

# TRINITY NEWS

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December 2017

Trinity Reformed Church  
North Plainfield, N.J. 07063

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

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Members & Friends,

It's hard to believe, but today a group of us went next door to West End Elementary School and delivered Thanksgiving "baskets" to the nurse's office for needy families. Yes, we do this every year, but what is hard to believe is that it is that time of the year already!

When we had finished there we got in our cars and car-pooled over to Stony Brook Elementary School to deliver a few more. When Joan Beil reached out to the new school nurse at West End she informed us that there was also a need at Stony Brook and so we worked with the nurse there as well to make sure that those families have a reason to give thanks to God on Thanksgiving Day. The nurse, Doreen (I remember her name because I have a sister named Doreen and this nurse is only the second person I have ever met named Doreen!) and the Principal were so grateful that we brought these gift certificates in for the families; they posed for pictures with us, some of which were posted to our church's Facebook page and we wished each other a Happy Thanksgiving.

We have been doing this for a long time, only now we are expanding the program because we are aware of the increased need. Although we sometimes get a "Thank-you" note from a family, often we do not and we don't even know who the people are that get our gifts. In Matthew 6 verses 3 & 4 the Bible tells us that when we do things like this we shouldn't do it looking for thanks but instead we should do it anonymously. We have never gotten a new member or even a visitor from our efforts so, why do we do it?

In Genesis we read that God called Abraham to be the first of God's special people who would help God restore the creation. God promised Abraham that through him and his descendants all the people of the world will be blessed. As Christians we are God's special people and Abraham's descendants by faith and so the world is supposed to be blessed by and through us. That's why we do this; it is our mission! Part of that mission is to tell people the words about Jesus, but another part is to put God on display through how we live our lives so that they will know what God is like. The funny thing is; every year when we do this, I feel like I'M the one that gets blessed!

May you all experience God's abundant blessings and abundant opportunities to be a blessing during this holiday season.

Grace & Peace,

- Pastor Scott



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

On October 1<sup>st</sup> our sermon was "Live Like You Mean It" based on Paul's request in Philippians 2:1-13 that Christians be in accord with one another and not act out of self-centered motives but instead act in the interest of others the way that Christ did when He died for us. We also examined the story of the two sons whose father asked them to work in his vineyard; the first said no but eventually did what the father asked, the second said yes, but didn't work. Jesus asked which of the sons did the will of the father. The answer, of course, was not the one with the right words! The sermon showed that if we want to call ourselves Jesus' followers, we must live as Jesus lived – working and serving each other, not ourselves.

On October 8<sup>th</sup> we continued the vineyard motif with "Whose Vineyard Is It Anyway?" This was based on the "song of the vineyard" Isaiah 5:1-7 and Matthew 21:33-46 where tenant farmers attach and kill the servants and son of the vineyard owner. Here we learned that as the owner of the vineyard God has leased us the talents that are to be used for the greater good of the kingdom – not our credit! God expects us as God's vineyard to bear the fruits of justice and righteousness by establishing the kingdom of God. In response it is hoped that we will, as tenants who lease the land, give back to God the harvest God expects!

On October 15<sup>th</sup> our sermon was "Everybody's Welcome". Our scripture lessons for this sermon were Philippians 4:1-9 and Matthew 22:1-14. Here we learned that in the Kingdom of God everyone; the "good" and the "bad" are welcome so that we might be open to and accepting of those we view as different or "other".

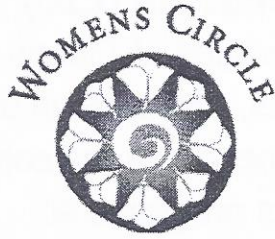
On October 22<sup>nd</sup> our scripture lessons came from Isaiah 45:1-7 and Matthew 22:15-22 and our sermon was "But There IS Only One God". We learned that even if God works through some unexpected people and events, that's OK. But in the end, there is STILL only one God.

On October 29<sup>th</sup> our sermon was "The Second Greatest Commandment" based on Leviticus 19:1-2, 15-18 which is the *Shema* (Hear O Israel, the Lord our God, the Lord is One, you shall love the Lord your God with all your heart, with all your strength and with all your mind ... you shall love your neighbor as yourself) and Jesus' summary of that passage in Matthew 22:34-46 in response to a scholar's question about which commandment was the greatest. Our life calling to love our neighbors as ourselves is a calling to make a conscious choice to act with loving-kindness and merciful action that is generous and continuous and to act upon that choice.

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DECEMBER 3<sup>rd</sup> FIRST SUNDAY IN ADVENT  
CELEBRATE CHRIST'S COMING BY PARTAKING IN HOLY COMMUNION.





BROEK CIRCLE – To Be Announced

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BROEK COOKS- will have Minestrone Soup available in December 10th. See bulletin board for order sheet.

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

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JACOBA CIRCLE – will hold their Christmas Party on Monday, December 11th at 7:30pm in the Library Lounge. Linda Raysick, hostess.

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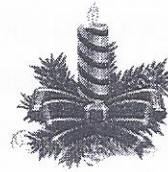


FESTIVAL OF CAROLS

Sunday, December 10<sup>th</sup>  
At 2:00 p.m. Bring your friends!

CHRISTMAS EVE SERVICE

Sunday, December 24<sup>th</sup> – 8:00 p.m.



Carols, Candlelight, Cookies and Fellowship

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December, 2017

- 4. Leslie Zarnowski
- 9. Jennifer Kenderdine

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THANK YOU - to all my Trinity friends for your recent birthday wishes.

Dee Cox

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PLEASE CHANGE YOUR DIRECTORY.

NUBER, Joanne and Barbara  
3309 Clark Lane  
South Plainfield, NJ 07080



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January Newsletter DEADLINE -  
Friday, December 15<sup>th</sup>







**CHURCHES IMPROVING COMMUNITIES (CIC)** is the non-profit community development corporation of Classis New Brunswick. CIC pools the time, talents, and passion of congregations to meet the needs of people in the community. You can learn more about CIC and its programs at [www.ImprovingNJ.org](http://www.ImprovingNJ.org).

**The Focus Church Development Program** is a joint program of CIC and Classis New Brunswick. Churches apply to work with CIC for a year, focusing on how to use the gifts and strengths of a congregation to connect more deeply with their community.

**Trinity Reformed Church is this year's Focus Church**, and CIC has been working with Trinity members this fall, learning about Trinity and discussing the path that our work together will take, including a possible collaborative project with Agape House.

**You are invited to join this work!** Monthly Focus Church committee meetings are open to all. If you are interested, please tell Pastor Scott.







**Please fill out and return this short questionnaire** as we gather your ideas and input. Please use the back if necessary.

1. What issues do you see in your community, or what issues are you currently praying about?
2. How might Trinity, in partnership with Agape House, respond to one or more of those issues?
3. Trinity has expressed pride in its wonderful music, including choir and organ. How might Trinity bring that gift into the community on a weekly basis?
4. What is your dream for Trinity? What role could you play personally in that dream?



# DECEMBER

Sun                      Mon                      Tue                      Wed                      Thu                      Fri                      Sat

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