TRINITY CHIMES

NEWSLETTER OF THE TRINITY REFORMED CHURCH

MAY 2007

WHY YOU NEED TO BE HERE ON SUNDAYS

The attendance of our worship services has not been good over the last month or so, and so in this article I want to again emphasize the importance of attending church and encourage you to make it a priority in your life. It is important because it is something that pleases God and it is necessary for a believer's spiritual well-being. If you are a shut-in or sick and unable to go to church, the ministries on radio or TV might be the only kind of fellowship or spiritual nourishment that you get. God certainly understands your circumstances and recognizes the sincerity of your heart. Also know that we would love to send you a tape of our weekly worship service. If you are not on our list, please let us know. However, it is a different matter for those of you who could attend church but are too lazy, or put other things such as entertainment and amusements before God.

Why is it important to attend church faithfully? Here are some Biblical reasons:

1 It is an Expression of our Love for God.

Going to church is a visible, tangible expression of our love and worship toward God. It is where we can gather with other believers to publicly bear witness of our faith and trust in God, something that is required of all Christians (Matthew 10:32-33). It is where we can bring Him offerings of praise, thanks, and honor, which are pleasing to Him. People are often motivated toward church attendance for how it will bless themselves, however we should remember that the primary purpose of the corporate gathering is to bring "service" to the Lord as a blessing to Him (Psalm 134:2). Indeed, the Lord is deserving of our time and energy to honor Him with our service of devotion. *"You are worthy, our Lord and God, to receive glory and honor and power, for you created all things, and by your will they were created and have their being."* (Revelation 4:11 NIV).

2 It builds up our Spiritual Strength.

When we receive the preaching and teaching of the Word of God it increases our faith and builds us up spiritually. We all know what it is to face spiritual conflicts to our faith, and we must realize the importance of being fed spiritually so that we can overcome the challenges. Paul states that Christians face a wrestling match with the Devil and his evil spiritual forces, and warns that the church must put on spiritual armor for protection. (Ephesians 6:10-18). So often when our people experience a crisis or challenge, they choose to stay away from church until the issue has passed. Instead they should come to the place where they can be strengthened and supported in their faith. It is important that we take every opportunity available to receive ministry and strength from God's Word. *"Consequently, faith comes from hearing the message, and the message is heard through the word of Christ."* (Romans 10:17 NIV).

3 It brings a special visitation of the Lord's Presence.

There is the promise of a special visitation of the Lord's presence whenever two or more gather specifically in the name of Jesus. By implication, this means whenever "Jesus" is the object of gathered prayer, worship, praise, preaching, etc. Even though Jesus lives within the heart of every believer, he honors a gathering in his name by coming in the "midst," with his power, awareness, and anointing. In such a gathering, Christ is able to do things in hearts that he may not at any other time. *"And when two or three of you are together because of me, you can be sure that I'll be there."* (Matthew 18:20 Msg).

4 It provides fellowship with other Christians.

The Bible makes it clear that a right relationship with God requires a "vertical" and "horizontal" alignment — that is, we must have a vertical fellowship with God and a horizontal fellowship with other believers. It is not possible to love God and refuse to love fellow believers. If you have a problem loving other Christians, you have a problem in your relationship with God. One of the most important reasons that we go to church is to practice love toward our fellow believers in the form of fellowship. The Bible clearly shows that if we have a right relationship with God, we have fellowship with others believers. *"But if we*

INSIDE THIS ISSUE:

Church Attendance	1
Bedingungslos	2
Path to Inner Peace	2
Ordination Service	2
New VCA Ministry	2
Class 401	3
Wah-Hoo Wads	3
Mother's Day	3
Easter Celebration	3
To Make You Think	3
Worship Schedule	3

TRINITY REFORMED CHURCH

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

(Continued from page 1)

walk in the light, God himself being the light, we also experience a shared life with one another, as the sacrificed blood of Jesus, God's Son, purges all our sin." (1 John 1:7 Msg).

5 It is an act of obedience to God.

We cannot forget that going to church is also a matter of obeying God's Word. The writer of the Hebrew epistle tells us not to forsake assembling together, implying that continued absence can lead to willful sin. *"Let's see how inventive we can be in encouraging love and helping out, not avoiding worshiping together as some do but spurring each other on, especially as we see the big Day approaching. If we give up and turn our backs on all we've learned, all we've been given, all the truth we now know, we repudiate Christ's sacrifice and are left on our own to face the Judgment..."* (Hebrews 10:24-26 Msg).

6 Your children need to be taught spiritual values.

Your children have spiritual needs as well as physical needs. If you love them enough to feed and clothe them, why not love them enough to tell them of the love of the Lord Jesus Christ. I think we all know that we cannot depend on our public schools to instill spiritual values in our children. *"Just make sure you stay alert. Keep close watch over yourselves. Don't forget anything of what you've seen. Don't let your heart wander off. Stay vigilant as long as you live. Teach what you've seen and heard to your children and grandchildren."* (Deuteronomy 4:9 Msg). We have a revitalized junior church on Sundays during our English Worship Celebration., so bring your children to hear the Word of God, because they need spiritual values.

Please know that if you have not been around on Sundays lately, you are being missed. Also pray that God would work in your heart and in the hearts of others so that when it comes to attending worship we can have the same attitude David had in Psalm 122, *"When they said, "Let's go to the house of God," my heart leaped for joy."*

Rev. Dr. Albert Potgieter

Adapted from articles by Rex Hensley (Why Attend Church Regularly) and Dale A. Robbins (Why Christians Should Attend Church).

Bedingungslos Geliebt

Gott, in deinen Händen erfahre ich Herzlichkeit, Nähe, Trost, Geborgenheit, auch Kraft und Stärke. In deine Hände lege ich meine unbändige Sehnsucht nach Liebe, nach Geliebt-Werden und selbst zu lieben. In deine Hände lege ich den Ort, an dem ich lebe, die Aufgaben, die ich habe. In deine Hände lege ich mein Kämpfen um Selbstständigkeit, meine Rolle in Partnerschaft, Beruf, Kirche und Gesellschaft. In deine Hände lege ich meine Bitte um eine engagierte Gelassenheit in allem. Ich lege all das in deine Hände in dem Vertrauen, dass du damit liebevoll und behutsam umgehst und in ein Leben in Fülle verwandelst.

Christa Winkler SA in: Benedikta Hintersberger OP, Andrea Kett, Hildegund Keul, Aurelia Spendel OP (Hrsg); Du bist der Atem meines Lebens. Das Frauengebetbuch. Schwabenverlag Ostfildern 2006

The Path To Inner Peace

There is a lot happening in the world we are living in. A lunatic student just recently became the deadliest gunman in the history of America. The wave of bombings is continuing in Iraq, and people are still cleaning up after one of the worst floods ever in our area. There is a lot of uncertainty going on in the world right now, and so there is no better time to work on gaining inner peace. It's something everybody would like to have, to feel at peace with ourselves on the inside. But the truth is, very few people ever experience inner peace.

The Bible is very clear about what brings inner peace. Philippians 4 says, *"Don't worry about anything. Instead, pray about everything. Tell God what you need and thank Him for all He has done. If you do this, you will experience God's peace, which is far more wonderful than the human mind can understand. His peace will guard your hearts and minds as you live in Christ Jesus."* The Bible says the key to inner peace is prayer. The question is what are we supposed to pray and how are we supposed to pray? Fortunately Jesus gave the disciples a model prayer that we can still use today. Join us for worship on Sundays as we focus on the Lord's Prayer as the path to inner peace.

Ordination & Installation Service

We are happy to announce that the ordination and installation of the newly elected members of the Consistory will take place during a Combined Worship Celebration on Sunday, May 6 at 10:00 am. The following people have been officially called to serve a term on Trinity's Consistory: Kurt Andreas and Robert Bambach, to be installed as Deacons. Diana Albanese, to be ordained and installed as Deacon, and Leonard Schiefer and Ludwig Hauser, to be ordained and installed as Elders. A fellowship with coffee and cake will follow the service. Please come show your support to these new leaders and celebrate God's call upon their lives.

New VCA Ministry

We have received the following letter from Merilyn Amoroso. The letter was edited to make it shorter:

Hi everybody! I have been a member of this church for 6-7 years. Boy how time flies! In the time I've been a member I've heard Pastor Albert state many times – "If you live in this country, no matter how poor you are, in comparison with most of the rest of the world, you are rich." This is true and I wholeheartedly agree with Pastor Albert. However, right here in our own country there are some very, very poor people. The majority of these people live in Appalachia. We all know that poverty is hard and it is especially hard and devastating in its psychological effects on children.

During our vacation in Pennsylvania, I learned from a church near Morgantown about one of their ministries called Red Bird Missions. This is a ministry which helps the children in Appala-

chia receive sports equipment and other things for their schools. I was very impressed with what they had accomplished because along with the many other things they obtained, they obtained 4 mini-vans through this ministry, for the children's schools.

As I was reading their accomplishments in this ministry God impressed upon me that we, at Trinity, could also become part of this ministry. I spoke with Pastor Albert, and received permission. Last year I spoke with Pastor Gere in Pennsylvania and told him that Trinity would like to join with them to help the children. They were very enthusiastic about this idea.

Here is how the ministry works. They use the box tops for education and the labels for education found on many things that you recycle. When you are recycling, if you notice either of these things on a box or can, just put it to the side and bring it with you on Sunday. I will have a box that you can drop it into. I'll sort it out and every month send the mailing to Pennsylvania.

I hope you will join with me in this ministry to help the children. I am so confident of this, I want to call our Ministry the VCA Ministry. This stands for Victory for the Children in Appalachia. While you are considering taking part in this ministry, please keep in mind what the Apostle Paul wrote in 1 Corinthians 13:13, *"These three things remain – faith, hope and charity. The greatest of these is charity."* And as we all know, charity begins at home.

Thank you—Merilyn Amoroso.

Class 401—My Life Mission

The first part of Class 401 on Discovering My Life Mission will be offered on Sunday, **May 13**, following our English Worship Celebration. In this class we will learn how we can be a messenger of God's good news to other people in our own unique way - how we can share our own life message. The class is the first installment of the completion of our Christian Life and Service Seminars, and is only open to those who have already completed Classes 101, 201 and 301. This class is the first of two steps in becoming a grand slam Christian, in other words someone who has reached all four bases by completing all four classes. A free lunch will be provided for those attending the class. Please sign up for Class 401 Part 1 by giving your name to Pastor Albert.

Wah-Hoo Wads Fund Drive

Wah-Hoo! We are starting to make preparations for this year's Vacation Bible Camp, where children will go on a wild ride through God's Word at Avalanche Ranch. Like in past years we again need your help! We rely on the generosity of our members to supplement our funds for Vacation Bible Camp and this year we ask you to support our Wah-Hoo Wads Drive. Please open your hearts and wallets by sponsoring a child for a donation of $10.00. Forms will be available at worship during the months of May, June and July. You can also send a check to Trinity with a note stating that it is for the "Wah-Hoo Wads" Vacation Bible Camp campaign. In addition we will again post a list of supplies needed for VBC and ask you to pray about providing some of these needed items. Thank you for your prayers and support!

Mother's Day Service

Mother's Day falls on May 13 this year and we invite you to worship with us that day as we remember and honor our mothers. If you want to submit any memorials for our special Mother's Day insert in the Sunday Bulletin, forms are available at our worship services. If you are unable to attend worship, please send in your memorial by mail.

Easter Celebration

On Easter Sunday, Pastor Albert asked the question: "Who are you wearing this Easter?" He explained that if we really knew the truth, we would realize that our lives are all tattered and torn and ripped with rebellion like this ugly jacket he wore and cut up during the service. If we however acknowledge our sin before God, we can claim the exchange that was made possible on the cross by Jesus Christ. When we do that we can "clothe ourselves with Jesus Christ" (Romans 13:14) and live resurrection lives. He illustrated this by exchanging this torn jacket with his suit jacket that was hanging on the cross since the beginning of the service. He also asked those who already believed in Jesus, how they are wearing him. How are they modeling Jesus? Everyone received a piece of red thread to wear around their wrist. This served as a reminder of who they are wearing and modeling in life.

To Make You Think

If God had a refrigerator, your picture would be on it. If he had a wallet, your photo would be in it. He sends you flowers every Spring, and a sunrise every morning. Whenever you want to talk, he'll listen. He could live anywhere in the universe, and he chose your heart. What about the Christmas gift he sent you in Bethlehem; not to mention that Friday at Calvary. Face it, he's crazy about you.

Submitted by Margot Groezinger

Worship Schedule for May

May 13, 20—Regular Worship Schedule

German—9:30 am
English—10:45 am

* Communion will be celebrated on May 6

May 6, 27—Combined Worship Celebrations
at 10:00 am