

The Newsletter

Trinitarian Congregational Church
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September
2007

THE PASTORAL PERSPECTIVE

Living Into Our Faith

"The buck stops here" is well known to many. Harry Truman, the plain-speaking President from the "Show Me State," popularized the saying, but its origins date back to the mid-nineteenth century when poker, which has gained a renewed following in recent times, became a popular saloon game. According to one historian, "the integrity of the players was unreliable and the honor codes that had regulated gambling for centuries became inadequate. Because the dealer has the greatest opportunity to cheat...the players would take turns in this role. To avoid arguments about whose turn it was to deal, the person who was next due to deal would be given a marker. A knife was a common object used as such a marker, and the marker became generally known as a buck as an abbreviated reference to the buck's horn that formed the handle of many knives at that time. When the dealer had finished dealing the cards he 'passed the buck'.

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In 1945, Fred M. Canfil, a U.S. Marshal for the Western District of Missouri and a friend of Truman's, saw a sign while visiting the Federal Reformatory in El Reno, OK. Thinking that "the buck stops here" would appeal to Truman, Canfil had a copy of it made and sent to the President. Throughout the rest of Truman's presidency the sign would frequently adorn his desk. Said Truman once, "You know it 's easy for the Monday morning quarterback to say what the coach should have done, after the game is over. But when the decision is before you --- and on my desk I have a motto which says, 'The Buck Stops Here' --- the decision has to be made."

Truman was basically asserting the notion that the President, whoever that is, has to decide. That person cannot pass the buck to anyone else. Over time the saying has come to mean to take responsibility for something. More importantly, responsibility is not passed on beyond this point.

In my mind, there is a relevance both spiritually and practically, to the notion of "the buck stops here" when it comes to our church theme for 2007-2008, "Living Into Our Faith." From a spiritual standpoint I am reminded that each of us as believers is responsible not only for appropriating, owning and nurturing the faith we affirm and embrace but that there are, as well, implications as to how that faith shapes, affects, and defines who we are, along with who we are called to be. In short, it is no one else's responsibility but our own to be familiar with our story, to study our faith,

to deepen our spiritual lives, to bathe with theological reflection the lives we lead on a daily basis, and, ultimately, to grow closer to God and subsequently to one another. The buck stops with each of us.

Likewise, from a practical standpoint, the buck stops with you and me when it comes to the tangible support of our church. As Christians each of us has not only committed to a community of faith, sharing in both its privileges and responsibilities but we have laid claim to be disciples of Christ. Trinitarian Congregational Church is thus not a club, a school, a charity, an organization, a service group, or any other association or collection of people gathered around a cause, a task, an interest, or a charge. We are the church, a community of committed believers dedicated to the worship of God, inspired and motivated by the person and example of Jesus Christ, and empowered by the Holy Spirit to serve our neighbors in need and to tell our Story of God's redeeming, unconditional love through Jesus Christ to a world broken and hurting and deeply in need of healing and reconciliation. This a costly venture, requiring money, time, and the full deployment of individual gifts, talents, and abilities in generous, selfless, joyful and sacrificial ways. You and I are responsible. We have chosen to follow Jesus. The buck stops with us. No one else is responsible especially if you and I, as believers, by virtue of our membership in or affiliation with the church, are living into our faith.

So, as we begin a new program year in the life of our church, may each of us embrace with renewed vitality and deepened faith the responsibilities of church participation, membership leadership, and followership. Remember, it is no one else's job or responsibility to make vital, purposeful, and meaningful our life together. With discipleship the buck stops with each and every one of us.

Blessings,

Living Into Our Faith

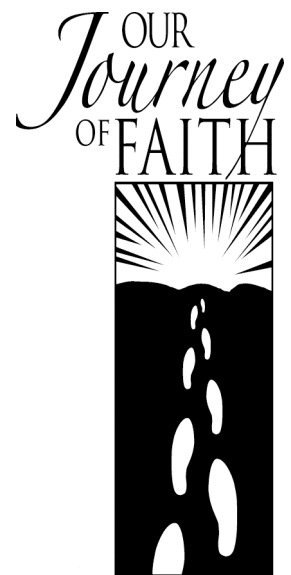
In 2007-2008 we will explore our church theme "Living Into Our Faith"
"What is *faith* and what does *faith* mean to each of us?"

Watch for this column each month to read quotes about *faith* from theologians, spiritual writers, scriptural passages and members of our own *faith* Community.

What is Faith?

"*Faith* is the assurance of things hoped for,
the conviction of things not seen."
(Heb.11:1)

"*Faith* has everything to do with risk and trust –
that's why the opposite of *faith* is NOT doubt. It is fear!
Maybe the *faith* question is, are you going to live out of your hope or your fear?"
(Words for the Journey)





SUNDAY, SEPTEMBER 9 KICK-OFF SUNDAY
One service at 10:00 a.m.
CHURCH SCHOOL BEGINS

WELCOME BACK BRUNCH
To celebrate the beginning of a new church year!

Hosted by the Fellowship Committee
 Quiche, muffins, punch, cake, fruit
 Everyone welcome -- No charge

Activities for the children

SEPTEMBER

Worship

SEPTEMBER WORSHIP SCHEDULE

NOTE: Our two service schedule will resume on Sunday, September 16.

SEPTEMBER 2	Service at 10:00	Rev. Dr. John Lombard preaching
COMMUNION		
SEPTEMBER 9	Service at 10:00	Rev. Dr. John Lombard preaching
SEPTEMBER 16	Service at 8:30	Prayer and Holy Communion
	Service at 10:00	Jack DuVall preaching
SEPTEMBER 23	Service at 8:30	Prayer and Holy Communion
	Service at 10:00	Rev. Dr. John Lombard preaching
SEPTEMBER 30	Service at 8:30	Prayer and Holy Communion
	Service at 10:00	Rev. Dr. Karin Case preaching

Have you participated in our 8:30 a.m. service on Sunday morning?

Taking place in the church parlor, the 8:30 a.m. service is a half hour Service of Prayer and Holy Communion. It includes scripture readings, collective prayer, silence, musical responses and the celebration of communion by intincture. If you would like to spend a quiet half hour with a small group of worshipers, why not give the 8:30 service a try? Everyone is welcome.

EVENTS AND OPPORTUNITIES

BE A TRICON AMBASSADOR!

Webster says "an ambassador is a diplomatic agent of the highest rank; an authorized messenger; an unofficial representative of good will." In this season when we welcome newcomers to our worship services, John Lombard is seeking volunteers to serve as "ambassadors" of the church – seeking out visitors following the service and helping them to get acquainted with our church, find information and feel welcome. These folks will supplement the work of the welcomers, who serve as greeters at the doors. If you are willing to serve in this capacity on a few Sundays in the fall, or just interested in hearing more about it, please join John on Thursday evening, September 6th from 7:30-8:30 pm for a fun evening, discussing and practicing the fine art of diplomacy – TriCon style!

SING PRAISES TO THE LORD



Sundays, September 9, 16, 23:

Anyone who loves to sing is invited to join "Sunday Only Choir" on any or all of these three Sundays. We gather in the choir loft at 9:15 a.m. to learn a simple anthem for the 10:00 a.m. service. While no further commitment is necessary, this is a good way to 'dip your toe in the water', to see if choir might be for you!

CAMBODIAN BAGS FOR SALE

Sunday, September 9

We will have the purses and bags made by the women of Cambodia for sale following the service of worship on Sunday, September 9. These lovely items make excellent gifts and provide much needed funds to the poor of Cambodia. Bags can also be purchased in the church office during regular business hours.



Spiritual Enrichment

Begins Monday, September 10, 9:45 a.m.

Spiritual Enrichment meets in the church parlor on Monday mornings at 9:45 a.m. (except on holidays when the church is closed) from September to the beginning of June. Spiritual Enrichment explores faith issues, scripture and personal spiritual growth. Newcomers always welcome!

Monday, September 10

The first fall meeting of Spiritual Enrichment. Come and share a summer treasure, a time of wonder or an inspirational object or memory.

Monday, September 17

The group will ask the question: *What is Faith* and will begin to explore our 2007-2008 church theme "Living Into Our Faith".

September 24

The group will share thoughts and ideas and will hear from some members of the congregation on "Caring for Ourselves and Others". This theme will continue into October.

STEWARDSHIP AS DISCIPLESHIP

Wednesdays,
September 12 and 19 and October 10
7:30 – 9:00 p.m.

Join Steve Silver for a three-week series exploring how stewardship is a central part of our lives as Christians and not just church jargon for fundraising. Each week will begin with Bible study and prayer, and will then grapple with a question designed to give us new perspectives on just what it means to be a steward.

Topics will include:

It's my stuff, isn't it?
You mean it isn't just about money?
God wants me to do what?
Just what is a disciple anyway?

Sign up in the parish hall or call the church office.

READING THE SPIRIT BOOK GROUP

Thursday, September 13 at noon



The Reading the Spirit Book Group will meet Thursday, September 13, at noon in the church parlor. The group will discuss *First You Have to Row a Little Boat*:

Reflections on Life and Living by Richard Bode. The author translates lessons learned from sailing into lessons about living. Join in for a lively discussion. Everyone is welcome. Bring a friend.



Join the Choir

Senior Choir

The Senior Choir is a fun-loving, hardworking group that sings together from mid-September through Memorial Day. Repertoire ranges from Tudor anthems, to Mozart and Mendelssohn, to newly composed works and jazz. There are ample opportunities for singing solos or in small ensembles as well. Rehearsals are on Thursdays from 7:45 - 9:15 p.m. and Sundays at 9:15 a.m. We take a brief recess after both Christmas and Easter. If you would like to join the choir, or for more information, contact director Vickie Wagner at 617-522-0510, or by email at vwag@aol.com.

Thursday, September 27, 7:45 - 9:15 p.m.

Midweek Senior Choir rehearsals resume. New members are welcome.

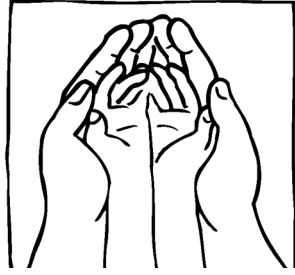
Junior Choir (grades 2-6)

Under the direction of Emily Roos, Junior Choir rehearses after worship on Sundays. They sing for a service about once a month. For more information, contact Emily Roos at 781 634-1519 or by e-mail at emilyroos@comcast.net

Sunday, September 16, 11:15 AM - noon

First Junior Choir rehearsal for the year. Meet upstairs in the Church School wing.

Instrumental and vocal soloists are also welcome to participate. Please contact Vickie Wagner if you're interested in sharing your musical gifts in a worship service.



THE FORGIVENESS PROJECT COMES TO TRICON

The F Word: Images of Forgiveness

Exhibition tells the stories of people whose lives have been shattered by violence, tragedy and injustice and who are learning to forgive, reconcile or move on. British journalist, Marina Cantacuzino and photographer, Brian Moody, have collected numerous accounts of disrupted lives creating an exhibit that is meant to open dialogue and promote understanding. The members of *The Forgiveness Project* believe that by listening to the voices of people who have experienced reconciliation and renewal after trauma and unrest, it is possible to see alternatives to endless cycles of conflict, violence, crime and injustice in our world today.

We are indeed fortunate that *The Forgiveness Project* exhibition will be at TriCon for one week in the end of September. The exhibit is free and open to the public and is a special opportunity for all of us.

MATERIAL AID



Material Aid will resume regular meetings in the parish hall on Thursday, September 27 at 9:30 a.m. working on items for the City Mission

Society's Christmas Shops. Anyone is welcome to join in for coffee, goodies, conversation and handwork. Yarn can be

supplied to those who prefer to work at home. Mittens, hats, scarves, sweaters, afghans are gratefully received. Members and friends of the Material Aid group also make prayer shawls for those in need of comfort.

Material Aid will also continue to make quilts – stitched, knitted or crocheted – for AIDS babies, as well as tiny baby caps for premature babies.

For information, call Ruth Larsen at (978) 369-2533.



Concord area CROP Walk for the Hungry
Sunday, October 14, 2007

Starting at First Parish Church, CROP Walk is a 10 km walk, in two 5km loops along a beautiful route in Concord. Each year Church School and youth groups, families, and individuals from TriCon contribute to this effort by walking, sponsoring walkers, or helping with coordination. Along with the camaraderie of the walk, there is a banner contest, live music, refreshments, and a tee shirt design contest. Money raised supports both local and global efforts to address hunger relief, clean water projects and other crisis relief.

Be there at 1:30 for music and registration. The walk steps off at 2:15.

Information and walk papers will be available later in the month of September in the parish hall. Also, check out the website for details on the wonderful success of past walks, how to do online pledging, and where the money is contributed. www.concordcrop.org

(Rain date: October 21 at TriCon Church)

CHRISTIANS AND DARFUR

led by Steve Silver

Mondays, October 15 and 22
7:30 – 9:00 p.m.

As part of his ordination process, Steve is doing a social justice project. You can help him and, more importantly, help your brothers and sisters in Christ in Darfur by participating in a two-session program. Come learn about the current state of the crisis in Darfur, what it means to us as Christians, and what we can do together to try to make a difference. This program will include education and action.

MAKING SENSE OF FAITH

Wednesdays, beginning October 17
7:30 – 9:00 p.m.

Join us this fall and winter for a fascinating 10-week exploration of the Christian faith. Led by John Lombard and using N.T. Wright's new book, *Why Christianity Makes Sense*, the Wednesday evening series begins on October 17 and continues for five evenings. The winter session convenes in January for five weeks.

The series will offer a fresh presentation of the timeless truths of Christianity, making the case that faith is reasonable and rewarding for us today. Participants will be asked to purchase N.T. Wright's book (\$25) through the church office. The registration deadline is Tuesday, October 9. Twelve participants will constitute the group.

Open to all, this series should prove helpful to those new to or those seeking deeper and fuller understanding of the Christian faith.



Yoga Class

Mind, Body
and Spirit Yoga

*Give yourself the gift
of peace and
relaxation!*

SUNDAYS, 4:30 - 5:45 p.m.
September 16, 23, 30,
October 14, 28, and November 4
at TriCon Church

Call Leslie Ackles 978 371-1655 or
BillLes@aol.com for more information or to sign
up.



38TH ANNUAL ANTIQUÉ SHOW AND SALE

Friday, November 2
10:00 a.m. to 5:00 p.m.
Saturday, November 3
10:00 a.m. to 4:00 p.m.

We have many volunteer openings and we are counting on the congregation to lend a hand to continue their great legacy of service. There will be opportunities to move furniture out, help the dealers move in, "people" the kitchen café, contribute baked goods and other food items, take tickets, direct traffic, etc, etc. There 's a job for everyone! Sign up sheets will be in the parish hall beginning Sunday, September 24. You may also call the church office to volunteer or if you would like to advertise in the Antique Show program.



You Ought to be In Pictures

Coming
in the fall
– a new church photo directory. There will be
more information in upcoming issues of *The
Newsletter*.



GARDENS FOR NOLA

Help Restore Hearts and Habitats in New Orleans

An exciting mission project in the newly
created Musicians Village in New Orleans is
looking for volunteers in November and
March to help restore and create rejuvenating
outdoor spaces for homeowners whose
property was damaged due to Hurricane
Katrina in 2005.

Sign up now for November 12-17, when we
will stay at Habitat for Humanity's Camp
Hope and create gardens for the new Habitat
houses in Musicians' Village. Another trip to
this area is planned for March 9-15.

This mission opportunity has been organized
by Polly Jenkins Man, a member of West
Concord Union Church, and we will be
working in conjunction with members of that
church in addition to other local volunteers.

Informational meetings will be held Sunday,
September 9 at 11:30 a.m. at West Concord

Union Church and Monday, September 10 at
7:30 p.m. at Polly's home in West Concord.
You may also contact Polly at
pollyjm42@yahoo.com or contact Demi Ayres
(a member of TriCon) at [RAYres9200@aol.com](mailto:RAyres9200@aol.com)
or call 978 369-4250.

****It is important to note that the above project
should not be confused with the on-going
work of Bridge to Biloxi in Mississippi. That
organization, which TriCon continues to be
involved with, is at work planning for a new
project in New Orleans this year and
information on that will be available soon.

The recovery in the Gulf continues to be a long,
slow process. These volunteer opportunities
and the work they accomplish, albeit a small
light at the end of a long tunnel, are helping to
restore communities and spirit in a region of
this country that desperately needs our help.

LIFE CHANGES



We are pleased to announce that Rev. Katrina
Wuensch, our former Associate Minister, and
Colin Loggins were married on Saturday,
August 18 in VT. Cards and notes may be sent
to South Acton Congregational Church, 35
School Street, South Acton, MA 01720.

YOUTH ACTIVITIES



YOUTH GROUP

Senior High Youth Group

Welcome to Senior High Youth Group! Whether you're a returning student, new to the church, or an incoming freshman, welcome! We've got a lot of great things planned for a really fun year.

Giant Packet O' Info

Watch for your very own Giant Packet O' Info -- a mailing around Labor Day to every senior high student. The packet has all you need to know about Sunday Night Youth Group, Wednesday Night Discussion Group, Youth Advisory Council, Confirmation Class (ninth graders), the 2008 Mission Trip and the Fall Retreat. Youth Group announcements will be published in the church newsletter. You'll also receive monthly Youth Group mailings and special mailings for Confirmation Class and Mission Trip participants. You are always welcome to call or email Karin Case (978) 369-4837 revdrkarin@aol.com or Nick Bruning (978) 618-1629, triconnb@aol.com to request information, talk about YG, or anything that's on your mind. If you have not received an information packet by September 7, call the church office and we will mail one to you.

SUNDAY NIGHT YOUTH GROUP



Sunday, September 9, 7:00 to 8:30 p.m.

In the Youth Room on the lower level. See you there!

Sunday, September 16 - 6:00 p.m.

Youth Advisory Council - come give your ideas on what you want YG to be this year

Sunday, September 16 - 7:00 - 8:30 p.m.

Youth Group

Sunday, September 23 - 7:00 - 8:30 p.m.

Youth Group

Sunday, September 30 - 7:00 - 8:30 p.m.

Youth Group

Friday, October 12 – Sunday, October 14

Youth Group Fall Retreat

Sargent Center, Peterboro, NH

WEDNESDAY DISCUSSION GROUP

Talk with your YG friends about what's on your mind -- serious or fanciful. Discussion Group meets from 7:30 to 8:30 every Wednesday night in the youth room or the church parlor beginning Wednesday, September 5. All high schoolers are welcome.

CONFIRMATION CLASS

Confirmation Class begins in October. Karin Case will teach! Come have fun while learning! All ninth graders will receive a registration form and a packet with detailed information and a schedule.

Sunday, September 16, 11:15 a.m.

Orientation for Confirmands and parents

Tuesday, September 25, 7:00 – 8:00 p.m.

Orientation for Mentors

Sunday, September 30, 11:15 a.m.

Coffee for Parents and Mentors

Sunday, September 30, 5:00 – 7:00 p.m.

First Confirmation class



Living Into Our Faith

As the traditional stewardship season approaches, we are going to use an exploration of stewardship to discern what God is calling us to do as individuals and as a community; to see stewardship as an opportunity to deepen the connection between who we are as God's people and how we give expression to that connection. In this spirit our theme for the coming year will be "Living Into Our Faith."

Each of our ministries and fellowship groups has been asked to describe how they plan to live into their faith in the coming year and every member of our church family is invited and encouraged to do so, too. Growing in faith is not something that happens over night: it takes time, it takes prayer, it takes planning, and it takes commitment. The desired goal of this spiritual, yet practical, exercise is individuals and a congregation that have a transformed relationship to God and the gifts God has given us. To help make this happen there will be preaching, adult education opportunities and church forums to explore the question of how our budget reflects our sense of call.

Our church is endowed with strong ministerial leadership, a large and vibrant congregation, excellent physical plant, and healthy finances. These strengths, indeed blessings, offer the people of Trinitarian the opportunity to think intentionally about the future, or to use church language, engage in a process of discernment, about where we, as individuals and as a community of faith, would like to go in the years to come.

Three years ago, the church adopted a faith-based stewardship program. Now is the time to build on this and to journey deeper into our Christian faith as individuals and as the collective people of God. We hope you will pack your spiritual luggage and join us for what will be an amazing trip!

ITEMS OF INTEREST



NEEDED THIS MONTH

Both summer and winter CHILDREN'S clothing

Two entities whom our congregation helps, Merrimack House family shelter in Lowell MA, and The Sharing Foundation's school and orphanage in Cambodia, are in need of clothing for children and youth.

As you and your children go through drawers and closets, please bag the good used infant, elementary-age and teen things and place them in the marked boxes in the Parish Hall. Both summer and winter clothing items are needed **UP UNTIL SEPT. 23**. You will brighten many a child's spirits, as well as lighten the budgets of these two important organizations.

WITH MANY THANKS

To all my friends at TriCon – John, Judy and Jim, Karen, Margaret, the Caring Connection and others –

A special thank you for the support, calls, visits, cards and offers of help from one and all while I was “under the weather” with many tests and doctors appointments.

I appreciate everyone.

Sincerely
Ruth Larsen

The deadline for the
October Newsletter
is September 15.



SAILING ON

On July 22, 42 members of our church family enjoyed a delightful cruise of Boston Harbor on the tall ship, *Poincare*. Special thanks to owner, Keating Willcox, for his entertaining and informative commentary and for offering this opportunity to us. During the season, the *Poincare* and her sister ship, the *Formidable*, cruise daily from Long Wharf. If you are looking for a unique way to enjoy Boston Harbor, check out their website at www.tallshipformidable.com.

STEPHEN MINISTRY CORNER

For part of my summer reading, I reread J.R.R.Tolkien's magnificent Lord of the Rings, first introduced to me by my daughter a dozen years ago. Even the second time around it is just as compelling a read for an adult as it is for a child, describing as it does the epic struggle between Good and Evil.

The story begins in "the Shire", a cozy, peaceful corner of Middle Earth where hobbits (half-size humanoids) live out their quiet lives. But one day the good wizard Gandalf bangs on Frodo Baggins' door and everything changes, at least for Frodo. Gandalf has come to tell Frodo that the Dark Lord is sending his emissaries and soldiers throughout the world in order to conquer, if not destroy, it. Even now his tentacles are reaching into the Shire. The key to stopping his diabolical agenda lies with Frodo. Frodo possesses a beautiful golden ring given to him by his uncle, and the Dark Lord has relentlessly searched for it. Frodo is ignorant of the power of the ring, but Gandalf explains that with it, the Dark Lord could become omnipotent. Only the destruction of the ring could save the world from this evil, and only Frodo, the Ring Bearer, can destroy it. Frodo must fling the ring into the fiery Cracks of Doom many dangerous miles away.

Frodo protests: "I am not made for perilous quests. I wish I had never seen the Ring. Why did it come to me? Why was I chosen?" Gandalf replies, "Such questions cannot be answered."

Out of the blue, Frodo's life is shattered. In the midst of his quiet, peaceable existence, calamity strikes. Disaster can arrive unexpectedly in our lives, too: the death of someone near and dear, a life threatening illness, divorce, a natural disaster, the loss of a means of livelihood, domestic violence, long-term hospitalization, addiction to alcohol or drugs, a sudden physical disability, etc.

It is only too natural to respond like Frodo. "Why me? I just want to live an ordinary life, free of trials and suffering. Why do I have to go through this ordeal?" Unfortunately, very few of us will get through this life untouched by adversity. We will have to discover for ourselves the answer to the question that Gandalf could or would not answer, "Why me?" Some people believe that God gives us adversity to temper our faith. Others believe that adversity happens randomly in a world where God allows the natural laws he has created to take their course. No matter how you answer the "why me" question, you must still walk the road ahead and face the pain, sorrow or risk it holds.

Fortunately for Frodo, his devoted friend Sam Gamgee decided to accompany him on his quest. Sam proved the best of companions, walking every step that Frodo walked, enduring the dangers and the hardships that his friend endured. Of course, Sam could not live inside Frodo's skin and bear the terrible burden of the ring itself. But he was empathic, devoted to his friend, and willing to accept his friend just as he was – whether discouraged, determined, afraid, or hopeful.

Our faith tells us that God will always be with us in hard times, and we know that we have the steadfast support of our pastors, who are present for us in times of crisis and trauma. Because our pastors care so much about us they have helped launch and continue to support Stephen Ministry in our church. Even after the immediate crises have passed, even after our pastors must turn their attention to others facing adversity, Stephen Ministers will be there, much as Sam Gamgee was for Frodo, walking beside us as we adjust to or struggle with a new reality.

Life may not require us to be heroes like Frodo, but it does require courage to face loss and suffering. It's reassuring to know that we do not have to go it alone.

Carol Gupta



The start of our Christian education season brings with it renewed enthusiasm for, and commitment to, the spiritual growth of our children. This year, we will introduce an exciting new curriculum, including creative ideas to make teaching fun and rewarding. Our cooperative style program will offer participating adults many opportunities to foster the spiritual growth of our young people, both in and out of, the classroom. We are grateful to Christian Education Directors, Suzanne Giles and Carrie O'Brien, for their hard work and enthusiasm in the preparing for the new teaching year.

The 2007-2008 Church School season also brings with it some changes in the Christian Education staff. After four years of dedicated service, Suzanne Giles will embark on a new chapter of growth in her own life and return to graduate school to pursue a degree in Psychology. Her creativity and enthusiasm, as the Upper School Christian Education Director, will be missed, but we wish Suzanne much success as she follows her dreams and broadens her horizons.

And, with disappointment, we announce that Marsha Martin will be leaving her position as Church School Music Coordinator and focusing her incredible energies on other pursuits this fall. We are grateful to Marsha for sharing her musical and spiritual talents and her boundless energy and enthusiasm with the children and with the entire congregation! She has inspired us all. Thank you, Marsha!

Fortunately, both Marsha and Suzanne will remain as members of our congregation so we will continue to benefit from their gifts and their faithful dedication to our church family!

We are pleased to announce that Carrie O'Brien will step into the role of Director of Christian Education for Nursery thru Grade 8. As the Lower School Christian Education Director, Carrie has gained a vision and valuable perspective that has prepared her to lead this growing and changing program into an exciting new phase. Carrie has committed many hours this summer preparing for the challenge and she is looking forward to making the new curriculum and cooperative style program soar.

With these changes and challenges before us, we move into the new school year with a renewed sense of dedication, excitement, and purpose, and we look forward to joining with you to make this a wonderful opportunity for all to flourish and grow in new ways.

Amy Pasley
Personnel Committee

NANNY AVAILABLE

Experienced, loving Nanny looking for a full time position. Lots of fun and activities for your child.

For more information, contact Margaret Fries at 978 371-2624.

CHURCH LEADERSHIP RETREAT

Deacons, church officers and committee chairs are reminded of the important leadership retreat on Friday evening, September 15 and Saturday morning, September 16. Please respond by September 4 to the email invitation. Call the church office if you need more information.



WELCOME

FALL OPPORTUNITIES FOR GETTING ACQUAINTED

Throughout the year, the membership committee offers both new people and long-time non-member friends of TriCon Church opportunities to learn more about our congregational mission, and to explore the significance of being a member. In September and October, as listed below, we will offer two “Welcoming Coffees” in the parlor for conversation with the ministers and other church leaders. Then in November we will have an “Exploring Membership” brunch/meeting. Your decision to join TriCon may be made following your participation in this meeting. New members will join during the worship service on November 18th. We hope you will join us! If you have any questions, please call Mary Lou Esposito at the church office or Susan Henderson, chair of the Membership Committee (978-369-4854).

“Welcoming Coffees”: Getting to Know Us

Sunday September 23rd

Coffee and conversation with church leaders
11:00 a.m. (after 10:00 a.m. service) in the parlor

Sunday October 28th

Coffee and conversation with church leaders
11:00 a.m. (after 10:00 a.m. service) in the parlor

“Becoming a Member”: brunch/meeting and joining

Sunday November 4th

“Exploring Membership” brunch/meeting
11:00 a.m. to 2:30 p.m. in the parlor

Sunday November 18th

New members join during the 10:00 a.m. worship service



ORGAN COMMITTEE UPDATE

TAKING THE LARGER VIEW

Trinitarian Congregational Church has seen many substantial changes in recent years. The 2000-2001 renovation transformed an inadequate space into a useful and delightful space in ways that could not have been envisioned beforehand. The new office suite allows the staff space for their work that is pleasant and conducive to progress. The airy, attractive large parish hall is a wonderful place to meet and socialize after worship, and serves the larger community as well. Handicap access to all parts of the building allows everyone to partake equally of all of our programs and activities. The youth and children have bright attractive classrooms and gathering space. These changes may have seemed controversial at times, and may have seemed to serve only one part of the church's life; but the whole is made up of parts, each of which must at times be reviewed and improved.

Yet despite these recent improvements, the choir loft and organ still need our attention. The choir loft is just too cramped for the music program as it now is, and it prohibits any possibility of future growth. The organ is a worn-out mongrel jalopy stuffed into a closet that suffocates its sound. The choir is cut off from the congregation during worship, and any sense of musical communication or congregational song is produced at great effort and with great obstacles.

That "the music sounds just fine to me now" is not the point. The old dark, crowded parish hall "seemed just fine" in some ways until we saw what wonderful space could do for our congregational life and ministry. Likewise, the music could be so much better! It could be so much more gratifying for the choir, organist, and congregation. The choir could have room to breathe - which means room to sing. There could be enough space for instruments along with our singers. The church members who are devoted to the choir could enjoy the same worship experience as the rest of us. A fine pipe organ will serve the congregation for many, many years. The choir, organ, and congregation could effortlessly unite in song if all were in the same space, rather than in what now amounts to three separate rooms.

Members of the Organ Committee have consulted many respected leaders in the larger musical community in order to gain perspective on our situation. They have talked with the Music Committee and choir. They have visited other churches and have seen other organs. In their two years of research, conversation, and deliberation, they have come to a point of recommending to the congregation an option for improving the conditions for music in the sanctuary, which they believe will improve the worship experience for the entire congregation. That so many members have stressed the quality of the music as part of their reasons for being at Tri-Con seems reason enough to endeavor to provide the best resources for all our music makers - which, in the end, includes every member of the congregation. It's time now for a thoughtful, prayerful conversation among the entire church to take the next steps together.

Join the Organ Committee in the sanctuary following the service on Sunday, September 16th for a demonstration of music produced on three similar, yet diverse keyboard instruments - in this case, the piano - an opportunity to hear and experience the difference that a high quality instrument can truly make!