

TRINITY NEWS

MARCH 2009

Trinity Reformed Church
North Plainfield, N.J. 07063

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

A good trick question: Which came first, the Bible or the church? Of course the answer is obvious from history; the church did, because much of the New Testament was written to it. We know from as far back as 151 CE that church leaders, *already in office*, rejected the denial of the Hebrew Bible as irrelevant, seeing in it numerous references to Jesus and his ministry. So the Hebrew Bible was included, along with the four Gospels as we know them. As time progressed, the letters of Paul, along with other general missives, finally completed the "Canon" as we have it today. "Canon" comes from a Greek term meaning measure or ruler, and the term came to be used as a "list" of scriptures felt to be inspired by God, and useful to the church for its instruction. [II Timothy 3:16] Different church bodies include other books and works as additions, some more or less, but the basic English Bible we use is common to all.

Another question: Which came first, the faith or the church? To recognize the dynamics of just how things evolved, we must examine the closing chapters of each Gospel and read on into the first chapters of the *Acts of the Apostles*. There we will understand how the church formed, *after the faith spread*.

How did the faith spread? Mass advertising? Print media? Radio or T.V.? Printed material of any kind? None of the above. You may say it spread "elbow to elbow" - kitchen to sidewalk - shop to market - life to life - person to person!

How did the faith come to a person, in order to go from person to person? From the Holy Spirit of God. [John 16: 7-15] Believers in Jesus Christ receive the Spirit the moment they receive Him by faith. We believe that that Spirit is the instigator of a person coming to faith in the first place. The individual will see something *in the person who speaks to them, or from the spoken word however encountered*. That is how faith is formed in individuals. We also understand that the Spirit uses the word of God - the Bible, to convince individuals of the truth of what they are encountering. When the Spirit entered the world at the first Pentecost, mighty demonstrations of his power were obvious. People took notice, and wanted to be a part of the loving community it formed. Thus the church was started.

Do you think it is any different today? I don't. Want to be a part of a growth effort this year precisely patterned after Biblical example? Stay close. We plan a continuing effort - free - and easily teachable (for me too) to "go get 'em".

Read Acts Chapter 1, and look at verse 8. Where is your Jerusalem? Our series of investigations will begin with the 1st Sunday in Lent, and continue on for the foreseeable future. Patterns. Step-by-step. One at a time. We'll see it all, provided of course that we see you in church.

Pastor Dave

I received a very interesting and challenging note this past week. I have Cyril's permission to share it with everyone. Cyril and Nora have a delightful way about them and they are a joy to have with us. I've edited the note just a bit.

My Dear Pastor Dave;

I am inspired to write you particularly so because I believe that this is the time for an uphill march to Macedonia for Trinity Reformed Church - that is 2009. Please keep an open mind and please do not preempt nor attempt to reach a conclusion until you have put it into prayer.

I beg to suggest that perhaps one way we can arouse and capture the fascination of our congregation - and would-be parishioners in particular - is by introducing spiritual testimony, say once monthly for a start.

I believe that spiritual testimony is part of Calvinistic Evangelism. It can arouse spiritual discipline, while strengthening, nourishing, and sustaining those who have found favor with Jesus, as well as drawing those who have a craving for Jesus. It can be boring, but with a stipulation of 5 minutes at most, it may become a reality.

.....written only this morning at 8:25

Yours always,

Macaulay

02/01/09

Testimony ministry is a very familiar discipline to me, and is quite prevalent in out-reach ministry, deliverance ministries, and evangelical churches. It is a mark of many "primitive" Baptist congregations, as well as many Billy Graham Crusades.

There is strong Biblical support for a verbal, public confession of one's experiences with Jesus Christ. Deliverances. Rescues. Times when God's presence was a virtual reality to you. Tell us of the time and place and circumstances. You've heard me ad nauseum - let's hear from you.

Let the redeemed of the Lord say so. Psalm 107:2

Everyone therefore who acknowledges me before others, I also will acknowledge before my father in heaven; but whoever denies me before others, I also will deny before my father in heaven. Matthew 10: 32-33

Testimonies can take many forms: lives lived well, the one in shoe leather (my favorite), or a helping hand in the most awful circumstances, with a word about Jesus thrown in.

We will be examining the oral witness to Jesus in the coming months, as we examine scripture with a slightly different emphasis. Let's encourage each other with a word of courage.



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

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JACOBA CIRCLE - will meet on Monday, March 9th at 7:30 p.m. in the Library Lounge with Nora Macauley hosting.

On March 29th, we will host a covered dish luncheon after service in the Library Lounge.

Come and share your best story or remembrance of Trinity past.

A sign-up poster will be on the bulletin board across from the coat room.

* * *

JACOBA Circle's Lenten Project will be a Food Collection. Bring your food offering and place it in the basket in the Narthex.

(Suggested items are on the next page.)

In this Lenten Season we direct our thoughts to that rugged cross and the Lamb of God, Jesus Christ, our savior.

George Benerly Shea, (America's beloved gospel singer, traveling with the Billy Graham team for many years) came across a poem written by Mrs. Rhea Miller. It spoke to him about his own aims and ambitions in life. So inspired, he wrote the music to "I'd Rather Have Jesus" and it became his signature song.

"I'd rather be led by His nail-pierced hand
I'd rather be true to His holy name
I'd rather have Jesus than anything
this world affords today."

Our Trinity Choir is already working on new music for this season. Join us for Sunday Services as we together worship Jesus Christ, our savior.

DAYLIGHT SAVINGS TIME - begins on Sunday, March 8th. REMEMBER to set your clocks AHEAD one hour on Saturday night (or you'll miss Worship).



Beans, red, white etc.
 Cereal
 Fruit
 Macaroni and Cheese
 Meats (Spam, Beef stew)
 Pasta
 Potatoes, (Instant or canned)
 Rice (1 lb. packages)
 Soup
 Spaghetti Sauce
 Tomatoes
 Tuna
 Vegetables (corn, peas, green beans)

Non Food Items

Hand soap
 Toilet Tissue
 Toothpaste and toothbrushes
 Laundry Detergent

BLANKET SUNDAY - Church Women United

Broek Circle will be collecting Health and School Kits for this annual drive.

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



MARCH, 2009

- 1. Susan Goss
- 3. Donald B. Tingley

Prayer List

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

- | | |
|-------------------|-------------------|
| Joanna Agnone | Belle Hayles |
| Ruth Carreno | Doris Hiebeler |
| Marianne Clark | Pastor Rosie and |
| Corey Coleman | Dennis McLelland |
| Joan Cornish | Sally McGahey |
| Dee Cox | Luke Nikorak |
| Jim Dever | Denis O'Hara |
| Christopher Flood | Margaret Rubas |
| Jill Gaddis | Resi Sheppard |
| Ana Duran | Henrietta Wermann |
| | Marie Wermann |

All U.S. Servicemen and women

APRIL NEWSLETTER DEADLINE

Sunday, March 15



MARCH LECTIONARY READING

March 1 - First Sunday in Lent

Genesis 9:8-17
 Psalm 25:1-10
 IPeter 3:18-22
 Mark 1:9-15

March 8

Genesis 17:1-7, 15-16
 Psalm 22:23-31
 Romans 4:13-25
 Mark 8:31-38 or Mark 9:2-9

March 15

Exodus 20:1-17
 Psalm 19
 I Corinthians 1:18-25
 John 2:13-22

March 22

Numbers 21:4-9
 Psalm 107:1-3, 17-22
 Ephesians 2:1-10
 John 3:14-21

March 29

Jeremiah 31:31-34
 Psalm 51:1-12 or Psalm 119:9-16
 Hebrews 5:5-10
 John 12:20-33

Dear Trinity Family,

Thank you for walking with me these past 33 years. You welcomed me and cheered me on as I went from a timid bride to "all grown up"—well, almost grown up. You listened to flute playing, singing and sermons and a whole lot of baloney all mixed in with it. You ate my cooking (no baloney, but a few burnt offerings) and cleaned up my messes. You trusted me with your children in Sunday School; you trusted me with your church by ordaining me as an elder; you honored me each time you sang one of the hymns I wrote—especially "So Patient, They Waited." ***You have been so patient!***

You have been my family, "turning my mourning into dancing" when I have grieved. When Bob broke his back, and when I had cancer, you held onto us both and didn't let go. Over the years, your warmth and graciousness to my visiting relatives and friends have helped me to understand what Ruth meant when she said to her mother-in-law, Naomi, "Your people shall be my people." Your embrace of "my people" always made me feel so glad that I was "your people."

In recent years, you have affirmed and encouraged me in discovering what it means for me to be a minister of the Word of God in the Reformed Church in America. Your support by being present at my ordination service in January meant a great deal to me. Thanks to Pastor Dave and Joan for insuring that participants in the service had their scripts and knew how to juggle the microphones. Every production needs a stage manager and a director, even an ordination service. It did us all good to hear Trinity resound so loudly with God's praises, not as a reminder of Trinity's past, but as a promise of what the future holds.

Bob and I will especially miss being a part of the Trinity Choir. You have taught us what it means that "those who sing pray twice." Your singing at my ordination service did literally leave me weeping. My cup was running over when you trekked up to Wanaque, bringing "Jonah" to my installation service. (Thank you, Joan, for all that it took to make that happen.) Elisha wanted Naaman to "know that there is a prophet in Israel." Trinity Church, spread the word, ***there's a choir in North Plainfield!***

For each one who helped to cook and serve and set-up and clean-up, a huge "thank you!" It was a wonderful party because of your efforts. Don Z. now has a reputation throughout the Synod of the Mid-Atlantic as the Maitre D who can make a whole crowd of people feel loved and abused and amused all at once! Keep up the good work, the hospitality of the church bears witness to the goodness of God.





Bob and I will soon be moved up to Wanaque, but don't think you've seen the last of us. Bob's customer base is still centered in the Plainfields. I remain committed to both FISH Hospitality Program and Jacoba Circle. And in a way, you're all going with us as we minister in Wanaque in God's name—***and your name***—because you formed us both for our ministry, and you have sent us into the world with your prayers and blessings. We are grateful.

In Christ,

Sandi Sheppard



March

SUN	MON	TUE	WED	THU	FRI	SAT
1. 	2. FISH Hospitality Week Consistory 7:30 p.m.	3. Choir 7:30	4. Bible Study 7:30	5.	6.	7. 
8.	9. Broek 1 pm Jacoba 7:30	10. Choir 7:30	11. Bible Study 7:30	12.	13.	14.
15. * Newsletter Deadline 	16.	17. Choir 7:30	18. Bible Study 7:30	19.	20. 	21.
22.	23.	24. Choir 7:30	25. Bible Study 7:30	26.	27.	28.
29. Luncheon	30.	31. Choir 7:30				