

TRINITY CHIMES

NEWSLETTER OF THE TRINITY REFORMED CHURCH

November 2013

Looking Back, Looking Ahead

For I know the plans I have for you," declares the Lord, "plans to prosper you and not to harm you, plans to give you hope and a future. - Jeremiah 29:11 (NIV)

When I was a child I always wanted to be a veterinarian. I loved animals. It didn't really matter the category in which they fell—livestock, pets, or wildlife—whichever, I enjoyed working with them, hanging with them, and when needed, nursing them back to health. I was the kid who could most easily tame a wild barn cat or as I got older, found that in moving cattle from one pen to another, it would often be easier with one person (me) and a good working dog than an entire group of men trying to "help."

Growing up in the country availed me with many opportunities for the up close and personal, encounters with wild creatures too! From the mundane of nursing baby pigeons—not easy for there's no real good substitute for pigeon's milk (yes, that's a real thing)—rearing and eventually releasing an abandoned baby raccoon (Rory we named him), to assisting with an injured great horned owl (with which we had to call professional reinforcements). Animals were a kind of early calling.

By the time I was in High School I was working an after school and summer job at our local veterinarian clinic. For a kid, that meant a lot of cleaning up kennels and other tasks that you might say were less than exciting and generally pretty gross. But I still loved animals and it was cool to work with them. The clinic served both small and large animals, meaning your dog and cat variety as well as livestock and horses. Occasionally I would be called to assist one of the vets on a farm call and there too was a certain amount of gross but with just as much cool.

I happily live in the City now but take a certain kind of pride in knowing that I could

still engage most dairymen about AI or in vitro technology, displaced abomasum, or pregnancy testing in their herd. It's my background, my history.

I relate all this here today for two reasons. Firstly, because today would have been my dog Sari's 15th birthday. As many of you know, he passed away during the summer of 2012 after many months of dealing with cancer. He was a good dog. It might seem odd to you if you are not a dog person to commemorate a pet's birthday. But to me, he was part of my journey from just after college to now: three states, five homes, seminary, and two church calls. He represented so much more than just the friendship of a loyal and good dog, but the span of my early adulthood as well.

This month's *Trinity Chimes* is being published on October 31st, which is both Halloween and Reformation Day. I was never much for Halloween—although I find no need to worry about it or react against it. And while observant of Reformation Day, apart from Sunday, there's not a whole lot of celebrating it unique for today. But for almost fourteen years this date being my Sari's birthday meant a special can of dog food or rawhide or bone. It was his day. So I still think of it as such. I'm thinking of him today, of how fortunate I was and am. And it brings with it a kind of sadness too.

It causes me look back and in some ways know that I am still that child who always loved animals, who wanted to hang with them, and help them out when they needed it. I look back from where I came and I'm thankful for all the little parts and pieces that have brought me to this day.

I relate this also because of what tomorrow is, All Saints Day. Tomorrow, many of us will join with others in the community and recall those who have come before us. We will look back and "remember before God all those who rejoice with us, but upon another shore and in a greater light, that multitude which no person

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



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can number, whose hope was in the Word made flesh, and with whom we for evermore are one.” Today and tomorrow are days to look back and to give thanks, even while holding the sadness of loss that it brings.

In a few weeks time, November 17th specifically, the Trinity family will join together in worship and celebration of our 160th Anniversary as a congregation. There will be as is fitting much looking back. We will remember those who came before us here, who shared their faith and put it into action, building a community that we now call Trinity.

In looking back we may well find ourselves a little sad because we will remember those whom we have lost. It is appropriate that as the gathered community of God’s children that we acknowledge our sadness and the pain in what and whom we have lost. The truth is as a church we often carry our sadness and pain but don’t recognize it accordingly, which is sad, because there can be healing in sharing—which is part of why Jesus says to take his yoke upon us, for there *is* rest for our souls.

In celebrating our anniversary it is right and good to also mark our grief.

We may also be liable to look back at *the good old days* of Trinity, from where we came, and worry about the future and want to hold too firmly to the past. That is only natural. However, while none of us can predict the future and I don’t pretend to know all that the years to come contain, I do believe God is calling us as Trinity Church into a hope and future, that God has plans for us, for the community, for the world. As it was in the beginning, is now and ever shall be...

In Christ’s Grace and Peace,

Pastor Tom



Frauenverein/Ladies Aid Cake Sale Church Rummage Sale



The Frauenverein/Ladies Aid will be holding a cake sale on Saturday November 23rd. Everyone knows the delicious treats our ladies bake, so come on down early before everything is sold out! If you have any questions or would like to donate a cake, please speak with Justine Wittine or Hanna Hessenius.

On the same day, we will hold a church-wide rummage sale and the proceeds will be given to our Building Fund for repairs to the church. If you have **NEW** or **GENTLY USED** items you would like to donate, please bring them to church during worship service on **Sunday, November 17th, or on Thursday or Friday, November 21st or 22nd between the hours of 8:30 am and 1:00 pm.** If you can volunteer your time on either of these two days or on the actual day of the sale please sign up in the narthex.

Anniversary Sunday

This is a reminder that we will be celebrating Trinity’s 160th Anniversary on Sunday November 17th. Following the worship service we will have a buffet dinner from 1:00 to 5:00 p.m. at Christ the King High Schools’ banquet room on Metropolitan Ave. in Middle Village. There is on-site parking as well as an elevator for anyone who has trouble climbing stairs. The cost is \$45.00, with children 12 and under free. Please make your check payable to Trinity Reformed Church and be sure it reaches the Church Office by Wednesday, Nov. 6th. Hope to see you there!

New Sexton

Don Gorham has decided to step down as our church sexton/maintenance person. We thank him for the work that he has done over the past few years and look forward to his continued presence at Trinity and his help with other things.

This means that we will be looking for a new church sexton. If you know someone who might be interested in the job, please speak with Theo Hessenius, our Building and Maintenance Chairperson.

Couples and Friends

The Couples and Friends Club enjoyed going to the Broad Hollow Theater in Elmont on October 12. They saw the play *Making God Laugh*, a poignant story about a family’s holiday celebrations over a 30 year period.

Our Mission – To Reach Out

By Karl Kurtz

Seeing first responders arrive at the scene of an emergency we are reminded how these people reach out to help others in distress. Helping others, however, does not always have to involve something so dramatic.

Recently my wife, Laura, and I were in the park barbecuing and with the use of some Boy Scout skills I soon had a roaring fire going. However, two other groups nearby could not get their grills ignited. I immediately went to help them and when I was asked why, I wasn’t sure although I felt compelled to do so. Within minutes everyone had a roaring fire of their own.

Providing kindness to strangers is the best tool we have to reach people. Jesus set the example, whether it was turning water into wine at the Wedding at Cana or healing someone on the Sabbath.

Happy November Birthdays

Elizabeth DeNoble	2 nd	Melissa Donaldson	3 rd
Jenny Mayorga	6 th	Justine Wittine	8 th
Anibal Segarra	10 th	Gerard Tate	11 th
Erik Huneke	12 th	Katy Kuhner	24 th
Jenny Ortega	24 th	Naya Diaz	27 th
Doris Church	28 th		

Prayer List

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

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; Church on the Hill, transitions; Isabel, Marcia, and Jade; Andrew Holbrook, health & healing; Reinhard Groezinger, health & healing; Marie Shanelly Alvarez; Mohr Family; Janet Kucinkas; health & healing; Jennie Cartagena, health & healing; Parker Isaiah Trautmann, thanksgiving; Billie Albanese, 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.

Worship Schedule for November

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

- Communion will be celebrated on November 3 and 17
- Prayer Meeting each Sunday at 9:00 a.m.
- Junior Church each Sunday at 10:00 a.m.

HERBST

von Rainer Maria Rilke

Die Blaetter fallen, fallen wie von weit,
als welkten in den Himmeln ferne Gaerten;
sie fallen mit verneinender Gebaerde.

Und in den Naechten faellt die schwere Erde
aus allen Sternen in die Einsamkeit.

Wir alle fallen. Diese Hand da faellt.
Und sieh dir andere an: es ist in allen.

Und doch ist EINER, welcher dieses Fallen
unendlich sanft in SEINEN Haenden haelt.

The leaves are falling, falling from afar.
It seems from Heaven's distant gardens
the leaves are gently dropping down.

At night our earth falls from the stars
into dark loneliness.

All of us fall (die). Even the hand writing this will fall.
Observe those around you. It is the fate of all.

And yet, there is ONE, who holds us gently,
even as we fall into HIS loving hands.

Stewardship and Finance Report

<u>Expenditures for Month of</u>	<u>Sept. 2013</u>
Personnel Expenses	\$ 7,507.00
Utilities	\$ 498.00
Ministry/Supplies	\$ 90.00
Maintenance	\$ 80.00
Spiritual Life/Outreach/Advertising	\$ 0.00
Other Disbursements*	\$ 1,245.00

Total Expenditures \$ 9,420.00

<u>Receipts for Month of</u>	<u>Sept. 2013</u>
Weekly Envelopes	\$ 5,091.00
Weekly Plate	\$ 109.00
Benevolences	\$ 1,368.00
Memorial Fund	\$ 65.00
Special Offerings	\$ 231.00
Annuity	\$ 1,505.00
Other Receipts**	\$ 3,375.00

Total Receipts \$ 11,744.00

*Insurance, office supplies, and coffee hour expenses

** NA and Alanon groups, hall use, CROP Walk

Because the offering envelope contributions were insufficient to meet expenses, \$1,300 was transferred from the Memorial Fund to make up the difference.

November 2013

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
Prayer Meeting Sundays 9am Junior Church Sundays 10am					1	2 NA Mtg. 7pm
3 Worship Service 10:00 am <i>Their Daily Bread Collection</i>	4 NA Mtg. 7pm	5 Al-Anon 7:30pm	6	7 UPC Welcome Kitchen 4 pm	8 UPC Welcome Kitchen 4 pm	9 NA Mtg. 7pm
10 Worship Service 10:00 am	11 NA Mtg. 7pm	12 Al-Anon 7:30pm	13	14 NA Mtg. 7pm	15	16 Couples and Friends 6 pm NA Mtg. 7pm
17 160 th Anniversary Worship Service 10:00 am Anniversary Dinner Christ the King HS 1 pm - 5 pm	18 NA Mtg. 7pm	19 Consistory Meeting 7 pm Al-Anon 7:30pm	20 Frauenverein/ Ladies Aid 1:00 pm	21 NA Mtg. 7pm	22	23 Frauenverein/ Ladies Aid Bake Sale & Trinity Rummage Sale 10 am - 2 pm NA Mtg. 7pm
24 Reign of Christ Toten Sonntag Worship Service 10:00 am	25 NA Mtg. 7pm	26 Al-Anon 7:30pm	27	28 NA Mtg. 7pm	29	30 NA Mtg. 7pm