The Commitment

Newsletter of Trinity Reformed Church in Rochester, New York

A ministry of the Reformed Church in America

Seeking HIS Light … Reflecting HIS Love

February 2020 · Vol. 27, No. 6

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Church World Service Hygiene Kits

As in years past, Trinity will once again be collecting items to assemble thirty Hygiene Kits to be distributed through Church World Service. When disasters strike, these kits can be the difference between sickness and health for struggling families. Below is a list of items still needed. Please place your donations in the gold box outside the church office by Friday, April 10th. If you have any questions, please see Jana DiPiazza.

- 25 hand towels (no fingertip, bath, dish towel or micro-fiber)
- 18 bath-size bars of soap
- 27 toothbrushes
- 300 Band-Aids
- 30 wide-tooth combs
- 30 nail clippers

CWS Church World Service

Blood Drive in Honor of Kailee Kwiecien

As many of you know, Kailee Kwiecien has been battling rhabdomyosarcoma since 2013. As a result, she has received hundreds of life-saving blood transfusions. In honor of her fight, Kailee's family is sponsoring a Red Cross Blood Drive to give back to the community in a way that benefits so many and to say thank you for all that has been done for Kailee.

The Blood Drive will be held on Wednesday, February 19th from 1:00 pm to 7:00 pm at the Henrietta Fire District, located at 3129 East Henrietta Road. Appointments are available every fifteen minutes, with walk-ins also available. For an appointment, please visit redcrossblood.org or call 1-800-733-2767 and use the sponsor code "KickItKailee".

If you have any questions, please contact Kailee's mom, Cat Kwiecien. Thank you for your continued prayers and support!

American Red Cross

909 Landing Road North | Rochester, NY 14625 | (585) 381-5330

E-Mail: TrinityReformedRochester@gmail.com **Website:** www.trcroc.org **Facebook:** Trinity Rochester

Prayers submitted by children:

Dear God, thank you for the baby brother. But I was praying for a puppy.

Wow! Did you know that stars are really far away? Did you do that? If so, cool.

Um, God, I was at a wetting and the peple kissed rght in the church. Is that okay?

O God, you can worry about me less this week. I did good on my test and I learned to look both ways.

Dear God, you are the best! And I'm not just saying that because you are God.

Der God, can we hav another holida beetween Christmas and EEster? Thres nothing in thre and it get booring.

While they are funny, these unadulterated conversations between children and God also give us a glimpse into how young minds think about God. What does God do? What can I ask about/for? Why are things the way they are, and was that God's choice to make it so?

On many Sundays, during this "booring" time between Christmas and Easter, we read scripture that shows us how the people around Jesus reacted to him. During Christmas and Epiphany, we see people preparing, rejoicing, and reacting to the fulfillment of God's promise; we hear John the Baptist telling us to prepare for the One; we see the disciples react to Jesus' call for them to join him; we remember the Roman Empire's response to the news of a newborn king.

After Easter, for the long church season of Pentecost, the church will focus on Jesus' sermons, teachings, and healing actions. But now, let us take time to reflect on how the people around Jesus reacted to him.

What would your reaction be if Jesus showed up at your workplace
and told you that you could change the world by following him? (Matthew 4)

When people look at you as a source of wisdom and knowledge,
and they wonder if you have what it takes to make a difference in their lives,
do you insist that Jesus is the one with all the power and glory? (John 1)

When we see God working a change in someone,
do we celebrate and encourage them? (Luke 1)

In the coming weeks, I invite you to think about how you view God. As the year progresses, there will be time to reflect on that, and compare/contrast it with what Jesus said and did. Maybe you'll see that God decided to be something different than you expected, like giving you a baby brother when you asked for a puppy. Maybe it'll be "booring". Maybe you'll see what God did with the stars and think it was cool.

In Christ's Love,
Pastor Steve

Consistory Notes

The 2019 end-of-year budget report indicated a deficit of -$17,656.49. This was much better than the anticipated deficit of over $73,000 that was proposed in November 2018. The end-of-year profit and loss statement shows all general expense categories were under the budgeted amount. The pledged income was over expectations in 2019.

The Consistory elected/appointed the following positions for 2020:

- Greg Halsey was elected as Consistory Clerk.
- Marge Magans was elected to a two-year term as Treasurer.
- Sharon Hann was elected as Vice President.
- Greg Halsey was appointed Financial Secretary.
- Michael Holloway was appointed Benevolence Secretary.
- Larry Scheerens was elected Classis Elder Delegate.
- John Stratton was appointed Alternate Classis Elder Delegate.
- Bill Almekinder was appointed Classis Deacon Representative.

The Consistory Committee Liaisons for 2020 are:

- Building and Grounds Committee, Greg Halsey
- Outreach Committee, Kelly Bradshaw
- TRWM, Jana DiPiazza
- Education Committee, Lesley Holloway
- Friends-in-Fellowship, TBD
- Mission Committee, Kelly Bradshaw
- Personnel Committee, Greg Halsey
- Music and Worship Committee, Bill Almekinder
- TRC Cares, Ted DeSoto

The approved monthly communion offerings recipients for 2020 are:

- January – RCA Refugee Assistance for Children – UNHCR
- February – Saving Grace Ministries
- March – Flower City Work Camp
- April & Easter – Camp Fowler
- May – Habitat for Humanity (BCHC)
- June – H.O.M.E.
- July – Jail Ministry
- August – Shepherd Hospice House in Penfield
- September – Penfield Ecumenical Food Shelf
- October – Open Door Mission
- November – Salvation Army
- December – St. Baldrick's for Pediatric Cancer Research
- Christmas – Pastor's Grace Fund
- January (2021) – RCA Disaster Relief Fund

~Greg Halsey,
Consistory Clerk

2020 CONSISTORY

Elders:
Ted DeSoto
Jana DiPiazza
Sharon Hann, VP
Lesley Holloway

Deacons:
Bill Almekinder
Kelly Bradshaw
Greg Halsey, Clerk
John Stratton

CONSISTORY MEMBER OF THE WEEK

Feb. 2: Jana DiPiazza

Feb. 9: TBD

Feb. 16: Bill Almekinder

Feb. 23: Greg Halsey

Mar. 1: Lesley Holloway

CHURCH OFFICERS

Treasurer:
Marge Magans

Benevolence Secretary:
Michael Holloway

Financial Secretary:
Greg Halsey

TRC Thursday Senior Breakfasts

Contact John Stratton with questions or concerns at (585) 267-7535

Date	Location	Note
Feb. 6	Morningstar Greek & American	Merchants Road
Feb. 13	East Ridge Diner & Steakhouse	East Ridge Road
Feb. 20	Nutcracker Family Restaurant	Empire Blvd. in Webster
Feb. 27	George's Restaurant	Panorama Plaza
Mar. 5	Morningstar Greek & American	Merchants Road

Our monthly adult Sunday School class entitled "**What Are Hymns and Worship Music *Really* Saying?"** is set to continue on Sunday, February 16th. This month, our focus will be on the following songs:

- *Reckless Love* (Cory Asbury)
- *Hold Us Together* (Matt Maher)
- *Love Divine, All Loves Excelling* (Hymn #366)
- *We Are One in the Spirit* (Hymn #300)

Participants are strongly encouraged to listen to these multiple times before we meet. Really focus on the words and see what God is saying to you through them. We will try to draw parallels between the songs, so thinking of a common theme may be helpful in your study. If you have any questions, please speak with Michaela. Hope to see you there!

TRWM: Our January meeting will be held on Friday, February 7th at 1:00 pm in the Lounge. After a brief business meeting and a time of prayer, our program will follow. We will be led by Linda King in making Valentines for our friends in nursing homes and others. All materials will be provided. Please bring three stamps to help offset the postage cost.

Following our program, refreshments will be served by Ramona Curtis and Ruth Espinosa-Barone during our fellowship gathering. ALL women are invited to join us. Happy Valentine's Day!

Pastor Steve will be on vacation from Saturday, February 15th through Saturday, February 22nd. Preaching Elder Anita Manuele will lead us in worship on Sunday, February 16th. If an emergency arises during this time, please contact Elder Sharon Hann. We wish the Meyer family safe travels and a time of rest and fun!

2/5	Carina Meyer
2/7	Phil Peters
2/8	Norma Koper
2/15	Sam Manuele
2/18	Cathy Almekinder
2/22	Barb Stoops
2/24	Joseph Kuo

2/22/2008	Sarah Berry & Don Burns
2/27/1971	John & Marilyn DeVisser

Please call Barb Stoops at (585) 506-5559 with **prayer requests**, or with information about people for whom we are praying.

February 2nd	August 2nd
March 1st	September 6th
March 8th	October 4th
March 15th	October 25th
March 22nd	November 1st
March 29th	November 22nd
April 9th	November 29th
April 12th	December 6th
May 3rd	December 13th
June 7th	December 20th
July 5th	

Penfield Ecumenical Food Shelf

Please place donations in the basket in the Narthex. Thank you!

- Chicken/Beef Broth
- Ramen Noodles
- Chili
- Beef Stew/Hash
- Mayonnaise
- Dish Soap
- Laundry Detergent
- Toothpaste

Matthew Frey 19B0896
c/o Great Meadow
Correctional Facility
PO Box 51
Comstock, NY 12821-0051

Please submit **Trinity Times content** by 9:00 am on Wednesday mornings. You may email TRChurchSecretary@gmail.com, or call the office at (585) 381-5330.

If you have not yet received an **updated church directory**, please let me know! I can easily provide physical or digital copies to anyone who is unable to make it to church on a regular basis.

~Michaela Johnson,
Secretary

Trinity's Consistory had a day-long retreat on Saturday, January 18th to prayerfully dialogue about managing priorities, opportunity costs, and making choices with discernment and wisdom. They enjoyed meal-time together, learned a few deep, dark secrets about each other, and worked to develop practices to aid them in being mindful leaders for the sake of the church. Pastor Steve is especially grateful that the Consistory members were attentive and engaged, and willing to share and listen. The Spirit was certainly at work!

At their January gathering, Men's Lunch participants made a unanimous decision to rename their group. In loving memory of long-time lunch attendee, John Lasher, the gathering will now be known as the **"Lasher Lunch Bunch".** John passed away on January 5th and is sorely missed by all who loved him. Trinity is humbled to honor his legacy in this way.

Patricia VanDussen would like to thank you for your support and generosity of the 2019 **PCAWNY Walk**. $80,192 was raised in the fight against pancreatic cancer.

Researchers are making progress in better understanding pancreatic cancer at the cellular level, which could lead to early detection. We're seeing progress as the five-year survival rate has risen to 10% and new treatment methods are being developed. Thank you for creating hope and supporting a cure!

Updates From Our Missionaries

Peter & Patty Ford: The ongoing suppression of Palestinians in Israel and the Palestinian territories has led many Middle East Christians to immigrate to western countries, thus diminishing the witness of the church in this region. The Fords request that you pray for peaceful coexistence of all groups around the world.

JJ & Tim TenClay: JJ's recent work has included launching *This Is My Story*, a new migration storytelling project in partnership between Global Mission (RCA) and Faithward.org. Check it out here: https://www.faithward.org/refugeestories/.

Wayne & Miho Jansen: The Jansens' mission partner, Tokyo Union Theological Seminary, is becoming increasingly diverse, especially with regards to age. They have also opened their doors to students other than those pursuing becoming pastors. They ask you to pray that all students learn ways to better minister in the church.

Felipe and Janelle deWaard-Silva: The Silvas continue to share Christ with youth through their rock climbing gym in the Jiu Valley. Check out this short clip to learn more about the Fără Limite Climbing Gym: https://vimeo.com/315266232.

For **additional information** and/or to sign-up to **receive updates** from our missionaries, please visit:

https://rca.org/peter-patty-ford
https://rca.org/jj-tim-tenclay
https://rca.org/wayne-miho-jansen
https://rca.org/felipe-and-janelle-dewaard-silva

Updates From the Regional Synod of Albany

Online Boundary Awareness Training: The Regional Synod of Albany is inviting Ministers of Word and Sacrament, Elders, Deacons, Christian Educators, and other ministry leaders to a safe space where we can explore where boundaries are beneficial in our ministry together and what the creation of healthy boundaries might look like in our own settings. Led by members of the Regional Synod of Albany BAT (Boundaries Awareness Team) who are certified in Boundaries Awareness Training by the FaithTrust Institute, we will explore some of the boundaries that can prove beneficial in our ministries in areas including: personal space and safety, finances, social media, personal relationships, sexuality, and self-care. This training will be held via Zoom on February 25th and March 3rd from 9:30 am to 12:00 pm. Virtual attendance at both sessions is required to complete the training. Please contact Janice Fitzgerald at mediationcoord@gmail.com with any questions. Click here to register: https://docs.google.com/forms/d/e/1FAIpQLSdtznav7dLbiS841p-oMzYqoJL6_RXedkQQv2a7M2EQ6yXChg/viewform.

Christian Book Review

By Marion Crump Spencer

In her novel, Smoke Screen, Terri Blackstock presents modern challenges that draw her characters closer to God. Among other teachings, Blackstock educates the reader about fighting wildfires, exposes the privileges afforded to wealthy and powerful people, and shows how believers can offer grace to hurting people. Blackstock's use of dual-perspective accounts quickly immerses the reader in the story.

Nate Beckett and Brenna Strickland shared a forbidden love. Since Nate's father was the town drunk and Brenna's father was the Baptist preacher, they used deception to be together. When they were discovered, Pastor Strickland entered the local bar and demanded that Roy Beckett keep his son away from Brenna. An argument ensued that spilled out into the parking lot. Though no blows were passed, Pastor Strickland was found in his car murdered a short time later. Because of the lack of an alibi (both men drove off in short succession), Roy Beckett was found guilty of murder. Later that week, the Baptist church was destroyed by fire, and many accused Nate of this crime.

Nate left home and excelled in a firefighter program. He led a group of men who jumped from airplanes and cleared paths so wildfires could be defeated. Blackstock shares the harrowing experience of fighting wildfires and the life-threatening techniques fire-jumpers utilize to minimize the devastation. After sustaining second degree burns while rescuing a senator and his family, Nate was ordered to take a medical leave. He returned to his hometown fourteen years later, just as his father was pardoned of murder. Nate recovered in his brother's house, across the street from Brenna.

Since her father's death, Brenna had tried to build a good family life. However, her marriage ended as her billionaire husband filed for divorce, married a younger woman, and is attempting to win full custody of their two young children, which would enhance his chances of winning the mayoral race. His long arm of influence may ensure that a judge rules Brenna unfit as a mother. Brenna is especially concerned because their four-year-old son has a serious asthma condition that his father and young stepmother refuse to acknowledge or properly treat. This has led Brenna, the preacher's daughter, to alcoholism.

Seeing each other rekindles all the old feelings between Nate and Brenna. Yet how can they reconcile with opposition and ugly threats posed by doctored photos and information from a private detective hired by Brenna's ex-husband?

This novel is filled with suspense, mystery, and romance. Blackstock masterfully ties all of the myriad plots together and all solutions point to God. For a great adventure and a convicting experience, read Smoke Screen. More compassion is needed in the body of Christ. This novel helps us to achieve this.

"Dear children, let us not love with words or tongue but with actions and in truth." 1 John 3:18

February 2020

Trinity Reformed Church

**calendar items subject to change*

SUN	MON	TUE	WED	THU	FRI	SAT
						1 10a– Crafts for a Cause
2 10a– Worship 12:30p– CAYA	**3** 7p– Outreach	**4**	**5** 1:30p– DiPiazza Bible Study 5:45p– Music & Worship 6:15p– Bells 7p– Choir	**6** 9a– Sr. Breakfast 6p– Finance 7p– Deacons	**7** 1p– TRWM 7p– Manuele Bible Study	**8** 10a– Crafts for a Cause 12p– Dahlia Society
9 10a– Worship 12:30p– CAYA	**10** 3:30p– Elders	**11**	**12** 6:15p– Bells 7p– Choir	**13** 9a– Sr. Breakfast 7p– Consistory	**14** 	**15** 10a– Crafts for a Cause
16 10a– Worship 12:30p– CAYA	**17** 	**18** 11:45a– Lasher Lunch Bunch	**19** 6:15p– Bells 7p– Choir	**20** 9a– Sr. Breakfast 6:40p– Pastor Search Comm.	**21** 7p– Manuele Bible Study	**22** 10a– Crafts for a Cause
23 10a– Worship 12:30p– CAYA	**24** 7p– AMPS 7:30p– Christian Education	**25**	**26** 6p– Mission 6:15p– Bells 7p– Choir 	**27** 9a– Sr. Breakfast	**28** 6p– Come to Dinner 	**29** 10a– Crafts for a Cause

Trinity Reformed Church
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ROCHESTER, NEW YORK 14625

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