

TRINITY NEWS

February 2019

Trinity Reformed Church
North Plainfield, N.J. 07063

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

Members & Friends,

1 Corinthians 12:27 states: **“²⁷ Now you are the body of Christ and individually members of it.”** Paul was, of course, writing about the Church. In fact, whenever Paul mentions the Body of Christ, with very few exceptions, he is talking about the Church! The Church being a living body is a powerful image!

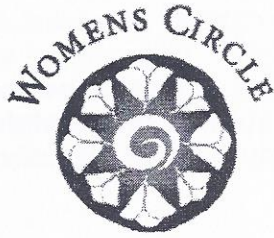
In his book Health Congregations (A Systems Approach) Peter L. Steinke wrote that there are 10 Principles of Health for congregations. (After all, being a Body, just like our physical bodies, churches can be healthy or they can lack health – be at disease if you will!) They are as follows:

1. Wholeness is not attainable. (But it can be approximated. Health is a dynamic balance. Congregations seek wholeness but life is incomplete 1 Corinthians 13:12 – “Now I know only in part”.)
2. Illness is the necessary compliment to health. (It is all right to be sick, feel burdened and be down. It is through exposure to illnesses that we develop an immune system that lets us know what is of the body and what is not of the body and therefore must be eliminated.)
3. The body has innate healing abilities – so does the Church. (No one can give you – or the congregation – what you already have. There are no quick fixes, although sometimes resources must be brought in to remove obstacles to or to facilitate our own, innate healing abilities.)
4. Agents of disease are not causes of disease. (All disease processes are enabled. For the disease process to take place requires a virus *and* a host cell. The virus hijacks the host cell’s D.N.A. to make copies of itself, destroying the healthy cell in the process. The immune system tells the body that the virus is not “of the body”, it is invading and must be eliminated. A weakened or non-existent immune system can’t do this. Left unchecked by an immune system the end result of a disease process is the death of the body. People can act as viruses sometimes; insisting on their own way and derailing progress. If this behavior is allowed by the rest of the body; disease is enabled and the end result is fatal. If the body keeps the invading virus in check, health returns.)

5. All illness is biopsychosocial. (Everything is connected. The health of a congregation is multifaceted. It is a power-sharing arrangement. Attitudes count. Working together counts. Faithfulness matters. Mood and tone are significant. At the heart of the life of a congregation is the Gospel of Jesus' steadfast love, given in God's Word and Sacraments. Healthy congregations are spirited. They are graced and gracious, generous with each other and outsiders. They are communities of thanks and praise.)
6. The subtle precedes the gross. (Short of prevention, early detection is the best treatment. If a problem or conflict is ignored and allowed to fester and swell, it becomes even more embedded and resistant to management.)
7. Each body is different. (There is no universal treatment for every organism – or congregation.)
8. A healthy circulatory system is the keystone of health and healing. (Feedback systems promote health.)
9. Breathing properly is nourishing to the whole body. (The Spirit must be active among the members of the Body of Christ. It is no mistake that the words for "breath" and "spirit" are the same in the original languages of the Bible! The Spirit of God and the spirit of the people nourish the life of the congregation.)
10. The brain is the largest secreting organ of the body, the Health Maintenance Organization (HMO) of the body. (The brain converts ideas into biochemical realities. Comparable to the way the brain functions in the body is the functioning of leaders in a congregation. They are in the position to influence the emotional field in far reaching ways. A healthy body relies on proper channels from the brain to the parts of the body as well as commitment from individual cells to do the will of the head. A similar arrangement is found in healthy organizations between leaders and followers.)

In the body, every sense and organ plays a role in helping the body accomplish what it sets out to do, and to facilitate health and life. In the church we all have a role to play, all the roles are important and cooperation is vital!

Grace & Peace,
Pastor Scott



BROEK CIRCLE – will meet on Tuesday February 12th at 11:00 a.m. in the Home of Joanne Nuber.

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BROEK COOKS will have Chicken Gumbo and Creamy Potato Soups available on March 16th. An order form is on the hall bulletin board.

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JACOBA CIRCLE – will meet on Monday, February 11th in the Library Lounge. Leslie Zarnowski, Hostess.



February, 2019

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



ASH WEDNESDAY – March 6th

COMMUNION- 8:00 pm in the Chapel.



Thanks to everyone who contributed to Jacob's annual Shelter Pet Collection.

We were able to deliver 2 trunks full of food and supplies to Plainfield Animal Hospital for distribution.

Additionally, a check for \$300 was sent to Plainfield Area Human Society. Again, thanks to all.

Deena

MARCH Newsletter DEADLINE -

Wednesday, February 13th



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

On December 2nd our scripture lessons were from Paul's first letter to the Thessalonians, chapter 3 verses 9-13 and the gospel according to Luke chapter 21 verses 25-36. Our sermon title was "Ready for the Coming of the Son of Man." This sermon showed that Christians should be alert, ready for the coming of the Son of Man at the end of time – not caught up in either excessive worries or pleasures, but watchful confident and eager for the events that Jesus described as they signal the approach of the deliverance of the Christian community.

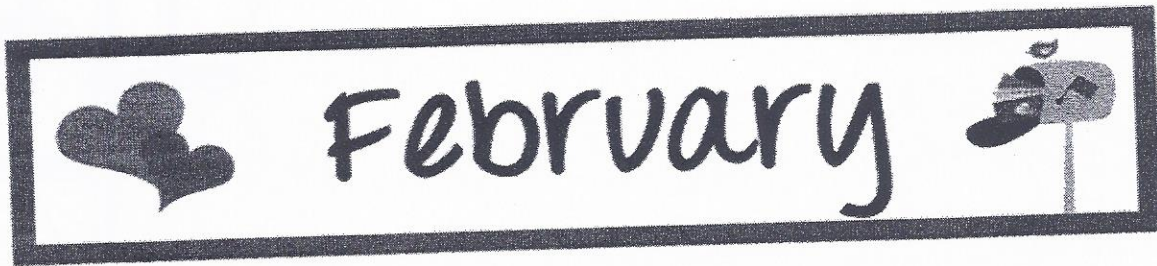
On December 9th our scriptures were Malachi 3:1-4 and Luke 3:1-6. The sermon on that morning was "Sent Ahead". John the Baptist was sent ahead of Jesus to remind us that Christ's presence demands our covenant obedience and will change us, leaving us reformed and refined to become like Christ. In response it is hoped that we will reflect on whether or not we are really ready for God's judgement that prepares the way of the LORD, bringing restoration and renewed life, training us in obedience so we may offer reverent praise.

On December 16th our sermon was "What Should We Do?" Our scripture lessons were from Philippians 4:4-7 and Luke 3:7-18. The answer to this question was, of course; show your faith by your actions! If the community that identifies itself as God's own people doesn't bear the fruit that God desires, God is always capable of beginning again with people who ARE willing to obey. In response it is hoped that we might endeavor to show our faith by our actions.

On December 23rd our Old Testament Lesson was once again from the book of the prophet Micah, this time from the fifth chapter, verses 2-5a. Our gospel lesson came from Luke 1:39-55 and the sermon title was "An Old Baby". Here it was shown that Jesus, the Son of Man – who was with God in the beginning, is the ruler that God promised to raise out of Bethlehem to shepherd God's flock, keeping it secure. We respond to this by trusting in Jesus as God's promised deliverer, even though He comes as a baby born in Bethlehem.


On Christmas Eve our scriptures were traditional; Isaiah 62:6-12; Titus 3:4-5 and Luke 2:1-20. The sermon title was "Son of God". Son of God was a way of referring to the king among the Jewish people. While three people laid claim to that title (Caesar, Herod and Jesus) when Jesus was born, only Jesus truly was, and only He went to the cross for us. We respond to such amazing love by believing in and thanking God for Jesus, the Son of God.

On December 30th our Old Testament Lesson was from the book of 1 Samuel 2:18-20, 26 and the epistle lesson was from Colossians 3:12-17 for our sermon "New Clothes". As kids, there was perhaps no experience more disappointing than opening a huge, wrapped Christmas present only to find out it contained clothing! As grown-ups, we actually look forward to getting clothes now! This sermon pointed out that God gave us certain new qualities to put on like new clothes. We are called to be people who embody compassion, kindness, humility, gentleness, patience, forgiveness, love, peace and thanksgiving. When we embody those qualities we make possible a community that lives in harmony and demonstrates an openness to the Word of Christ that binds us together "completely" or "perfectly".



February

Sun Mon Tue Wed Thu Fri Sat

Every Sunday 10:00 a.m. Worship in Sanctuary					1.	2.
3.	4. Consistory 7:30pm	5.	6. Bible Study 7:30pm	7. Choir Rehearsal 7:30 pm	8.	9.
10.	11. Jacoba 7:30p.m.	12. Broek 11:00am	13. *Newsletter Deadline Bible Study 7:30pm	14.  <i>Happy Valentine's Day</i> Choir Rehearsal 7:30 pm	15.	16.
17.	18.	19.	20. Bible Study 7:30pm	21. Choir Rehearsal 7:30 pm	22.	23.
24.	25.	26.	27. Bible Study 7:30pm	28.		