

TRINITY CHIMES

NEWSLETTER OF THE TRINITY REFORMED CHURCH

MAY 2010

Unity

We believe in the triune God, Father, Son and Holy Spirit, who gathers, protects and cares for the church through Word and Spirit. This, God has done since the beginning of the world and will do to the end.

-Confession of Belhar (1), September 1986

Back in the March issue of *Trinity Chimes* I shared that the Reformed Church in America—the denomination that we are a part—was in the process of possibly adopting a new confession. Following Easter it was announced that two-thirds of our Classes did indeed vote to adopt the Belhar Confession. So what does that mean? Well, let's begin by addressing what the Confession says. It is divided into five sections, the first (quoted above) and the last serving as introduction and conclusion. The three middle sections explicate “three key issues of concern to all churches: unity of the church and unity among all people, reconciliation within church and society, and God's justice.” (*Prologue to Belhar*) I celebrate that we can join our voices together confession what we believe. And I pray that it may be so. What follows is the section pertaining to unity.

In Christ's Grace, Peace, and Unity,

Pastor Tom

We believe in one holy, universal Christian church, the communion of saints called from the entire human family.

We believe:

-that Christ's work of reconciliation is made manifest in the church as the community of believers who have been reconciled with God and with one another (Eph. 2:11-22);

-that unity is, therefore, both a gift and an obligation for the church of Jesus Christ; that through the working of God's Spirit it is a binding force, yet simultaneously a reality which must be earnestly pursued and sought: one which the people of God must continually be built up to attain (Eph. 4:1-16);

-that this unity must become visible so that the

world may believe that separation, enmity and hatred between people and groups is sin which Christ has already conquered, and accordingly that anything which threatens this unity may have no place in the church and must be resisted (John 17:20-23);

-that this unity of the people of God must be manifested and be active in a variety of ways: in that we love one another; that we experience, practice and pursue community with one another; that we are obligated to give ourselves willingly and joyfully to be of benefit and blessing to one another; that we share one faith, have one calling, are of one soul and one mind; have one God and Father, are filled with one Spirit, are baptized with one baptism, eat of one bread and drink of one cup, confess one name, are obedient to one Lord, work for one cause, and share one hope; together come to know the height and the breadth and the depth of the love of Christ; together are built up to the stature of Christ, to the new humanity; together know and bear one another's burdens, thereby fulfilling the law of Christ that we need one another and upbuild one another, admonishing and comforting one another; that we suffer with one another for the sake of righteousness; pray together; together serve God in this world; and together fight against all which may threaten or hinder this unity (Phil. 2:1-5; 1 Cor. 12:4-31; John 13:1-17; 1 Cor. 1:10-13; Eph. 4:1-6; Eph. 3:14-20; 1 Cor. 10:16-17; 1 Cor. 11:17-34; Gal. 6:2; 2 Cor. 1:3-4);

-that this unity can be established only in freedom and not under constraint; that the variety of spiritual gifts, opportunities, backgrounds, convictions, as well as the various languages and cultures, are by virtue of the reconciliation in Christ, opportunities for mutual service and enrichment within the one visible people of God (Rom. 12:3-8; 1 Cor. 12:1-11; Eph. 4:7-13; Gal. 3:27-28; James 2:1-13);

-that true faith in Jesus Christ is the only condition for membership of this church.

Therefore, we reject any doctrine:

-which absolutizes either natural diversity or the sinful separation of people in such a way that this absolutization hinders or breaks the visible and active unity of the church, or even

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

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leads to the establishment of a separate church formation;

-which professes that this spiritual unity is truly being maintained in the bond of peace while believers of the same confession are in effect alienated from one another for the sake of diversity and in despair of reconciliation;

-which denies that a refusal earnestly to pursue this visible unity as a priceless gift is sin;

-which explicitly or implicitly maintains that descent or any other human or social factor should be a consideration in determining membership of the church.

Jesus is Lord.

Tree Removal



A number of church volunteers cut up and partially removed the pine tree in the church garden that toppled over during a recent storm. We appreciate everyone's efforts.

Life Goes On

Life goes on, whether after a funeral or after Easter. It's hard to be a fisherman if the fish aren't biting. When Jesus directs His disciples to throw their nets on the right side of the boat, not only fish come but also recognition: "It is the Lord!" There is breakfast for hungry stomachs and Christ's presence for empty hearts.

VBS 2010



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 sharing gifts of love with children who are hurting.
- ...children serving each other.

This summer, let's transform our church into a magnificent ship. Be a part of the vacation Bible school at Trinity Reformed Church during the week of Jul 26-Jul 30. It's our goal to reach 80 kids with this program. That's 80 kids who will grow in their relationship with God!

We're praying this awesome VBS program will touch children's hearts and lives with God's love. Help kids in our community discover that

- God's Word is true.
- God's Word is comforting.
- God's Word is surprising.
- God's Word is life-changing.

God's Word is for everyone.

As we plan and prepare for High Seas Expedition, 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 High Seas Expedition!

Watch for more information about this exciting ministry event!

Lilly Hebel



Lilly Hebel with her late husband, Walter, and friend.

Lilly Hebel, who was a long time member of Trinity, passed away in Florida where she resided. Lilly was 87 years old.

Sharing

"Vielen teile deine Freuden,
Allen Munterkeit und Scherz;
Wenigen nur deine Leiden,
Auserwählten nur dein Herz!"

With many share your joy and happiness,
In merriment and jest let all take part;
To few make known your sorrows and distress,
To chosen ones alone reveal your heart!

Stewardship and Finance Report

Expenditures for Month of	March 2010
Personnel Expenses	6601.00
Utilities	1732.00
Ministry/Supplies	0.00
Maintenance	0.00
Spiritual Life/Outreach/Advertising	40.00
Other Disbursements	831.00

Total Expenditures 9204.00

Receipts for Month of	March 2010
Weekly Envelopes	5921.00
Weekly Plate	301.00
Benevolences	601.00
Memorial Fund*	6282.00
Special Offerings	2901.00
Other Receipts	145.00

Total Receipts 16151.00

* Includes donations for the Memorial Fund, Building Repair Fund and the new dishwasher

Building Repair Fund



One of the new fellowship hall windows

Progress is being made on our church repairs. The new high energy efficient windows were installed in the fellowship hall replacing the old steel ones, electrical upgrades have been made, and the church office is nearing completion. Outside work still has to be done. Unfortunately we must add another expensive project to our list. During recent heavy rain storms, water came through the parsonage walls and is starting to cause damage. After having the situation assessed we learned that it will cost \$6,000.00 to repair and this is obviously something which has to be fixed as soon as possible.

As of April 25, we have received \$7,380 towards our goal of \$20,000. Additional offering envelopes for the building repair fund are available at the back of the church. Thank you to everyone who has contributed so far.

Worship Schedule for May

May 2, 9, 16, 23, 30 —Regular Worship Schedule
10:00 a.m.

* Communion will be celebrated on May 2

* Prayer Meeting each Sunday at 9:00 am

* Junior Church each Sunday at 10:00 am