

APRIL 2009

TRINITY NEWS

" A BIBLICAL UNDERSTANDING OF ORGAN DONATION "

Few could have foreseen that this subject would arise so close to home. It was a subject of medical research just a few decades ago, but now is a generally accepted medical practice. When I did a Chaplain's CPE intensive in 2001, at Robert Wood Johnson University Medical Center, we had a lecture from a representative of their Kidney Donor Registry. They have a permanent staff in place for this life-saving procedure. Internet articles merely state that "all major religions approve of this altruistic practice". How do you feel about this? I'd like to review with you some Biblical references and see what has been said concerning the human body, the age to come after the resurrection, according to Jesus, and the general principle of giving and altruism, in light of the future we have with our Lord.

We believe the human body originated as a creation of God in the "image and likeness" of the Creator. [Genesis 1: 26-27] Moses received specific instructions concerning the holiness of God, and the resulting requirements of God's people and their behavior as a response to that holiness. Read Leviticus 18, 19, and 20 for some extremely frank discussions. God's people of any period, we believe, must adhere to the command of Leviticus 19:2b :

"You must be holy because I, the Lord your God, am holy."

The sanctity of the body is thus established. What becomes of the human body, whether a person enters into God's Covenant or not? All bodies return to the ground after death. [Genesis 3:19] Do what you will: embalm, preserve, or cremate; "to dust you will return". This is the way of it. Our Lord Jesus had a pointed discussion with some "experts" in his day. Recall the Sadducees' construct of the woman and the 7 brothers. Jesus teaches that after the resurrection, as there surely will be one, we are like spiritual beings, with no need for procreation, as we will be sinless because of his atoning sacrifice, and thus eternal. [Matthew 22:30] Our bodies have gone to dust, or have probably dropped to dust at his return, if we are still living at that "last day". [I Corinthians 15: 35-57]

HAPPY EASTER AND ALL THAT THE RESURRECTION BRINGS !!!

What then of our existence here today? What about "giving"? Giving in general . . . giving after death . . . "giving" of our bodies? We have concluded that all goes to the ground , whether all of your body , or a part planted in another temporarily. So the rationale for this "gift" is established, since ultimately our lives on earth end, the body goes to the dust, along with all parts, wherever they may be, and we enter the age to come. What will I say to the Judge of all mankind when I face the "Ever Living One" ? Should I be asked about my body, I'll be happy to say that " You know, my Lord. " You know I believed you when you said " It is more blessed to give than to receive." [Acts 20:35 citing Matthew 10:8] I believed you and gave, because it truly has been given to me. [Luke 6:38] But most of all, I believe you and remember you that you gave your body for me , because of my sins. [Luke 22:19] So I gave parts of me, that others may have a chance and may even have time to consider You." Moralists call this altruism, and I believe it conforms with the general thrust of Jesus' teachings. I've never seen anyone regret being generous. The Judge knows all about giving. He gave his body also.

Do it. Fill out the simple card. Tell your family. Tell your doctor. Ask me about the time a family was approached by the Organ Donor Registry people during a conference about a brain-dead relative who was on life-support.

Pastor Dave

LECTIONARY READINGS - APRIL, 2009

April 5 - Palm Sunday

Psalm 118:1-2, 19-29, Mark 11:1-11 or John 12:12-16

April 9 - Maundy Thursday

Exodus 12:1-4, (5-10), 11-14, Psalm 116:1-2, 12-19, ICor. 11:23-26, John 13:1-7, 31B-35

April 12 - Easter Sunday

Acts 10:34-43 or Isaiah 25:6-9, Psalm 118:1-2, 14,-24, ICor 15:1-11 John 20:1-18 or Mark 16:1-8

April 19

Acts 4:32-35, Psalm 133, IJohn 1:1-2:2, John 20:19-31

April 16

Acts 3:12-19, Psalm 4, John 3:1-7, Luke 24:36B-48

Rev. Joe Gilbert is a fixture in a very good pancake house in Ocean City, N.J. He is a retired minister living there with his wife and occasional visitors. He writes a column for the local paper, the *Ocean City Sentinel*. We see Joe a lot with my mother during the summer, and the occasional check-out trips over the winter. He calls himself "the old clam digger", and is always good for a joke. The edition of Thursday, Feb.26 had a classic collection of typical Joe Gilbert. I'll quote some during the coming months.

Don't let your worries get the best of you; remember, Moses started out as a basket case.

Some people are kind, polite, and sweet-spirited . . . until you try to sit in their pew.

Many folks want to serve God . . . but only as advisors.

It is easier to preach ten sermons . . . than it is to live one.

The good Lord didn't create anything without a purpose, but mosquitoes come close.

When you come to your wit's end . . . you'll find God lives there.

--- Ocean City Sentinel, Thursday, Feb.26, 2009



BROEK Circle will meet on Monday, April 13th, at 1:00 p.m. in the Library Lounge.

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Broek Cooks will have the "last" soup of the season, available on Sunday, May 10th. An order form is on the hall bulletin board.

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JACOBA Circle meeting to be announced.

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CHURCH WORLD SERVICE - Blanket Sunday

Donations for blankets (\$5 each) will be accepted on April 22 and 29.

School and Health Kits will be collected on April 29.

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??? Here's a riddle from Dawn Toth

What is greater than God, more evil than the devil? The poor have it, the rich need it, and if you eat it you will die.

(answer on last page)



"I will sing of my Redeemer and His wondrous love to me,
On the cruel cross He suffered, from the curse to set me free.
Sing, oh sing of my Redeemer, with His blood He purchased me.
On the cross He sealed my pardon, paid the debt and made me free."

The author of this text, Philip Bliss, wrote many gospel hymns and in this month of April our worship includes music which reflects "the reason for the season".

Come each Sunday as we worship, pray and sing together!

Joan Beil

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FISH HOSPITALITY WEEK - begins on Sunday, April 19.

If you're tired of hearing that help is always needed - Volunteer - then help won't be needed!

Meals - Someone to "do" supper on April 24.
Call Ginger Smellie

Evening Host - just 2 hours, from 7 to 9 pm
Call David Taylor

Overnight Hosts - Call Tom Wagner

People to move beds and belongings in on April 19 and out on April 26.



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- 5. Julia Adams
- 10. Nicole Gaddis
- 14. Shawn Coppola
- 15. Susan Tingley Hageman
- 20. Sarah Coppola
- 24. Laura Tarbous
- 30. Dave Zolkiwsky

In need of Home Repairs?

Friends of the Carpenter (FotC) is looking for applicants for their Home Rehabilitation Program. FotC is a North Plainfield non-profit organization which seeks to assist low and moderate income residents in the repair and rehabilitation of their owner-occupied homes. We would make interest-free loans available to you and do all the work to repair your home. If you are in need of a new roof, windows, electrical, structural, heating, plumbing repairs or others improvements necessary for the upkeep and safety of your house, and think you may be within the income guidelines, please see your Pastor or call Danny Dominguez at 908/698-3874.

The answer to Dawn's riddle is:

HOLY WEEK

Palm Sunday - Worship at 10:00 a.m.

Maundy Thursday - The Lord's Supper
8 p.m. - Broek Chapel

Easter Sunday - Worship at 10:00 a.m.
"He is Risen!"

Prayer List

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

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|-------------------|-------------------|
| 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 | |

All U.S. Servicemen and Women

MAY NEWSLETTER DEADLINE

Tuesday, April 14







APRIL


SUN MON TUE WED THU FRI SAT

EVERY SUNDAY
 Church School 9:15 a.m.
 Worship 10:00 a.m.

1.	2.	3.	4.
Bible Study 7:30 pm			

5.	6.	7.	8.	9.	10.	11.
 PALM SUNDAY	Consistory 7:30 pm	Choir 7:30	Bible Study 7:30 pm	 Maundy Thursday	 GOOD FRIDAY	

 EASTER	13. Broek 1 pm	14. * Newsletter Deadline	15. Bible Study 7:30 pm	16.	17.	18.
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19.	20.	21.	22.	23.	24.	25.
		Choir 7:30	Bible Study 7:30 pm			
FISH Hospitality Week -----						

26.	27.	28.	29.	30.
		Choir 7:30	Bible Study 7:30 pm	