

TRINITY CHIMES

NEWSLETTER OF THE TRINITY REFORMED CHURCH

OCTOBER 2008

A Letter from the Potgieters

We recently received the following letter from Pastor Potgieter and his family which we wanted to share with you.

Dear Trinity Church Family,

After two months out here in the country, we are finally starting to settle in. Even though there are lots more to do in our house, it is now more organized with fewer boxes lying around. We never knew having your own house is so much work. It seems like I am constantly mowing the lawn, or chasing bees, or wielding the weed whacker, or painting, or putting a screw in somewhere. The other day my father-in-law came into the house and told me I should go take a look at my golf clubs in the garage. When I went, I noticed a spider had spun a large web between the head of my driver and the window. I guess that is indicative of how spending my free time has changed. Please pray that I will be able to restore the right priorities in my life again soon. Just kidding!

Life is certainly more quiet and relaxed out here, the kids are happy in their new school and things are going well at my new church, with lots of challenges to keep us occupied and focused.

Annelise, the children and I would like to thank you for the wonderful farewell you gave us on June 29. It is a day we will never forget and we appreciated your love and generosity so much. It is with great fondness and gratitude that

we think about our time with you and the ministry we shared. God has been good to us and we pray for his continued blessings upon you and the church.

Please know that we miss you and that you will always be our church family.

With much love,

Pastor Albert, Annelise, Reinier and Leilani

Pastor Potgieter's Installation Service

Twenty people from Trinity Reformed Church traveled to Slate Hill New York on Sunday afternoon, September 21, to attend Pastor Potgieter's installation as the new pastor of Faith Reformed Church. Our own Marieanna Trautmann participated in the service by reading the charge to the Faith Reformed Church congregation. It was a wonderful afternoon and we were glad that we could show our support for Pastor Albert, Annelise, Reinier and Leilani.

Göttlicher Haussegen

Wo Glaube, da Liebe;

Wo Liebe, da Friede;

Wo Friede, da Segen;

Wo Segen, da Gott;

*** Wo Gott, keine Not. ***

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

Mary – Martha Retreat

On Sept. 12th and 13th I had the privilege of attending a short Retreat at the Oceanside Tabor Retreat Center. I have always found retreats a real gift from God. They allow us to step out of our hurried busy lives (I know for some that isn't even an option) to take a look at the way we are living out our lives. Sometimes we just need to see things from a different perspective and refocus our energy and thinking.

This small retreat was focused on “having a Mary heart in a Martha world”. The scripture basis of the weekend was the well-known passage in Luke 10:38-41. We are all familiar with the story of the two sisters; Martha who spends her time in the kitchen trying to prepare food for Jesus, while Mary kneels at the feet of Jesus listening attentively, seemingly oblivious of her sister's frantic busyness. When Martha has finally had enough, she asks Jesus to tell her sister Mary to get up and help her. However, Jesus gently reprimands Martha by telling her that she is busy about many things and Mary has chosen “the better part”.

This short account is really about our relationship to Jesus. Where am I in that relationship? What is my intent? At the retreat we focused on what “the better part” would look like for each of us. Sometimes it's not the work that we are doing but what we let the work do to us. We need to hold onto our relationship with Jesus even as we are at our tasks. Perhaps a good question would be; what is it in what we are doing that is taking us away from God? What distracts me from awareness of God's presence and how do I choose the better part? For myself, I know that fatigue is a big distraction. Being physically tired is not conducive to a contemplative life. We discussed the habits we each have that bring us back into God's presence – it may be a walk in the park, contemplating the beauty of nature, listening to a particular piece of music, enjoying an animal, watching the peaceful face of an infant or just going for a long drive. For each of us the “Mary heart” that brings us back to the feet of Jesus is very different.

We are all both Martha and Mary at different times in

our lives, even during one 24 hour period. We have a loving Father who knows us in both our busyness and our sincere seeking after Him, and loves us equally well at all times.

Brigette Brady

The Ten Commandments Southern Style

The Ten Commandments written as follows were posted on the wall at Cross Trails Church in Manchester, Tennessee.

1. Just one God
2. Put nothin' before God
3. Watch yer mouth
4. Git yourself to Sunday meetin'
5. Honor yer Ma & Pa
6. No killin'
7. No foolin' around with another fellow's gal
8. Don't take what ain't yers
9. No tellin' tales or gossipin'
10. Don't be hankerin' for yer buddy's stuff

Now that's plain an' simple, don't ya think? Y'all have a nice day.

Worship Schedule for October

October 5, 12, 19, 26—Regular Worship Service
at 10:00 a.m.

* Communion will be celebrated on October 5