

TRINITY CHIMES

NEWSLETTER OF THE TRINITY REFORMED CHURCH

April 2013

Hawks and Doves

For I am about to create new heavens and a new earth; the former things shall not be remembered or come to mind. But be glad and rejoice forever in what I am creating... The wolf and the lamb shall feed together, the lion shall eat straw like the ox; but the serpent--its food shall be dust! They shall not hurt or destroy on all my holy mountain, says the LORD.

Isaiah 65:17-18a-25

I've been observing over the last several weeks a pair of mourning doves, *Zenaida macroura*, as they assemble their nest upon one of the window ledges of an upstairs guestroom. The industrious couple has been gathering vegetative detritus and debris from the churchyard and reappportioning it to hold their eventual brood. What I first took notice of was how incredibly useful old dry Hosta leaves and stems were to them. Passing daily past a couple of old gnarly yew trees in the courtyard surrounded by a generally verdant blanket of green Vinca, the brown leftovers of last summer's Hosta plants stood out. "You need to clean that up" I'd tell myself, but never seemed to get to it. So I was happily surprised to see them being taken up with such gusto by my windowsill neighbors, pleasantly hearing the whistling sound of the dove's takeoff each time they gathered their building supplies. It gave me a kind of The Lion King/Hakuna Matata/Circle of Life feeling to see how last year's yard wastes would become this year's bird nest.

The Mourning Dove is a beautiful songbird and its commonality should not take away from that grandeur. So common, it is spread throughout much of North America and with full-season habitation in all of the lower 48 states, the dove is one of the most widespread species of songbirds. It shares its haunting call of cooOOoo-woo-woo-woooo and cooOOoo that it is one of the most recognized birds by sound, a sound that contributes to its name of mourning, which I personally don't find a

mournful sound, but rather, very comforting. So abundant, the dove is also a common game bird. Which is sad to me. Hunting for food and wildlife management makes sense. But mourning dove populations don't really require management by hunting—they are an abundant species which have an already high mortality rate. Although they can be eaten, it is generally just the breast that is consumed—which seems a rather wasteful kill for just a couple puny pieces of meat. More often than not, the birds serve as live targets and many are wounded.

So about that high mortality rate...

Early last week—Monday morning of Holy Week actually—I was greeted in the church courtyard by the striking presence of a hawk having just made a kill and enjoying her breakfast. At first I was like, "Cool!" It's a pretty cool thing to experience wildlife in New York City, beyond say rats or cockroaches. With a pretty constant din of traffic, various sirens, and the rumble of the elevated train along with concrete and bricks consuming most of the view in any general direction, the connection to nature and wildlife is grounding and sustaining. It is beautiful. It is also harsh. As I approached the hawk more closely awareness dawned on me and recognition of what and who her meal was: a mourning dove.

It was one thing to feel all The Lion King/Hakuna Matata/Circle of Life about the Hosta plant, quite another about the mourning dove that I'd been watching build a nest these last few weeks. Sure enough, the nest construction has stopped. The dove who became the hawk's breakfast had a partner although I've not seen him or her around lately. (Doves are usually monogamous.)

During those early weeks of nest construction I was thinking a lot about how I like things neat and tidy: a neat and tidy house, a neat and tidy yard, a neat and tidy life. Even my theology often, likes to be neat and tidy. We could insert a joke about how we Reformed-

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



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types especially like things to be done decently and in order—neat and tidy, but that’s not just our tradition or personality, that’s a very human reaction I believe. And neat and tidy has its place, to be sure. But in the construction of the nest I was reminded of how “our” version of neat and tidy may not serve in the bigger picture sort of way. Had I cleaned up that yard waste, my birds would have not so readily had nesting materials available to them.

These thoughts were not consuming me, merely background conversation in my head.

But then the hawk came.

With my biological training I have great appreciation for both the dove and the hawk. As I said above, it was really cool when I first saw the hawk. But then the loss of the dove set in. Sure, there is a neat and tidy ecological explanation—or probably, more dynamic than tidy.

Again, these have not been a consuming thoughts, rather, background conversation in my head.

But for the timing, at the beginning of Holy Week. This backyard drama of life and rebirth, death and loss has played out just beyond my office window. And I can’t help but see it connected, somehow, to God’s Easter vision in Isaiah...

Would be too trite to say keep building nests? Would it be too bromidic to long for a time when the hawk and the dove feed together?

So days after Easter Sunday, does the vision still stand even if its not so neat and tidy?

I am especially thinking today of those who have kept the vision in a world not so neat and tidy. I think of Rev. Dr. King’s words in Memphis on April 3, 1968, the day before he was killed:

Like anybody, I would like to live a long life. Longevity has its place. But I'm not concerned about that now. I just want to do God's will. And He's allowed me to go up to the mountain. And I've looked over. And I've seen the Promised Land. I may not get there with you. But I want you to know tonight, that we, as a people, will get to the promised land!

And so I'm happy, tonight.

I'm not worried about anything.

I'm not fearing any man.

Mine eyes have seen the glory of the coming of the Lord.

May God’s Easter vision of new heavens and a new earth grow within and without each of us!

Alleluia! Christ is Risen!

In Christ’s Grace and Peace,

Pastor Tom

Easter Sunday Celebration



Music Program

The Ridgewood Glendale Church Laity Association is sponsoring a combination music program and adult Bible quiz on Sunday April 21 at 2:00 p.m. here at Trinity Reformed Church. Members from different area churches will be presenting various musical selections, and previous programs have been enjoyable. We hope you will be able to join us.

Happy April Birthdays 🍰

Sonja Mains	1 st	Elisabeth Burzynski	5 th
Barbara Burger	7 th	Bill Mains	9 th
Hulda Stetzenbach	10 th	Gena Stimpfel	10 th
Sylvia Adamek	14 th	Nikolas Burzynski	17 th
Andy Carrasquillo	22 nd	Timothy Wtorkowski	22 nd
Leonard Schiefer	29 th		

Prayer List

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

Sister Kaethe, health; Janet Roth, health; Martha Bauer, health; Frederick Dalm, healing; Groezinger Family; Philipp & Hildegard Febel, healing; Laura Kurtz, health; Debra Meraglia, health & healing; Eleanor Rizzo, health & healing; Donna Dowd, healing; Doris Church, healing; United Presbyterian Church, Ridgewood and Pastor Henry Fury; Bill Albanese, health & healing; Susan Gebhart, health & healing; Maritza Garcia-Castro, health & healing; Fritz & Betty Klaar, health & healing; Anibal Segarra, safety & protection; Martin Seidl, health & healing; Elisabeth Roth, health & healing; Anna Jackson, health & healing; Barbara Burger, health & healing; Clara Gomez, health & healing; Evelyn Meditz (Lenny's mom), health & healing; Felder Williams, health & healing; Felder Williams, health & healing; Family of Nicholas (Helga's grandson), peace and comfort; Family of John Lunz, peace & comfort; Family of Donald Murphy, peace & comfort; Family of John Weitman, peace & comfort; Family of Teri Alyse Muroff-Meyer, peace & comfort; Mildred Schleeauf, health & healing; 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>Feb. 2013</u>
Personnel Expenses	\$ 5,954.00
Utilities	\$ 1,162.00
Ministry/Supplies	\$ 17.00
Maintenance	\$ 81.00
Spiritual Life/Outreach/Advertising	\$ 0.00
Other Disbursements	\$ 289.00
Total Expenditures	\$ 7,503.00

<u>Receipts for Month of</u>	<u>Feb. 2013</u>
Weekly Envelopes	\$ 4,110.00
Weekly Plate	\$ 83.00
Benevolences	\$ 418.00
Memorial Fund	\$ 40.00
Special Offerings	\$ 1,113.00
Other Receipts*	\$ 2,011.00

Total Receipts **\$ 7,775.00**

*Classis Assessment, Hall Usage, Coffee Hour, NA/AlanonFlowers

Bekenntnis

Nur Demut kann mich bei Dir halten,
Mein Heiland und mein Herzensfreund;
Nur Friede, Freude, koennen walten,
Bin innig ich it Dir vereint.

Du bist mein Reichtum, bist mein Geben,
Mit Dir laesst's sich gar sicher gehen. -
Mag Welt und Hoelle zuernen, beben,
Es darf kein Unrecht mir geschehen.

Zum Guten Du mir alles wendest,
Was mir noch immer schaden will;
Weil mir nur dienlich was Du sendest,
So harr' ich aus und bleibe still.

This, I believe

My Lord and friend of my heart,
It is only in humility that I come to you
only peace and joy can exist when I am in
Your Presence.

You are my riches, you are in my giving,
No harm can touch me
even if the world and hell itself seem to
prevail,

You will turn everything for good to me,
even what seems to be of harm
It is only for my benefit what you send into
my life.
So I will trust You and be at peace.

(German by Otto Bautzmann)

Worship Schedule for April

April 7, 14, 21, 28 –Worship Service 10:00 a.m.

- Communion will be celebrated on April 7 and 21
- Prayer Meeting each Sunday at 9:00 a.m.
- Junior Church each Sunday at 10:00 a.m.

April 2013

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