

# The Newsletter

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Trinitarian Congregational Church  
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## The Pastoral Perspective

The game *Twenty Questions* was originally a spoken parlor game encouraging deductive reasoning and creativity. It was especially popular in the 1940's, becoming a well-known radio panel quiz show. The end of the 1940's saw it moving from radio to television until the mid-fifties. From there, it went international and, since then, has enjoyed various seasons of popularity to the present time. The premise is simple. Questioners are permitted twenty questions which, by process of deduction and elimination will hopefully lead to the answer held by one person. We have all probably played this game at one time or another.

I have come up with my own version of ecclesiastical twenty questions which I have entitled, "Our Congregation's Plan for Ministry and Investing in a Better World." There are times when I believe it is critically important as a faith community to return to the wellsprings of our collective life as a church to reflect upon and otherwise remember, renew, and/or redirect the mutual ministry and mission, work and witness, we all share in service to the Gospel. While my version does not exactly follow the format of the original *Twenty Questions*, it is meant to stimulate our communal thinking as to who we are as the people of God in this time and place, who we are called to be, and how, by God's grace and our collective effort, we might get to where we believe we are called. Such an exercise gets executed and manifested in a host of ways in ecclesiastical settings, and I trust that we can think of many, both formal and informal. But I have one basic challenge.

I would like to invite us at Trinitarian Congregational Church to undertake a six month church-wide conversation based upon the twenty questions which follow below. Some may be easily or quickly answered. Others may require deep, intentional, and prayerful thought. Some conversations may be structured into the life of our church through its boards, committees, working groups, and ad hoc subcommittees. Others may take place in neighborhoods, in families, and among friends be it at the pool/gym, around "the water cooler," at a summer barbecue, at work, while fishing, or at mealtime, prayer time, retreat time or anytime. Ideas, thoughts, reflections, and conclusions might be written down, recorded, painted, videoed, sung, twittered, texted, emailed, or communicated in a host of ways. However it happens, the conversation is meant to be inclusive, wide-ranging, evocative, and layered seamlessly into the life, work, and witness of our church to one end: that, together as a community of faith, we might think long and deep about our identity as Christian disciples, the nature of our life as a church, the future into which we are being called, and how we are going to prepare ourselves for it even as we enact it for ourselves and the larger world in which we live. I believe that a healthy and well-grounded church requires the full, active, and informed participation of all its members. Thus, the invitation

and challenge before us to help us chart our church's life for the second decade of the twenty-first century simply by intentionally talking with one another. Perhaps in six months we can all gather in a church-wide convocation to share the results of our conversations. Below are the twenty questions forming the basis of this invitation to consider "our congregation's plan for ministry and investing in a better world."

## Our Congregation's Plan for Ministry and Investing in a Better World

1. Why is the church important in life, mine and the larger world's?
2. What does our congregation stand for and what are we called to do?
3. What features/aspects of our congregation's mission, ministry, work, and witness do we especially value and why? How do they speak to my own personal values and what I cherish most in my own life?
4. What does it mean for us as a church to act faithfully?
5. What does our congregation accomplish through the financial support that members and friends provide?
6. What do we as a congregation want to be and what will that require of us?
7. How might we better work together to make God's presence more visible in our lives and in the larger world?
8. What new opportunities for mission and ministry is God calling us to?
9. What new ways are envisioned or available to pursue our mission and ministry?
10. How do fewer financial resources give us an opportunity to re-focus our mission and ministry?
11. How do we envision our goals over the next 3-5 years and how can our congregation maximize its revenue possibilities?
12. What new resources, methods of funding, and approaches to stewardship (time, talent, and treasure) should be considered, explored, or developed to support our collective work and witness?
13. How can we, individually and collectively, be better stewards with what God has given us?
14. What must the church manage to afford no matter what?
15. What would motivate you to give to the work of the church?
16. Has the church's investment strategy been reviewed and reevaluated recently? To what end and for what purpose(s)?
17. What sorts of cost-savings conversations do we regularly have with utilities, contractors, providers, suppliers, companies, etc. with whom we do business?
18. What kinds of efforts are being made with respect to "green" issues as they impact the operations of the church and witness to issues/concerns of energy conservation and sustainability?
19. How should we develop a comprehensive communications strategy to utilize more fully and effectively the amazing opportunities new technologies provide for ministry and mission?
20. In a phrase or a sentence, capture the essence, personality, promise, and possibilities embodied in the ecumenical community of faith known as Trinitarian Congregational Church.

## MARCH WORSHIP

<b>March 7</b> <b>Communion</b>	<b>Service at 8:30</b> <b>Service at 10:00</b>	Prayer and Holy Communion Rev. Dr. John Lombard preaching
<b>March 14</b>	<b>Service at 8:30</b> <b>Service at 10:00</b>	Prayer and Holy Communion Mission Trip Service
<b>March 21</b>	<b>Service at 8:30</b> <b>Service at 10:00</b>	Prayer and Holy Communion Robert Brown preaching
<b>March 28</b> <b>PALM SUNDAY</b>	<b>Service at 9:00</b> <b>Service at 11:00</b>	Rev. Dr. John Lombard preaching at both services



### Holy Week Worship

**Maundy Thursday, April 1, 8:00 p.m. Tenebrae Service**  
Anthems by the Senior Choir

**Good Friday, April 2 at noon**

**EASTER SUNDAY, APRIL 4**

**Sunrise Service**

**6:30 a.m. at the North Bridge**

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

**Traditional Easter Services**

**9:00 and 11:00 a.m.**

Rev. Dr. John Lombard and Robert Brown officiating

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

## EVENTS AND OPPORTUNITIES



### Spiritual Enrichment

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

Spiritual Enrichment Lenten Series  
*Companions with Jesus*  
*on the Journey to Jerusalem*

**Monday, March 1** "Strong and Tender"

**Monday, March 8** "Open Invitation"

**Monday, March 15** "Embracing Love"

**Monday, March 22** "Something New"

**Monday, March 29** **No meeting.**  
Participants are encouraged to attend  
"A Day of Praying the Psalms"  
Wednesday, March 31, 7 a.m. – 9 p.m.

**Monday April 5** "Resurrection Joy"  
**Easter Monday**

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### WEDNESDAY NIGHT LENTEN SERIES

**Spiritual Practices:**  
*Alternative Exercise for the Soul*

**Wednesdays, March 3, 10, 17, 24 - 7:30 p.m.**

Bob Brown will facilitate the exploration of various models of spiritual practices with some outstanding experts in the field, hoping to expand our hearts and minds as we seek the heart and mind of God through intentional spiritual exercises. Please join us for all or even one of these gatherings.

### **MARCH 3**

#### *The Spiritual Practice of Poetry*

Dr. Mark S. Burrows, Ph.D. Professor of the History of Christianity - Andover Newton Theological School. Mark Burrows is a poet, professor, minister and theologian. He has a passion for word play and poetry that lend new meaning to the ways in which we view and communicate with God. Mark will read some of his favorite poems and give us suggestions as to how poetry can be a Spiritual Practice and gateway to the Divine.

### **MARCH 10**

#### *The Spiritual Practice of Silence –*

Guided group meditation. Discussion and Centering Prayer. 20 minutes of silence can be very intimidating to many of us. But when we stop the speeding freight train of life even for a short time, we begin to recognize the life-giving nature of simple relaxation.

### **MARCH 17**

#### *The Spiritual Practice of Yoga*

When Harvard Divinity School Graduate, Rev. Mark Longhurst is not ministering to his youth group in Southie, he is teaching Yoga. Mark has found Yoga to be a rich and meaningful spiritual practice. His instruction will be for beginners and experts alike. We will participate in light yoga poses so come ready to gently move and stretch your mind body and soul.

### **MARCH 24**

#### *The Spiritual Practice of Labyrinth –*

a walking meditation. Labyrinths have long been used as meditation and prayer tools. A labyrinth is an ancient symbol that relates to wholeness. It combines the imagery of the circle and the spiral into a meandering but purposeful path. The Labyrinth represents a journey to "the center" and back again out into the world. If you have walked the labyrinth before than you will want to come join us again. If you have never tried this spiritual practice, then come with anticipation of good things.

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## WORLD DAY OF PRAYER



*Let Everything That Has Breath  
Praise God*

**Friday, March 5, 2010, 11:00 a.m.**

*Trinity Episcopal Church*

**Followed by a luncheon**

**This year's service was written by  
the women of Cameroon.**

## ONE GREAT HOUR OF SHARING Sunday, March 7



OGHS is the special mission offering of the United Church of Christ that carries God's message of love and hope to people in more than eighty countries.

The UCC works with international partners to provide sources of clean water and food, education and health care, small business micro-credit, emergency relief, and advocacy and resettlement for refugees and displaced persons. OGHS also supports domestic and international ministries for disaster preparedness and response.



## WELCOME

## WINTER 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 March 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 March 28. We hope you will join us! If you have any questions, please call Mary Lou Esposito at the church office or Meg Howes, chair of the Membership Committee at 978 369-3158.

**"Becoming a Member":  
brunch/meeting and joining**

**Sunday, March 7**  
"Exploring Membership"  
brunch/meeting  
11:30 a.m. to 2:30 p.m. in the parlor

**Sunday, March 28 – Palm Sunday**  
New members join during the  
9:00 a.m. worship service

## RETIRED MEN'S GROUP



The Retired Men's Group will meet for lunch on Wednesday, March 10 at noon. The speakers will be Jim Cunningham and

Fredric Detwiller who will talk about the Barretts Farm Project.

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 March 10, please call Robert Nelson (978 369-3105) or Charles Davis (978 369-6250) by March 5. The cost of the lunch is \$8.00

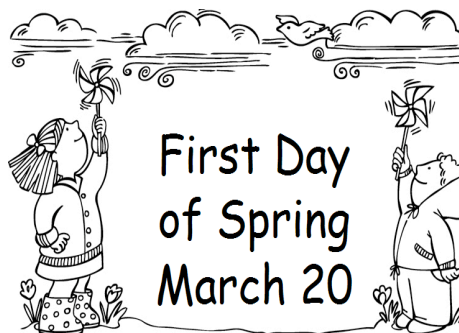


Sunday,  
March 14

## THE FACE: JESUS IN ART

Monday, March 15, 7:00 – 9:00 p.m.

Come see the visually stunning and Emmy Award winning PBS film *The Face: Jesus in Art*. This stirring program traces the dramatically different ways in which Jesus has been represented in art throughout history and around the world. Open to all interested individuals, participants in the morning are encouraged to bring a bag lunch for those who might enjoy table fellowship and reflection after the film.



## UNITED HOMES SHELTER



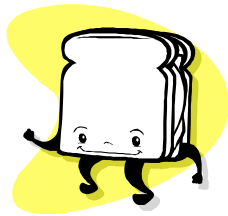
We provide a hot meal once a month to the 120 homeless men who receive food and lodging through the

United Homes shelter in Dorchester. Cooking takes place in the church kitchen after Sunday coffee hour. Drivers are needed to take the meal to Dorchester at 4:30 p.m. You may drop off the food or you may remain to serve it. Servers return to Concord about 7:30 p.m. (If you are not serving, you may return to Concord immediately after dropping off the meal.)

The upcoming meal schedule is:

- March 21
- April 25
- May 16
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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.



## Caught in the Middle

### *Taking the Bite Out of Being a "Sandwiched" Baby-boomer*

Monday, March 22, 7:00 p.m.

#### ***Estate Preservation and Distribution***

Facilitated by:

**Attorney G. Mitchell Eckel III and  
Attorney Margaret A. Hoag**

This month's facilitators will review several elder law and estate planning tools that adult children and their parents should consider implementing sooner -- rather than later. Examples include: long-term care planning, conservatorship, guardianship, wealth distribution and more. If you haven't even *begun* to think about these issues, or if you *think* you've already made the right preparations, this workshop is you.

Residents of Concord, Attorneys Eckel and Hoag belong to the law practice of Eckel, Morgan & O'Connor located in Acton and Chelmsford, MA. Attorney Mitch Eckel presently serves as the Trinitarian Congregational Church Treasurer. A firm principal, Mitch concentrates on the areas of estate planning/administration, probate law and taxation. Attorney Margaret Hoag served for seven years on the board of the Concord Council on Aging. A frequent guest lecturer, Margaret concentrates on the areas of elder law, estate planning and probate administration.

For more information, contact Donna Carlson at 978-505-1404.

## KNITTING GROUP

The Knitting Group (AKA "The Knitwits") will meet on Wednesday, March 24 at noon. Bring your lunch and your knitting. Everyone is welcome, from beginner to expert.



## COME WALK THE LABYRINTH March 24, 2010

As a special Lenten offering, we will be setting a labyrinth-walking mat in the parish hall for the entire day of March 24<sup>th</sup>. Come anytime between 8:00 a.m. and 8:00 p.m. and experience the holy mystery of this ancient spiritual practice of walking meditation. It takes about 20 minutes to an hour to walk the pattern. Instructions will be provided.

**The deadline for the  
April Newsletter  
is March 15.**



## A DAY OF PRAYING THE PSALMS

*Psalms From the Edges*  
**March 31, 2010 – 7:00 a.m. – 9:00 p.m.**

The book of Psalms in its entirety reflects the wholeness of our human experience in relationship to God. Many of these poems and prayers bring into crisp focus the lament and struggles that we face in this life. There are many Psalms that cry out to God from the depths of the writer's heart and demand action, justice, restoration and deliverance. This is ground-zero, hold-nothing-back, raw, unfiltered type prayer, and God hears our cry of lament and answers our prayer.

During Holy Week, on Wednesday, March 31<sup>st</sup> we will be gathering together from morning to night to pray these psalms together as a congregation. There will be several organized sessions along with quiet reflective times. For more information call Bob Brown at the church office.

## FROM THE LIBRARY COMMITTEE

The Library Committee is hosting another all-church book read, with a discussion to take place following the service on Sunday, May 16. The selected book, "Our Fractured Wholeness," was written by Diana Ventura, a Ph.D. student in theology at the BU School of Theology who was born with cerebral palsy. Through telling her story, Ms. Ventura

shares what it means to live with and overcome brokenness of all kinds. As the author states: *Brokenness teaches us the truth by keeping our feet planted firmly on the ground. It releases us from the lie that our culture would have us believe: that we can – and should – be invincible, unstoppable, completely and unquestionably perfect and sound in every respect.*

Books are available for purchase from the church office; there is also a copy available in the church library.

## SAVE THE DATE

**Saturday, June 5, 2010**



**The Boston Gay Men's Chorus** will perform at TriCon in a benefit performance for the Sharing Foundation

The Gay Men's Chorus has won critical acclaim as one of the premiere musical groups in New England. Don't miss this opportunity to enjoy an evening of fine music while supporting a good cause. Tickets will be available in April at the church and at various locations in Concord.

The Sharing Foundation (TSF) founded by Dr. Nancy Hendrie is dedicated to helping to meet the physical, emotional and medical needs of orphaned and seriously disadvantaged children in Cambodia. TSF runs an orphanage, Montessori-based preschool and Khmer literacy and English language programs, provides high school and college sponsorships, and runs a farming cooperative, computer school and sewing school.

## YOUTH ACTIVITIES

**SUNDAY NIGHT YOUTH GROUP**  
in the Youth Room on the lower level



**Sunday, March 7** 11:30 a.m.  
Mission Trip Service planning

**Sunday, March 7**  
Youth Group 7:00 – 8:30 p.m.

**Saturday, March 13** 1:00 – 3:00 p.m.  
Mission Trip Service Rehearsal

**Sunday, March 14** 10:00 a.m.  
Mission Trip Service  
NO Youth Group

**Sunday, March 21** 7:00 – 8:30 p.m.  
Youth Group

**Sunday, March 28** 7:00 – 8:30 p.m.  
Youth Group

### **WEDNESDAY NIGHT DISCUSSION GROUP**

Every Wednesday from 7:30 – 8:20 p.m.  
Talk with your YG friends about what is  
on your mind. All high schoolers are  
welcome.

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

**Sunday, March 14** 5:00 – 7:00 p.m.  
Confirmands and Mentors

*Forgiveness*  
Read: *Words for the Journey*  
Chapter 6, Suffering  
Chapter 7, Sin

**Sunday, March 21** 4:00 – 7:30 p.m.  
Confirmands and Mentors

*Worship at Hope Church*

Read: *Words for the Journey*

Chapter 10, Worship

Meet in the church parking lot at  
4:00 p.m. to carpool to Central  
Congregational Church, 87 Seaverns  
Avenue, Jamaica Plain. Worship is at  
5:30 and we should return to TriCon  
about 7:30 p.m.

**Sunday, March 28** 5:00 – 7:00 p.m.  
Confirmands and Mentors

*Spiritual Practices*

Read: *Words for the Journey*

Chapter 12, Prayer

Chapter 14, Baptism

Chapter 15, Communion

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## LIFE CHANGES

### New Babies

We welcome Everett Keith Burke born on  
January 22. Everett is the son of Amy  
(Keith) and Henry Burke  
and the brother of James.  
Happy grandparents are  
Nancy and Jim Keith.



Congratulations to  
Heather and Jack

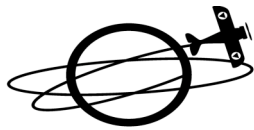
Huntress on the February 13 birth of their  
son, Gavin Bowman Huntress.

### With Sympathy

Our thoughts and prayers are with Eric,  
Craig and Jeff Pedersen. Their father,  
Kevin Pedersen, died on February 10.

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## ITEMS OF INTEREST



### MISSION TRIP NEWS

Many thanks from the Mission Trip team to everyone who attended the Mission Trip dinner on January 29 and/or bought tickets for the raffle. **\$12,000 was raised.** The names of the raffle winners are posted in the parish hall. From February 14-21, forty students and six chaperones participated in this year's very successful Mission Trip to Puerto Rico. Everyone is invited to the special Mission Trip Worship Service on Sunday, March 14 at 10:00 a.m. to hear all about it.

## FINALLY "NEW PARLOR" GETS ITS OWN NAME!!

About 18 months ago, in cooperation with the LEAP School, our tenants in the Church School wing, we did a renovation on a first floor classroom in the wing and created a multipurpose space that is used as a staff and conference room for LEAP during the day and serves us as a meeting room on nights and weekends.

Furnished with comfortable sofas and chairs and a large conference table, we think of it as a second parlor and because of that we have been calling it the "new parlor". But being a church that has a large collection of keys labeled helpful things like "old door," "new room," "old file", "new lights," that don't seem to work on any door or file or light, we realize that perhaps it would be best to give the room its own name! So we have settled on *The Gathering Room*. If you are unfamiliar with

the Church School wing, take a walk down the hallway past the kitchen, note the photos that tell the stories of some of our varied mission endeavors and go right at the end of the hall to see *The Gathering Room*.

## A MESSAGE FROM THE FINANCE COMMITTEE

If you do electronic banking, consider setting up an automatic payment for your church pledge. The church will benefit from the regular income and you will benefit from not having to remember to write checks! – a win-win.

Another win-win – consider making your church contribution by donating appreciated stock – you will avoid any capital gains tax and the church will receive the funds in a timely manner! Call Judy Walpole at the church office for details.

## THANK YOU



and Goodbye

We wish to say goodbye to our Concord church family after twelve years. We have re-located to the San

Diego area to be closer to Janet's aging parents and Bill's mother who is very ill. Janet began work at San Diego Hospice and the Institute for Palliative Care Medicine on February 8th as a full-time staff chaplain. We recently joined the Congregational Church of La Jolla. We want to thank all of you for being such an important part of our lives while living in Concord, and we hope to stay in touch with many of you.

Janet and Bill White

## WOULD YOU LIKE TO DELIVER FLOWERS?

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Volunteers are needed to deliver flowers to shut-ins a few times a year. If you would like the opportunity to bring joy to others, as well as yourself, please call the church office to sign up.

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## STEPHEN MINISTRY CORNER

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During the course of my many years in this church community, I think I have witnessed most of the travails experienced by humankind (except war, thank God.). What comes to mind with the greatest frequency are the faces of those who have had to face chronic or terminal illness: ALS (Lou Gehrig's disease), cancer, Parkinson's disease, Alzheimer's disease, multiple sclerosis, etcetera. These are different diseases but they have in common that they can progressively rob the person with the disease of mental and/or physical functioning. Facing such losses is not easy, either for the patient or for loved ones. Yet there are some grace notes in these stories of loss.

Who can forget Paul Maloney and his honesty, courage and openness when he received the diagnosis of ALS? Or Dan Harrington, who faced his Stage 4 cancer

with serenity and gratitude for all that life had given him? Or all the cancer survivors in our church who, having battled cancer themselves, have reached out with hope and compassion to new sufferers of the disease?

We often hear from people recently diagnosed with a serious illness that "I have all the support I need right now, thanks very much." It is not unusual for friends and family who are wonderfully supportive in the beginning to return to their own lives, as the months and years go by. Stephen Ministers are rainy day people. After all the helpers and supporters have retired, Stephen Ministers will still be there to walk with you, support you and help you find hope, peace and strength, whether you are the victim of chronic illness or a loved one is. We are here with a listening ear and a warm hug.

Carol Gupta

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## ARE YOU LOOKING FOR A SUMMER CAMP?

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The Massachusetts Conference of the United Church of Christ suggests you look into one of the following UCC related camps.

- Covenant Hills Camp, Cabot, VT  
covenanthillsvt.com
- Horton Center in the White Mountains  
hortoncenter.org
- Silver Lake, Sharon, CT  
silverlakect.org
- Pilgrim Lodge, West Gardiner, ME  
pilgrimlodge.org
- Star Island, off Portsmouth, NH  
starisland.org

See the bulletin board in the church reception office for more information.

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In 2008, we established a relationship with the Kanpelet Home, home to over 60 orphaned or homeless children located in the poorest section of Myanmar (Burma). We provided funds to support teachers, enable medical care, purchase chickens and seeds to supplement their rice diet and even sent toothbrushes, a much treasured and previously unavailable item! When the devastating cyclone hit the Burma that year, we sent aid for relief and re-building efforts.

Our relationship with the Burmese people has been deepened by learning about their culture and history. This spring, we will have several opportunities to strengthen these ties. BaWin, a Burmese native, now living in the United States but frequently returning to Burma will preach at our service in April and share first-hand information on the conditions there. The church school's one-room schoolhouse will also focus on Burma and in early May, Jeannette and Art Taylor will share their slides and discuss their experiences in visiting the Kanpelet Home.

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## MEET THE PROPERTY COMMITTEE



**Bob Clarke** and his wife Phyllis live in Carlisle. They have two daughters and four grandchildren. Bob is retired and is serving his second "tour of duty" on the committee. He enjoys working on the church's properties to keep them in excellent condition so that we all have "a church home" of which we can be proud.

**Bill Creelman** is new to the committee in 2010. Bill joined TriCon in 1997 and was very active in the renovation and reconstruction of the church in 2000/2001 before moving out of the area. Recently retired from the construction industry after 45 years as a construction executive, Bill moved to Sudbury in 2009 and has again become active at TriCon. Bill says "I am looking forward to becoming involved in the community again and assisting the church in the care of their facilities."

**Holly Darzen** is an architect in Boston. She has been active on church committees for over 10 years. She and her husband Ron have a daughter Meriel who is finishing up law school. They have recently moved to Conantum and enjoy kayaking on the Sudbury River. "The Property Committee has great leadership and enthusiastic volunteers. I have enjoyed working on projects as small as touching up paint and pulling weeds, and as large as working with the Organ Committee on the planning for the new organ."

**Breht Feigh** and his wife, Leslie, moved to Concord three years ago and joined TriCon a little over a year ago. They have a daughter, Audrey (4), and a son, William (2) and they are expecting their third child on April 1. Leslie is a stay-at-home pastry chef and Breht is chief financial officer of American Dental Partners. Breht says, "Leslie and I joined TriCon because of its vibrant congregation and family-oriented programs. I joined the Property Committee to contribute to the church, make new community acquaintances and utilize some of my gardening and landscaping skills. I have been impressed by the 'can do' attitude of the Property Committee and even more impressed by the All-Committee Convocations where all committees come together for planning and fellowship. Committee membership has only confirmed Leslie's and my feelings of why were joined TriCon."

**Todd Fulshaw** and his wife Sue have lived in Concord for 14 years. They have been attending TriCon for the past four years with their daughters, Kate and Jane, who are currently in middle school. Todd is an architect with his own residential practice in Concord and an artist, both painting and sculpting. "I have joined the Property Committee to share my knowledge and love of buildings. I look forward to contributing to the care of our church where we come together as a TriCon community."

**David Honan** has lived in Concord since he was a child and graduated from CCHS in 1983. He earned a degree in Industrial Design from Rochester Institute of Technology and is currently the Director of Innovation for Union Street Brand Packaging in Northborough, MA. He has been active in the church his entire life and a member of the property committee for the last 6 years. David and his wife Christine have three children Kayleen (14), Ellie (12), and Riley (8).

**Donald Kamenz** and his family moved from Boca Raton, FL and joined TriCon church 1 ½ years ago. Donald has historically served his congregational community by participating on the facilities, planning, budget and ushering committees. Donald, a native of Canada, is Vice President of Sales and Service for REMOS Aircraft, a German Aircraft manufacturer. He and his family live in Carlisle and love the outdoors.

**Fran Neville** and her husband, John, came to live in Concord 50 years ago and joined the church shortly thereafter. They have two daughters, Frances June, and Mary Celeste, and a son John Robert. Fran says, "After a storm one morning some 20 odd years ago, I noticed a branch of the large beech tree resting on the wires to the Scout House, so I called the Light Plant to come and safely remove the branch. In the

meantime I had my son help me cut the remainder of the large dead limb from way up high in the tree. And that is where my becoming a member of the Property Committee grew, and where I've remained a member for several terms. I enjoy cleaning up around the Church, and I rope my husband into the work also. Caring for the property gives us the satisfaction of knowing that we can be active and enjoy the spirit of the committee in caring for our Church."

**Bill Stumpf** and his wife Sue live in Carlisle and have been members of TriCon since 2006. Bill is chair of the Property Committee and has worked as an Electrical Engineer for 25 years. He is presently studying Web Graphics Design and is also an accomplished guitarist and musician. Sue is an at-large member of the Church Committee and is Distinguished Events & Donor Relations Coordinator with the American Cancer Society. Bill joined the church for the gratifying spiritual worship and community, and to help others through church involvement and contributions. He enjoys working with the Property Committee saying, "it's very challenging, we are always learning new things, we get our hands dirty, and the team effort is amazing".



## THE FUTURE OF CASINO GAMBLING IN MASSACHUSETTS

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Expanding gambling in Massachusetts to include resort-style casinos and the newly designed predatory slot machines is opposed by the Massachusetts Council of Churches and the League of Women Voters of Massachusetts, among other large organizations. "While resort-style casinos would bring in some revenue and some jobs, municipal and regional infrastructure costs, police protection, the social impact on families, and the need for a new regulating body far outweigh the benefit," Louise Haldeman, casino issues specialist for the MA League of Women Voters, told a reporter recently. She detailed these same arguments at a recent TriCon forum, and spoke of slim gambling revenues' not being any kind of answer for the state budget problems.

Organizations opposing casinos and slot machines have formed a coalition, United to Stop Slots (formerly Casino Free Mass) at [www.uss-mass.org](http://www.uss-mass.org). Other sites with links to the discussion are [www.lwvma.org](http://www.lwvma.org), and [www.masscouncilofchurches.org](http://www.masscouncilofchurches.org). For those without access to the internet, some documents are available in the parish hall.

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## COMMUNITY EVENTS



### CONCORD'S UNTOLD REVOLUTION

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On Friday, March 5<sup>th</sup> at 7:00 pm, the Drinking Gourd Project will present a screening and discussion of *Traces of the Trade: A Story from the Deep North*. This award-winning film documents the DeWolf family's engagement with their legacy of slave-trading ancestors. Their journey retracing the Triangle Trade – from Rhode Island to slave forts in Ghana to sugar plantation ruins in Cuba is at the center. A discussion with family members follows the film. (<http://www.tracesofthetrade.org/>) Historian Jayne Gordon will address the life stories and struggle for freedom of early African residents of Concord, as well as the town's leadership in the Abolitionist movement.

Come find out how the Drinking Gourd Project is leading an effort to save the Caesar Robbins house, built in 1780 by a freed man and Revolutionary War patriot. The goal is to move the house close to its original location near The North Bridge and restore it as an education center focused on Concord's African and Abolitionist history. This free event will be held at The Concord Art Association, 37 Lexington Road, Concord, MA 01742. For further information, contact the Drinking Gourd Project at [www.drinkinggourd.cchumanrights.org](http://www.drinkinggourd.cchumanrights.org)

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# Easter Flowers



## EASTER FLOWERS

Please fill out the form below and return it to the church by Monday, MARCH 29.

Members of our church family are invite to contribute to The Flower Fund to decorate our sanctuary on Easter Sunday. The Flower Fund makes it possible to provide cheerful bouquets and plants several times during the year, delivered, along with a friendly visit by a member of The Caring Connection, to those in need. In addition, The Flower Fund provides transportation, as well as a few very important and appreciated "extras" for our elders. You are invited to remember or honor a friend, family member or a special blessing in your life, while helping to make a difference in the lives of others. All donors will be listed in the bulletin on Easter Sunday.

I/We wish to contribute \$\_\_\_\_\_ to The Flower Fund. Please list our contribution as follows:

Given by \_\_\_\_\_

In memory of \_\_\_\_\_

or

In celebration of \_\_\_\_\_