

# The Newsletter

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Trinitarian Congregational Church  
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## THE PASTORAL PERSPECTIVE

A number of images and remembrances from the funeral of Ted Kennedy linger long in my mind. Among them, I found a story by Teddy, Jr., told at his father's funeral, touching, profound, inspirational, and instructive. It was the winter following the 12-year old Kennedy's leg amputation due to cancer. The Senator and his son had gone outdoors sledding, whereupon Teddy, Jr., fell off his sled and struggled mightily to get back up the hill. In great despair, he broke down over the futility of the whole matter. At that point, as the younger Kennedy would relate at his father's funeral, "He picked me up in his strong, gentle arms and said, 'I know you can do this. There is nothing you can't do. We'll climb this hill even if it takes us all day!' I'll never forget that for as long as I live."

Call it a profile in courage, a testimony to the incredible love, care, and compassion resident in the human heart, or a calling to be the best, fullest, and most fulfilled one can humanly be, that story is powerful and compelling both personally as example and collectively as challenge. In some respects, it could be a metaphor for our life together in the church where the long reach of a loving God can pick up us when we are down and despairing and the warm embrace of a compassionate community of God's people can support us in our neediest moments and strengthen us at our weakest places, offering both comfort and challenge. The story also serves as a reminder that even in the most challenging of times, circumstances, and seasons nothing is impossible. By the grace of God and our collective commitment, generosity, and self-sacrificial love, we in the church can confront our greatest challenges and succeed in our most earnest efforts to make real in a broken and suffering world the power, presence, and purpose of a good and gracious God.

I truly believe in the Christian Church at its best to be "the city set on a hill" and an embodiment of hope and help for the human family. I also believe in life, and, like George Bernard Shaw, see it as "no brief candle...It is a sort of splendid torch which I've got hold of for the moment, and I want to make it burn as brightly as possible before handing it on to future generations." May this be our charge, both personally in our daily work and virtues and collectively as the community of God's faithful people. For, with God, nothing of any worth or value is impossible.

Grace and peace,



## October Worship

<b>OCTOBER 4</b> Communion	Service at 8:30 Service at 10:00	Prayer and Holy Communion Rev. Dr. John Lombard preaching
<b>OCTOBER 11</b>	Service at 8:30 Service at 10:00	Prayer and Holy Communion Robert Brown preaching
<b>OCTOBER 18</b>	Service at 8:30 Service at 10:00	Prayer and Holy Communion Rev. Dr. John Lombard preaching
<b>OCTOBER 25</b>	Service at 8:30 Service at 10:00	Prayer and Holy Communion Jazz Service



## JAZZ SERVICE

October 25, 10 a.m.

This is an inspirational service that features our choirs, accompanied by some of the finest jazz musicians in the Boston area. Anthems include favorites such as "Just a Closer Walk With Thee", "Amazing Grace", "God Bless the Child", "The Preacher", "Get Happy" and "Come Sunday"

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

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.

## EVENTS AND OPPORTUNITIES



### Celebrating Community

On September 20th during the worship service, John Lombard asked each person to write a word or a phrase or a simple sentence that described community, and especially our church community, to them. We'll be sharing those responses, such as "belonging", "support", "care" over the next few weeks but just as Bob Brown preached on that morning, some of the best wisdom comes from our children, as proven by the statement from a 10 year-old "I feel stronger with more people around me". How true it is - together, we are strong and we can do great things!

October is the time for our Stewardship Campaign when we come together to provide for the church operation and outreach in 2010. Continuation and enhancement of programs, maintenance of our buildings and grounds, fair compensation for our clergy and staff and the vital assistance given through our mission donations all depend upon the pledges and gifts received from the members of our congregation.

These are challenging economic times -many have lost jobs, or are worried about job security or are finding their retirement funds shrinking but others have resources to draw upon and together we can, must, and will carry on the vital mission and ministry of our community of faith.

Whether you are a long-time member of our church, a new worshipper or somewhere in between, please prayerfully consider what you can contribute in the coming year.

The drive will kick off on October 4<sup>th</sup>. Many will receive pledge materials through a personal delivery system when a fellow worshipper will drop off a pouch at your home. You will have the opportunity to make a confidential pledge or gift before passing the pouch on to the next family or individual on the list. Once the pouch has made its rounds, it will be returned to the church by the last people on the list.

Some, for reasons of geography or personal preference, will receive the same pledge materials by mail. In either case, please respond promptly so that we may approach the new year, positioned and strengthened to worship God, to live into our faith, to support each other and to celebrate our community!

### BLESSING OF THE ANIMALS Sunday, October 4<sup>th</sup> at 2:00 p.m.

Gather on the church grounds to celebrate the gift of Creation and the relationships within this gift. The brief service of prayers and readings will include the individual blessing of animals. Participants are invited to bring their animal companions or a photo or other meaningful item related to that friend.



Animal companions should be well behaved and comfortable around other animals and in your full control at all times. Make sure all animals have identification and use toileting areas outside the perimeter of the church grounds. If attending, please sign up in the parish hall or call the church office. In the event of inclement weather, the celebration will be postponed.

A reception will follow featuring animal crackers, "bug juice" (as they called it in camping days!), and appropriate treats.



## Spiritual Enrichment

**Mondays, 9:45 a.m. in the church parlor**  
(except on holidays)  
**Newcomers always welcome!**

- |                            |  |
|----------------------------|--|
| <b>Monday, October 5</b>   | <b>The Natural World<br/>- a sense of wonder</b> |
| Bonnie Soleau, facilitator |  |
| <b>Monday, October 12</b>  | <b>Columbus Day<br/>Church Closed</b>            |
| <b>Monday, October 19</b>  | <b>The Story of Jonah</b>                        |
| Ruthann Hall, facilitator  |  |
| <b>Monday, October 26</b>  | <b>The Story of Jonah</b>                        |
| Ruthann Hall, facilitator  |  |

## FACTS, FICTION & FEARS The Flu and You!

**Presented by Dr. Alan Woodward**

**Thursday, October 8, 7:00 p.m.**

or

**Sunday, October 18, 11:15 a.m.**

Dr. Alan Woodward and his family are long-time members of TriCon Church. Dr. Woodward is the former Chief of Emergency Medicine at Emerson Hospital where, as a committed patient advocate, he worked tirelessly to improve access to high-quality emergency care and to enhance public health. He is a past president of the Mass Medical Society and currently sits on the Massachusetts Public Health Council as well as on numerous other healthcare boards and committees.

We are honored to have Dr. Woodward as our speaker.

## ALL COMMITTEE CONVOCATION

**Tuesday, October 13, 6:00 p.m.**

Once again this fall, TriCon will hold an All-Committee Convocation.

This evening brings together the full membership of every committee and board of the church for a time of fellowship and prayer, followed by their individual business meetings for the month. As a church, we remember that there are many gifts, but one body in Christ. The convocation is a way to lift up our collective work for the church as we enter a new season and pray for God's guidance. We also hope to facilitate communication and cooperation among committees and provide an opportunity to inspire one another and share ideas.



The schedule for the evening will be:

- |                  |   |
|------------------|---|
| <b>6:00 p.m.</b> | <b>Light supper in the parish hall</b>              |
| <b>7:00 p.m.</b> | <b>Welcome and opening worship<br/>in Sanctuary</b> |
| <b>7:30 p.m.</b> | <b>Individual committee meetings</b>                |
| <b>8:45 p.m.</b> | <b>Closing plenary session<br/>in Sanctuary</b>     |

All of the committees of the church are invited to be part of this evening; each and every member is encouraged to attend. In fact, it cannot happen without you. What an opportunity this is to witness the strength of our church, to celebrate our many individual gifts, and to work together as one community.

Committee chairs should be in touch with Moderator Liz Haff by October 6th, to confirm your committee's participation and give an estimated head count for dinner, (978) 287-0284 or Liz.Haff@verizon.net.

## RETIRED MEN'S GROUP

The Retired Men's Group will meet for lunch on Wednesday, October 14 at noon. The speakers will be Kerry Cronin and Leslie Wilson from the Concord Free Public Library who will speak about the library and its archives. 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 October 14, please call Robert Nelson (978 369-3105) or Charles Davis (978 369-6250) by October 8. The cost of the lunch is \$8.00.

## 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.



**Concord area  
CROP Walk  
for the Hungry  
Sunday, October 18  
First Parish**

*Concord area CROP Walk for the Hungry* is a 7 km walk along a beautiful route in Concord. The Walk, which raises money for hunger and disaster relief is great for families, and will start and finish at First Parish.

The Concord Carlisle HS Pep Band will play from 1:30-2:00 p.m., with the walk starting at 2:15 p.m., so come early and listen. The Yankee Stompers Dixieland band will play at end of the walk in the parish hall, where refreshments will be served. Youth may bring a banner for the banner contest, or join the art contest for next year's tee shirt.

One quarter of the money raised by the CROP Walk provides substantial assistance for local supper/food pantry programs feeding the very needy, especially single parent families and senior citizens. Open Table and Gaining Ground, projects some members of our congregation support in an ongoing way, are two of the local recipients of the CROP Walk proceeds. The remainder of the CROP Walk proceeds support Church World Service in its world hunger programs in 70 underdeveloped countries. Church World Service is the mission arm of the National Council of Churches, providing disaster relief, refugee assistance, and community development programs.

Walk, sponsor a walker, or volunteer to help at the registration table the day of the walk. All walkers with 20+ sponsors are entitled to a free tee shirt! Information and walk papers are now available in the TriCon parish hall. (Rain date: October 26 - only if there is a heavy downpour on October 18.)



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 October, as listed below, we will offer a "Welcoming Coffee" 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, 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

## A REMINDER TO KNITTERS AND SEWERS

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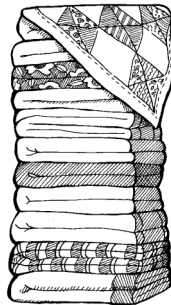
The Knitting Group meets in the church parlor once a month from September through



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, October 21 at noon. Bring your 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.



## UNITED HOMES SHELTER MEALS

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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:

- 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.

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## CONCORD CARES

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Concord Cares is a group of citizens who came together to address energy issues of people who can benefit from home weatherization in these tough economic times. The purpose of this project is to help families save money, conserve energy and keep warm. There is no means test to qualify for the program.

Trained volunteers can install plastic storm windows, weather stripping for doors and foam behind the exterior outlets. They can also check some detectors or provide other energy saving information. Funding for this program comes from the Concord Municipal Light Plant and other generous contributions through Hugh Cargill/Concord Cares.

There will be several weatherization days this fall beginning on October 25<sup>th</sup>. If you or someone you know could benefit from this program call 978 318-3020 (for those over 60) and 978 318-3034 (for those under 60).

The deadline for the  
November Newsletter  
is October 15.

## **Caught in the Middle Taking the Bite Out Of Being a "Sandwiched" Baby-boomer**

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

**October 26  
Guilt, Grudges, and Personal Growth  
facilitated by  
Allene Riley Kussin, MA, LPC**

We are pleased to welcome Allene Riley Kussin as our second lecture/workshop facilitator in this seven part series. Topics to be addressed this month are the feelings of guilt, grudges and frustration associated with being a "Sandwiched" Baby-boomer -- or the parent of a Baby-boomer.

It doesn't matter what ingredient you see yourself as in the sandwich. All are welcome. Join us as Allene leads us through a healing process of understanding, coping, and growth in hope.

A Concord resident, Allene has a Master's Degree in Clinical Counseling and advanced studies in psychodynamic psychotherapy. Currently specializing in customized retreats and workshops, Allene has over 20 years experience working in the roles of private practice therapy and as a graduate school instructor at Eastern University's Counseling Psychology Department. In addition, Allene brings a wealth of personal life experience as a member of the "Sandwich" generation.

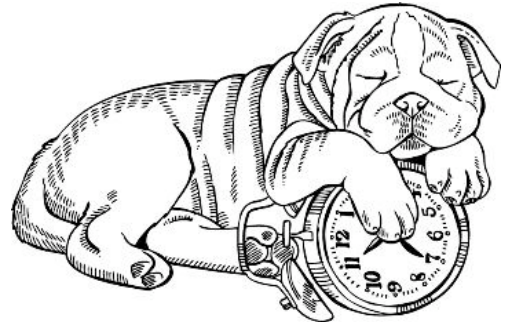
Members and friends of TriCon are encouraged to take part in this opportunity for sharing, healing and peace.

Upcoming Workshop Topics include:

- Protecting the Final Seasons of Life – Legal and Financial Ramifications
- Organization of Financial Matters: Being Practical and Proactive
- Estate Preservation and Distribution
- Collaboration of Resources and Providers

For more information about any of the workshops 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).

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**Daylight Saving Time Ends  
November 1  
at 2:00 a.m.**

**Set Clocks Back One Hour  
on October 31!**

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## 40<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.

The Annual Antique Show is an all-church effort that 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.

Top five reasons for buying a ticket in advance:

1. You save \$1 off the price at the door.
2. You can walk right in when the show opens  
-no waiting in line.
3. You can support the show even if you are unable to attend.
4. You can treat a friend or neighbor to a fun event.
5. You will be contributing to a great cause!

And, if you have a business or professional service that caters to Concord area clients, consider taking out an ad in the Antique Show booklet. Over 800 people attend the show each year. Your ad will not only reach a number of local prospects, but it will show

that you are supportive of his great fund-riser where all the proceeds go directly to agencies and organizations that serve the neediest. Ads are reasonably priced (from \$50 for a business card size to \$200 for a full page) and can be produced from any camera-ready copy you have. Call Judy at the church office for 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. 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 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.

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





**Friday, November 13, 2009  
5:30 p.m.-7:30 p.m. in the parish hall**

The Christian Education Committee invites all children and their families to attend a Kids Night Out. We will have pizza, games, arts and crafts, music, and an amazing Storyteller! Please RSVP to [thesiefers@gmail.com](mailto:thesiefers@gmail.com) or call the Church office at 978-369-4837. All families are welcome! (Activities will be geared toward pre-K through 4th grade).

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## **COMMUNITY NEWS**

### **AN OPPORTUNITY TO SUPPORT ORPHANS IN AFRICA**

The 6<sup>th</sup> Annual Grace Race will be held on October 10 in Chelmsford. It is a great family event and includes both a 5 mile road race and a 5K walk. All proceeds fund an orphanage and vocational training center in Kenya. For more information go to [gracerace.org](http://gracerace.org) or call Barbara Feehrer at 781 275-7290 or [bcfehrer@comcast.net](mailto:bcfehrer@comcast.net).

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## **MASSACHUSETTS BIBLE SOCIETY**

**presents  
"One Book Many Voices"  
with Liz Walker**

**Sunday, October 18  
Andover Newton Theological School  
7:00 – 9:00 p.m.**

Reservations required by Monday, October 12.  
To register call Nathan at 617 969-9404 or email  
[admin@massbible.org](mailto:admin@massbible.org).

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## **REGIONAL ENERGY REVOLUTION RALLY 350.org**

**International Day of Climate Action  
October 24, 2:00 – 4:00 p.m.  
Old North Bridge, Concord**

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When Bill McKibben spoke at TriCon not long ago he called upon our negotiators in the upcoming Copenhagen Climate Summit to insist upon an atmospheric carbon limit of 350 parts per million - quite ambitious since the level is now 380!! This started the 350.org campaign which leads to an International Day for Climate Action on October 24<sup>th</sup>. Our key local event will be the Energy Revolution Rally at the North Bridge. Join us there to have your voice heard and show your support for the protection of God's Green Earth! For more information go to [www.350.org](http://www.350.org) or to contact ConcordCAN go to [ConcordCAN.org](http://ConcordCAN.org).

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## YOUTH ACTIVITIES



### **SUNDAY NIGHT YOUTH GROUP**

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

<b>Sunday, October 4</b>	<b>7:00 - 8:30 p.m.</b>
<b>Sunday, October 18</b>	<b>7:00 - 8:30 p.m.</b>
<b>Sunday, October 25</b>	<b>7:00 - 8:30 p.m.</b>

### **FALL RETREAT**

**Friday, October 9 – Sunday, October 11**  
**at The Sargent Center**

Please meet at the church at 7:00pm on Friday. We will return at noon on Sunday. Please get you permission slips in ASAP!

**There is NO Youth Group on Sunday night, October 11.**

### **MISSION TRIP**

**Sunday, October 4**                      **12:00 – 1:30 p.m.**  
Kick off meeting (for kids)

**Sunday, October 4**                      **1:30 -2:00 p.m.**  
MT parents meeting

**Sunday, November 1**                      **12:00 - 1:30 p.m.**  
Mission Trip meeting  
Final payment due

### **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.

### **2009-2010 CONFIRMATION CLASS**

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

**Friday, October 16**                                      **6:30 p.m.-**  
**Saturday, October 17**                                      **8:30 a.m.**  
Opening overnight Retreat  
Read: *Words for the Journey*  
Chapter 16, *Confirmation*  
Chapter 4, *Faith*  
Chapter 5, *Doubt*

**Sunday, October 25**                                      **5:00 -7:00 p.m.**  
Read: *Words for the Journey*  
Chapter 17, *Favorite Bible Stories*

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## **LIFE CHANGES**

### **WEDDING BELLS**

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Congratulations to Katie Wayland and Luis Rodriguez who were married at TriCon on September 5. Katie is the daughter of Carol and Bob Wayland. Rev. Dr. John Lombard officiated.

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## ITEMS OF INTEREST

### TriCon MVP Retires!



For the past 17 years, Ed Schlaich has served faithfully and well as our church sexton. It is with great appreciation for his loyal service, thankfulness for his

treasured friendship and best wishes for a relaxing and fulfilled retirement, that we bid him farewell.

The Postal Service cannot match Ed for his unflinching devotion to duty - neither sleet, nor snow, nor construction chaos kept Ed from his appointed duties, all performed with a smile and good cheer. Ed, we truly thank you and insist, that you promise to stop in and visit us often!

Please welcome Dan Rourke who will be taking over Ed's responsibilities and also serving as our Sunday sexton. Dan and his wife live in Lowell with their two young children and Dan works as a court officer at the Concord courthouse. Dan will be here early mornings or late afternoons for about 6-8 hours per week in addition to Sundays. If you need a room set-up or special equipment, please give Dan as much as advance notice as possible so that he can fit it into his schedule. You may leave a note in his mailbox in the reception office or call the church office to leave a message.

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### THANK YOU FOR YOUR GENEROSITY

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Thanks to all the families who brought school clothes for the children at the Merrimack House Family Shelter in Lowell. Many lovely items were delivered to the shelter. The children currently residing at Merrimack House and some other in temporary homes are much better prepared for fall and winter.

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## FROM THE LIBRARY COMMITTEE

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As part of the theme of Community for the current year, the Diaconate and Library Committee would like to incorporate an all church read as one of the events in which to be involved. The book that has been chosen is "Ubuntu", by Michael Battle. Available for discount price purchase in the church office, it is also available to borrow from the church library. Ubuntu is the African word for community; the book is written by a Christian minister, and discusses how we relate to each other. The premise behind the word is that "I am in You and You in Me".

Those who are interested can read the book at their leisure during the fall. After the December holidays, a series of discussion groups will be formed, with differing times and places to accommodate differing schedules and needs. Sign-ups for these will be posted later this year.

If you are interested in hosting a discussion group in your home, or interested in leading a discussion group, please contact one of the members of the library committee (Susan Bates, Diane Leahy, Pat Watson, and Marty Gilpatrick Wolf).

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## UNIQUE OPPORTUNITY

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Do you like a clean and tidy kitchen? Do you have 2-3 hours a month that you can volunteer at your church? A new group is forming to keep our wonderful kitchen a place we can be proud of. Please contact Carol Miller (978 369-3755) for more information.

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## STEPHEN MINISTRY CORNER

If you are considering requesting a Stephen Minister, you might want a little more information about what happens in the relationship between a Stephen Minister and a care receiver. When the Stephen Minister walks through your door, he or she will want to hear your story in your own words. In the sample dialogue that follows, the Stephen Minister tries to draw the care receiver out in order to develop a deeper understanding of how she feels and how important this situation is in her life.

**CR** (care receiver): My kids are just driving me up the wall. Sometimes I wish I could give them away.

**SM** (Stephen Minister): Tell me what your kids do that makes you feel crazy.

**CR**: They are always fighting and whining and complaining. They never want to eat anything but junk food; they never want to do anything but watch television."

**SM**: I see why you're frustrated. So, what's your bottom line? Which of these activities would you most want to put a stop to?

**CR**: It's the fighting and whining. There's never any peace and quiet in this house. You know, I used to think that I *wanted* kids, that I'd enjoy a family. But I'm not enjoying them at all. Sometimes I hate them. (Starts to cry)

**SM**: It sounds like you feel powerless because you can't get them to change their bad behavior.

**CR**: I just feel like a bad mother, because they're out of control.

Notice that the SM invites the CR to start addressing at least one of the issues she has identified, but the CR is not ready for that. She has more to say, and wants to explore her feelings some more. So the SM will probably stay with the CR, just where she is. Later, the SM might ask the CR if she would like to join the SM in praying for insight and strength to deal with her parenting problems. At a future meeting, the SM might bring information about community resources (e.g. Parent Effectiveness Training) that could help this mother. But, much as the SM might wish to "fix" the CR, she will help the CR to consider various options, and the CR will make her own decisions. A central tenet of Stephen Ministry is -- "The Stephen Minister is the *care* giver, but Christ is the *cure* giver."



## MEET YOUR STEWARDSHIP COMMITTEE

As we focus on our theme for the year - Celebrating Community - we will be highlighting some of the people who serve on church committees, giving of their time and talent on our behalf. This month, we feature the Stewardship Committee and we've asked them to tell us why they have agreed to work on stewardship.

**Rick Olney** is Chairman of the Stewardship Committee. He and his wife, Kate have 3 daughters, Charlotte, 11; Adair 8; and Nina, 5. Rick is employed at US Trust division of Bank of America, having previously worked with non-profit organizations while at Mellon Bank.

"I joined the Stewardship Committee 1 1/2 years ago after spending several years on the Finance Committee. I was initially drawn to Stewardship through previous work with non-profit organizations at Mellon Bank. Beyond raising money for our church and its mission work, our committee is hoping to raise awareness about our role as stewards for all that we have been given."

**Charity Tremblay** and her husband, Tom joined the church twenty-two years ago. Charity has been active in the church leadership, including having served as chair of the deacons. The Tremblays have 3 daughters, Hawley, a recent college graduate and high-school students, Hannah and Torie. Charity is the official "creative spirit" of the committee.

Charity says "serving on the Stewardship allows me to do what I love, communicate and convince people to do a good thing. I enjoy being able to use my talents and skills and we always are able to laugh, even when working on a serious cause. I feel like I am God's hands in action."

**Anne Keesler** and her husband have lived in Concord for 15 years. Anne is a veterinarian and Dewey is in the investment business. They have two daughters. Ginny is a freshman at Colby College and Charlotte is a junior at CCHS. The Keelsers like to ride, bike, run, ski and play tennis.

Anne says "I was on the Christian Education Committee for six years and now I am on the Stewardship Committee. I like being on a church committee because I enjoy meeting and interacting with people with whom I might not otherwise come in contact. It is rewarding to be an active part of the church and this is a pleasant and interesting way to contribute to the church community."

**Annabelle Kellogg** and her husband Jack raised three children in Shaker Heights, Ohio and Nashua, NH., before moving to Concord 41 years ago. When her youngest was in high school, Annabelle went back to school for an MBA, concentrating in Health Management and for a number of years served on the Board and as President of the VNA of Boston.

Annabelle tells us, "Maintaining a strong church connection has been very important to me wherever I lived - now here at Trinitarian and our second-home church in Harpswell, Maine. I am pleased to have the opportunity to serve on the Stewardship Committee with a special group of people, committed to managing and planning the ways to encourage the church members to utilize their individual talents and treasures to further their expressions of love and faith in God. His Grace has provided me with many gifts and I wish to share them with my family, my community, and my church."

**Thad Jackson** and his wife Patience have been members of Tri Con for 25 years. Thad enjoyed a 30-year career in corporate treasury and financial operations at several corporations including 20 years at Digital Equipment. He is now the Business Administrator at Hancock Church in Lexington, a position he has held for 10 years. Daughters, Rebecca and Elizabeth were very active in the Tri Con Youth Group and now both work in the consumer health products industry and live in the Princeton, NJ area. Grandchildren, George age 6 and Marion age 3 attract Thad and Patience to New Jersey about once a month.

Thad says "As a church employee I see on a daily basis that good stewardship is the lifeblood of a healthy church. I believe that Tri Con is blessed with a congregation that understands the importance of pledging even in a difficult economic climate. I am fulfilled by cross-pollinating stewardship ideas between "my" UCC churches at opposite ends of the Battle Road."

**Steve Silver** and his wife, Rachael are the proud parents of almost three year-old, Chip. Following a long career in fund-raising and development with both the UCC and the Episcopal Diocese, as well as the private sector, Steve has completed divinity school and is seeking a call to a position in ordained ministry.

Steve answers "Why do I serve on stewardship? Because I believe in the church's mission and ministry; I want to ensure that we, as a community, can continue to respond to God's call; and, I enjoy the fellowship of a group of wonderful, faithful people."

As Church Business Administrator, **Judy Walpole** serves as staff liaison to the Stewardship Committee. She and her husband, Jim have been members at TriCon for 35 years. Judy left her library science career over 23 years ago to become a "church lady" starting in a very part-time position when her children were school-age. She has been active in town government for over 30 years.

Judy and Jim are loving grandparenthood and visits with their son and daughter and their spouses and young children.

Judy says, "I am especially pleased to see "Celebrating Community" as our theme for this year as I am privileged to see on a daily basis what this faith community means to so many -whether it is a young couple bringing their newborn for baptism, a family or individual dealing with the loss of a loved one, a newcomer delighted to be so readily and warmly welcomed by our congregation or an organization providing support and care to those in need, overwhelmed by the generosity and care of our members. "

## ANTIQUÉ SHOW COUNTRY CAFÉ VOLUNTEERS

I/We would like to volunteer for the Antique Show Country Café.

Name(s) \_\_\_\_\_ Phone \_\_\_\_\_

**Kitchen helpers** prepare and serve food. (*Please note: bring your own baseball cap if possible, otherwise we have some new ones available.*)

Wednesday, November 4, 1-3:30

Thursday, November 5, 9-12:15

Thursday, November 5, 12-4:00

Friday, November 6, 9-11:30

Friday, November 6, 11:15-2:15

Friday, November 6, 2-5:00

Saturday, November 7, 9-11:30

Saturday, November 7, 11:15-2:15

Saturday, November 7, 2-5:00

**Call me! I can work when you need me.**

**Bakers** make pies, cookies and bars. Pies are especially popular. Please label your baked goods and note **if nuts are an ingredient**.

I can bake \_\_\_\_\_.

I will bring my baked goods to the church kitchen on:

Friday morning, November 6 or  Saturday morning November 7.

**Food donations:** please see sign-up sheet in the parish hall. Leave food donations in container marked "Antique Show Country Café" in the kitchen by Monday, November 2.

**Cash donations** are welcome. Cash donations (for perishable food) are also welcome. Make checks payable to TriCon Church Antique Show Country Café, and leave in the church office.

Please call Phyllis Clarke 978 369-9129, Carol Miller 978 369-3755 or Cynthia LaMothe 978 369-9676 if you have questions.

