

TRINITY NEWS

March 2016

Trinity Reformed Church
North Plainfield, N.J. 07063

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

Members & Friends,

March finds us journeying through Lent towards the events of Palm Sunday, Maundy Thursday, Good Friday and eventually Easter Sunday. We know that this is important because we know that Jesus died so that our sins could be forgiven and we could have our relationship with God restored. But Jesus' life was so much more than Holy Week, and there must be a reason for that. And is forgiveness the only thing that Jesus wishes to give to us? I believe that there is more. Consider what Jesus said in the following verse from Matthew 13:15; "For this people's heart has become calloused; they hardly hear with their ears, and they have closed their eyes. Otherwise they might see with their eyes, hear with their ears, understand with their hearts and turn, and I would heal them."

"And I would heal them." That's a far cry from; "And I would forgive them" or "I will give them a place in heaven." That's because Jesus is offering *healing* to us. Consider what He did for the broken people He met in the gospels. What did he do for them? The blind have their sight restored so that it is as sharp as that of a hawk. The deaf are able to hear a pin drop. The lame dance for joy. The diseased skin of lepers is cleansed and made like that of a newborn. The woman with an issue of blood stops hemorrhaging. They were, every last one of them, healed. Everything that Jesus did while He was on this earth was done to illustrate what He was saying; "See this? This is what I am offering to do for you; heal you! Not just your body, but most importantly, your soul. I can heal your heart. I can restore your soul."

If we only understand what Jesus is all about as being to forgive us for our many sins (and He does that too) then we sell ourselves short. We miss out on the most important message of the gospel; that Jesus came so that we might have LIFE and have it ABUNDANTLY.

This Lenten season, my prayer for you is that you would come to know the full healing that Jesus offers us; a healing of our heart, soul and body.

Grace & Peace,

Pastor Scott

In January we had sermons on the following topics;

On January 3rd our sermon was "In The Beginning . . ." with scriptures from Jeremiah 37:7-14, Ephesians 3:1-12 and Matthew 2:1-12. Here we learned that it was God's plan from the beginning of time to heal the divisions that separate us from each other and from God and to unite us all in Christ so that we may live out this reconciliation by sharing with strangers in our streets, at our borders and in all the desperate places in our world.

On January 10th the scripture readings were from Isaiah 43:1-7, Acts 8:14-17 and Luke 3:15-17, 21-22. The sermon title was; "YOU Are the Beloved." We are used to hearing the words; "You are my beloved" as applying to Jesus. Those words can also apply to us as the people of God. In fact, God loved us so much that God was willing to move heaven and earth to get us back when we had gone astray! Such knowledge can reassure us in times of suffering that God loves us and will do anything it takes to save us.

On January 17th our scriptures were from Isaiah 62:1-5, 1 Corinthians 12:1-11 and John 2:1-11. The sermon title was; "Many Gifts, One Spirit". There are a variety of gifts of the Holy Spirit, or *Charismata*, even if we haven't experienced them much if at all in our lives with Christ. And not everyone has the same gift. But the gifts all have the same purpose, and they are not chosen by the one who receives them, but are given by the One Spirit, the Holy Spirit, for one purpose; to build up the Body of Christ which is the church. They are to bind us together as a community, and enable us to carry out our mission to which we have been called on behalf of Jesus.

On January 24th our church service was cancelled due to a snow storm.

On January 31st our lessons were Nehemiah 8:1-3, 5-6, 8-10, 1 Corinthians 12:12-31a and Luke 4:14-21 and our sermon was titled; "Many Parts, One Body". In this sermon given as we celebrated 50 years in our current building with many former ministers and members joining us for worship acknowledged the fact that each of us is a member of the Body of Christ and each other and is vital- that is; we have an important job to do and if we don't do it, all is lost! In response we cheerfully trust in God as we perform our function to carry out the work of the Body of Christ on Earth.



BROEK CIRCLE – will meet on Tuesday, March 8th at 1:00 p.m. at the home of Betty Jane Tingley.

* * * * *

JACOBA CIRCLE – will meet on Monday, March 14th at 7:30pm in the Library Lounge. Hostess, Linda Raysick.

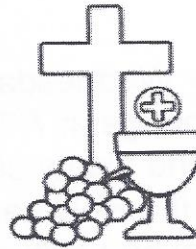
* * * * *

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



Thanks to everyone for all the cards, prayers, and get well wishes following my resent surgery.

Deena



Maundy Thursday- March 24th

Communion- 8:00pm in the Chapel.



March, 2016

- 1. Susan Goss
- 3. Donald Tingley



“In Memoriam”

Doris Hiebeler
at rest, January 28, 2016

APRIL Newsletter DEADLINE -

Wednesday, March 16th.



Starting March 9th, our Wednesday night Bible Study will begin meeting again in the Library Lounge at 7:30 p.m. Once again we will all need our imaginary passports and plenty of imaginary sun screen as we go for another virtual tour of the Holy Land! Each lesson will illuminate the historical, geographical and cultural context of the Bible. Filmed on location in the Middle East this series will transform your understanding of God and challenge you to be a true follower of Jesus.

This study will focus on the life in the early Church. For many Christians in our time, faith in God can sometimes seem to be a cerebral choice. For the early church, it was the difference between life and death. In this study we will discover the passion and commitment early believers displayed as they claimed Jesus in the face of fierce consequences and powerful adversaries.

Wednesday, March 9th: Everything to Lose, Nothing to Gain

Filmed on location at the biblically significant site of Caesarea Philippi.

Wednesday, March 16th: The Salt of the Earth

Filmed on location at Sardis.

Wednesday, March 23rd; No Bible Study (Holy Week)

Wednesday, March 30th; Where Satan Lives

Filmed at Pergamum.

Wednesday, April 6th: The Mark of the Beast






Filmed on location in Ephesus.

Wednesday April 13th; Hot or Cold

Filmed in Laodicea, site of one of the churches mentioned in Revelation.

MARCH

Sun Mon Tue Wed Thu Fri Sat

| | | | | | | |
|--|----------------------------|-----------------------|---|--|--|--|
| Every Sunday 10:00 a.m. Worship in Sanctuary | | 1. | 2. Bible Study 7:30pm | 3. Choir 7:30pm | 4. | 5. |
| 6. Soup pick-up | 7. Consistory 7:30pm | 8. Broek 1:00pm | 9. Bible Study 7:30pm | 10. Choir 7:30pm | 11. | 12. *Daylight Savings Begins Move Clocks Forward |
| 13. *Jacoba Pot Luck Luncheon | 14. Jacoba 7:30pm | 15. | 16. *Newsletter Deadline Bible Study 7:30pm | 17.  Choir 7:30pm | 18. | 19. |
| 20.  | 21. | 22. | 23. Bible Study 7:30pm | 24.  8:00pm | 25.  | 26. |
| 27.  | 28. | 29. | 30. Bible Study 7:30pm | 31. Choir 7:30pm | | |