

# TRINITY NEWS

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September 2017

Trinity Reformed Church  
North Plainfield, N.J. 07063

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

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Members & Friends,

Where has the Summer gone? I can't believe that I'm writing the Pastor's Letter for the first Newsletter of a new program year already! They say that time flies when you're having fun. I must have had a ball this Summer!

Now it is time to begin looking forward into a new year of church activities. Labor Day will be September 4<sup>th</sup> and with it the tourist season comes to an end and my commute gets easier. October 1<sup>st</sup> will be World Communion Sunday and we will move out of the Broek Chapel and back into the Sanctuary for the Fall, Winter and Spring. On that day we will also have our annual joint Communion service with our daughter church, Agape House. Saturday November 11<sup>th</sup> will be Veteran's Day and if things go as planned Sunday November 12<sup>th</sup> we will host our annual celebration of our Veterans at 2 p.m. Thursday November 23<sup>rd</sup> will be Thanksgiving Day and we will have an ecumenical service in the chapel earlier in the week (to be determined by the Worship Committee). That brings us to the Advent Season with December 3<sup>rd</sup> being the First Sunday in Advent. This year the Fourth Sunday in Advent IS Christmas Eve and Christmas is on a Monday.

Can you believe that we are thinking about Christmas already?

This year we will start to look toward the future. With the Classis' help, we will begin to explore things we might do in order to grow as a congregation. This promises to be a challenging and exciting time for us!

Someone once said; "Dream big; God does!" When it comes to Trinity Reformed Church, what is YOUR dream?

Grace & Peace,

- Pastor Scott



BROEK CIRCLE – will meet on Tuesday  
September 12th at 12:00p.m. in the Library  
Lounge.

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JACOBA CIRCLE – will meet on Sunday,  
September 10th after church. Hostess Joan  
Beil. Followed by a lunch locally.

Also ladies, as we prepare for Seaman’s trip in  
October, supplies needed are toiletries and bags  
of candy!

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**WANTED: CHOIR MEMBERS**

POSITION OPEN: Sopranos, Altos, Tenors,  
and Bases.

AGE LIMIT: Teenager to adult. No one is ever  
to old!

BEGINNING WAGES: Guaranteed satisfaction  
an joy in the service of the Lord and his church.

FRINGE BENEFITS: Reserved seating.

EXPERIENCE: Applications accepted only  
from person who have sung, hummed, or  
whistled while they worked at some time in  
their life.

ADVANCEMENT OPPORTUNITES: Your  
experience might qualify you for and audition  
with “The Heavenly Church!”

RETIREMENT: As long as they voice is able  
and the spirit is willing, there is no mandatory  
retirement.

HOURS: Every Thursday- 7:30p.m.  
Sunday Worship - 9:30a.m.



*In Memoriam*

Betty Jane Tingley  
at rest  
July 5, 2017

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Celebrate with the rest of the world on World  
Wide Communion Sunday  
October 1, 2017  
At 10:00 am in the Sanctuary

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*Happy Birthday!*



September, 2017

- 13. Gordon Wich
- 18. Joel Kenderdine

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October, Newsletter Deadline,  
Friday, September 15th.







Our Wednesday night Bible Study will be starting up again on Wednesday September 6<sup>th</sup> after having taken off for the Summer. We will meet in the Library Lounge at 7:30 p.m. This study is called Walking with God in the Desert, (Experiencing Living Water When Life Is Tough). Are you going through a difficult period of life? The loss of a loved one? Unemployment? A crisis of faith? During these desert times, it's easy to think God has disappeared. Instead, discover that it's only when we are totally dependent on God that we find God to be closer than ever and we can experience God's amazing grace and provision for us! 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.

Wednesday September 6<sup>th</sup>: Join the Journey

Wednesday September 13<sup>th</sup>: It's Hot Here and There's No Way Out

Wednesday September 20<sup>th</sup>: Help Is Here

Wednesday September 27<sup>th</sup>: When Your Heart Cries Out

Wednesday October 4<sup>th</sup>: Ears to Hear

Wednesday October 11<sup>th</sup>: There's Hope in the Desert

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#### SERMONS IN JUNE AND JULY.

We began the month of June on June 4<sup>th</sup> with scriptures from 1 Corinthians 12:3-13, Acts 2:1-21 and John 20:19-23. Our sermon title was "One Spirit, One Mission". It was shown through these scriptures that to each Christian the Holy Spirit gives a gift; an ability to be used for the common good of the Church, the building up of the Body of Christ – proclaiming the Good News that all who call upon the name of the Lord have salvation. We respond to God's Word by working together to build up the Church and spread the message of the Gospel.

On June 11<sup>th</sup> our sermon was "A Trail of Bread Crumbs" based on Genesis 1:1-2; 4a, 2 Corinthians 13:11-13 and Matthew 28:16-20. We learned from these lessons that although one will never find the word "Trinity" anywhere in the Bible, God IS revealed there as Father, Son and Holy Spirit and ONLY as Father, Son and Holy Spirit. This helps us to understand the nature of God as one God eternally existing in Three distinct Persons.

On June 18<sup>th</sup> our lessons were from Romans 5:1-8 and Matthew 9:35 – 10:23. Our sermon had the unlikely title "Jesus the Homewrecker!" By examining these Scriptures, it was shown that, rather than reinforcing the status-quo, Christianity has ALWAYS been



a subversive force since its beginning. With this in mind, we do well not to be tricked into maintaining the status-quo in the name of “Christian family values”.

On June 25<sup>th</sup> our sermon was “Like the Master” based on Jeremiah 20:7-13 and Matthew 10:24-39. Jesus told His followers that no student is better than his or her teacher or master. He said that it is enough for the student to be LIKE the master. That is our goal as Christians; to be like our master, Jesus.

We moved in the month of July on the 2<sup>nd</sup> with lessons from Jeremiah 28:5-9 and Matthew 10:40-42. There we learned that the mark of a true prophet is two-fold; first that his or her prophecies are in keeping with those of earlier true prophets AND secondly, for those who prophesy prosperity, their prophecies come true. With these two marks in mind, we can discern true prophets from false ones.

On July 9<sup>th</sup> our sermon was “Prisoners of Hope” based on Zechariah 9:9-12 and Matthew 11:16-19, 25-30. We learned that the hope holding Zion’s (Israel’s/Jerusalem’s) inhabitants prisoner was the ancient militarist hopes of Zionist Theology which maintained that God’s presence kept Jerusalem (and her king) safe from enemies regardless of their actions and faithfulness. Having learned this, we seek to live out a resurrection faith by breaking free from our prisons of old expectations and adopt as the new basis for our hope the fact that God comes to rescue us spiritually NOT militarily or politically. The fact that we are declared righteous and therefore victorious leaves us humbled.




On July 16<sup>th</sup> our Bible texts were from Isaiah 55:10-13 and Matthew 13:1-9, 18-23 and our sermon was titled “Soil Samples”. Here we learned that Jesus’ approach to mission is at odds with our “play it safe” instincts (in which we only sow the seeds of the word where we are confident that it will be well-received, to those we can be fairly confident will become contributing members, holding tightly to resources in the name of stewardship and stifling creativity and eagerness for mission, resisting new ideas for fear those ideas might not work and seeking to avoid mistakes and failure at all costs. Instead, if we follow Jesus’ example and His approach, we will extravagantly sow the gospel even in perilous places trusting Jesus’ promises to be with us to the end of the world and that the end result will be an abundant harvest! In other words; if we want to call ourselves Jesus’ disciples we need to stop saying “we can’t”!

On July 23<sup>rd</sup> our sermon was “Is That a Weed?” It was based on Isaiah 44:6-8 and Matthew 13:24-30, 36-43. Here we learned that it is not our job to go around pulling weeds out of the garden of the Christ’s Body, the Church because we can’t tell the difference between weeds and wheat. Instead we leave that task up to God. Heaven forbid that we should accidentally pull and destroy as a weed, someone God sees as wheat!

We ended the month on July 30<sup>th</sup> with the sermon “IF God Is for Us” based on 1 Kings 3:5-12 and Romans 8:26-39. In this sermon it was shown that because God is for us, nothing can separate us from the love of God in Christ Jesus our Lord. We can be secure in the knowledge that God stands in solidarity with us even in the midst of suffering and that NOTHING can separate us from God’s fierce, compassionate love.

# SEPTEMBER

Sun                  Mon                  Tue                  Wed                  Thu                  Fri                  Sat

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