

TRINITY NEWS

MAY 2014

Trinity Reformed Church
North Plainfield, N.J. 07063
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Scott Harris, Pastor
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Members & Friends,

By the time you get this newsletter, Easter will be over. It is kind of sad, if you think about it, there is a building excitement with the approach of Easter. It almost peaks on Palm Sunday and by that point, many people who feel drawn to church at Easter have already returned and are attending worship. Holy Week is full of activity culminating in our annual communion service on Maundy Thursday. For some of us the tradition of the holiday isn't complete until we've come back on Friday evening to help Deena Zolkiwsky and the church beautification committee decorate the sanctuary and wrap foil around the flower pots containing the Easter Lilies! And then the big day comes, everyone shows up for Sunday morning worship and the reassurance that Jesus rose from the dead! We come dressed in our new spring outfits and even the world seems to put on its finest coverings with the grass becoming a lush green, the trees beginning to bud put forth their greens, yellows, pinks, purples and white colors!

We celebrate Easter in worship, we repeat the words of our faith, we leave church, we go to visit family and some of us even go out to dinner. And then we disband as if the last words of the Easter story were, "...and they all lived happily ever after!" It is as if that will hold us for another year or at least until Christmas time as excitement builds once again.

The problem, though, is that Easter is not a "happily ever after" ending to God's story in Christ. It is a joyful beginning. The Risen Lord calls us to live in His joy now and forever.

The Easter proclamation looks to the Risen Christ, "the pioneer and perfecter of our faith, who for the joy that was set before him endured the cross ..." (Hebrews 12:2). In raising Jesus from the dead, God declared that the suffering love of Jesus is God's presence and power that heals and liberates the world. And God invites us to participate in this Life of Love.

The Easter story in the gospels is not about a happy ending, but a joyful beginning. The way the gospel according to tells it, Mary Magdalene was sent by Jesus to tell the other disciples that Jesus was alive and ascending to God. The resurrection is not a happy ending, but the joyful beginning of the victory of Love over sin and death.

Grace & Peace,
- Pastor Scott

In the month of March we had sermons on the following topics:

3/2/14 – Guest preacher Marcella Christie preached while Pastor Scott was off.

3/9/14–The Temptation of Religion (Romans 5:12-19, Matthew 4:1-11)

The temptation that Satan presented to Jesus was that He should use religion for his own personal profit and honor, rather than to serve God and others. We do well to learn from the behavior Jesus modeled for us and exercise our faith to serve God and others rather than ourselves.

3/16/14 –The Secret Seeker (Romans 4:1-5, 13-17, John 3:1-17)

We are surrounded by people who seem self-assured and confident on the outside, but on the inside are searching for something more. That searching and seeking is an opportunity for us to open the door to a conversation with them about belief, religion and spirituality.

3/23/14 –Can Suffering Have an Upside? (Exodus 17:1-7, Romans 5:1-11)

Can suffering produce positive results? Paul, speaking of his own experience, says yes. Suffering can produce endurance, which in turn can produce character, which in turn can produce hope. This does not happen automatically, of course. For many people, their suffering produces anger, disillusionment, unbelief, and despair. Yes, suffering can have an upside or a downside, depending on our interaction with God.

3/30/14 – A Common Heresy – Religion Is A Single Issue (1 Samuel 16:1-13, John 9:1-41)

Despite Jesus' miracles and despite his authentic teachings, the Pharisees dismissed Jesus' validity on the basis of a single "transgression"—he failed to properly observe the Sabbath. It is still common today to judge the religious experience of others on a single issue—whether it be abortion, or racial attitude, or the environment, or sexual orientation, or doctrine. The fact is, not one of us is correct on every disputed doctrine and practice, and it behooves us to cut each other some slack when judging another's spiritual life. Single-issue Christianity is both dangerous and unloving.



BROEK CIRCLE - will meet on Tuesday, May 13th at the home of Betty Jane Tingley at 1:00 p.m. Ginger Smellie, hostess.

Broek Cooks will have Florentine Chicken Soup available for pick-up on Sunday, May 18th. The order form is on the hall bulletin board.

JACOBA CIRCLE - will meet on Monday, May 12th at 7:30 p.m. at the home of Deena Zolkiwsky.

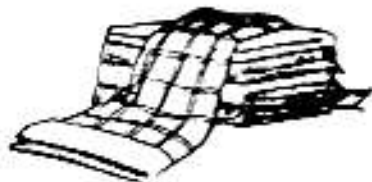
CHURCH WORD SERVICE - Blanket Sundays

During the month of May, CWS Blankets, both summer and winter, will be on display, along with flyers and envelopes for your information and donations.

This year, blankets now cost \$10 each - but any amount you care to give will be gratefully accepted - and matched by the Benevolence Fund!

Place the donation envelope in the collection plate or give your donation to me.

Thank you, Ginger Smellie



To my Trinity Family,

I just wanted to say thank you for all the cards and prayers for my mother, Bunny Adams. She always smiled when she got them and I read them to her. We put them on the window sill so she could enjoy them.

All of your cards, kind words and support helped us through a difficult time. It is a great help to know you have support from the Church family.

I know the Church and its people were very special to Mom and she had a lot of fond memories.

Thanks again for everything,

Judi and Linda

JACOBA CIRCLE - continues its food collection. Donations of

- canned fruits, vegetables, soup
- meats (spam, beef stew)
- pasta, pasta sauce
- tuna fish, macaroni and cheese
- rice
- cereal

will be taken to the Somerset County food bank. Thank you for helping!





MAY, 2014

- 18. John Kormendy
- 21. Ginger Smellie
- 24. Marian Dietrick
- 26. Don Adams



SUMMER SCHEDULE

Sunday, June 1, 2014

Summer Worship begins in Broek Chapel at 10:00 a.m. and continues through the month of September.



"In Memoriam"

Alberta "Bunny" Adams

at rest, February 23, 2014

Has God given you a musical gift? Do you play a musical instrument? Do you sing alone or with a group? Would you be willing to offer your talents in praise of God and to assist in services of worship? this year, during the months of June through September when we are in the chapel, (and the choir is "on vacation") our organist Sung-Hae Jung would like to work with volunteers to present special music during the worship services.

If you would like to use your talents (or your children's or grandchildren's) in this way, please contact Sung-Hae!

JUNE (SUMMER EDITION) NEWSLETTER

deadline - Wednesday, May 14th



