

TRINITY CHIMES

NEWSLETTER OF THE TRINITY REFORMED CHURCH

June 2012

Grow

“A sower went out to sow his seed; and as he sowed, some fell on the path and was trampled on, and the birds of the air ate it up. Some fell on the rock; and as it grew up, it withered for lack of moisture. Some fell among thorns, and the thorns grew with it and choked it. Some fell into good soil, and when it grew, it produced a hundredfold.”

-Luke 8:5-8a

Jesus used stories with a variety of images and metaphors to convey the mystery and the grace of the good news and to help express the kingdom of God to his audience. Often, his language included agrarian aspects—elements that residents of first century Palestine obviously connected to and understood as it used everyday occurrences and their real-life experiences. Although we urban dwellers of 21st century North America may not necessarily readily grasp every detail as easily as earlier listeners, we nonetheless get what Jesus was communicating in the above parable of the sower. We understand enough the basics of how seeds can be planted and how they grow. Sermons and bible studies on this passage usually focus on the seeds and the locations where they are sowed as well as the invitation to each of us to become sowers ourselves. A worthy and appropriate message as even Jesus explained that the seeds represent the word of God and the various soils actually represent us and our receptivity to receiving God’s word. But in this edition of the *Trinity Chimes* I’d like us to ponder what it meant that the seed grew in the good soil, with special emphasis upon the *grow* part.

If you have been on the Trinity Church grounds in these last few weeks, you have certainly noticed the abundance of green growth in our churchyard. With the extremely early spring and the abundance of rain the yard is verdant, trees and shrubs are already in fruit, the vegetable and herb gardens are blooming, and a variety of other flowers splash the courtyard with colour. These are the months to see daily growth happening all

around. For with plants, their season is more limited and summer is a time for growth.

We don’t necessarily think the same about people and summer time. For us, we consider summer a time for sports or travel, a time for rest and vacation and other pursuits. As it is the custom for the *Trinity Chimes* not to be published in July and August, let me take this opportunity to wish you a good summer. I want to encourage you to rest, to take a break, to travel and to explore. Summer is an opportunity and I hope that you will take advantage of it!

But with that said, let me also encourage you to learn from the example of the plants around us, take time to grow too! Continue to grow in your relationship with God. It may be cliché but so be it: just because you go on vacation, you never need to go on vacation from God or the church. Take time to nurture your faith life this summer and to care for your practice of spirituality. And if you’re in town, come and worship with us. And if you’re out of town, explore another congregation and worship with them, even another denomination, or even another faith tradition entirely. Continue to worship, continue to grow.

Here at Trinity, summer continues to be a time of growth and activity as we gear up for another adventure of Vacation Bible School in late July. Preparations have already begun but will go full-steam from late June on. If you are interested in participating in some way and/or experiencing first hand this vibrant ministry with our community, please contact the church for more information.

One more word about growing... Trinity will begin the month of June celebrating one of our young adults, Matthais, making his confirmation—or more appropriately said, making his Profession of Faith. When I was a teen, the unspoken, but often practiced notion was that Confirmation was a lot like graduating. In my home church it was seen as a capstone to Sunday School. Once we “made our confirmation” we were done! But that so isn’t true. Profession of faith is merely the

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



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beginning to a continual life of growing in our relationship with God, a continuation of following Christ and becoming more and more a disciple of Jesus, growing to become more in tune with the gentle leadings of the Holy Spirit. Sometimes we can think that confirmation is when we are all grown up. But we never are! I share this not only with our children and young adults here at Trinity, but with those of any and all ages. As the seed is sown it is the possibility for each of us to continue to grow. May this summer be, and may every day be for you a time for growth!

In Christ's Grace & Peace,

Pastor Tom



Vacation Bible School

It's that time of the year again. From July 23–27 Trinity will be hosting **SKY** – where faith and imagination soar as kids discover **“EVERYTHING IS POSSIBLE WITH GOD”**.

Kids, ages 4-14, will participate in memorable Bible-learning activities, sing catchy songs, play teamwork-building games, dig into yummy treats, experience electrifying Bible adventures, collect Bible Memory Buddies to remind them to trust God, and test out Sciency-Fun Gizmos they'll take home and play with all summer long. Plus, kids will learn to look for evidence of God all around them through something called God Sightings. We will also again this year take part in Operation Kid-to-Kid, an international mission effort to squash malaria in the African country of Mali—sending more than a million mosquito nets to protect Malian children.

The fun begins each evening at 6 pm and concludes with Fly Away Finale—a celebration that gets everyone involved in living what they've learned. Family members and friends are encouraged to join in daily for this special time at 8:45 pm.

As always we count on your generosity and support to help make this experience possible for the children of our church and community. Pray that God would give us wisdom in planning. Pray for the right staff members to join our team. And pray that God would begin working in the hearts of the children who will come to **SKY**.

For more information, or if you know someone who would like to be a participant, please contact Liz Burzynski at 917-848-9095 or visit the church's website.

Second Sunday Symposium

Next Sunday, June 10th, following Worship and Coffee Fellowship, the congregation is invited to once again gather and engage in conversation about Imagining the Church. Our short time together will be an opportunity to begin a conversation on simply that, imagining the church: what it has been, what it is, and what it could be. Specifically, we will consider the Ancient Future orientation of doing ministry and mission in the world, one grounded firmly in a foundation of meaningful tradition identifying what God has done/is doing/will do while being open to a continually evolving and changing understanding of what it means to be Christ followers in the 21st Century. Please come and partake in the conversation!

Cake and Rummage Sale

Once again the cake and rummage sale sponsored by the Ladies Aid/Frauenverein was a great success. The cake table produced \$ 672.20 and the rummage table created \$ 645.90 for a total of \$ 1,318.10 for the benefit of our church. Many thanks to all the hard working helpers.

Couples and Friends Club Picnic

The Couples and Friends Club will have their annual picnic at Old Westbury Gardens on Saturday June 16 starting at 10 a.m. Please feel free to join us if you would like to spend a relaxing day under the trees, touring the beautiful gardens and mansion, and enjoying some fellowship. You just have to bring your own food (**no bar-b-cues are permitted**). If you would like further information or directions please speak with Bill Voges.

Clean Up Day

The Couples and Friends Club is coordinating a church cleanup day on Saturday August 4 starting at 9:00 a.m. Everyone at Trinity is invited to join us as we clean through the sanctuary, fellowship hall and do some outside weeding and gardening. Lunch will be served. If you have any questions please speak with Linda Morton or Bob Bambach.

Summer Schedule

This will be the last issue of the *Trinity Chimes* until September. During the summer our Sunday church schedule will remain the same with worship services at 10:00 a.m. followed by a coffee/iced tea fellowship.

Our church secretary Liz Burzynski will not be working during the summer and Pastor is not always in the office during the regular work week. Please leave a message on the answering machine if you need any assistance and someone will get back to you as soon as possible.

Remember that God doesn't take a vacation during the summer. Plan on worshipping with us.

Sage von der Ewigkeit von Franz Karl Ginzkey

Es geht eine Sage: Im fernen Land
liegt ein Gebirge aus Diamant.
Dorthin fliegt alle hundert Jahr'
das Zaubervoglein Wunderbar.

Es wetzt das Schnaeblein am Gestein
zwei, dreimal, laesst es wieder sein,
fliegt heimwaerts, wo es frueher war,
und kehrt erst wieder nach hundert Jahr.

So tut es fort, bis guter Letzt
der ganze Berg ist fortgewetzt.
Verronnen ist nach dieser Zeit
die erste Sekunde der Ewigkeit!

How long is eternity?

A legend says: There's a distant land
in which a diamond mountain stands
to which a magic bird does fly
each time a hundred years go by.

Its beak it sharpens and takes a chip
time and again a tiny bit
And when the whole mountain range is gone
Eternity's very first second has flown!

Es gibt Ewigkeiten in Gottes Unendlichkeit.

Translation: There are eternities in God's endlessness.

translated by Rosemarie Walz

Humor Corner

At the Pearly Gates, a taxi driver and a minister are waiting in line. St. Peter consults his list and says to the taxi driver, "Take this silken robe and golden staff and enter the Kingdom of Heaven." St. Peter then greets the minister saying, "Take this cotton robe and wooden staff and enter the Kingdom of Heaven." "Just a minute," says the minister. "That man was a taxi driver, and he gets a silken robe and golden staff while I get a cotton robe and wooden staff. How can this be?" "Up here, we work by results," says St. Peter. "While you preached, people slept; while he drove, people prayed."

A pastor's wife was preparing pancakes for her young sons. The boys began to argue over who would get the first pancake. Their mother saw the opportunity for a moral lesson. If Jesus were sitting here, He would say, "Let my brother have the first pancake. I can wait." The older boy turned to his younger brother and said, "You be Jesus."

A Sunday School teacher asked her young students as they were on their way to church service, "And why is it necessary to be quiet in church?" One bright little girl replied, "Because people are sleeping!"

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

General Synod

The 206th General Synod of the Reformed Church in America will be meeting June 21-26 on the campus of Trinity Christian College in Palos Heights, Illinois (Chicago). The General Synod is the denomination's annual meeting where minister and elder delegates represent each of the 46 Classes (plural of Classis) and 8 Regional Synods. The highest assembly in our church, it gathers to conduct the business overseeing denomination program and policy. Recently, Pastor Tom had served six years on the General Synod's Commission on Christian Action, four years of which he served as the Commission Moderator and attended Synod as its representative. This year he returns serving as a voting delegate representing the Classis of Queens. Also representing our Classis will be Trinity's own, Elder Lenny Schiefer. Please keep Lenny and Pastor Tom in your prayers, as well as the General Synod and the wider Reformed Church in America as they conduct the work of the church in a faithful and Spirit lead manner.

The Graduation Gift Story

A young man was getting ready to graduate from college. For many months he had admired a beautiful sports car in a dealer's showroom, and knowing his father could well afford it, he told him that was all he wanted.

As graduation day approached, the young man awaited signs that his father had purchased the car. Finally, on the morning of his graduation, his father called him into his private study.

His father told him how proud he was to have such a fine son, and told him how much he loved him. He handed his son a beautifully wrapped gift box.

Curious, but somewhat disappointed, the young man opened the box and found a lovely, leather-bound Bible, with the young man's name embossed in gold. Angrily, he raised his voice to his father and said, "With all your money you give me a Bible?" and stormed out of the house, leaving the Bible.

Many years passed and the young man was very successful in business. He had a beautiful home and wonderful family, but realized his father was very old, and thought perhaps he should go visit him. He had not seen him since that graduation day. Before he could make arrangements he received a telegram telling him his father had passed away and willed all of his possessions to his son.

When he arrived at his father's house sudden sadness and regret filled his heart. He began to search through his father's important papers and saw the still new Bible, just as he had left it years ago. With teachers, he opened the Bible and began to turn the pages. His father had carefully underlined a verse.

As he read those words, a car key dropped from the back of the Bible. It had a tag with the dealer's name, the same dealer who had the sports car he had desired. On the tag was the date of his graduation, and the words **PAID IN FULL**.

How many times do we miss God's blessings because they are not packaged as we expected?

Daily Survival Kit

Items Needed: mint, candy kiss, tea bag, eraser, rubber band, toothpick, chewing gum, band aid, pencil Why???

Toothpick – to remind you to pick out the good qualities in others – Matthew 7:1

Rubber Band – to remind you to be flexible. Things might not always go the way you want, but it will work out – Romans 8:28

Band Aid – to remind you to heal hurt feelings, yours or someone else's – Colossians 3:12-14

Pencil – to remind you to list your blessings everyday - Ephesians 1:3

Eraser – to remind you that everyone makes mistakes, and it's okay – Genesis 50:15-21

Chewing Gum – to remind you to stick with it, and you can accomplish anything – Philippians 4:13

Mint – to remind you that you are worth a mint – John 3:16-17

Candy Kiss – to remind you that everyone needs a kiss or a hug everyday – 1st John 4:7

Tea Bag – to remind you to relax daily and go over your list of blessings – 1 Thessalonians 5:18

Stewardship and Finance Report

<u>Expenditures for Month of</u>	<u>Apr. 2012</u>
Personnel Expenses	\$ 5,752.00
Utilities	\$ 1,130.00
Ministry/Supplies	\$ 0.00
Maintenance	\$ 395.00
Spiritual Life/Outreach/Advertising	\$ 64.00
Other Disbursements*	\$ 3,794.00

Total Expenditures **\$ 11,135.00**

<u>Receipts for Month of</u>	<u>Apr. 2012</u>
Weekly Envelopes	\$ 5,869.00
Weekly Plate	\$ 394.00
Benevolences	\$ 359.00
Memorial Fund	\$ 3,100.00
Special Offerings**	\$ 3,321.00
Other Receipts **	\$ 1,242.00

Total Receipts **\$ 14,285.00**

* Insurance and quarterly taxes paid

** Donations received for Lent, Easter, Classis, NA and ALANON

Happy June Birthdays

Andrew Burzynski	6 th	Diana Albanese	11 th
Jacob Wtorkowski	12 th	Gabriel Gorham	13 th
Marcus Adamek	14 th		

Happy July Birthdays

Erna Mayer	2 nd	Marc Adamek	3 rd
Dennis Popp	7 th	Tony Famighetti	10 th
Alfons Neumeier	10 th	Fritz Klaar	23 rd
Jakob Firneis	24 th	Emily Hauser	26 th
Janet Roth	29 th		

Happy August Birthdays

Victoria Wtorkowski	2 nd	Christine Joreitz	3 rd
Rosemarie Walz	7 th	Margarethe Roth	12 th
Anthony Famighetti	16 th	T heo Hessenius	19 th
Martha Bauer	23 rd	Harold Degenhart	24 th
Peter Vacanti	25 th	Ludwig Hauser	26 th
Helen Walter	27 th	Elisabeth Roth	30 th

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; Martin Seidl; Family of Lyndsley Wilkerson; Family of Monica Miksa; Family of Angel Perez; 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 June

June 3, 10, 17, 24 –Worship Service 10:00 a.m.

- *Second Sunday Symposium* June 10 after worship service
- Communion will be celebrated on June 3 and 17
- Prayer Meeting each Sunday at 9:00 a.m.
- Junior Church each Sunday at 10:00 a.m.

June 2012

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
Prayer Meeting Sundays 9am Junior Church Sundays 10am <i>Their Daily Bread Collection</i> 1 st Sunday of each month					1	2 NA Mtg. 7pm
3 Worship Service Confirmation/ Profession of Faith 10:00 am	4 NA Mtg. 7pm	5 Al-Anon 7:30pm	6 Confirmation Class 4pm Consistory 7:00pm	7 UPC Welcome Kitchen 4:00 pm NA Mtg. 7pm	8 UPC Welcome Kitchen 4:00 pm	9 NA Mtg. 7pm
10 Worship Service 10:00 am <i>Second Sunday Symposium</i>	11 NA Mtg. 7pm	12 Queens Classis Al-Anon 7:30pm	13 Confirmation Class 4pm	14 NA Mtg. 7pm	15	16 Couples and Friends Picnic 10:00 am <i>Old Westbury Gardens</i> NA Mtg. 7pm
17 Worship Service 10:00 am Happy Father's Day	18 NA Mtg. 7pm	19 Al-Anon 7:30pm	20 Frauenverein/ Ladies Aid *12:30 pm* >>>>>>>>>>	21 >>>>>General NA Mtg. 7pm	22 Synod>>>>>>>>	23 >>>>>>>>>> NA Mtg. 7pm
24 Worship Service 10:00 am >>>>>>>>>>	25 >>>>>>>>>> NA Mtg. 7pm	26 >>>>>>>>>>	27	28 NA Mtg. 7pm	29	30 NA Mtg. 7pm