

TRINITY CHIMES

NEWSLETTER OF THE TRINITY REFORMED CHURCH

FEBRUARY 2010

The Journey

*[Jesus] set his face to go to Jerusalem.
Luke 9:51b*

Leaving one meeting up in Morningside Heights in Manhattan and racing to another in Long Island City a few weeks back I found myself driving along the Harlem River Drive. In an instant my memories brought me back to the night I moved to Ridgewood.

It was the Thursday before Halloween a little over a year ago. The moving truck was packed, my former parsonage upstate cleaned, good-byes made, and Sari and Prince (my dogs) and I along with a few final belongings that didn't get put on the truck—the final contents of the refrigerator/ freezer, overnight bag, outdoor planters with blueberry and raspberry bushes, etc.—were precariously packed into the car. We made the trip rather uneventfully until somewhere on the Harlem River Drive. Going around one of the curves on the parkway the contents of my tightly packed Volkswagen shifted and a clothes basket jam-packed with recently canned sauerkraut, assorted boxes of opened cereal, and sundry others dislodged and landed on one of the dogs, who yelped and jumped and unsettled one of the raspberry planters, which in turn tipped over upon the second dog. Somehow still driving (hopefully safely) with one hand on the wheel, with the other hand I was able to upright the planter and the clothes basket and attempt to sooth my doggie friends nerves while not missing the exit for the Triborough.

By the time we pulled up to Trinity all three of us were ready to get out of the car. Yet all in all, it was a good trip, a memorable journey, one in which brought us to where we are today.

Surely, you've heard the saying that "it's not about the destination but the journey." Certainly destination are important too but I won't quibble with the sentiment that there is tremendous value in the journey itself. When I think about some of the most momentous events and decisions in my life I can't help but think of the journeys that it has taken me to get there.

In the Gospel of Luke we find Jesus resolutely focused upon a particular destination. Time and time again we hear that he is bound and determined to go to Jerusalem: because his face was set toward Jerusalem (Luke 9:53); Jesus went through one town and village after another, teaching as he made his way to Jerusalem (13:22); on the way to Jerusalem Jesus was going through the region between Samaria and Galilee (17:11); after he had said this, he went on ahead, going up to Jerusalem (19:28). Jesus has a destination and that involves Jerusalem.

It may be interesting to note, however, that 40 percent of the gospel story in Luke is the travel narrative. It is about what happens along the way. As Jesus directs his life to an ultimate destination his journey touches the heart-felt needs of a multitude of people and his teachings continue to motivate and change lives. Christ's journey to Jerusalem and subsequently, his journey to the cross, is where we first learn and discover the fullness of his message, the radical inclusive reach of God's all embracing love and grace, and where we begin to discover that he is no ordinary prophet.

Journeys and destinations are important. As we begin February with our annual congregational meeting I'd like us to explore what it means for Trinity Reformed Church to be a means to join on the journey—a journey of faith, a journey of deeper relationship, a journey to God, a journey more fully living out our call to do justice, to love mercy, and to walk humbly with our God—and not simply the church as a destination in itself.

And also, as we enter into the season of Lent I want to invite you on a journey with Christ. Through worship and study, in Word and Sacrament, and in the celebration of various spiritual practices and disciplines, to follow beside Jesus, to go where he goes.

There is excitement in both the destination and the journey. I look forward to traveling with you.

In Christ's Grace & Peace,

Pastor Tom

INSIDE THIS ISSUE:

The Journey	1
Ash Wednesday	2
Ecumenical Dinner	2
Coffee Hour	2
Poem	2
Stewardship Report	2
Worship Schedule	2



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

Ash Wednesday and Lenten Bible Study

Our Ash Wednesday worship service will be held on February 17 at 7:30 p.m. On the following five Wednesdays during Lent we will have a special weekly Bible study at 7:30 p.m. which will include a time for fellowship and coffee and cake afterwards. Please join us!

Ecumenical Fellowship Dinner

Trinity Reformed Church will be hosting an ecumenical fellowship dinner on Sunday March 14 at 3:00 p.m. (snow date March 21) along with the United Presbyterian Church and St. Matthias. A home made pot roast dinner is planned and tickets will be \$ 10.00 for adults and \$ 5.00 for children under 12 years of age. Each church will be limited to 50 tickets and they will be sold on a first-come, first-served basis. If you would like to purchase a ticket please speak with Linda Morton or Marieanna Trautmann as soon as possible.

Trinity will be responsible for the dessert so if anyone would like to bake a cake it would be greatly appreciated. If you can help out, please let Linda or Marieanna know.

Coffee Hour

The Sunday morning fellowship coffee hours have proven to be popular. In an effort to be a little more environmentally responsible we are using coffee mugs and china plates rather than disposable cups and plates. That means, of course, that there are dishes to be done afterwards. If you would like to offer your help once in a while to assist with the dishes it would be greatly appreciated. Donations of cake (either store bought or home-made) would also be appreciated. If you have any questions or would like to help out, please see Linda Morton.

Gedicht von Eduard Moerike zum eben begonnenen neuen Jahr

"In IHm sei's begonnen,
der Monde und Sonnen
an blauen Gezelten
des Himmels bewegt!

Du, Vater, du rate!
Lenke du und wende!
HErr, dir in die Haende
sei Anfang und Ende,
sei alles gelegt!"

Stewardship and Finance Committee Report

<u>Expenditures for Month of</u>	<u>December 2009</u>
Personnel Expenses	4813.00
Utilities	876.72
Ministry/Supplies	517.67
Maintenance	80.44
Spiritual Life/Outreach/Advertising	0.00
Other Disbursements	6690.00
Total Expenditures	\$12,977.83

<u>Receipts for Month of</u>	<u>December 2009</u>
Weekly Envelopes	7627.00
Weekly Plate	321.00
Benevolences	1934.00
Memorial Fund	140.00
Special Offerings	3047.00
Other Receipts	2097.00
Total Receipts	\$15,166.00

Worship Schedule for February

February 7, 14, 21, 28—Regular Worship Service

at 10:00 a.m.

Ash Wednesday—February 17 at 7:30 p.m.

* Communion will be celebrated on February 7 and 17