

TRINITY NEWS

December 2015

Trinity Reformed Church
North Plainfield, N.J. 07063

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

Members & Friends,

I can't remember if I ever shared this with you all or not, but I read a great book, given to me by a former church member titled The Worst/Best Christmas Pageant Ever! In this story, the Sunday school teacher who usually is in charge of the Christmas Pageant falls ill and a new woman steps up to the plate to take charge of the annual Christmas Pageant at their church. The story is told from the perspective of the daughter of the woman who took things over.

The story is set in Appalachia and not far from town is a family of hill-folk that have a reputation for being less than civilized. When tryouts are announced for the Christmas Pageant; guess who shows up! The ring-leader of this band of rabble rousers is the sister who decides that she wants to play the coveted role of Mary and her brothers were to have roles as shepherds. She gets this by threatening violence to the other children!

These children were uncivilized, poor, dirty and barely literate. Because of that the woman who usually puts the Christmas Pageant together, along with most of the rest of the congregation, are sure that this is going to be a disaster, but the narrator and her mother think that God just might be up to something. And, indeed, on the night of the Pageant, the mean, bully of a girl playing Mary has her heart touched by God. She begins to weep uncontrollably as she realizes the truth of the story she is acting in, and that Jesus came as a baby because He loved her.

So often, we think that a Merry Christmas is dependent on things like Christmas displays, A Charlie Brown Christmas, Sunday school plays, and the candle light service on Christmas Eve ending with "Silent Night". The truth is that while all of those things are nice, they aren't the main point of the holiday; the birth of the Savior in Bethlehem is! And miracles can and do happen during this season! (Luke 2:10-12)

Grace & Peace,
Pastor Scott

In October we had sermons on the following topics;

On October 4th we had our annual World Communion Sunday Service in our sanctuary along with the congregation of Agape House. The scripture lessons came from Job 1:1, 2:1-10, Hebrews 1:1-4, 2:5-12 and Mark 10:2-16 and the sermon was "How Can God Be Good If Suffering Exists?" Throughout the ages humans have asked the question; "If there is a God who is all good, all powerful and all knowing, how can it be that this God allows people to suffer?" We affirmed together that, even in the midst of our own sadness and grief, our lives can have purpose; we can do something to make a better world. That's how God's love works!

On October 11th the scripture readings were Job 23:1-9, 16&17, Hebrews 4:12-16 and Mark 10:17-31. The sermon title was; "There May Be Hope for Us Yet!" In the gospel lesson we find the exchange between Jesus and a rich person who asks what one must do to get to heaven. Jesus set the standard for loving God with all one's being so high, that He said it would be easier for a camel to pass through the eye of a needle than for a wealthy person to get into heaven. If a person blessed with wealth has that hard of a time getting into heaven, what hope do the rest of us have!? As Jesus told His followers; for humans it is impossible, for not for God. Relying on God's grace, there just might be hope for us yet!

On October 18th our scriptures were from Isaiah 53:4-12, Hebrews 5:1-10 and Mark 10:35 – 45. The sermon title was; "Dedicated to the Service of God." Jesus redefined what greatness means for us; to be great is to serve God by serving others. Rather than seeking some favor or reward, we are challenged to reorder our world toward humility, gratitude, and service, acknowledging that the source of all good is God. When Jesus gave His life as a ransom, He freed us not to become great as the world understands greatness, but to serve others as slaves of Christ. And that really is great for us!

On October 25th our sermon was "Sometimes Life's Biggest Failures are God's Greatest Successes!" with scripture lessons from Jeremiah 31:7-9, Hebrews 7:23-28 and Mark 10:46-52. There we learned that although the cross was seen as a failure at the time Jesus was crucified (at least to the world around Him), that failure is actually history's greatest success! In and through Jesus' crucifixion, sin and death were defeated and the will and purpose of God were fulfilled. Sometimes the line between success and failure is too blurred for us to discern the difference! We do well to trust that God knows what God is doing even if it makes no sense to us.



BROEK CIRCLE – will meet on Tuesday, December 8th at 1:00 p.m. at the home of Betty Jane Tingley. Meip Devries Hostess.

Monday December 14th Broek will hold their Christmas luncheon at 11:30am at the home of Joanne Nuber.

Broek Circle will once again collect “Used” Christmas cards (front only). A basket will be in the Narthex starting January 1st.

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JACOBA CIRCLE – to be announced



December, 2015

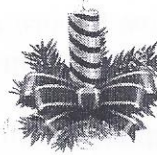
- 4. Leslie Zarnowski
- 9. Jennifer Kenderdine
- 21. Cassie Forgash



FESTIVAL OF CAROLS

Sunday, December 13th
At 2:00 p.m. Bring your friends!

Thursday, December 24th – 8:00 p.m.



Carols, Candlelight, Cookies and Fellowship

CHRISTMAS

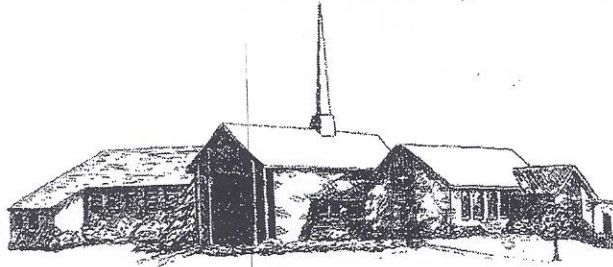
May God grant you the light in Christmas
which is faith;
The warmth of Christmas, which is love;
The radiance of Christmas, which is purity;
The righteousness of Christmas, which is
justice;
The belief in Christmas, which is truth;
The all of Christmas, which is Christ!

--Donnel's Creek Church of the Brethern

DEADLINE for January News

Monday, December 14, 2015





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

We are attempting to bring the history of our consistory membership up to date. The 100 year history of our church has the history of consistory membership through 1968. We have been unable to find the following years.

1963-1968

1981-1991

If you have any old records listing consistory membership for the missing years, such as

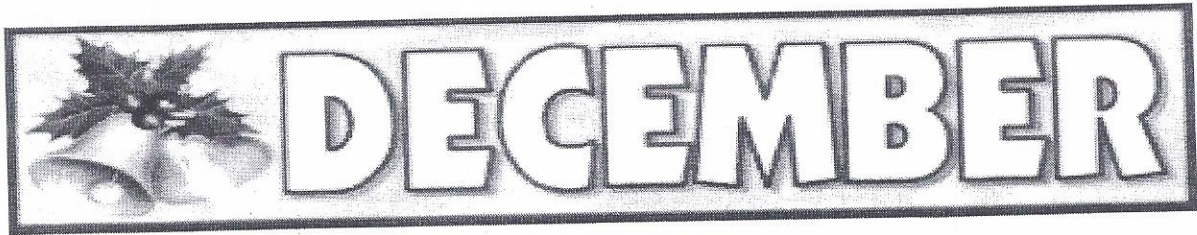
Consistory minutes

Usher schedules

Congregational meeting agendas








Please let me or our church secretary Shawn know.
Hopefully we can fill in the missing years. Thank you.

Gordon Wich.



DECEMBER

Sun Mon Tue Wed Thu Fri Sat

Every Sunday 10:00 a.m. Worship in Sanctuary		1.	2.	3.	4.	5.
6. Second Sunday in ADVENT 	7. Consistory 7:30pm	8. Broek Circle 1:00pm	9. Bible Study 7:30pm	10. Choir 7:30pm	11.	12.
13. *Festival of Carols 2pm *Elders Meeting 11am * Soup pick-up *Third Sunday in ADVENT 	14. Newsletter  Broek 11:30am	15.	16. Bible Study 7:30pm	17. Choir 7:30pm	18.	19.
20. Fourth Sunday in ADVENT 	21.	22. 	23.	24. 8pm Candle Light Service 	25. 	26.
27.	28.	29.	30.	31. 