

TRINITY NEWS

DECEMBER 2009

Trinity Reformed Church
North Plainfield, N.J. 07063

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

Dear Friends,

My old captain friend from Atlantic City/Dania, Fla. Sends me various items concerning

Spiritual matters. This latest I missed as Sunday mornings are necessarily quiet for service preparation, etc. The author used to have some kind of game show where you could win money, or some such thing, but this article certainly is "Food for Thought."

As I have said, and I think a lot of folks agree, but say nothing, our nation has suffered the financial consequences of ignoring God's commandments: lies (false witness) and greed (coveting).

Whether one believes in the very existence of God or not, the results of all this are still echoing through our country. National repentance and a return to faith and obedience may be our only way out. It seems as if we've tried everything else.

Think about this: "FOOD FOR THOUGHT"

My Confession: I am a Jew, and every single one of my ancestors was Jewish. And it does not bother me even a little bit when people call those beautiful lit up, bejeweled tress, Christmas trees. I don't feel threatened. I don't feel discriminated against. That's what they are, Christmas trees.

It doesn't bother me a bit when people say, "Merry Christmas" to me. I don't think they are slighting me or getting ready to put me in a ghetto. In fact, I kind of like it. It shows that we are all brothers and sisters celebrating this happy time of year. It doesn't bother me at all that there is a manger scene on display at a key intersection near my beach house in Malibu. If few people want a crèche, its just as fine with me as is the Menorah a hundred yards away.

I don't like getting pushed around for being a Jew, and I don't think Christians like getting pushed around for being Christian. I think people who believe in God are sick and tired of getting pushed around, period. I have no idea where the concept came from, that America is an explicitly atheist country. I can't find it in the Constitution and I don't like being shoved down my throat.

Or maybe I can put it another way: where did the idea come from that we should worship celebrities and we weren't allowed to worship God as we understand Him? I guess that's a sign that I'm getting old, too. But there are a lot of us who are wondering where these celebrities came from and where the America we knew went to.

In light of the many jokes we send to one another for a laugh, this is a little different: This is not intended to be a joke; it's not funny, it's intended to get you thinking. Billy Graham's daughter was interviewed on the Early Show and Jane Clayson asked her "How could God let something like this happen? (regarding Hurricane Katrina)...Anne Graham gave an extremely profound and insightful response. She said, "I believe God is deeply saddened by this, just as we are, but for years we've been telling God to get out of our schools, to get out of our government and to get out of our lives...And being the gentleman He is, I believe He has calmly backed out. How can we expect God to give us His blessing and His protection if we demand He leave us alone?"

In light of recent events... terrorist attack, school shootings. Etc. I think it started when Madeleine Murray O'Hare (she was murdered, her body found a few years ago) complained she didn't want prayer in our schools, and we said OK. Then someone said you better not read the Bible in school. The Bible says thou shall not kill; thou shall not steal, and love your neighbor as yourself and we said OK. Then Dr. Benjamin Spock said we shouldn't spank our children when they misbehave, because their little personalities would be warped and we might damage their self-esteem (Dr. Spock's son committed suicide.) We said an expert should know what he's talking about. And we said okay.

Now we're asking ourselves why our children have no conscience, why they don't know right from wrong, and why it doesn't bother them to kill strangers, their classmates, and themselves...

Probably, if we think about it long and hard enough, we can figure it out. I think it has a great deal to do with "WE REAP WHAT WE SOW."

Funny how simple it is for people to trash God and then wonder why the world's going to hell. Funny how we believe what the newspapers say, but question what the Bible says. Funny how you can send jokes through the e-mail and they spread like wildfire but when you start sending messages regarding the Lord, people think twice about sharing. Funny how lewd, crude, vulgar and obscene articles pass freely through cyberspace, but public discussion of God is suppressed in the school and workplace.

Are you laughing yet?

Funny how when you forward this message, you will not send it to many on your address list because you're not sure what they believe, or what they will think of you for sending it.

Funny how we can be more worried about what other people think of us than what God thinks of us.

Pass it on if you think it has merit. If not, then just discard it...no one will know you did. But, if you discard this thought process, don't sit back and complain about what bad shape the world is in.

My best regards, honestly and respectfully, Ben Stein and Pastor Dave



BROEK CIRCLE - will meet on Monday, December 14th at NOON in the Library Lounge for their Christmas Luncheon.

* * *

JACOBA CIRCLE - will meet on Monday, December 14th at the home of Barbara Conly at 7:00 p.m.

* * *

Jacoba Circle's annual collection for homeless pets will begin on Sunday, December 6th. A basket will be in the Narthex to accept your donations of:

- cat and dog food (dry or canned)
- Bedding
- Treats
- Grooming supplies

and, of course, monetary donations are always welcomed.



To Trinity Members,

Thank you so very much for the card shower; 90th birthdays only come once. It was delightful. Every day for a week more cards came. My mantelpiece is just covered - all 11 feet of it.

I'm keeping them on display until Christmas so I can really enjoy them longer.

Thanks again, Betty Gotberg

FISH HOSPITALITY WEEK at Trinity begins on Sunday, December 6th. Volunteer sign-up sheets are on the hall bulletin board.

* * *

Some of you have expressed a desire to continue on with the FISH program. Your name will be added to the volunteer list at the FISH office. Let me know what time slot you would like to volunteer for and I will pass it on.

Sarah Coppola



Since October, your Trinity Choir has studied and rehearsed music for Advent and Christmas Eve.

One Anthem entitled, "where Shepherds Lately Knelt" with music by Craig Courtney enhances this text written by Jaroslav Vajda.

"In that unlikely place I find Him, as they said, in a manger bed, with pounding heart I stare, a child, a son, the prince of peace for me.

Can I, will I forget, how love was born and burned its way into my heart unmasked, unforced, unearned to die, to live, and not alone for me? "

What a gift God sent to us!!

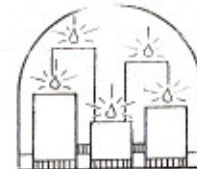
Join us for worship on Sunday and Christmas Eve.

Joan Beil

A FESTIVAL OF CAROLS

Sunday, December 13th - 2:00 p.m.

Enjoy seasonal songs and stories and refreshments and fellowship in the Library Lounge.



Christmas Eve

Wednesday, December 24th - 8:00 p.m.

Carols and candlelight, cookies and punch and fellowship in the Library Lounge.



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- 4. Leslie Zarnowski
- 9. Jennifer Kenderdine
- 29. Vesta Jones
Ron Cox

Welcomed into the Trinity family:

Joanna Nuber and daughter Barbara.
3230 Revere Dr.
South Plainfield, NJ 07080

Prayer List

Please remember in your prayers these members and friends:

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

All U.S. Servicemen and Wornen



FROM THE WORSHIP COMMITTEE

EFFECTIVE NOVEMBER 29, 2009

SUNDAY SERVICES START AT 11:00 A.M.!!!

At the November meeting, Consistory approved the Worship Committee's proposal to change the time of Sunday Services to 11:00 a.m.

This will not affect Christ Church as they now meet in Broek Chapel.

Members not attending church the first two weeks of November were contacted by phone by members of the Committee to advise them of this change.

Services at 11:00 a.m. will continue through May 30, 2010, when we will move to Broek Chapel at 10:00 a.m.

Gordon Wich

JANUARY NEWSLETTER DEADLINE

Tuesday, December 15th.



JUST FOR FUN!

NAME THAT TUNE ! (Do you recognize these seasonal songs?)






1. Colorless Yuletide
2. Castaneous-Colored Seed vesicated in a conflagration
3. Singular yearning for the twin anterior incisors
4. Righteous Darkness
5. Arrival time: 2400 hours, Weather: Cloudless
6. Loyal Followers Advance
7. Far Off in a Feeder
8. Array the Corridors
9. Bantam Male Percussionist
10. Monarchical Triad
11. Nocturnal Noiselessness
12. Jehovah Deactivate blithe Chevaliers
13. Red Man en route to the Borough
14. Frozen Precipitation Commence
15. Proceed and Enlighten on the Pinnacle
16. The Quadruped with the Vermillion Proboscis
17. Query regarding Identity of Descendant
18. Delight for this planet
19. Give attention to the Melodious Celestial Beings
20. The Dozen Festive 24 hour interval

1. White Christmas, 2. Chestnuts Roasting on an open fire,
3. All I want for Christmas is My Two Front Teeth, 4. O Holy Night
5. It Came Upon a Midnight Clear, 6. O Come All Ye Faithful,
7. Away in a Manger, 8. Deck the Halls, 9. Little Drummer Boy,
10. We Three Kings, 11. Silent Night, 12. God Rest Ye Merry Gentlemen,
13. Santa Claus is Coming to Town, 14. Let It Snow, 15. Go Tell it on
- the Mountain, 16. Rudolph, the Red Nose Reindeer, 17. What Child is This,
18. Joy to the World, 19. Hark the Herald Angels Sing, 20. The Twelve
- Days of Christmas.



DECEMBER



SUN	MON	TUE	WED	THU	FRI	SAT
		1.	2.	3.	4.	5.
WORSHIP 11:00 a.m.			Bible Study 7:30			
		Choir 7:30				
6.	7.	8.	9.	10.	11.	12.
 2nd Sunday in ADVENT	Consistory 7:30 pm	Choir 7:30	Bible Study 7:30			
FISH Hospitality Week						
13.	14.	15. *	16.	17.	18.	19.
 2:00 p.m.	Broek NOON Jacoba 7:00	Newsletter Deadline Choir 7:30	Bible Study 7:30			
20.	21.	22.	23.	24.	25.	26.
 4th Sunday in ADVENT	 Winter	Choir 7:30		 CANDLE-LIGHT SERVICE		
27.	28.	29.	30.	31.		
WORSHIP 11:00 a.m.		NO CHOIR				