

The Newsletter

Trinitarian Congregational Church
54 Walden Street
Concord, MA 01742

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

April 2009



THE PASTORAL PERSPECTIVE

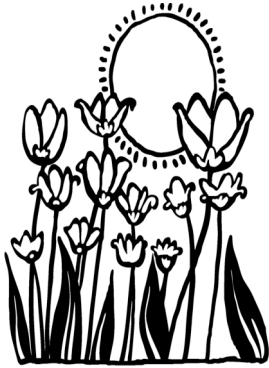
If you want to live longer, go to church once a week. So said Ben Sherwood, author of "The Survivors Club," in a recent radio interview. Joining an expanding body of studies underscoring the benefits of religion, belief, and the practice of prayer and a spiritual life, Sherwood claims that faith and belief are an incredibly powerful survival tool. Given the times in which we live and the varying seasons of crisis or distress most of us eventually encounter at one time or another, the practical value of the faith we affirm expressed through the community we cherish is significant.



Referring to research conducted by the University of Texas, Sherwood claims that people who go to church (or synagogue) once a week live seven years longer than those who do not. Being part of a faith community, the felt sense of belonging to something greater than oneself, abiding by the teachings of a church and being together with others in a crisis gives those involved a health advantage over those who tend to be isolated and alone. In short, healthy survivors and thrivers hold dearly their religious faith and practice.

Our lives are filled with all sorts of advice as to how to live longer, healthier lives from diet to exercise to nurturing healthy habits and avoiding bad ones. However, perhaps the real secret is something we have not only known all along but sought to practice on a regular basis by virtue of the great commandment: "You shall love the Lord your God with all your heart, and with all your soul, and with all your strength and with all your mind; and your neighbor as yourself." (Luke 10:27) Herein may well reside the secret of a longer, deeper, more meaningful, and purposeful life, attuned to the great mystery of our creation and extended for the greater good and fuller life of the world we are given.

Grace and peace,



APRIL WORSHIP

NOTE: Services on Sunday, April 5 (Palm Sunday) and Sunday, April 12 (Easter) will be at 9:00 and 11:00 a.m. There will be no 8:30 a.m. service on these dates.

PALM SUNDAY - Communion

April 5 **Service at 9:00** Rev. Dr. John Lombard preaching
 Service at 11:00 Rev. Dr. John Lombard preaching
 The Senior Choir will sing Mozart's Missa Brevis in d minor, with strings.

EASTER

April 12 **Service at 9:00** Rev. Dr. John Lombard preaching
 Service at 11:00 Rev. Dr. John Lombard preaching
 Randall Thompson's "Alleluia" and music for harp

April 19 **Service at 8:30** Prayer and Holy Communion
 Service at 10:00 Rev. Ross Lilley preaching

April 26 **Service at 8:30** Prayer and Holy Communion
 Service at 10:00 Rev. June Cooper preaching



Maundy Thursday, April 9, 8:00 p.m. Tenebrae Service
 Anthems by the Senior Choir

Good Friday, April 10, noon

EASTER SUNDAY, April 12

Sunrise Service
6:30 a.m. at the North Bridge

A continental breakfast will be served at the church following this service.

Traditional Easter Services
9:00 and 11:00 a.m.

Rev. Dr. John Lombard officiating

Childcare for preschool children;
 older children are invited to attend worship with their families.

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:

- March 29
- May 3

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.

Diaper Drive

There are 75 families, mostly single mothers, awaiting Section 8 Housing and/or room to open up at more permanent shelters, living temporarily in The Cambridge Gateway Hotel (on Rte. 2 near Lanes & Games and Alewife T station). They have over 120 children among them, half under five.

TriCon's Mission Committee has pledged \$1000 to provide for spring shoes and kids' underwear as well as some pavement toys, like playground balls, hula-hoops and jump-ropes.

...But there's still a great need for **diapers!** We are collecting diapers between now and Mother's Day. Next time you're at the market, consider picking up a package and bringing it to church with you. We'll have a receptacle in the parish hall. *Thank you!*



WELCOME

**SPRING OPPORTUNITIES
FOR GETTING ACQUAINTED
AND JOINING THE CHURCH**

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 April and May we will have Welcoming Coffees (see below). Also in May, there will be 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 June 7. If you have any questions, please call Mary Lou Esposito at the church office or Susan Henderson, chair of the Membership Committee (978-369-4854).

"Welcoming Coffees": Getting to Know Us

Sunday, April 5 – Palm Sunday

Coffee and conversation with church leaders
10:00 a.m. (after 9:00 a.m. service) in the parlor

Sunday, May 3

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, May 17

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

Sunday, June 7

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

RETIRED MEN'S GROUP

The Retired Men's Group will meet for lunch on Wednesday, April 8 at noon. The speaker will be Bill Seaver who will speak on "The Retirement You Never Expected." 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 April 8, please call Robert Nelson (978 369-3105) or Charles Davis (978 369-6250) by April 3. The cost of the lunch is \$8.00.



DONATE KIDS SUMMER CLOTHES FOR MERRIMACK HOUSE

April 12 through May 10

As you're sorting through light weight, still-good kids clothes this spring, please think of the children in the families at Merrimack House shelter in Lowell. All sizes are needed, including baby things. The clothes will go to families now at the shelter, as well as those who will move in over the spring and summer months.



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, April 13 – Easter Monday
"Living into Renewal with Awe, Wonder...and Doubt"
Deana Kohl, facilitator

Monday, April 20 – Patriots' Day
Church closed

Monday, April 27
"Male Chauvinist or Radical Feminist: Who was Paul the Apostle?" – a look at a misunderstood, often misquoted, representative of Christianity through modern-day lens.
Allene Kussin, facilitator

STEPHEN MINISTRY CORNER

**Having cancer is hard.
Finding help shouldn't be.**
Monday, April 13, 7:15 p.m., in the parlor

Stephen Ministry will offer a second presentation about cancer on April 13. Please join us for an evening of information for cancer patients, survivors, and caregivers, hosted by the American Cancer Society. Leigh Dennington, Community Executive, Health Initiatives, from the ACS will be the presenter. All are welcome.

KNITTING GROUP

Wednesday, April 22, 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

April 26

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

May 31

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

YOUTH ACTIVITIES

SUNDAY NIGHT YOUTH GROUP

Sunday, April 5 7:00 - 8:30 p.m.
Youth Group

Sunday, April 12 Easter
NO Youth Group

Sundays, April 29 and 26
NO Youth Group due to Mission Trip



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

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

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

Saturday, April 18 to Saturday, April 25
Mission trip to West Virginia

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 APRIL

Thursday, April 9 **8:00 p.m.**
Maundy Thursday Confirmands & Mentors
Confirmands and mentors attend the Maundy Thursday service of worship at the church. (You may wish to get together for dinner before the service.)

You are Cordially Invited to

One Enchanted Evening

A Prenuptial Musical Celebration Honoring

Stephanie Lombard

And

Michael Cruse

Friday, May 1, 2009

7:00-9:00 P.M.

Trinitarian Congregational Church

United Church of Christ

54 Walden Street

Concord, Massachusetts

RSVP:

Email: revdrjcl@aol.com

Phone: 978 287-0636

No gifts, please.



YOU ARE INVITED

“It takes a village to raise a child.” Until recently, that was a little known African proverb. Made famous by a book of a similar title, the proverb has almost been over-popularized to the point of losing its power and poignancy. Nevertheless, for our family, as we anticipate our daughter’s upcoming marriage to the love of her life, we are powerfully aware of how many “villagers” have peopled our world over the years, especially those in Concord, Portsmouth, Torrington, Kennebunkport and their environs; more “villagers” than we can count, perhaps even imagine, have contributed immeasurably to the shaping, forming, growth, and development not only of our daughters but our entire family. For your ongoing and abiding care, support, and love we are forever grateful and thank you from the bottom of our hearts.

That we might bring together as best we can all the “villagers” in order to honor the

occasion of the upcoming mid-summer marriage of Stephanie Lombard and Michael Cruse and provide an opportunity to meet and greet them, we are pleased to invite you, your families, friends, and neighbors to “One Enchanted Evening.” Matthew DiBattista and Megan Tillman, well known to many in our congregation for their extraordinary vocal talent and two of the finest singers we have had the great pleasure and privilege of personally knowing, have kindly and generously agreed to celebrate this time with classic love songs from some of the time-honored Broadway musicals. They will be accompanied by our own Vickie Wagner whose musical talents and gifts our family has so appreciated these past sixteen years. It should prove to be a fabulous evening of lovely music, in a beautiful setting, and in the midst of wonderful friends and family. Following the program, there will be light refreshments and an opportunity to greet Stephanie and Michael personally and through written reflections to be gathered into a book. The invitation above contains necessary details to let us know of your plans to be present. Additionally, you may sign up on a sheet in the TriCon parish hall.

We hope that you can join us as we look forward to a wonderful evening together.

LIFE CHANGES

A NEW BABY

It is a joy to announce the February 20th birth of Eliza Dawes Franklin, daughter of Chip and Hannah Franklin. Proud grandparents are Churchill and Janet Franklin.

WITH SYMPATHY

Our sincere condolences to the family of our member, Gloria Daniels, who died on March 12th. Gloria was an active participant in the Spiritual Enrichment Group and a dedicated Newsletter volunteer. She will be missed by our staff and her many friends at TriCon.

ITEMS OF INTEREST

NEWS FROM THE LIBRARY COMMITTEE



Our former minister, Tuck Gilbert, has written a new book which will soon be added to our library collection. "Seed Pods and Periscopes: Stories and

Reflections About Living Deeply and Living Well" gathers inspiration under four main headings:

- 1) Longing to live deeply and live well
- 2) When the going gets tough
- 3) Living in times of war
- 4) Living with questions

Rev. Gilbert's previous book entitled "When I Open My Window: Reflections for the Living of These Days" is available in our library.

DVD AVAILABLE

The film "Renewal," the first feature-length documentary to capture the breadth and vitality of America's emerging religious-environmental movement, is available to be borrowed from our church library.

CONGRATULATIONS, SHIRLEY ROHAN

Our member, Shirley Rohan, was recently named Concord's Honored Citizen of the Year. Shirley's lifelong dedication to Concord was celebrated at a ceremony at the Town House on March 15th. Congratulations, Shirley!



FAITH FOR CHALLENGING TIMES

At its "spring" convocation during worship, the church leadership, through its boards, committees, and officers, responded to the following question: "What does it mean to be a person of faith in challenging and uncertain times and how does our faith speak to us?" The breadth and depth of the responses were remarkable and thoughtful. A collection of responses entitled "Faith for Challenging Times" is available at the church to interested individuals.

The deadline for the
May Newsletter
is April 15.



LIVING INTO OUR FAITH; FAITHFUL AND GRATEFUL

Those who are at the church only on Sunday mornings may be surprised to know all of the activity that goes on during the week so we thought we would walk you through a week in the life of the church. We have chosen the week of March 1st, a busy week but not an atypical one.

Sunday, March 1st started with the 8:30 service of Prayer and Holy Communion followed by the 10am worship service (WORSHIP). The choir rehearsed at 9:00 a.m. (MUSIC MINISTRY / WORSHIP). As usual, childcare and Church School took place during the service (CHRISTIAN EDUCATION). As part of their curriculum learning about neighboring faiths, the 7th and 8th grade classes attended a worship service at Holy Family Church (CHRISTIAN EDUCATION).

Coffee hour followed the worship service, a luncheon for 80 people carried out the day's theme of "Gathering at the Table" (FELLOWSHIP) and a group met in the kitchen to prepare a meal for the United Homes Shelter in Dorchester (MISSION).

At 12:30 the Mission Trip team held a pre-trip planning meeting (MISSION). Meanwhile, John was meeting with a couple preparing to be married in our church (PASTORAL CARE). Confirmation class met in the late afternoon (CHRISTIAN EDUCATION) and the shelter meal was delivered to Dorchester (MISSION). Youth Group convened for their Sunday evening get-together (FELLOWSHIP).

Monday, March 2nd Spiritual Enrichment would have held their regular morning group except for the snow that day (CHRISTIAN EDUCATION and PROPERTY - plowing and shoveling!!). The Search Committee for the Interim Associate Minister (WORSHIP / PERSONNEL) met that evening as did the CE liaisons and the CE Committee (CHRISTIAN EDUCATION).

Tuesday, March 3rd started with a forum sponsored by the Clergy Laity Group on new health and assistance options to allow the elderly to remain in their homes (PASTORAL CARE). Following the forum, John had his weekly supervisory meeting with our seminarian, Jeremiah Rood (WORSHIP / CHRISTIAN EDUCATION). The Search Committee for the Settled Associate Minister met that evening (WORSHIP / PERSONNEL) and an orientation was held for Church School leaders who had volunteered for the spring term (CHRISTIAN EDUCATION).

Wednesday, March 4th BNI, the Business Network Group that rents the church met for their weekly meeting (COMMUNITY OUTREACH). John started the morning with a counseling session with a parishioner (PASTORAL CARE). The Woman's Union hosted a luncheon and guest speaker (FELLOWSHIP). The Committee planning the birthday party for those over 80 met to begin plans for this June event (PASTORAL CARE). Matt DiBattista gave a voice lesson to a choir member. (MUSIC MINISTRY). Jeremiah Rood offered the first session in his Lenten course (CHRISTIAN EDUCATION). The Mission Committee heard a presentation about a program that we support in Pakistan (MISSION). The Youth Discussion Group convened to offer a safe place to have a serious discussion with peers and supportive adults (CHRISTIAN EDUCATION).

Thursday, March 5th the Feasibility Committee held an early morning meeting (WORSHIP). Open table set up at noon to serve over 100 dinners and open the food pantry to those in need (MISSION). John had a counseling session with a parishioner (PASTORAL CARE). The CROPWalk Committee held an organizational meeting planning for the October Walk (MISSION) and the Choir held their weekly rehearsal (WORSHIP/MUSIC MINISTRY).

Friday, March 6th we hosted the annual World Day of Prayer worship service (WORSHIP) followed by a luncheon (FELLOWSHIP). In late afternoon, Choir left for their two-day annual retreat (MUSIC MINISTRY). That evening, the Filipov Forum and the Christian Education Committees sponsored the movie, *Renewal* focusing on the emerging religious environmental movement (CHRISTIAN EDUCATION).

Saturday, March 7th a voice student rented the sanctuary for a concert (COMMUNITY OUTREACH).

Now that was just the events scheduled on the calendar. In addition.....

John and the Caring Connection made trips to the hospital and nursing homes and numerous calls to parishioners experiencing illness or loss (PASTORAL CARE). John prepared a sermon (WORSHIP), met with various committee members (WORSHIP/MISSION/ADMINISTRATION) and worked on his Pastoral Perspective (CHRISTIAN EDUCATION).

Carrie, our CE Director emailed class liaisons regarding scheduling, prepared for the leader orientation, fielded questions from teachers on lesson plans, collected information on neighboring churches for the middle school curriculum, recruited additional teachers, prepared for upcoming classes and the workshop scheduled for the following Sunday and began preparation for the Easter egg hunt (CHRISTIAN EDUCATION).

Our administrative staff prepared the weekly bulletin and Events and Comments, worked on the upcoming Newsletter, coordinated the church calendar scheduling and assigning rooms for various meetings and events, typed a sermon, counted the Sunday collection and posted payments to pledge records, paid bills, balanced the checkbook, scheduled repairs and cleaning, handled rental requests, sent welcome letters to new worshippers, sent invitations to join to prospective members, answered email correspondence, filed tax forms, fielded zillions of phone calls and greeted visitors (WORSHIP/PASTORAL CARE/ADMINISTRATION/PROPERTY/CHRISTIAN EDUCATION).

Our sexton ran the snow blower, emptied the trash, cleaned the restrooms and moved tables and chairs for the various events (PROPERTY). Our Sunday sexton opened the building, set up for the 8:30 worship service, put out items needed for the 10am service, prepared coffee, cleaned up (PROPERTY). Vickie, our Music Director, played for the Sunday service and led the Sunday morning choir rehearsal, practiced on her home organ, selected music for upcoming Sundays, prepared for the choir retreat (WORSHIP/MUSIC MINISTRY). Nick, our Youth Leader, planned Sunday night youth group, coordinated travel for the upcoming Mission Trip, sent postcard schedules to the youth (CHRISTIAN EDUCATION/MISSION/FELLOWSHIP).

And then we rested.....until the next week!

COMMUNITY NEWS

A Message from
Household Goods Recycling of Massachusetts

HGRM Urgently Needs Furniture!



Household Goods Recycling is in desperate need of all types of furniture. Beds, dressers, couches, tables, chairs, refrigerators, washers and dryers are all essential items needed to help people make a home. Your recycled goods will help victims of fires and floods, women and children escaping abuse, people coming out of shelters, war veterans and recent immigrants to the U.S.

HGRM is a not-for-profit agency in Acton that accepts household goods and distributes them free of charge to people in need. Donations are accepted at 530 Main Street, Acton on Tuesday, Thursday and Saturday between 9 and noon. Pick up for large items is also available.

For more information, visit our website at www.hgrm.org or call 978-635-1763.

HELPING CHILDREN COPE WHEN A PARENT HAS CANCER

The Bethke Cancer Center at Emerson Hospital is offering a workshop program for children whose parent has been diagnosed with cancer. This three session program is for children ages 3-15 and their parents. The program includes a Saturday morning family workshop as well as a brief introductory and follow-up meeting for parents only. There is no cost to participants.

Parent Meeting
Tuesday, March 31, 7:00 – 9:00 p.m.

**Children's Workshop and
Parent Meeting/Tour**
Saturday, April 4, 9:00 a.m. – 12:00 p.m.

Follow-up Parent Meeting
Tuesday, April 7, 7:00 – 9:00 p.m.

For information or to register, 978 287-3422.

TRACES OF THE TRADE A Story from the Deep North

You are invited to a showing of the above film and a guided conversation which traces a family's journey confronting its history as the largest slave trading dynasty in the U.S.

Trinity Episcopal Church, Concord
Saturday, April 4, 2:00 – 5:00 p.m.

MAKE YOUR VOICE MATTER TO REDUCE FAMILY HOMELESSNESS

Attend a free advocacy skills workshop, given by Miriam Stein, advocacy consultant, and learn successful, easy to use strategies to reduce family homelessness and advocate for other issues you care about. In a supportive atmosphere, practice key advocacy skills for communicating your views to your elected representatives in person, by phone or by letter. The workshop is sponsored by the Advocacy Network to End Family Homelessness. Call or email Carl Miller 978-369-3755, normancmiller@comcast.net for more information and to signup. The workshop date will be chosen from several possible dates. The workshop will be held in Concord.

THE MAJESTY OF YOUR LOVING

Spiritual Perspectives on Caregiving

Wednesday, April 29, 5:00 – 8:00 p.m.
Harvey Wheeler Center, Concord

Olivia Hoblitzelle, author of "The Majesty of Your Loving, a Couple's Journey Through Alzheimer's" will reflect on the challenges of guiding her husband through Alzheimer's and the qualities that can be cultivated to face aging and caregiving.

Suggested donation \$10 to benefit Alzheimer's Association.

PROJECT BREAD'S ANNUAL WALK FOR HUNGER

Sunday, May 3

Starts on the Boston Common, 7 – 9 A.M.

With poverty and unemployment rising at unprecedented rates and 522,000 people across the state struggling to put food on the table, this year's Walk for Hunger is more important than ever. Every dollar, every mile, and every volunteer hour counts for our neighbors in need. Your pledges feed people through emergency food programs throughout the state and through many food programs in schools, after school programs, and pediatrician offices, which integrate help into the ordinary fabric of everyday life.



Celebrate the spirit of giving by participating in this family tradition. For more information, call 617-723-5000 or visit www.projectbread.org/walk.

JOIN THE AMERICAN CANCER SOCIETY AT A RELAY FOR LIFE



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

No running required & you do not have to walk all night! Join the TriCon Fight Back team!

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

|