

TRINITY NEWS

May 2016

Trinity Reformed Church
North Plainfield, N.J. 07063

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

Members & Friends,

I enjoy science. Science is often a list of propositions and a series of universal laws and mathematical proofs. As enjoyable as I find science and as much as I try to share that love with my son and other young people, there is a foundational truth I must always be aware of: life is not a series of propositions and proofs, it is a series of dramatic scenes. We live in narrative; our lives have a beginning, middle and end, our very existence has a story, a plot and characters. Our hearts speak not in facts or propositions, but in the images and emotions of story. That is why narrative is so powerful. Consider your enthusiasm for studying a textbook with the opportunity to go to a movie, read a novel or listen to someone tell a story and you'll see this at work!

Stories have another thing in common; an author. For us the Author of our story is God. The post-modern age has tried to do something strange; we have dismissed the notion that there is an Author; all that is needed is bare science, not God. And then, in the absence of the larger story that God is telling, we wonder why life can no longer make sense. Without the Author, there is no Larger Story into which we live. With no Larger Story all we are left with is our own smaller stories; as a result, nothing hangs together and makes sense, all we are left with are bits and pieces, random events that fill our days. Tragedy still brings tears to our eyes and heroism still lifts our hearts, but what we have lost is the context for any of it. Life is reduced to a sequence of images and emotions without rhyme or reason, without a plot or direction.

Most people respond to this absence of a Larger Story by creating our own story in an attempt to bring meaning to our experiences. Our heart was made to live in a Larger Story; the Story that God is telling in which God is the main character. Having lost that we do the best we can by developing our own smaller dramas that star us. And we make a mess of things.

There is a better option. To see life, not as a series of disjointed events and senseless suffering; but as a narrative. To see our role as a small one in comparison to the Larger Story that God is telling that serves as the context for our own. Only then will our hearts; longing to live in that Larger Story be satisfied! You can read about the Larger Story in a book; The Bible!

Grace & Peace,

- Pastor Scott

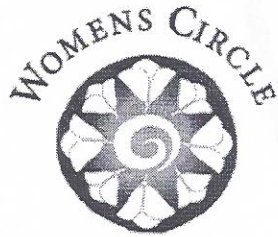
In March we had sermons on the following topics;

On March 6th our sermon was "Celebrating New Beginnings" with scriptures from Joshua 5:9-12, 2 Corinthians 5:16-21 and Luke 15:1-3, 11-32. In this sermon it was shown that the lavish forgiveness God extends to us initiates a new relationship with God – a friendship with God. It is hoped that in response we will celebrate the new beginning we have in Christ.

On March 13th the scripture readings were from Isaiah 43:16-21, Philippians 3:4-14 and John 12:1-8. The sermon title was; "Totally Worth It!" From this sermon we learned that whatever we give up or suffer in this life for following Jesus it is totally worth the hope, life and grace that we gain from being His disciples.

On March 20th our scripture lesson was Luke 19:28-41. Our sermon for Palm Sunday was "Why Did Jesus Weep?" We tend to think of Palm Sunday as a joyful occasion of a Triumphant Entry into Jerusalem. Yet if we read the text, while all the palm branch waving and shouting of "Hosanna!" was going on, Jesus is weeping. Why? We only read of Jesus crying twice in the Bible and both occur within the last week of His life and just outside of Jerusalem. The first time was in Bethany when He was told that His friend Lazarus has died and He saw the grief and pain of His friends. The Greek word for weep used in that story was to cry silently. The other time is here and the word for weep used here was the word for wailing out loud. He wailed because He foresaw the pain and suffering about to come upon Jerusalem as a result of their rejection of Him; the Roman destruction of that city in 70 A.D. I believe that Jesus cries for all of us. If you know Jesus, if you are His friend, He silently cries sympathetic tears when you suffer because He cares for you. If you don't know Jesus, He wails and mourns because He knows what awaits those who die without their sins forgiven by His grace. Why does Jesus weep for you?

On March 27th our lessons were Isaiah 65:17-25, Acts 10:34-43 and John 20:1-18 and our Easter sermon was titled; "The Final Three-fold Exchange". The disciples never understood when Jesus told them that He had to die and would rise again on the third day. On the morning of Easter, when the disciples went to the tomb, they found the stone rolled away and the tomb empty. The stone was NOT rolled away to let Jesus out of the tomb (later He will pass through walls to join the disciples in the upper room), but so the disciples could see inside, see the empty tomb as proof that He was who He claimed to be! We, in response, are called to see, believe and become "empty tombs" to the world, so that others may look at our lives, our behavior, our love and see evidence that Jesus is our Savior, that He is alive and living in our hearts!

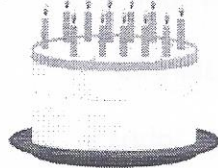


BROEK CIRCLE – will meet on Tuesday
May 10 at 1:00 p.m. at the home of Betty Jane
Tingley, hostess.

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JACOBA CIRCLE – will meet on Monday,
May 9 at 7:30pm in the Library Lounge. Leslie
Zarnowski hostess.

Happy Birthday!



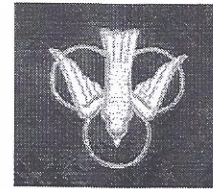
May, 2016

12. Betty Lederer

18. John Kormendy

21. Ginger Smellie

24. Marian Dietrick



PENTECOST SUNDAY

May 15, 2016 – 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.”

SUMMER Newsletter DEADLINE -

Sunday, May 15th.





HOW TO USE THE BIBLE

When in sorrow – read John 14

When people fail you – read Psalm 27

When you have sinned – read Psalm 51

When you worry – read Matthew 6:25-34

Before the church service – read Psalm 84

When you are in danger – read Psalm 91

For the blues – read Psalm 34

When God seems distant – read Psalm 139

When discouraged – read Isaiah 40

If you want to be fruitful – read John 15

When doubts come – read John 7:17

When lonely or fearful – read Psalm 23

When you forget your blessings – read Psalm 103

For Jesus' idea of a Christian – read Matthew 5

For the Bible's idea of religion – read James 1:19-27





If faith needs stirring – read Hebrews 11

When you feel down and out – read Romans 8:31-39

When the world seems bigger than God – read Psalm 90



Sun Mon Tue Wed Thu Fri Sat

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