

The Newsletter

Trinitarian Congregational Church
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The Pastoral Perspective

Election time is upon us. Shortly, we shall enjoy both the privilege and responsibility of casting our ballots for leadership across the civic and political spectrum to guide, shape, and oversee the direction of our collective life. While some folks are quick to separate religion and politics, I cannot understand how Christians of conscience and conviction can separate faith and life nor fail to understand how each affects the other. Jesus confronted, challenged, and fully engaged the powers and principalities of the world he inhabited, all for the sake of the realm of God's love and life. He cared deeply about the poor, oppressed, and marginalized, making room at the table for all God's people without exception. He ministered to humanity's deepest needs and highest aspirations, physically, emotionally, and spiritually, as healer and miracle-worker. He believed in the possibilities and potentialities of each individual, teaching and preaching about the Way of God's will for the human family, drawing forth the best from deep within the life of each individual he encountered, and understanding the imperative to share fairly, fully, and equitably the world's resources. His pastoral examples and compelling parables based upon the natural world spoke to his abiding appreciation of the environment, implicitly elevating it to a place of paramount importance and special care. He believed that peace with justice was the ordering principle of life and selflessly enacted it for the sake of the world. He gave us the Golden Rule, the Great Commandment, and the Beatitudes. He reminded us that "God is love" and embodied that unconditional love in the most compelling and dramatic, yet humble and meek, way imaginable.

Surely, as professed believers and followers of Jesus Christ, we should take to heart his life, example, and message, serving as they do to inform, inspire, and guide our actions and activities. If our faith means anything at all, it should unquestionably affect our thinking, nuance our decision-making, and guide us in all our ways, in all our days -- even in our voting. Our faith, unacculturated as it must be and divorced from any civil religion, should not only be affirmed through our worship in church but lived out daily in the public square.


It would seem that elections are all about candidates. In truth, elections are about our collective life in a broken and sometimes uncertain world. Elections allow us to address the values, hopes, and

dreams we seek to embody in our collective life and by which we desire to be guided, undergirded, and uplifted.

So, go to the polls on Tuesday, November 4th, and vote. Reflect prayerfully, search your conscience, and consider your faith. While there is no perfect candidate meeting all the needs, demands, and criteria a diverse citizenry places upon its elected leaders, at least voting in a faith-informed way may inch us ever closer to the world God intends for us and the realm of God's love and life Jesus embodied and came to usher in to a needy humanity.

Blessings,

NOVEMBER WORSHIP SERVICES

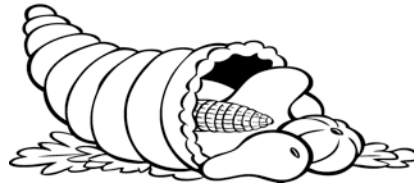
NOVEMBER 2 Communion	Service at 8:30 Service at 10:00	Prayer & Holy Communion Rev. Dr. John Lombard preaching
NOVEMBER 9 Mission Sunday	Service at 8:30 Service at 10:00	Prayer & Holy Communion Jan and Ruthann Hall preaching
NOVEMBER 16	Service at 8:30 Service at 10:00	Prayer & Holy Communion Rev. Dr. Karin Case preaching
NOVEMBER 23	Service at 8:30 Service at 10:00	Prayer & Holy Communion Rev. Dr. John Lombard preaching
NOVEMBER 20 	Service at 8:30 Service at 10:00	Prayer & Holy Communion Rev. Dr. Margaret Crockett preaching

HEALING SERVICE

8:30 a.m. – Sunday, November 2

The Healing Service will use scripture and prayers for healing for ourselves, our loved ones, the fractures and wounds of our society. Members of the congregation may wish to lift up members of their families and friends, aloud or in silence. There will be anointing for healing for those who wish to receive it for themselves or their loved ones.

INTERFAITH THANKSGIVING SERVICE
Sunday, November 23 --- 7:30 P.M.
New Church, Concord
Bring your family and friends.



LIVING INTO OUR FAITH;
“Faithful and Grateful”

What do you like best about our church?

- Is it coming to a Sunday service and being inspired and re-charged for the coming week?
- Is it that our children are being prepared for life with a basic knowledge of Christian beliefs and a strong sense of moral values?
- Is it knowing that there is a strong network of caring people who will be there to assist you with visits, meals or rides when you have a need?

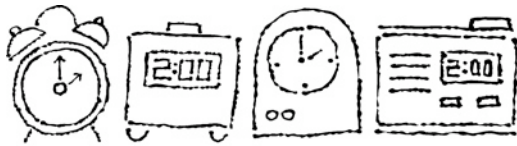
- Is it our dedicated clergy who are always available for counsel, support and spiritual guidance?
 - Is it the joy of celebrating a service of marriage in our beautiful sanctuary?
 - Is it the opportunities for hands-on outreach, such as cooking a shelter meal or walking in the CropWalk?
 - Is it having a community that will surround you with love and support in times of loss?
 - Is it that we are known for our mission efforts, devoting significant funds to worthy agencies serving those less fortunate?
 - Is it sharing fellowship and fun with others in our faith community?
 - Is it sending our youth on life-changing mission trips?
 - Is it being awed and enriched by our outstanding music program?
 - Is it being informed and enlightened by the adult education opportunities?
 - Is it welcoming the newest members into the church through the sacrament of baptism?
- Or is it all of the above and more?**

None of our services, programs or activities can exist without the support of the members of our church family. Please watch for the pouch or the letter containing pledge materials and prayerfully consider your commitment to keep all the "best things" about Trinitarian continuing in the coming year.

EVENTS AND OPPORTUNITIES

SUNDAY, NOVEMBER 2nd

2:00 A.M.



DAYLIGHT-SAVING TIME ENDS

Set clocks back one hour
before you go to bed on Saturday night!

UNITED HOMES
SHELTER MEALS

We provide a hot meal once a month to the 100 homeless men who receive food and lodging through the United Homes Shelter in Dorchester.



Cooking takes place in the church kitchen after Sunday coffee hour. Drivers are particularly needed to take the meal to Dorchester at 4:30 p.m. You may drop off the food or you may remain to serve it. Servers return to Concord about 7:30 p.m. (If you are not serving, you may return to Concord immediately after dropping off the meal.)

The upcoming meal schedule is:

•November 2

•December 7

If you would like to volunteer on a particular Sunday, please be sure to sign up in the parish hall or call the church office ahead of time so we can plan for cooks and drivers.



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 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 23rd. 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).

Newcomers always welcome!

**“Becoming a Member”:
brunch/meeting and joining**

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

Sunday November 23rd
New members join during the 10:00 a.m.



**CAST
YOUR
VOTE!**
November 4



Mondays, 9:45 a.m. in the church parlor

November 3 “Communication skills for
Care Giving and Care Receiving”
Emily Mitchell, facilitator

November 10 “Taking Care of Yourself
as Care Giver”
Emily Mitchell, facilitator

November 17 “Care Giving and
Care Receiving: Hospice”
Rev. Karin Doolittle, facilitator

November 24 “Music for the Season
of Advent”
Marsha Martin, facilitator

SPIRITUAL WRITING GROUP

Tuesdays, November 4 and 18
9:00 – 11:00 a.m.
and on every other Tuesday

Writing to a selection of provocative prompts, the group explores questions such as why we are here and where we are going. Sharing our writing, we will experience the expansive

nature of our hearts, minds and souls. All are invited. Please contact Charity Tremblay at catremblay@comcast.net or 978 371-0471 if you are interested or have any questions.



**39TH ANNUAL
ANTIQUÉ SHOW AND SALE**
Friday, November 7
10:00 a.m. to 5:00 p.m.

Saturday, November 8
10:00 a.m. to 4:00 p.m.

We have many volunteer openings for movers and porters. Please call the church office as soon as possible if you are interested in volunteering.



On Sunday, November 9, we will celebrate Mission Sunday. Our guest preachers that day will be Jan and Ruthann Hall, members of our church and our representatives as missionaries in South Africa. Jan and Ruthann will speak about their efforts to help the people of South Africa and their recent trip to that nation.

RETIRED MEN'S GROUP



The Retired Men's Group will meet for lunch on Wednesday, November 12 at noon. The speaker will be Gregory Burch of the Hawthorne Inn in

Concord who will speak on the "Ins and Outs of Innkeeping". Come and bring a friend for good food, good fellowship and an interesting program.

If you have not attended these luncheons before and would like to attend on November 12 or you have any questions, please call Robert Nelson (978 369-3105) or Charles Davis (978 369-6250). The cost of the lunch is \$8.00.

The deadline for the
December Newsletter
is November 15.

THANKSGIVING FOOD OFFERING

As in years past, this year's Thanksgiving Food Offering will go to the Pilgrim Church in Dorchester. This church rents its sanctuary to United Homes Services, the shelter our church delivers a homemade meal to once a month. Within the same building, the minister, Rev. John Odums, and a small group of parishioners run a neighborhood food pantry for the area's most needy families, serving 100-150 people a month. While the pantry is able to stock its shelves with staples and free USDA surplus food from the Boston Food Bank such as peanut butter, rice, pasta, canned vegetables and beef stew, it relies on a small grant from the city of Boston (\$1,000 per year) and donations from our church, as well as only seven other Congregational churches in eastern MA, to keep the pantry shelves stocked. There is always a need for what many families have to consider "extras": tuna and other canned fish and meats, crackers, cookies, juice, jelly, canned fruit, kid's cereals, tea, coffee, cooking condiments, salad dressings, refried beans, baby food and formula, detergent, soap, paper towels, diapers, personal care products, toilet paper, and toothpaste.



Please consider bringing a grocery bag of "extras" by Sunday, November 23 and put it in the bin at the front of the church. Food will be delivered to Pilgrim Church that afternoon. Drivers are needed for food delivery. If you would like to join us, contact Carol Antos at carol_antos@concordacademy.org. or (978) 371-0837.

GOOD GRIEF FOR THE HOLIDAYS

When Feeling Bad is Good for You

Monday, November 17, 2008, 7:30 to 9:00 p.m.
TriCon Church
Presented by: Allene Riley Kussin, MA, LPC

The Holiday Season is often experienced as a high-stress time in many lives as the expectations of perfection, emotional warmth and fulfillment are greatly increased. While it can be a time of wonderful family celebration, it can also be a time of deep suffering for those facing major loss.

GOOD GRIEF FOR THE HOLIDAYS will explore the major areas of human response to sorrow and grief. It will cover some of the potential effects a person may experience when encountering the recent loss of a loved one, a divorce, employment loss or other significant relational "death". While the effects vary, the reality of them for individuals is universal.

Everyone, regardless of faith tradition or

persuasion is welcome. The presentation is not limited to those facing major loss. Anyone curious about the seemingly incongruous tensions the holidays provoke will find this informative. Handouts will be provided.

Questions: email allenerileykussin@gmail.com

Allene Riley Kussin taught in the Graduate School of Counseling Psychology at Eastern University, St. Davids, PA. She maintained a private therapy practice in Bryn Mawr and Ardmore, PA, and transferred her practice (~~ARK Therapy & Consultation~~) to Concord in 2007.

A REMINDER TO KNITTERS AND SEWERS

**Knitting Group meets
Wednesday, November 19 at 2:00 p.m.**

Everyone from beginner to expert is welcome to join the knitting group meeting in the church parlor. Bring your own knitting project or work on something to be given away. Our church community remains actively involved in the baby blanket project for AIDS babies and in the City Mission Society Christmas Shop, as well as the prayer shawl ministry.



For home knitters and sewers, please continue

to work on your projects and contact the church office if you need yarn, knitting needles or instructions. Completed items for City Mission Society should be brought to the ~~church between November 1 and 19~~ so that they can be distributed for Christmas.

BILL MCKIBBEN ~~SPEAKS AT TRICON~~ Friday, November 21 at 7:30 p.m.

Our church, in concert with Concord Climate Action Network, will welcome Bill McKibben as part of our church's interest in promoting environmental sustainability. McKibben is one of America's most important writers on business, culture and the environment. His most recent work *Deep Economy: The Wealth of Communities and the Durable Future* offers a realistic scenario for the future, one that pursues prosperity beyond 'growth' as our economic ideal. He stresses the need for strong local businesses as the backbone of strong ~~local, interdependent communities -- a wise~~ and optimistic vision for a better future.

ALL I WANT FOR CHRISTMAS IS...."

Spiritual Enrichment in December

Join us in the Advent season on Monday, December 1, 8 and 15, 9:45 – 11:15 a.m., for seasonal reflections on the theme, "All I Want for Christmas Is..." Taking our cue from the time-honored question, "What do you want

for Christmas this year?" participants will be invited to explore the question on a deeper, more reflective, and faith-filled level. While often there are material things on our minds, might there, in truth, be certain gifts that the Christ Child brings, things for which our hearts dearly yearn on a deeper level?

Facilitated by John Lombard, the series is open to all interested people. Bring your Christmas wish list to the first session.

IT'S THAT TIME AGAIN

Attention Committee Chairs! Annual Reports are due to Karen Lord no later than **Monday, December 1.**



PLEASE BE PROMPT! If at all possible, submit your report on disk or in typed format. Emails are also fine. If you have any questions or would like to see a copy of prior year reports, please call Karen Lord in the church office.



DEDICATION OF GIFTS

December 7

At the worship service on December 7th, we will dedicate the gifts our church has collected for City Mission Society, as well as the gifts which have been provided for the prisoners in Concord. (You will find bookmarks on the sign up table in the parish hall listing items which may be donated for the Concord Prison Outreach holiday bags.) See your Season of Giving catalog coming in the mail in mid-November for more information about these causes.

SING WITH THE CHOIR

DECEMBER 24

All choral singers are invited to sing with our choir for the 8:00 p.m. Christmas Eve service. High school and college students are especially welcome! There is one rehearsal: Thursday, December 18 at 7:45 p.m. On Christmas Eve there is a rehearsal promptly at 7:00 p.m., and the choir sings only during the prelude to the service (i.e., from 7:40 - 8 p.m.). Those who can't stay for the entire service may



depart after the opening hymn. If you have questions or would like to participate, please ~~contact Vickie Wagner in advance by email at vwag@aol.com or phone (978-369-4837 x227).~~

How to Talk
So Others Will Listen

and
Listen So Others Will Talk

Sundays, January 4, 11, 25 and February 1
11:15 a.m.-12:30 p.m. in the new parlor

Learn the skills necessary for better communication with your boss, children, spouse, client, customer, or relatives. Our own Emily Mitchell, a member of the faculty at Cambridge College and a licensed Marriage and Family Therapist, will offer training and education in the art of communication skills.

- * Move out of relationship ruts
- * Learn how to "fight fair"
- * Learn win-win conflict resolution
- * Learn how to help others while respecting boundaries
- * Learn how to "draw out" your child's feelings
- * Learn how to encourage parishioners to "tell their own story" in church groups

All leaders of small groups and church committees are encouraged to attend!

EVANGELICALS 101

Wednesday, January 21 and 28

They decided the 2004 election. This year, one of them ran for Vice President on the Republican ticket. You see them all over cable TV. That's right – Evangelicals!

Just who are these people – right-wing fundamentalists or a vibrant, diverse stream of modern Christianity? Come learn about the beliefs, history, and future of a group that includes more than 25% of Americans.



ANNUAL MEETING

COOPERATIVE METROPOLITAN
MINISTRIES

Creating Change Together: Faith, Politics, and the Justice Agenda – a panel discussion by leaders of major faiths - will highlight the annual meeting of Cooperative Metropolitan Ministries on Tuesday, November 18th, 6:00-9:00 p.m. at First Church in Cambridge, Congregational (Harvard Square). ~~Flyers are on the signup table in the parish hall. Call Carl Miller (978 369-3755) for more information~~

VOLUNTEERS NEEDED

Volunteers are needed from November 24 through December 17 to assist with the sorting of items and filling of gift bags for the Concord Prison Outreach Holiday Gift Project. The workshop takes place weekday mornings, from 9:00 a.m. - 12:30 p.m. at Trinity Church, Concord. Some tasks can be performed while seated.

There will also be one evening session on Tuesday, December 9 from 7:00 – 9:00 p.m. and a Saturday session on December 13 from 10:00 a.m. – 12 noon (high school youth are invited to help). **Volunteers must sign up in advance for the evening and Saturday sessions.** Please call Carol Miller (978 369-3755) for more information and/or to sign up.

YOUTH ACTIVITIES

SUNDAY NIGHT YOUTH GROUP

Sunday, November 2 7:00 - 8:30 p.m.
Youth Group

Sunday, November 9 7:00 - 8:30 p.m.
Youth Group

Sunday, November 23 7:00 - 8:30 p.m.
Youth Group

Sunday, November 30 7:00 - 8:30 p.m.
Youth Group

Friday, November 14 8:00 p.m. to
Saturday, November 15 9:00 a.m.
Youth Group Lock-In

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. All high schoolers are welcome.

CONFIRMATION CLASS IN NOVEMBER

Sunday, November 2 5:00 p.m. – 7:00 p.m.

Confirmands and Mentors

The Bible

Read: *Words for the Journey*

Chapter 18, The Really Hard Parts
of the Bible

Chapter 19, The Apostle Paul

Sunday, November 9 5:00 p.m. – 7:00 p.m.

Confirmands

Jesus

Read: *Words for the Journey*

Chapter 2, Jesus

Sunday, November 23 11:30 a.m. – 1:30 p.m.

Service Project:

Cooking for the United Homes Shelter
Meet in the church kitchen at 11:30 a.m.
(right after church) to cook for the Men's
Shelter in Dorchester.

Sunday, November 23 4:30 p.m. – 7:30 p.m.

A small group of kids and mentors will deliver and serve the meal. Sign up in advance!

Questions? Call or e-mail Rev. Karin Case •
(978) 369-4837 • revdrkarin@aol.com



WITH SYMPATHY

**West Virginia Mission Trip
Appalachian South Folklife Center
April 18 - 25, 2009**

This year our Mission Trip Team will be going to the **Appalachian South Folklife Center in Pipestem, West Virginia**. The trip is open to all TriCon senior high students and other high school kids who participate regularly in our youth group.

Your application and \$100 deposit are due by November 1st.

Our first Mission Trip meetings are on Sunday November 16th.

- ❖ 12:30 - 2:00 p.m.
Meeting for Mission Trip kids
- ❖ 2:00 - 2:30 p.m.
**Informational meeting for
Mission Trip parents**

Please contact us if you have any questions

Nick Bruning triconnb@aol.com (978) 618-1629	Rev. Karin Case revdrkarin@aol.com (978) 369-4837
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Sincere sympathy to Cheryl Shea and Ross Lilley and their families. Their father, our member, Ted Lilley, died on September 25th. Services were held in NJ.

Our thoughts and prayers are with Lori, Bruce and Carter Hack. Lori's mother, Grace Livermore, died on October 17. Services were held at TriCon on October 22.

ITEMS OF INTEREST

THANK YOU ALL

I want to thank everyone involved in making the *Al Filipov Peace and Justice Forum* on September 20 a success. I am especially grateful to the forum committee who worked so hard all year, the reception committee, the deacons, ushers and, most of all, those who attended the forum.

I am truly blessed to be part of this church community.

Loretta Filipov

**ONGOING CLEAN UP
— IN OUR BASEMENT —**

LIFE CHANGES

Our church basement sustained major water damage during the summer rains and repair work is now in progress. Therefore, the lower level is off limits for an extended period of time. We appreciate your patience.



The Season of Giving Catalog

Once again, this holiday season, we will be publishing our Season of Giving catalog. The catalog contains the information for a number of worthwhile causes any of which you may want to include on your Christmas list.

Whether you are interested in purchasing Cambodian bags, African crafts, or giving gifts to City Mission Society, Concord prisoners, or food for the hungry, you will find these and other worthwhile causes in our Season of Giving catalog. Watch for it in your mail.

Hats off to our own **Charity (Spielberg) Tremblay** for writing, directing, producing and creating the props for our Stewardship skit on October 5th! **David (Damon) Hart** was outstanding as the harried truck driver; **Chuck (Pavarotti) Stevenson** was in full voice in the role of Good Samaritan and **Tussie (Jolie) Williams** gave a truly angelic performance. Last, but not least, **Anne Keesler** carried the day (or at least the truck)!

If you missed the skit, the message is that like a truck, TriCon runs on fuel - the fuel, in our case, being the gifts and pledges of all of our parishioners that keep the church running. Check out the truck in the parish hall and please, do your part to fuel it up!

ATTENTION
CHRISTMAS SHOPPERS

STEPHEN MINISTRY CORNER

When I think about what is happening in world financial markets and, particularly, in our own economy, I am reminded of the title of a book -- "Things Fall Apart" by Chinua Achebe - about the disintegration of traditional tribal life in Nigeria. Things really have fallen apart, haven't they? People all over America are afraid of losing their homes, jobs, health insurance, and/or their retirement funds. If the banks foreclose on their home, *where* will they live? If they are laid off from their jobs or their pension fund disappears, *how* will they live? How will they pay their heating bill throughout the long New England winter? What if they get sick? Medical expenses could literally ruin them. And will the new President make things better? These are not hypothetical speculations, but rather urgent questions on the minds of so many right now.

The current financial meltdown has left many of us feeling vulnerable and disillusioned. After all, we've done everything we were supposed to do. We got a job (or a succession of increasingly responsible jobs), we've saved up enough money to buy a home, we assumed that we had made adequate provisions for our retirement years, and now, all that is in jeopardy.

With so much outside our control, what can we do? We can, of course, melt down into a state of depression, panic, anger or paralysis. Personally, I believe, as State Representative Cory Atkins was quoted as saying in the October 16 *Concord Journal* "We're in this together." We at TriCon are all part of a faith community, and our clergy, our Stephen Ministry and the Caring Connection are some of the ways in which our church can reach out and support us during hard times. Stephen Ministers can help by listening to the details of our specific crisis, the feelings engendered by that crisis, and our ideas for

addressing the problems. It can be a tremendous relief to share worries with an understanding and confidential listener, and empowering to have someone to talk with about possible solutions.

Call Carol Gupta at (978) 371-0018; Demi Ayres at (978) 369-4250 or Leslie Ackles at (978) 369-1655 for more information or to request a Stephen Minister.

LIBRARY AND BOOK GROUP NEWS



Reading the Spirit book group will not be meeting in November. If you have questions about the book group, please contact any member of the library committee – Susan Bates, Alice Hatch, Diane Leahy, Pat Watson, or Marty Gilpatrick Wolf.

And feel free to visit the library whenever the church is open. We are continually adding new materials and are in the process of updating our catalogue.

NEWS FROM MATT DIBATTISTA

Our choir tenor, Matt DiBattista, will star in Boston Lyric Opera's "Tales of Hoffmann" by Offenbach, opening November 7th (http://www.blo.org/season0809_hoffmann.html). Having sung the part of the Valet Tenors in last summer's production by Opera Theatre of St. Louis, Matt will sing the role a third time for Opera Colorado. He will also be the featured singer for the Portland (Maine) Symphony's "Magic of Christmas" concerts (<http://www.portlandsymphony.com/EvtCatAll3+13.html>)

BAILOUT BILL EXTENDS QUALIFIED CHARITABLE CONTRIBUTIONS PROVISIONS

Part of the recent financial system legislation was the extension of the 2006 Pension Protection Act provisions allowing for direct transfer of 'qualified charitable contributions' to public charities. That legislation provides that persons over age 70 ½ and wishing to make direct gifts of funds in their IRAs and qualified plans may continue to do for 2008 and 2009.

There is a \$100,000 per year limitation and charities have to be full section 501(c)(3) charities, such as Trinitarian. (Charitable remainder trusts and the like do not qualify.)

The gifts satisfy the required minimum distribution requirement, so if you haven't withdrawn your distribution this year, you can send it directly to charity and never have to take the funds into income. Note that inherited IRAs also qualify for making such gifts, as long as the beneficiary is over 70 ½.

As you may remember from the previous discussion, if you have both before-tax and after-tax contributions in your IRA or qualified plan, a special ordering rule allows you to use for these direct gifts to charity only those funds that would be tax income taxable to you when withdrawn. The after-tax contributions remain there so that you can withdraw them later tax-free.

The advantage of making the direct transfer is you avoid the charitable contribution income limitations. If your charitable gifts would be larger than 50% of your adjusted gross income, you wouldn't be able to deduct the full gift in this year even though you were fully taxed on the amount withdrawn to make the gift. Also you avoid the 2%

'haircut'(reduction) in your itemized deductions if those deductions exceed the ceiling for full deduction.

Finally, the Church will gratefully credit your Pledge Account for next several years in advance if you wish. Or you might consider a contribution to the Church Endowment Fund or to our organ replacement or repair fund. Income from the Endowment Fund is an important source of support to our budget, and as everyone knows, we face major organ replacement costs in the very near future. Just remember to make the gift before the end of the year. Better yet, give \$100,000 this year and another \$100,000 in 2009.

Mitch Eckel, Treasurer

BENEDICTION: AN ANTHOLOGY OF FIRST THOUGHTS AND LAST WORDS

Have you ever wondered what you would say to others at the conclusion of a rich and full life? Given the chance, what wisdom, counsel, encouragement, and faith acquired over many years of life and living would you commend to those nearest and dearest or to the neighbor next door or a world away?

Over the summer a number of TriCon members and friends wrote "benedictions" (300-350 words) as a way of passing on to future generations certain essential learnings, and insights gleaned over time from God-centered and grace-filled

living. These inspirational pieces, along with others submitted over the next few months, will be gathered into a booklet entitled, Benediction: An Anthology of First Thoughts and Last Words to be produced in 2009.

You are invited to be part of this special project, contributing your own original reflection on this fascinating and engaging topic. For more information contact John ~~Lombard.~~
