

TRINITY NEWS

March 2019

Trinity Reformed Church
North Plainfield, N.J. 07063

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

Members & Friends,

1 Corinthians 12:27 states: **“²⁷Now 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!

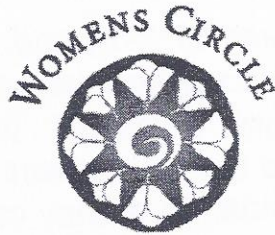
In his book Health Congregations (A Systems Approach) Peter L. Steinke wrote that there are 10 Principles of Health for congregations. (After all, being a Body, just like our physical bodies, churches can be healthy or they can lack health – be at disease if you will!) They are as follows:

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, March 12th at 11:00 a.m. at the home of Joanne Nuber.

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BROEK COOKS will have Chicken Gumbo and Creamy Potato Soups available on March 17th. An order form is on the hall bulletin board.

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JACOBA CIRCLE – will meet on Monday, March 18th at 7:30pm at the home of Deena Zolkiwsky, Hostess

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JACOBA CIRCLE will host a Pot Luck Luncheon on Sunday, March 17th following worship. Check bulletin board for sign-up sheet.



Day Light savings time begins Sunday March 9th.

SET YOUR CLOCKS AHEAD ONE HOUR SATURDAY NIGHT!



APRIL Newsletter DEADLINE - Monday, March 18th.



ASH Wednesday- March 6th

Communion- 8:00 pm in the Chapel.



To My Trinity Family,

Thank you everyone for your prayers, cards, and the lovely flowers. I am getting there slowly but surely. Thanks again.

Love,
Meip



Please make the following change in your Church directory:

Kenderdine, Jennifer
444 N. 4th Street
Unit 403
Philadelphia, PA 19123

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

On January 6th, the scripture lessons were Jeremiah 37:7-14 and John 1:1-18. The sermon was titled "The Beginning". In this sermon we examined how, in Jesus, we have a new beginning; a "do-over" if you will. In sending Jesus into the world to die for our sins, God wiped the slate clean and gave us another chance. New beginnings can be intimidating or they can be exciting; it's up to us and how we choose to respond to such a new beginning. It is hoped that we will embrace the new beginning we have in Christ and the new year that lays before us as exciting and hopeful!



On January 13th our Old Testament lesson was Isaiah 43:1-7 and our Gospel lesson was from Luke 3:15-17, 21-22. In a sermon titled "Valuable in God's Eyes" we learned that we are precious and valuable in God's eyes. As a result may we see ourselves as God's beloved children!

On January 20th our sermon was "Did You Get Any Good Gifts?" This was based on 1 Corinthians 12:1-11 and John 2:1-11. In this sermon it was shown that the Holy Spirit gives each of us particular gifts that are to be used in service to the Body of Christ which is the Church. In response to this we are encouraged and urged to use our gifts.

On January 27th the Epistle lesson for the sermon "We Need Each Other" was from 1 Corinthians 12:12-31a and the Gospel lesson was Luke 4:14-21. In this sermon it was affirmed that in our church, we need each other! None of us can be a church or THE Church alone! In response to this realization, we seek to collaborate, to work together and to treat everyone equally and as important to our continued existence.

MARCH

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.  ASH WEDNESDAY Communion Service 8:00pm	7. Choir Rehearsal 7:30 pm	8.	9.  Set clock FORWARD 1 hour	
10.	11.	12. Broek 11:00am	13. Bible Study 7:30pm	14. Choir Rehearsal 7:30 pm	15.	16.	
17. *Soup Pick-up *Jacoba Pot Luck Luncheon	18. *Newsletter Deadline *Jacoba 7:30pm	19.	20. Welcome Spring *Bible Study 7:30pm	21. Choir Rehearsal 7:30 pm	22.	23.	
25.	25.	26.	27. Bible Study 7:30pm	28. Choir Rehearsal 7:30 pm	30.	31.	