

TRINITY NEWS

January 2018

Trinity Reformed Church
North Plainfield, N.J. 07063

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

Members & Friends,

Well, it's official: I just had to write the date as "January 2018"! How in the world did 2017 go by so fast? It seems like it was just starting and suddenly, here we are ready to begin a New Year!

This year promises to be busy and exciting. Sometimes exciting looks like scary, but I maintain it will be exciting! We will continue to explore ways in which we can develop our church, grow our spirituality and hopefully reach more people. This may involve trying new things. It may involve failing and having to start over with trying something else that's new. There will be no guarantees beyond God's love.

It has been said that the only two things that are sure in this life are death and taxes. I think that we can add to that the fact that change is certain and we will resist it! Change is threatening; it disrupts the status quo and threatens our comfortable patterns of interaction and our position and power within an organized system (in our case; a church). The very nature of change itself roils our emotions, especially when we are comfortable stakeholders within the system. There is nothing wrong with being a comfortable stakeholder; we have worked hard to make things nice, stable and comfortable! Newton's third law of motion states that for every action there is a reaction. If change is the action, resistance to change is the reaction. It WILL happen and it is a learned behavior. Because of this it is helpful for us to ask ourselves in the face of change and feelings of resistance; what am I feeling? What do I fear? Is there some memory in my life that I am reacting to?

All resistance to change has a single common goal. The goal of resisting change is simply to avoid the painful requirements of change. There are two kinds of painful requirements involved in change; The threats of change AND The demands of change. The threats of change are what we will lose if we change. The demands of change are what it will cost us if we change (change always costs us SOMETHING!) In the 10th chapter of the gospel according to Mark, a rich man asked Jesus what he had to do to gain eternal life. Jesus told the man to sell all he had, give the proceeds to the poor and then come and follow him. The threats of change, what he was going to lose were power, status, personal comfort and security. The demands of change, what it would cost him were time and effort; he would have to organize a sale, run it and then devise a fair system for distributing the proceeds to the poor.

For constructive change to occur, people first have to give up something that is important to them and second submit themselves to a process of letting go. The good news is that if we are committed to constructive change and the best interests of the church, we can get through the difficult process of change together! Let's face it, if we don't do *something* we can't continue to exist and function as a church for very much longer.

On the other side of anxiety and change is growth; personal growth. And personal growth leads to spiritual growth. And spiritual growth opens the path for God's blessings in terms of other, more tangible kinds of growth. And isn't that really what we want? What we need? If so, and I believe it is so, then it stands to reason that constructive change benefits us!

Grace & Peace,
- Pastor Scott

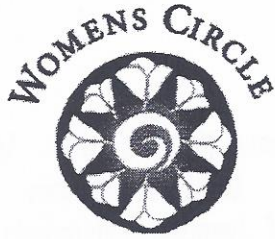
In the month of November Pastor Scott gave the following sermons:

On November 5th our sermon title was "Don't Be Fooled By Appearances" and was based on Micah 3:5-12 and Matthew 23:1-12. In this sermon it was shown that Christianity is a call to service and servanthood, not a means to personal gain or pride. In response we are to seek to be great by serving others.

On November 12th our texts were 1 Thessalonians 4:13-18 and Matthew 25:1-13. In a sermon titled "What Will It Be Like?" we learned that while the Bible is not crystal clear on all of the details on what the resurrection from the dead and life in heaven will be like, it does offer the bold hope that ALL those who are "in Christ" (that is; Christians) – living or dead at the time – will be there on the day when Christ comes again in glory and then we will all dwell together with Him forever. It is hoped that in response we would be encouraged that we will be with our loved ones who have "fallen asleep" or passed away before us and that we will anticipate the celebration of Jesus' return.

On November 19th our sermon was "What's Taking So Long?" Our scripture lessons for this sermon were 1 Thessalonians 5:1-11 and Matthew 25:14-10 which was the familiar parable of the Talents. Someday we will stand before God and have to give an accounting of what we have done with our lives, the gospel and God's world. Because of this we seek to care for that which is God's which has been entrusted to us in such a way that we one day will hear God say; "Well done, good and faithful servant ... enter into the joy of your Master!"

On November 26th our scripture lessons for Christ the King Sunday came from Ezekiel 34:11-16, 20-24 and Matthew 25:31-46 and the sermon title was "Our Responsibility to the Poor". We learned that even in both of those passages God notices the victims (represented by the lean and poor sheep) and identifies with those who suffer and expects God's people to do the same and to work for justice and mercy on their behalf. It is hoped that we will respond to the poor with kindness, mercy and unconditional love because of God's expectations of us in that regard.



BROEK CIRCLE – will meet on Tuesday
January 10 at 1:00 p.m. in the Library Lounge.
Barbara Hildebrant, Hostess

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JACOBA CIRCLE – will meet on Monday,
January 8th in the Library Lounge at 7:30pm.
Tina Wich, Hostess.



January, 2017

- 7. Donna Poston
- 12. Jason Jackson
- 15. Kathy Harris

February Newsletter DEADLINE -

Wednesday, January 17th



Celebrate the New Year!

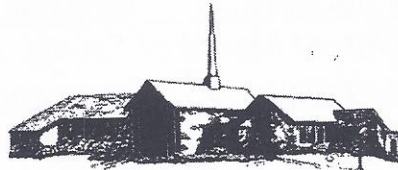
Holy Communion

10:00am January 7, 2018

*Thank
you*

IT TAKES A VILLAGE,
Beautification has endeavored to enhance the
holiday season, be it Christmas or Easter, with
special décor in the Sanctuary and Narthex.
Many people come together to make this
happen. I'd like to recognize them here: Tina
and Gordon Wich, Beth and Joel Kenderdine,
Joan and Jim Beil, Linda Raysick, Leslie
Zarnowski, Marv DeRuyscher, Pastor Scott,
Brad Wadlow and of course Don Z. I'm
thankful for them all.

Deena Z.



ANNUAL CONGREGATIONAL MEETING

Following Worship

Date to be announced

Our Wednesday night Bible Study continues throughout the Winter. We meet on Wednesday evenings beginning at 7:30 p.m. Beginning on January 10th 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 10th: Capernaum: Jesus Binds the Evil One (Filmed on location in Benjamin/Capernaum in Israel.)

Wednesday January 17th: Decapolis: The Other Side – Jesus and the Man from the Tombs (Filmed on location in Susita, Israel.)

Wednesday January 24th: Crucifixion: The Coronation of a King (Filmed in Rome, Italy.)



Wednesday January 31st: Ascension: The King Takes His Throne (Filmed in Khirbet Midras/ Mount of Olives, Israel.)

Wednesday February 7th: Pentecost: God Changed His Address (Filmed in Jerusalem, Israel.)



January

Sun Mon Tue Wed Thu Fri Sat

Every Sunday 10:00 a.m. Worship in Sanctuary	1. Happy New Year!	2. Consistory 7:30pm.	3.	4. Choir Rehearsal 7:30 pm	5.	6.
7.  Communion	8. Jacoba 7:30pm	9. Broek 1:00pm	10. Bible Study 7:30 p.m.	11. Choir Rehearsal 7:30 pm	12.	13.
14.	15.	16.	17. *Newsletter  *Bible Study 7:30 p.m.	18. Choir Rehearsal 7:30 pm	19.	20.
21.	22.	23.	24. Bible Study 7:30 p.m.	25. Choir Rehearsal 7:30 pm	26.	27.
28.	29.	30.	31.			