

# TRINITY NEWS

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MAY 2008

Trinity Reformed Church  
North Plainfield, N.J. 07063

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

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In the coming months, we will be going through a great deal of work at our church. How about a great deal of work on ourselves? It is a good time to take stock of our walk with God, and our shared journey with each other. An ancient and foundational axiom of navigation states that you cannot know the way to go unless you know where you are. Offshore fishing or diving over the years has brought this truth to mind many times, although I've managed to "get 'er home" o.k. - once through the admitted grace of God at night when fog shut us in and I had no electronic navigation aids.

During the past weeks I've had conversations with a number of you regarding the years you have been at Trinity, and the emotional attachments you *must have* to the church as it now is. The most recent meeting with Rev. Dominick Apollo I thought was very instructive and helpful - both for Dominick and Consistory. A number of things were discussed that gave us pause to think. I did a very rough estimate of the ages of the 53 regular attendees at service - which number does vary with the weather and travel plans etc. - and came up with an average age of roughly 70.1 years for the congregation. I feel that is no reason whatsoever not to think there could be any improvement or growth (in a modest way) of our ministry. We have seen a number of positives over the years, and we certainly plan to continue. Rev. Apollo stated that "Church Growth" regimens would not be effective due to the age of most of us. That is the approach loosely termed "The Corporate Paradigm" - an idea in vogue in the late 1950's. It had some successes, notably in suburban contexts, where "urban flight" landed. Today we see the same process repeated but now there is an immigrant influx to the suburban area where a completely different cultural and ethnic makeup lives with us. Remember what Dominick has said repeatedly about how difficult many churches find ministry today, due to this cultural shift.

I observe a difference between "church" and "ministry". Jesus omits any mention of either when he tells us, "*For where two or three are gathered in my name... there am I among them.*" [Matthew 18:20] Ministry can have nothing to do with "church". I'm sure you've seen as I have that there are many "ministries" that are unconcerned with facilities or structures. There are many that use wonderful facilities and have beautiful structures, as we have. Which one need we be? I say they are not mutually exclusive as we seem to think.

We simply need to be freed from structural cares to focus on ministry. Our attention is on physical stones... while in actuality we are "living stones". Simon Peter tells the church, "*you yourselves like living stones are being built up as a spiritual house, to be a holy priesthood...*" [1 Peter 2:5a] Never think that all of us are not grateful for the beauty and efforts of many over the years.

Never think either, that ministry will not continue when we look to God for supply... for the Holy Spirit's direction... and for help. How do we "look to God"? Is that some sort of spiritual cliché or jargon?

By no means. Prayer starts the venture. No effort anywhere or at any time ever started without it. Initially we will do the right thing - thus "be righteous". Sewerage piping repairs are first. Next we take stock of what exists in our resources by the year's end. Estimates already made will seem to deplete what we now have. It could be worse - we might not have anything available at the moment to undertake the project. Many churches are already in that situation. Praise God for those with foresight to fit us with what we *do have* rather than give up now in fears of what we will not have. Pray believing! See you in church.

Pastor Dave

LECTIONARY READINGS FOR MAY, 2008

May 4 7<sup>th</sup> Sunday of Easter

Acts 1: 6-14 Psalm 68: 1-10, 32-35 I Peter 4: 12-14, 5: 6-11  
John 17: 1-11

May 11 Pentecost Day

Acts 2: 1-21 (with Numbers 11: 24-30) Psalm 104: 24-34,35b  
I Corinthians 12: 3b – 13 John 20: 19-23 or John 7: 37-39

May 18 Trinity Sunday

Genesis 1: 1 – 2: 4a Psalm 8 2 Corinthians 13: 11-13 Matthew 28: 16-20

May 25 2<sup>nd</sup> Sunday after Pentecost [Memorial Day Weekend]

Isaiah 49: 8-16a Psalm 131 I Corinthians 4: 1-5 Matthew 6: 24-34

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TAKE THE ROBE OF CORNER

"National progress is the sum of individual industry, energy, and uprightness, as national decay is of individual idleness, selfishness, and vice. *S.Smiles*

"For each ... and for all ... as for the Royal Navy, the watch word should be ... carry on, and dread nought!" *Winston Churchill, Dec.6. 1939*

The prophet himself stands under the judgment which he preaches. If he does not know that ... he is a false prophet. *Reinhold Niebuhr - "Beyond Tragedy" c.1938*

The safest road to hell is the gradual one - the gentle slope, soft underfoot, without sudden turnings, without milestones, without signposts. *C.S. Lewis - "The Screwtape Letters"*



BROEK CIRCLE - will meet on Monday, May 12th, at 1:00 p.m. in the Library Lounge.

Broek's knitters recently sent 12 vests 4 scarves and 2 caps to the Seamen's Church Institute "Christmas at Sea" Program.

If you have yarn of any kind gathering dust somewhere in your home, we can probably use it in some way. See Bunny or Ginger.

And Broek miraculously turns pennies (and other small coins) into groceries for the local food bank! Bring them to the "wishing well" or Ginger.

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JACOBA CIRCLE - meeting to be announced.

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FISH Hospitality Week at Trinity begins on Sunday, May 25th (Memorial Day Weekend). Volunteer sign-up sheets are posted on the hall bulletin board.

Won't you share an hour or two in this on-going ministry?



Our redesigned worship format is now in place, including the prayer request list, located at the entrance to the Sanctuary. Just a reminder that this list includes not only prayer concerns, but also prayers of thanksgiving. You are always welcome to call the church to add a special prayer request.

May we also remember to pray for our church and Pastor David. Pray for continued strength and energy as he serves our Trinity family and others outside of our church.

Looking forward, our Summer Worship will begin JUNE 1st at 10:00 a.m. to SEPT 7th in the Chapel.

For the Worship Committee  
Joan Beil

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TRINITY SUNDAY SCHOOL - Invites everyone of all ages to our Sunday School at Trinity.

Our children ages 7 - the 60's, meet every Sunday morning at 9:15a.m. We sing and have a lot of activities to remember God's words and write them in our hearts. We use the lectionary scripture with the help of "Sermons 4 Kids", where we have music, activities, and fun ways to remember to live our lives as God wants.

Please join us. "Come as a little child", and be blessed.

Carol Sorg



MAY, 2008

- 5. Doris Naumann
- 8. Thresa (Resi) Sheppard
- 13. Lydia Kichula
- 18. John Kormendy
- 19. Margaret Rubas
- 21. Ginger Smellie
- 14. Marian Dietrick
- 26. Don Adams
- 30. Tamara Adams

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

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

All Servicemen and Women

Prayer List

# MUSIC

"All nature sings and round me rings the music of the spheres."

Yes, it is truly happening these past few weeks. With the balmy weather the birds are singing their hearts out, especially in the mornings! May we continue to believe "that though the wrong seems oft so strong, God is the Ruler yet".

In the late 1800's God called Maltbie Babcock to the ministry, becoming pastor of the First Presbyterian Church in Lockport, New York. It is a beautiful area, midway between Lake Erie and Lake Ontario (not far from Niagara Falls).

Rev. Babcock enjoyed hiking and running in the area, often telling his secretary, "I'm going out to see my Father's world". Yes, he wrote that wonderful poem where each verse begins with "This Is My Father's World".

Are we not blessed to have this special hymn? "He Speaks to me Everywhere"! Thanks be to God!

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NEWSLETTER DEADLINE for Summer Edition:

Tuesday, May 13th







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SUN            MON            TUE            WED            THU            FRI            SAT

EVERY SUNDAY  
 Church School 9:15 A.M.  
 WORSHIP        10:30 A.M.

SUN	MON	TUE	WED	THU	FRI	SAT
1.				1.	2.	3.
4.	5. Consistory 7:30 pm	6. EVERY	7. EVERY	8.	9.	10.
11.  Communion	12. Broek 1 pm	13. * News Deadline TUESDAY	14. WEDNESDAY	15.	16.	17.
18.	19.	20. CHOIR	21. BIBLE	22.	23.	24.
25. FISH HOSPITALITY WEEK	26.  <b>MEMORIAL DAY</b> ††††††	27. 7:30 pm	28. STUDY 7:30 p.m.	29.	30.	31.