

TRINITY NEWS

February 2016

Trinity Reformed Church
North Plainfield, N.J. 07063

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

Members & Friends,

The one word in Hebrew that almost everyone knows is the word *shalom*. The Hebrew people of the Bible spoke the word *shalom* both at greeting and parting. It was used to say good-bye AND to say hello! The word meant "peace", but conveyed more than simply the absence of war or violence; it's meaning includes life with complete wholeness wherever one lives, works and worships. The concept of a *beloved community* grows naturally out of Jesus' own hunger for the felt unity of his followers that mirrored the unity he shared with the Father (John 17:20-23). That unity expresses a readiness to engage everyday life at the levels of close friendship and for actively taking stands when life, including systems, place burdens that block access to the abundant life for people and places God created.

We used to use the term *multiculturalism* for our efforts to engage in a diverse context. To build a church community that includes people from various cultures and races. But in recent days we have learned that the divisions that separate us on Sunday mornings are greater than simple ethnicity and race. Therefore, we have begun, as the Body of Christ, to speak in terms of "Cultural Competency."

Cultural competency is a tool that allows one to engage effectively in a diverse context which includes, but is not limited to race, ethnicity, gender, age, class, ability and so forth. So often, as we work for an authentic community in which all are welcomed and valued, where racism is truly a thing of the past, we hear the lament that terms and issues keep changing. Just when we seem to figure out a language that is acceptable to use, more words are thought of as insulting and our being asked not to use them is angrily labeled "political correctness" or "thought policing". The reason why things keep changing and the struggle continues is that culture is dynamic and fluid, thus cultural competency is not a "static" skill set but something that the successful practitioner must be committed to which includes adopting an attitude of cultural humility as well as become a lifelong learner.

So, the tough news is that we will never "get there" in terms of having completed our journey to cultural competency. But the good news is that, as faithful followers of Jesus Christ surrounded by a covenant community, we do not take this journey alone! We are surrounded by others who, in love, strive to become the beloved community envisioned by Jesus

Grace & Peace,
Pastor Scott

In the month of December we had sermons on the following topics;

12/6/15 – Christmas Preparations (Malachi 3:1-4, Philippians 1:3-11, Luke 3:1-6)

God's arrival in Christ requires preparation on our part! John the Baptist identified repentance as the work of preparation to be done to get ready for Christ's arrival. This Christmas, we resolve to prepare our hearts to receive Christ through repentance.

12/13/15 – Rejoice (Zephaniah 3:14-20, Philippians 4:4-7, Luke 3:7-18)

Jesus' coming into our world is a reason for joy because it means that we are free to live a productive life centered in Christ and focused on others. Rejoice in the freedom we have in Christ!

12/20/15 – PLOT TWIST! (Micah 5:2-5a, Hebrews 10:5-10, Luke 1:39-55)

God always fulfills God's promises ... usually by subverting our expectations! However, we realize that the promise of God is certain, even if the fulfillment is not always what we expected it to be.

12/24/15 – Good News for ALL! (Isaiah 62:6-12, Titus 3:4-7, Luke 2:1-10)

Jesus' birth is Good News for ALL people, not just a few. This fact inspires us to work towards full inclusion of all people in our church regardless of what it is that is different about them that makes them "foreign" to us.

12/27/15 – The Missing Years (1 Samuel 2:18-20 & 26, Colossians 3:12-17, Luke 2:41-52)

The childhood narrative about Jesus in the Temple as a 12-year-old gives us reasons to trust and commit our lives to Him: He understands our human experience completely and He is a model for raising Christian Children. Trust Jesus and commit to living for God's Kingdom.



BROEK CIRCLE – will meet on Tuesday February 9th at 1:00 p.m. at the home of Betty Jane Tingley. Hostess Barbara Hildebrant.

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BROEK COOKS will have Chicken Gumbo and Creamy Potato Soups available on March 6th. An order form is on the hall bulletin board.

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JACOBA CIRCLE – will not meet this month.

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JACOBA CIRCLE will host a Pot Luck Luncheon on Sunday, March 13th following worship. Check bulletin board for sign-up sheet.

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To those who helped support Jacob's Annual Animal Fund; a hearty thank you. We were able to contribute a larger amount of food plus \$250 in cash to the area shelter.

D.Z.

MARCH Newsletter DEADLINE -

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Sunday, February 14th



ASH WEDNESDAY- February 10th

Communion- 8pm in the Chapel.



BIBLE STUDY

February 3rd – Enlarge Your Soul Through Grief and Loss

February 10th- ASH Wednesday

February 17th – Discover the Rhythms of the Daily Office and Sabbath

February 24th – Grow into an Emotionally Healthy Adult

March 2nd – Go the Next Step to Develop a "Rule of Life"

February, 2016

14, Steven Zarnowski

15. Joanne Nuber

19. Jim Beil



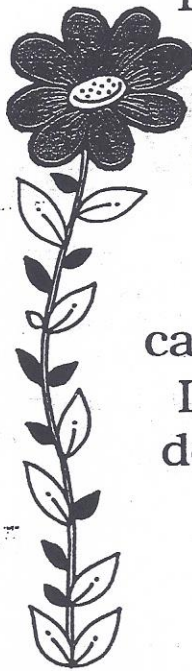
I Am Only One


I am only one,
But still I am one.

I cannot do
everything,
But still I can do
something;

And because I
cannot do everything
I will not refuse to
do something that I
can do.




... *Edward Everett Hale*





February

Sun Mon Tue Wed Thu Fri Sat

Every Sunday 10:00 a.m. Worship in Sanctuary	1. Consistory 7:30pm	2.	3. Bible Study 7:30pm	4. Choir 7:30pm	5.	6.
7.	8.	9. Broek 1:00pm	10.  ASH WEDNESDAY Service 8:00pm	11. Choir 7:30pm	12.	13.
14. Newsletter  Happy Valentine's Day	15.	16.	17. Bible Study 7:30pm	18. Choir 7:30pm	19.	20.
21.	22.	23.	24. Bible Study 7:30pm	25. Choir 7:30pm	26.	27.
28.	29.  Leap Year Day February 29					