

TRINITY NEWS

Members & Friends,

This month I wish to continue to examine the Church as described by Paul in 1 Corinthians 12:27 where he stated: "²⁷**Now you are the body of Christ and individually members of it.**" We got a glimpse, last month, at the fact that, just like a human body can become ill, so too can the Body of Christ, the Church or a church like ours. This is why it is important to focus on congregational health! Susan Sontag once noted that every person is born holding dual-citizenship in the kingdom of the well and the kingdom of the sick. Although we might like to only use our passports from the kingdom of the well, sooner or later, we ALL have to, at least for a time, identify ourselves as citizens of the kingdom of the sick. It's just a fact of life. And it is just as true about congregations. Health is a process, it is not a thing or a state. It is ongoing, dynamic, ever changing. Health is more of a direction than a destination; a once-and-for-all property.

Jesus once observed that no person can serve two masters. (*Matthew 6:24*) When a body becomes ill, its primary need is to have all of its parts working together. No congregation can serve two visions. There must be a clear direction. Shared vision is necessary, but some differences can coexist as long as members are loyal to Christ, the Head of the Body, and each cares for the other. Sometimes, however, individuals might feel threatened by the disorder that differences create. These folks confuse community with sameness. They may even see their own experience, perception, or way of being as the normal way everyone should be. But no body can remain healthy if its cells are selfish or not in touch with other, different cells, or if the body insists that all cells be alike. Learning how to deal with the threat that differences arouse is a task of healthy living!

Congregational leaders are the key stewards of the congregation as a unit in itself. By virtue of their positions in the system, they can promote congregational health. More important than any conditions we may face such as declining membership, etc., is the capacity of leaders within the church to make clear and effective responses to the conditions. There are seven areas where leaders can focus in order to make clear and effective responses to conditions that will positively impact the health of the congregation: purpose, appraisal and management of conflict, clarity, mode and tone, mature interaction, healing capacities and a focus on resources. **Purpose** has to do with our mission and vision; what are we about? In healthy congregations, leaders do not ignore conflict, pretend it doesn't exist or let it fester. They **appraise and manage the conflict** that arises. They have the wisdom to face the tensions and stresses that befall all living systems. A sense of coherence is a belief that all of the part's of one's life are connected, something ties all people together and life coheres in a meaningful way. This sense of coherence gives people direction and builds in them the confidence that things will work out. It also contributes to the belief that a person can positively influence the outcome of conflicts that arise in response to life's stressors. This "sense of coherence" is composed of three interrelated parts; *meaningfulness*: a congregations possession of an overall sense of purpose, *manageability*: its sense of being able to shape its destiny, *comprehensibility*: the ability of a congregation to judge reality soundly. A strong sense of coherence motivates people to be active, focused and imaginative in their responses to tension. It enables them to act decisively to defuse and manage conflict.

Also in healthy congregations, there is always ongoing work on clarity, whether clarity of beliefs, direction or responsibility. If there's one thing the physical human body is quite clear about, it is what is self and what is not self. The entire immune system is devoted to preserving the body's integrity. Healthy congregations are clear about what is and what is not beneficial to their well-being. This enables them to respond appropriately.

These are only the first three of seven areas where leaders can focus in order to make clear and effective responses to conditions that will positively impact the health of the congregation. Unfortunately, I've run out of my allotted space for this month's newsletter. We will have to end on a "cliff-hanger" and continue this discussion next month! Grace & Peace,
Pastor Scott

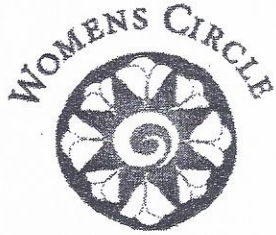
In the month of February Pastor Scott gave the following sermons:

On February 3rd our sermon was "Hard Truth" based on Jeremiah 1:4-10 and Luke 4:21-30. This sermon endeavored to show that sometimes God calls a prophet to tell God's people things that they need to hear rather than what they want to hear. This was done to the end that the listeners will be faithful in speaking for God, even if it means rejection for speaking a hard truth.

On February 10th the Old Testament lesson was Isaiah 6:1-3, the Epistle was 1 Corinthians 15:1-11 and the Gospel lesson was from Luke 5:1-11. The sermon was titled "How Do You Respond to God?" In this sermon it was shown that we respond to God's call and grace shown to us in Jesus Christ by doing what Jesus says to do, even in the face of unpromising circumstances. In response to this sermon it is hoped that the listeners will manifest a grateful response to God by obeying and serving God, doing what Jesus says to do, even when it seems futile sometimes.

On February 17th our sermon was "What Kind of Tree Are You?" This sermon was based on Jeremiah 17:5-10 from the Old Testament, Luke 6:17-26 as well as the Psalter of the day which was Psalm 1. In this sermon it was shown from the scriptures that by trusting in the Lord and not ourselves, other people or things, we become the strong young tree God calls us to be; one with deep roots and no fear of the heat or seasons of drought. It is hoped that in response the listeners will put their trust in the Lord and not cease to bear fruit.

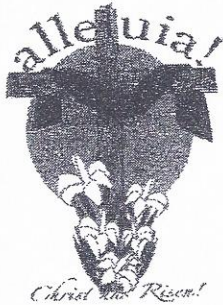
On February 24th the Epistle lesson for the sermon "Life Requires Death" was 1 Corinthians 15:35-38, 42-50 and the Gospel lesson was Luke 6:27-38. In this sermon we learned that very often for something new to come to life, something old has to die. In response it is hoped that the listeners may mourn what is the old way and let go of it in order to embrace the life that is breaking forth at Trinity as a collegiate church.



BROEK CIRCLE – will meet on Tuesday, April 9th at 11:00 a.m. at the home of Joanne Nuber. Hostess, Pat Ledger.

Brock Cooks will have Chicken Florentine soup available in May 12th. An order form is in on the hall bulletin board.

JACOBA CIRCLE – will meet on Monday, April 8th at 7:30pm in the Library Lounge. Hostess, Joan Beil.



COME CELEBRATE

EASTER SUNDAY

April 21st at 10:00am in the Sanctuary.



Maundy Thursday- April 18th

Communion- 8:00 pm in the Chapel.



April, 2019

7. Timothy Harris

9. Howard Hong

14. Shawn Borelli

16. Barbara Nuber

20. Sarah Coppola

23. Tom Wagner

30. David Zolkiwsky

MAY Newsletter DEADLINE -
Monday, April 15th



Volunteer Questionnaire .txt






Volunteer Questionnaire

Purpose: TO assess the state of satisfaction in the church, and to gauge the level of support for volunteer programs. Please reply to howahong37@yahoo.com with survey answers, or give Howard Hong your survey responses on Sunday, or leave survey responses in Howard Hong's mailbox at Trinity
Thank you.

- 1) Does the church satisfy your needs, spiritual, social, or other need? How can the church improve its service to you?
- 2) Would you like to see any community outreach program? What kind of program? Would you volunteer for it?
- 3) Are you interested in volunteering for the afterschool program at Agape House? What kind of subject or skill could you tutor in?
- 4) Are you interested in quarterly follow-up to the Healthy Congregation Workshop? Would you be interested in a collegiate church meal and follow-up on a regularly basis? Would you volunteer to prepare the meal?
- 5) Are you interest in holding a quarterly meal with the community as outreach? Would you volunteer to prepare or serve the meal?
- 6) Are there any services you feel the collegiate church would offer the community, perhaps in conjunction with other churches? Would you volunteer for this service?
- 7) Are there any other issues you would like to address?



Sun Mon Tue Wed Thu Fri Sat

Every Sunday 10:00 a.m. Worship in Sanctuary	1. Consistory 7:30p.m.	2.	3. Bible Study 7:30 pm	4. Choir Rehearsal 7:30 pm	5.	6.
7.	8. Jacoba 7:30pm	9. Broek 11:00am	10. Bible Study 7:30 pm	11. Choir Rehearsal 7:30 pm	12.	13.
14. 	15. Newsletter 	16.	17. Bible Study 7:30 pm	18.  Maundy Thursday SERVICE 8:00pm	19.  GOOD FRIDAY	20.
21. 	22.	23.	24. Bible Study 7:30pm	25. Choir Rehearsal 7:30 pm	26.	27.
28.	29.	30.				