

# TRINITY NEWS

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May 2018

Trinity Reformed Church  
North Plainfield, N.J. 07063

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

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Members & Friends,

**“When the day of Pentecost had come, they were all together in one place. <sup>2</sup>And suddenly from heaven there came a sound like the rush of a violent wind, and it filled the entire house where they were sitting. <sup>3</sup>Divided tongues, as of fire, appeared among them, and a tongue rested on each of them. <sup>4</sup>All of them were filled with the Holy Spirit and began to speak in other languages, as the Spirit gave them ability.” – Acts 2:1-4 NRSV**

On May 20<sup>th</sup> we observe the Holy Day of Pentecost. For us it marks the coming of the Holy Spirit 50 days after the resurrection of Jesus from the dead. But Pentecost was a holy day long before that. It was originally a Jewish holiday that marked the giving of the Law of God at Mt. Sinai 50 days after the celebration of the Passover.

When God gave the Law to Moses, God not only gave the 10 Commandments, but also instructions on how to build the Tabernacle; the Tent of Meeting where God would reside in the midst of the Chosen People and later the Temple in Jerusalem. As a sign of God's presence, when the Tabernacle was finished, in Leviticus 9:24 when all the sacrifices to God were laid on the altar outside of the Tabernacle, fire from God came out from the Most Holy Place and lit the altar and consumed the sacrifice! This was seen as confirming that God's presence was, in fact, now enthroned above the Cherubim in the Tabernacle. From that time on, everywhere that the people went, God went. When Solomon finally built the Temple in Jerusalem a similar thing happened at the dedication there; fire from God in heaven came down and consumed the sacrifice and the presence of the Lord filled the Temple.

Whenever God changes God's address, the symbol of where God's presence is to be found is fire! And so on Pentecost God sends the Holy Spirit and tongues, as of fire, appeared and rested on each of the followers of Jesus. This tells us that God has changed God's address; no longer must one go to Jerusalem to have an encounter with the Transcendent; the Church, the people of God, Christians are now the Temple; because the Holy Spirit resides in us, we bring God out into the world where ever we go!

If things happen, as they always do, that cause people to ask; “Where is God?” then the appropriate answer for us as Jesus' followers is; “Right here!” Then we act to bring the presence of God to bear on that situation. When the members of the church act in such a way that the world around us knows that we are Christians by our love (and remember, God IS love) then we fulfill the mission given to us at Pentecost.

Grace & Peace,  
Pastor Scott



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

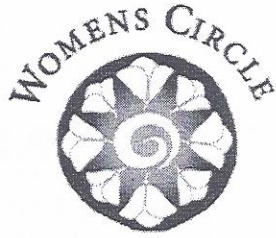
On March 4<sup>th</sup> our Bible texts were 1 Corinthians 1:18-25 and John 2:13-22 and our sermon title was "How Can You Do That?" This sermon showed that the temple Jesus said He would raise three days after it was destroyed was His own body. Jesus' could claim that by raising His body the destroyed temple would be raised because Jesus Himself is the very presence of God; the very definition of a temple! As a result of this sermon it is hoped that the church will realize that one looks for God, expects to find God and has an encounter with God within the Body of Christ which is the Church itself!

On March 11<sup>th</sup> our scriptures were from Exodus 20:1-17 and John 2:13-22 with the sermon "What Really Ticked Jesus?" In this sermon we learned that of all the sins that could violate the ten commandments, the one that seemed to bother Jesus the most might surprise us: coveting! To covet is to wanting to make someone else's possession yours without regard to their rights and well-being. By taking worship space away from Gentile followers of the Jewish God, those in the Temple were controlling access to God and taking it away from the least powerful among them, to whom it rightfully belonged! Our Christian faith compels us to challenge civil authorities and the status quo along with secular laws when they compromise obedience to God by breaking the commandment prohibiting coveting: taking what is someone else's and making it one's own.

On March 18<sup>th</sup> with texts from Jeremiah 31:27-34 and John 12:20-33, our sermon title was "A New Covenant". God promised a new covenant to replace the covenant that God made with God's people Israel at Mt. Sinai. This new covenant would be based on love and forgiveness rather than obedience and threats of punishment. Jesus is the fulfillment of this new covenant under which we live.

On March 25<sup>th</sup> our texts for Palm Sunday were very familiar: Psalm 118 was our Psalter and our Gospel lesson came from John 12:12-16. The title of the sermon was simply; "The King!" The crowds cheered Jesus as He entered Jerusalem but would only accept Him as king on their terms. Sometimes we act the same way they did when we will only accept Him on our terms – laying our expectations on Him. A better way is for us to accept Jesus as King on HIS terms; with a spiritual kingdom founded on love and forgiveness.

Maundy Thursday was on March 29<sup>th</sup> and our scriptures were from Exodus 12:1-14; 1 Corinthians 11:23-26 and John 13:1-17, 31b-35. It is not by our theological correctness, or moral purity, or our impressive knowledge that everyone will know we are Jesus' disciples, but by our loving acts of service and sacrifice which reflect God's love for the world made known to us in Jesus Christ. Therefore, we seek to love each other with acts of selfless service and sacrifice.



BROEK CIRCLE – will meet on Wednesday  
May 9th at 11:00 a.m. in the home of Joanne  
Number. Meip Devries, hostess

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Broek Cooks will have Chicken Florentine  
soup available May 13th. An order form is in  
on the hall bulletin board.

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JACOBA CIRCLE – will meet on Monday,  
May 14th at 7:30pm in the Library Lounge.  
Leslie Zarnowski hostess.

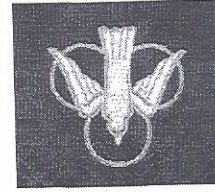
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Happy Birthday!



May, 2018

- 12. Betty Lederer
- 21. Ginger Smellie
- 24. Marian Dietrick



PENTECOST SUNDAY

May 20, 2018 – Communion 10 am

CELEBRATE THE HOLY SPIRIT

“Come, Holy Spirit, heavenly Dove,  
With all Thy quickening powers;  
Kindle a flame of sacred love in these cold  
hearts of ours.”

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Please make the following change in your  
Church directory:

STRUCK, Raymond  
63 W. End Ave Rm8  
Somerville, NJ 08876-1828

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SUMMER Newsletter DEADLINE -

Monday, May 21st.





M- is for the million things she gave  
me

O- means only that she is growing old

T- if for the tear she shed to save me

H- is for her heart of purist gold

E- is for her eyes with love light  
shining

R- is right and right she will always be

Put them all together they spell  
MOTHER a word that means the  
world to me!





Sun                      Mon                      Tue                      Wed                      Thu                      Fri                      Sat

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