

The Newsletter

Trinitarian Congregational Church
54 Walden Street
Concord, MA 01742

978-369-4837, Fax 978-287-0406
www.triconchurch.org
triconchurch@aol.com



January 2009

THE PASTORAL PERSPECTIVE

Two former presidents gave advice to their successors in the White House. Gerald R. Ford wrote: "Dear Mr. President, the biggest part of a President's job is to make the hard calls nobody else will." Jimmy Carter advised: "You have the opportunity to regain world leadership as the acknowledged champion of peace."

Though Harry S. Truman once said, "Most Presidents have received more advice than they can possibly use," let me add one more. On February 8, 1797, the day that John Adams, as President of the Senate, had to announce his own election to the Presidency of the United States, his wife Abigail was at home in Quincy and she wrote to him with glowing pride. Her advice to him was in the form of a prayer:

"You have this day to declare yourself head of a nation. 'And now, O Lord my God, thou hast made thy servant ruler over the people. Give unto him an understanding heart, that he may discern between good and bad.' My thoughts are with you, John, and my petitions to heaven are that 'The things which make for peace may not be hidden from your eyes.'"

We join Jimmy Carter and Abigail Adams in prayers for peace, a work to be undertaken not only by the President-elect of our country but also by all of the people who live in this great country and want an active and just peace to prevail here and throughout the world. Prayer needs action to help get answers and results. Let us pray for peace and act for peace. This is not the responsibility of just our leaders, but of all of us.

Yours in hope and action for peace,

JANUARY WORSHIP

January 4 COMMUNION	Service at 8:30 Service at 10:00	Prayer and Holy Communion Rev. Dr. John Lombard preaching
January 11	Service at 8:30 Service at 10:00	Prayer and Holy Communion Rev. Dr. John Lombard preaching
January 18	Service at 8:30 Service at 10:00	Prayer and Holy Communion Chuck Willie preaching
January 25	Service at 8:30 Service at 10:00	Prayer and Holy Communion Rev. Dr. Margaret Crockett preaching

Living into Our Faith; Faithful and Grateful

Stewardship Update

We have received pledges and gifts to date totaling \$760,000. This is a wonderful commitment to our shared ministry and we are grateful to all who support and maintain the mission and work of our community of faith.

This total, however, is \$9,000 below last year's pledge total. We know that these are difficult economic times for many but if some of us are able to increase our commitment for 2009, we can still match last year's so that we can preserve our programs, activities and commitment to Mission. A special thank you to those who have already responded with an increased pledge.

If you wish to made a pledge or increase your pledge, just indicate so on one of the pledge cards available in the narthex or parish hall sign-up table and leave it in the church office or email Judy Walpole at triconjw@aol.com.

Thank You!

EVENTS AND OPPORTUNITIES

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” a child’s feelings
- ❖ Learn how to encourage parishioners to “tell their own story” in church groups

Leaders of small groups and church committees are encouraged to attend!

The deadline for the
February Newsletter
is January 15.



Spiritual Enrichment meets in the church parlor on Monday mornings at 9:45 a.m. (except on holidays when the church is closed). Newcomers always welcome! Come once, come often!

Monday, January 5 – a celebration of Epiphany and the Annual Wassail Party at Marsha Martin’s home – 10:00 -2:00 – with one of Marsha’s special holiday meals. Contact Marsha at 978 897-6142 or marshamartin@yahoo.com if you would like to attend. You must RSVP to Marsha.

Monday, January 12
“Defining moments: the Baptism of Christ”
Diane Frost, facilitator

Monday, January 19
Church closed for Martin Luther King Day

Monday, January 26
“Contemplative Prayer”
Chris Upton, facilitator

THE SACRAMENT OF BAPTISM

Baptisms will take place at TriCon on Sunday, January 11 and Father’s Day, Sunday, June 21. If you would like to have your child baptized on either of these dates, or you would like to be baptized yourself, please call the church office (by January 5 for the January 22 date).



Baptismal Sundays are held several times over the course of the year. The church office can provide you with more information.

WOULD YOU LIKE TO BE A LITURGIST?

Have you ever thought about being a liturgist but may be a bit shy about speaking in public? Then join us on **Sunday, January 11th**, immediately after worship in the sanctuary where John Lombard will lead a brief session on this important ministry of our church. You'll have an opportunity to stand in the pulpit, read from the large Bible, and test the sound enhancement system. Learn some tricks of the trade. Share your talents with the congregation by being a Liturgist. It is a blessed gift. Sign up in the parish hall.



UNITED HOMES SHELTER MEALS

We provide a hot meal once a month to the 120 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 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:

- January 11
- February 1
- March 1

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.

AN INVITATION TO NEWCOMERS

If you are new to TriCon or have been attending for some time but are not yet a member, please read on! We encourage you to learn more about our congregational mission and ministries, to get involved in a group within the church, and to explore the significance of being a member.

To help you get to know others, you may attend the "welcoming coffee" in the church parlor on **Sunday, January 11** following the worship service.

Our intention is to make you feel welcome, to answer questions you may have, and to help you develop relationships within the church. If you have questions, please call Susan Henderson, Chair of the Membership Committee, at 978-369-4854, or call Mary Lou Esposito, Membership Coordinator, at the church office 978-369-4837.

RETIRED MEN'S GROUP

The Retired Men's Group will meet for lunch on Wednesday, January 14 at noon in the parish hall.

The speaker will be Dan Sack, Director of Concord Light and Power who will speak about the problems facing the power company in the fall of 2009. Come and bring a friend for good food, good fellowship and an interesting program.



MEN'S

LUNCH

If you have not attended these luncheons before and would like to attend on January 14, please call Robert Nelson (978 369-3105) or Charles Davis (978 369-6250) by January 9. The cost of the lunch is \$8.00.

KNITTING GROUP



Wednesday, January 14, 2:00 p.m.

Everyone from beginner to expert is welcome to join the knitting group in the church parlor. Bring your own project or work on something to give away. We have needles and yarn.

FIRESIDE CHAT

Thursday, January 15, 7:00-8:30 p.m.

"How to live faithfully in an economic downturn?" is a question on many minds these days, and most of us are not alone in our thinking. If you would like to join friends, neighbors, fellow parishioners, and the clergy in considering the role of faith in challenging times, then join us for informal conversation and a fireside chat in the parlor on Thursday, January 15, 7:00 – 8:30 p.m. While there will be no formal program or presentation, the simple act of being together, learning from one another, and sharing questions, concerns, and insights may well be a helpful and encouraging gatherer for challenging times. Childcare will be provided by giving the church office the number and ages of children by January 12 or by signing up in the parish hall.

EVANGELICALS 101

Wednesdays, January 21 and 28
7:30 p.m. in the church parlor

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? Learn about the beliefs, history, and future of a group that includes more than 25% of Americans. Facilitated by Steve Silver. Sign up in the parish hall.

RING IN THE NEW YEAR WITH SINGING!

**Senior Choir's winter season begins
Thursday, January 22 - 7:45-9:15 p.m.**

Beat the winter doldrums --sing in the choir! In addition to Thursday rehearsals, on most Sunday mornings the choir gathers at 9:15 to prepare for that



morning's service. All choral singers (including high school students) are welcome to join us, or just to come and check us out. And we really "roll out the red carpet" for tenors and basses!

Our repertoire ranges from Renaissance motets to spirituals, from classical masterworks to jazz, and from works of Bach sung in German to African songs in Zulu or Bantu. For the most accomplished singers among us, there are also solo or small ensemble opportunities.

Choir members make a commitment to attending most rehearsals and services. Perfect attendance is never expected, but accountability is. Singers are asked to let the director know about their schedule conflicts in advance whenever possible, so that she can plan accordingly. Three-day weekends are often "no choir" Sundays.

Please contact Music Director Vickie Wagner (vwag@aol.com, 978-369-4837 x227) if you would like to sing with us, so she will know how to reach you and can have a music folder prepared for you.

WOMEN'S RETREAT AT KRIPALU

January 23 - 25, 2009

We are planning another Retreat and Renewal weekend at Kripalu in the Berkshires!

- * Wake, stretch, and stroll down the hall to a morning Kripalu Yoga class.
- * Participate in a workshop or get outdoors on a guided hiking or skiing excursion.
- * Spend some quiet time alone, enjoy a meditation walk.
- * Schedule yourself a Healing Arts (massage, reflexology) appointment.
- * Use Kripalu amenities: sauna, whirlpool, fitness room, private lakefront beach, walking and hiking trails, and more.
- * Meet up with the group for delicious, healthy meals in the dining room.
- * Enjoy the lake and mountain views and comfy chairs in front of sunny windows.

We will arrange carpools closer to the time!

Accommodations: We hope to get a room that will hold just our group. Private rooms and rooms with baths also available.

Cost: Includes all meals, accommodations, use of facilities, and events and classes. Cost varies depending on accommodations. We should easily have enough attendees to receive a 20% group discount!

Registration: Call Kripalu at 1-800-741-7353 and press 1 (program registration). Our group name is "TriCon." They will charge 50% to your credit card now. The remaining will be charged five days prior to our arrival.

More Info: For detailed information about activities and accommodations go to: <http://www.kripalu.org/article/118> or contact Kathy Manley at 781-684-0554 or KathleenManley@verizon.net.

STEPHEN MINISTRIES PRESENTS

*You or a Loved One has Just Been
Diagnosed with Cancer, Now What?*

Wednesday, February 4, 7:15 p.m.

Statistics suggest that many of us have been and/or will be affected by cancer in our lifetime, either as a patient or caregiver. This discussion, presented by TriCon Church member Dr. Ronald Takvorian, offers a rare opportunity to hear from an expert in the field. Dr. Takvorian is an oncologist at Mass General Hospital where his work represents the cutting edge of cancer research and treatment.

Please sign up in the parish hall.

ANNUAL MEETING Sunday, February 8



The 2008 Annual Meeting will take place in the sanctuary on Sunday, February 8, after the 10:00 a.m. service. We will adjourn for fellowship and refreshments following the completion of the business portion of the meeting. Childcare will be provided in the Church School wing during the meeting.

IN JESUS' NAME

2009 SERMON SERIES AT TRICON

February 22

Mr. Alexander Levering Kern,
Executive Director,
Cooperative Metropolitan Ministries

March 29

The Rev. Jack Johnson,
Executive Director
Massachusetts Council of Churches, Boston

April 26

The Rev. June Cooper
Executive Director
City Mission Society, Boston

May 31

The Rev. Anne Robertson,
Executive Director
Massachusetts Bible Society, Boston

LIFE CHANGES

NEW BABIES

Congratulations to Matt and Chandler Fritz on the November 2nd birth of Eliot Ames. Eliot joins his siblings, Phoebe and Miles. Proud grandparents are Rick and Martie Fritz.



Best wishes to Michael and Sarah Lynch. Their son, Charles Michael, was born on December 12. Beaming grandmother is Barbara Lynch.

IN SYMPATHY

Sincere sympathy to the family of our member, Harriet Helsher, who died on December 15. Services will be held in the Spring.

YOUTH ACTIVITIES

SUNDAY NIGHT YOUTH GROUP

Sunday, January 4 Youth Group	7:00 - 8:30 p.m.
Sunday, January 11 Youth Group	7:00 - 8:30 p.m.
Monday, January 19 Martin Luther King Day Youth Group	7:00 - 8:30 p.m.
Sunday, January 25 Youth Group	7:00 - 8:30 p.m.
Saturday, January 31- Sunday, February 1	7:00 p.m. - 10:00 a.m.
Homelessness Sleep Out	



SENIOR HIGH MISSION TRIP Appalachian South Folklife Center April 18 - 25, 2009

Schedule of preparatory meetings —
all participants are required to attend!

Sunday, January 11 Mission Trip Meeting (balance of fee due)	12:30 - 2:00 p.m.
Sunday, March 1 Mission Trip Meeting	12:30 - 2:00 p.m.
Saturday, March 14 SHINDIG AND FUNDRAISER	6:30 - 9:00 p.m.
Sunday, March 22 Mission Trip Meeting	12:30 - 2:00 p.m.
Sunday, April 5 Commissioning of the 2009 Mission Trip Team during the 11:00 a.m. service	11:00 a.m.
Sunday, April 5 Mission Trip Meeting	12:30 - 2:30 p.m.

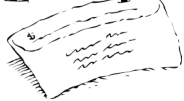
IF YOU'RE IN THE HOSPITAL

Federal regulations designed to protect the privacy of all hospital patients make it more difficult for clergy and our hospital visitors to identify church members who are hospitalized. If you, or a member of your family, are hospitalized be sure to identify yourself as affiliated with the congregational church when you check into the hospital. This is the only way we have of finding you unless you contact us directly.

It is always advisable to call the church in the event of a hospitalization leaving the patient name (and room number if possible). If you are a patient in a hospital other than Emerson Hospital in Concord, it is particularly important that you let us know where you are and if you want visitation.

OFFERING ENVELOPES

Offering Envelopes



Whether you choose to pay your pledge on a weekly, monthly, quarterly or irregular basis, it is extremely helpful to the folks who count and record the weekly collection if you use the offering envelopes. Offering envelopes for 2009 may be picked up in the parish hall. If you would like to receive envelopes but are unable to pick them up, please call the church office (978 369-4837) and we will make other arrangements for you.

A Special THANK YOU

Dear TriCon Friends,

Thank you for your support while was an In Care Student, and for your generous Ordination gift of the beautiful stole. To those who attended my ordination on September 28, special thanks for coming at such a busy time in the church year.

Please know that you would be most welcome anytime you'd like to visit Standish Congregational Church, UCC, located at 25 Oak Hill Road near the intersection of Rts. 25 and 35 in Standish, Maine. Morning worship begins at 9:30 a.m., year-round.

I wish you blessings and peace in the New Year!

Cynthia Bland Biggar

FROM THE CHURCH OFFICE

Tuesday, January 20, the church office will open at 1:00 p.m. Please leave messages on the answering service.

WATER DAMAGE / PROPERTY UPDATE

Water, Water Everywhere -Part 2



Work continues in the lower level where we sustained extensive water damage this summer and early fall. As we reported last month, we are not only doing repairs but are putting extensive measures in place to avoid future problems. While some of the work, particularly the outside portion, will need to wait until spring, we continue to anticipate being able to again use the lower level space by late January or early February.

The good news- the changes that have been made have proved effective during “test” conditions – the recent heavy rains and snow storms! And we have received an insurance payment of \$45,000.

The not-so-good news –we continue to expect the total costs will approach \$100,000. We have also encountered some new and continuing water problems in some of the un-occupied spaces in the basement. The storage area off the men’s room continues to see infiltration and we anticipate further foundation excavation to trace and eliminate the source.

Additionally, a new, or perhaps, old, but newly visible, problem has surfaced in the area off the youth room –space excavated to allow access to the unexcavated crawl space under the parish hall. This is unoccupied space, so it is not a major issue and will not impact our occupancy of the lower level but clearly, it needs to be resolved.

Meanwhile, water continues to plague us with ice dams on the parish hall roof in the back of the building resulting in water damage in the administrative office and even more significant damage to the parish hall in the area near the sign-up tables. The potential for even more damage was greatly mitigated by the efforts of Gordon Shaw and Bob Clarke who gamely shoveled the roof and broke up the ice dams, after having shoveled, and shoveled, the steps, walks and ramps!

We have tried several “fixes” to address these roof issues, including a complete re-roofing of the flat roof where the parish hall and sanctuary roofs come together, but this continues to be a problem area. The Property Committee is looking into heat cables that present their own set of issues but may be the best solution for a perennially difficult problem.

Clearly, property issues are going to be a major focus for the coming year. Stay tuned!

Together, We Can End Homelessness in Massachusetts

Fifth Annual Forum on Family Homelessness

Sunday, January 25, 2009

7:00-8:45 PM

Trinity Episcopal Church, 81 Elm Street, Concord.



- Overall, **96,000 children** in Massachusetts have no permanent home, according to a July 2007 report by the Massachusetts Department of Education. Some stay in shelters & motels. Others are doubled up with relatives, sleep in cars or campgrounds, or move from one friend to another.
- Family homelessness has risen by **50%** in Massachusetts. Every night: **1,900** homeless families are in shelters; more than **600** homeless families stay in motels.
- Still, homelessness can be ended. There are strategies that work!

*Keynote Speaker: State Rep. Byron Rushing, Asst. Majority Whip,
and Co-chairman, Mass. Commission to End Homelessness*

Rep. Byron Rushing, an engaging and charismatic speaker, will describe the visions, goals, conclusions and recommendations of the Massachusetts Commission to End Homelessness. These goals include ending the widespread use of shelters and motels and increasing affordable housing opportunities. He also will tell us about initial steps in the implementation of the Commission's recommendations -- and **shed light on what concerned people can do to end homelessness**. The forum is free & open to all. Refreshments at 7pm; program will begin promptly at 7:10pm.

Questions? Call Carl Miller (978)-369-3755 or Frank Austin at (978)-263-0182

Sponsored by: Advocacy Network to End Family Homelessness & Cooperative Metropolitan Ministries.

Supporters: Domestic Violence Services Network, Concord Academy; Concord Carlisle High School, Concord Housing Development Corporation; Concord-Carlisle Human Rights Council; League of Women Voters of Concord-Carlisle; Nashoba Brooks School; Open Table; and a host of local faith communities including:

Concord/Carlisle: Carlisle Congregational Church; First Parish in Concord, Social Action Committee; First Religious Society; Holy Family Parish; Kerem Shalom Congregation, Social Action Committee; St. Irene's Catholic Church; Trinitarian Congregational Church; Trinity Episcopal Church; West Concord Union Church; **Acton:** Acton Congregational Church; Church of the Good Shepherd; So. Acton Congregational Church, St. Matthew's Methodist Church; St. Elizabeth of Hungary Parish; West Acton Baptist Church;

Sudbury: St. Elizabeth Episcopal Church; Sudbury United Methodist Church; Sudbury Presbyterian Church; **Lincoln:** First Parish Church; **Bedford:** First Church of Christ UCC, First Parish, Unitarian Universalist; St. Paul's Episcopal Church; **Lexington:** Pilgrim Congregational Church; United Methodist Church

