

TRINITY NEWS

December 2016

Trinity Reformed Church
North Plainfield, N.J. 07063

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

Members & Friends,

'Tis the season! The Holiday season! It starts with Thanksgiving and a meal so big we need power tools to serve it! The next day is Black Friday, so named because it is the day when all the retailers hope to sell enough merchandise to be "in the black" for the year. For us it started even earlier with our annual service remembering and honoring our veterans. Then it's Advent and the start of the new church year, we have to get the readings for lighting the Advent Wreath to Tina and she has to recruit people to read and light the wreath. And the wreath has to be brought into the sanctuary and the candles need to be changed. And then it will be time to decorate the church and wrap the Poinsettias. And at some point we have to get together and decorate the church under the skillful leadership of Deena Zolkiwsky.

This year, Thanksgiving will not be served at home; it will be spent on the road. I will have to drive my parents up to Vermont to see their newest great-granddaughter! And then we have to stop in Massachusettes to see my other sister and her family. In between I have to shuttle three or four families back and forth to see each other, to the motel and to restaurants.

When I get home I will have to get my workouts in at home, lugging boxes and decorations out of the storage shed and into the house, and stuff from the house into the shed. And then there's the leaves that will need to be blown off of the lawn and either mulched or simply blown into the woods this year!

By the time Christmas Eve gets here (on a Saturday this year, with Sunday worship the next day), I will need to be in worship. I will need a Silent Night! The business of the season can push aside the joy of the season. It is a gift to be able to pause and ponder and praise God! I hope you will join us so that we can enjoy God's gift of a silent night together.

Grace & Peace,
- Pastor Scott

In the month October Pastor Scott gave the following sermons:

On October 2nd our sermon was given by Rev. Dr. Ursula Cargill for World Communion Sunday with scriptures from 1 Timothy 1:1-14 and Luke 17:5-10.

On October 9th the title of the sermon was "Seek The Welfare of the City ... Even If They Don't Say Thanks!" That sermon was based on Jeremiah 29:1, 4-7 and Luke 17:11-19. It was demonstrated from these scriptures that God commands us to seek justice, extend kindness and work for the social welfare of those around us. But sometimes it is hard to want to seek the welfare of the city or the country or the world, especially when they so consistently fail to express gratitude and take us and our good efforts and hard work on their behalf for granted. And yet we do those things because we WANT to; but because God commands us to. Even if we aren't thanked. We do well to follow Jesus' example when we get discouraged and to focus on getting up and going out into a world that needs Him!

On October 16th our scripture reading was from Jeremiah 31:27-34 and Luke 18:1-8. The sermon was titled "Who's Sin Are We Responsible For?" In that sermon we learned that we are responsible for our own sin, and not that of others. It is not our job to be the "sin police". We have enough of our own faults to worry about; let others answer to God for their actions.

On October 23rd we had scripture lessons from 2 Timothy 4:6-8 and Luke 18:9-14. The sermon title was "I've Got This, Thanks." This sermon taught us that to read the parable of the Pharisee and the tax collector well, and to understand it for what it is meant to teach us, we have to cast ourselves into the role of tax collector – not because the Pharisee was bad – not because he was the person or people on the "other side", but because we find ourselves, yet again, with nothing to claim but our dependence on God's mercy. When this happens and we forget if only for a moment our human-constructed divisions and stand before God aware only of our need, then we, too, are justified by the God of Jesus and invited to return to our homes in mercy, grace, and gratitude.

On October 30th our sermon was "Friends In Low Places" with scriptures from Isaiah 1:10-18 and Luke 19:1-10. In that sermon we learned the story of Zacchaeus is that anyone who desires to see Jesus will and will, in turn, be seen by Jesus and in that way have their joy made complete. If we can read the Zacchaeus story along these lines then we might have occasion to ask ourselves who among us, both in our congregation and outside, are those who have been left on the margin, who have been ruled out of bounds, who might surprise us by their generosity and faith, and who just want to see Jesus but have been kept at bay. And those questions might spur us into action to right those wrongs.



BROEK CIRCLE – will meet on Tuesday, December 13th at 12:00 p.m. at the home of Joanne Nuber. For their annual Christmas luncheon.

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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

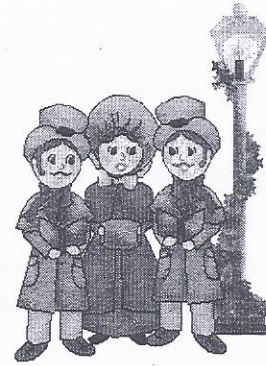
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During Christmas Jacoba Circle will be collecting food and supplies for Shelter Animals.

- Dried and canned cat and dog food
- Treats and toys
- Bedding
- Kitty litter
- Money

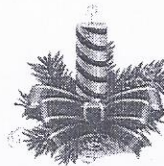
Any questions? See Deena Z.

DEADLINE for January News
Wednesday, December 14th



FESTIVAL OF CAROLS

Sunday, December 11th
At 2:00 p.m. Bring your friends!



CHRISTMAS EVE SERVICE

Saturday, December 24th – 8:00 p.m.

Carols, Candlelight, Cookies and Fellowship



December, 2016

- 4. Leslie Zarnowski
- 9. Jennifer Kenderdine

Starting November 9th, our Wednesday night Bible Study will begin meeting again in the Library Lounge at 7:30 p.m. Once again we will all need our imaginary passports and plenty of imaginary sun screen as we join the Israelites in the desert on their way to meet with God at Mount Sinai! 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.

This study will focus on how the children of Israel, newly freed from slavery in Egypt were shaped in the desert by God. When the Israelites left Egypt, they were finally free. Free from persecution, free from oppression and free to worship their own God. But with that freedom came a new challenge – learning how to live together the way God intends. Discover how God taught the Israelites what it means to be part of a community that loves God and the lessons that we can begin to live out in our lives today.

Wednesday, November 8th: The Lord Who Heals You

Filmed on location at the Red Sea & Sinai.

Wednesday, November 16th: Not by Bread Alone

Filmed at Sinai.

Wednesday, December 7th: Their Blood Cried Out

Filmed on location at Serabit al Khadim.

Wednesday December 14th: The Mountain of God

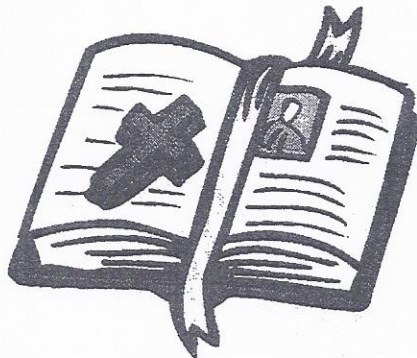
Filmed in Jebel Katarina.

Wednesday December 21st: I Led You Like a Bride

Filmed in Jebel Katarina.

Wednesday December 28th: The Whisper of God








Filmed in Jebel Katarina.





DECEMBER

Sun Mon Tue Wed Thu Fri Sat

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