

# TRINITY CHIMES

NEWSLETTER OF THE TRINITY REFORMED CHURCH

NOVEMBER 2008

## Welcome Rev. Goodhart

On September 28, Consistory approved a call to Rev. Thomas C. Goodhart to be our new pastor at Trinity Reformed Church. Earlier that day he preached during the worship service and the congregation voted overwhelmingly to support the Consistory's decision. The call was then sent to the Classis of Queens for final approval. We praise and thank God for sending Pastor Goodhart to us and are grateful that the pastor search process ran so smoothly. We expect Pastor Tom to arrive at Trinity at the end of October and to be in the pulpit on November 2. We know that everyone will greet him warmly and encourage and support him as he settles in.

We would also like to take this opportunity to thank all of the people who served on the Pastor Search Committee. They volunteered many hours of their time to attend numerous meetings and we appreciate their efforts.

## Some Information About Our New Pastor

The Reverend Thomas C. Goodhart remembers the very first time he went to church. "I was about ten years old and the Sunday School teacher, Mrs. Baumgardner, gave me a huge hug and welcomed me. A little later during the worship service we sang, *And They'll Know We Are Christians By Our Love*. The welcoming and enfolding embrace of God's love had a profound effect upon me and has remained with me ever since."



Originally from Kinsman, Ohio, a small town in the northeast part of the state, Tom grew up on his family's dairy farm and would later be nurtured in the faith at the local Presbyterian Church. Perhaps contributed in part by growing up in a rural environment close to nature he says the Creator God has always been very real to him, experiential even. "I have always felt God's immanence—an almost palpable reality." Thus he enjoys getting close to creation and considers that there is something "spiritual about the ecological." Some of his outdoors pursuits include hiking, skiing, and kayaking as well as gardening and bird-watching. "I especially look forward to kayaking and birding around Jamaica Bay." An avid gardener Tom grows his own vegetables including cabbage. And something that folks at Trinity may appreciate, he even makes and cans his own sauerkraut!

He graduated from Hope College in Holland, Michigan with a Bachelor of Science in biology (with an undeclared minor in biochemistry). After his undergraduate he lived in Apache, Oklahoma where he worked as a laboratory technician and phlebotomist in a small hospital while also being immersed in the congregational life of the Apache Reformed Church, a predominantly Native American congregation. He then returned to Holland, MI, and went to seminary at Western Theological Seminary where he graduated with his Master of Divinity in 2002. During the latter years of college and then again after moving back to Michigan he was a member of Crossroad Chapel (Reformed Church), a bilingual English and Spanish speaking congregation, where he also interned through his seminary years. Tom has spent a little over six years in ordained ministry serving as the pastor of the Plattekill Reformed Church of Mount Marion, NY, in the mid Hudson Valley.

Of great interest to Tom is the study of cultures and it is a particular aspect that draws him to the City of New York. "It is exciting to be moving to Queens, the most diverse county in America. It is also exciting to be moving to Ridgewood and to celebrate the strong German cultural identity that Trinity Reformed has and

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

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to look forward together to where and how God is leading us into the future!”

Pastor Tom believes that faith and belief need to be lived out and experienced in tangible forms and finds much inspiration from 1 Peter 4:10, “Like good stewards of the manifold grace of God, serve one another with whatever gift each of you has received.” He’s impassioned as he speaks, “As children of God, indeed, but especially as the Church—the actual Body of Christ—we are called to *actively be* a community of Christ’s love, called to *live out* grace, called to *be peacemakers*, called to a ministry of *reconciliation*. Jesus inaugurated the Reign of God and proclaimed that ‘The Spirit of the Lord is upon me because he has anointed me to bring good news to the poor. He has sent me to proclaim release to the captives and recovery of sight to the blind, to let the oppressed go free, to proclaim the year of the Lord’s favor.’ Jesus then invites us his disciples to follow him in that ministry. How incredible!” Incredible indeed.

Asked if there was anything in particular that was important to share with his new congregation he brought up two things. He says, “I cook. Some things good, some things so so. When people find this out they often ask, ‘So, you like to cook?’ I suppose I do like to cook, but I especially like to eat!” He looks forward to gathering around table fellowship with his new church family at Trinity, be it for a piece of plum kuchen or just a cup of coffee. The other thing is that he’ll be arriving with two friends, Sarii and Prince, his dogs. “In many ways Sarii and Prince assist me in ministry. They love to share unconditional love. They are a great visible reminder. And they are very excited to meet their new church family. We all are!”

**Peter 4:10** <sup>10</sup>**Like good stewards of the manifold grace of God, serve one another with whatever gift each of you has received.**

### Anniversary Celebration

Trinity Reformed Church will be celebrating its 155<sup>th</sup> Anniversary this year. We will recognize the occasion during our worship service on November 16. A special coffee hour will follow. Please plan on joining us.

### Ladies Aid Cake Sale

The Frauenverein Ladies will hold their annual Cake Sale on Saturday November 22<sup>nd</sup>. The sale will take place from 10:00 a.m. to 2:00 p.m. Refreshments and sale table will also be available. Over the years we have come to know that these home baked goods are truly delicious – so support the sale and buy the best. Remember, Thanksgiving is just around the corner. Save on time baking by getting these wonderful treats.

### Crop Walk Update

Twenty-seven people from four area churches including nine people from Trinity Reformed participated in the CROP Walk sponsored by the Ridgewood Glendale Sunday School Association on October 4. Our church raised a total of \$ 865.00 and we wish to thank everyone who walked or contributed. Special thanks again this year to Hanna and Theo Hessenius who secured three generous donations from an organization that they belong to.



### Food Pantry Thank You

Elder Linda Morton received the following letter from the St. Matthias Office of Social Ministry regarding our contributions to their food pantry.

Dear Linda,

Please convey my sincere thanks to your wonderful congregation for all of their support for our Food Pantry. Jesus calls us to love one another and to extend that love to the less fortunate in our community. How wonderful that even though we are different denominations that the love of Christ brings us together. It is because of your love that miracles still continue.

God bless you all,

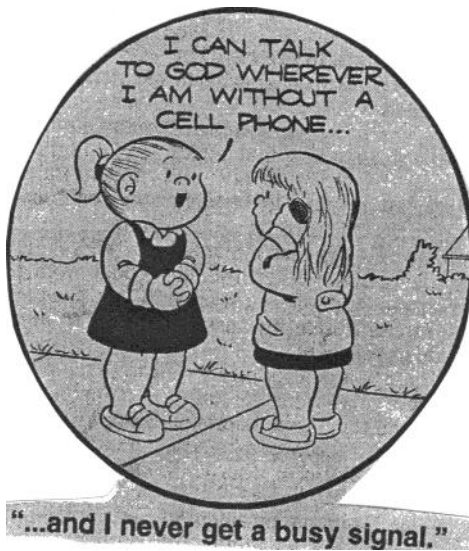
Deacon John Sands  
Director of Social Ministry

## Prayer Group

The prayer group meets at 9:00 a.m. every Sunday. We encourage and invite you to join us. As Christians we need to maintain healthy prayer lives by praying for ourselves, our family, and our community. The list goes on. Prayer changes life.

“Where two or three are gathered in my name, I am in the midst of them.” Matthew 18:20

All are welcome!



## Bequest

Last April Thomas Thomsen, a long time member of Trinity, passed away. We were notified over the summer that he had made a bequest to Trinity Reformed Church in his will and we recently received a check for \$ 10,000 from his estate. We are grateful to Tom for remembering Trinity and will be able to put his generous gift to good use.

## Gebet zum Wahltag

Mein Gott, lasse mich erkennen, dass in all den grossen Beschwörungen dieser Tage und ihren Reden von Freiheit, von Gerechtigkeit und Solidarität, von Verzicht und Schicksal nicht das Bleibende dieser Welt liegt. Den tönenden Worthülsen steht Dein lebendiges Wort gegenüber, und so ich darauf vertraue, verheisst Du mir ein gelingendes Leben. Dein Wort, Vater, ist das wahre Wort. Amen.

Aus Mailgebet.de

## New Door

On Palmetto Street there are two side doors leading into the church. One of them was poorly constructed and had deteriorated to such an extent that it could no longer be repaired. Because of its size and shape, a new door had to be custom made at a cost of \$ 4,500. We hope that the new door will be installed within the next few weeks. We will use some of the money from Tom Thomsen’s generous bequest to pay for it.

## Worship Schedule for November

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

\* Communion will be celebrated on November 2

\* Prayer Meeting each Sunday at 9:00 am

\* Junior Church each Sunday at 10:00 am