willing to give so that we and others may know and live out God's vision of shalom.

On November 15th our scriptures were from 1 Samuel 1:4-20 and 2:1-10; Hebrews 10:11-18 and Mark 13:1-8. The sermon title was; "The End Is Near!" There is no need to fear the end of the world – nor a need to speed it up or predict it! Wars and rumors of wars will come, Jesus said, but even then the end is still a long way off. A more important thing to focus on than the end of the world is the end – the GOAL – to which we are called to work; to love as Jesus loved and work toward the ends of love, justice and peace.





On November 22nd our sermon was "Jesus' Battle Plan for Establishing the Kingdom" with scripture lessons from 2 Samuel 23:1-7; Revelation 1:4-8 and John 18:33-37. Jesus came as a servant King; something that was unheard of before! He was a King who was willing to give His life in order to usher in His Kingdom and so that we might have forgiveness for our sins and eternal life in heaven. As His followers, Jesus encourages us to develop compassion, humility and mercy. These virtues will serve as our weapons for confronting evil and bringing healing to our world.

On November 29th our lessons for the First Sunday of Advent were Jeremiah 33:14-16, 1 Thessalonians 3:9-13 and Luke 21:25-36 and our sermon was titled; "What Time of Year Is It?" In these texts a recurrent theme is the importance of knowing where one is standing in the progression of time. Advent is the time of the church year that is marked by expectant anticipation of the coming of Jesus; first as the baby born in the manger in Bethlehem, but also His future return in glory. We were given signs to look for that tell us that Jesus' return will happen soon; Jesus said that our response to these signs and struggles is to be alert at all times, praying that we may have the strength to escape all these things that will take place, and to stand before Him when He comes at the end of time to judge the living and the dead.

January



Sun Mon Tue Wed Thu Fri Sat

Every Sunday 10:00 a.m. Worship in Sanctuary					1. 	2.
3. Communion 	4. Consistory 7:30 p.m.	5.	6. Bible Study 7:30 p.m.	7. Choir 7:30p.m.	8.	9.
10.	11. Jacoba 7:30pm	12. Broek 1:00pm	13. Bible Study 7:30 p.m.	14. Choir 7:30p.m.	15.	16.
17. Newsletter 	18.	19.	20. Bible Study 7:30 p.m.	21. Choir 7:30p.m.	22.	23.
24. 50 th Celebration ***** Congregational Meeting 	25.	26.	27. Bible Study 7:30 p.m.	28. Choir 7:30p.m.	29.	30. <div style="text-align: right; padding-right: 5px;"> 31. </div>