

TRINITY CHIMES

NEWSLETTER OF THE TRINITY REFORMED CHURCH

JANUARY 2011

A New Year, A New Beginning

*"See, I am making all things new."
-from Revelation 21:5*

It was a very complex and complicated situation. Extremely serious. And we needed to save the world. Or at least, I think that was the gist of the game. I kept making mistakes and jumbling their names. What with all the LEGOs, matchbox cars, and Star Wars characters, it was hard to keep it all straight. Then finally, with the calm and assured patience that only a six-year old working with an inadequate adult can muster, Andrew cleared the floor—swooped all the toys to the side of the rug—and announced, "let's start over!" And then immediately began to set the toys back up while explaining, yet again to me, who everybody was and what they were suppose to do...

It's not only six-year olds. And it's not only in games or at play. There comes times when I think just about everyone would like to be able to start over, to begin again. Maybe not a "go back to the beginning" necessarily, but at least a "do-over."

That's what makes New Year such an auspicious observance: an occasion to not simply mark time but to begin again, to kind of wipe the slate clean and start over.

Liturgically speaking, New Year just happens to land during Christmas-tide—the Twelve Days of Christmas following the Nativity and lasting until Epiphany also known as Three Kings Day when the church celebrates the

visit of the magi to the Christ child. It's serendipitous that these holidays coincide: commemorating the Incarnation—God's being born into our world as Emanuel—and the starting of a new year. What better way than to demonstrate the possibility for things being changed, renewed, remade than for God to be born as a baby!

For many of us, the New Year also brings with it resolutions—commitments, hopes, plans—to do or be differently in the new year. I have never thought much of resolutions. They can seem rather shallow on the one hand, or incredibly unattainable on the other. Come a few weeks following the new year and many of us have broken our resolutions. So much for resolve.

But I have come to a new perspective regarding resolutions. Sure they can sometimes be a little shallow—we swear to forego desserts until...or be seemingly too grand and unattainable. But I think at the heart of why we make resolutions is why we desire the occasional do over. We all need new beginnings. Sometimes large ones and sometimes the smaller everyday variety.

And we get that.

In many ways, Jesus is God's resolution to show us a new way: God in Christ is at work making all things new, including you and me, not just for new year but for every year, for every day.

So may this be a season of new beginnings. May this be a year full of God's resolution coming true in you and me and the world around us. And may we

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

join Christ in that task, may we each resolve to make each new day an opportunity for God's grace, love, peace, justice, and joy to be manifest.

In Christ's Grace & Peace and Happy New Year/
Guten Rutsch,

Pastor Tom

Pastor Tom's Open House

Many members and friends of Trinity enjoyed Pastor Tom's hospitality at his open house on December 12.



Annual Congregational Meeting

The annual congregational meeting will be held on Sunday February 6, 2011 immediately following the regular worship service. The congregational meeting provides you with an opportunity to hear from Pastor and members of the consistory about what is going on in the life of Trinity and also for you to ask questions. Please make every effort to attend.

2011 Weekly Envelopes

For your accounting purposes and convenience we have weekly contribution envelopes available. You need not be a member of Trinity to use these envelopes. Please contact Peter Trautmann or Liz Burzynski for more information.

Für das neue Jahr

Das Lebens Jahre uns entgleiten
gleich einem Strom nach es'gem Rat.
Du wendest wieder, Herr der Zeiten,
im Buch das Lebens nun ein Blatt.
Es steht die Zeit in Deinen Haenden.
Lass sie uns fuellen still und treu!
Und wenn Du dieses Blatt wirst wenden,
so gib, dass es kein leeres sei.
Schreibst Du darauf mit heil'gen Zuegen,
was unser Herz hier nicht versteht,
so lass den Glauben in uns siegen,
der auch im Dunkel mit dir geht.
Wie immer auch dies Jahr mag enden,
nur Du weisst unseren Weg allein.
Du haeltst auch unsre Zeit in Haenden
und laesst uns tief geborgen sein.
Kaete Walter

Summary:

With the passing of the old year, God has turned another page in our book of life. Hopefully, for each of us, the page is not left empty. When God writes things we do not understand on the new page, we pray to accept them in faith. Whatever this coming year may bring, we know that our times are in His hands and we are held secure.

Couples and Friends Luncheon

The Couples and Friends Club came together on December 18 when 28 members and guests enjoyed a catered luncheon to celebrate Christmas.



Ladies Aid/Frauenverein Luncheon

Twenty-four members and guests of the Ladies Aid/Frauenverein gathered on December 15 to celebrate Christ's birth with an enjoyable luncheon and slide show.



Classis Assessment

In your offering envelope boxes you may have noticed envelopes marked "Assessment." As part of the Reformed Church in America we are responsible for paying an annual assessment to the denomination for each active adult member in our congregation. This assessment is used to pay for the denominational programs and expenses locally, regionally, and nationally. For 2011 the annual Classes assessment is \$95.00. This means that the first \$95.00 you donate in your offering envelopes to Trinity Reformed Church goes to the denomination and not to Trinity. You will find four assessment envelopes spread throughout the year in this box. Please consider paying the entire amount at the beginning of the year or spreading it out into 4 quarterly payments of \$23.75 each. Your support helps us meet our denominational financial responsibilities. Thank you.

Condolences

Elizabeth Johanna Reeverts, wife of former Pastor Daniel Reeverts, went on to the nearer presence of the Lord on November 26, 2010 in Clearwater, Florida. All five of her children: Dean, Mary, Dan, Rita, and Jon were with her as well as grandchildren and great-grandchildren. The Reeverts were incredibly dear to the Trinity Reformed Church family and our prayers and sympathy go out to their family.

Building Repair Fund

This will be a final report on the Building Repair Fund which we had for 2010. A total of \$ 11,820.00 was collected and helped pay for the fellowship hall windows, construction of the new church office, and electrical and plumbing upgrades. Thank you to everyone who contributed.

Stewardship and Finance Report

Expenditures for Month of November 2010

Personnel Expenses	6085.00
Utilities	1031.00
Ministry/Supplies	693.00
Maintenance	75.00
Spiritual Life/Outreach/Advertising	35.00
Other Disbursements	4345.00

Total Expenditures **12,264.00**

Receipts for Month of November 2010

Weekly Envelopes	4580.00
Weekly Plate	201.00
Benevolences	396.00
Memorial Fund*	120.00
Special Offerings	1224.00
Other Receipts	4493.00

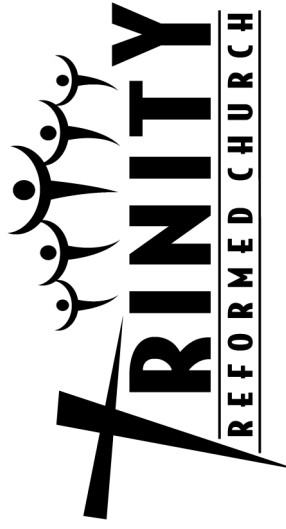
Total Receipts **11,014.00**

***Includes donations to Memorial Fund and Building Repair Fund.**

Worship Schedule for January

January 2, 9, 16, 23, 30 —Regular Worship Schedule
10:00 a.m.

- * Communion will be celebrated on January 2
- * Prayer Meeting each Sunday at 9:00 am
- * Junior Church each Sunday at 10:00 am



January 2011

Rev. Thomas Goodhart
(718) 821-2700

TRINITY
REFORMED CHURCH

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Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
						1 Happy New Year
2 Worship Service with Communion 10:00 am	3	4	5	6 UPC Soup Kitchen 4:00 pm	7 UPC Soup Kitchen 4:00 pm	8
9 Worship Service 10:00 am	10	11	12 Bible Study 7:00 pm	13 Consistory Meeting 7:00 pm	14	15 Couples and Friends 6:30 pm
16 Worship Service 10:00 am	17	18	19 Frauenverein/Ladies Aid Meeting 1:00pm Bible Study 7:00 pm	20	21	22
23 Worship Service 10:00 am	24	25	26 Bible Study 7:00 pm	27	28	29
30 Worship Service 10:00 am	31			<i>Their Daily Bread</i> collection 1st. Sunday of the Month	Junior Church Sundays at 10:00am	Prayer Meeting Sundays at 9:00 am