

TRINITY CHIMES

NEWSLETTER OF THE TRINITY REFORMED CHURCH

MAY 2008

THERE IS A TIME FOR EVERYTHING

The Word of God says, *There is a time for everything, and a season for every activity under heaven: a time to be born and a time to die, a time to plant and a time to uproot, a time to tear down and a time to build, a time to weep and a time to laugh, a time to mourn and a time to dance...* Ecclesiastes 3:1-4 (NIV).

There is a time for everything, and so after twelve and a half years, the time has come for my family and I to say goodbye to Trinity. As most, if not all of you already know, I have accepted a call to the Faith Reformed Church in Slate Hill, New York. We will most probably be leaving at the beginning of July.

This has not been an easy decision for us. Trinity and her people have become our family here in America. We have been greatly blessed by your love and support over all these years, and we are certainly not leaving because we are unhappy. On the contrary, we are very happy here. It's just that for the last year or so, I have sensed that God is calling me to a different ministry. And so after prayerful consideration, my family and I have decided that the time is right for us, and also for Trinity, to take the next step.

Faith Reformed Church is a church with about a hundred members, of whom many are younger families. The church is only twenty years old and I will be their first full time pastor. This is a financial step of faith for them as a church and also for us as a family, but we believe God will provide. The congregation is currently worshipping in a small country church that was purchased from the Presbyterian Church. The church has however purchased a piece of property and because the current facil-



Faith Reformed Church in Slate Hill, New York

ity has become almost too small for effective growth, the plan is to build a new church within the next few years.

Living out in a rural part of Orange County will obviously be very different from Queens, and I'm sure there will be many times that we will miss the city. We have come to love the diversity and hustle and bustle of New York and we are thankful that we will not be that far away. On the other hand, our children will have more opportunities for outdoor living and sports activities, which is the way Annelise and I grew up in South Africa, and something that we always wanted to offer them as well.

The saying goodbye part is of course the hard part and as a family we have been experiencing the conflicting emotions of excitement and sadness. Yes, new beginnings are thrilling, but having to uproot and separate yourself from those you love is miserable. We are living what Ecclesiastes is calling the season of mourning and weeping, and I know that many of you are experiencing the same. On the one hand there will be the excitement of a new pastor, and on the other hand there may right now be feelings of disappointment or desertion, or even anger and sadness.

My prayer is that God will enable us all to work through our feelings, so that we can come to a point where we are just thankful for the time God has allowed us to serve him together here at Trinity. So that we can celebrate his blessings and provision, knowing that Jesus is the head of the church and that all of you form the body, and that Trinity will continue to minister and prosper. That God will eventually bring the right person to move the church forward, but that he has also provided enough quality leaders and members with wonderful gifts to do so this very moment. Like someone said to me, "I hope we get a new pastor who is as good as you, but only a little better." I like that and my hope is that he or she will even be a lot better!

I want you to know that we love you and we thank God for you. You are a wonderful church family and whoever is called to be your next

INSIDE THIS ISSUE:

There Is A Time	1
Save The Date	2
Mein Leben ist Voller	2
Profession Of Faith	2
NCD	2
Ladies Aid Bake Sale	2
GA Afternoon	2
Fundraising Dinner	2
Missionary Month	3
Mothers' Day	3
Power Lab VBC	3
What Not To Buy	3
Worship Calendar	3



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

(Continued from page 1)

pastor will be very fortunate and blessed. I will express more words of gratitude in the June issue of the Chimes, but for now I just want to say... Thank You!

Rev. Dr. Albert Potgieter

SAVE THE DATE

We want to express our gratitude for 12 wonderful years of Pastor Albert and Annelise being with us. We are planning a farewell honoring dinner on June 29th following the morning worship service. More details later. So save the date—Marieanna Trautmann

Mein Leben Ist Voller Gott

Gott, mein Gott, ich danke dir für die Stunden meines Lebens, in denen das Herz weiß, was sich dem Begreifen entzieht: Es ist gut mit meinem Weg. Ich entbehre manches, aber ich bin nicht arm. Du machst mich reich. Du bringst zum Schweigen die Stimmen der Verneinung in mir. Du weckst mir Freude an kleinen Dingen und lehrst mich die Zeichen deiner Liebe erkennen.

Die brennende Kerze spricht mir von dir. Ich atme dich im Duft der Hyazinthe. Du kommst mir entgegen im Wohlwollen von Menschen. In der Musik berührst du den Grund der Seele und machst mich gewiss, dass eine andere Welt ist, wo die Verlassenen zu Geborgenen werden. Du lässt mich wohnen in deinen Worten wie in einem Haus. Nicht mehr verzweifelt sind die Tage der Traurigkeit, sondern erfüllt von deinen Tröstungen. Wie Morgentau auf ausgedörrtem Weideland ist deine Gegenwart, mein Gott, für mich. Anbeten will ich dich und dir zusingen meinen Dank.

Aus: Antje S. Naegli, Die Nacht ist voller Sterne. Gebete in dunklen Stunden. Herder Verlag, Freiburg Basel Wien 2001

Profession Of Faith

Alexander Burzynski has been meeting with Pastor Albert for the last 8 weeks in preparation of his confirmation. During these meetings he has learned more about what it means to believe in God, Jesus and the Holy Spirit; how God gives us a new life; and how the church will help him grow in his faith. He has also practiced the "holy habits" of scripture reading and prayer, and has experimented with many different styles of prayer. In addition to his weekly mentoring meetings with Pastor Albert, he also attended Class 101 on discovering church membership and what it means to belong to God's family.

Alexander next has to meet with the Board of Elders, who will further prepare and encourage him. He will be professing his faith during a combined worship service on Sunday, May 25 at 10:00 am. Come celebrate what God is doing in his life and please keep him in your prayers as he prepares for this momentous day.

Natural Church Development

As you can remember Trinity started the process of Natural Church Development last year and completed the congregation survey. The next step was for Rev. Jon Norton to come and share the results of the survey. NCD however dictates that a church should not engage in this process during a time of transition. Since Pastor Albert will be leaving at the end of June, it was suggested by Rev. Norton that the process be put on hold until the next minister has settled in.

Ladies Aid Bake Sale

The Ladies Aid / Frauenverein will be holding a bake sale on Saturday, May 10, from 10:00 am to 2:00 pm. Come support their effort and experience the delight of home baked goods.

German-American Afternoon

The forty-first German-American Afternoon took place on Sunday, April 27. The attendance was better than expected and additional chairs had to be brought in for the approximately 90 people who came to be entertained. They were not disappointed. Stories were told, poems were read, and jokes were at the order of the day. I'm sure many of us did not know the origin of the Olympic torch and we certainly now see the Episcopalian church in a completely different light. There were musical performances on the piano by Reinier and Leilani Potgieter, on the cello and violin by Alanah and Elise Cuffe, and even Pastor Albert dusted his guitar off to sing about the "Streets of London." After an interesting slide show on Germany by Theo Hessenius, the afternoon was capped off with the traditional coffee, cake and "klatsch". Thank you to all who made it possible to continue this wonderful tradition at Trinity.



Pastor Albert, Alanah Cuffe, Elise Cuffe, Leilani Potgieter & Reinhard Groezinger

Fundraising Dinner

The Frauenverein / Ladies Aid of Trinity held a successful fundraising dinner on April 17. Approximately 40 people gathered in the Fellowship Hall for a delicious full course dinner. The ladies made a profit of \$400.00, which will help strengthen their funds for their ministries.



June Is Missionary Month

During the first part of June we will be visited by the two missionaries we are supporting. Rev. David Alexander will bring the message on June 1 and share about his mission work in Taiwan. Peter Mark Trautmann will share God's word with us on June 8 and tell about his work at New York University. There will be a combined worship celebration at 10:00 am on both these Sundays. We look forward to hearing how our financial support and prayers are assisting them in the exciting work they are doing to bring the gospel of Jesus Christ to those who are lost.

Mother's Day Service

Mother's Day falls on May 11 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.

Power Lab Is Coming



"Aha!" We will be discovering Jesus' miraculous power at the Power Lab Vacation Bible Camp this summer! The camp will once again run from 6-9 p.m., during the week of July 21-July 25.

Power Lab will teach children that Jesus gives us the power to be thankful, to help others, to be brave, to live forever and to tell others about God. Leaders will help children transfer what they learn into practical living skills through a Daily Challenge. Bible stories, science labs, games, crafts, snacks and delving into God's Word, will all support the truths the children explore.

As you may be aware, this program relies heavily on the generosity of our members, since we try to keep the registration fee low. Many parents express their gratefulness every year by making a large donation to help us cover costs. However, we are asking you to support us in reaching out to the children of the community by making a donation of \$10 per child to the "Lab Loot" fund. Our goal is to raise enough for 80 kids. "Lab Loot" forms will be available at church or donations can be mailed in. Please remember to state that the donation is for VBC.

A Vacation Bible Camp of this format requires a large staff and we currently need the following positions to be filled:

Leader for Science Works, which will help the participants explore God's Word through their Bible books. The leader will share time with the Games leader and the teaching manual is available.

Lab Crew leaders, who will lead a group of about 6 children from one station to the next. New leaders will be paired with experienced leaders. No preparation or teaching required.

Junior leaders (ages 12—16), who will assist Lab Crew leaders.

Assistant to VBC Director, who will share the responsibility of ensuring that the camp runs smoothly.

Volunteers to Snack leader, who will help prepare each day's snack.

Volunteers to help with registration on the first two nights.

Coordinator for Barbecue, who will collect donations, assure that there are enough supplies, food and drinks, and assign two to three people to barbecue.

If you have never participated in VBC, this might be the year God amazes you with His power, grace and love, if you are willing to allow him to use your unique being and gifts to serve Him and your neighbors. Please contact Annelise Potgieter for more information or to accept God's challenge to you!

Thank you for your support and generosity.

Annelise Potgieter

What Not To Buy Your Wife

What NOT to buy your wife for Mother's Day:

Don't buy clothing that involves sizes. The chances are one in seven thousand that you will get her size right, and your wife will be offended the other 6999 times. "Do I look like a size 16?" she'll say. Too small a size doesn't cut it either: "I haven't worn a size 8 in 20 years!"

Avoid all things useful. The new silver polish advertised to save hundreds of hours is not going to win you any brownie points.

Don't buy anything that involves weight loss or self-improvement. She'll perceive a six-month membership to a diet center as a suggestion that's she's overweight.

Don't buy jewelry. The jewelry your wife wants, you can't afford. And the jewelry you can afford, she doesn't want.

Finally, don't spend too much. "How do you think we're going to afford that?" she'll ask. But don't spend too little. She won't say anything, but she'll think, "Is that all I'm worth?"

Herb Forst in Cross River, NY, Patent Trader, in Reader's Digest, p. 69.

Worship Schedule for May

May 4, 11, 18—Regular Worship Schedule

German—9:30 am

English—10:45 am

* Communion will be celebrated on May 4

May 25—Combined Worship Celebration
at 10:00 am