

# TRINITY NEWS

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Summer Edition 2016

Trinity Reformed Church  
North Plainfield, N.J. 07063

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

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Members & Friends,

On the popular cultural phenomenon known as the HBO series Game of Thrones set in a mystical land that is kind of like a romanticized version of Earth in the Middle Ages, only with real dragons and real magic, there is an ominous warning whispered from one character to another; "Winter is coming!" Winter doesn't occur seasonally in this land, it occurs only when the dark forces of evil are no longer contained and run rampant throughout the world.

It is soon going to be June, and for me the warning is; "General Synod is coming!" It's not that General Synod is evil, it's just that I'm a delegate this year, there are a lot of emotionally charged issues to discuss and I'm too much of a rebel to ever be comfortable with corporate attitudes. I have an inherent distrust of that many people all in one place agreeing with each other! It calls to mind the Nuremberg Rallies of Germany in the 1930s or Cold War Era Soviet parades through Red Square for me. Again, not that General Synod is bad or people who work for the denomination are bad. (I'm sure the RCA employee reading this letter is an absolutely wonderful person!)

My General Synod odyssey will begin on Thursday June 9<sup>th</sup> at 5 a.m. when I must get up and leave my house to get to Newark airport to catch my flight out to Midway airport in Chicago. It will not end until my flight from Midway touches down in Newark at 8:20 p.m. on June 14<sup>th</sup>! In between will be days that run from 8 a.m. to 9 p.m. and beyond! All delegates **MUST** attend all sessions no matter how late they run. These long days are a way of saving money; longer days, less day, less money. But at what price to the decision to be made? No one really knows.

Pray for those of us attending General Synod as delegates. Pray that we may be guided by higher principles; seeking to honor God, obey Jesus, love the world and advance the gospel in it. Pray for our ability to endure long days and hassle-filled travels. And when you don't know what else to pray, pray the prayer that never fails; Thy will be done! Amen!

Grace & Peace,  
Pastor Scott

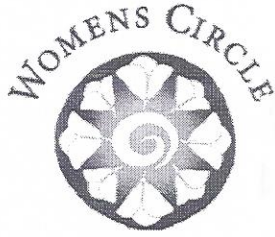
In April we had sermons on the following topics;

On April 3<sup>rd</sup> our sermon was "Gamliel's Wisdom" with scriptures from Acts 5:27-32, Revelation 1:4-8 and John 20:19-31. In this sermon we discussed how Rabbi Gamliel was wise to advise the Sanhedrin Council to leave the apostles alone because if a plan is of human origin it will soon fail on its own, but if it is of God it will not fail and they would be found opposing God. We realized that God is sovereign and no plan will succeed that is not from God, and no plan from God will fail. God doesn't need our help – and we don't want to be found opposing something new that God is doing!

On April 10<sup>th</sup> the scripture readings were from Acts 9:1-20, Revelation 5:11-14 and John 21:1-19. The sermon title was; "Gamliel Was Right!" This sermon followed up on the one from the week before; in the passage from Acts we met a student of Rabbi Gamliel named Saul who didn't take his teachers advice and persecuted the early church only to be struck blind when he encountered the risen Christ on the road to Damascus. This encounter changed Saul from a persecutor of the church to Paul, the lead apostle and the author of much of our New Testament! We learned that God's will cannot be thwarted. We can trust that in all things God's will is Going to be done. We can also expect God to ask us to do difficult things, to go unexpected places and to not exclude people we might think are our enemies from the work that God is doing.

On April 17<sup>th</sup> our scripture lessons were Acts 9:30-43, Revelation 7:9-13 and John 10:22-30. Our sermon title was "The Good Shepherd and the Lamb". Although the book of Revelation is hard to understand sometimes and has been abused in the past by those who seek to use it as a "crystal ball", we spent some time examining the glimpse we get of heaven in it. One of the things John of Patmos described in his vision of heaven was the throne of God and the Lamb at the center of the throne that looked like it had been slain but was alive. We discovered that the Lamb at the center of the throne that is the Shepherd in Revelation 7 is no other than Jesus! It is hoped that we will choose Jesus as the Lamb of God, the one God sacrificed for our sins and therefore as our giver of eternal life and also as our shepherd, our provider and protector to be followed and worshipped.

On April 24<sup>th</sup> our Bible lessons were from Acts 11:1-18, Revelation 21:1-6 and especially from the Gospel of John 13:31-35. In John 13 Jesus taught that the world can tell that we are Christians (His disciples) by the fact that we have the kind of love for one another that He had for us; that is – self-giving love. Hopefully we treat others both inside of and outside of the community of faith with love without regard to their merit. Such love is demonstrated by loving acts of service and sacrifice that point to the love of God for the world made known to us in Jesus Christ.



BROEK CIRCLE – will meet on Tuesday, June 14<sup>th</sup> at NOON at the home of Betty Jane Tingley. For their annual picnic.

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JACOBA CIRCLE – No meeting scheduled

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June, 2016

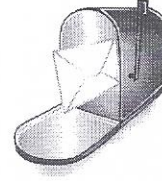
- 7. Janet Miller
- 8. Don Zolkiwsky
- 9. Barbara Conly
- 15. Barbara Hildebrant
- 23. Miep Devries
- 30. Nora Macauly

July, 2016

- 1. Brad Wadlow
- 5. Deena Zolkiwsky
- 7. Dawn Toth
- 10. Betty Jane Tingley
- 19. Beth Kenderdine
- 22. Pat Ledger
- 23. Joan Beil

August, 2016

- 28. Rev. Scott Harris



### LETTERS, WE GET LETTERS

Deena and Don Z are proud to announce that grandson Nick, recently earned the rank of Eagle Scout. Nick's Eagle project consisted of managing the construction and installation of bluebird house in Lenape Park. Bluebirds consume a large amount of deer ticks. The houses have encouraged more bluebirds to come to the area, thus creating an environmentally safe means of controlling the tick population.

DZ

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### Blanket Sunday

Your generosity on Blanket Sundays in April totaled \$700 – which was matched by Endowment funds - \$1,400 was sent to Church World Services!

And 29 School Kits and 18 Hygiene Kits were delivered to the CWS depot in Bloomfield thanks to Pastor Scott!

Many Thanks!

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September Newsletter Deadline

Sunday, August 14th





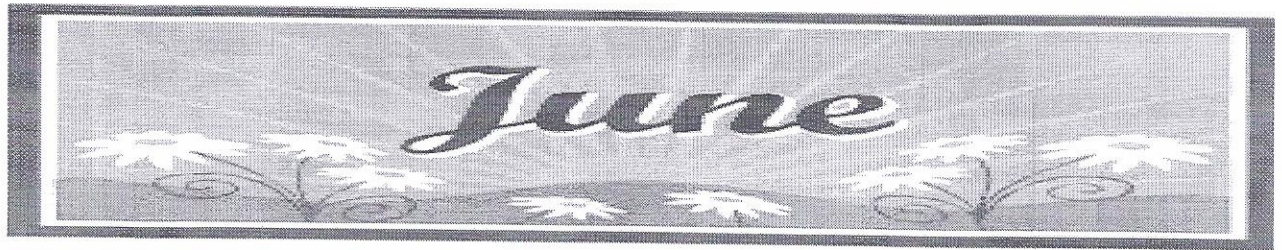
## **JACOBA CIRCLE PROJECT**

**Jacoba Circle is sponsoring a  
FOOD & HYGIENE COLLECTION  
which is delivered to the  
St. Joseph Church Annex North Plfd.**




**We would greatly appreciate your support  
with donations of the items listed below.**

**Tuna  
Macaroni & Cheese  
Spaghetti Sauce  
Canned Meats - Spam, Corned Beef & Stew  
Cereal  
Parmalat Milk  
Jelly  
Peanut Butter  
Canned Fruit  
Juice  
Canned Vegetables  
Canned Spaghetti  
Soup**

**HUNGER DOESN'T TAKE A VACATION!**



Sun                      Mon                      Tue                      Wed                      Thu                      Fri                      Sat

Every Sunday 10:00 a.m. Worship in BROEK CHAPEL			1.  Bible Study 7:30 pm	2.  Choir 7:30pm	3.	4.
5.	6.  Consistory 7:30pm	7.	8.  Bible Study 7:30 pm	9.  Choir 7:30pm	10.	11.
12.	13.	14.  Flag Day  Broek NOON	15.  Bible Study 7:30 pm	16.  Choir 7:30pm	17.	18.
19.  HAPPY FATHER'S DAY	20.  IT'S SUMMER!	23.	22.  Bible Study 7:30 pm	23.  Choir 7:30pm	24.	25.
26.	27.	28.	29.  Bible Study 7:30 pm	30.  Choir 7:30pm		