

TRINITY CHIMES

NEWSLETTER OF THE TRINITY REFORMED CHURCH

DECEMBER 2012

What it's all about?

In the beginning was the Word, and the Word was with God, and the Word was God. He was in the beginning with God. All things came into being through him, and without him not one thing came into being. What has come into being in him was life, and the life was the light of all people. The light shines in the darkness, and the darkness did not overcome it.

He was in the world, and the world came into being through him; yet the world did not know him. He came to what was his own, and his own people did not accept him. But to all who received him, who believed in his name, he gave power to become children of God, who were born, not of blood or of the will of the flesh or of the will of man, but of God.

And the Word became flesh and lived among us, and we have seen his glory, the glory as of a father's only son, full of grace and truth... From his fullness we have all received, grace upon grace. The law indeed was given through Moses; grace and truth came through Jesus Christ.

-John 1:1-5,10-14,16-17

By the time you receive this issue of the *Trinity Chimes* there will only be 26 shopping days left! So, hurry hurry and rush rush! Make sure you get everything done before the holidays are over!

But I don't need to tell you this is not what it's all about, right?

If you were to judge by our cultural standards, one could come to just such a conclusion: that the *Holidays*—which apparently begin around Halloween and run through New Year's Day—are all about hurry and rush and most importantly buy, buy, buy.

But maybe, hopefully, you know differently. You know the, cliché as it may be, true reason

for the season that has something to do with words of John's gospel above, that the Word became flesh full of grace and truth.

You know this but it may be rather old news to you—been there, done that. And the realities of life, schedule, family, friends, job (or retirement activities which seem to be even more busy than work was), responsibilities, anxieties, even church, can weigh you down and the Good News can begin to get lost in the mess of things...

So I'm here to encourage you to stop. Take a breather. For a moment, forget about the hype of the holidays, your to do list, and whatever else. And just wait. Wait for it. Really, wait! Let yourself be filled with anticipation. And hope. And longing. Because honestly, as nice as the decorations and food and gifts are, Christmas is not about that stuff. Christmas—and Advent leading up to it!—is about the hope and longing of God doing a new thing among us. Just as the Christmas carol puts it, "the hopes and fears of all the years are met in thee tonight." God meets us with all our hopes and fears in the person of Jesus Christ.

You know, the first century was not all that different than our own time. People then as now were filled with busyness and the regular and extraordinary stresses that come with life. For most of the population, so caught up in their time, the actions of God went mostly unnoticed. The wind blows where it will, but mostly is not seen. But the Spirit was present, and God was to do a new and amazing thing. A few were waiting, watching, hoping. We hear of wise men from afar and of an old man Simeon. And to others, they seemed to be in the right place at the right time: shepherds out in the fields at night.

And so I also encourage you to be open like the shepherds were. That even if you don't take time to slow down and wait, that just maybe God may still break in to your life with an amazing song of great joy that is for all the people.

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



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And finally, I remind you of what John tells us, “But to all who received him, who believed in his name, he gave power to become children of God, who were born, not of blood or of the will of the flesh or of the will of man, but of God.” Again, it is not the rush and the hustle and the stuff that makes the holidays what they are, it is about a baby being born to be like us. And because that is so, we are reborn to be like him.

So know, God is up to something. God is doing something new. God is being born into our world and our world will never be the same. And because of Jesus, because of the Spirit, we too are being reborn as children of God.

In Christ’s Grace and Peace, Happy Holidays & Merry Christmas/Fröhliche Weihnachten,

Pastor Tom

Pastor’s Advent Open House

Pastor is once again inviting the congregation to come and celebrate the season at the parsonage on Saturday, December 15th from 7 pm to 10 pm. Enjoy festive holiday food—including Pastor’s famous Christmas tamales—and fellowship with your church family.

Tamale Making

In preparation for Pastor Tom’s Advent Open House, everyone is invited to come and help make tamales on Thursday, Dec. 13th in the Parsonage Kitchen at 7pm. Whether you are an old pro at tamale making, or have never even heard of a tamale, all skill levels are welcome! Come learn and share together!



Advent Bible Study

You are most heartily encouraged to come and participate in an exploration of The Holy “Christmas” Songs of the Gospel of Luke every Wednesday, at 7 pm during Advent. All you need is an open heart and a receptive mind. Ability to sing is not required! All are welcome.

Grace Notes

The Grace Notes Annual Christmas Concert will take place on Sunday, December 23rd at 3:00 pm at St. Margaret’s Church corner of Juniper Valley Road and 80th Street. The Grace Notes Choir—including many members of Trinity Church and our extended church family—will be joined by the St. Margaret’s children choir and bless us with the music of the season. Please come and be graced!

Candlelight Service

Our annual Candlelight Worship Service will be held on Sunday, December 16 at 7:00 p.m. This service is one of the highlights of the church year and is an enjoyable event. Come and join us and bring a friend!

Christmas Flowers

Please use the insert provided to place your order for this year’s Christmas flowers. The order forms need to be received by the church office by Monday December 10th. We appreciate you helping us to adorn our church during this special time of the year. As always, you are welcome to take your flowers after our Christmas Celebration on December 25.

Christmas Gift Drive for the United Presbyterian Church’s Welcome Kitchen

On the first Thursday and Friday of every month, dedicated volunteers from our church family prepare a warm meal and a hospitable environment for guests at the **United Presbyterian Church’s Welcome Kitchen**, which is currently hosted by Covenant Lutheran Church. In recent years, the Junior Church has been warming the hearts of guests at the Welcome Kitchen with **Christmas gift bags**. In order to continue this tradition, we ask that you **donate hats, scarves, gloves, and socks** (either homemade or store-bought) as well as **toiletries** on any Sunday between December 16th and December 30th. If you have any questions, please confer with Lenny Schiefer or Linda Schiefer.

Junior Church Toy Drive for Superstorm Sandy Victims—Christmas Program—Potluck Lunch

Superstorm Sandy left a path of destruction and devastation in its wake, but it will not be able to wipe the smiles off the faces of expectant children on Christmas if the Junior Church has anything to say about it. It is for this reason that the Junior Church invites you to **donate new, unwrapped toys on any Sunday between now and December 9th** to support the *Queens Courier* Superstorm Sandy toy drive.

The toy drive will culminate in a **Junior Church Christmas program** that will take place on **Sunday, December 9th** in the Fellowship Hall after the worship service. **Immediately following the Christmas program**, we will gather in fellowship over a **potluck lunch**. Since our church family encompasses a rich and diverse tapestry of linguistic and cultural backgrounds, we encourage everyone to bring dishes that reflect the Christmas traditions of your ethnic heritage or family; there will be a sign-up sheet on which you can indicate what you would like to bring.

The Junior Church thanks you for your generosity. If you have any questions, please confer with Carmen Blanco, Lenny Schiefer, or Linda Schiefer.

Congratulations Dr. Huneke

We want to congratulate Erik Huneke who just received his PhD degree in history from the University of Michigan. During November he defended his thesis which was the last requirement before the awarding of the degree.

Soup Kitchen

On the first Thursday and Friday of each month, several of our members volunteer at the United Presbyterian Church Welcome Kitchen on Catalpa Ave. We arrive about 4:00 p.m. to set up the tables and prepare the food. The guests are invited in from 5:00 to 6:00 p.m. and are served a meal after which we clean up. It's hard to predict how many will show up for dinner. We have had as few as eight or nine and as many as twenty-three. While we usually have enough volunteers to serve, we are in need of two or three people who would be willing to get the food beforehand (you get reimbursed for the cost) and start preparing it at home and then bringing it to the soup kitchen. This usually involves cooking pasta or heating up large prepared trays of lasagna or stuffed shells. We don't serve anything elaborate that requires a chef!

Serving at the soup kitchen is a worthwhile local mission and lets us help the people in our community who are less fortunate than we are. If we could find enough volunteers, we could even do this on a rotating basis so that people helping out would not have to be there every month. If you would like to help out or just want more information, please speak with Pastor, Marieanna Trautmann, or Linda Morton.

Cake and Rummage Sale

With much love and lots of help, the Ladies Aid/Frauenverein conducted another very successful cake and rummage sale. The cake table sold \$ 665.70 worth of delicious items and the rummage sale brought in \$ 441.45 for a total of \$ 1,107.15 for our church. Many thanks to those who helped in this endeavor.

2013 Offering Envelopes

Next year's offering envelopes have arrived and are in the narthex. Anyone who does not already have envelopes and would like them for 2013 should please contact the church office. We appreciate it when you use your offering envelopes since it helps us provide you with an accurate record of your contributions for tax purposes.

Happy December Birthdays

Eva Reif	9 th	Kurt Andreas	16 th
Linda Morton	19 th	Alma Hohenleitner	20 th
Laura Kurtz	22 nd	John Popp	27 th

Prayer List

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

Sister Kaethe; Janet Roth; Martha Bauer; Frederick Dalm; Groezinger Family; Philipp & Hildegard Febel; Laura Kurtz; Debra Meraglia; Eleanor Rizzo; Donna Dowd; Doris Church;; United Presbyterian Church, Ridgewood and Pastor Henry Fury; Bill Albanese; Susan Gebhart; Betty Klaar; Maritza Garcia-Castro; Martin Seidl; Elisabeth Roth; Anibal Segarra; Helga Theocharides; Torres Family; Teri Alyse Meyer; 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.

Stewardship and Finance Report

<u>Expenditures for Month of</u>	<u>Oct. 2012</u>
Personnel Expenses	\$ 5,647.00
Utilities	\$ 1,072.00
Ministry/Supplies	\$ 227.00
Maintenance	\$153.00
Spiritual Life/Outreach/Advertising	\$ 0.00
Other Disbursements *	\$ 2,272.00
Total Expenditures	\$ 9,371.00

<u>Receipts for Month of</u>	<u>Oct. 2012</u>
Weekly Envelopes	\$ 5,460.00
Weekly Plate	\$ 147.00
Benevolences	\$ 303.00
Memorial Fund	\$ 1,770.00
Special Offerings	\$ 310.00
Other Receipts **	\$ 1,854.00
Total Receipts	\$ 9,844.00

*Accountant Fees, CROP Walk, Classis Assessment

**Classis Assessment, CROP Walk, Coffee Hour, N/A and Alanon

Because the offering envelope contributions were insufficient to meet our expenses, \$ 1,000.00 was transferred from the Mission (Benevolent) Fund to make up the difference.

Worship Schedule for December

December 2, 9, 16, 23, 30 –Worship Service 10:00 a.m.

December 16 – Candlelight Service at 7:00 p.m.

- Communion will be celebrated on December 2 and 16
- Prayer Meeting each Sunday at 9:00 a.m.
- Junior Church each Sunday at 10:00 a.m.

December 2012

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
						1 NA Mtg. 7pm
2 Worship Service 10:00 am First Sunday of Advent	3 NA Mtg. 7pm	4 Al-Anon 7:30pm	5 Advent Bible Study 7:00 pm	6 UPC Welcome Kitchen 4:00 pm NA Mtg. 7pm	7 UPC Welcome Kitchen 4:00 pm	8 Couples & Friends 5:00 pm NA Mtg. 7pm
9 Worship Service 10:00 am Second Sunday of Advent <i>Junior Church Christmas Program & Church Potluck Lunch</i>	10 NA Mtg. 7pm	11 Consistory Meeting 7:00 pm Al-Anon 7:30pm	12 Frauenverein/ Ladies Aid Christmas Party 12 noon Advent Bible Study 7:00 pm	13 Tamale Making-Parsonage Kitchen 7:00 pm NA Mtg. 7pm	14	15 Pastor's Advent Open House 7pm-10pm NA Mtg. 7pm
16 Worship Service 10:00 am Third Sunday of Advent <i>Candlelight Service 7pm</i>	17 NA Mtg. 7pm	18 Al-Anon 7:30pm	19 Advent Bible Study 7:00 pm	20 Last day for newsletter submissions to Bill Voges NA Mtg. 7pm	21	22 NA Mtg. 7pm
23 Worship Service 10:00 am Fourth Sunday of Advent <i>Grace Notes Christmas Concert 3 pm</i>	24 NA Mtg. 7pm	25 Christmas Worship Service 10:00 am Al-Anon 7:30pm	26	27 NA Mtg. 7pm	28	29 NA Mtg. 7pm
30 Worship Service 10:00 am	31 NA Mtg. 7pm			<i>Their Daily Bread Collection</i> 1 st Sunday of each month	Prayer Meeting Sundays 9am	Junior Church Sundays 10am