

TRINITY CHIMES

NEWSLETTER OF THE TRINITY REFORMED CHURCH

SEPTEMBER 2010

Justice

We believe that God has revealed himself as the one who wishes to bring about justice and true peace among people.

-Confession of Belhar (4),

September 1986

This is the third and final section of the Belhar Confession concerning God's justice. (The other two key issues of concern to all churches: unity of the church and unity among all people and reconciliation within church and society).

It confesses that at the heart of who God is is a God of justice. And further, the heart of God is to be lived out by God's people in word and action: "[W]hat 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?"

The context of the Belhar is important to consider. It was written in a time and place responding to a great injustice—the injustice of apartheid, legalized segregation and brutal discrimination. Yet, while the confession speaks from and to its own context, it never actually uses the word "apartheid." Part of the great beauty of the confession, of any confession, is not only its ability to speak to its own time and place but to speak a word of truth beyond its own context. Therefore, what is the word of justice that it reminds and calls us to here in New York City, in the USA, and in Trinity Reformed?

In Christ's Grace, Peace, and Justice,

Pastor Tom

We believe in the triune God, Father, Son and Holy Spirit, who gathers, protects and cares for the church through Word and Spirit. This, God has done since the beginning of the world and will do to the end.

We believe:

that God has revealed himself as the one who wishes to bring about justice and true peace among people;

that God, in a world full of injustice and enmity, is in a special way the God of the destitute, the poor and the wronged;

that God calls the church to follow him in this, for God brings justice to the oppressed and gives bread to the hungry;

that God frees the prisoner and restores sight to the blind;

that God supports the downtrodden, protects the stranger, helps orphans and widows and blocks the path of the ungodly;

that for God pure and undefiled religion is to visit the orphans and the widows in their suffering;

that God wishes to teach the church to do what is good and to seek the right (Deut. 32:4; Luke 2:14; John 14:27; Eph. 2:14; Isa. 1:16-17; James 1:27; James 5:1-6; Luke 1:46-55; Luke 6:20-26; Luke 7:22; Luke 16:19-31; Ps. 146; Luke 4:16-19; Rom. 6:13-18; Amos 5);

that the church must therefore stand by people in any form of suffering and need, which implies, among other things, that the church must witness against and strive against any form of injustice, so that justice may roll down like waters, and righteousness like an ever-flowing stream;

that the church as the possession of God must stand where the Lord stands, namely against injustice and with the wronged; that in following Christ the church must witness against all the powerful and privileged who selfishly seek their own interests and thus control and harm others.

INSIDE THIS ISSUE:

Justice	1
CROP Walk	2
Building Repair Fund	2
Happy Birthday Theo	2
New Members	2
Stewardship and Finance Report	2
VBS	3
Einer Geht Mit	4
Picnic	4
Worship Schedule	4



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

(Continued from page 1)

Therefore, we reject any ideology which would legitimate forms of injustice and any doctrine which is unwilling to resist such an ideology in the name of the gospel.

We believe that, in obedience to Jesus Christ, its only head, the church is called to confess and to do all these things, even though the authorities and human laws might forbid them and punishment and suffering be the consequence (Eph. 4:15-16; Acts 5:29-33; 1 Peter 2:18-25; 1 Peter 3:15-18).

Jesus is Lord.

To the one and only God, Father, Son and Holy Spirit, be the honor and the glory for ever and ever.

CROP Walk

The Ridgewood Glendale Sunday School Association will sponsor another CROP Walk on Saturday October 2 at 9:00 a.m. at Juniper Valley Park in Middle Village. The money that is raised will be donated to Church World Services to help alleviate world hunger. Last year Trinity Reformed Church raised \$ 640.00. We hope we can do at least as well this year.

If you would like a little exercise, then plan to walk with us and be at the park at 9:00 a.m. If you can't walk, then sponsor a walker. If you have any questions, please speak with Gerard Tate or Bill Voges.

Building Repair Fund Drive

As of the end of August we have collected a total of \$10,820 towards our goal of \$20,000 for the Building Repair Fund Drive. Thank you to everyone who has contributed so far. Additional offering envelopes are available at the back of the church.

Happy Birthday Theo

Theo Hessenius celebrated his 80th birthday on August 22 at a party attended by family and friends. Best wishes for many more.

New Members

On June 20th, Trinity Reformed Church received five people into membership. Welcome Tony Famighetti, Don Gorham, Jenny Mayorga, Bobby Murphy, and Sarah Outerson Murphy.



Stewardship and Finance Report

<u>Expenditures for Months of</u>	<u>May/June/July 2010</u>
Personnel Expenses	18,755.00
Utilities	3,306.00
Ministry/Supplies	1,966.00
Maintenance	480.00
Spiritual Life/Outreach/Advertising	170.00
Other Disbursements	4965.00
Total Expenditures	29,642.00
<u>Receipts for Months of</u>	<u>May/June/July 2010</u>
Weekly Envelopes	16,785.00
Weekly Plate	619.00
Benevolences	3248.00
Memorial Fund*	4331.00
Special Offerings	1088.00
Other Receipts	305.00
Total Receipts	26,376.00

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



HIGH SEAS EXPEDITION

A Swashbuckling Success!!!

AHOY MATES!!! This year from July 26 – July 30, Trinity was transformed into a magnificent sailing ship for our annual Vacation Bible School. A record number **91** children and **45** volunteers went on a **HIGH SEAS EXPEDITION** to explore the Mighty Love of God!

And what an expedition it was! Our exciting journey began in the sanctuary each evening at 6pm, where we shared our God Sightings, sang worship songs and were introduced to our Bible Buddies who taught us the Bible Verse and Bible Point for the day. After that, it was on to experience the deep rolling waters of God's Love through hands-on Bible stories, fun crafts, exciting team building games, and tasty snacks. At 8:45pm, we returned to the sanctuary where we shared what we had learned that day with each other and our parents and caregivers. They were so excited to hear us sing and see what we had learned!

Once again this year we participated in the International Bible Society's "Operation Kid To Kid" - one of the world's largest child-to-child service outreach program. This year our gifts were for the orphans and vulnerable children of Africa. Our children made warm comforting blankets that read "God Loves Me", personalized special "God Loves Me" coloring books and prayed each night for the children of Africa. These blankets and coloring books, and thousands more from children all over the world, were then sent to Africa by the International Bible Society. It was a wonderful way for our children to spread the news of God's Mighty Love and know that they played an important role in making a difference in the life of a child in need!

We would like to extend a special thank you to our Trinity family for their prayers, love and support and generous donations, without which all this could not be possible. Just as our children know they have made a difference in the life of a child through the "Operation Kid To Kid" program, please know that **you** have also made a difference in the life of all the children who attended our VBS.

And to the entire High Seas Crew--**you did it again!** Thank you, thank you for your weeks of hard work, your energy, your dedication and the love you share with our children. Through you, they saw how true, comforting, surprising and life changing God's Word is! **Ahoy!** Because of your flexibility and willingness to go the extra mile, we were able to show the children that God's Word is for **everyone!!! Ahoy!** Thank you for making this the biggest and best VBS ever!!!

See you all next year for **"PANDAMANIA"!!!** It promises to be a "wild" time!!!

Love and Peace,
Liz Burzynski

EINER GEHT MIT

Welche Wege auch immer
suchend und zweifelnd
hoffnungsvoll
zuversichtlich
im Dunkeln und Licht
in Trauer und Freude
zoegernd oder mutig

EINER GEHT MIT

durch Dickicht
und Irrwege
ueber Felsen
und Klippen
ueber Ozeane
durch Suempfe

EINER GEHT MIT

begleitet
leitet
fuehrt heim

letzten Endes
ist nur auf Einen
Verlass.

Petra Wuerth

English summary: God, the ONE, is with us in EVERY stage and time of life.

Picnic

On June 19th the Couples and Friends Club enjoyed a picnic at Old Westbury Gardens.



2010 General Synod Summary

Belhar Confession Declared Fourth Doctrinal Standard

The General Synod of the Reformed Church in America officially declared the Belhar Confession the fourth doctrinal standard of the RCA.

General Secretary: RCA Identity in Transition

RCA general secretary Wesley Granberg-Michaelson, in his report to synod, said the most critical challenge facing the Reformed Church in America is making the transition from being a settled denomination to becoming a missional church. While he is encouraged that over 17,500 people worship in 249 new RCA congregations, he noted that the RCA must address the "relationship gap" between traditional RCA congregations and new congregations.

Seawood Calls for "Ministry from the Bottom Up"

Synod president James Seawood called the RCA to engage in "ministry from the bottom up" by practicing a ministry of presence, listening and learning with the ear and heart of Jesus, and acting as the hands and feet of Jesus.

Poest Is New President

Don Poest, pastor of Brunswick Reformed Church in Brunswick, Ohio, is the new president of General Synod. He says an area he will focus on in the coming year is "our emerging discernment of where God would have us focus our personnel and resources after the conclusion of Our Call."

Vander Wal Is New Vice President

Delegates choose Lisa Vander Wal, pastor of Lisha's Kill Reformed Church in Schenectady, New York, as the new vice president of General Synod. Vander Wal previously served for ten years as pastor of the Reformed Church of Canajoharie, New York. She has served on the Ministerial Formation Certification Agency and Reformed Candidates Supervision and Care Certification Committee. She also has served as RCA Commission on Christian Worship moderator; Regional Synod of Albany president; on various General Synod and regional synod task forces and committees; and as Montgomery Classis president. She is the current Schenectady Classis Ministerial Oversight and Candidate Care Committee chair. Vander Wal received a bachelor's degree in psychology and social work from University of Michigan, and a master of divinity from Calvin Theological Seminary through the Theological Education Agency.

Worship Schedule for September

September 5, 12, 19, 26 —Regular Worship Schedule
10:00 a.m.

- * Communion will be celebrated on September 12
- * Prayer Meeting each Sunday at 9:00 am
- * Junior Church each Sunday at 10:00 am