

The Newsletter

Trinitarian Congregational Church
54 Walden Street
Concord, MA 01742

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February 2009

THE PASTORAL PERSPECTIVE

While January 6th, Twelfth Night, designates Epiphany in the liturgical calendar, the weeks following (including all those in February) constitute a whole season devoted to recalling the coming of God into the world imaged as the coming of a brilliant light. That light, the gift of God, carries transformative power. It not only illuminates a darkened world for the faithful but draws "outsiders" to its light. God's people live in its glow and become a presence of that light in the world.

Light is a great metaphor for the life of faith, both in its manifestation and its effect. I was recently bicycling predawn near the junction of Commonwealth Avenue and Lawsbrook Road in West Concord. A large, solid white delivery truck emerged out of the darkness. While it appeared pure white from a distance, under the light of the streetlamp wording was revealed beneath the white paint indicating an earlier identity to this truck. You could only discern the true identity of the truck, however, by virtue of the light illuminating the vehicle and making visible what otherwise was its hidden identity. Might the same hold true in our own lives of faith in the light of Christ's manifestation? Might we be revealed for who we truly are as Christian disciples and be recognized as such?

I also have discovered on my early morning or late night bike rides that there are a couple of locations I pass which, thanks to sensors or motion detectors, respond to my presence by the automatic turning on of lights over doorways or on lampposts. As a person of faith, it is interesting to ponder the notion that not only does light reveal one's true identity as a Christian, but one's actual presence as a believer may illuminate the larger world for others simply by manifesting a faith-filled presence.



Matthew 5:14

Jesus said, "You are the light of the world....let your light shine before others, so that they may see your good works and give glory to your Father in heaven." In this season of life, might we all lay claim to an illuminating faith? May we, in 2009, truly embrace the Light of the World manifested in our life as Christians. May we fully embody it as disciples of Christ. And may we express it in the words we say, the lives we lead, and the deeds we undertake in an ongoing quest to disperse the darkness in our lives and illuminate the larger world with the light of hope and promise.

Blessings,

FEBRUARY WORSHIP

February 1 COMMUNION	Service at 8:30 Service at 10:00	Healing Service for those dealing with cancer Rev. Dr. John Lombard preaching
February 8	Service at 8:30 Service at 10:00	Prayer and Holy Communion Steve Silver preaching
February 15	Service at 8:30 Service at 10:00	Prayer and Holy Communion Rev. Dr. John Lombard preaching
February 22	Service at 8:30 Service at 10:00	Prayer and Holy Communion Alexander Levering Kern preaching

Ash 
Wednesday
February 25 - 7:30 p.m.

This simple and moving service offers a meaningful departure point from which to embark upon a Lenten journey. Communion will be celebrated and ashes distributed to those who wish to receive them.

Living into Our Faith: Faithful and Grateful

Stewardship Update

Thanks to all who pledged or made donations, we now have commitments of \$766,400 just \$2,600 short of our 2008 pledge figure. That, combined with anticipated increased rental income and some budget adjustments, has allowed the Finance Committee to propose a balanced budget for 2009 that maintains programs, keeps the 20% of pledge goal for Mission and allows a modest cost-of-living increase for the staff. Given the difficult economic times and the initial outlook on the stewardship drive, we feel very fortunate. Proving again, together, we can accomplish much!

This year for the first time in several years, we returned to the so-called “pony express” system where most of our pledging units received a pouch at their home to pass on to a neighbor. We heard a few nice stories of people meeting someone they hadn’t known before or didn’t know lived near them and one person, we are told, even got invited to join a neighborhood book group!

The pouch method requires a good deal of up-front work in organizing the routes and a lot of people power to implement (thank you, thank you to our 77 dispatchers – we could not have done it without you!). It does, however, produce faster results and requires much less follow-up – fewer phone calls for you and for the committee!

We are interested in your input. Did you like this method of soliciting pledges or not? What could we do to make it better or what could we do instead? If you were on a route and prefer not to be, tell us or likewise, if you received materials by mail and would rather be on a route, tell us that. Please send any comments, positive or negative to the church office by mail, drop off in the collection plate or email triconchurch@aol.com. Thank you.

EVENTS AND OPPORTUNITIES



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:

- 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.

CANDLELIGHTING FOR LENT

The Lenten Wreath ceremony performed each Sunday in Lent by the extinguishing of candles, celebrates the passion of Jesus Christ, events leading up to the Crucifixion and, ultimately, Easter. Individuals, couples, families and other groups are welcome to take part in the Lenten Wreath ceremony. If you are interested please contact the church office.



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, February 2

“Empowered to Step Forth in Faith”
Deana Kohl, facilitator

Monday, February 9

“Unique Ministry in KwaZulu Natal, South Africa”
Ruthann Hall, facilitator

Monday, February 16 – no meeting
Church closed for Presidents’ Day

Monday, February 23

We welcome Jeremiah Rood, our Seminary Intern, who will share his journey of faith.

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.

**Warrant for the Annual Meeting
Sunday, February 8th, 2009, 11:00 am**

To the Members of the
**Trinitarian Congregational Church
in Concord**
County of Middlesex
Commonwealth of Massachusetts

You are hereby notified that the Annual Meeting of said church will be held on Sunday morning, the *eighth of February, 2009, at 11:00 am immediately following the 10:00 am worship service for the following purposes, to wit:

Article 1. To receive and act upon reports of the Church officers and committees.

Article 2. To choose all necessary Church officers and committees for the church year 2009.

Article 3. To appropriate money for all Church expenses and to determine the manner of raising same.

Article 4. To elect a Search Committee to seek and recommend to the congregation a candidate for Associate Minister.

Article 5. To transact any other business which may legally come before said meeting.

Molly Molloy Ehrlich, Clerk
Concord, Massachusetts
January, 2009

* Snow date: Monday, February 9, 7:30pm

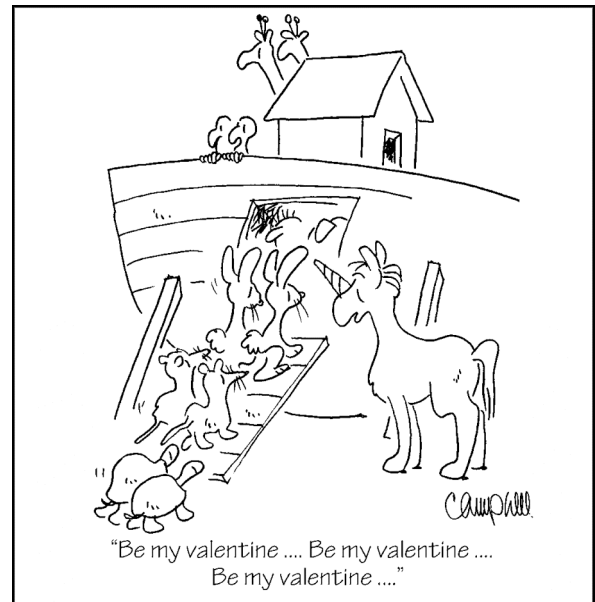
RETIRED MEN'S GROUP

The Retired Men's Group will meet for lunch on Wednesday, February 11 at noon. The speaker will be Charles Davis whose presentation will be on Newfoundland.

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 February 11, please call Robert Nelson (978 369-3105) or Charles Davis (978 369-6250) by February 6. The cost of the lunch is \$8.00.



The deadline for the
March Newsletter
is February 15.



KNITTING GROUP

Wednesday,
February 18, 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.



IN JESUS' NAME

2009 SERMON SERIES AT TRICON

February 22

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

March 29

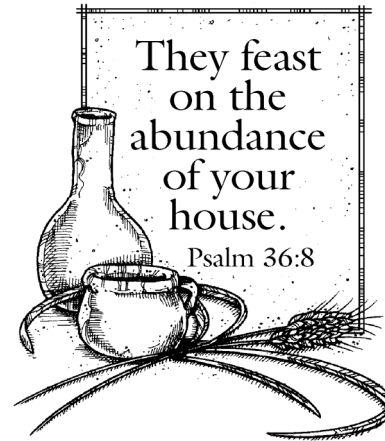
The Rev. Jack Johnson,
Executive Director
Massachusetts Council of Churches, Boston

April 26

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

May 31

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



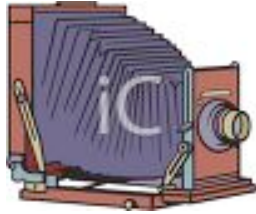
GOD'S GRACIOUS FEAST & EXTRAVAGANT HOSPITALITY

Special March 1st Worship Service and Luncheon

The Sunday morning service of worship on March 1st, a Communion Sunday and the first Sunday in Lent, will be designed around the theme of all of us being invited to God's table. Following the service, everyone is invited to enjoy a simple meal together in the parish hall.

You may sign up in the parish hall or by calling the church office leaving your name and number attending.

Several volunteers are needed to help organize the lunch (simple soup, salad, dessert). Please contact the church office or Marsha Martin if you would be willing to help with this important piece of the service.



WOMEN'S UNION PRESENTS "An Appraisal Day"

Wednesday, March 4 at noon

Join us for a warm, wintry lunch
with Auctioneer, Douglas W. Stinson

Verbal appraisals of family heirlooms and "attic treasures" plus a talk on the current state of the antiques, fine art and auction marketplace. Two small items per person, please. Bring photos of larger items. (NO coins, stamps, ethnographic items, or weapons.)

\$8.00 per person.

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

OUT OF THE CATACOMBS

Wednesdays, March 4, 11, 18, 25
7:30 – 9:00 p.m.



Prayer is supposed to be easy, but then why doesn't it come naturally? The early Christians didn't so much as offer a new church, but a new way of life. Early Christians approached their understanding of God through practices and prayer. Their ways can offer help to people today seeking more meaning in their lives and a closer connection to God.

Join our Seminary Intern, Jeremiah Rood, for this four-week series which will offer insight into life two thousand years ago and consider how it connects to us today. After a night of introduction, the series will consider the three stages outlined in Brian McClaren's new book "Finding Our Way Again: The Return of the Ancient Practices" and will focus on journaling, Bible reading, and prayer. Purchasing the book is not required, but encouraged. Copies are available in the church office.

This series is geared towards those people who are excited about seeing what faith can offer beyond Sunday morning.

While attendance is encouraged at all four sessions, coming to one or two will also be meaningful. Sign up in the parish hall or call the church office.



*In Christ There Are Many Members,
Yet One Body*

Friday, March 6, 2009, 11:00 a.m.

TriCon Church

Followed by a luncheon

**This year's service was written by
the women of Papua New Guinea.**

Any women interested in planning or participating in the World Day of Prayer service, serving as ushers, or helping with lunch are encouraged to contact the church office or Marsha Martin.



"Renewal"

Friday, March 6 – 7:00 p.m.

The Filipov Forum and the Christian Education Committee are pleased to co-sponsor our March movie night. The film

"Renewal" is the first feature-length documentary to capture the breadth and vitality of America's emerging religious-environmental movement. Veteran film producers Marty Ostrow and Terry Kay Rockefeller and their crews crisscrossed the country to capture stories of people whose passion and deep moral commitment are make a difference in this time of grave ecological peril. Offering a profound message of hope, "Renewal" shows individuals and communities driven by the deepest source of inspiration - their religious and spiritual commitment – being called to re-examine what it means to be human and how we live on this planet.

We are thrilled that one of the film's producers, Terry Kay Rockefeller, will be joining us for a discussion after the film. Terry has been producing documentaries (many for PBS) for more than 25 years.

Light refreshments will be served. Please sign up in the parish hall.



**St. Patrick's
Day
March 17**

Mark your calendars for our St. Patrick's Day Tea. Everyone is welcome to join us at 2:00 p.m. on March 17. See the next edition of The Newsletter and upcoming Sunday Events & Comments for more information.

An Exciting Opportunity
for the Women of the Church
Access Your Inner Wisdom

by
Finding the Deep River Within

A seminar facilitated by Leslie Ackles, M.Ed.

Informational Session

Tuesday, March 17th 6:45 p.m. – 8:30pm –
church parlor

Come and hear about this inspiring and liberating approach to searching for balance in life and learn a little about what will be more fully explored in a day-long session:

Full Day Session

Saturday, March 21st in the church parlor
8:45am – 4pm (break for lunch)

Beneath the busyness of our daily lives flows a “deep river” that can

- Inspire creativity for a hobby or a new career
- Clarify what matters most and your life’s purpose
- Open you to inner peace
- Heal illnesses

Based on Psychotherapist Abby Seixas’s new book, *Finding the Deep River Within: A Woman’s Guide to Recovering Balance and Meaning in Everyday Life*, this seminar is ideal for women who would like to learn *The Art of Slowing Down*.

Explore ways to free yourself from the tyranny of “To-Do’s.” Come enjoy readings, meditative exercises, discussion, creative expression, humor and support.

Sign-up (required) in the parish hall by 3/15. Participants in the full session need to also attend the Informational Session. A \$20 fee for full day participants covers an autographed copy of Abby Sexias’s book and work shop materials. Checks may be made out to the church and marked “Deep River”.

Questions? Contact Leslie Anne Ackles at leslie@oasisconsultant.com or 978-371-1655.

LIFE CHANGES

NEW BABY



Best wishes to Richard and Marcy Eckel on the December 26th birth of their daughter, Sydney Farrar.

Happy grandparents are Mitch and Susan Eckel.



Just Married!

Congratulations to Burton Bates and Marie Grosso who were married in Salem, MA on New Year’s Eve with Rev. Dr. John Lombard officiating. Burton is the son of Tom and Susan Bates.

WITH SYMPATHY

Sincere condolences to Barbara and Richard Wenzel. Barbara’s mother, Annabelle Schwer, died on December 7 in Hilton Head, SC. A memorial service was held on December 15 in Hilton Head.

Our heartfelt sympathy to Jim and Judy Walpole and their family. Jim’s father, Newman Walpole, died on January 2nd in Brownsville, TN. Services were held on January 6th in Brownsville.

YOUTH ACTIVITIES

SUNDAY NIGHT YOUTH GROUP

Sunday, February 1
NO Youth Group. Enjoy the Super Bowl!

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

Sunday, February 15
NO Youth Group. Have a great vacation!

Sunday, February 22 7:00 - 8:30 p.m.
Youth Group



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

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

Sunday, March 1 12:30 - 2:00 p.m.
Mission Trip Meeting

Saturday, March 14 6:30 – 9:00 p.m.
SHINDIG AND FUNDRAISER

Sunday, March 22 12:30 – 2:00 p.m.
Mission Trip Meeting

Sunday, April 5 11:00 a.m.
Commissioning of the 2009 Mission Trip Team
during the 11:00 a.m. service

Sunday, April 5 12:30 – 2:30 p.m.
Mission Trip Meeting

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. All high schoolers are welcome.



CONFIRMATION CLASS IN FEBRUARY

Sunday, February 8 4:00 -7:30 p.m.
Worship at Hope Church

Confirmants & Mentors
Meet in the church parking lot at 4:00 to carpool to 67 Poplar Street, Roslindale. Worship is at 5:30 and we should return to TriCon by 7:30.

Read "Words for the Journey"
Chapter 10, Worship

Sunday, February 22 5:00 -7:00 p.m.
Confirmants

The United Church of Christ (UCC)
and Trinitarian Congregational Church
Read "Words for the Journey"
Chapter 31, Race and the Church
Chapter 35, Gender

Wednesday, February 25 7:30 p.m.
Ash Wednesday

Confirmants & Mentors
Confirmants and Mentors attend the Ash Wednesday service of worship at the church.
Note: Confirmants and Mentors may want to get together for dinner before the service.

ITEMS OF INTEREST



PROPERTY UPDATE

We are making progress on the basement repairs –walls are back in place and freshly painted! Dehumidifiers are hung and ready to do their job. New vinyl tile will be installed in the classrooms the last week in January. Ceramic tile on order to replace the damaged rug in the hallway should be in place by mid-February. A giant clean-out of accumulated items will be undertaken by the Property Committee in the next few weeks (read “dumpster”)!

Meanwhile, we continue to deal with the ice dam problem plaguing the parish hall –heat cables are planned but we need a break in the weather to install them. We also continue to find and repair leaking piping. Despite our 2000 renovation, we still have a number of the heating pipes that are approaching the end of their useful life. And, needless to say, the snowy winter has taken a toll on our plowing, sanding budget.

Despite all the bad news, we are the privileged beneficiaries of a beautiful facility and one that is heavily used and appreciated by not only our members but the community at large. We were pleased to host the annual Concord-Carlisle Human Rights Council breakfast in December, Open Table continues to serve a free community supper each Thursday (and expects to stay into the summer) and we regularly offer rental space to groups such as the Concord Players, the Concord Garden Club, the Business Network, and piano and violin recitals. Our building is a real community resource!

WE WELCOME OUR NEWEST MEMBERS

Fred and Shirley Huettig live in Sudbury with their three-year-old daughter, Elizabeth, and are eagerly anticipating the arrival of a second daughter in late March. Fred is an electrical engineer doing consulting work from home and Shirley is a former high school history teacher who taught most recently at Concord Academy. The family’s interests include sailing, hiking, skiing and dolls.

Donald and Ina Kamenz recently moved to Carlisle from, FL. Donald was born and raised in Montreal and Ina is from NC. They have three children, Rebecca, a graduate of Elon University, EB, a sophomore at Duke University and Robert (14), an 8th grader at Carlisle Middle School. Donald is the Vice President of Sales and Marketing for ExelTech Aerospace and Ina is the CIO of ThermoFisher Scientific. Ina and Donald enjoy snow skiing, boating, waterskiing, hunting, scuba diving, hiking, yard work and gardening.

Dot Hart Rand lived in VT for ten years and says her roots are firmly in New England. She is glad to now be living close to her sons, our members, David and Stephen Hart, and their families. Now retired, Dot’s career centered mostly in non-profits. She is presently pursuing her many interests including genealogy, environmental issues, international developments and efforts to achieve equity for women.

Barbara Schiappa grew up in western Kentucky. Since 1974, Barbara and her husband, Charlie, have lived in Carlisle. They are a Catholic/ Protestant couple who feel enriched by sharing worship in each other’s faith traditions and have worshipped at TriCon for 20 years. A graduate of Harvard, Barbara is a writer, and published a book on Christian mixed marriage. She is now completing a novel. Barbara’s interests include travel, reading, sewing, long walks with her Basset Hound and sitting by the fireplace on snowy winter evenings.

FROM THE LIBRARY COMMITTEE



As noted in the Boston Globe of January 3rd, people are returning to libraries as a place of solace and entertainment - please remember our own church library in this context! We are continually adding new books, and replacing out of date ones. The room is a comfortable one in which to sit and peruse the contents of the library. Come on in!

A GOOD READ ON COLD WINTER NIGHTS

Prayers for a Privileged People by Walter Brueggemann steps out of the world of merit, achievement, production and consumption and into the realm of a God who startles and pushes us out of ordinariness. Available for \$14 in the church office.



Many thanks from the entire TriCon congregation to Charity Tremblay and Laura Lindop for decorating the Christmas altar. It was a beautiful sight!

HOLIDAY GIFT BAG PROJECT

Post Script to the Holiday Gift Bags given to the incarcerated men at the Concord Prisons. Below are two excerpts in the inmates' own words:

(Your gift bag)... "brought a glimmer of hope to this bleak moment in my life. I was especially touched by the home-made card. I was deeply moved as I read the contents: 'From someone who cares, Megan.' The card is proudly placed at the head of my bulletin board. Thanks again for bringing a little comfort and joy into my life."

"You can't begin to fully understand how much of a positive impact you have on people like myself who sometimes find it hard to face another day. Thank you! Thank you!"

Thank you all for your contributions to this worthwhile project.

OFFERING ENVELOPES

Please pick up your offering envelopes in the parish hall. If you would like to receive envelopes but are unable to pick them up, call the church office (978 369-4837) and we will make other arrangements.

COMMUNITY NEWS

BE A FRESH AIR HOST!

For one or two weeks this summer, you and your family can open your home to a child living in New York City. By volunteering to be a host family, you will join the many who, since 1877, have provided more than 1.7 million inner-city children with the gift of summer fun. As a Fresh Air host, your family can choose the age of the child (6 to 12) and whether you'd like to host a boy or a girl. For more information on becoming a host family, please contact Nancy Burnham at nancyburnham@hotmail.com or at 978-369-5832. To learn more about the Fresh Air Fund, please check out their website www.freshair.org.

Trinitarian Congregational Church, Concord, MA
Emergency Information Record

In our mobile society, many of us have no immediate family in the area and in the event of illness or other emergency, friends and neighbors may not have adequate information to contact family members. To assist, the church invites you to fill out this form. It will be kept completely confidential, available only if needed, to the clergy and administrator.

Date _____

Name(s) _____ Phone _____

Address _____

.....
List below those to be notified in case of emergency. (Please note any priority or limitations in the list of those to be contacted).

Name _____ Relationship _____

Address _____

Home Phone _____ Work phone _____

Cell Phone _____ Email _____

Name _____ Relationship _____

Address _____

Home Phone _____ Work/Cell phone _____

Cell Phone _____ Email _____

Name _____ Relationship _____

Address _____

Home Phone _____ Work/Cell phone _____

Cell Phone _____ Email _____

Name _____ Relationship _____

Address _____

Home Phone _____ Work/Cell phone _____

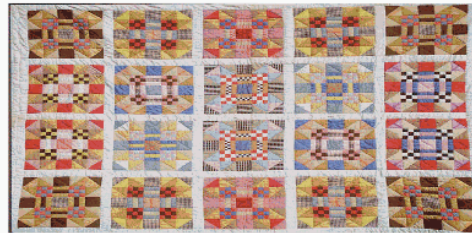
Cell Phone _____ Email _____



BBQ Meal & Square Dance to Support the Mission Trip Come One and ALL!

Get your cowboy hats out and pull your dancing boots on and join us for a square dance on **Saturday, March 14th** in support of this year's Mission Trip. The evening begins at 6:00 PM with a barbecue supper followed by a square dance from 7:30-9:00. Bring the whole family and enjoy a fun evening with church friends. All proceeds go to support this year's Mission Trip which heads to West Virginia in April.

It's Hip



To Be Square!

If you cannot attend the square dance, we very much hope that you will consider making a donation. When you make a donation or buy a ticket to the dance, you will also be eligible to receive a "quilt square" that will be made into a large quilt celebrating the work of our youth group. So please buy a ticket or make a donation and join in the fun of our Mission Trip "squared"!

Tickets are \$35.00/person, children under 5 years old are free and each family is capped at \$100.00. The youth group seeks to raise \$5,000 for the trip so your participation and support are much appreciated!

You may buy tickets or make a donation in the church office, at coffee hour starting February 8 or by sending a check made out to TriCon with "mission trip" in the memo and either drop it off at the church office or mail it. Thanks so much for your support and we look forward to seeing you at the "hoedown!"

Questions? Call: Tom Bates, Jeff Campbell, Molly Delehey, CC Donelan,
Lauren Huyett or Dale Ryder





WELCOME

WINTER 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 February, as listed below, we will offer a "Welcoming Coffee" in the parlor for conversation with the ministers and other church leaders. Then in March 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 March 22nd. 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 Coffee": Getting to Know Us

Sunday, February 22

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, March 8

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

Sunday, March 22

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

