

# TRINITY NEWS

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November 2015

Trinity Reformed Church  
North Plainfield, N.J. 07063

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

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Members & Friends,

In my opinion meetings are a necessary evil; something to be endured rather than looked forward to with enthusiasm. It's a rare thing when a Classis meeting is enjoyable and memorable for a person like me. That's why it is so unique that I have been carrying something from that meeting around with me all month.

Our worship time as a Classis centered around Exodus 22:21-24 and Deuteronomy 24:17 – 22 as well as Acts 2:44 – 47. From these verses we learn about God's concern for certain members of any society and what God expects the Church to be doing for them.

Exodus 22:21 – 24 reads as follows: <sup>21</sup> You shall not wrong or oppress a resident alien, for you were aliens in the land of Egypt. <sup>22</sup> You shall not abuse any widow or orphan. <sup>23</sup> If you do abuse them, when they cry out to me, I will surely heed their cry; <sup>24</sup> my wrath will burn, and I will kill you with the sword, and your wives shall become widows and your children orphans." This passage from Exodus happens shortly after the delivery of the Israelites from Egypt; they have followed Moses out into the desert, have crossed the Red Sea in a miraculous way, have grumbled and received water, manna and quail in miraculous ways and then they come up to Mount Sinai where God gives them the law. First they receive the 10 commandments and we all think that we know what happens next thanks to Charlton Heston; the golden calf incident. However, it will be several chapters before that happens! In the meantime God begins to communicate instructions for how the Israelites are to live as God's people. And pretty early on in all of that we have these instructions protecting alien people in their midst as well as widows and orphans who would have been perceived as the most "at risk" members of their society for poverty.

Then there is Deuteronomy 24:17 – 22 in which God commanded that no one was to deprive a resident alien or orphan of justice or to take a widow's coat in pledge for money borrowed. Neither were the people to harvest the edges of their fields, go back a second time to harvest grapes that weren't ripe in their vineyards, strip all the olives off of their olive trees or even go back into a field for a sheaf of wheat left behind; these were to be left for the alien, the orphan and the widow. This was a kind of early "welfare" to make sure that those people had enough to eat!

And in Acts 2:44 – 47 as soon as the Holy Spirit descended on the Church at Pentecost we read that the believers would spend their time worshipping, learning, fellowshiping and praying and that if anyone (it doesn't say only church people but anyone) was in need the believers would give to anyone in need! As a result God added to their number daily those who were being saved!

I saw an interesting meme on Facebook (for those of you who are unfamiliar with Facebook, a meme is one of those little pictures with sayings on it that spread like wildfire) featuring former President Jimmy Carter who is well known for his humanitarian efforts and Christian faith. It is a quote of his and what's interesting is that Jimmy Carter is the most humble person I can think of! He said; "If you don't want your tax money going to the poor than you'll have to stop saying that you want a Christian nation because you don't." Given God's concern for and insistence that God takes up the cause of the poor and oppressed, the widow, the orphan and the alien, I think he has a point!

So, how ought we as Christians respond to the crises of homelessness, food scarcity and undocumented aliens? What will happen if we tear families apart and build walls rather than share what we have with others in need? What MIGHT happen if we championed their cause and worked to see that their needs were met?

It's something to think about!

Grace & Peace,  
- Pastor Scott

"Soli Deo Gloria"

To the People of Trinity Reformed Church, Greetings! It is an honor and a privilege to accept your call to lead the Music Ministry.

Before our first rehearsal I sent these words to our choir members:

"Soli Deo Gloria" (Glory to God Alone) is a motto describing how we share our life together in the Ministry of Music as we begin a new partnership in worship at Trinity Reformed Church.

The letters SDG were the first marks the great Reformation Organist-Composer J. S. Bach inscribed at the top each score before writing the notes. You'll find seven of his harmonizations in The Hymnbook.

Carrying these thoughts further are words of my friend Benjamin Hutto, who died last month. They appeared in his Washington Post obituary. Most recently Ben served both Organist and Choirmaster at St. John's Church Lafayette Square in Washington, and Director of Choral Music at both National Cathedral School (girls) and St. Alban's School (boys) at Washington National Cathedral.

"Music is, I believe, one of the church's great missionary opportunities. In its transmission, it has meaning for the faithful, for the faithless, and for those who have lost their faith. It is a mission whose spirit can be expressed in the home, by the family singing Christmas carols, or in the most magnificent ecclesiastical structure, by a highly trained choir. It knows no social, intellectual, or sectarian barriers. It expresses our loftiest ideals, our deepest emotions. It is one of the gifts of God which reminds us that we are above the other creatures of earth, but lower than angels."

Solo Dei Gloria,  
John W. Van Sant



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**SAVE THE DATE!**

**January 24, 2016**

**A 50<sup>th</sup> Anniversary Celebration  
of Trinity in North Plainfield.**

**Luncheon - more details later.**



BROEK CIRCLE – will meet on Tuesday  
November 10th at 1:00 p.m. at the home of  
Betty Jane Tingley, Hostess Pat Ledger.

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JACOBA CIRCLE – will meet on Monday,  
November 9th at 7:30pm in the Library  
Lounge.

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November, 2015

3. Emil Habeeb

11. D.J. Coppola

17. Tina Wich

20. Barbara Smith

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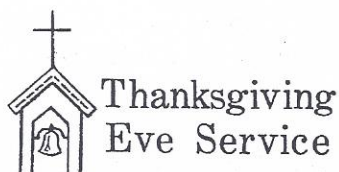
December, Newsletter Deadline

Sunday, November 15th



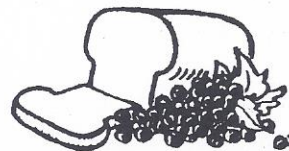
Veterans Day Service November 8<sup>th</sup> at 2:00pm  
Refreshments to follow

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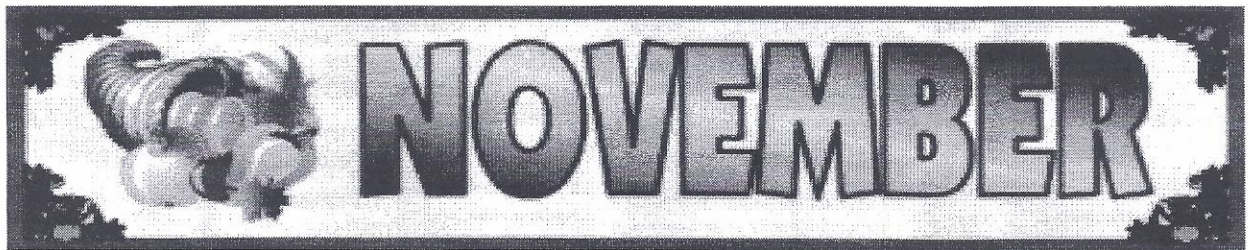
Ecumenical Thanksgiving Service  
Tuesday, November 24<sup>th</sup> at 7:30pm.

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Communion, November 29<sup>th</sup> at 10:00 am.  
First Sunday of Advent.

Let us celebrate Christ's coming –  
His presence and His words of hope.



# NOVEMBER

Sun                      Mon                      Tue                      Wed                      Thu                      Fri                      Sat

1.	2. Consistory 7:30 pm	3. 	4.	5. Choir 7:30 pm	6.	7.
8. Elders Meeting 11am  Veterans Day Service 2pm	9. Jacoba Circle 7:30pm	10. Broek Circle 1:00pm	11.  Bible Study 7:00 pm	12. Choir 7:30 pm	13.	14.
15. Newsletter 	16.	17.	18. Bible Study 7:00 pm	19. Choir 7:30 pm	20.	21.
22.	23.	24. Ecumenical Thanksgiving Service 7:30	25.	26. 	27.	28.
29. First Sunday in Advent 	30.					Every Sunday 10:00 a.m. Worship in Sanctuary