

# The Newsletter

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Trinitarian Congregational Church  
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SEPTEMBER 2009



## THE PASTORAL PERSPECTIVE

The death in July of Robert S. McNamara, the Kennedy-Johnson-era Defense Secretary, renewed debate about his leadership of the Defense Department. Many will recall in particular his oversight of the Bay of Pigs invasion of Cuba, the Cuban blockade, and the escalation of the Vietnam War, the latter of which McNamara confessed in his memoirs, "We were terribly wrong." As one would expect, McNamara has his faithful advocates and his passionate critics. At the time of McNamara's death, Ivan Eland, Director of the Center on Peace and Liberty which studies national defense issues, observed of the former Defense Secretary, "There is a place for analytical rigor in Pentagon policy, and [McNamara] knew how to answer all the small questions. But he couldn't answer the big questions."

I was struck by the notion of having strong analytical abilities without an accompanying capacity for comprehending the larger picture and how, in McNamara's case, the result, even by the Secretary's own admission, was disastrous. All of which curiously prompts my reflection upon the essential work of the Church.

Core to who we are as a faith community and essential to our *raison d'être* is the critical reflection upon and exploration of the big questions of life. It seems to me that unless or until we have wrestled with the big questions with respect to origins and destinies, meaning and purpose, ultimacy and contingency, God and humanity, it is challenging at best to try to figure out the ethics and actions which define our God-given identity and express our best selves, our fullest humanity, and God's best intentions. While analysis depends upon reason which is limited and finite, faith transcends the limitations of time, space, and material circumstances to discover that which is quintessential to what it means to be human and a child of God. It is then, with the larger picture in mind and the bigger questions engaged, that we can, with integrity and supported by divine intention, act in faith-filled, reasonable, and ethical ways. Without dealing with the bigger picture and questions first, we may run the risk of coming up short or sadly lacking in answering the lesser questions of our everyday.

So, join us in the "new year" before us as together we consider and reflect upon the "big questions" that our lives might be deepened, our worlds expanded, and our actions and ethics fully harnessed for God's best intentions for the human family.

Shalom,

**SUNDAY, SEPTEMBER 13 - KICK-OFF SUNDAY**

One service at 10:00 a.m.  
**CHURCH SCHOOL BEGINS**

**WELCOME BACK BRUNCH**

To celebrate the beginning of a new church year!

Hosted by the Fellowship Committee  
 Quiche, muffins, punch, cake, fruit  
 Everyone welcome -- No charge

**September Worship Services**

<b>SEPTEMBER 6</b> Communion	<b>Service at 10:00</b>	Rev. Dr. John Lombard preaching
<b>SEPTEMBER 13</b>	<b>Service at 10:00</b>	Rev. Dr. John Lombard preaching
<b>SEPTEMBER 20</b>	<b>Service at 8:30</b> <b>Service at 10:00</b>	Prayer and Holy Communion Bob Brown preaching
<b>SEPTEMBER 27</b>	<b>Service at 8:30</b> <b>Service at 10:00</b>	Prayer and Holy Communion Jessica Jackley preaching

**HAVE YOU PARTICIPATED IN OUR  
 8:30 A.M. SERVICE ON SUNDAY MORNINGS**

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**The 8:30 a.m. service will resume on September 20.**

Taking place in the church parlor, the 8:30 a.m. service is a half hour Service of Prayer and Holy Communion. It includes scripture readings, collective prayer, silence, musical responses and the celebration of communion by intincture. If you would like to spend a quiet half hour with a small group of worshipers, why not give the 8:30 service a try? Everyone is welcome.

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## EVENTS AND OPPORTUNITIES



If you would like to share your musical gifts in worship as a

vocal or instrumental soloist, our Music Director, Vickie Wagner, would love to talk with you! You're heartily welcome to speak with Vickie about being a soloist or about being involved with senior choir in any way. See her after a Sunday service, leave her a voice mail at the church (978-369-4837 x227) or send her an email (vwag@aol.com).

**You are also invited to participate in our choirs, the backbone of our music program.**

### **JUNIOR CHOIR**

Children grades 2-8 are invited to join our children's music program. We will have two choirs this year, Junior (grades 2-4), and Youth (grades 5-8). Choirs meet Sunday mornings, following worship. They participate in the service at least once a month, as well as in several special services throughout the year. During rehearsals children learn basic musicianship, vocal technique, hymns and anthems. **Following the worship service on Sunday, September 13, there will be an informational meeting downstairs in the new choir room for all families interested in the children's choirs.** Rehearsals begin on September 20. For more information, please contact Emily Roos at emilyroos@verizon.net or 781-643-1519.

### **SENIOR CHOIR**

The Senior Choir is open to high school students and adults of all ages. This fun-loving, hardworking group sings together from mid-September through late May. Repertoire ranges from Tudor anthems, to Mozart and Mendelssohn, to newly composed works and jazz. For singers of a high skill level, there are also opportunities for singing solos or in small ensembles.

Senior Choir rehearses on Thursdays from 7:45 – 9:15 p.m., beginning September 17, and Sundays at 9:15 a.m., with recesses after Christmas and Easter. New members are welcome; if you're a tenor you'll really get the red-carpet treatment.

### **Special opportunities for Senior Choir:**

#### **Sundays September 13 & 20**

**9:15 a.m. in the choir loft:**

#### **SUNDAY ONLY CHOIR!**

Unable to come to Thursday night rehearsals? Feeling a bit rusty in the vocal "pipes" and want to give them a test run? Want to give choir a try without making a long-term commitment? Then Sunday-only Choir is for you. Come either or both Sundays to learn a simple anthem or two for the morning service.

#### **Sunday, October 25:**

#### **BI-ANNUAL JAZZ SERVICE**

Organized by Chuck Stevenson, this musical service features our choirs and some of Boston's finest jazz instrumentalists in arrangements created especially for us by Steve Dale. There are six Thursday night rehearsals for this service (beginning September 17) and a Saturday morning "dress" rehearsal on October 24. Singers committed to rehearsing this harmonically challenging music are welcome to join us for these six weeks. Contact Vickie Wagner before the September 17 rehearsal.

#### **Sunday, December 20:**

#### **CHRISTMAS MUSIC SUNDAY**

If you are interested in singing in the choir just for the Advent-Christmas season rehearsals begin October 30.

#### **CHRISTMAS EVE CHOIR**

The 8:00 p.m. service begins with a 20-minute prelude of choral and vocal music, and we open our choir ranks. There is usually only one rehearsal for this service, (most likely Thursday evening December 23 this year); if you can attend that rehearsal, you are welcome to sing with us!

## FALL AND WINTER SCHOOL CLOTHES FOR MERRIMACK HOUSE

**Drop off in the parish hall  
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.

## TRICON YOGA RESUMES

Our TriCon Yoga Community will resume our yoga classes on Sunday, September 13. We meet Sundays at 5:00 p.m. around the corner from the church at the Gervais Dance Studio. We practice a beginner/intermediate level Kripalu yoga with a focus on relaxation, flexibility, strengthening and balance. Our deeper intention is to connect to God, to each other and to our inner well of wisdom and peace. All are welcome and we hope you will join us. Call or email Leslie Ackles at 978-371-1655, BillLes@aol.com or our yoga teacher, Brenda Fingold (617-413-7631) for more information.

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## Spiritual Enrichment

**Begins Monday, September 14, 9:45 a.m.**

Mark your calendars for the first fall meeting of Spiritual Enrichment. This group:

- Gathers on Monday mornings at 9:45 a.m. in the parlor (except on holidays when the church is closed).
- Explores faith issues, scripture and personal spiritual growth.
- Shares struggles and joys, beliefs and doubts, and ways we can seek to live a Christian life.
- Supports each other by accepting all opinions and beliefs in an atmosphere of confidentiality.

**Newcomers always welcome!**

**Monday, September 14    Opening Session  
"Living the Spirit"**

Marsha Martin, facilitator

**Monday, September 21  
"Communities Together Celebrate the Spirit"**

Ruthann Hall, Judy Hill, Diane Leahy,  
facilitators

**Monday, September 28    Faith Circles  
"Belonging Comes Before Believing"**

Diane Frost, facilitator

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## 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:

- September 20
- October 25
- December 13

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.

## A REMINDER TO KNITTERS AND SEWERS

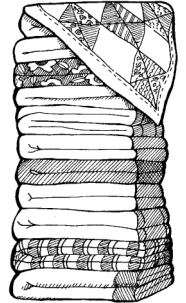
The Knitting Group meets in the church parlor once a month from September through

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 Wednesday, September 23 at noon. Bring your own lunch and your knitting.

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.



## 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.



WELCOME

## FALL 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 September and October, as listed below, we will offer two "Welcoming Coffees" in the parlor for conversation with the ministers and other church leaders. Then in November 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 November 22nd. We hope you will join us! If you have any questions, please call Mary Lou Esposito at the church office.

### **"Welcoming Coffees": Getting to Know Us**

**Sunday, September 27th**

Coffee and conversation with church leaders  
11:00 a.m. (after 10:00 a.m. service) in the parlor

**Sunday, October 18th**

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, November 1st**

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

**Sunday, November 22nd**

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

**NEW FORUM OFFERED THIS FALL**

**Caught in the Middle**  
***Taking the Bite Out Of Being a***  
***“Sandwiched” Baby-boomer***

Elder care is an issue that tears at the family fabric of our society. Caregivers experience real conflicts between loyalty, love, economics and self.

We are pleased to introduce a new series of workshops designed to support, inform and offer camaraderie to our growing population of “Sandwiched” Baby-boomers and their families.

**Workshops will be held at TriCon on the 4th Monday evening of each month**  
**7:00 p.m. – 8:30 p.m. - beginning September 28th, 2009.**  
**A sign-up sheet is located in the Parish Hall.**

Recognizing that discretionary time is something that the “Sandwiched” Baby-boomers are most lacking, this forum seeks to consolidate and present valuable resources within a spiritually safe environment that encourages sharing, healing and peace.

“Sandwiched” Baby-boomers and their families are caught in-between juggling the needs of their aging parents (and possibly grandparents) and a variety of other concerns. These may include:

- The needs of their own children (and possibly grandchildren).
- The needs of their spouses and their marriage.
- Career demands.
- Their own needs, dreams and health concerns.

This series will consist of seven workshops/lectures – each facilitated by local community experts.

Core topics will include:

1. The Spiritual Challenges of Growing Older
2. The Role Reversal
3. Guilt, Grudges and Communication – Establishing Healthy Relationships
4. Protecting the Final Seasons of Life – Legal and Financial Ramifications
5. Organization of Financial Matters: Being Practical and Proactive
6. Estate Preservation and Distribution
7. Collaboration of Resources and Providers

"Do not cast me off in the time of old age; forsake me not when my strength is spent" (Psalm 71: 9).

**For more information or if you would like to be involved in helping facilitate any of these lectures, please contact Donna Carlson at 978-505-1404 or [donnacarlson@verizon.net](mailto:donnacarlson@verizon.net).**

## DEVELOPING CHRISTIAN CHARACTER AND LIFESTYLE IN A CHALLENGING WORLD

Wednesdays, October 14, 21, 28,  
and November 4, 7:30 – 9:00 p.m.

One of the most significant yet generally overlooked or neglected New Testament books, the Letter of James, will be the focus on four Wednesday evenings in October and November. Disliked by Martin Luther, leader of the Protestant Reformation, for its emphasis on good deeds this pivotal letter has often been viewed as being in opposition to Paul's letters which emphasize justification by faith in God. Scholar and Professor of New Testament, Luke Timothy Johnson, has observed that the Letter of James' "call to realize professed ideals in appropriate action has spoken with prophetic urgency to generations of readers who have found James' directives difficult to perform rather than to understand."

Open to all interested individuals, this Bible study will focus on the ethical value of this eminently practical letter for people of faith. Ten or more individuals will constitute the group. Sign up in the parish hall.

The deadline for the  
October Newsletter  
is September 15.



Concord area  
CROP Walk  
for the Hungry  
Sunday, October 18

The 29<sup>th</sup> annual *Concord area CROP Walk for the Hungry* will be on Sunday, October 18<sup>th</sup>. The Walk will start at First Parish, and is a 7 km walk along a beautiful route in Concord that passes through the National Park, across the North Bridge, and past the Buttrick mansion. Each year groups and families from TriCon contribute to this effort by walking, sponsoring walkers, or helping with the effort. There is a banner contest, live music, refreshments, a T-shirt design contest for the children, and the camaraderie of the walk, not to mention the peak of foliage season. The money raised will support both local food programs, such as Open Table and Gaining Ground, and global hunger relief - community development projects and disaster relief. Be there at 1:30 for music by the CCHS Pep Band, the banner contest and registration. The walk begins at 2:15.

So mark your calendars and tell your friends, Information and walk papers will be available during September and October in the parish hall after church. Also, check out the CROP Walk website for details on the wonderful success of past walks, how to do online pledging, and where the money goes – [www.concordcrop.org](http://www.concordcrop.org)



## 39<sup>TH</sup> 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.

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## WOMEN'S FALL RETREAT "Listening to Your Heart"

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**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 through discovery of your own inner wisdom. This will be an opportunity to learn the art of slowing down through being present and mindful of every precious moment in our lives. With the help of readings, prayer, meditative exercises, discussion, creative expression, humor, and each other, we will explore ways to free ourselves from the tyranny of our "To-Do's", and so to rest more in our deeper selves and in the gift of life itself. This retreat will be loosely based on Abby Seixas' new book, *Finding the Deep River Within: A Women's Guide to Recovering Balance and Meaning in Everyday Life*, and will discuss two of her six core practices that can support us in allowing our own deeper currents to flow through daily life.

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

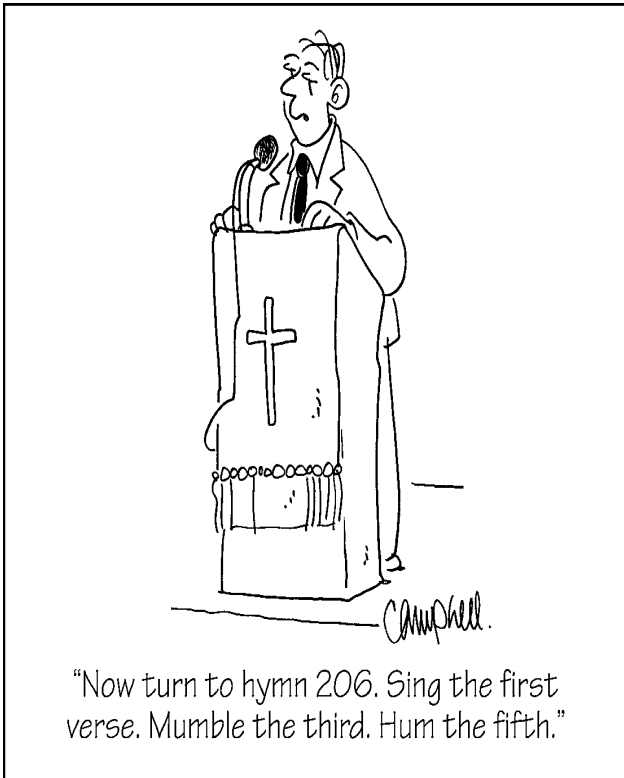


Cost of the retreat is \$85 which includes three meals - dinner on Friday and breakfast and lunch on Saturday, prepared and served, snacks, accommodations and the program. Sign up in the parish hall or by calling the church office.

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## 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](mailto: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](http://hondurashope.org) to find out more about the work that they do.



"Now turn to hymn 206. Sing the first verse. Mumble the third. Hum the fifth."

## COMMUNITY NEWS

### NEED A LAUGH! DON'T WE ALL?!

Social and political comedian, Jimmy Tingle will headline a benefit for Communities for Restorative Justice (C4RJ), **Sunday, September 13, 2009, at 5:00 p.m. at the Concord-Carlisle High School Auditorium.**

A nationally known comedian who has appeared on the Tonight Show, Larry King Weekend, the Late Show with Conan O'Brien, the American Comedy Awards, and his own HBO comedy special, Tingle provides clean, intelligent, and topical humor.

This late afternoon performance will benefit Communities for Restorative Justice, a volunteer-based community organization that works in partnership with police departments to offer a process of repair and accountability for those harmed by crime, the offenders in such cases, and community members.

Tickets are \$30 in advance or \$35 at the door, and may be purchased in Concord at Debra's Natural Gourmet, Helen's Restaurant, The Cheese Shop, and Concord Provisions; Ferns in Carlisle center, West Acton Market, Acton, and Tedeschi's in Littleton. Credit card purchases may be made on line at [www.C4RJ.com](http://www.C4RJ.com). Refreshments will be sold at intermission. For more information about Communities for Restorative Justice, please visit [www.C4RJ.com](http://www.C4RJ.com), or call 978-318-3467.

## YOUTH ACTIVITIES



### SENIOR HIGH YOUTH GROUP

Welcome to Senior High Youth Group! Whether you're a returning student, new to the church, or an incoming freshman, welcome! We've got a lot of great things planned for a really fun year.

### STUFF YOU NEED TO KNOW

There are many different parts to TriCon's Youth Group program, including Sunday night Youth Group, Wednesday Discussion Group, retreats, lock-ins, service projects, and of course, the 2010 Mission Trip. You will receive information and sign up sheets in the mail on all our program has to offer.

Announcements will be posted in this space in the monthly newsletter for upcoming events, and you will receive special mailings periodically throughout the year. You are always welcome to call, text, or email Nick Bruning at (978) 618-1629, [triconnb@aol.com](mailto:triconnb@aol.com), to request information, talk about the Youth Group program, or for any other reason.

If you have not received your Youth Group information packet by September 10th, please call the church office, and we will get one out to you ASAP.

### SUNDAY NIGHT YOUTH GROUP

In the Youth Room on the lower level. See you there!

<b>Sunday, September 13</b>	<b>7:00 - 8:30 p.m.</b>
<b>Sunday, September 20</b>	<b>7:00 - 8:30 p.m.</b>
<b>Sunday, September 27</b>	<b>7:00 - 8:30 p.m.</b>

There will be a parents' meeting prior to Youth Group on Sunday, September 20 at 6:30 p.m. in the church parlor. We will discuss what YG is all about, and the role of parents in making YG happen.

### WEDNESDAY NIGHT DISCUSSION GROUP

Every Wednesday from 7:30-8:30 p.m. beginning on September 16 in the Youth Room on the lower level. Talk with your YG friends about what is on your mind, serious or fanciful. All high schoolers are welcome.

### ATTENTION ALL HIGH SCHOOL FRESHMEN (and those who love them)

### We Want YOU!

The TriCon Confirmation program is getting in gear for 2009-10. Look for a snail mail package coming your way outlining the entire year. The mailing will have all the forms, a calendar of events and more information about the Confirmation program. Here are some starting dates to mark down.

**Sunday September 13** 11:30 a.m.  
Orientation for Confirmands & Parents

**Sunday September 20**  
**DEADLINE for Class Registration**  
**Sunday September 20** 11:30 a.m.  
Orientation for Mentors

**Sunday October 4** 11:30 a.m.  
Coffee for Parents and Mentors  
**Sunday, October 4** 5:00 -7:00 p.m.  
**FIRST CONFIRMATION CLASS**

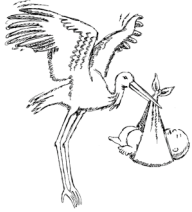
**October 16-17**  
Opening overnight Retreat

If you have not received your packet in the mail please call the church office today!!!  
978 369-4837.

## LIFE CHANGES

### NEW BABIES

We welcome Zoë Anne Bonzagni, born on July 16th to Andy Bonzagni and Melissa Winstanley. Happy family members are Zoë's grandparents, David and Barbara Winstanley, and cousins Allie and Tucker Winstanley and Cole, Jalen and Schuyler Winstanley.



We celebrate the July 21<sup>st</sup> birth of Dustin Michael Kirby, son of Amanda (Nelson) and Michael Kirby. Proud grandparents are Pat and Pete Nelson.

### WEDDINGS TO CELEBRATE

Congratulations to Lisa Andrews and Matthew Gruber who were married at TriCon on July 25<sup>th</sup>. Lisa is the daughter of Carolyn and Ray Andrews.

Best wishes to Kara Svartstrom and Eric Stokes who were married at TriCon on August 15<sup>th</sup>. Eric is the son of Teri Stokes and stepson of Peter Yensen.

## *60<sup>th</sup>* ANNIVERSARY

Sincere congratulations from all of us at TriCon to Norma and Arnold Hebb who celebrated their 60<sup>th</sup> wedding anniversary on July 30<sup>th</sup>.

## HAPPY BIRTHDAY

Happy birthday from the TriCon community to Jane Wertz who turned 95 on August 4.



Our sympathy to the family of our former member, Edward Brozowski, who died on July 30. Services will be held in CO in September.

Heartfelt condolences to the family of Nina Tang who died on August 6. Rev. Dr. John Lombard conducted services at the Concord Funeral Home.

Our thoughts and prayers are with Charlene Burstad and her family. Charlene's mother, our member, Charlotte Burstad, died on August 12. Services were private.

Sincere sympathy to Robert and William Tod and their families. Their mother, our longtime member Jane Tod, died on August 21 at age 99 ½. A memorial service will be held at Carleton Willard Village in Bedford on Saturday, November 14 at 2:00 p.m. with a reception following. Burial will be private.

## ITEMS OF INTEREST

### CONGRATULATIONS

Congratulations to Ann Jacobs who recently became a Life Master in Bridge, a major accomplishment, and to Polly Vanasse who was one of three Massachusetts educators to be named 2009 Conservation Teacher of the Year by the Mass Audubon Society and the New England Farm and Garden Association.

## BECOME A CONFIRMATION MENTOR

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If you want to REALLY explore your faith and what you TRULY believe about God, Church, Religion, Jesus and other BIG questions, become a mentor to one of the High School Freshmen enrolled in the Confirmation class. This is a rewarding way to guide a young person in his or her faith journey while at the same time bolstering your own. The time commitment is reasonable, the rewards are eternal, and the training is abundant. For more information call Chris Zamore at 978 287-5035 or Interim Associate Minister, Bob Brown at 978 369-4837 X 225.

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## STEPHEN MINISTRY CORNER

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A few years ago, I served on a committee charged with distributing the funds of a charitable trust. Some time in the last century, or maybe even earlier, far-sighted Concord citizens had bequeathed enough money to the town that their endowments are still able to provide fallback funds to citizens facing a financial crisis.

One day, I took a call from a woman who explained that her husband had just lost his job. Although they lived in a prestigious neighborhood and were accustomed to an affluent lifestyle, they had suddenly been catapulted into the world of the needy. She and her family were compelled to seek meals at Open Table and other free suppers in the surrounding towns, and she was calling to ask our trust for help with a utility bill. At

one point in our conversation, she said, "I used to *give* money to organizations like yours."

This was before the current recession, but many similar stories of financial freefall are playing out across the country, and perhaps even in our own faith community, right now. If this is your story, be assured that there are resources within your town and within our church that can be of help. Both our pastoral and Stephen Ministry staff are available to stand with you during this trying experience. Call your town offices, tell your story (briefly) and ask for the numbers of groups that can help you financially.

Carol Gupta

Remember Stephen Ministers are available in times of crisis. 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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## Join the Women's Union Committee

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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.

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## CELEBRATING COMMUNITY - OUR ROOTS

As a community of faith, we are gathered together today from backgrounds and upbringings in diverse religious traditions or perhaps, coming new as adults to a faith community. We share some common beliefs and values; we respect our differences. We also share and benefit from the rich history of Trinitarian Congregational Church.



Our church had its beginnings in March 1826 when nine members left First Parish Church, because "the Trinity was left out" as that church continued a gradual shift towards Unitarianism. Those nine people, later joined by a tenth from First Parish, and six others from the town founded the Second Congregational Society and the First Calvinistic Religious Society. They accepted the gift of a lot from Ebenezer Hubbard to build a meeting house and the corner stone was laid on May 22, 1826.

Sixty-nine persons signed the constitution of the society. An ecclesiastical council in June of that year, presided over by Rev. Lyman Beecher, (father of Harriet Beecher Stowe and Henry Ward Beecher) took the formal steps of organization for Trinitarian Congregational Church. Rev. Beecher's sermon text on that occasion was "Fear not, little flock, for it is your Father's good pleasure to give you the kingdom" (Luke 12:32).

Among the original members who left First Parish were Jane, Elizabeth and Maria Thoreau, aunts of Henry David Thoreau. Maria is widely believed to be the "heavily veiled woman" who paid Henry's fine when he was imprisoned for refusing to pay his poll tax in protest of the Mexican war and its impact on extending slavery.

In April 1828, the church resolved to form a Concord Sabbath-school Society. Branch schools were established in homes in different districts, including one in Carlisle and members contributed twenty-five cents a year. Various other societies, including the Ladies Missionary Society and the Juvenile Missionary Society were committed to "fostering a missionary spirit" particularly among the young people of the church.

In 1836, the congregation passed a resolution stating that: "The holding of property in human beings, or the aiding and countenancing of this, or being in any way accessory to it, is palpably inconsistent with natural right and with the plainest teaching of the gospel of Christ." They further resolved to admit no person to membership in the church who maintained slaves. In 1840, the Ladies Emancipation Society organized to engage in efforts for the relief of those "held in cruel and unrighteous bondage." They sent money and clothing to escaped slaves in Canada.

In 1851, when an escaped slave was captured in Boston and ordered returned to his owner under the newly enacted Fugitive Slave Law of 1850, Rev. Daniel Foster of our church went to Boston and prayed with him. Thoreau, who in his writings, decried the passivity of his fellow townspeople in light of this new law, expressed his pride that a man of Concord had been the one to defy the ban on speeches and offer a public prayer. During the Civil War, Foster, a white man, served in the 33rd Massachusetts Negro Volunteers and was killed in battle.

To learn more about our church and its rich past, pick up a copy of our church history written by church member, Bob Watson, and available from the church office.

## Celebrating Community

As we move into a new church year, we are focusing on Celebrating Our Community.

**On September 13th, we will celebrate with a common meal - a delicious brunch served by the Fellowship Committee - see the flyer enclosed with this newsletter.**

Then, on September 20th during the worship service, parishioners will be asked to write a sentence or two about what our community of faith means to each one of us. These brief comments will be posted for viewing in the parish hall.

Also on September 20th will be an opportunity to learn more about our beautiful facility and explore its nooks and crannies! Whether you are a long-time church member or a newcomer, you are invited to take some time during the coffee hour on Sunday, September 20th to tour the church building.

Learn where the Church School classes meet; discover the "glory hole"; look down from the choir loft, see the new tile in the lower level hallway and get oriented! Tour guides will be located in the Hubbard Street lobby and on each level. Join a guided tour or wander on your own.



### CELEBRATING COMMUNITY WITH A TRADITIONAL HAM AND BEAN CHURCH SUPPER

**Saturday, October 17th -Save the Date!**

Long-time church member, Ed Heald has agreed to prepare his famous ham and bean supper - the real thing - no shortcuts here! And the Fellowship Committee has promised home (church)-made harvest desserts - do we smell apple pie? Mark your calendars for a delicious and fun evening.

