

TRINITY CHIMES

NEWSLETTER OF THE TRINITY REFORMED CHURCH

June 2013

Buttons and Sewing

“Whoever is faithful in a very little is faithful also in much”

-Luke 16:10a

The second to the top button on one of my daily work shirts—one that I wear when I want to look particularly professional, the one that I’m wearing today—is loose. The thread is coming undone; the button’s rather dangly and needs to be reinforced. I am not one who sews, although my mother and grandmother did teach me the basics and I made a swell pair of jams shorts back in middle school home economics. All to say, I need to fix it. And I can fix it. But I might not. It’s more likely that I put it off, hurried with other priorities, bothered by other concerns, and the loose little button won’t get its needed attention until I find it unattached in the clothes dryer, perhaps amassed with the dryer lint.

In situations like this, loose button situations, the first thought that comes to mind, “I have to get Grandma to sew it back on.” It is not because I was coddled or spoiled by Grandma, necessarily. No, it’s because for most of my life, Grandma sewed on buttons. It was one of the ways she showed her love. And she was good at it! I remember for instance, not only buttons coming undone, but badly sewn buttons, she would reinforce. Before my freshman year in college I had ordered a coat from a catalog—this was before “online” shopping—and when it arrived she was quite pleased with it but concerned about the quality of the buttons, of them not being well sewed. Factory-made was unreliable. Before sending her little boy away to school she reinforced by hand each and every button on that jacket. And I’ll have you know, the coat eventually became threadbare in spots, but never lost a single button. It has been almost eight years since my grandmother passed away, but still, the feeling of a loose button underneath one’s fingertips and she is the first to come to mind.

I have been thinking a lot about loose buttons and my grandmother as of late. This coming Sunday afternoon the Classis of Queens, Reformed Church in America will gather,

celebrate, and mark an ending of the life of a local congregation, the Glendale Reformed Church. For various reasons, the Glendale church’s building is not suitable to hold the service, therefore we at Trinity are hosting and happenstance—if a Reformed person can say that—I will be preaching. It will have a small attendance. Members and former members of the congregation have been invited back to mark an ending. In so many ways it feels much like a funeral.

Over the years I have become quite adept at doing funerals; I’ve had lots of experience. As difficult and somber as some of them are, they can also truly be hope-filled occasions, which is fitting as funerals are a witness to the resurrection. A good funeral needs to be balanced allowing one to mourn and grieve while also celebrating and commemorating the deceased person’s life and proclaiming the good news, the gospel promise, the resurrection. But I find myself sometimes, in some funeral celebrations, struggling with a certain lack of honesty that’s present. Maybe it’s the celebratory attitude or kindness and hope or just good manners, propriety, but I’ve noticed that we often—that’s people generally—don’t like to bring up negative things in funerals. We shouldn’t speak ill of the dead, maybe. But sometimes, the negatives are present. Perhaps the old cuss was just mean and nasty his whole life. Can’t we just acknowledge that? Maybe there are real regrets. Can we do something about them?

I bring this up because I’m kind of angry about a church closing. I know there are reasons. The neighborhood changed. The world has changed. People aged and moved away. So on and so on. All that’s well and good. I get it. But I’m angry. And I want to be honest about that. And I imagine I’m not the only one. Sometimes anger is a part of grief, or the way we deal with our grief. And sometimes anger is entirely separate from grief. Sometimes, I just get mad.

With anger there often comes blame. Blame may have its place. May not always be helpful, but certainly has its place. I’ve been thinking about whom to blame. The possibilities are endless.

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to help
people find
New Life in
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6630 60th Place
Ridgewood, NY 11385
718 821-2700

But truthfully, I don't think it's really about blaming one person or one group, or one event or one thing that happened. It wasn't just one.

Which brings me back to my button. I've been thinking about how I'm well aware of this loose button I'm wearing but life is so busy I easily put it off and don't attend to it. In the big picture, one button is not a big deal. But totaled up, there are a lot of loose buttons out there. Usually, it's not this one or that one that makes the shirt untenable, it's an accumulation of missing buttons that finally does it in. We may finally get to the point where we don't know where we've lost the buttons along the way.

This may be pushing the metaphor, but hear me out. It really isn't one thing, but many things that we in the church need to attend to, little things that add up, the way we treat one another, the words we use and don't use. The reasons why we do what we do.

But mostly this isn't about a dying church or loose buttons, but it's about my grandma who taught me to sew. In preparing for this upcoming service I've been thinking a good amount about the real loss of a local church. But those saints that were formed there are real. And the faith that was nurtured there is genuine. A local church's life has ended, but her people have been sent out and they have learned to follow Christ where they have been sent. They have learned to sew.

In Christ's Grace and Peace,

Pastor Tom

Summer Schedule

This is 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. Remember that God doesn't take a vacation during the summer. Please plan on worshipping with us!

During the month of June the Church office is open and our Office Administrator Liz is usually in Tuesday through Thursday, 8:30 am to 12:30 pm. Liz is only in one day a week during the month of July and will be out of the office during August. If you do not reach someone when you call, please, please, please leave a message and someone will get back with you. The office is closed on Fridays but you are welcome to leave a message. **Pastor is best reached at the church office, 718.821.2700.** While Pastor is usually available for emergencies and can be reached for *urgent* calls on his mobile phone; he takes Friday as his Sabbath and appreciates your respectful considerations.



*Alexander and Nikolas
joined Pastor Tom showing
Pentecost Spirit.*



Vacation Bible School

Imagine...

- ...a child hearing about God's love for the first time.
- ...kids worshipping in powerful ways.
- ...children praying for each other.
- ...adults and teens modeling Jesus' love to children.
- ...the kids in our church showing God's love to children in India .
- ...children serving each other.

This summer, July 22-26, Trinity will once again engage the children of our church and community with Vacation Bible School- *Kingdom Rock*. We're praying this awesome VBS program will touch children's hearts and lives with God's love. Help kids in our church and community discover that

- God's love helps us...stand strong!
- Friends and family help us...stand strong!
- Prayer helps us...stand strong!
- Trusting God helps us...stand strong!
- The Bible helps us...stand strong!

The fun begins each evening at 6 pm and concludes with Fanfare 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. As we plan and prepare for Kingdom Rock, our team would cherish your prayers. 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 *Kingdom Rock*!

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.

Rummage Sale

Please come support Trinity's Rummage Sale on Sat., June 22nd 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 on Sun., June 16th, Tues., June 18th, and Wed., June 19th during normal office hours - 8:30am-12:30pm. We are asking for volunteers, male and female alike, to help set up on Wednesday and Thursday before the sale and to help on the day of the sale itself. **Any** time you could give would be much appreciated. Please see Liz Burzynski with any questions and to volunteer your time. Thank you!

Couples and Friends Club Picnic

The Couples and Friends Club will have their annual picnic at Old Westbury Gardens on Saturday June 15 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-ques are permitted**). If you would like further information or directions please speak with Bill Voges.

Mission Fund

The Mission Fund (formerly called the Benevolent Fund) supports Reformed Church missionaries in several locations around the world as well as our own Linda and Lenny Schiefer who are with the Gideons and Peter Mark and Amanda Trautmann who are with the Navigators here in New York City. Take a look at the mission bulletin board on display in the Fellowship Hall for pictures of our mission partners as well as some information about their work

The only source of income for the Mission Fund are the monthly "Benevolent Fund" envelopes in your offering envelope box. In addition to your regular offerings, please contribute to the Mission Fund so that we in turn can help a number of worthwhile programs beyond Trinity. Thank you.

Congratulations!

Don Gorham and Jenny Mayorga were joined together in holy matrimony on Sunday, May 19th at her parents' home in Far Rockaway. Congratulations and God Bless!

Happy June Birthdays

| | | | |
|------------------|------------------|----------------|------------------|
| Andrew Burzynski | 6 th | Diana Albanese | 11 th |
| Jacob Wtorkowski | 12 th | Gabriel | 13 th |
| Marcus Adamek | 14 th | Jeff Donaldson | 16 th |
| Matthew Schiefer | 16 th | Lynn Cullen | 23 rd |

Happy July Birthdays

| | | | |
|-----------------|------------------|-----------------|------------------|
| Erna Mayer | 2 nd | Marc Adamek | 3 rd |
| Tony Famighetti | 10 th | Alfons Neumeier | 10 th |
| Julie Schiefer | 14 th | Fritz Klaar | 23 rd |
| Jakob Firneis | 24 th | Richard Ganzer | 25 th |
| Emily Hauser | 26 th | Janet Roth | 29 th |

Happy August Birthdays

| | | | |
|---------------------|------------------|--------------------|------------------|
| Victoria Wtorkowski | 2 nd | Rosemarie Walz | 7 th |
| Christine Joreitz | 13 th | Anthony Famighetti | 16 th |
| Theo 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, 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; Barbara Burger, health & healing; Clara Gomez, health & healing; Felder Williams, health & healing; Mildred Schleeauf, health & healing; Edgar Mayorga, health & healing; Hanna Hessenius, health & healing; Family of Evelyn Meditz, peace and comfort; Eleanora Hallex, 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>Apr. 2013</u> |
|-------------------------------------|------------------|
| Personnel Expenses | \$ 5,854.00 |
| Utilities | \$ 966.00 |
| Ministry/Supplies | \$ 23.00 |
| Maintenance | \$ 22.00 |
| Spiritual Life/Outreach/Advertising | \$ 64.00 |
| Other Disbursements* | \$ 8,579.00 |

Total Expenditures \$ 15,508.00

| <u>Receipts for Month of</u> | <u>Apr. 2013</u> |
|------------------------------|------------------|
| Weekly Envelopes | \$ 5,788.00 |
| Weekly Plate | \$ 376.00 |
| Benevolences | \$ 437.00 |
| Memorial Fund | \$ 30.00 |
| Special Offerings | \$ 2,772.00 |
| Other Receipts** | \$ 5,039.00 |

Total Receipts \$ 14,442.00

*Assessment, Taxes, Insurance paid

** Hall usage, Sunday School, Memorial Fund Transfer

Worship Schedule for June

June 2, 9, 16, 23, 30 –Worship Service 10:00 a.m.

- Communion will be celebrated on June 2 and 16
- Prayer Meeting each Sunday at 9:00 a.m.
- Junior Church each Sunday at 10:00 a.m.
- Coffee Fellowship each Sunday after Worship Service

June 2013

| Sun | Mon | Tue | Wed | Thu | Fri | Sat |
|---|---|--|--|---|---|--|
| Prayer Meeting Sundays 9am Junior Church Sundays 10am | | | | | | 1 NA Mtg. 7pm |
| 2 Worship Service 10:00 am Glendale Reformed Church Closing Service 3 pm <i>Their Daily Bread Collection</i> | 3 NA Mtg. 7pm | 4 Al-Anon 7:30pm | 5 | 6 UPC Welcome Kitchen 4 pm | 7 UPC Welcome Kitchen 4 pm | 8 NA Mtg. 7pm |
| 9 Worship Service 10:00 am | 10 NA Mtg. 7pm | 11 Al-Anon 7:30pm | 12 | 13 NA Mtg. 7pm | 14 | 15 Couples & Friends at Old Westbury Gardens 10 am NA Mtg. 7pm |
| 16 Worship Service 10:00 am | 17 NA Mtg. 7pm | 18 Al-Anon 7:30pm | 19 Frauenverein/ Ladies Aid 1 pm Consistory Meeting 7 pm | 20 NA Mtg. 7pm | 21 | 22 Trinity's Rummage Sale 10 am – 2 pm NA Mtg. 7pm |
| 23 Worship Service 10:00 am | 24 NA Mtg. 7pm | 25 Al-Anon 7:30pm | 26 | 27 NA Mtg. 7pm | 28 | 29 NA Mtg. 7pm |
| 30 Worship Service 10:00 am | | | | | | |