

The Newsletter

Trinitarian Congregational Church
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August 2009

THE PASTORAL PERSPECTIVE

On a recent Saturday, the Silver family headed into Boston to run a few errands and enjoy some long-awaited summer weather. As we walked from Quincy Market to the waterfront, we passed by a vintage 1957 merry-go-round complete with old-fashioned horses, mirrors, and classic carousel music. Needless to say, Chip was enchanted and wanted to take a spin.

I bought our ticket, we got in line, and soon we were on the carousel and ready to ride. Chip took the saddle while I kept a hand on him to make sure he was steady; then we waited for the fun to begin. Slowly the merry-go-round began to turn, Chip's steed began to rise and fall, and he was in toddler heaven. After lots of laughing, squealing with joy, and enthusiastic waves to his mom, who watched from the sidelines, the ride came to an end and we got off. I put Chip on my shoulders and the three of us headed to the harbor.



It was a busy day on the water with all sorts of craft afloat ranging from small sailboats to visiting tall ships to a number of very large yachts. As I looked at one of the latter, I wondered what was involved in owning something big and opulent. At the least, such a vessel must require tremendous upkeep and prohibitive insurance. It might also come with a healthy dose of status envy. After all, a 100-foot boat might be nice, but a 200-foot one might be better, especially if it can accommodate a helicopter. I couldn't help but think that something that was surely intended to bring its owner happiness and pleasure might instead be a source of anxiety and worry. Of course, it's not only yacht-owners who can find themselves in this situation – it's a place we can all find ourselves.

While we live in an era when we are told that it's in the getting of more stuff that we will find true happiness, our Christian faith tells us otherwise. The Bible is filled with reminders of how we can all too easily fall into the trap of prizing our possessions and devoting our whole being to acquiring, maintaining and protecting them to the exclusion of all else. But as Scripture also tells us, in the beginning we were dust and to dust we will return – and when that happens, the boat, the car, the HDTV, the iPod won't be coming with us.

Jesus told us to have the faith of a little child with good reason. Kids have yet to be caught up in the worries and cynicism of the world around them and so are better able to delight in even the simplest of things – a spin on a carousel, a piggy-back ride – and thus know true happiness. And if we allow ourselves, we adults can do the same. I know that none of the possessions I care about come close to giving me the joy I experienced that afternoon as Chip rode on my shoulders and we basked in the sun and city, reveling in a warm summer afternoon.

As we move into August, I encourage you to join me in trying to see something or someone anew, to take pleasure in God's creation, and in so doing, know something of the joy of the Kingdom of Heaven.

Yours faithfully,



AUGUST WORSHIP

We will have joint services with West Concord Union Church at TriCon at 10:00 a.m. on:

AUGUST 2 **Service at 10:00** Rev. Dr. Rand Peabody preaching
Communion

AUGUST 9 **Service at 10:00** Rev. Dr. Rand Peabody preaching

We welcome our guest preacher on August 2nd and 9th, the Rev. Dr. Rand Peabody, recently arrived Interim Pastor at West Concord Union Church. Dr. Peabody has served fifteen congregations in a variety of temporary capacities since 1988, including having worked with UCC churches in Weston, Southborough, and Boxborough. Lately, he has been developing a consultative approach for congregations facing transition, conflict, or crisis, honing a practice that emphasizes the fresh visioning of ministries -- both lay and professional -- in a time when such paradigms are shifting. He teaches congregations to incorporate an awareness of systemic dynamics in the context of a Body-of-Christ spirituality both communal and personal. He is also an expert at structural reform.

Rev. Dr. Peabody has a Doctor of Ministry degree in Pastoral Counseling from Andover Newton Theological School, and is a certified member of the American Association of Pastoral Counselors. His sermons at TriCon will focus on what it takes for congregations to find new vibrancy.

Our regular summer services will continue on:

AUGUST 16 **Service at 10:00** Rev. Karen Doolittle preaching

AUGUST 23 **Service at 10:00** Stephen Silver preaching

AUGUST 30 **Service at 10:00** Stephen Silver preaching

PLEASE NOTE:

There will be no 8:30 a.m. services through the summer months.
The 8:30 a.m. service will resume on September 13.

Our summer Sunday service of worship is at 10:00 a.m.

EVENTS AND OPPORTUNITIES



If you are new to TriCon we welcome you!

We encourage you to attend summer services and to meet fellow worshippers at Sunday coffee hours. Please pick up church brochures and other information and call the church office at 978 369-4837 if you have any questions.

FALL AND WINTER SCHOOL CLOTHES FOR MERRIMACK HOUSE

**Drop off in the parish hall
from Sunday, August 16 thru
Sunday, September 13**

Merrimack House Family Shelter is in need of good, usable girls and boys clothing and outer wear, pre-school through high school (infant clothing too), especially for students returning to school in the fall. Please keep the shelter in mind as you prepare your family for September.

WHAT DOES IT MEAN TO BE A CHRISTIAN COMMUNITY?

**Wednesdays, September 23 and 30
and October 7 – 7:30 p.m.**

What does it mean to be a Christian Community? Join us as we answer this question through Scripture, history, and liturgy.

Week 1: Community as seen in both the Old and New Testaments.

Week 2: The many different ways in which Christians have created community over the last 2,000 years.

Week 3: How the liturgy is an expression of community. We will celebrate communion and share a light meal.

Facilitated by Steve Silver, Affiliated Minister. You are invited to attend all or some of the sessions. Sign up in the parish hall.



loans that change lives

The 8th Annual *Al Filipov Peace & Justice Forum*

September 26, 2009

Featuring
Jessica Jackley,
co-founder of Kiva.org

Kiva Lets You Loan to the Working Poor

Kiva's mission is to connect people through lending for the sake of alleviating poverty. This is sure to be a fascinating presentation.



Concord area
CROP Walk
for the Hungry
Sunday, October 18



39TH ANNUAL ANTIQUÉ SHOW AND SALE

Friday, November 6
10:00 a.m. to 5:00 p.m.

Saturday, November 7
10:00 a.m. to 4:00 p.m.

This all-church effort raised over \$13,000 last year and involved scores of church volunteers moving furniture, baking pies, cakes and cookies, preparing food for the Country Café, selling tickets, portering for the dealers, etc. etc. There is a job for everyone so mark your calendars now and plan to pitch in!

Also plan to attend the show and invite friends and neighbors - ticket sales account for a major portion of the profit. This year we will be selling tickets in the weeks prior to the show at the discounted price of \$6.

And, if you really want to get in on the fun, join the organizing committee! Call Dale Ryder at 978-371-9673 to volunteer or to get more information.

WOMEN'S FALL RETREAT "Listening to Your Heart"

Friday evening, November 13th through
Saturday afternoon, November 14th

All women of the church (and their friends and neighbors) are invited to attend the fall retreat at Marist House in Framingham, just a 35-minute drive from the church.

We are delighted to have Leslie A. Ackles leading the program on the theme "Listening to Your Heart" - finding balance and inner peace. Leslie is the director of the University of Massachusetts Donahue Institute Organizational Development and Training Group. She is also a work/life balance coach. Leslie received a BA in human development from University of California, Davis, a Masters degree from Harvard University and has recently completed the UMass Medical School Mindfulness Stress Reduction Program.

Leslie has been passionate about the issue of work/life balance since she became a working mother in 1985. She negotiated a balanced work schedule and has since assisted many women in creating that balance between home and work life. She has worked on her own stress reduction and the pursuit of her life's calling through melding the mind, body, spirit practices of yoga, breath work, mindfulness, exercise, rest and diet.



Through this work she has found inner quiet and presence. Retreat participants will have the opportunity to benefit from her experience and expertise.

Cost of the retreat is \$85 which includes three meals - dinner on Friday and breakfast and lunch on Saturday, prepared and served; snacks; accommodations and the program. Sign up in the parish hall or by calling the church office.

ADULT MISSION TRIP!

Honduras Hope is a non-profit organization dedicated to supporting the economically and politically marginalized poor, rural communities of Honduras. Rev. Bill Briggs of *Honduras Hope* organizes mission trips to two villages in particular to work on sustainable development projects, including schools, healthcare clinics, and economic endeavors. Karen Doolittle and the Mission Committee are planning an adult mission trip to Honduras in January of 2010. If you have an interest in taking part in this, contact Karen Doolittle at 978-371-0107 or revdoolittle@gmail.com. The trip will be limited to 8 - 10 people, and will be 10 - 12 days long. A planning meeting will be held on a yet to be decided date. You may go to hondurashope.org to find out more about the work that they do.

LIFE CHANGES



Congratulations to Stephanie Lombard and Michael Cruse who were married at TriCon on Saturday, July 18. Stephanie is the daughter of John and Janet Lombard and her father officiated at the service!

WITH SYMPATHY

Heartfelt condolences to Louise Klemmer and her family. Louise's husband, Werner, died on June 28. Services will be held at TriCon on July 25 at 11:00 a.m.

Sincere sympathy to Marty and Russ Wolf and their family. Marty's mother, Eleanor Williams Gilpatrick, died on July 5 in NJ.

Our condolences to Chuck Ladd and his family. Chuck's wife, Carol, died on July 16. Services will be held at TriCon on July 28 at 3:00 p.m.

ITEMS OF INTEREST

INTRODUCING OUR INTERIM ASSOCIATE MINISTER, BOB BROWN

We are pleased to announce that Bob Brown has accepted the position of Interim Associate Minister at TriCon and will begin his service with us on Monday, August 17. Bob has completed Andover

Newton Theological School and is approved for ordination, pending a call by the Metropolitan Boston Association of the United Church of Christ. While in divinity school, Bob served as an intern at both South Acton Congregational Church and Old South

Church in Boston. During the past year, he has been employed as the manager of a group home for autistic adults in Brookline.

Prior to his call to ordained ministry, Bob had a 30-year career as a television and film director in Boston, New York and Los Angeles. He is a devoted father to two adult children and one 13-year-old boy, all of whom live in the area.

Bob says, "Serving at TriCon will be a great honor and delight. I am joyously anticipating integration into what God is clearly blessing here."



Ushers & Greeters



Many of you received a letter in June telling you about our new system of assigning ushers and greeters for the Sunday services and hoping that you would be willing to be in the pool. We have heard from a few folks who have asked not to be included and a few who have given us specific dates they are or are not available and we appreciate the feedback. This is meant to be an invitation offering the opportunity to many of our parishioners, not an obligation.

We will be putting together the assignments in mid-August so please let us know by August 10th if you would prefer not to be included in the pool or if you did not receive the letter but would like to be a greeter or usher in the coming year, let us know that. You can email triconchurch@aol.com or call the church office at 978 369-4837.

SUMMER OFFICE HOURS

through Friday, August 21
9:00 a.m. – 1:00 p.m.

Regular office hours will resume on
Monday, August 24

Should you have a pastoral need when the church is closed, call the church office at 978 369-4837 and follow the instructions on the phone message.

JOIN THE WOMEN'S UNION COMMITTEE

The Women's Union Committee plans several luncheons for the women (and men) of the church during the year. They are looking for a few more women to work with them on the fall luncheon - date to be determined. Do you like to plan parties? Do you have any ideas for interesting programs? Do you know a great caterer or are you a "Costco gourmet"?

This is a fun, low key way to make a one-time contribution to the life of our church. Contact Judy Walpole in the church office to volunteer or get more information.

OUR NEWEST MEMBERS



Welcome
Our *New*
Members

James and Marcia Malmfeldt became members of TriCon on June 7th. The Malmfeldts have lived in Boston's western suburbs for many years. Jim is retired from John Hancock Insurance and Marcia works in real estate in Sudbury. They have two grown children, both attorneys living in Chicago. Jim and Marcia enjoy traveling, gardening, reading, music and sports.

The deadline for the
September Newsletter
is August 15.

A REMINDER TO KNITTERS AND SEWERS

The Knitting Group meets in the church parlor once a month from September through June. Everyone from beginner to expert is welcome to join the group. You need not come every month but can join in when it is convenient for you. The Knitting Group will meet on September 23 at noon.



Our church community remains actively involved in the baby blanket project for AIDS babies and in the City Mission Society Christmas Shop, as well as the prayer

shawl ministry. If you are not part of the Knitting Group, please work on your projects at home and if you need yarn, knitting needles or instructions, contact the church office. Watch the Newsletter or Sunday Events & Comments in the fall for when items will be collected, or you may call the church office for more information.

FLOWERS FOR THE ALTAR

August 2nd and 30th are available to donate flowers for the altar. Please call the church office at 978 369-4837 if you would like to bring flowers from your own garden or you would like to order flowers on either of these dates.



THE BIBLE ON ONE PAGE

For the computer-savvy, there is a remarkable website (<http://www.jrsbible.info/bible.htm>) which features "the Bible on One Page." Included are multiple versions and many languages as well as a series of Scripture references and resources for various times, needs and seasons of life. Give it a try and see what wonderful discoveries you might make!

MATT DIBATTISTA PERFORMS

Our own Matt DiBattista, along with Zach Borichevsky and John Gomez, will perform your favorite arias and songs as part of the Boston Waterfront Performing Arts Series on:

Tuesday, August 11 at 6:00 p.m.
Christopher Columbus Park
North End, Boston

Go to www.cityofboston.gov for more information.

STEPHEN MINISTRY CORNER

Stephen Ministers will be available throughout the summer. Contact Rev. John Lombard, or call Demi Ayres at (978) 369-4250, Carol Gupta at (978) 371-0018 or Leslie Ackles at (978) 371-1655 to request the help of a Stephen Minister.

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