

The Newsletter

Trinitarian Congregational Church
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March 2009

THE PASTORAL PERSPECTIVE

One of the perennial themes for any serious Lenten devotion or reflection is that of repentance. Depending on where one looks in Scripture, the meaning of repentance is nuanced in different ways. From a simple change of mind, to a feeling of regret or remorse, to turning away from sin and back to God, repentance marks a powerful corrective to a life lived at odds with God's intentions for humankind and human responsibility for the common good.

The Bible has a great deal to say about repentance. In the Hebrew Scriptures, authentic repentance leads to unqualified trust in God, rejection of all idols, and refusal to depend upon human help as the sole source of support for life. Inasmuch as repentance demands a new heart and new spirit, it represents a renewal of life. In the Christian Scriptures, repentance has a lot to do with becoming a new person based upon acceptance of God's promises in Jesus Christ. Images abound in rebirth, resurrection, and new creation. Repentance sets in motion a movement from death to life, from darkness to light, from falsehood to truth, from hatred to love, and from a primary focus on the world to a primary focus on God.

Since the start of the current recession and its devastating economic and financial impact worldwide, I have always felt that, at its core, the current emergency is more of a spiritual crisis than an economic one. And what may be as necessary as an economic recovery plan, if not more so, is an individual and collective contrite spirit nurturing a repentant heart. Could it be, for example, that we have made idols of accumulating wealth and living beyond our means rather than sharing our blessings and enabling all God's people to prosper? Could it be that greed, both subtle and substantial, has trumped a selfless concern for our neighbors in need, next door or around the world? Could it be that in our almost obsessive pursuit of material security we have cashed in the great treasure of our faith in God and, in the end, become spiritually impoverished? If so, then surely repentance may well be not only the word of the day but the imperative for our lives going forward. Might it be time to turn away from the idols we have created and the illusions upon which we have constructed our realities and turn toward that which lasts and the Holy One in whom we can trust without fail?

I certainly do not glorify nor in any way find the slightest satisfaction in the pain, suffering and hurt born of the current economic crisis and deepening recession. All of us are impacted in one way or another. All of us run the risk of fear overtaking faith. All of us struggle for a sense of understanding, meaning, and purpose. I have to wonder, however, if the current darkness is but a prelude to the dawn of a new day, a day of hope and promise if not spiritual renewal, born of a repentant heart and a turning to God for that which truly lasts, enduring all the ups and downs of life, and planting our abiding hope in the human heart.

Grace and peace,

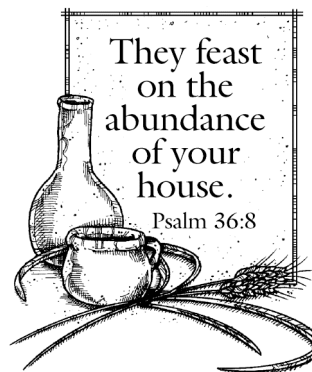




MARCH WORSHIP

March 1 COMMUNION	Service at 8:30 Service at 10:00	Prayer and Holy Communion
March 8	Service at 8:30 Service at 10:00	Prayer and Holy Communion Jeremiah Rood preaching
March 15	Service at 8:30 Service at 10:00	Prayer and Holy Communion Rev. Dr. Jim Antal preaching
March 22	Service at 8:30 Service at 10:00	Prayer and Holy Communion Rev. Dr. John Lombard preaching
March 29	Service at 8:30 Service at 10:00	Prayer and Holy Communion Rev. Jack Johnson preaching

EVENTS AND OPPORTUNITIES



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

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:

- March 1

If you would like to volunteer, 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.



Spiritual Enrichment

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!

Monday, March 2

Introduction to Lenten Series:
Prince of Peace from *Alive Now*
Diane Frost, facilitator

Monday, March 9

Prince of Peace from *Alive Now*
Peg Hoover, facilitator

Monday, March 16

Prince of Peace from *Alive Now*
Rev. Dr. Margaret Crockett, facilitator

Monday, March 23

Prince of Peace from *Alive Now*
Ruth Chappell, facilitator

Monday, March 30

Prince of Peace from *Alive Now*
Diane Leahy, facilitator

Monday, April 6 9:45 a.m. – 2:00 p.m.
Special Holy Week Offering: "Pesach Seder"
Participate in a Jewish Passover Meal
Sign-ups necessary – limited to 16 and will include donations toward the meal.
Call the church office to sign up.

Monday, April 13 – Easter Monday

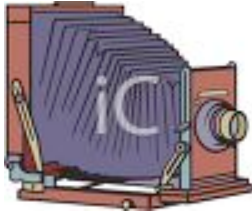
Prince of Peace from *Alive Now*
Deana Kohl, facilitator

EMPLOYMENT NETWORKING GROUP

Tuesday, March 3, 9:00 a.m.
at Wright Tavern, Concord

Initiated by the Concord faith communities, this group is for people in employment transition, fearing transition or in some way affected by the changes in our economy, as well as those who feel they can offer support and/or guidance. Free and open to the public.

The deadline for the
April Newsletter
is March 15.



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.



WORLD DAY OF PRAYER

*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.

Everyone is welcome!



Friday Night
at the
Movies

"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 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.



IT'S TIME
FOR A CHANGE
Sunday, March 8

Don't forget to set your clocks ahead
one hour at 2:00 a.m. on Sunday, March 8!



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 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).

"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

(ALMOST) SPRING ALL-COMMITTEE CONVOCATION

March 10th - 6:00 - 9:30 p.m.

On March 10th, TriCon will hold its second convocation for all committees and boards of the church to mark the new church year. This evening is designed to bring together the full membership of every committee of the church for a time of fellowship and prayer, followed by their regular business meetings for the month.



All committees are invited and encouraged to participate. Our evening together will begin with an informal supper and a time of fellowship in the parish hall. Just before 7:00 p.m. we will gather in the sanctuary for welcome and worship. We will then break into our individual committees for our regular business meetings. Meeting rooms will be assigned throughout the church and we will allow 90 minutes for the committee meetings. At the end of the evening we will again gather in the sanctuary for a brief plenary session, a time when committees may share any news and we will join in a closing and prayer.

What an opportunity this is to witness the strength of our church, to celebrate our many individual gifts, and to work together. Every person who serves on a committee or board is invited – the chair of your committee will be in touch to remind you of the meeting. We look forward to seeing you there.

Note to all committee chairs: please send Liz Haff an estimated head count for supper by March 3, and also let her know if you have special requirements for a meeting space.

RETIRED MEN'S GROUP

The Retired Men's Group will meet for lunch on Wednesday, March 11 at noon. The speaker will be Leslie Obleschuk of the National Park Service to speak about Minuteman National Park. 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 March 11, please call Robert Nelson (978 369-3105) or Charles Davis (978 369-6250) by March 6. The cost of the lunch is \$8.00.

AUTHOR, MEGAN MARSHALL, SPEAKS AT TRICON

Megan Marshall, author of The Peabody Sisters, will speak to the League of Women Voters Book Group on *Women in Transcendental Concord* in our parish hall on Thursday, March 12 at 10:00 a.m. Everyone from the church is invited to attend.



THE CHRISTIAN EDUCATION COMMITTEE

Invites you to attend

"UCC 101" with Rev. Dr. Jim Antal
Sunday, March 15th, following worship

Rev. Dr. Jim Antal will be our guest preacher on March 15. Following worship he will present a 45 minute review of the central beliefs, theology, and understandings that speak to the identity, work, and witness of the United Church of Christ. A light lunch will be served.

As the President of the Massachusetts Conference of the United Church of Christ, Rev. Antal oversees the 400 UCC churches and 751 UCC ministers who serve throughout the Commonwealth. Rev. Antal has also served churches of all sizes in Massachusetts and Ohio, has led the Fellowship of Reconciliation and founded a national high school peace organization. He has been chaplain or teacher at several schools, including Northfield Mount Hermon, Andover, Yale and Yale Divinity School. He has written a book on the clergy search process, which was published by the Alban Institute, and is currently involved in environmental and interfaith activities. An avid cyclist, Jim and his wife, Cindy have two sons. We are honored to have Rev. Antal with us on March 15th!

If you would like to attend "UCC 101," please RSVP to the church office or sign up in the parish hall by Wednesday, March 11th.

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' 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 covers an autographed copy of Abby Seixas' 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



**It's Spring!
Friday, March 20**

**ONE GREAT HOUR
OF SHARING**

Each year, the United Church of Christ sponsors the One Great Hour of Sharing offering which supports disaster relief, healthcare, training and hunger relief around the world. We will be dedicating our offerings on **Sunday, March 22**.

An offering envelope and OGHs information are attached to this newsletter.



**KNITTING
GROUP**

**Wednesday,
March 25, 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.

sermon series

IN JESUS' NAME

March 29

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

April 26

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

May 31

The Rev. Anne Robertson,
Executive Director, MA Bible Society

LEADERSHIP RETREAT

Sunday, March 29, 11:30 – 2:00 p.m.

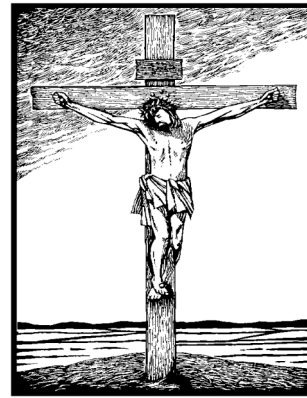
Sponsored by the Diaconate, the TriCon Annual Leadership Retreat follows worship on March 29. Chairs and Co-chairs of all committees, along with church officers and members of the Diaconate are encouraged to attend. Lunch will be served. Please RSVP to the church office or sign-up in the parish hall.

Reflecting on our special sermon series "In Jesus' Name," the retreat will explore questions such as:

- What does it mean in 2009 to live faithfully in the name of Jesus?
- What are the distinctive hallmarks of a Christian life and ethic?
- What are the implications of living faithfully in the name of Jesus in a pluralistic world and multi-faith context?
- What attitudes, perspectives, gifts, talents and abilities are required of God's people in service to the Gospel?
- What sacrifices are necessary for the greater good and how is that greater good defined/envisioned?

- What are the greatest incentives and encouragements as well as persuasions and imperatives to enabling faith to be fully alive in today's world?

Join fellow church members over lunch, in Bible study, and group reflection on the nature, purpose, and criticality of living a Christian life in these challenging times.



THE WAY OF THE CROSS

The Way of the Cross or Stations of the Cross is a means to help Christians make, in spirit, if you will, a pilgrimage to the chief scenes of Christ's suffering and death. For believers the various stations provide a model for "how to live life when our own suffering is unavoidable and life seems impossible." Ultimately, they provide a "gateway to the resurrection."

Join us during the two weeks leading up to Easter as we revisit the Stations of the Cross and consider their meaning for our lives. Ten or more participants will constitute the group led by John Lombard. Register by March 15. **Meetings will take place Tuesdays, March 31 and April 7, 7:45-9:00 a.m. and will include a continental breakfast.** The registration fee of \$10 in advance will cover the cost of breakfast and a copy of Joan Chittister's *Way of the Cross: Gateway to Resurrection*. In addition to readings, prayer and conversation, there will be opportunity to reflect and write with respect to the Lenten devotional period.

COMMUNITY NEWS

JOIN THE AMERICAN CANCER SOCIETY AT A RELAY FOR LIFE NEAR YOU

Relay for Life is an overnight event that joins communities in the fight against cancer. It is a way to *Celebrate* cancer survivors, *Remember* loved ones and *Fight Back* against the disease that takes too much from too many. Teams of friends, families, schools, businesses, and organizations join together at a local track, taking turns walking overnight. Teams set up campsites, enjoy entertainment, activities, and special ceremonies throughout the *Relay*. Participating teams raise money for the American Cancer Society to fund lifesaving cancer research, education, advocacy, and community services for cancer patients and their families.

Cancer survivors and caregivers are the guests of honor as each *Relay For Life* which kicks off with special recognition for everyone who has faced a cancer diagnosis or helped someone with cancer. After nightfall, hundreds of candles dedicated to loved ones are lit in a Luminaria Ceremony that keeps the track bright with a heartfelt reminder of how cancer touches us all. *Relay For Life* represents our hope that those lost to cancer will never be forgotten, that those who face cancer will be supported, and that one day cancer will be eliminated.

Dates of *Relay for Life* in our area include:

5/16 Lincoln Sudbury
5/16 Bedford
5/29 Maynard
5/30 Acton

Join us to see what Relay For Life is all about. For Relay information email susan.stumpf@cancer.org or call (home) 978-371-4993 or (work) 508-270-4885.

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 nancyeburnham@hotmail.com or at 978-369-5832. To learn more about the Fresh Air Fund, please go to www.freshair.org.

Summary of Homelessness Forum Held on January 25, 2009

Led by Rep. Rushing (who spoke at the forum), the Mass Commission to End Homelessness has developed a plan that will end homelessness, provide low income housing for the homeless, and have vital services provided for formerly homeless in that housing. Moreover, the Commission concluded the amount now spent on shelters could house the homeless. Funds are needed only for the transition from shelters to housing.

(1) We cannot close shelters too soon. We must fund shelters now at the same amount. We can reduce shelter funding as low-income housing becomes available. (2) The money saved from shelters must be used for supporting formerly homeless people, and not diverted to other uses. (3) We all must stay involved in the process of ending homelessness.

Copies of Rep. Rushing's on January 25 talk are on the table in the parish hall. For more information on homelessness advocacy, call Carl Miller, Judy Hill, Pete Nelson, or Deana Kohl.

YOUTH ACTIVITIES

SUNDAY NIGHT YOUTH GROUP

Sunday, March 1 Youth Group	7:00 - 8:30 p.m.
Sunday, March 8 Youth Group	7:00 - 8:30 p.m.
Sunday, March 15 NO Youth Group.	
Sunday, March 22 Youth Group	7:00 - 8:30 p.m.
Sunday, March 29 Youth Group	7:00 - 8:30 p.m.



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 Mission Trip Meeting	12:30 - 2:00 p.m.
Saturday, March 14 SQUARE DANCE – Come cut a rug and support the Mission Trip	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.

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 MARCH

Sunday, March 1 5:00 -7:00 p.m.
Confirmands & Mentors

Forgiveness
Special Guest – Dick Nethercut
Read “Words for the Journey”
Chapter 6, Suffering
Chapter 7, Sin

Sunday, March 29 5:00 -7:00 p.m.
Confirmands & Mentors

Spiritual Practices
Read “Words for the Journey”
Chapter 12, Prayer
Chapter 14, Baptism
Chapter 15, Communion

LIFE CHANGES

Sincere sympathy to the family of our former member, Richard Eaton, who died on January 24. Services were held in Kennebunkport, ME on January 29.



ITEMS OF INTEREST

HAPPY RETIREMENT,
MARGARET

On Sunday, January 25, we celebrated Margaret Crockett's ministry with us and wished her well on her retirement. In his remarks during the worship service, John Lombard described Margaret as "an exemplar of faith and a person of the Spirit." He related Margaret's many positive qualities based on the word CLERGY as presented below:

- C - Christian counselor courageous
concerned caring capable
creative charitable committed
curious cordial collaborative
comforting consoling compassionate
- L - leader loving learned
loyal likeable life-affirming
legendary (for her Belgian waffles)
- E - evangelist example/exemplar
energetic enthusiastic empathetic
ecumenical ethical ecclesiastical
enjoyable engaging
- R - religious resilient rational
reflective righteous resolve
- G - gracious good godly
generous genuine genial
gifted grateful
- Y - yourself young-at-heart

WELL SAID!

★ Thank You! ★
THANK YOU!

Thank you, one and all, for the marvelous way you marked the day of my retirement. It was heartwarming to see so many of you. The music was inspiring. The Committee did a great job of planning. The collation was delicious, the three cakes beautifully decorated. I was so pleased to have such a generous donation to the Heifer Project made in my honor. Thanks for the words that described me. They were more than flattering. I have appreciated the many cards and notes you have sent me.

And did you hear how I got to church that morning? Escorted by my colleague John Lombard in a long black limo! What style! John overwhelmed me with the good words he spoke. It has been such a privilege to work with him and to minister in your midst, always supported by the wonderful staff.

May God bless each and every one of you, the good people of TriCon! I love you all.

Margaret Crockett

Many, many thanks to our TriCon family for thoughtfully supporting our Dad, Ted Lilley, during his tenure here "Up North" and actively caring for all of us after his passing. Special appreciation to plucky stalwarts John Lombard, Margaret Crockett, Bob Watson, Tom Piper, Kathy Flynn and the Caring Connection.

With love from the Lilley and Shea families

I would like to thank everyone for the cards, notes, telephone calls and visits during my recent confinement with a broken arm. A special thank you to the Caring Connection for the food and beautiful prayer shawl.

Everything was very much appreciated.

Priscilla Strate

LIVING INTO OUR FAITH: FAITHFUL AND GRATEFUL "Property Maintenance is Mission Too"

Looking at our 2008-operating budget, we can be very proud that it shows over \$246,000 devoted to Mission. This represents 20% of pledges plus \$22,000 in special offerings and over \$40,000 in other designated gifts. These monies were sent to over 40 agencies and organizations that provide services to the needy in our local area, across the country and in impoverished and disaster-ravaged areas around the world.

In the same budget year, we spent over \$162,000 on Property. Our property budget went into heating, utilities, plowing, trash removal, repairs (lots of repairs!), maintenance of equipment, cleaning and paper supplies. We invite you to think about these "routine" property expenses as mission also. By heating and maintaining our building, we offer a warm and welcome place for parishioners to worship God, and to commit to live out the work of the church. When we gather together and experience worship services that lift the spirit and nurture the soul, we are inspired to reach out to those in need.

In some instances, property as mission is easy to appreciate. In our beautiful efficient kitchen, we prepare a monthly meal for over 100 men at United Homes Shelter. Every Thursday, we host Open Table feeding and offering groceries to over 100 people in need in our own community. We routinely accommodate local non-profits and service agencies for meetings and special events.

In other cases, it may be harder to see the connection. The Church School students who grow up in our church, enjoying our sunny classrooms and comfortable youth room learn about mission and then go on a mission trip with the senior high and have what is for many of them, a life changing experience. A bereaved family who seeks out the church to honor and remember a loved one, a young couple starting their lives together, new parents bringing their infant to be baptized all benefit from our stewardship of the property.

Fixing the boiler, emptying the trash and mopping the floor are not exciting but they are necessary for us to carry on the mission and ministry of our church, so let's celebrate our ability and our responsibility to maintain our facilities.

Stephen Ministry Corner

On February 4th Stephen Ministry had the honor of hosting Dr. Ronald Takvorian, a member of our church and an oncologist at Mass General Hospital, at a forum on cancer here at TriCon. Dr. Takvorian made everyone feel comfortable talking about a topic that was once almost taboo. He discussed, among other things, the apparent rise in the incidence of cancer, conventional medical treatments for cancer and the progress that has been made in recent years, other therapies that may support the cancer patient, as well as some general rules for someone who has just been diagnosed with cancer.

In the weeks ahead, Stephen Ministry hopes to hold a more in-depth forum on one of the topics that was raised at Dr. Takvorian's presentation. This time we expect someone from the American Cancer Society will be the presenter/discussion leader. Watch for an announcement in Events and Comments in upcoming Sunday bulletins.

Carol Gupta

ANNUAL MEETING REPORT



The February 8th Annual Meeting included the following agenda items:

- ✓ Mitch Eckel presented the Treasurer's Report noting that despite unusually high property expenditures, we ended the year with a surplus of \$38,079 due to increased rental income, gifts from new worshippers and contributors who had not made pledges, and savings in the personnel budget. The meeting approved the recommendation from the Finance Committee and Church Committee to place the surplus in the Contingency Fund which has been greatly depleted by repairs to the flood-damaged lower level.
- ✓ Mitch reminded the congregation that each year we count on our parishioners who have not fully paid their pledge within the calendar year to make up that amount in the next year and indeed, last year, our prior year pledges were a significant contributor to the healthy final picture for 2008. Therefore, if you have an outstanding amount on your 2008 pledge, it is not too late to pay that in 2009 and it would be gratefully received.
- ✓ Elaine Bonoma reported for the Feasibility Committee that they consider their charge to be broader than just the organ and choir loft space. They are looking at the future of the church and church growth. Given the difficult economy, they are unlikely to be coming to the congregation in the near future with any proposal or conclusion but they feel it is important to keep the discussion going.

- ✓ Richard Hollingsworth, Nominating Committee Chair, presented the slate of officers and committee members. We are grateful to all who have agreed to take on the responsibility of leading our congregation. The slate was approved as presented. There are still a few openings and members interested in serving may contact Richard or any member of the Nominating Committee (Peter Dornemann, Sue Eckel, Jack LaMothe, Ellen Mushlitz and Bill Read).
- ✓ Charlie Wittenberg, Finance Committee Chairman, presented the proposed budget for 2009. It is basically level-funded with pledges received almost exactly the same amount as the prior year. Anticipated increased rental income allows for a small salary increase for personnel and allows us to retain our commitment to devote 20% of our pledge income to mission. The budget was approved unanimously.
- ✓ Russell Sanna, Diaconate Chairman, presented the slate for the members of the Associate Minister Search Committee. Following a motion and vote of approval, Bill Wilder's name was added and the slate was approved. The Search Committee members are: Tom Bates, Jim DeMott, Jr., Mary Ann Ferrell, Allene Kussin, Susan Miller, Tom Piper, Lisa Soleau, Polly Vanasse, Bill Wilder and Youth Members: Hannah Tremblay and Greg Goullart.

NEW CHURCH DIRECTORIES

New church directories are available in the parish hall. Please feel free to take one.



**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.

Check out the menu: YUM!

**BBQ with all the fixin's -
Pulled pork, chicken and beef;
mac and cheese; cole slaw; baked beans; rolls, cornbread; sweet tea & soda!**

All proceeds go to support this year's Mission Trip which heads to West Virginia in April.

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!"

All proceeds go to support this year's Mission Trip which heads to West Virginia in April.

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



Be There and Be Square!



