

TRINITY CHIMES

NEWSLETTER OF THE TRINITY REFORMED CHURCH

February 2012

Making Disciples

“Go therefore and make disciples of all nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit, and teaching them to obey everything that I have commanded you. And remember, I am with you always, to the end of the age.”

-Matthew 28:19-20

Evangelism.

What does that word convey to you? What does it mean? And perhaps just as importantly, how does it make you feel?

For some, evangelism is about converting folks. Converting folks to believe in God and Jesus. (Usually, to believe the way that we believe...)

For others, evangelism is about making members. Often, members of our religion.

Sometimes, these two perspectives are shared. Evangelism means converting people to believe in God and be part of our religion.

As well, evangelism can be understood as “saving people.” That would be, saving them from hell. If folks convert to believe in God and Jesus and follow our brand of religion—Christianity—then one can be saved from hell!

I have certainly known enough religious folks in my day to hear

evangelism entirely described in these ways. And to tell you the truth, it makes me very weary of, and even uncomfortable with, evangelism. At least, evangelism when thought of merely as described above.

And maybe you are a little like me? Feel a bit uncomfortable about “evangelism”? Well, I invite you to come about it from another way.

Firstly, let’s begin by understanding that we don’t convert people. It’s not our job. It’s God’s. God is in the business of converting. And not only converting people, but converting all of creation. Yet in the process even as God is the primary actor, God invites us as participants. The word we often use is reconciliation, “[I]n Christ God was reconciling the world to Godself, not counting their trespasses against them, and entrusting the message of reconciliation to us.” (2 Cor. 5:19) Evangelism is to share that God is about reconciling all of creation. Even you. Even me.

You should notice that this reconciliation—or converting, if you will—is not simply or even primarily about what one “believes,” as important as that may be. Rather, this reconciliation is rooted in drawing into relationship: the relationship between each person and God, the relationship among all people, and even the relationship of all creation. Thus, evangelism is focused not on “believing” but in “being” in relationship.

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

Now with that out of the way let us focus on a second aspect and approach to evangelism which is found in the very root of the word itself, *evangel*. *Evangel* comes from the Greek word *euangelion* which means good news. It's where we also get the word *gospel*. And what does this good news, what does this gospel entail? Well, it certainly is about salvation. But it means so much more than a concentration on being saved from hell. Jesus actually spent his lifetime ministry both teaching and showing what this good news is all about. In God's words as shared by the prophet Isaiah and read by Jesus: "The Spirit of the Lord is upon me, because he has anointed me to bring good news to the poor. He has sent me to proclaim release to the captives and recovery of sight to the blind, to let the oppressed go free, to proclaim the year of the Lord's favor." (Luke 4:18-19) Or in another teaching, Jesus shares the good news looks like this "for I was hungry and you gave me food, I was thirsty and you gave me something to drink, I was a stranger and you welcomed me, I was naked and you gave me clothing, I was sick and you took care of me, I was in prison and you visited me... Truly I tell you, just as you did it to one of the least of these who are members of my family, you did it to me." (Matt 25:35-36, 40)

For some Christians, evangelism has a bad rap. It carries with it uncomfortable baggage. So let me encourage you to think of it differently.

And just maybe, you yourself need some evangelism. Not that you aren't already a Christian and a follower of Jesus. Not that you aren't already converted, nor that you aren't already saved. For of course you are all of these.

But there comes times when each of us need to be reminded that this life of faith and what the church is suppose to be entirely about is the good news of Christ that God reconciles and call all of us into a deeper and fuller relationship with God. And also, that God invites us to share in the task of evangelizing!

In Christ's Grace & Peace,
Pastor Tom

Lenten Schedule

This year Ash Wednesday occurs on February 22. The event will be celebrated with a worship service at 7:30 p.m. with communion and the giving of ashes. Our Wednesday evening Lenten Bible study will begin on February 29 and run through March 28 at 7:30 p.m. We hope that you will be able to join us.

Poem

"Immer wenn du meinst, es geht nicht mehr,
Kommt von irgendwo ein Lichtlein her,
dass du es noch einmal wieder zwingst
und von Sonnenschein und Freude singst.
Leichter traegst des Alltags schwere Last
und wieder neuen Mut und Kraft und Glauben
hast."

When in life you feel your strength is spent
From somewhere to your soul a light is sent,
to lift your spirit, help you rise above,
bathed in God's sunlight, joy and lasting love.
Your strength to meet your daily tasks renewed
with new-found courage, strength and faith imbued.

translated by Rosemarie Walz

Property and Maintenance Update

Several projects are being taken care of at this time. While Pastor was on vacation, someone tried to break into the parsonage. Fortunately Sarii and Prince were on the job and scared away the would be burglars so nothing was taken. Unfortunately the kitchen door has to be replaced and an outside security door will be added for additional protection. We have also changed the lock on the church door since we want to have better control over who has keys to the church. The new lock also has a "panic free" mechanism so that it is easy to open from the inside with the one handle if it is locked from the outside. Don has also installed new hand rails on the bannister on the outside steps leading to the church entrance because the old ones were not in good condition. Finally, the new drapes and rods in the fellowship hall have been installed. If there are any property or maintenance issues that you would like to address, please speak with Bob Bambach, property chairperson, or Pastor.

Humor Corner

Visiting his grandparents, a small boy opened the big family Bible. He was fascinated as he fingered through the old pages. Suddenly, something fell out. He picked it up and found that it was an old leaf that had been pressed flat between the pages. "Mama, look what I found," he called out. "What have you got there, dear?" his mother asked. With astonishment in his voice, the boy answered, "I think it's Adam's underwear!"

Three boys are in the schoolyard bragging about their fathers. The first boy says, "My Dad scribbles a few words on a piece of paper, he calls it a poem, and they give him \$25. The second boy says, "That's nothing. My Dad scribbles a few words on a piece of paper, he calls it a song, and they give him \$200." The third boy says, "I got you both beat. My Dad scribbles a few words on a piece of paper, he calls it a sermon, and it takes eight people to collect all the money!"

A country preacher decided to skip services one Sunday to spend the day hiking in the wilderness. Rounding a sharp bend in the trail, he collided with a bear and was sent tumbling down a steep grade. He landed on a rock and broke both legs. With the bear charging at him from a distance, the preacher prayed, "Oh Lord, I'm so sorry for skipping services today. Please forgive me and grant me just one wish—make a Christian out of that bear that's coming at me!" At that very instant, the bear skidded to a halt, fell to its knees, clasped its paws together, and began to pray aloud at the preacher's feet: "Dear God, please bless this food that I am about to receive."

(<http://www.swapmeetdave.com/Humor/Religious.htm>)

Worship Schedule for February

February 5, 12, 19, 26 – Regular Worship Schedule
10:00 a.m.

- Communion will be celebrated on February 5, 19 and 22
- Prayer Meeting each Sunday at 9:00 a.m.
- Junior Church each Sunday at 10:00 a.m.
- Ash Wednesday February 22 at 7:30 p.m.

Stewardship and Finance Report

Expenditures for Month of:	December 2011
Personnel Expenses	\$ 7,855.00
Utilities	\$ 1,172.00
Ministry/Supplies	\$ 736.00
Maintenance	\$ 0.00
Spiritual Life/Outreach/Advertising	\$ 588.00
Other Disbursements	\$ 5,705.00*
Total Expenditures	\$ 16,056.00

Receipts for Month of:	December 2011
Weekly Envelopes	\$ 4,368.00
Weekly Plate	\$ 337.00
Benevolences	\$ 977.00
Memorial Fund	\$ 130.00
Special Offerings	\$ 3,816.00
Other Receipts	\$ 5,542.00**
Total Receipts	\$ 15,170.00

*Insurance, Classis Assessment and Taxes paid

**Includes transfer of funds from Benevolent Fund

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; Trudy Mische; Alona; Debra Meraglia; Jon Reeverts; Eleanor Rizzo; Donna Dowd; Doris Church; Chloe Holland-Anderson; Andrew Stoneman; United Presbyterian Church, Ridgewood and Pastor Henry Fury; Juergen Schroder; Joyce Silver; Fritz Reif; Maritza Garia Castro; Gideon Abbas; Christian Gerber; Bill Albanese; Georgine Crabbe; Susan Gebhart; Family of Russ Gebhart; Betty Klaar; 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.

February 2012

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
			1	2 UPC Soup Kitchen 4:00 pm	3 UPC Soup Kitchen 4:00 pm	4
		Al-Anon 7:30 pm		N/A Mtg. 7pm		N/A Mtg. 7pm
5 Worship Service with Communion 10:00 am Annual Congregational Meeting	6 N/A Mtg. 7pm	7 Al-Anon 7:30 pm	8	9 N/A Mtg. 7pm	10	11 N/A Mtg. 7pm
12 Worship Service 10:00 am	13 Consistory Meeting 7:30 pm N/A Mtg. 7pm	14 Al-Anon 7:30 pm	15 Frauen-Verein/ Ladies Aid 1:00 pm	16 N/A Mtg. 7pm	17	18 N/A Mtg. 7pm
19 Worship Service with Communion 10:00 am	20 N/A Mtg. 7pm	21 Al-Anon 7:30 pm	22 Ash Wednesday Worship with Communion 7:30 pm	23 N/A Mtg. 7pm	24	25 Couples and Friends 6:00 pm N/A Mtg. 7pm
26 Worship Service 10:00 am	27 N/A Mtg. 7pm	28 Al-Anon 7:30 pm	29 Lenten Bible Study 7:30 pm		Prayer Meeting Sundays 9am Junior Church Sundays 10am <i>Their Daily Bread Collection</i> 1 st Sunday of each month	