

TRINITY NEWS

February 2018

Trinity Reformed Church
North Plainfield, N.J. 07063

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

Members & Friends,

February brings with it thoughts of Valentine's Day. I remember being in seminary on Valentine's Day one year. I wanted to pick up some flowers to bring home to Kathy as a romantic gesture that day, but I wasn't very familiar with the area around New Brunswick. A fellow student had grown up in the area and so I asked him where I could find a florist. He went with me and I picked up some flowers in the time between Hebrew class in the morning and Church History class in the evening. I brought them back to the seminary and put them in the community refrigerator in Herzog Hall, the cafeteria room at the seminary.

My friend and I continued to study in that room, which was common. A few tables behind us, the only other people in the room were a young married couple that were attending seminary together. At one point my friend stopped and said to me; "I don't get it – you went out and bought a bunch of expensive flowers for Valentine's Day for your wife. But what does she get you?"

"I don't expect her to buy me anything" I replied.

"How is that fair?" he asked.

"Listen, it's not up to me to make sense of the rules. My job is to figure out what the rules are and when I do, to obey them!" I replied.

At this point my attention was drawn to the other people in the room; the married couple. He was chuckling and she crossed her arms, shot an icy glare his way, huffed and demanded to know from him; "And what are YOU laughing at?"

Despite popular theories, St. Valentine's Day was not a conspiracy thought up by the flower and greeting card lobby! There really was a real person, a real St. Valentine. He was a priest that lived in the Third Century and defied an order by the Roman Emperor by performing marriages. It seems that the Emperor wasn't getting a lot of soldiers for his military campaigns and he figured that if men couldn't get married they'd be more likely to volunteer for military service. Valentine secretly performed marriages and when this was found out, he was executed for being a champion of love.

While this is interesting, it does bring up a vital question; at what point is it OK to disobey a law or rule? Most people would agree that when the laws of human beings conflict with the law of God is when we obey God and not humans. And what is the law of God? Jesus summarized by saying to love God with all we have and are and our neighbors is the law of God. Where do modern rules and laws violate that law of love?

Grace & Peace,
Pastor Scott

In the month of December, as we journeyed through the Advent Season, Pastor Scott gave the following sermons:

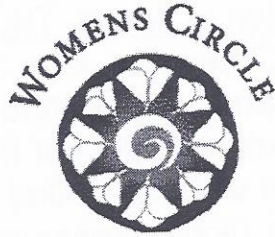
On December 3rd our sermon title was "Maranatha!" based on Isaiah 64:1-9 and 1 Corinthians 1:3-9. Maranatha is a Greek word that means "Come!" In this sermon we learned that Advent is a time of anticipating Jesus' coming as Bethlehem's babe AND an opportunity to look forward in anticipation of Jesus' coming again in glory at the end of time. We do this so that we will remember Christ's death until he comes.

On December 10th our texts were Isaiah 40:1-11 and 2 Peter 3:8-15a and the sermon was "Here He Comes!" Once again the theme of anticipation was presented as we learned that Advent is a time when we prepare to celebrate Jesus' first coming AND during which we just as eagerly anticipate His coming again. To this end we look forward to and anticipate Jesus' return to establish the Kingdom of God in all of its fullness with as much eagerness as we do the arrival of Christmas.

On December 17th our sermon was "Get Ready!" Our scripture lessons for this sermon were Isaiah 61:1-4, 8-11 and John 1:6-8, 19-28. From these passages it was shown that we get ready for Jesus' coming the same way that John the "Witness" (because in the gospel according to John, Jesus' cousin didn't come to baptize – he came to witness) did: by testifying to the "Light"! In response it is hoped that those who heard this sermon will live their lives in such a way that they put Jesus on display to the world around them.

On December 24th at our morning service for the Fourth Sunday in Advent our scripture lessons were Romans 16:25-27 and Luke 1:26-38 (the angel's announcement to Mary that she would bear the Christ). In a sermon titled "Nothing is Impossible for God!" we learned that God can transition us from who we think that we are to what God has called us to be. God can change us from observant believers to confessing apostles! It is hoped that in response we will believe that nothing is impossible for God, especially making us into active and confessing followers of Jesus.

In the evening on December 24th we celebrated Christmas at our Christmas Eve service featuring scripture lessons from Isaiah 62:6-12, Titus 3:4-7 and Luke 2:1-20. Our sermon title was "The Way of Salvation, the Way of Weakness". In this sermon it was shown that God's way; forsaking strength for weakness, is the way of salvation, not the world's way which chooses strength over weakness. The world would have put the Savior in a Palace like the Herodian, not in David's city in a manger. The world glorifies the Herod's of our time who build great structures and bring fame to themselves. Jesus didn't leave behind one stone on top of another but did all that He did for others, for us. In response it is hoped that we will know God's way is the true way of salvation.



BROEK CIRCLE – To be announced

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BROEK COOKS will have Chicken Gumbo and Creamy Potato Soups available on March 18th. An order form is on the hall bulletin board.

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JACOBA CIRCLE – will meet on Monday, February 12th in the Library Lounge. Tina Wich, Hostess.



February, 2017

- 14. Steven Zarnowski
- 15. Joanne Nuber
- 19. Jim Beil



ASH WEDNESDAY – February 14th

COMMUNION- 8:00 pm in the Chapel.



Thanks to everyone who supported Jacoba's annual collection for shelter pets. We made 2 trips to deliver food and supplies.

In addition, \$300 was forwarded to the Plainfield Area Humane Society on Rock Avenue.

D.Z.

MARCH Newsletter DEADLINE -

Wednesday, February 14th



Our Wednesday night Bible Study continues throughout the Winter. We meet on Wednesday evenings beginning at 7:30 p.m. We were scheduled to begin our new study on January 10th but only two people came out so we have shifted the schedule so more people can attend. Beginning on January 17th we will start a study titled The Mission of Jesus: Triumph of God's Kingdom in a World of Chaos. Enter the Chaos. In John 17:26 Jesus said; "I made known Your name to them, and I will continue to make it known" In this study we will deepen our understanding of this passionate revelation of God's Name to a broken world that God longs to redeem. Discover how Jesus triumphantly made God's presence known on Earth, and how He asks you to do the same – by bringing God's *shalom* to the chaos of others.

In each session we will focus on passages of the Bible that are explored in a video segment that is filmed on location in Israel and the greater Middle East to illuminate the historical, geographical and culture context of the Bible. Filmed in locations in the Middle East, this study will transform your understanding of God and will challenge you to be a true follower of Jesus. Together we will review sidebars, maps, photos and other Bible study tools and use questions to facilitate our discussions and to inspire personal reflection on the texts.

Wednesday January 17th: Capernaum: Jesus Binds the Evil One (Filmed on location in Benjamin/Capernaum in Israel.)

Wednesday January 24th: Decapolis: The Other Side – Jesus and the Man from the Tombs (Filmed on location in Susita, Israel.)

Wednesday January 31st: Crucifixion: The Coronation of a King (Filmed in Rome, Italy.)

Wednesday February 7th: Ascension: The King Takes His Throne (Filmed in Khirbet Midras/ Mount of Olives, Israel.)

Wednesday February 21st: Pentecost: God Changed His Address (Filmed in Jerusalem, Israel.)



February

Sun Mon Tue Wed Thu Fri Sat

Every Sunday 10:00 a.m. Worship in Sanctuary				1. Choir Rehearsal 7:30 pm	2.	3.
4.	5. Consistory 7:30pm	6.	7. Bible Study 7:30pm	8. Choir Rehearsal 7:30 pm	9.	10.
11.	12. Jacoba 7:30p.m.	13.	14. ASH Wednesday Service Service 8:00pm Newsletter Deadline	15. Choir Rehearsal 7:30 pm	16.	17.
18.	19.	20.	21. Bible Study 7:30pm	22. Choir Rehearsal 7:30 pm	23.	24.
25.	26.	27.	28. Bible Study 7:30pm			