

# TRINITY CHIMES

NEWSLETTER OF THE TRINITY REFORMED CHURCH

April 2012

## Easter Living in a Good Friday World

**We are afflicted in every way, but not crushed; perplexed, but not driven to despair; persecuted, but not forsaken; struck down, but not destroyed; always carrying in the body the death of Jesus, so that the life of Jesus may also be made visible in our bodies. For while we live, we are always being given up to death for Jesus' sake, so that the life of Jesus may be made visible in our mortal flesh.**

**-2 Corinthians 4:8-11**

This issue of the *Trinity Chimes* will be arriving in your mailboxes and computer screens right around Palm and Passion Sunday at the beginning of the one week during the year that we in the church particularly call "Holy." Therefore, I want to encourage you to enter into this week as fully as you are able: wave those palm branches on Sunday and sing *Hosanna*, contemplate the scriptures on Wednesday, join others around the table on Maundy Thursday and hear Christ's new commandment that we love one another, observe the gathering gloom of Good Friday and allow yourself to feel the loneliness that Jesus experienced, and on Holy Saturday, wait. During this week I invite you to journey ever more closely with Christ to the cross, for in doing so, you just may learn more deeply that Christ does indeed journey with you in the fullness and the complexity of your life.

Embrace Holy Week and allow yourself to be embraced by a God who knows completely how beautiful and challenging and amazing and difficult human existence is. And then—and I almost feel like cautioning, and only then after walking the highs and incredibly low lows of Holy

Week—allow the extraordinary reality of Easter to fill you.

Now, you may be wondering why? This is all well and good, pastor, but we've got busy lives and hectic schedules and sometimes simply getting to church on Sunday can be a challenge. And now you're asking us to basically do an entire week!

Indeed, I am.

For you see, Christians are essentially Easter people. That is why Sunday became (to most of the church) the Sabbath. Sunday, the first day of the week, the one on which the women went to the tomb and found it empty for Jesus had risen. The Resurrection of the Lord day becomes the "Lord's Day" and every Sunday became a day to remember and to celebrate the Jesus that is risen, the Christ who has defeated all the powers of sin in the world and ultimately has defeated even death itself. We are the people who carry this good news and the experience of the resurrection in our lives and in our very persons. It makes us different. It makes us Easter people.

That said, we live in a world that can often be far from the experience of resurrection. We experience brokenness and loneliness, we experience cruelty and injustice, we even participate in it. We live in a very "Good Friday" kind of world where it seems like the light of God is being snuffed out.

But as the gospel writer John said, "the light shines in the darkness and the darkness did not overcome it." Easter is the brightest light of God shining forth even from the darkness of the grave!

And yet...

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



6630 60<sup>th</sup> Place  
Ridgewood, NY 11385  
718 821-2700



We live in the tension of being Easter people in a Good Friday world. Thanks be to God for God's immeasurable grace poured out in Christ Jesus.

But this grace does not come easily. While grace is not earned or merited, neither is it cheap or easy. It is hard. Grace comes at a substantial cost.

And this is why Holy Week is so important, because even though we are Easter people who can jump from one Lord's Day to the next, waving palm branches singing Hosanna to singing Hallelujah, Christ is risen we know the cost it took to get here. And the cost of discipleship, of following Christ is the living and dying in a world of Good Fridays.

So live in the tension, carry Christ death with you and may his resurrected life shine forth through you!

In Christ's Grace & Peace,

Pastor Tom

### Special Congregational Meetings

Special congregational meetings were held after the morning worship services on March 18 and April 1. At the March meeting Jenny Burger was elected to the office of Deacon and at the April meeting Diana Albanese, who is currently serving as a Deacon, was elected to the office of Elder. We are grateful for their willingness to serve on the Consistory.

### Maundy Thursday and Good Friday

Our brothers and sisters from the United Presbyterian Church will be joining us here at Trinity Reformed Church at the Maundy Thursday worship service on April 5 and Good Friday worship service on April 6. Both services will be at 7:30 p.m. The Maundy Thursday service will include communion. The Grace Notes will be participating in the worship service on Good Friday. We hope you too will be able to join us.

### Church Women United

Trinity Reformed Church will host a meeting of Church Women United on Monday April 9 at 12:00 noon. All women of the church are welcome to attend. If you have any questions, please speak with Linda Morton.

### Easter Sunday Breakfast

All are invited to come celebrate the risen Lord and join together in fellowship before worship in a simple breakfast of bagels, toppings, and Easter Eggs on Easter morning at 8:30 am in the Church Hall. So that we may make sure we have enough for all to enjoy, please make your breakfast reservations with Liz Burzynski on Palm Sunday or call the church office no later than noon on Wednesday, April 4<sup>th</sup>. Thanks!

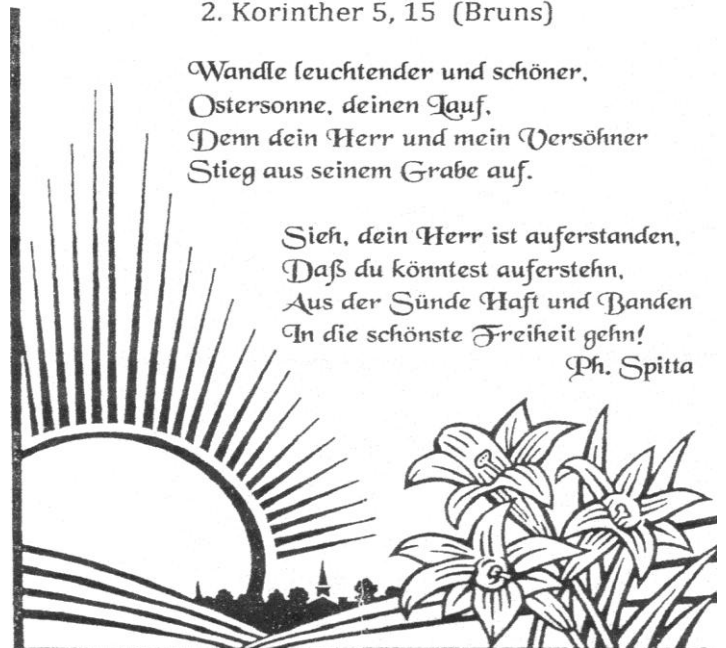
### Easter Poem

*Aber ER ist darum für  
alle gestorben, damit die Lebenden  
nicht mehr sich selbst leben, sondern für den,  
der für sie gestorben und auferweckt worden ist.*

2. Korinther 5, 15 (Bruns)

*Wandle leuchtender und schöner,  
Ostersonne, deinen Lauf,  
Denn dein Herr und mein Versöhner  
Stieg aus seinem Grabe auf.*

*Sieh, dein Herr ist auferstanden,  
Daß du könntest auferstehn,  
Aus der Sünde Haft und Banden  
In die schönste Freiheit gehn!*  
Ph. Spitta



2 Corinthians 5:15

He died for all that they who live  
should not henceforth live unto themselves,  
but unto Him who died for them and rose again.

The Easter sunrise is most beautiful, reminding us that as  
He rose, we too can rise out of the bondage of sin into the  
freedom of our salvation.

## Happy April Birthdays

Sonja Mains	April 1
Liz Burzynski	April 5
Barbara Burger	April 7
Bill Mains	April 9
Hulda Stetzenbach	April 10
Gena Stimpfel	April 10
Sylvia Adamek	April 14
Nikolas Burzynski	April 17
Timothy Wtorkowski	April 22
Leonard Schiefer	April 29

## Stewardship and Finance Report

<u>Expenditures for Month of</u>	<u>Feb. 2012</u>
Personnel Expenses	\$ 5,747.00
Utilities	\$ 1,894.00
Ministry/Supplies	\$ 52.00
Maintenance	\$ 75.00
Spiritual Life/Outreach/Advertising	\$ 0.00
Other Disbursements	\$ 2,116.00*
<b>Total Expenditures</b>	<b>\$ 9,884.00</b>
<u>Receipts for Month of</u>	<u>Feb. 2012</u>
Weekly Envelopes	\$ 5,564.00
Weekly Plate	\$ 21.00
Benevolences	\$ 1,349.00
Memorial Fund	\$ 643.00
Special Offerings	\$ 691.00
Other Receipts **	\$ 2,699.00**
<b>Total Receipts</b>	<b>\$ 10,968.00</b>

\* First installment for Classis Assessment

\*\* Monies received for Classis Assessment and donation from the Ladies Aid

In addition to the above, we also received a \$ 10,000 bequest from the estate of Constance Iltgen. We are grateful for her remembering Trinity Reformed Church in her will.

## Prayer List

Please be mindful of the following members and friends of our congregation in your prayers:

Sister Kaethe; Margarethe Roth; Janet Roth; Martha Bauer; Frederick Dalm; Groezinger Family; Philipp & Hildegard Febel; Laura Kurtz; Helga's grandson Nicholas; Alona; Debra Meraglia; Eleanor Rizzo; Donna Dowd; Doris Church; Chloe Holland-Anderson; United Presbyterian Church, Ridgewood and Pastor Henry Fury; Gideon Abbas; Bill Albanese; Susan Gebhart; Betty Klaar; Maritza Garcia-Castro; Family of Stephanie Popp; Diana Albanese; Family of Fritz Reif; Family of Trudy Mische; Reformed Church in America, Queens Classis, and Regional Synod of New York; Dave & Char Alexander, RCA missionaries in Taiwan; Doug Leonard, RCA missionary in Oman; Peter Mark Trautmann, The Navigators at NYU; Leonard & Linda Schiefer, Gideons International; Pastor Tom and the Consistory.

## Worship Schedule for April

April 1, 8, 15, 22, 29  
Worship Service 10:00 a.m.

- Maundy Thursday, April 5, at 7:30 p.m.
- Good Friday, April 6, at 7:30 p.m.
- Communion will be celebrated on April 1, 5, and 15
- Prayer Meeting each Sunday at 9:00 a.m.
- Junior Church each Sunday at 10:00 a.m.

# April 2012

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
1 Palm Sunday Worship Service with Communion 10:00 am	2 NA Mtg. 7pm	3 Al-Anon 7:30 pm	4 Confirmation Class 4:00 pm  Lenten Bible Study 7:30 pm	5 UPC Welcome Kitchen 4:00pm  Maundy Thursday Worship Service 7:30 pm  NA Mtg. 7pm	6 UPC Welcome Kitchen 4:00 pm  Good Friday Worship Service 7:30 pm	7 NA Mtg. 7pm
8 Easter Sunday Breakfast 8:30 am  Easter Sunday Worship Service 10:00 am	9 NA Mtg. 7pm	10 Consistory Meeting 7:30 pm  Al-Anon 7:30 pm	11 Confirmation Class 4:00 pm	12 NA Mtg. 7pm	13	14 NA Mtg. 7pm
15 Worship Service with Communion 10:00 am	16 NA Mtg. 7pm	17 Al-Anon 7:30 pm	18 Frauenverein/ Ladies Aid 1:00 pm	19 NA Mtg. 7pm	20 Last day for newsletter submissions to Bill Voges	21 Couples and Friends 6:00 pm  NA Mtg. 7pm
22 Worship Service 10:00 am	23 NA Mtg. 7pm	24 Al-Anon 7:30 pm	25 Confirmation Class 4:00 pm	26 NA Mtg. 7pm	27	28 NA Mtg. 7pm
29 Worship Service 10:00 am	30 NA Mtg. 7pm				Prayer Meeting Sundays 9am  Junior Church Sundays 10am  <i>Their Daily Bread Collection 1<sup>st</sup> Sunday of each month</i>	