

# TRINITY NEWS

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**FEBRUARY 2009**

Trinity Reformed Church  
North Plainfield, N.J. 07063

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

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A recent conversation with Rev. George Montonari brought something familiar to mind. His church, as well as Middletown Reformed, the church of incoming Classis president Chris Van de Bunte, do not repeat the Revised Common Lectionary. They "topical preach" which centers around a theme, and extracts Biblical sources to define and explain the theme and how it bears on us. Topical preaching I've done include "Evil and the Justice of God", our Lenten theme last year, and "Prayer", our theme of two years ago. The last time we went through the material that the Lectionary has for this year was 2006, when we focused on a "Life of Christ", based on Mark's Gospel. Interspersed in the listing are readings from John's Gospel as well, so we will have a great deal of material to fit around a framework.

Why a framework? Are we de-constructing the Scriptures and revising them to say something we have already in mind? Not at all. Cults do that. You've read of some of the more bizarre results of those who tamper with the Bible in order to justify their sometimes nefarious and hidden agendas. While it has always been foundational to Reformed thought and theology to extract our understandings of God's program from the Bible, it is also permitted, and may I say encouraged, to ask questions of Scripture - tough questions. It is amusing to me to think that the reason for rigorous Seminary studies is just that: to enable you to handle the *tough questions*. Also to be able to say honestly that we don't know, but are willing to stay with you in faith, despite our limited and finite knowledge.

I like to do this in our Wednesday evening prayer and study hour, but why not incorporate the tough side of things in morning worship? I'm sure you'll find *some* answers in our time together. Certainly not all answers! Beware of anyone or any group that implies they do have all the answers.

Now to our framework. The Gospels contain three basic literary forms: narrative, parable, and discourse. Teaching moments are interwoven throughout and illustrated sometimes by miracle, sometimes by dramatic claim and promise - John's Gospel is famous for this - the "I AM" statements followed by wonderful promises. Here is the "frame":

What is happening here?

Is a new theological reality being revealed?

How does this passage form or define our faith?

Possibly most importantly: If we submit ourselves to Him *as our Lord, personally*, then how are we to be as a result?

I hope for memorable times in Sunday services. See you there.

Pastor Dave



Readings for February, 2009

February 1

Deuteronomy 18:15-20  
Psalm 111:1  
I Corinthians 8:1-13  
Mark 1:21-28

February 8

Isaiah 40:21-31  
Psalm 147:1-11, 20c  
I Corinthians 9:16-23  
Mark 1:29-39

February 15

II Kings 5:1-14  
Psalm 30  
I Corinthians 9:24-27  
Mark 1:40-45

February 22

II Kings 2:1-12  
Psalm 50:1-6  
II Corinthians 4:3-6  
Mark 9:2-9

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ASH WEDNESDAY, February 25, 2009  
8:00 p.m. - Broek Chapel

*Winter Concert*

*Sunday February 22, 2009 at 3:00 pm*  
*At*  
*Trinity Reformed Church, North*  
*Plainfield*  
*(corner of Greenbrook Road and West*  
*End Ave)*

*All genre of music including sacred*  
*music, popular, jazz, classical,*  
*humorous, choirs and solo performers*

*Tickets are \$12 per person if purchased*  
*in advance*  
*and \$15 at the door*  
*Tickets on sale January 12, 2009*

*Send payment to: FISH Hospitality*  
*Program, Inc*  
*P.O. Box 170*  
*Dunellen, 08812*  
*Or purchase tickets at the door*

*If you are a seasoned performer and*  
*would like*  
*to take part in this concert please call*  
*Brock Haussamen at*

732-398-944





BROEK CIRCLE - will meet on Monday,  
February 9th at 1:00 p.m. in the  
Library Lounge.

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BROEK COOKS will have Creamy Potato  
and ? soup available on March 15th.  
An order form is on the hall  
bulletin Board.

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JACOBA CIRCLE - will meet on Monday,  
February 16th at 7:30 p.m. in the  
Library Lounge. Miep Devries, Host.

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JACOBA CIRCLE presents

OUR GOODLY HERITAGE - Stories of  
Trinity Church at lunch on Sunday,  
March 15th (tentative).

Come and share your best story or  
stories of Trinity and bring pictures!  
If you are unable to attend, we would  
like you to submit your story in  
writing so all of us can enjoy hearing  
it. We have many new friends who will  
be delighted to learn of your escapades  
and fond memories of past years.

Look for our poster in the hallway,  
where you can sign up for lunch and  
bring your favorite dish. We look  
forward to a jolly good time on  
Sunday, after worship on March 15th.

BLANKET SUNDAY, Church Women United

In 2008 a total of \$4577 was collected .  
(\$5 for a blanket and \$2 postage per kit)

April 26, 2009 is scheduled as Blanket and  
Kit Sunday.

If you would like to donate a kit, they  
contain the following:

Health Kit

one hand towel	one toothbrush
one washcloth	toothpaste (4-7 oz.)
one bar soap (bath size)	
one comb	one metal nail file
six band-aids	or nail clipper

Seal items in a one-gallon plastic bag with  
a zipper-style closure

School Kit

one pair blunt scissors  
one 30 cm (12 inch) ruler  
one pencil sharpener  
six new pencils with erasers  
one large eraser  
one box of 24 crayons  
pads or notebooks of ruled 8½" x 11" paper,  
with 150-200 sheets  
twelve sheets of colored construction paper\*

One 12" x 14" cloth tote bag with a closure  
(snap, velcro, or button)\*

\*Broek Circle has a supply of these items.

Collection date: April 26, 2009



FEBRUARY, 2009

- 11. Frank Taylor
- 14. Steven Zarnowski
- 19. Jim Beil

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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    |                   |

All U.S. Servicemen and Women

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# THANK YOU

Many thanks to everyone who participated in Jacoba Circle's annual pet food collection.

In addition to the food and supplies, we also collected \$300 in cash, which was forwarded to St. Hubert's.

Deena Zolkiwsky

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On Sunday, February 22nd Trinity will be hosting the FISH Benefit Winter Concert at 3:00 p.m.

This is an afternoon of varied entertainment that will bring a smile of enjoyment.

Our choir is working on some special music, so be sure to mark your calendar and plan to attend to support this most worthy cause.



FISH Hospitality Week at Trinity begins on Sunday, March 1st.

Volunteers are always needed. Sign-up sheets are on the hall bulletin board.




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MARCH Newsletter deadline:  
SUNDAY, February 15th





# FEBRUARY

SUN	MON	TUE	WED	THU	FRI	SAT
1.  Annual Meeting	2.  Consistory 7:30 pm	3.  Choir 7:30	4.  Bible Study 7:30 pm	5.	6.	7.
8.	9.  Broek 1 pm	10.  Choir 7:30	11.  Bible Study 7:30 pm	12.	13.	14.  
15.	16.  Jacoba 7:30 pm	17.  Choir 7:30	18.  Bible Study 7:30 pm	19.	20.	21.
22.  FISH Concert 3:00 p.m. 	23.	24.  Choir 7:30	 Ash Wednesday	26.	27.	28.

March 1 - FISH Hospitality Week -----