

# TRINITY NEWS

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October 2017

Trinity Reformed Church  
North Plainfield, N.J. 07063

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

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Members & Friends,

Everyone has “functional assumptions”. They are starting points. For instance, I assume that an intimate, conversational walk with God is available, and is meant to be normal. I’ll push that a step further. I assume that if one *doesn’t* find that kind of relationship with God, ones spiritual life will be stunted. And that will handicap the rest of ones life. We can’t find life without God, and we can’t find God if we don’t know how to walk intimately with God. A passage from the gospel of John will show you what I’m getting at. Jesus is talking about his relationship with us, how he is the Good Shepherd and we are his sheep. Listen to how he describes the relationship:

I tell you the truth, the man who does not enter the sheep pen by the gate, but climbs in by some other way, is a thief and a robber. The man who enters by the gate is the shepherd of his sheep. The watchman opens the gate for him, and the sheep listen to his voice. He calls his own sheep by name and leads them out. When he has brought out all his own, he goes on ahead of them, and his sheep follow him because they know his voice.”...“Whoever enters through me will be saved. He will come in and go out, and find pasture. The thief comes only to steal and kill and destroy; I have come that they may have life, and have it to the full.” (John 10:1–4, 9–10)

The sheep live in dangerous country. The only way they can move securely in and out and find pasture is to follow their shepherd closely. Yet most Christians assume that the way to find the life God has for us is to (A) believe in God, (B) be a good person, and (C) he will deliver the rest.  $A + B = C$ . But Jesus says no, there’s more to the equation. I *do* want life for you. To the full. But you have to realize there is a thief. He’s trying to destroy you. There are false shepherds too. Don’t listen to them. Don’t just wander off looking for pasture. You need to do more than believe in me. You have to stay close to me. Listen to my voice. Let me lead. Now there’s a thought: if you don’t hold the same assumptions Jesus does, you haven’t got a chance of finding the life he has for you.

Grace & Peace,

- Pastor Scott

In the month of August Pastor Scott gave the following sermons:

On August 6<sup>th</sup> our sermon was "Free Lunch" based on scriptures from Isaiah 55:1-5 and Matthew 14:13-21. From this sermon we learned that we get what we don't pay for; a full and rich life. With this realization in mind it is hoped that we will respond by accepting Jesus' offer of rich food that leads to REAL life that receives AND SHARES God's grace.

On August 13<sup>th</sup> based on Romans 10:5-15 and Matthew 14:22-33 our sermon was "Taking the Plunge". From these scriptures it was shown that Jesus calls us all to do something scary: step out of the boat and onto the "abyss" – inviting others to church, sharing our faith, telling them that God in mercy offers us life and all who trust Jesus enter that life. In response to this it is hoped that we will embrace the call, the work really, of reaching out to others for Jesus.

On August 20<sup>th</sup> our sermon was "Who Gets the Bread?" Our scripture lessons for this sermon were Isaiah 56:1, 6-8 and Matthew 15:10-28. In this sermon we learned that Jesus extended healing and belonging to even the worst of the outcasts and gave everyone a place "at the table". In response we realize that we have no right to exclude others from full life in the community of faith, no matter how bad or sinful or repulsive they seem to us. All are welcome in God's house!

On August 27<sup>th</sup> our scripture lessons came from Isaiah 51:1-6 and Matthew 16:13-20 and our sermon was "Rock Concert". Examining where Caesarea Philippi is and what it was used for we concluded that Christians are called to share with the world the message of God's love and teach them that there is only one true and living God in whom meaning and significance is to be found. In response we are to bring the gospel in word and deed to the secular world that surrounds us.



BROEK CIRCLE – will meet on Tuesday  
October 10<sup>th</sup> at 12:00pm in the Library  
Lounge. Hostess Pat Ledger

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If you ordered Creamy Potato and/or Italian  
Flag Soup, Sunday, Oct15<sup>th</sup> is the pickup date.

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JACOBA CIRCLE – will meet on Monday  
October 9<sup>th</sup> at 7:30pm at the home of Barbara  
Conly

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On October 24<sup>th</sup> members of Broek and Jacoba  
Circles will travel to Port Newark to prepare  
Christmas packages for Merchant Seamen.



World Communion SUNDAY  
October 1st – 10:00 a.m. in the Sanctuary

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October, 2017

- 1. Dee Cox
- 10. Linda Raysick
- 30. Joshua Jackson

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October, Newsletter Deadline

Wednesday, October 18th

Our Wednesday night Bible Study will be starting up again on Wednesday September 6<sup>th</sup> after having taken off for the Summer. We will meet in the Library Lounge at 7:30 p.m. This study is called Walking with God in the Desert. (Experiencing Living Water When Life Is Tough). Are you going through a difficult period of life? The loss of a loved one? Unemployment? A crisis of faith? During these desert times, it's easy to think God has disappeared. Instead, discover that it's only when we are totally dependent on God that we find God to be closer than ever and we can experience God's amazing grace and provision for us! Each lesson will illuminate the historical, geographical and cultural context of the Bible. Filmed on location in the Middle East this series will transform your understanding of God and challenge you to be a true follower of Jesus.

Wednesday September 27<sup>th</sup>: No Bible Study: Classis Meeting

Wednesday October 4<sup>th</sup>: When Your Heart Cries Out

Wednesday October 11<sup>th</sup>: Ears to Hear

Wednesday October 18<sup>th</sup>: There's Hope in the Desert

Wednesday October 25<sup>th</sup>: Session 8

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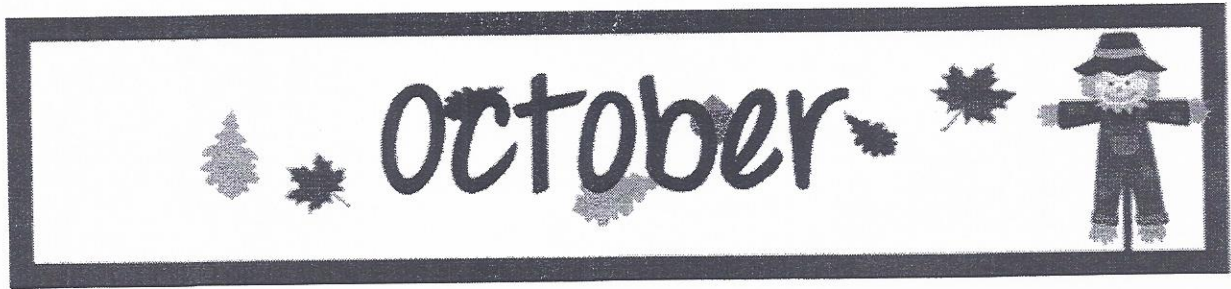
### JACOBA CIRCLE PROJECT

Jacoba Circle is sponsoring a  
**FOOD COLLECTION**  
which is delivered to the  
St. Joseph Church Annex North Pfd.





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

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

# October



Sun                  Mon                  Tue                  Wed                  Thu                  Fri                  Sat

1.  World Wide Communion	2.  Consistory 7:30 pm	3.	4.  Bible Study 7:30 pm	5.  Choir Rehearsal 7:30 pm	6.	7.
8.	9.  Jacoba Circle 7:30 pm	10.  Broek Circle 12:00 am	11.  Bible Study 7:30 pm	12.  Choir Rehearsal 7:30 pm	13.	14.
15. *Soup pick- up 	16.	17.	18. Newsletter  Bible Study 7:30 pm	19.  Choir Rehearsal 7:30 pm	20.	21.
22.	23.	24.  Port Newark	25.  Bible Study 7:30 pm	26.  Choir Rehearsal 7:30 pm	27.	28.
29.	30.	31. 				Every Sunday 10:00 a.m. Worship in Sanctuary