

# TRINITY CHIMES

NEWSLETTER OF THE TRINITY REFORMED CHURCH

May 2012

Is

**The women were terrified and bowed their faces to the ground, but the men said to them, “Why do you look for the living among the dead? He is not here, but has risen...” They were saying, “The Lord has risen indeed, and he has appeared to Simon!” Luke 24:5, 34**

There are certain times in our lives when we are truly present in the moment. I think for example of a baby examining her little baby fingers and little baby toes. She gazes intently at her hands, and puts her feet into her mouth—for we learn best simply not only by sight but through touch and taste as well! Perhaps as she grows she will retain some of the preciousness of the moment, of the here and the now. Children are great at being present to the moment. They more easily adapt and can usually occupy themselves, with a little imagination make almost anything into play. But slowly, as she ages she will also gain the longing of the someday. Little by little she will become aware of and even captivated by the future, the “when I grow up” mentality. Why, just this morning a friend was relating to me how her daughter has been saying lately, “when I grow up I want to eat cereal at every meal” and “when I grow up I want to live with you and Mommy forever” and “when I grow up I *never* want to drive a car.” Oh, how those thoughts will probably changes as she does grow up!

In growing up there are times when we become less focused on the present and much more aware of the future. Even teens who may seem entirely engrossed in the present actually tend to be very much aware of the future. A great deal of their time and energy is involved in preparations for the future, studies and what they will do as “adults.” Don’t let the apathetic or indifferent attitude fool you. They are often keenly aware of the future in the midst of their present. And it is often at this time in their lives when there is also a growing awareness of one’s past. No longer children, but not yet given the freedoms that adults enjoy, they can sometimes begin to

look back and miss the carefree days of their childhood.

As young adults we begin to carry with us the ambiguity of time all the more so. Perhaps still striving for the future, perhaps presently enjoying freedoms long wished for, and maybe even wistfully looking back, it is nonetheless difficult to be fully present in the moment. I spoke with an old friend yesterday. He and his wife are both young professionals, balancing life, raising three young children, careers, family, finances, etc... He shared the challenges they are having. At one point in describing his partner who is extremely focused on getting the family out of the cramped home they are currently in and financially viable to move up to a more spacious one, he said, “she’s so absorbed in our future, that I’m worried she may be missing out on some of our present.”

As we age that ambiguity of time intensifies in our lives and attitudes. We can spend so much of our energies focused on the future: future career, job, home, goals, retirement, that we get to a point where we wonder as my friend asked, “are we missing out on the present?” Call it a mid-life crisis if you want, but there comes points in our lives when and where we cease to be so future-focused and instead begin to ask questions about our lives in the present. This is an opportunity to reevaluate ourselves.

However, it can often lead us to look back, and at times unfortunately, instead become absorbed in the past. This too can build as we age. “The good old days” can become our focus in such a way that we are no longer fully available to the present and the future promises will never match up to how we remember things. Do you know people who live in the past?

A life of faith demands a keen memory of the past, to remember who we are and what God has done. A life of faith also demands an open imagination hoping and longing for the future that God in Christ is bringing. But perhaps most importantly, a life of faith demands an incredible balance of memory and hope—of

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



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past and future—as we live most fully in the reality of the present moment, a present moment where God is alive, at work in our world, bringing God’s fullness and renewal to all things!

During this Eastertide, an old-fashioned word for the season of Easter, we celebrate the good news that Christ is risen. We worship a God who is alive and engaged and present in our present time. We certainly remember the past. And we certainly look forward and work accordingly for the future. But faith demands we put our belief into action in the here and now of the present, because this is where God: our Creator, Redeemer, and Sustainer is alive and at work. And we follow a risen Saviour doing the work and witness of Jesus.

Often in our children’s ministries here at Trinity we invite the kids to share God sightings—those places in their daily and weekly lives where they have experienced God. Perhaps it came through the beauty of nature or in the words of a friend or in the actions of a stranger. Where did they experience grace or truth or love or peace or healing or forgiveness or...the list could go on and on. Where did they have a sighting of God alive and at work renewing God’s world? I invite you to answer the same.

Remember the past, but don’t focus on it. Hope for the future, but be not consumed by it. Be present to the here and the now, for this is also where Jesus is risen and at work.

In Christ’s Grace & Peace,

Pastor Tom

### Ordinations and Installations

Trinity joyfully celebrated three ordinations and installations this last month as members responded to the call of Jesus and the Spirit’s gentle promptings and stepped up to assist in leading Christ’s church here at Trinity.



Jenny Burger and Max Teodorescu were ordained and installed to the Office of Deacon on March 25<sup>th</sup> and Diana Albanese was ordained and installed to the Office of Elder on April 22<sup>nd</sup>. We are thankful for all God’s servants and especially thankful for Diana, Jenny, and Max as they serve on the Consistory to help all God’s people follow Christ in ministry and mission!

### Cake and Rummage Sale

The Ladies Aid/Frauenverein will be sponsoring the annual Spring Cake and Rummage Sale on Sat., May 12th from 10:00am to 2:00pm. If you have new or *gently used* items that you would like to donate to the sale, these can be brought to the church fellowship hall from Sun., May 6<sup>th</sup> – Wed., May 9<sup>th</sup> during normal office hours—please no sooner. We are also asking for volunteers, male and female alike, for the week

before the sale to help set up and then again on the day of the sale. **Any** time you could give would be much appreciated. And if you cannot volunteer, please come and support the sale and enjoy your favorites!

### Welcome New Members



On Easter Sunday, April 8, four adults and three children were welcomed into the Trinity family. Marc and Sylvia Adamek reaffirmed their faith and brought their sons Matthais and Marcus. Brianna Cullen and

Alfredo Lopez also reaffirmed their faith and brought their son Jace.

### Condolences and Prayers

Trinity grieves the loss of two dear members and friends from the church family: Fritz Reif and Trudy Mische. We celebrate their lives and faith as they have entered the nearer presence of the Lord; and during this season of Easter, all the more look forward to the resurrection. Our prayers for peace and comfort go out to Fritz’s wife Eva and his son’s Frederick and Robert and their families; and to Trudy’s sisters and her children—John, Renate, Marilyn, and Heidi—and their families.

### Junior Church Spring Program and Potluck

Following the phenomenal reception of the Junior Church (Sunday School) Christmas pageant program and all-church luncheon, the children and teachers are once again preparing a presentation to highlight and share what they have been learning this spring semester and to also prepare to celebrate the Day of Pentecost. All of our Trinity Church family and friends are invited to come and hear the message our young folks will share following the worship service on Sunday, May 20<sup>th</sup>. Then following the Junior Church Program all are invited to stay and gather around the table in fellowship as we feast in a church-wide potluck. You are encouraged to bring a dish to pass. Tableware and drinks will be provided. Hope to see you there!

### Property and Maintenance Update

Now that the warmer weather is here we are having the outside fence around Trinity painted. The fence had been chipped and rusted in spots and should look much better when it is finished. One of our members has also made a donation to have the church kitchen repainted. You may have noticed that the old wallpaper has been removed from the ceiling and walls and a fresh coat of paint will soon be applied.

If you have any questions or concerns regarding the church property or maintenance please speak with either Bob Bambach, property chairperson, or Pastor.

## Devotional

*(Devotional by Diana Albanese at the April 10, 2012 Consistory Meeting. Each Consistory meeting begins with a short devotional and prayer to draw us together. This devotional was originally intended for the Consistory, but the message was so good, Pastor asked if it could be shared in the Trinity Chimes. So here goes...)*

In Paul's letters to the church in Corinth his deep concern is clear:

In 1 Corinthians 1:10-11: *"I appeal to you, brothers, in the name of our Lord Jesus Christ that all of you agree with one another so that there may be no divisions among you, and that you may be perfectly united in mind and thought."*

And in 2 Corinthians 13:11: *"Finally, brothers, good-bye. Aim for perfection, listen to my appeal, be of one mind, live in peace. And the God of love and peace will be with you."*

There's no way of knowing exactly how many minds Paul was addressing, and any problems that Trinity may have don't seem to be nearly as numerous or serious as those of the Corinthians, but as church leaders are we failing by not reaching those standards? Maybe not. Even Paul in his second letter had modified his appeal to *"aim for perfection."*

Maybe for us, achieving a balance is a more realistic and attainable goal. Maybe by working at preventing our diversity from deteriorating into divisions among us we can achieve an acceptable level of unity. In any event, both outcomes require work.

When a call for Deacons or Elders is answered or a search for a Pastor is conducted, we thank God for raising up leaders in the church and providing a Minister of Word and Sacrament. None of us is here by coincidence or mistake, and we've all been equipped by God with the Spiritual gifts we need to do His work.

Even though we're a relatively small group, we're also a diverse group. Our ages span a range of 40 years or more. Our preferences for the way we'd like to see things done can run the gamut from legalistic to deeply traditional. We're at different points in our terms of office. And our relationships with each other range from brief, infrequent, impersonal conversations to well-established friendships. None of those considerations is negative, and any of them can change at any time.

Maybe the bottom line is that the RCA Book of Church Order begins its description of each of our different roles -- Deacon, Elder, Minister of Word and Sacrament -- by defining all three offices as ". . . one of servanthood and service, representing Christ through the action of the Holy Spirit."

Our real challenge to unity and balance will likely come from members of the congregation who understandably may not welcome change, no matter how well-intentioned or efficacious. How blessed we are to have a loving God to give us the wisdom to deal with them in a caring way.

*Father, we acknowledge your presence among us. As your imperfect servants, we ask you to guide us through this*

*meeting, in all matters, as we seek to carry out your will, not ours. In Jesus' name. Amen.*

## Happy May Birthdays

Margret Shea	May 1	Rosemary Famighetti	May 5
Dorothy Mertens	May 5	Linda Schiefer	May 16
Erna Lehfellner	May 18	Alexander Burzynski	May 18
Dorothy Keeber	May 22	Puselia Ghioalda	May 25

## 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; Theo Hessenius; Martin Seidl; 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>Mar. 2012</u>
Personnel Expenses	\$ 7,036.00
Utilities	\$ 1,418.00
Ministry/Supplies	\$ 452.00
Maintenance	\$ 174.00
Spiritual Life/Outreach/Advertising	\$ 25.00
Other Disbursements	\$ 3,085.00 *
<b>Total Expenditures</b>	<b>\$ 12,190.00</b>

<u>Receipts for Month of</u>	<u>Mar. 2012</u>
Weekly Envelopes	\$ 5,080.00
Weekly Plate	\$ 126.00
Benevolences	\$ 324.00
Memorial Fund	\$ 361.00
Special Offerings	\$ 1,625.00
Other Receipts	\$ 370.00
<b>Total Receipts</b>	<b>\$ 7,886.00</b>

\* Insurance and Classis Assessment Paid

## Worship Schedule for May

May 6, 13, 20, 27 –Worship Schedule  
10:00 a.m.

- Communion will be celebrated on May 6 and 20
- Prayer Meeting each Sunday at 9:00 a.m.
- Junior Church each Sunday at 10:00 a.m.

# May 2012

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
		1	2	3	4	5
		Al-Anon 7:30 pm	Confirmation Class 4:00pm	UPC Welcome Kitchen 4:00 pm  N/A Mtg. 7pm	UPC Welcome Kitchen 4:00 pm	N/A Mtg. 7pm
6	7	8	9	10	11	12
Worship Service with Communion 10:00 am  <i>Their Daily Bread</i> collection	N/A Mtg. 7pm	Consistory Meeting 7:30 pm  Al-Anon 7:30 pm	Confirmation Class 4:00pm	N/A Mtg. 7pm		Cake & Rummage Sale 10am-2pm  Regional Synod of N.Y. Annual Mtg. N/A Mtg. 7pm
13	14	15	16	17	18	19
Worship Service 10:00 am  <i>Second Sunday Symposium</i>  <i>Happy Mother's Day!</i>	N/A Mtg. 7pm	Al-Anon 7:30 pm	Frauenverein/ Ladies Aid 1:00 pm	<i>Ascension of the Lord</i>  N/A Mtg. 7pm		Couples and Friends 6:00 pm  N/A Mtg. 7pm
20	21	22	23	24	25	26
Worship Service with Communion 10:00 am  Children's Program and Church Potluck	Last day for newsletter submissions to Bill Voges  N/A Mtg. 7pm	Al-Anon 7:30 pm	Confirmation Class 4:00pm	N/A Mtg. 7pm		N/A Mtg. 7pm
27	28	29	30	31		
Worship Service 10:00 am  <i>Pentecost</i>	<i>Memorial Day</i>  N/A Mtg. 7pm	Al-Anon 7:30 pm	Confirmation Class 4:00pm	N/A Mtg. 7pm		Prayer Meeting Sundays 9am  Junior Church Sundays 10am  <i>Their Daily Bread Collection</i> 1 <sup>st</sup> Sunday of each month