

TRINITY CHIMES

NEWSLETTER OF THE TRINITY REFORMED CHURCH

November 2012

Catching Flies with Chopsticks

They devoted themselves to the apostles' teaching and fellowship, to the breaking of bread and the prayers.

-Acts 2:42



Maybe it really is just about catching flies with chopsticks.

Often church ministry and mission are not what you think it will be.

That's a fair and probably patently obvious statement. Isn't it?

I mean from my perspective, in preparation to be a Minister of Word and Sacrament, one concentrates on some kind of dare I say mastery (limited and obstructed as that may be) of Bible and theology to share and lead a congregation as it's pastor and teacher. (And well she or he should!) Weekly, in leading the church, minding the wealth of wisdom gathered in liturgy, hymnody, and sacred music, the pastor—I want to say designs or creates but perhaps it is more accurate to say organizes—the worship service and employing the breadth of his or her learning constructs a sermon that truly proclaims the Word. The people of God obviously respond and are renewed or transformed in the experience, with the entirety of this process bathed in prayer and the Holy Spirit.

Right!

Or, right?

Then we all go downstairs for coffee and cake.

And it gets real. Or applicable. Church and ministry certainly happens in the sanctuary, but it is in all of life outside of it where it gets more real.

None of this is new. I've said so much in worship services many times. But it seems particularly palpably so on those big church moments—funerals, baptisms, weddings. Most especially wedding worship services where I'd remind the couple that the vows they say on this occasion need to be not only remembered but lived into in the days and years to follow, blah, blah, blah... I wonder if that's how it's heard.

But recently I viewed it from the other side. As many are aware, a couple in our church just celebrated their 60th Wedding Anniversary. A big party took place, a catered event with good food and drink, music and toasts. It was actually a lot of fun. I imagine much could be gleaned from sixty years of marriage, recognition of the vows that were kept, and the role of faith sustaining them. But none of that interest me at this time. What I found impressive, hopeful, and even surprising was the presence of the church—the presence of ministry and mission in the midst of every day life.

After arriving at the restaurant catering hall I was greeted by the anniversary couple and hugs were extended. Hugging the former bride was warm and effusive. Hugging the groom a little less graceful perhaps but meaningful nonetheless, going in for a firm handshake that become a half-sideways-pat-of-the-shoulder-hug that men sometimes do. It was at that moment of contact that I noticed he was wearing the same RCA crest lapel pin on his jacket as I was wearing on mine. He is an elder on the great consistory of our church having served here many years in leadership. It struck me, however, that on the day that friends and family gathered to celebrate the achievement and joy of 60 wedded years, he chose to also wear a symbol of his church and his faith on his person. What was also noticeable to me were the people gathered. Some had come from far away and many were family members and friends from throughout the couple's life. But the vast majority of the people assembled were their church family.

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



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As a minister I usually envision ministry as those areas that relate to the functioning of the church as institution and organization. I know this isn't theologically accurate, but it is common parlance. It isn't all worship and bible studies, outreach programs and mission opportunities. Practically speaking, ministry can deal a lot with building and property maintenance, budgets and business, group dynamics, counseling and psychology, and a goodly amount of community relations. Again, I know this isn't all it's about but it can easily involve much of this, and seem like it's about this.

Yet there's something true, *that ministry is about all this stuff* that we'd like to think it's not about. But it is.

A marriage isn't just about the joy of the wedding day alone but the day in and day out living of that commitment. And too for the church. Those little things of ministry is ministry.

Which brings me back to the chopstick line I begin with. It's from the first Karate Kid movie. Perhaps you remember the scene when Mr. Miyagi is teaching Daniel karate by using rather menial tasks, "wax on, wax off." With Hollywood magic, Daniel learns basic steps that leads him to become not only good at karate, but grow more mature in the process. One of the steps of his learning involves being able to catch houseflies with chopsticks. Ministry and mission is kind of like that.

It isn't about the flies, but learning the ability. And yet it is about the flies. Like Daniel learning karate, ministry and mission isn't what you think it's going to be.

Which has probably always been true. When the first disciples were called by Jesus to follow him, they had no idea what they were getting themselves into. What would ensue would sometimes be scary, sometimes thrilling, sometimes exciting, enthralling, even exhilarating. But often times, pretty regular. Day in and day out life following Christ.

In Christ's Grace & Peace,

Pastor Tom

Happy November Birthdays



Melissa Donaldson	3 rd	Jenny Mayorga	6 th
Justine Wittine	8 th	Gerard Tate	11 th
Erik Huneke	12 th	Katy Kuhner	24 th
Doris Church	28 th		

Crop Walk Update

Eleven people from five area churches including four people from Trinity Reformed Church participated in the CROP Walk sponsored by the Ridgewood Glendale Church Laity Association on October 6. Our church raised a total of \$1,430 for Church World Service and we wish to thank everyone who walked or contributed. Special thanks again this year to Hanna and Theo Hessenius who secured three generous donations from organizations that they belong to.

Cake and Rummage Sale

The Ladies Aid/Frauenverein will be sponsoring a fall cake and rummage sale on Saturday November 17 from 10:00 a.m. to 2:00 p.m. They are looking for bakers who would be willing to donate some baked goods to the sale. These may be brought to church the morning of the sale. Also, if anyone has new or *gently used* items that they would like to donate to the sale, these may be brought to the church fellowship hall beginning Sunday Nov. 11th through Wed. Nov. 14th during normal office hours – please no sooner as we have limited storage space. We are also asking for volunteers to help with set-up the week before the sale and then again on the day of the sale. If you cannot volunteer, please make sure to come support the sale and enjoy your favorites!

Benevolent Fund

We often use the term "Benevolent Fund" at Trinity and there are monthly benevolent envelopes in your offering boxes. Some people are not exactly sure what this fund is all about so we thought it would be a good idea to provide you with more information. A better name for this fund would be the "Mission, Outreach, and Evangelism Fund." Money collected is used to help support people who spread the Good News of Jesus Christ both here and in foreign countries. During 2012, the four biggest donations from this fund have been made to the Alexanders and Doug Leonard who are missionaries abroad, to Peter Mark Trautmann who works here in New York with the Navigators, a college campus ministry, and to the Gideons who provide Bibles all over the world

We will shortly be creating a missions bulletin board which will highlight the various individuals and groups we support. We also ask you to prayerfully consider your support of the Mission Fund through your donations to the monthly benevolent envelopes. If you have any questions, please feel free to speak with Marieanna Trautmann who is in charge of the Benevolent (Mission) Fund.

Zum Totensonntag

Prayer List

Die Stimmen, die wir nicht mehr hoeren

Die Stimmen, die wir nicht mehr hoeren,
sie toenen jetzt im oberen Chor.
Hier ist die Luecke, das Entbehren,
wir koennen nicht der Traenen wehren,
um das, was unser Herz verlor.

Doch waehrend wir hier stammelnd stehen,
da jubeln sie vor Gottes Thron.
Wir suchen tastend - sie verstehen.
Sie duerfen, was wir glauben, sehen.
Sie ernten schon den Siegeslohn.

Die Stimmen, die uns nicht mehr klingen
auf unserer Erdenwanderschaft,
sie werden uns den Willkomm' bringen
dort, wo wir dann einstimmig singen -
Lob sei dem Lamm, Sein ist die Kraft!

H.v.R. (aus Weggeleit 2. Folge)

Voices we no longer hear

The voices we no longer hear are singing in a heavenly choir.
Ours the bereavement, ours the loss.
We cannot help but weep for all our hearts have lost.

Yet while we falter in the here and now, they rejoice before
God's throne.
We are still groping here below; they already understand.
They can see what we can only accept by faith.
They have already earned the victor's crown.

The voices we no longer hear while on our earthly pilgrimage
will shout a Welcome out to us there where we all shall join
together
in praise to the Lamb, all Power to HIM!

(English translation by R. Walz)

Worship Schedule for November

November 4, 11, 18, 25 – Worship Service 10:00 a.m.

- Communion will be celebrated on November 4 and 18
- Prayer Meeting each Sunday at 9:00 a.m.
- Junior Church each Sunday at 10:00 a.m.

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; Chloe Holland-Anderson; United Presbyterian Church, Ridgewood and Pastor Henry Fury; Gideon Abbas; Bill Albanese; Susan Gebhart; Betty Klaar; Maritza Garcia-Castro; Martin Seidl; Elisabeth Roth; Anibal Segarra; Dorothy Keeber; Helga Theocharides; Torres Family; Erika Huneke; 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>Sept. 2012</u>
Personnel Expenses	\$ 7,028.00
Utilities	\$ 812.00
Ministry/Supplies	\$ 0.00
Maintenance	\$198.00
Spiritual Life/Outreach/Advertising	\$ 0.00
Other Disbursements *	\$ 4,107.00

Total Expenditures \$ 12,145.00

<u>Receipts for Month of</u>	<u>Sept 2012</u>
Weekly Envelopes	\$ 5,516.00
Weekly Plate	\$ 109.00
Benevolences	\$ 372.00
Memorial Fund	\$ 120.00
Special Offerings	\$ 435.00
Other Receipts **	\$ 3,464.00

Total Receipts \$ 10,016.00

*Insurance paid and office supplies

**Benevolent fund transfer, CROP Walk

Because the offering envelope contributions were insufficient to meet our expenses, \$ 2,000.00 was transferred from the benevolent fund to make up the difference.

November 2012

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
Prayer Meeting Sundays 9am Junior Church Sundays 10am				1 UPC Welcome Kitchen 4:00 pm NA Mtg. 7pm	2 UPC Welcome Kitchen 4:00 pm	3 NA Mtg. 7pm
4 Worship Service 10:00 am <i>Their Daily Bread Collection</i>	5 NA Mtg. 7pm	6 Al-Anon 7:30pm	7 	8 NA Mtg. 7pm	9 	10 Couples and Friends 6:00 pm at China Buffet NA Mtg. 7pm
11 Worship Service 10:00 am	12 NA Mtg. 7pm	13 Al-Anon 7:30pm	14 	15 NA Mtg. 7pm	16 	17 NA Mtg. 7pm
18 Worship Service 10:00 am	19 NA Mtg. 7pm	20 Consistory 7 pm Last day for newsletter submissions to Bill Voges Al-Anon 7:30pm	21 Frauenverein/ Ladies Aid 1:00 pm	22 Happy Thanksgiving NA Mtg. 7pm	23 	24 NA Mtg. 7pm
25 Reign of Christ Sunday Worship Service 10:00 am	26 NA Mtg. 7pm	27 Al-Anon 7:30pm	28 	29 NA Mtg. 7pm	30 	