

TRINITY NEWS

May 2017

Trinity Reformed Church
North Plainfield, N.J. 07063

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

Members & Friends,

There is an old saying that "April showers bring May flowers." What the saying leaves out is that it isn't just the showers of April that are needed for those flowers of May and beyond to thrive! This is the time of year when I spend time in the gardens around our house with a cultivator, breaking up the soil and pulling the weeds that have grown since the end of last Summer. If there's one thing that grows really, really well in my flower beds, it's weeds! Them and rocks!

I'll break my back now pulling these weeds and discarding these rocks and I wonder why. After all in a few weeks guess what I will have to do again! And putting down a cloth weed barrier didn't help (now I have to pull that up and throw it away too), and the mulch and Preen that I put down, if it helped – I'd hate to see what things would have looked like without it!

And yet, for all my hard work, I know that I don't make the flowers grow. I am powerless to do that; only God can do that. I can do my part to give those flowers the best shot at growing – I can prepare the soil, I can pull the weeds, but without God, nothing happens.

The church is kind of like a garden. I have to admit that I am clueless and powerless to make a church grow. All I can really do is be faithful in doing what I can; in doing all I can to prepare the soil, to prepare the people and the next generations if they do come, to receive the Word of the Lord. But the growth, that's up to God.

In the coming months, we hope to work with a group from our Classis to try to identify some strategies for growth. And while it is true that WE can't do anything to make our church grow; we CAN prepare the way. And the opposite is true as well; we can refuse to do what we can, we can sabotage the process. I pray that we are open to trying new things and growing!

Who knows, maybe by this time next year the April showers will bring us a new Sunday School! We can always dream!

Grace & Peace,

- Pastor Scott

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

On March 5th our sermon was "The Day It All Went Wrong" with scriptures from Genesis 2:15-17; 3:1-7, Romans 5:12-19 and Matthew 4:1-11. In this sermon we examine how when humans chose knowledge and power over obedience to God, the creation was plunged into a condition of being broken (we call this Sin) that only Christ could fix. The sacrifice Jesus made on the cross enables all of us to receive the gift of God's grace in Jesus Christ.

On March 12th we built on the previous week's sermon about the day it all went wrong with this Sunday's sermon; "God's Plan to Make It Right." God's plan to deal with the effects of human sin was to send the Son into the world to fulfill righteousness and die in the place of any who will receive this gift through faith. We can trust in Jesus as God's agent for dealing with sin.

On March 19th our scripture readings were from Exodus 17:1-7 and Romans 5:1-11 and the sermon title was "Is God With Us or Not?" This, of course was the question the Israelites asked at Massah and Meribah in the desert. Here we learned that in times of pain we each have a crucial choice to make; either we seize such times as opportunities to demonstrate our trust in and obedience to God even when the outcome is unknown and risky, OR we choose to obstinately insist on pursuing life the way we want it to be. Hopefully we seize each crisis we face as opportunities to demonstrate our trust and obedience in and to God so that the world may know that there truly is a God, and that God is the One we worship.

On March 26th our scripture lessons came from 1 Samuel 16:1-13 and John 9:1-41. The sermon title was "Blinded by The Right." There we saw that the Pharisees who insisted that they knew everything already were blinded by their "rightness" while the man who was born blind that Jesus healed, even though physically blind was able to perceive who Jesus was. The lesson for us is that we can easily be blinded by the belief in our own "rightness". Rather than having that happen we seek to be open to seeing God at work in unexpected people and situations through the fruit that is being borne for the Kingdom of God.



BROEK CIRCLE – will meet on Tuesday
May 9th at 12:00 p.m., in the Library Lounge.
Pat Ledger hostess.

Broek Cooks will have Chicken Florentine
soup available for pick up on Sunday, May
14th. An order form is in on the hall bulletin
board.

JACOBA CIRCLE – will meet on Monday,
May 8th at 7:30pm in the Library.



May, 2017

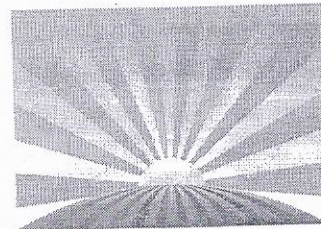
- 12. Betty Lederer
- 18. John Kormendy
- 21. Ginger Smellie
- 24. Marian Dietrick



“IN MEMORIAM”

Barbara Smith

at rest, April 7, 2017



SUMMER WORSHIP

Begin on June 4, 2017 in Broek Chapel
at 10:00 a.m. and continues through the month
of September.

SUMMER Newsletter DEADLINE -
Wednesday, May 17th.



The following is the schedule for our upcoming Bible Studies into the month of May.

Our Wednesday night Bible Study meets in the Library Lounge at 7:30 p.m. This study is called The Path to the Cross, (Embracing Obedience and Sacrifice). 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 living out the petition found in The Lord's Prayer; "Thy kingdom come. Thy will be done." God's story continues with the intense devotion of God's people. Discover how their passionate faith prepares the way for Jesus and His ultimate act of obedience and sacrifice at the cross. Come and be challenged in your own life to live as they did – by every word that comes from the mouth of God!

Wednesday May 3rd: The Last Passover

Filmed in Jerusalem. The Last Supper – celebrated on Passover and as a Passover Seder (meal) – and Jesus' subsequent crucifixion and resurrection three days later are the culminating acts of the ministry of Jesus as the Messiah. Although it is seldom commemorated in the context of Passover, the "Lord's Supper" finds its richest and most profound meaning when viewed as the completion of the redemptive process God began when God delivered the Israelites from slavery in Egypt. Focus text: 1 Corinthians 5:7

Wednesday May 10th: The Fifth Cup: Our Way of Hope

Filmed on location at Gethsemane. A traditional Jewish Passover meal – called a Seder – features the drinking of four cups of wine, one to symbolize each of the promises God made in Exodus 6:6-7 ("I will free you, I will redeem you, I will take you as my people, I will be your God"). To these Jesus added a fifth cup; the cup of God's fury over sin! The wine of God's anger that would otherwise be "poured out" on sinners would be poured out on Jesus instead. The cup of God's fury against sin was given not to sinful nations, or to brutal Roman overlords, or to scheming religious leaders as we might expect; it was given to Jesus. The cup over which He agonized as He prayed in Gethsemane was His and His alone to drink. And alone on the cross He drained every last drop! He willingly "poured out His life unto death" (Isaiah 53:12) so that God could pour out God's love on everyone who receives Jesus as Lord and Savior. Focus text: Luke 22:37



Sun

Mon




Tue

Wed

Thu

Fri

Sat

Every Sunday 10:00 a.m. Worship in the Sanctuary	1. Consistory 7:30 pm	2.	3. Bible Study 7:30 pm	4. Choir 7:30 pm	5.	6.
7.	8. Jacoba 7:30pm	9. Broek 12:00pm	10. Bible Study 7:30 pm	11. Choir 7:30 pm	12.	13.
14.  Soup pick- up	15.	16.	17. Newsletter 	18. Choir 7:30 pm	19.	20.
21.	22.	23.	24.	25. Choir 7:30 pm	26.	27.
28.	29.  Memorial Day	30.	31.			