

The Newsletter

Trinitarian Congregational Church
54 Walden Street
Concord, MA 01742

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November 2009

Dick Nethercut, a long time member of TriCon Church, disappeared from his home in Concord on the weekend of September 19. A week later, Dick's car was found near a conservation area in Acton and, on October 6, his body was discovered in the vicinity of that conservation area. A service for Dick was held on October 16 at TriCon. The TriCon community mourns Dick's loss and extends its sympathy to his family.

THE PASTORAL PERSPECTIVE

Over the past few weeks many of us have prayed about and hoped for the life of our friend, Dick Nethercut. His sudden disappearance, death, and memorial service celebrating his life have taken us through a host of emotions, passions, and feelings, from deep concern to profound sadness and, ultimately, to great joy and gratitude for his inspired life lived with such integrity in our midst. Through all of this time, I returned time and time again to the prayer service we held upon learning of Dick's disappearance and the incredible witness to the power of hope in difficult times. One image in particular holds long in my memory.

Bible in one hand and oxygen tank in the other, Ted (not his real name) slowly made his way across the parish hall toward the sanctuary door. He had come to the prayer service and vigil for Dick Nethercut and, by his presence that evening, Ted represented one of a large number of ex-inmates, Gates Unbarred members, prison outreach workers, AVP (Alternatives to Violence Project) supporters, and a great diversity of others whom Dick's wide-ranging prison ministry had touched and, in many instances, transformed over the years. That ministry was born of his daughter's brutal killing decades earlier and Dick's subsequent act of forgiving her murderer.

I opened the door for Ted. As he entered the sanctuary, he picked up a candle and a service bulletin, taking a seat in the front pew. Immediately, it became clear that Ted should probably not have taken a candle given the fact of his oxygen tank and its explosive potential in the presence of an open flame. Upon inquiring of Ted as to this concern and perhaps the advisability of returning the unlit candle, Ted simply said, "I just need to hold on to it."



Holding on to hope is sometimes all one has in an uncertain world or in unsettling, anxious, or fearful times. Thankfully, our church, as a house of prayer for all God's people, is a unique place where one can come, especially in the dark night of the soul, simply to hold on to hope and experience the presence of God bathed in the loving embrace of community. No matter the season, circumstance, or situation, people continually gather before God and in community to know once again the hope and promise of a loving, good, and merciful God who neither abandons His children nor withdraws Her love. Be it short-term or long-term, present or ultimate, hope is a gift of God planted in the human heart. It is the one indispensable thing the human spirit needs for meaning, encouragement, and shalom. It empowers one's capacity to cope in a broken and suffering world and it strengthens one's ability to thrive in barren places and

unsettled, anxious, and fearful seasons of life.

I cannot imagine any more meaningful a place than the community of faith to bring my sorrows, cares, hurts, anger, fears, and anxieties. There, in the presence of God and surrounded and supported by a loving, caring, and compassionate community, I can discover the very hope to which I must cling -- for meaning in the present and promise for the future.

Grace and peace,

NOVEMBER WORSHIP

NOVEMBER 1 **Service at 8:30** Prayer and Holy Communion – Healing Service
Communion **Service at 10:00** Rev. Dr. John Lombard preaching

NOVEMBER 8 **Service at 8:30** Prayer and Holy Communion
Mission Sunday **Service at 10:00** Barbara Stevens preaching
TriCon member, Barbara Stevens, will speak about the work of the Kasiisi Project in Uganda, helping to build schools and provide education for the Ugandan children.

NOVEMBER 15 **Service at 8:30** Prayer and Holy Communion
 Service at 10:00 Robert Brown preaching

NOVEMBER 22 **Service at 8:30** Prayer and Holy Communion
 Service at 10:00 Rev. Dr. John Lombard preaching



*First Sunday
of Advent*

NOVEMBER 29
Service at 8:30 Prayer and Holy Communion
Service at 10:00 Robert Brown preaching

INTERFAITH THANKSGIVING SERVICE

Sunday, November 22 – 7:00 p.m.

Kerem Shalom, Concord

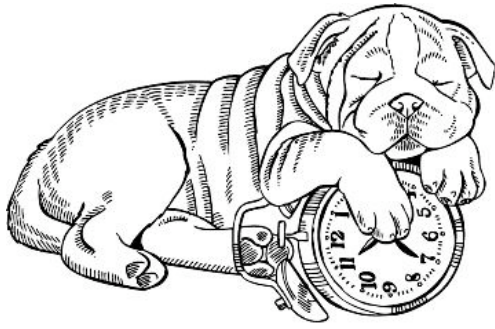
Bring your family and friends.



TRICON THANKSGIVING COMMUNION BREAKFAST

Tuesday, November 24 - 7:30 a.m. to 8:30 a.m.

Sign up in the parish hall or call the office (978) 369-4837. Free will offering.



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

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

EVENTS AND OPPORTUNITIES

**HEALING SERVICE
8:30 a.m. – Sunday, November 1**

This Healing Service will use scripture and prayers for healing for ourselves, our loved ones, the fractures and wounds of our society. Members of the congregation may wish to lift up members of their families and friends, aloud or in silence. There will be anointing for healing for those who wish to receive it for themselves or their loved ones.

EXPLORING MEMBERSHIP

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. On November 1st 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.



"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



Spiritual Enrichment

Mondays, 9:45 a.m. in the church parlor

(except on holidays)

Newcomers always welcome!

Monday, November 2

"Getting to Know You"

Interim Associate Minister,
Bob Brown, facilitator

Monday, November 9

"Making Connections:

Faith, Belief, Community, Ubuntu"

Diane Frost with Diane Leahy,
facilitators

Monday, November 16

Special Presentation
by **Rev. Anne Robertson**
of the Mass. Bible Society

10:00 a.m. – 1:30 p.m.
Lunch included

See the flyer in this Newsletter
for details.

Monday, November 23

Music of the Season

Marsha Martin, facilitator

Spiritual Enrichment in Advent

"Why not skip Christmas this year?" That question will be the overriding concern focusing this year's three-week Advent series, open to all interested adults and facilitated by Rev. John Lombard.

Monday, November 30 9:45 a.m.
Why do we need Christmas? Or do we?

Monday, December 7 9:45 a.m.
Why is Christmas something for which we long but ultimately may refuse to accept when it comes?

Monday December 14 9:45 a.m.
If Christmas is so wonderful, why doesn't it last? Or does it?

Join us in exploring one of Christendom's favorite holy days whose meaning may escape its observers and whose purpose may elude its adherents.

RETIRED MEN'S GROUP

The Retired Men's Group will meet for lunch on Wednesday, November 11 at noon. The speaker will be Bill Seaver, a member of Retired Men's Group, whose topic will be "A Transylvania Wedding." (Perhaps Frankenstein or Mary Shelley will join us?) 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 November 11, please call Robert Nelson (978 369-3105) or Charles Davis (978 369-6250) by November 5. The cost of the lunch is \$8.00.



**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 *Kids' Night Out* on November 13th! Join us for a fun night of games, music, arts and crafts, and wonderful storytelling by Elisa Pearmain (see www.wisdomtales.com). There will be pizza and refreshments, so please sign up in the parish hall or call the church office at 978-369-4837. Everyone is welcome! (Activities will be geared toward children pre-K through 4th grade.) Questions? Contact Trish Siefer at thesiefers@gmail.com

WOMEN'S FALL RETREAT "Listening to Your Heart"

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

Women of the church and their friends and neighbors may register until noon on Monday, November 9, for the fall women's retreat at Marist House in Framingham.

TriCon member, Leslie A. Ackles, the retreat leader, will focus on the theme, "Listening to Your Heart—finding balance and inner peace through discovery of your own inner wisdom." Leslie is currently attending the Congregational/ Health Ministry Program at Andover-Newton Theological School. She

has also completed UMass Medical School's Mindfulness Stress Reduction Program. The retreat will be loosely based on the book, *Finding the Deep River Within: A Women's Guide to Recovering Balance and Meaning in Everyday Life* by Abby Seixas. As a life coach, Leslie has assisted many women in creating balance between home and work life and she will share experiences and practices from her own journey to find balance and meaning.

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



**BIBLE STUDY
Sunday, November 15
following worship in the church parlor
facilitated by Steve Silver**

We all know about the widow's mite – how an old lady puts her last two pennies into the collection plate, much to the approval of Jesus. But is this seemingly familiar passage from the New Testament really suggesting that Jesus wants poor people to bankrupt themselves to support the church or is something deeper, more provocative, and ultimately transformative going on? We'll answer these questions as we take a fresh look at an oft misunderstood and misused story.

A REMINDER TO KNITTERS AND SEWERS

The Knitting Group (AKA "The Knitwits") will meet on Wednesday, November 18 and on Wednesday, December 2 at noon. Bring your lunch and your knitting. Everyone is welcome, from beginner to expert.



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. For home knitters and sewers, please continue to work on your projects and contact the church office if you need yarn, knitting needles or instructions. Completed items for City Mission Society should be brought to the church by November 18 so that they can be distributed for Christmas.

THE DREAD AND DEPTH OF THE HOLIDAYS

Wednesday, November 18, 7:00 p.m.
Allene Riley Kussin, MA LPC, presenter

How is it we can have such mixed emotions about the time of year we call "The Holidays?" What are billed as the happy, family-oriented times of celebration and sharing tend to turn into harried and overwhelming experiences of fatigue and disgruntlement. What is REALLY going on with this? Are there other ways of entering these experiences that are truly gratifying and enriching for ourselves and those we are with during these events? Come and spend an evening that could help you cherish this unique time of the year, rather than just endure it.

THANKSGIVING FOOD OFFERING

As in years past, this year's Thanksgiving Food Offering will go to the Pilgrim Church in Dorchester. This church rents its sanctuary to United Homes Services, the shelter our church delivers a homemade meal to once a month. Within the same building, the minister, Rev. John Odums, and a small group of parishioners run a neighborhood food pantry for the area's most needy families, serving 100-150 people a month.

While the pantry is able to stock its shelves with staples and free USDA surplus food from the Boston Food Bank such as peanut butter, rice, pasta, canned vegetables and beef



stew, it relies on a small grant from the city of Boston (\$1,000 per year) and donations from our church, as well as only seven other Congregational churches in eastern MA, to keep the pantry shelves stocked. There is always a need for what many families have to consider "extras": tuna and other canned fish and meats, crackers, cookies, juice, jelly, canned fruit, kid's cereals, tea, coffee, cooking condiments, salad dressings, refried beans, baby food and formula, detergent, soap, paper towels, diapers, personal care products, toilet paper, and toothpaste.

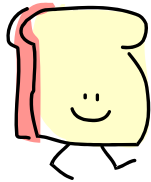
Please consider bringing a grocery bag of "extras" by Sunday, November 22 and put it in the bin at the front of the church. Food will be delivered to Pilgrim Church that afternoon. If you would like to join us, contact Carol Antos at carol_antos@concordacademy.org or (978) 371-0837.

GIVE THANKS ON NOVEMBER 22



On or before Sunday, November 22, bring to church a letter, fully addressed and stamped and written as an expression of gratitude to someone in your life, perhaps someone to

whom you have needlessly put off writing. Letters will be dedicated at our November 22, Thanksgiving service and we will send them on their way.



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

**Monday, November 23rd
7:00 – 8:30 PM TriCon Parlor**

***Adult Children & Aging Parents:
The Awkward Struggle of Role Reversal***

**Facilitated by Grace Tilton, BSN, R.N;
MSW, L.I.C.S.W, C-ASWCM**

Grace Tilton, founder of Individuals and Families in Transition: Counseling and Consultation Services will address the heart-felt struggles that adult children and parents face when traditional family roles begin to shift. All are welcome to attend – regardless of your place in the family hierarchy.

Grace Tilton has over 40 years experience helping people plan, carry out and adapt to the challenging life changes that can occur when family members grow older. Grace is well known for her professional expertise, compassion and resourcefulness.

A former President of the New England Chapter of the National Association of Professional Geriatric Care Managers, Grace is also a registered nurse in Massachusetts and North Carolina, a Licensed Independent Clinical Social Worker and a Certified Advanced Social Work Case Manager.

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.

IT'S THAT TIME AGAIN

Attention Committee Chairs! Annual Reports are due to Karen Lord no later than **Tuesday, December 1.**

PLEASE BE PROMPT! If at all possible, submit your report by email, on disk or in typed format. Emails are also fine. If you have any questions or would like to see a copy of prior year reports, please call Karen Lord in the church office.



The deadline for the
December Newsletter
is November 15.



DEDICATION OF GIFTS December 6

At the worship service on December 6th, we will dedicate the gifts our church has collected for City Mission Society, as well as the gifts that have been provided for the prisoners in Concord. (You will find bookmarks on the sign up table in the parish hall listing items that may be donated for the Concord Prison Outreach holiday bags.) See your Season of Giving catalog coming in the mail in mid-November for more information about these causes.

CAMBODIAN BAGS FOR SALE Sunday, December 6

The lovely bags made by the women of the Sharing Foundation in Cambodia will be for sale during the coffee hour on December 6. The bags make excellent gifts and all profits benefit the poor people of Cambodia.

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:

- December 13 at noon

Following the 11:00 a.m. service

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.

UCC WOMEN'S CELEBRATION March 12-14, 2010

Burlington, VT

For more information, go to
uccwomenscelebration.org.

YOUTH ACTIVITIES

SUNDAY NIGHT YOUTH GROUP
In the Youth Room on the lower level.

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

Watch for information regarding our fall lock-in sometime in November!

MISSION TRIP

Sunday, November 1 12:00 - 1:30 p.m.
Mission Trip meeting -- Final payment due
- please contact Nick at
978-618-1629 or triconnb@aol.com
BEFOREHAND if you are unable to attend.

WEDNESDAY NIGHT DISCUSSION GROUP

Every Wednesday from 7:30-8:30 p.m. Talk with your YG friends about what is on your mind. All high schoolers are welcome. (No meetings on 11/4 and 11/25.)

2009-2010 CONFIRMATION CLASS

Sunday, November 1 5:00 -7:00 p.m.
The Bible
Read: *Words for the Journey*
Chapter 18, The Really Hard Parts
of the Bible
Chapter 19, The Apostle Paul

Sunday, November 8 5:00 -7:00 p.m.
Read: *Words for the Journey*
Chapter 2, Jesus

Sunday, November 22 11:30 a.m. – 1:30 p.m.
Service Project: cooking for the United Homes Shelter. Meet in the church kitchen after the service.
4:30 p.m. – 7:30 p.m.
A small group of Confirmands and Mentors will deliver and serve the meal. Sign up in advance.

COMMUNITY EVENTS

**CITY MISSION SOCIETY
PRESENTS**

"Jahmol's Vision for Youth Peace"
a CMS produced film

Sunday, November 1, 3:30 p.m.
United Parish in Brookline
210 Harvard Street, Brookline

RSVP 781 890-1444 or
macucc.waltham@verizon.net

CONCORD PRISON OUTREACH



Volunteers are needed from November 30th through December 16th to assist with the sorting of items and filling of gift bags for the Concord Prison Outreach – Holiday Gift Bag Project. Workshops take place weekday mornings, from 9:00 a.m. to

12:30 p.m. in the undercroft, at Trinity Church. Some tasks can be performed while seated.

There will also be two evening sessions: Wednesday, December 2nd from 7-9 p.m. and Tuesday, December 8th from 7-9 p.m. (high school youth are invited to help). Volunteers must sign up in advance for the evening sessions. Please contact Carol Miller 978-369-3755 (carolmiller@comcast.net) or Beverly Duncan 978-562-5075 (aadunc@aol.com) for more information and/or to sign up.

LIFE CHANGES

JUST MARRIED

Best wishes to Morgan Hatch and Anita Patel who were married in Pasadena, CA on October 10. Morgan is the son of Alice Hatch.



Congratulations to Jared Upton-Cosulich and Lauren Sardina who were married at TriCon on October 11. Jared is the son of Chris Upton and Jeff Cosulich. Rev. Dr. John Lombard officiated.

NEW BABY

We welcome Jackson Ansley Nelson born on September 3 to Christian and Anita Nelson. Proud first time grandparents are Bob and Sally Nelson.



WITH SYMPATHY

Sincere sympathy to Lee and Stephanie Upton and their family. Lee's mother, Elizabeth Bernt Upton of Sturbridge, died on September 30 at age 96.

Heartfelt condolences to Russ, Marty, Jenny, Julie and Molly Wolf. Russ' father, Frank J. Wolf of Westfield, NJ, died on October 4. Services were held at the Westfield Presbyterian Church on October 10.

Deepest sympathy to Alice, Chris and Ben Zamore. Alice's father, Frank Henry, died on October 5. Services were held in NH.

We extend our caring sympathy to Don, Ina and Robert Kamenz. Don's father, Herbert Kamenz died on October 7. Services were held in Canada on October 11.

Our thoughts and prayers are with Amy, Richard, Gillian and Rebecca Pasley. Amy's mother, Susan Lapierre Travis, died on October 9 following a brief illness. Services were held in Swansea, MA on October 12.

Sincere condolences to Helen and David Halloran and their family. Helen's father, Newell Dearborn of Stow, died on October 18. A memorial service was held on October 24 at Acton Congregational Church.

ITEMS OF INTEREST

OOPS, We're Only Human!

Meet Tussie Williams

A Member of our
Stewardship Committee
(inadvertently left out
of last month's Newsletter)

Following college Tussie Williams worked in investment research on Wall Street for ten years. After their marriage in 1969, Tussie and her husband, Fred, raised their family in Scarsdale, NY and Pittsburgh, PA before moving to Concord in 1985. Tussie completed a course at MGH to teach reading to children with dyslexia and now tutors young children in reading and math, as well as high school students in Latin. She also plays in a women's competitive tennis league.

Four years ago, Tussie and Fred left another denomination to attend TriCon. She joined the Stewardship Committee not only because understanding and talking about money is important, but also because she wanted to learn how TriCon works through committees, how the church gets things done, and because she wanted to work with the particular people on the committee.



I want to thank everyone involved in making the *Al Filipov Peace and Justice Forum* a success. I am especially grateful to the forum committee who worked so hard all year, the reception committee, the deacons, ushers, church staff and, most of all, those who attended the forum.

I am truly blessed to be part of this church community.

Loretta Filipov



In this season of giving thanks, it is particularly fitting to say thank you to Norma Hebb, Marion

Roberts, Helen Sablone, Priscilla Strate and Peg Waller who, tirelessly and with good humor, collate and fold our Sunday bulletins fifty-two weeks a year. We are so grateful for their help.

Norma, Marion, Helen, Priscilla and Peg are part of our Newsletter collating team which also includes Carolyn Heath, Breezie Howard, Shirley Osterholm, Barbara Platt, Libby and Bill Read and Nora Wetzal. Thank you all!

Gene Parish is stepping down after many years of coordinating the Antique Show on Saturday night which includes moving the dealers out and returning the church to normal. It was a big job done with patience and a smile. Thank you, Gene!

A big thank you from all of the congregation to Hank Haff and Bill Stumpf who set up tall ladders and painted the badly peeling Hubbard Street side of the church building. We also thank Bob Clarke whose continued help and guidance keeps the church building in tip-top shape and the other members of the Property Committee for their hard work year round on behalf of the congregation.

The Mass. Coalition for the Homeless thanks all the TriCon members who donated backpacks and back-to-school supplies for homeless children. Your generous donations are very much appreciated and help fill a great need. The number of homeless families has risen so sharply that in addition to the 1900 families in shelters, 1100 families are now housed temporarily in motels.

CROP Walk Results



On Sunday, October 18, over 300 walkers from many congregations and schools, fired up by the rousing music of the CCHS Pep Band, braved a raw, wet day to walk 3.5 km and raised over \$48,000 for the *Concord Area CROP Walk for the Hungry*. The TriCon walkers raise \$5,460 for world and local hunger relief. Many thanks to them and to all their sponsors. Special thanks to John Lombard for his 50 mile bike ride in support of the CROP Walk.

Your very generous contributions will go towards international disaster relief and community development through Church World Service and will also help Open Table, Gaining Ground, and seven other local hunger programs.

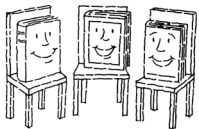


ATTENTION CHRISTMAS SHOPPERS The Season of Giving Catalog

Once again, this holiday season, we will be publishing our Season of Giving catalog. The catalog contains the information for a number of worthwhile causes any of which you may want to include on your Christmas list.

Whether you are interested in purchasing Cambodian bags, giving gifts to City Mission Society, Concord prisoners, or food for the hungry, you will find these and other worthwhile causes in our Season of Giving catalog. Watch for it in your mail.

ALL CHURCH BOOK READ



A reminder from the Diaconate and the Library Committee to pick up a copy of Ubuntu - either in the church office, or from the library! Keep your eyes posted for sign-ups for the discussion groups to be held in January - this book is a relatively quick read with a lot of substance for terrific discussions!

STEPHEN MINISTRY CORNER

Over the last year, Stephen Ministry has been making an effort to open a conversation about cancer. TriCon's own Dr. Tak Takvorian, oncologist at Mass General Hospital, presented an overview of cancer and its treatments and addressed questions from our church members. Leigh Dennington of the American Cancer Society (ACS), gave a presentation describing the many resources and programs ACS offers for those undergoing cancer treatment.

Many people, believe that no one survives cancer, or find "cancer" to be a threatening word. In fact, members of our church have survived cancer, some for many years. October 15th was the 16th anniversary of my own diagnosis of cancer. If my diagnosis had come ten years earlier, I probably would not have survived for any length of time. But thanks to scientific advances in medicines and procedures, I was successfully treated. We can be sure that there have been other advances since then. At least one member of our faith community has used alternative therapy to fight her cancer and she is now in remission. So, there is good reason to feel hopeful if you or a loved one has a diagnosis of cancer. Remember: "cancer is a word, not a sentence."

Recently, Stephen Ministers have been of help to members of our congregation dealing with a diagnosis of cancer. If you have received such a diagnosis, Stephen Ministry is only too willing to support you through your initial feelings of panic and powerlessness, through your decision-making about where you will be treated and what your protocol will be, and throughout your treatment. One hallmark of a Congregational church is that we help each other through life's challenges.

Carol Gupta

MEET YOUR FELLOWSHIP COMMITTEE

In addition to arranging the staffing for the weekly coffee hour, the Fellowship Committee plans several all-church socials during the year including the annual Fall welcome brunch and a special Advent coffee hour. Other recent events were a pulled pork and pie luncheon, an after-church hot dog barbeque and supplying church-made pies for the harvest ham and bean supper. This energetic and fun-loving committee welcomes any parishioners who would like to join them and get in on the fun! Speak to anyone on the committee to volunteer.

Janet Cooley and her husband, Bill, who is active duty Air Force, have lived on Hanscom Air Force Base for 2 years. They visited several churches but loved the inclusive environment and the people at TriCon! Janet and Bill have 3 daughters. Kelly and husband Richard, live in Texas and have 1 year old, Owen (who Janet tries to visit often)! Katherine is in VA attending Law School, and Rachel is a junior at Bedford HS. Janet is in the choir and loves singing and cooking. She enjoys bringing people together with a meal, and the Fellowship Committee provides the family togetherness that a church needs. Janet loves working and laughing with her new friends on the Fellowship Committee.

Mary Hennings, a member of the church for almost 15 years, is married to Russell Sanna, a Diaconate member, and they have 2 sons, James, a recent college grad and William who is in his freshman year. Mary was on the Mission and Social Concerns Committee for a number of years before joining the Fellowship Committee and was a regular Church School teacher when her children were younger. Mary works at Blue Cross Blue Shield where she leads the product development area and has been involved in a number of non-profit boards over the years. Fellowship is a key part of the TriCon community and Mary enjoys developing and sustaining the fellowship among the TriCon family.

Kathy Manley grew up in Waltham and now owns a home there. She joined TriCon in 2007 after attending for a little over a year. It was one of the first churches she tried and she kept coming back! She started practicing yoga with women of the church, has served as a Confirmation class mentor, and regularly delivers the altar flowers. Kathy manages textbook production in Boston, so she enjoys the small-town feeling of baking and planning events (usually around food!) at the church. Kathy says "I enjoy baking almost as much as I enjoy eating, so Fellowship Committee is a good fit for me!"

Eda Ross Montgomery moved to Concord from Delaware in 2002. She visited several churches but kept coming back to TriCon; she finally joined in 2004. She finds TriCon to be a warm, welcoming place. Her son, Hunter, a junior at CCHS is part of the youth group and is looking forward to his third Mission Trip. Eda loves to cook and socialize and found kindred spirits on the Fellowship Committee, where she enjoys seeing people come together for fellowship, food, and conversation. During the week Eda works in Cambridge in the pharmaceutical industry.

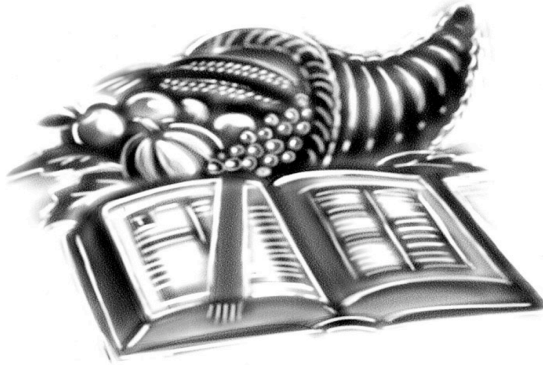
Pat Nelson and her family moved to Concord in 1989 and joined TriCon soon after. Pat and Pete have two children, Robert and Amanda, a son-in-law Michael Kirby and an adorable new grandchild, Dustin. Pat first volunteered in the TriCon Gift Shop. She was a member of the Social Concerns Committee and later joined the Staff as Director of Christian Education. Pat has always worked with non-profits that have a mission of community building and she is currently the Executive Director at Concord Children's Center. She believes very strongly that any organization is only as strong as the connections between its people. Fellowship embodies the desire to bring people together.

Jill Robitaille and her husband Bob have lived in Concord for 16+ years. They were members at West Concord Union Church until 2004 when they joined Tri Con. They have two children. Peter is a sophomore at Loyola University, MD and Sarah is a junior at CCHS. Jill works part time and Bob is a consultant to non-profit organizations. Jill says, "The joy of working on a church committee is the opportunity to meet new people and work for a greater cause. The Fellowship Committee does this by sharing delicious food and giving the congregation an opportunity to be together in fellowship. After all, we all have to eat!"

Editor's Note: Dick Nethercut sent me the following in an email last June.

1. Life isn't fair, but it's still good.
2. When in doubt, just take the next small step.
3. Life is too short to waste time hating anyone.
4. Your job won't take care of you when you are sick. Your friends and parents will. Stay in touch.
5. Pay off your credit cards every month.
6. You don't have to win every argument. Agree to disagree.
7. Cry with someone. It's more healing than crying alone.
8. It's OK to get angry with God. He can take it.
9. Save for retirement starting with your first paycheck.
10. When it comes to chocolate, resistance is futile.
11. Make peace with your past so it won't screw up the present.
12. It's OK to let your children see you cry.
13. Don't compare your life to others. You have no idea what their journey is all about.
14. If a relationship has to be a secret, you shouldn't be in it.
15. Everything can change in the blink of an eye. But don't worry; God never blinks.
16. Take a deep breath. It calms the mind.
17. Get rid of anything that isn't useful, beautiful or joyful.
18. Whatever doesn't kill you really does make you stronger.
19. It's never too late to have a happy childhood. But the second one is up to you and no one else.
20. When it comes to going after what you love in life, don't take no for an answer.
21. Burn the candles, use the nice sheets, wear the fancy lingerie. Don't save it for a special occasion.
Today is special.
22. Over prepare, then go with the flow.
23. Be eccentric now. Don't wait for old age to wear purple.
24. The most important sex organ is the brain.
25. No one is in charge of your happiness but you.
26. Frame every so-called disaster with these words 'In five years, will this matter?'
27. Always choose life.
28. Forgive everyone everything.
29. What other people think of you is none of your business.
30. Time heals almost everything. Give time time.
31. However good or bad a situation is, it will change.
32. Don't take yourself so seriously. No one else does.
33. Believe in miracles.
34. God loves you because of who God is, not because of anything you did or didn't do.
35. Don't audit life. Show up and make the most of it now.
36. Growing old beats the alternative -- dying young.
37. Your children get only one childhood.
38. All that truly matters in the end is that you loved.
39. Get outside every day. Miracles are waiting everywhere.
40. If we all threw our problems in a pile and saw everyone else's, we'd grab ours back.
41. Envy is a waste of time. You already have all you need.
42. The best is yet to come.
43. No matter how you feel, get up, dress up and show up.
44. Yield.
45. Life isn't tied with a bow, but it's still a gift.

Written By Regina Brett, columnist for The Plain Dealer, Cleveland,



A DAYLONG CELEBRATION OF GIVING THANKS

How about living with less grit and more grace?
Want to reconnect the wondering joy of and satisfaction of daily life?
Looking to bring to life the life-giving practice of gratitude?

Join Us at Trinitarian Congregational Church
for

*A Day of Prayer and Thanksgiving:
Considering the Psalms and the Life of Faith*

Thursday, November 19, 2009

6:00 a.m. – 8:00 p.m.

(Come when you can and leave when you must.)

Facilitated by Karen Doolittle, Marsha Martin, Margaret Crockett,
Linda Knight, John Lombard, and Bob Brown,
this daylong celebration will be a quiet time of hearing, praying, and reflecting upon
a variety of Psalms of praise and thanksgiving. All are welcome – from morning
and evening commuters, to stay-at-home parents, to couples, individuals and
seniors to members, friends and neighbors alike. Snacks, beverages and
refreshments provided; bring a bag meal for breakfast, lunch or supper.

“Gratitude unlocks the fullness of life.
It turns what we have into enough, and
more. It turns denial into acceptance,
chaos into order, confusion to clarity...
Gratitude makes sense of our past, brings
peace for today, and creates a vision for
tomorrow.”

--Melody Beattie

TriCon Emergency Cards Now Available

Remember when you got a new wallet and it came with an Identification card? You could put your address, phone number and other information in case your wallet was lost and found. Well we thought it might be good to offer something like that through the church. We are now offering everyone a **TriCon Emergency Card**. This wallet sized, laminated card will be prepared especially for you. The purpose of the card is to have the church notified should something happen to you. We will have your emergency numbers and contacts on file so that we might help to get you all the assistance you need as quickly as possible.

To Get Yours

Simply fill in the information on the backside of this sheet and hand it in to the church. We will keep the information confidential and secure at the church. We will prepare your card and give it to you very soon. It will look like the example below.

Chances are you'll never need to use this card, but perhaps we will all feel a bit better knowing we have it.

SAMPLE

Front

Back

<p style="text-align: center;">Trinitarian Congregational Church 54 Walden Street Concord MA 01742</p> <p>NAME: _____</p> <p style="text-align: center;">In case of emergency/hospitalization, please call Trinitarian Congregational Church Church Office: 978-369-4837 Rev. Dr John Lombard: 978-287-0637</p>	<p>Emergency Contacts:</p> <p>Name: _____ Relation: _____ Phone #: _____</p> <p>Name: _____ Relation: _____ Phone #: _____</p> <p>Important health information: _____ _____ _____</p>
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Fill in the information on the back of this sheet and return to the church
*(Only the information shown in the above example will be printed on the wallet card.
All other information will be kept secure and confidential at the church.)*

Trinitarian Congregational Church.
Emergency Contact Information
Fall 2009

Name: _____

Primary Phone #: _____

Secondary Phone # _____

Primary Address: _____

Second Address: _____

Email: _____

Important health and medical information:

List TWO Emergency contacts

Name: _____

Relation: _____

Primary Phone #: _____

Secondary Phone # _____

Address: _____

Email: _____

Name: _____

Relation: _____

Primary Phone #: _____

Secondary Phone # _____

Address: _____

Email: _____

Celebrating Community

Have you decided on your contribution to our Church Soup?

Our Stewardship Drive for 2010 is borrowing from the classic fable, Stone Soup and inviting each member of our faith community to make a commitment or contribution that will be "brewed" along with the "stone of faith" to produce a nourishing "broth" to sustain our church and the larger community we support in the coming year.

Each contribution, large or small, adds to the whole. Our church is dependent on the gifts and pledges of all of our worshippers to continue its mission and ministry. Please prayerfully consider your contribution.

If you have not yet received your pledge materials by mail or by the pouch delivered by a neighbor, watch for it in the next few days and please pass it along as soon as possible. Pledge cards are also available in the parish hall and sanctuary entrance. We will dedicate pledges at the worship service on November 15th. If you have any questions, call Judy Walpole in the church office, 978-369-4837.

Trinitarian Congregational Church, 54 Walden Street, Concord, MA

Can We Trust the Bible?

Documentary Screening and Discussion

Monday, November 16, 2009 - 10 a.m.

Church Parlor

Anne Robertson, Executive Director of the Massachusetts Bible Society will present

One Book, Many Voices

A documentary produced and hosted by **Liz Walker**, former WBZ anchor, graduate of Harvard Divinity School and ordained elder in the African Methodist Episcopal Church.

The 30 minute film highlights some of the many voices of Biblical interpretation and features noted theologians, including

Peter Gomes, Professor at Harvard Divinity School.

Rev. Robertson will lead a discussion following the film and a light lunch will be served prior to a brief closing session.

There is no charge and the public is welcome to attend.

Sign-up by calling the church office at 978-369-4837 and please indicate if you will be staying for the luncheon.