

# TRINITY CHIMES

NEWSLETTER OF THE TRINITY REFORMED CHURCH

APRIL 2009

*“He has told you, O mortal, what is good; and what does the Lord require of you but to do justice, and to love kindness, and to walk humbly with your God?”*

**Micah 6:8**

### It’s Not About Me...

First off, I just need to say thank you! The Installation Worship Service that we joined together in on Sunday, March 15<sup>th</sup> was such an incredibly joyous celebration. It was so good to share the day with you, my Trinity Church family, as well as beloved church family from my previous congregation upstate and dear friends and colleagues from around the Tri-State. By sharing such a day with so many people who are important to me hopefully, you also got to know me a little bit better in the process. What a blessing and what a day!

A lot of you expressed your well wishes on the occasion, and not a few expressed how it was a day to celebrate me as your pastor. Again, thank you. In many ways it was about commemorating and “making official” this relationship between Trinity and Pastor Tom. But mostly, it’s not about me. It’s about us. It’s about us as a church, as the people of God, *each and all called by God to be ministers of God’s blessing and good news in a hurt and broken world so loved by God.*

### It’s Not About Us...

But then again lest in our joy we forget it’s not really about us either. Undoubtedly you have heard the saying “Can’t see the forest for the trees.” It refers to someone who is too involved in the details of a problem to look at the situation as a whole. So focused on a particular tree, they entirely miss the forest. Sometimes we church people can be like that. Churches are a lot like trees and we can sometimes get so focused on church—remember church is another way of saying us, “I am the church, you are the church, we are the church together...”—so focused on ourselves really, focused on us, that we miss the forest. That is, we miss the purpose and the mission of God, our calling, in the world. It’s not about us.

### It’s About the Reign of God

It’s about God. It’s about Christ. It’s about the Holy Spirit alive and active in the world. It’s about us answering the call and following our Lord. In our baptism we are each “received into the visible membership of the holy catholic Church, engaged to confess the faith of Christ, and *to be God’s faithful servant* until life’s end.” (emphasis added) Not sure if you caught these words of the Installation Worship liturgy (and also used in all our ordination services):

By the Holy Spirit all who believe and are baptized receive a ministry to witness to Jesus as Savior and Lord, and to love and serve those with whom they live and work. We are ambassadors for Christ, who reconciles and makes whole. We are the salt of the earth; We are the light of the world. Following his resurrection and ascension, Christ gave gifts to the church. These gifts were that “some would be apostles, some prophets, some evangelists, some pastors and teachers, to equip the **saints for the work of ministry**, for building up the body of Christ.” (emphasis added)

It’s not about me. It’s not about us. It’s about God and the good news of the Word that became flesh and the grace upon grace that we have received. Christ is alive. He is risen and is at work in the world. And calls us to work beside him.

Next month I want to continue this focus and flesh out a little more what this looks like at Trinity. Till then I pray that you will continue to journey with Christ during this holy Lenten season and join together as we celebrate the good news of Easter.

In Christ’s Grace & Peace,  
Pastor Tom

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Our vision is to help people find New Life in Jesus Christ!

## Installation Service

On Sunday March 15, Rev. Goodhart was officially installed by the Classis of Queens as our new minister before a congregation of 165 people. A dinner followed in the fellowship hall. Many people helped to make the day special and we would like to thank those who were greeters, helped to set up and decorate, served the food, or baked a cake for dessert.

We also thank and praise God that Pastor Tom is now our pastor and we look forward to working with him for many years as we serve the Lord together at Trinity, in the community, and the world.



Pastor Tom wearing his new stole, a gift from Trinity in honor of his installation.

## Coffee Hour

The coffee hours after our Sunday worship services are proving to be a great success. Several individuals have donated money to pay for coffee, and others have donated cake and cookies. We appreciate these contributions as well as the time others give to set up, serve, and clean up. If you would like to help out in any way, please speak with Linda Morton or Annalee Pfisterer.

## Vacation Bible School



Imagine...

- ...a child hearing about God's love for the first time.
- ...kids worshipping in powerful ways.
- ...children praying for each other.
- ...adults and teens modeling Jesus' love to children.
- ...the kids in our church sharing gifts of love with children who are hurting.
- ...children serving each other.

This summer, from July 20-24, our church will be transformed into a misty bayou. It's our goal to reach 80 kids with this VBS Program! That's 80 who will grow in their relationship with God.

We're praying this awesome VBS Program will touch children's hearts and lives with God's love. Help kids in our community discover that:

- God is with us,
- God is powerful,
- God does what he says he'll do,
- God gives us life, and
- God cares for us.

As we plan and prepare for Crocodile Dock, our team would cherish your prayers. Pray that God would give us wisdom in planning. Pray for the right staff members to join our team. And pray that God would begin working in the hearts of the children who will come to Crocodile Dock!

Watch for more information about this exciting ministry event

## Choir of the Redeemer Reformed Church Vienna, Austria

The Choir of the Redeemer Reformed Church in Vienna was founded in 2003. It consists of 25 singers, predominantly members of Redeemer Reformed Congregation in Vienna, but also of Christians from other denominations connected by means of ecumenical contacts. Its repertoire contains the entire variety of sacred music, reaching from choir pieces by contemporary European composers, music from the tradition of Taizé to music for worship from all parts of the world.

The choir's focus lays in contributing to the worship services at Redeemer Reformed Church in Vienna, but it was also repeatedly invited to perform in other churches in Austria, as well as in Germany and Hungary.

The choir's director, Martin A. Seidl, graduated from Vienna's University of Music and Performing Arts with a degree in music therapy. He also holds a diploma in Sacred Music (including organ performance, composing, and directing) from the Conservatory of Sacred Music of the Diocese of Lower Austria. He regularly works as organist as well as director of several choirs in Austria as well as in Germany, including appearances on public radio and TV stations.

At the Good Friday service at Trinity Reformed Church the choir will sing popular pieces by contemporary European composers of sacred music. This will include a composition by the choir director himself, "at the cross", a Holy Week meditation for choir and organ.

### Good Friday Service

In addition to the Choir of the Redeemer Reformed Church, the Grace Notes will also be part of our Good Friday worship celebration. Please join us as we remember our Lord's sacrifice for us.

### Das Tagesgebet für Montag, 16.3.2009

Barmherziger Vater,  
aus Deiner Gnade leben wir,  
und was unser ist, das haben wir  
aus Deiner Hand empfangen.  
Dafür sind wir dankbar.  
Wir bitten Dich: Schenke uns  
heute einen Tag, an dem wir  
etwas von dem, was wir von Dir  
bekommen haben, an andere  
weitergeben können.

Amen.

### Das Tagesgebet für Donnerstag, 12.3.2009

Herr, wache über mich und mein Leben.  
Halte schützend Deine Hand über mich  
und gib mir Frieden für mein unruhiges Herz.  
Wache über mich und meine Gedanken,  
damit mich die Angst nicht verzehrt.  
Wache über meinen Glauben an Deine Güte,  
damit ich das Vertrauen zu Dir nicht verliere.  
Wache über meinen Lebensmut,  
damit ich mich nicht selbst aufgebe.  
Stärke Hoffnung und Zuversicht  
und laß mich den Reichtum erkennen,  
den Du auf mein Leben gelegt hast.

Amen.

### Bible Study

We would like to begin our Bible study groups once again starting in May. Three groups are planned: the weekday group led by Marieanna Trautmann, the men's group led by Lenny Schiefer, and the women's group led by Brigitte Brady. If you would like to join us, or want further information, please speak with one of the group leaders.

## Worship Schedule for April

April 1—Wednesday Lenten Bible Study at 7:30 p.m.  
April 5—Palm Sunday Worship Service at 10:00 a.m.  
April 10—Good Friday Worship Service at 7:30 p.m.  
April 12—Easter Sunday Worship Service at 10:00 a.m.

April 19, 26 —Regular Worship Schedule at 10:00 a.m.

- \* Communion will be celebrated on April 5 and 10
- \* Prayer Meeting each Sunday at 9:00 am
- \* Junior Church each Sunday at 10:00 am