

# TRINITY NEWS

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MAY 2009

Trinity Reformed Church  
North Plainfield, N.J. 07063

Rev. David M. Taylor, Pastor  
Ginger Smellie, Editor

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A new term appeared in our worship together on Maundy Thursday evening. I first read of this approach to the Bible some years ago in an article in *Biblical Archaeology Review*. This periodical is published 6 times a year, and reports on the archaeological efforts in Israel and many surrounding areas. One recent effort took place in modern day Turkey. The magazine is extremely interesting. It can also contain some ferocious arguments with the often perceived opposition, the Israeli Antiquities Authority (IAA). Still simmering and occasionally boiling over is the controversy over the authenticity of the "James Ossuary". You may recall the stone box which was found with an inscription, "James, brother of Jesus". It was alternately felt to be a fraud and authentic, depending on which expert you consulted. As I remember it was ultimately held to be a counterfeit.

A beautiful discovery just two years ago came to light when the city sewerage authority was replacing an old pipe. Some one hundred feet from where everyone thought, they unearthed the Pool of Siloam. The beautiful mosaics and tiles clearly indicated the wonderfully preserved find. Its existence is recorded in the restoration of sight to the man born blind. [John 9:7]

In scientific parlance these finds, mentioned in the Bible but unknown to archaeology, lead some to hold a "maximum opinion" of the reliability of the scriptures. Having experienced a *spiritual* encounter with the Christ of the Bible, I thus hold a "maximalist" opinion. I feel that most of the stories in scripture occurred as stated. Others may hold a "minimalist opinion". These feel that the Bible is a human construction, prone to errors and misunderstandings. Little which is related actually occurred. The purpose of writing is to teach a spiritual lesson to the people of God. An example is the Exodus. Yes there is evidence that the Jewish people lived in Egypt. They surely left, but there is no archaeological evidence that they wandered in Sinai for forty years. One would think, so the minimalists say, that over one million people wandering for forty years would leave something behind. That is a valid statement, but you must remember that they were a nomadic people, living in tents, with everything portable, including the Tabernacle of Worship. They built nothing, so what would be left to find?

The History Channel recently ran a full hour presentation on the discovery of ancient Sodom and Gomorrah and the city of Zoar. [Genesis 19: 1-28] They did mention the possibility that the whole story was a warning to people against wicked behavior, but I almost fell off my chair when the scientists on the expedition found the high sulfur content of the sand and in places, raw sulfur, the prime component of brimstone.

Where does this leave us? Unshaken basically. The Easter drama plays out for all of us, but can find us in different ways. The historical Jesus is documented, but the resurrected Jesus meets you in the heart... meets you in the hope of our faith that there is more. That he promised to receive us at *this* life's end is the essence of that hope. To read of him... to believe what you read as actually written to you... is to participate in his resurrection and to anticipate the reality of his presence forever. In the mean time... see you in church.

Pastor Dave

more from Rev. Joe Gilbert

People are funny; they want the front of the bus, the middle of the road, and the back of the church.

Opportunity may knock once, but temptation bangs on your front door incessantly.

Quit complaining about your church. If it were perfect, you couldn't belong.

If the church wants a better pastor, it only needs to pray for the one it has.

God does not propose to judge anyone until they are dead. Why should we?

Some minds are like concrete; thoroughly mixed up and permanently set.

Some food for thought:

*Sitting in church makes you Christian... like sitting in your garage makes you a car.*

1 cross + 3 nails = 4 given

*"Laughter Is Divine"* - Heavenly Humor, Greenbrier Int'l

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## TWO WOLVES

One evening an old Cherokee chief told his grandson a story about a battle that goes on inside all people.

He said, "My son, the battle between two "wolves" is inside us all.

One wolf is EVIL.

It represents anger, envy, jealousy, sorrow, regret, greed, arrogance, self-pity, resentment, inferiority, lies, false pride, superiority and ego.

The other wolf is GOOD.

It represents joy, peace, love, hope, serenity, humility, kindness, benevolence, empathy, generosity, truth, compassion and faith."

The grandson thought about it for a minute and then asked his grandfather, "Which wolf wins?"

The old Cherokee simply replied, "The one you feed".

Author Unknown





BROEK CIRCLE - will meet on Monday, May 11th in the Library Lounge at 1:00 p.m. Won't you join us?

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JACOBA CIRCLE - meeting to be announced.

A big thank you from Jacoba Circle to everyone in our Trinity family that participated Sunday, March 29th at our luncheon. Thanks for bringing yummy food and the sharing of Trinity stories.

Another thanks to all the folks who supported our "Lenten Project". Each week the food delivery was received with many thanks. Also one special thank you to a Trinity member that loaded the car with great generosity!!

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Do you recognize the following text?

"Melt the clouds of sin and sadness, drive the dark of doubt away. Giver of immortal gladness, fill us with the light of day!"

The author of this hymn, Henry Jackson van Dyke was born in Pennsylvania, 1852. He combined the text with the music of Beethoven's "Hymn of Joy" and if you guessed "Joyful, Joyful, we adore Thee" you are correct!

Henry Jackson van Dyke was a pastor, a professor of English Literature at Princeton and went on to become American Ambassador to the Netherlands, appointed by Woodrow Wilson.

This is a special hymn of trust, joy and hope.

Sing it with all your heart!!



MAY, 2009

- 5. Doris Naumann
- 8. Thresa (Resi) Sheppard
- 13. Lydia Kichula
- 18. John Kormendy
- 19. Margaret Rubas
- 21. Ginger Smellie
- 24. Marian Dietrick
- 26. Don Adams
- 30. Tamara Adams
- 31. David Taylor

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# Prayer List

Please remember in your prayers, our members and friends who cannot be with us on Sunday.

- |                   |                   |
|-------------------|-------------------|
| Joanna Agnone     | Pastor Rosie and  |
| Ruth Carreno      | Dennis McLelland  |
| Marianne Clark    | Sally McGahey     |
| Corey Coleman     | Luke Nikorak      |
| Joan Cornish      | Denis O'Hara      |
| Jim Dever         | Margaret Rubas    |
| Christopher Flood | Resi Sheppard     |
| Jill Gaddis       | Henrietta Wermann |
| Belle Hayles      | Marie Wermann     |
| Doris Hiebeler    | Don Zolkiwsky     |

All U.S. Servicemen and Women



FLEA MARKET and YARD SALE

Saturday, May 30, 2009  
8:30 a.m. to 3:30 p.m.

St. Josephs Church, Dunellen

Tables: \$20.00 each

If you have items to donate to the FISH Hospitality yard sale, you may bring them to St. Josephs on Friday, May 29th between 4:00 p.m. and 6:30 p.m.

To volunteer, call 732-968-5957.

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Please add to your Trinity Directory:

CORTES, Edwin, Vernice, Bella  
747 Ayers Avenue  
North Plainfield, N.J. 07063

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SUMMER NEWS DEADLINE

Sunday, May 17th





SUN

MON

TUE

WED

THU

FRI




SAT

Every Sunday

Church School 9:15 a.m.

WORSHIP 10:00 a.m.

1.	2.
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3.	4. Consistory 7:30 p,	5. Choir 7:30	6. Bible Study 7:30 pm	7.	8.	9.
10.  Mother's Day	11. Broek 1 pm	12. Choir 7:30	13. Bible Study 7:30 pm	14.	15.	16.
17. * NEWSLETTER Deadline	18.	19. Choir 7:30	20. Bible Study 7:30 pm	21.	22.	23.
24.	25.  Memorial Day	26. Choir 7:30	27. Bible Study 7:30 pm	28.	29.	30. FISH Yard Sale 

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