

TRINITY CHIMES

NEWSLETTER OF THE TRINITY REFORMED CHURCH

JANUARY 2008

Happy New Year!

It's hard to believe that we are at the beginning of another new year. The ball will or has again dropped at Times Square, depending on when you are actually reading this issue of the Chimes, but either way, a brand new year awaits us. We don't exactly know what the New Year will bring, but one thing we know is that the world is constantly changing and the same will be true for 2008. I believe our happiness in this New Year is going to be based on our ability to adapt and to adjust, because if you're a normal human being you don't like change. That's kind of natural. We like the security of the familiar. We like the predictable. We don't like to change. It shakes us up too much.

The Bible says, "Jesus is the same yesterday, today and forever." He's not going to change. While everything else is falling apart or in flux, or swirling around you, God does not change. And whenever you say, "I don't know if I can adapt. I don't know if I can cope because the world is changing too fast," you can know that you can hold onto Jesus Christ because He's not changing. He is the solid rock. He will give you stability in the midst of all the changes you're going to experience this next year.

And even though God never changes, it says in Lamentations 3:20, "The mercies of God are new every morning." You can start every new day in the New Year with the knowledge that God's mercies are there for you to receive. In other words the power you need for today will be here today and the power you need for tomorrow will be there tomorrow. And God's mercies will guide you and uphold you as you cope with the problems and challenges that you might face in 2008.

My prayer for you is that you will rely on and trust in the unchanging Jesus, the Solid Rock and experience the mercies of God new every morning in 2008.

We also know that the New Year brings new resolutions for many people. Below you will find the resolutions of Jonathan Edwards, one of the greatest theologians who ever lived. I'm sure it will give you some food for thought as you contemplate your own life in the days ahead.

Have a blessed New Year!

Rev. Dr. Albert Potgieter

New Year's Resolutions

Resolutions of Jonathan Edwards (1703-1758), from the Works of Jonathan Edwards, Vol. 1

Being sensible that I am unable to do anything without God's help, I do humble entreat Him, by His grace, to enable me to keep these Resolutions, so far as they are agreeable to His will, for Christ's sake. [I will] remember to read over these Resolutions once a week.

Resolved, that I will do whatsoever I think to be most to the glory of God, and my own good, profit, and pleasure, in the whole of my duration; without any consideration of the time, whether now, or never so many myriads of ages hence.

Resolved, to do whatever I think to be my duty, and most for the good and advantage of mankind in general.

Resolved, Never to lose one moment of time, but to improve it in the most profitable way I possibly can.

Resolved, to live with all my might, while I do live.

Resolved, never to do anything, which I should be afraid to do if it were the last hour of my life.

Resolved, never to do anything out of revenge.

Resolved, never to speak evil of any one, so that it shall tend to his dishonor, more or less, upon no account except for some real good.

Resolved, to study the Scriptures so steadily, constantly, and frequently, as that I may find, and plainly perceive, myself to grow in the knowledge of the same.

Resolved, never to count that a prayer, nor to let that pass as a prayer, nor that as a petition of a prayer, which is so made, that I cannot hope that God will answer it; nor that as a confession which I cannot hope God will accept.

Resolved, to ask myself, at the end of every day, week, month, and year, wherein I could

(Continued on page 2)

INSIDE THIS ISSUE:

Happy New Year	1
Resolutions	1
Des Lebens Jahre	2
Christmas	2
Important Dates	2
Assessment Envelope	2
Couples & Friends	2
Our Condolences	2



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

(Continued from page 1)

possibly, in any respect, have done better.

Resolved, never to give over, nor in the least to slacken, my fight with my corruptions, however unsuccessful I may be.

Resolved, after afflictions, to inquire, what I am the better for them; what good I have got by them, and what I might have got by them.

Resolved, always to do that which I shall wish I had done when I see others do it. Let there be something of benevolence in all that I speak.

Jonathan Edwards, The Works of Jonathan Edwards, Vol. 1.

Des Lebens Jahre

Des Lebens Jahre uns engleiten gleich einem Strom nach ew'gem Rat. Du wendest wieder, Herr der Zeiten, im Buch des Lebens nun ein Blatt. Es steht die Zeit in deinen Händen. Lass sie uns füllen still und treu! Und wenn du dieses Blatt wirst wenden, so gib, dass es kein leeres sei. Schreibst du darauf mit heil'gen Zügen, was unser Herz hier nicht versteht, so lass den Glauben in uns siegen, der auch im Dunkel mit dir geht. Wie immer auch dies Jahr mag enden, nur du weisst meinen Weg allein. Du hältst auch meine Zeit in Händen und lässt mich tief geborgen sein.

Käte Walter (Submitted by Margot Groezinger)

Christmas & Candlelight



Our Candlelight and Christmas services again proved to be a wonderful opportunity to welcome the Christ child into the world and into our lives. Even though, as a result of the weather, less people attended our annual Candlelight service for the community, the response was unanimous – it was another uplifting and beautiful experience for all. In addition to the singing of Christmas carols and the lighting of the candles, Pastor's message reminded us that all we need for Christmas is the hope, peace, joy and

love that God offers us through his Son Jesus Christ. The Colonial Church of Bayside choir performed a musical called, "On This Very Night", and it certainly contributed to making this year's Candlelight Service another one to remember.

During our Christmas Celebration on December 25 we were treated with a musical performance by Reinier and Leilani Potgieter. Reinier played the organ and Leilani sang "Ring the bells." Pastor Albert then invited all to "Come home for Christmas" in his message. Even though some of us are home for Christmas in a physical or emotional sense, we are not home in the truest sense of the word until we allow Jesus Christ to make himself at home in our lives. When we do that our location changes, since we now have a home in heaven; our family changes, since we now belong to God's family; and because we

belong to God's family and have a home in heaven, our security also changes. With all the craziness of the season it was just wonderful to be truly home as God's family on Christmas Day and worship him for the Gift of His Son Jesus Christ. That's what Christmas is all about.

Two Important Dates

On January 27 we will be joined by the New York Synod Area Minister, Rev. Jon Norton. Jon will preach during the Combined Service at 10:00 am and then lead a meeting during which he will discuss the results of the Natural Church Development Survey our church completed towards the end of 2007. This is a very important day for our church, not only because it has been more than 12 years since we have last had the Synod Area Minister preach at Trinity, but because the meeting is also important as we discern the future of our congregation. We want to encourage all of our members to make it a priority to be in church on the 27th, and especially for those who completed the survey, to stay for the meeting with Jon following the service.

Our annual Congregational Meeting will take place on February 3, immediately following a Combined Worship Celebration at 10:00 a.m. Please plan to attend. This is an opportunity for you to hear the reports from our different organizations and to ask questions to our leaders. We expect of our members to attend this meeting. Coffee and cake will be served during the meeting.

Assessment Envelope

You may be wondering what the envelope marked "Assessment" is for in your box of offering envelopes. Since we are a part of the Reformed Church in America, we are responsible for paying an annual assessment to the denomination for each active adult member in our congregation. This assessment is used to pay for denominational programs and expenses. For 2008, the assessment will be \$86.00. This means that the first \$86.00 you contribute for the year goes to the denomination and not to Trinity Reformed Church. We ask you to remember this when you make your contributions. Thank you for your support.

The Finance Committee

Couples & Friends Club

Please note that this month the Couples & Friends Club will meet on Saturday, January 26. The meeting in the Fellowship Hall will start at 6:30 pm.

Our Condolences

We are sad to announce the death of one of our long-time members. Mrs. Elisabeth Kohlheb passed away on December 7, after a long battle with cancer. She was buried on December 10 at the Linden Hill Cemetery. Our condolences go to her brother, Mr. Erich Schmidt and the rest of her family. She will be dearly missed by her Trinity family as well.

