

TRINITY NEWS

September 2014

Trinity Reformed Church
North Plainfield, N.J. 07063

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

Members & Friends,

Psalm 122 begins with the words, "I was glad when they said to me, "Let us go to the house of the LORD!" That passage has been on my mind for the past couple of weeks for a very specific reason. It all has to do with the Agape House Summer Enrichment Program.

On Wednesday, August 6th, we took the children to Pennsylvania to Dorney Park and Wild Water Kingdom for their weekly field trip. The first stop, once we got inside the gates, was the wave pool. As the children prepared to enter the water, each group with their chaperones went through what seemed to be the same ritual: They would claim a group of chairs and put their back packs on their chairs, get out their towels, take off the clothes that they wanted to keep dry (usually a T-shirt), kick off their shoes, put on their goggles and then they would take off for the water.

The wave pool is made like an artificial ocean with a beach made out of a soft material that reminded me of "Nerf"; a soft spongy material. So the water started out shallow and became deeper the further one walked in; just like at the beach. But not one kid walked into the water, they all did a combination run/skip/hop! It was as if they couldn't contain their joy!

I turned to the adult with me and asked; "When was the last time we got so excited about anything that we simply couldn't walk, we had to bounce?" The Psalmist says that he was glad to go to the house of the LORD. I wonder if he or she walked there, or if the anticipation was too much and he or she had to run and prance all the way there? The Psalmist was glad to go to the house of the LORD because it is a delight to fulfill the purpose for which we were created; to praise, worship and enjoy God!

How about us? When was the last time any of us was so excited to go to church that we just couldn't contain ourselves? When was the last time we just had to run/skip/hop on our way into the Sanctuary? (Maybe I should ask when the last time we were ABLE to run/skip/hop was!) As we start a new program year at the church, let us be glad to go into the house of the LORD!

Grace & Peace,

• Pastor Scott

In the months of June and July we had sermons on the following topics;

6/1/14 - Keeping the Faith in Perilous (and Good) Times (1 Peter 4:12-14, 5:6-11, John 17:1-11) 1 Peter 4:12-14, 5:6-11 was written against a background of persecution and opposition—much different from the extraordinary freedom of religion that Christians enjoy in this land. Yet the advice that Peter gives for keeping the faith is relevant for us as well. 1) Be humble, v. 6; 2) be comfortable in God's grace, v. 7; 3) exercise self-discipline, v. 8a; 4) be alert to subtle temptations, vv. 8b-9, and 5) be confident in God's strength and support, vv. 10-11.

6/8/14 - Pastor Scott was away in Massachusetts and Rev. Keith Ross of the Rutgers University Native American Ministries lead worship. Rev. Ross is a member of the Woodlands Cree Tribe.

6/15/14 - The Wonder of It All (2 Corinthians 13:11-13, Matthew 28:16-20)

We who are Christians, especially if we have grown up in the church, have heard the benediction from 2 Corinthians 13:13 hundreds of times. We have heard them so often, perhaps, that the words no longer seem significant. But consider the wonder of it all: that throughout all our lives we live under the umbrella of God's grace, we walk in the promise of God's enduring love, and we walk in the assurance of God's continuing presence.

6/22/14 - Sin: No Big Deal? (Romans 6:1b-11, Matthew 10:24-39)

Is sin really such a big deal? It would seem not. The word is hardly used in polite society. Folks prefer to talk about "troubled athletes," "disadvantaged youths," and people who make "bad choices." Celebrities who have babies without benefit of "government pieces of paper" no longer raise eyebrows, and CEOs who get caught with their hands in the till are punished by being handed huge exit checks. But Jesus warned of the powers of evil that can "kill the soul" (Matt. 10:28) and said that sin requires serious concern (Matt. 18:8-9). Paul echoed Jesus' concern by saying, "you also must consider yourselves dead to sin" (Rom. 6:11).

6/29/14 - A Cup, A Glass, A Basket, A Plate? (Genesis 22:1-14, Matthew 10:40-42)

There is a relationship between disciples, Jesus and God and a reward is certain for those who welcome us, prophets, the righteous and even "little ones" in the name of Jesus. There are many ways that we can offer a cup of cold water in the name of Jesus, we do not need to be afraid to be a disciple!

7/6/14 - Burden and Yoke (Romans 7:15-25, Matthew 11:16-19, 25-30)

Jesus includes an interesting transition in his invitation in Matthew 11. First, he invites us to take our burdens and lay them upon him. Then, when we have gotten rid of our own burdens, he invites us to accept his. There's a significant difference: the first burden is a weight, a painful impediment, while the second is a yoke, an implement that binds us together, a tool of cooperation and mutual service.

7/13/14 - What's So Special About Seeds? (Genesis 25:19-24, Matthew 13:1-9, 18-23)

A handful of seeds doesn't seem very significant. In fact, the farmer in the parable appears to be rather careless, tossing the seeds around on hostile ground with reckless abandon. Seeds produce new seeds, which in turn produce more seeds, so that eventually those few seeds could feed an entire village for generations.

7/20/14 - What's So Special About Weeds? (Romans 8:12-25, Matthew 13:24-30, 36-43)

What's so special about weeds? Jesus is warning us that weeds may not be quite as dangerous as some of us think they are. Christian believers are sometimes all too eager to appoint themselves as judges, marching through the fields, pulling weeds, and trampling down a lot of good grain in the process.

Weeds, implies Jesus, are to be expected as a normal part of life and if left alone will do little harm. In any case, the farmer will take necessary action at harvest time.

7/27/14 - What's So Special About Yeast? (Psalm 119:129-136, Matthew 13:31-33, 44-52)

What's so special about yeast? By itself, it's really quite worthless. Only when it's mixed with dough can it become a transforming power. Yeast becomes special only when invested, mixed, buried. Christian small groups, prayer cells, Bible classes, and worshipping congregations—all are important, but nothing will really come of them until they scatter into school boards, city councils, labor unions, schoolrooms, business offices, softball leagues, book clubs, retail stores, and assembly lines.



BROEK CIRCLE - will meet on Tuesday, September 9th at 1:00 p.m. at the home of Betty Tingley.

BROEK COOKS - will have Italian Flag Soup available on October 12th. An order sheet is on the hall bulletin board.

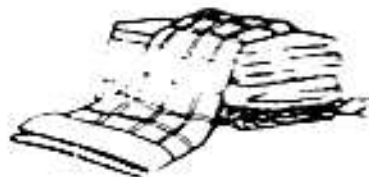
JACOBA CIRCLE - will meet on Monday, September 8th at 7:30 p.m. at the home of Joan Bell.

CHURCH WORLD SERVICE - BLANKET SUNDAY

You donated a total of \$800 for blankets, which was matched by the Benevolence Fund, for a total of \$1,600.

We also sent 40 school kits and 12 hygiene kits. Thanks to Pastor Scott for delivering them to the local depot.

And thanks to everyone for your generosity.



SEPTEMBER, 2014

13. Gordon Wich

18. Joel Kenderdine

GOOD NEWS!

The Church Secretary, Shawn Borelli is now a Notary Public. Her office hours are, Monday through Thursday afternoons from 2:00 to 4:30 p.m.

JUST A REMINDER! 2014 Consistory

Sarah Coppola, Vice President
Brad Wadlow, Clerk of Consistory
Joan Bell, Building and Grounds
Gordon Wich, Worship
Marv DeRuyscher, Benevolence
Beth Kenderdine

In Memoriam
Charles Albert Drewes
at rest, August 9, 2014





In June, Trinity presented three music scholarships to North Plainfield High School. We received the following:

from Brigiette Garcia

Thank you so much for awarding me with this special scholarship. Words cannot express how honored I am to receive this scholarship, not only because along with Mikaelah and Nasir, this is the first year we received this scholarship. I am also honored because I was considered to be a recipient of this award! I am grateful because college is very expensive and Lord knows I'll be taking out loans. This scholarship is a huge help for me, so I heavily thank you from the bottom of my heart. I will put this scholarship to great use and I will not disappoint. Again, thank you for giving me this opportunity. I really appreciate it. ☺

from Nasir Jones

I would like to thank you all for the schooarship. I will be attending Norfolk State University in the fall, majoring in music media. I am tryly blessed and honored to have received this scholarship.

from Mikaelah Villacruz



I am honored to be the recipient of your scholarship, and I am truly thankful for your generosity. Music has been integral in my life for as long as I can remember and I plan to continue my studies in music in college. I believe that music can heal the deepest of wounds and ignite the fire in any dull heart. It is a powerful force to be reckoned with. The financial help that you have extended towards me will greatly help in college. Your program has the ability to change lives because not many who pursue the arts in college receive help. Your support means the world, and it has encouraged me to try even harder. Knowing that I have your support pushes me to be the best I can musically be. Once again, thank you.

OCTOBER NEWSLETTER DEADLINE

Wednesday, September 17



SEPTEMBER

SUN	MON	TUE	WED	THU	FRI	SAT
Every Sunday Worship 10:00 a.m.	1. LABOR DAY 	2. Consistory 7:30 pm	3.	4.	5.	6.
7.	8. Jacoba 7:30 pm	9. Broek 1 pm	10.	11.	12.	13.
14.	15.	16.	17.	18. Choir 7:30 pm	19.	20.
21.	22.  Autumn Arrives	23.	24.	25. Choir 7:30 pm	26.	27.
28.	29.	30.	October 5th World Communion Sunday			

