

TRINITY CHIMES

NEWSLETTER OF THE TRINITY REFORMED CHURCH

MARCH 2011

Seeking Truth

Pilate asked him, "So you are a king?" Jesus answered, "You say that I am a king. For this I was born, and for this I came into the world, to testify to the truth. Everyone who belongs to the truth listens to my voice." Pilate asked him, "What is truth?"

-John 18:37-38a

This has been a long and hard winter. But as I write this post in the March edition of the *Trinity Chimes* the sun is shining and the birds are singing and the truth is: Spring is on it's way! It's good to be able to look forward to the warmth and green of Spring. I'm well aware that we may still get some snow (or even a blizzard) but I look forward nonetheless.

One of the things I look forward to is that without all the snow and ice on the streets and sidewalks, folks will be less encumbered. If you've not been able to get out as easily and come to worship, know that you've been missed!

I also look forward because good things are happening at Trinity. On the Sunday that this edition comes out (Feb. 27th) our congregation will celebrate the Ordination and Installation of a new Deacon and two new Elders. Then on Sunday March 6th *Belonging: New Members Class* will begin following the coffee Fellowship Hour. On the 9th we observe Ash Wednesday with worship that will include Holy Communion and the imposition of ashes—a somber yet deeply moving service. Then the following Wednesdays in Lent we will gather for *BUILDING A LIFE WORTH LIVING*, a bible study, worship, and fellowship experience focusing on discipleship. The *Second Sunday Symposium* continues on the 13th

where we are fortunate to welcome Ms. Sandra Milena Rincon who works with *Christian Peacemaker Team* in the Magdalena Medio region of Columbia. You won't want to miss it. The afternoon of Sunday the 20th Trinity is blessed to host the *Ridgewood, Glendale, Maspeth, and Middle Village Clergy Association's* Annual Christian Unity Service. We are excited this year to have Father Michael Sorial of St. Mary & St. Antonios (Coptic Orthodox) Church preaching.

I am looking forward, however, not just because of what Spring promises or because of the many good things happening at Trinity. I'm looking forward because as Lent begins it is a time for Christ's disciples to follow in Jesus's footsteps as he journeys to the cross and ultimately to the resurrection. Lent is a time for us to focus on what is really real, to seek truth in our lives, in our relationships, even in ourselves.

Praying to God, the Psalmist says, "You desire truth in the inward being; therefore teach me wisdom in my secret heart." (Psalm 51:6) The season of Lent is an occasion when we have the opportunity to slow down and learn some of the wisdom that Christ teaches, and to seek the truth that he testified to in his life and witness.

It will begin on Ash Wednesday with the words "from dust you came and to dust you shall return." In this sobering experience we are invited to search ourselves and to seek truth. I invite you during the days and the weeks of Lent to practice a "Lenten discipline." Perhaps it will be the traditional custom of fasting—giving something up so that you can instead use that time and energy to focus

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

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on Jesus. Or maybe another practice like centered prayer, daily meditation, or simplicity. Or even the common but just as important practices of a daily devotional, study, fellowship, and worship.

But whatever you do it is my prayer that this time will be for you an opportunity to experience truth more fully and to grow ever deeper in your relationship with God.

In Christ's Grace & Peace,

Pastor Tom

Second Sunday Symposium

The Second Sunday Symposium follows the coffee Fellowship Hour March 13th. We will welcome Ms. Sandra Milena Rincon who works with Christian Peacemaker Team in the Magdalena Medio region of Columbia. "CPT Colombia accompanies rural communities and human rights organizations on a regular basis in the Magdalena Medio region. Many local nonviolent social and human rights organizations are active in the region. [CPT] works to support these local peacemakers in building peace with justice. However, there are also Paramilitaries, the guerrilla, and the state forces are present in this strategic area of Colombia and many of the citizens of the region are the victims of violence perpetrated by right-wing armed actors (both paramilitary and military), and to a lesser extent, by the left-wing guerrilla groups. The Magdalena Medio region is typical of most of the country in that it is resource-rich while many of its citizens struggle against cycles of violence and poverty." (from cpt.org)

Consistory Elections

At the Congregational Meeting held on February 6, the following new people were elected to Consistory: Erik Huneke as a deacon and Bobby Murphy as an elder. Kurt Andreas who is currently serving as a deacon was elected as an elder. We are grateful to these individuals for their willingness to serve God and our church and wish them well. At the same time we would like to thank Marieanna Trautmann, Linda Morton, and Annalee Pfisterer who are going off Consistory for their many years of faithful service.

The ordination and installation of the new Consistory members will take place on Sunday February 27 during the worship service.

- -Gedanken von Anselm Gruen:

" Das kleine Buch vom wahren Glueck"

Es ist eine troestliche Botschaft der Bibel: Auch die grossen Gestalten der Heiligen Schrift waren Menschen. Wenn wir Paulus oder Petrus oder Moses oder David nachfolgen wollen, heisst das keineswegs, dass wir perfekt sein muessen. Diesen grossen Vorbildgestalten nachzufolgen bedeutet etwas anderes. Es heisst, dass wir uns immer wieder neu in unserer Situation mit unseren Fehlern und Schwaechen, aber auch mit unseren Faehigkeiten fragen, was Gott von mir will, was meine ureigene Sendung ist. Auch meine Fehler koennen durchlaessig werden fuer Gott. Denn wenn ich Fehler habe, dann bin ich dem anderen gegenueber sesibler, werde mich nicht ueber ihn stellen, sondern werde barmherziger sein - und das ist dann wie eine Verkuendigung von Gottes Barmherzigkeit und Liebe.

Jesus verkuendet den Vater, natuerlich auch den, der uns herausfordert, aber vor allem den barmherzigen Vater, der uns annimmt, so wie wir sind. Ihm sei's gedankt.

English summary:

The Bible reveals that even the great ones in the Holy Scriptures e.g. Peter, Paul, Moses and David were people with faults and weaknesses. In seeking to emulate them we should always ask ourselves: What does God ask of ME, what is my unique soul's purpose. Even our faults can be used by God for good. When we recognize our imperfections, we become more sensitive to others. We do not elevate ourselves above others, but rather we become more merciful. In so doing we show forth God's love and mercy.

Jesus came to show us the Father, who challenges us, yet becomes for us the merciful Father, who accepts us just as we are. Thanks be to Him!

from: " *The Little Book of True Happiness*" by Anselm Gruen

Ecumenical Christian Unity Service

The Ridgewood, Glendale, Maspeth, and Middle Village Clergy Association's Annual Ecumenical Christian Unity Service will be here at Trinity on Sunday, March 20th at 3:00 pm. Father Michael Sorial of St. Mary & St. Antonios (Coptic Orthodox) Church is preaching. The clergy association represents Christian congregations from various Protestant denominations, Roman Catholic, and now Egyptian Coptic Orthodox churches.

Ash Wednesday

March 9th Ash Wednesday worship service at 7:30 pm will include Holy Communion and the imposition of ashes, a deeply moving and intimate service.

Belonging: New Members Class

Belonging: New Members Class will be taking place beginning Sunday, March 6th from 11:30 to 1 p.m. and will continue four weeks thru Sunday, April 3rd. If you are interested in church membership, or even if you have been a long time member here at Trinity but would like to deepen your understanding of church membership, please speak with Pastor Tom.

Music Program

The Ridgewood Glendale Sunday School Association will sponsor a music program "O Sing to the Lord a New Song" on Sunday March 27 at 2:30 p.m. at Ridgewood Presbyterian Church, 5914 70 Ave. off of Forest Ave., near Myrtle Ave. There will be choral speaking, soloists, instrumental music by children and adults, liturgical dance, "Name That Hymn", an old time hymn sing and interactive selections and a band. This has proven to be an enjoyable event and we invite you to share in it.

Stewardship and Finance Report

<u>Expenditures for Month of</u>	<u>January 2011</u>
Personnel Expenses	6970.00
Utilities	1377.00
Ministry/Supplies	370.00
Maintenance	0.00
Spiritual Life/Outreach/Advertising	197.00
Other Disbursements	938.00
Total Expenditures	9,852.00

<u>Receipts for Month of</u>	<u>January 2011</u>
Weekly Envelopes	4,642.00
Weekly Plate	142.00
Benevolences	2,355.00
Memorial Fund	350.00
Special Offerings	952.00
Other Receipts	3,645.00
Total Receipts	12,086.00

Wednesdays In Lent Bible Study

BUILDING A LIFE WORTH LIVING, a bible study, worship, and fellowship experience focusing on discipleship each Wednesday evening in Lent at 7:30.

Church Signs

Have you ever noticed amusing signs outside of some churches? Here are a few:

The best vitamin for a Christian is B1.

Under same management for over 2000 years.

Soul food served here

Tithe if you love Jesus! Anyone can honk.

Beat the Christmas rush, come to church this Sunday.

Don't wait for the hearse to take you to church.

Don't give up. Moses was once a basket case.

Life has many choices. Eternity has two. What's yours?

Worry is interest paid on trouble before it is due.

Wal-Mart isn't the only saving place.

Preach the gospel at all times. Use words if necessary.

Prevent truth decay. Brush up on your Bible.

It's hard to stumble when you're down on your knees.

What part of "THOU SHALT NOT" don't you understand?

A clear conscience makes a soft pillow.

The wages of sin is death. Repent before payday.

Never give the devil a ride. He will always want to drive.

Can't sleep? Try counting your blessings.

Forbidden fruit creates many jams.

Christians keep the faith — but not from others!

Satan subtracts and divides. God adds and multiplies.

If you don't want to reap the fruits of sin, stay out of the devil's orchard.

To belittle is to be little.

Don't let the littleness in others bring out the littleness in you.

God answers kneemail.

Worship Schedule for March

March 6, 13, 20, 27 - Worship Schedule at 10 am

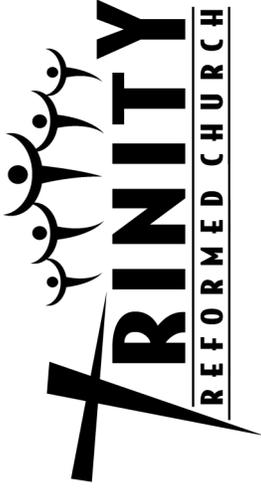
Ash Wednesday Service-March 9 at 7:30 pm

Wednesday Lenten Bible Study- March 16, 23, 30 at 7:30pm

* Communion will be celebrated on March 6

* Prayer Meeting each Sunday at 9:00 am

* Junior Church each Sunday at 10:00 am



March 2011

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Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
		1	2 Consistory Meeting 7:30 pm	3 UPC Soup Kitchen 4:00 pm	4 UPC Soup Kitchen 4:00 pm	5
6 Worship Service with Communion 10:00 am <i>Belonging:</i> New Members Class	7	8	9 Ash Wednesday Service 7:30 pm	10	11	12
13 Worship Service 10:00 am Second Sunday Symposium	14	15 Classis of Queens	16 Frauenverein/Ladies Aid 1:00 pm Lenten Bible Study 7:30 pm	17	18	19 Couples and Friends 6:30 pm
20 Worship Service 10:00 am <i>Belonging:</i> New Members Class Christian Unity Service 3:00pm	21	22	23 Lenten Bible Study 7:30 pm	24	25	26
27 Worship Service 10:00 am <i>Belonging:</i> New Members Class	28	29	30 Lenten Bible Study 7:30 pm	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