

TRINITY NEWS

Summer Edition 2017

Trinity Reformed Church
North Plainfield, N.J. 07063

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

Members & Friends,

In science, there is a thing called "symbiosis". That's where two life forms live together in a mutually beneficial relationship. Like the Hippopotamus and the Plover. The Plover is a bird that is relatively defenseless against the plethora of things in the African savannahs that will kill and eat it. The Hippo, by contrast is a vegetarian but also one of the most dangerous creatures in the world! Hippo's will fight to defend their territory and their lives and hippo bites are almost always fatal. That's because they have VERY BIG BITES!

One thing that the hippo's size cannot defend it against are mites and lice that can get on its skin and bite it making it very uncomfortable. Also, dental hygiene – having no opposable thumbs means that the hippo can't brush its teeth when river plants get stuck in between them! The harmless, defenseless plover just happens to eat mites and lice and the plant matter that gets stuck between the hippo's teeth. So these two creatures are often seen together; the hippo gently allowing the plover to land on it as the hippo walks and swims along. The plover picks the lice out of the hippo's skin and cleans its teeth, safe from any would-be predators who know better than to come near the mighty hippo!

The two species are very different and yet their relationship benefits them both; the plover gets protection, lunch and a free ride around the savannah, and the hippo gets relief from parasites and gets its teeth cleaned! God often uses nature to teach us things. Jesus did the same with His parables. I believe that we can learn something from the plover and the hippo; different congregations can come together to compliment each other's strengths and shore up each other's weaknesses so that both can benefit and be stronger together than either would be individually. Take us and Agape House, for example. We have a great music program, a long history in the community and the RCA, a grand sense of tradition and church order, etc., but we have only a handful of people, not many of them young and strong anymore to do the work of being a church. Agape House, on the other hand is new to the RCA and to things like the Liturgy and traditions of our denomination. They need someone like Trinity to help them exist, to show them how to be the Church and so on. We, in turn, need something that they have; young, strong members, kids and helping hands beyond the few we have! Together we can do more of God's kingdom work as churches than either church could do individually! This symbiosis makes us both stronger. This is a blessing from God!

Grace & Peace,

- Pastor Scott

In the month of April Pastor Scott gave the following sermons:

On April 2nd our sermon was "The God That Can Bring Life to the Dead" with scriptures from Ezekiel 37:1-14 (Ezekiel in the valley of the "dry bones") and John 11:1-45 (the story of Jesus raising Lazarus from the dead.) This sermon endeavored to show that God can bring hope to hopeless situations, bringing the dead back to life. No matter what we are facing in our lives, our situation is never beyond hope!

On April 9th we began Holy Week with a sermon about "Lamb Selection Day" for Palm Sunday. Using the story of Jesus' Triumphal Entry into Jerusalem in Matthew 21:1-11 and instructions concerning the selection of the lamb for Passover in Exodus 12:1-7 and 13, we learned that Jesus' entry into Jerusalem that day confirmed His identity as God's Passover lamb; a sacrifice to save the people. On Palm Sunday God presented Jesus as God's choice of a perfect lamb without blemish for God's sacrifice and asks us if we will choose Him as our Lamb too.

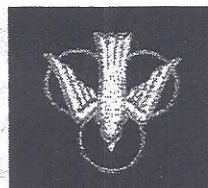
April 13th was Maundy Thursday and our Scripture lessons were from Exodus 12:11-14, 1 Corinthians 11:23-26 and John 13:1-17, 31-35. Again we examined Jesus as God's Passover lamb; the sacrifice that sheds His blood so that we may live. Hopefully we will appreciate the connection between the Old and New Testaments that tells us that this was God's plan all along.

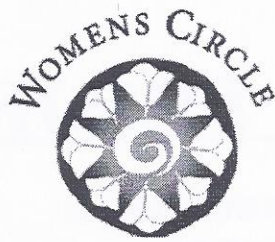
On April 16th we celebrated the Resurrection with the sermon "Do Not Be Afraid" based on Acts 10:34-43, Colossians 3:1-4 and Matthew 28:1-10 that recounts the experience of the women at the tomb on Easter morning. Here we learned that God is about the work of great hope and mercy and creating new life in the midst of troubling circumstances in our lives. The worst things are NEVER the last things! We can respond to this Good News by going and telling this message in ways that promote love, grace, mercy and hope with a deep sense of humility.

On April 23rd our scripture lessons came from Acts 2:14, 22-32 and 1 Peter 1:3-9. The sermon title was "The Outcome of Your Faith." In this sermon we learned that the outcome of our faith is more than just eternal life in heaven one day, it is ALSO hope and joy that enables us to live transformed lives in the present. Because of this, we realize that Easter isn't only about eternal life after we die; it is also about the new life that God gives us in the present, in this world, here and now.

On April 30th our sermon was titled "Ransomed" with scriptures from 1 Peter 1:17-23 and Luke 24:13-35. Primarily from 1 Peter 1:17-23 we learn that we have been ransomed from the futile ways of sin and death with the precious blood of Christ. In response God asks us to love one another deeply from the heart without regard to status.

PENTECOST SUNDAY
June 4, 2017 at 10:00am
Holy Communion in the Chapel





BROEK CIRCLE – will meet on Tuesday, June 13th at NOON in the Library Lounge. For their annual Picnic!

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JACOBA CIRCLE – will meet on Monday, June 12th at 7:30pm at the home of Deena Zolkiwsky.



June, 2017

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

July, 2017

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

August, 2017

- 28. Rev. Scott Harris



Ice Cream Social

Jacoba Circle invites everyone who enjoys ice cream (who doesn't) to their "Ice Cream Social" on Sunday, July 9th following Worship Service.



Blanket Sunday

Your generosity on Blanket Sundays in April totaled \$550 – which was matched by Endowment funds - \$1,100 was sent to Church World Services!

We also sent 30 School Kits and 18 Hygiene Kits were delivered to the Church World Service!

Thank you all!

GS

September Newsletter Deadline

Wednesday, August 16th



JACOBA CIRCLE PROJECT

**Jacoba Circle is sponsoring a
FOOD 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!

June

Sun Mon Tue Wed Thu Fri Sat

Every Sunday 10:00 a.m. Worship in BROEK CHAPEL				1.	2.	3.
4.  Pentecost Communion	5. Consistory 7:30pm	6.	7.	8.	9.	10.
11.	12. Jacoba 7:30	13. Broek 12:00pm	14.  Flag Day	15.	16.	17.
18.  HAPPY FATHER'S DAY	19.	20.	21.  IT'S SUMMER!	22.	23.	24.
25.	26.	27.	28.	29.	30.	Ice Cream Social July 9 th .