

The Newsletter

Trinitarian Congregational Church
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The Pastoral Perspective

The timing of my daily bicycle ride through West Concord is determined in good part by my work schedule, family commitments, and the morning weather forecast. If the meteorologist predicts a hot, humid summer day, my plan is simple. I am cycling through Thoreau Hills as soon as I wake up in the morning in order to avoid the day's most intense heat. The early morning hours allow me to appreciate the cooler air, quieter streets, and the varied sounds and sights of nature alive all around me.

It was just such a morning the other day when, a mile into my ten mile ride, I rounded a corner and came upon a beautiful doe, picturesque and standing in a neighbor's front yard, motionless with her eyes transfixed on me as I quietly pedaled by on the opposite side of the street. It was one of those breathtaking moments which proclaim in quiet and gentle ways the glory of God's grand creation and the spellbinding joy of living in concert with the natural world for which God granted us humans the responsibility of being faithful stewards.

I returned home renewed and inspired after an invigorating ride, showered, had breakfast, and prepared for the day. I turned on the television for the morning news and, there, much to my distress, were the all-too-familiar scenes of a much more violent natural world quite different from the one with which I had just been so intimately connected. Pelicans and other wildlife drenched in oil, an out-of-control undersea well spewing forth tens of thousands of barrels of crude into otherwise life-nourishing waters, tar-balls washing up on the pristine beaches of several Gulf states, and a slick expanding exponentially and endangering the ecosystems and natural environment upon which all living things depend.

The current incredibly painful offshore drilling disaster in the Gulf of Mexico surely stands as a wake-up call reminding us of the moral and ethical dimensions of our essential stewardship of the good earth entrusted to us by a benevolent Creator. While given dominion over the planet as a sacred trust, we humans were never meant to exploit, deplete, and, in far too many instances, destroy the very infrastructure which supports life in all its fullness, beauty, and infinite variety. It is nothing short of human frailty and sin writ large which have brought us to this environmental crisis and ecological catastrophe. It must now be our fervent hope, earnest prayer, and the active will of all of us as people of faith to live in such harmony with the natural world so as to restore our right relationship with the Creator and, in the process, renew the creation for all of life as God intended in Eden.

Blessings,



SUMMER WORSHIP

SUMMER SERVICES WITH WEST CONCORD UNION CHURCH

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

August 1 **Service at 10:00** Rev. Hannah Brown preaching
Communion

August 8 **Service at 10:00** Rev. Kathy McAdams preaching

Our regular summer services will continue on:

August 15 **Service at 10:00** Robert Brown preaching

August 22 **Service at 10:00** Robert Brown preaching

August 29 **Service at 10:00** Robert Brown preaching

September 5 **Service at 10:00** Rev. Dr. John Lombard preaching
"SpiritJazz" guest musicians

Our guest preacher on August 1, the Rev. Hannah Brown has been pastor of West Concord Union Church since September 2009. She has a Master of Divinity degree from Union Theological Seminary and a BA in religion from Carleton College. Prior to serving in Concord, Rev. Brown was an associate pastor and pastoral resident at Mayflower Church (UCC) in Minneapolis and worked as a social worker for Bread for the City in Washington DC.

Our guest preacher on August 8, the Rev. Kathy McAdams is the Executive Director of Ecclesia Ministries which provides spiritual support for the homeless and newly housed in Boston. Rev. McAdams, who entered seminary with a background in not-for-profit administration and elementary education, has devoted her career in ministry to serving the homeless, first in California and now in Massachusetts.

Worship Schedule Change

This fall, there will be no weekly 8:30 a.m. service but there will be periodic opportunities for early morning communion services, starting with a healing service on Sunday, October 24th at 8:30 a.m.

EVENTS AND OPPORTUNITIES



WELCOME

If you are new to TriCon we welcome you!

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



Spiritual Enrichment

Looking ahead to Autumn...

Sharing the Vision : Growing Together

In this season after Pentecost, Ordinary Time, we are empowered by the spirit to be the Church. Come join us! Everyone always welcome!

First Meeting
Monday, September 13, 9:45 a.m.
in the church parlor

"Our God, you call us to be Church: enable us to be a place of welcome and warmth, where what is ignored elsewhere may be heard and honored, where sorrows may be shared and our stories told, where hard questions may be asked and new ideas greeted with joy." Kate Compston

A BIBLICAL LOOK AT PARADISE LOST & REGAINED

**Wednesdays, September 22 and 29,
 October 6 and 13
 7:30 - 9:00 p.m.**

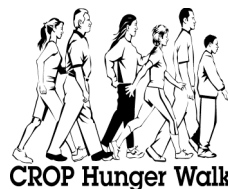
Can paradise lost ever become paradise regained? Join us in exploring six key stories from *Genesis* which not only help to shape our worldview and serve to define our faith but have implications as to how we and the world, troubled and broken as it is, are to be saved from our worst selves. How do our earliest accounts in the Torah speak to a society of deep and dangerous disconnects? Where does our hope lie and from whence does our greatest understanding and help come? Where in the world do we fit and how and to what end are we to act?

Join us as we consider the state of the world and the place of our faith in life as derived from our earliest biblical accounts. All are welcome. Sign up in the parish hall.

SAVE THE DATES

Knitwits

Wednesday, September 22 in the parlor



CROP Hunger Walk

Concord area
 CROP Walk
 for the Hungry
 Sunday, October 17

All Church
Ham and Bean Supper
Saturday, October 23
 Watch for more details in the Fall.



41st ANNUAL ANTIQUe SHOW & SALE

Friday, November 5
10:00 a.m. – 5:00 p.m.

Saturday, November 6
10:00 a.m. – 4:00 p.m.

This all-church effort raised over \$16,000 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. \$1. off coupons will soon be available on the sign up table in the parish hall.

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

**The deadline for the
September Newsletter
is August 15.**

LIFE CHANGES

New Babies



Congratulations to Richard and Marcy Eckel and big sister, Sydney, on the July 1st arrival of Scarlett Hall Eckel and Daphne Bouley Eckel. Happy grandparents are Mitch and Susan Eckel.

Happy Anniversary

Best wishes to Bruce and Anne Dawson who celebrated their 50th wedding anniversary on July 16.

ITEMS OF INTEREST



*Welcome,
Bob Brown*

The vote was unanimous! A special congregational meeting was held following the service on July 11, and it is a pleasure to announce that Robert Brown is now our Associate Minister. A graduate of Andover Newton Theological School, Bob has been our Interim Associate Minister for the past year and will be ordained by the United Church of Christ in the Fall.

Welcome again, Bob. We're delighted to have you!

SUMMER OFFICE HOURS



Through Friday, August 27
9:00 a.m. – 1:00 p.m.

Regular office hours will resume on
Monday, August 30

CARING CONNECTION CORNER

On Sundays, starting this month, we will have a table in a corner of the parish hall supplied with note cards and pens if you'd like to write a note to someone mentioned in the Joys and Concerns that morning or a fellow parishioner who is going through some challenging times. You can leave the sealed note in the basket provided with the person's name on it and we will add the address and stamp and mail it on Monday morning. We hope this will provide a convenient way to help us support others in our church family by sending get well wishes, expressing condolences and sharing joys.

The Caring Connection, which provides outreach to those in need through visitation, meals, transportation, memorial receptions, etc., is one of the many volunteer opportunities at TriCon. For more information about or to volunteer for the Caring Connection call Cynthia LaMothe at 978 369-9676 or Kathy Flynn at 978 369-6934.



With summer vacations at hand, please notify the church office at 978 369-4837 of any pastoral care situations or hospitalizations. Anyone entering a hospital who desires pastoral care and has not notified the church office (be sure to give us your room number if you do call) must indicate a "congregational affiliation" as part of their hospital admission intake interview.

A REMINDER TO KNITTERS AND SEWERS



The TriCon Knitting Group (*The Knitwits*), meets in the church parlor once a month from September through May. 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. Watch *The Newsletter* for upcoming dates.

Our church community remains actively involved in the City Mission Society Christmas Shop and *The Knitwits* contribute hats, baby blankets, gloves and scarves to this effort, in addition to 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.

Prayer shawls may be left at the church any time.

**JOIN US IN THE PARLOR
ON SEPTEMBER 22 AT NOON!**



We're getting close to "Back to School" time and whether you are 5 or 95, there is still that mix of nostalgia for the lazy days of summer and excitement at the promise of a new year and a return to familiar routines. Surely we all recall the thrill of getting a new box of crayons, a fresh new notebook or a spiffy binder that, this time, we are going to keep neat and tidy!

For the homeless children whose parents are struggling to fund the basic necessities, there is no fun back-to-school shopping trip, but we can help! Our Advocacy Network to End Family Homelessness is teaming up with the Mass Coalition for the Homeless to collect school supplies to be given to the hundreds of homeless children in Massachusetts living in temporary housing

Any of the following items would be welcomed. **New or gently used backpacks are especially needed.** Please place your donations in the marked box in the parish hall through September. Thank you!

GLUE STICKS
 SCISSORS
 BALLPOINT PENS
 NO. 2 PENCILS
 COLORED PENCILS
 PENCIL SHARPENERS
 LARGE PINK ERASERS
 CRAYONS
 BOTTLE OF WHITE GLUE
 NOTEBOOKS
 POCKET FOLDERS
 CALCULATORS
 CONSTRUCTION PAPER
 SCHOOL BOXES
 STAPLERS
 CALENDARS
 BINDER DIVIDERS

PENS (BLUE, BLACK, AND RED)
 COMPOSITION NOTEBOOKS
 SHARPIE MARKERS
 POST-ITS
 SMALL ASSIGNMENT NOTEBOOKS
 FOLDERS TO FIT INTO BINDERS
 3-RING BINDERS
 WATER COLOR PAINTS
 HIGHLIGHTERS
 LOOSE-LEAF NOTEBOOK PAPER
 COMPUTER PRINTER PAPER
 DRAWING PAPER
 RULERS
 SCOTCH TAPE
 KLEENEX
 SMALL BOTTLES OF HAND SANITIZER

USHER / GREETER POOL

Thank you to all who have served as ushers and greeters this year. Our system of assigning dates has been quite successful and we hope it has worked well for you. We will be putting together assignments for next year in mid-August so please let us know by August 1st if you would prefer not to be included in the pool or if you have not ushered but would like to be asked in the coming year. You can email triconchurch@aol.com or call the church office at 978 369-4837.

STEPHEN MINISTRY CORNER

Please remember that Stephen Ministers will be available throughout the summer. Just contact Rev. Lombard, Demi Ayres, or Carol Gupta for more information or to request a Stephen Minister.



Teri Stokes, wife of Peter Yensen, would like to thank all the good people of TriCon's Caring Connection for their help with rides to medical appointments and to visits with Peter during May and June. Drivers were Kathy Flynn, Bill Read, Tom Piper, Sally Clutter, Susan and Mitch Eckel, Jim Malmfeldt, Ray Andrews, and Cynthia LaMothe. The time for crutches has ended, but the warmth of your caring support lingers on. Bless you all!

EMAIL ADDRESSES

We will be updating our church directory (which is for TriCon family only) in the Fall and will be adding email addresses unless you tell us you do not want your email address included. Please fill out the form below and return it to the church office by September 15. If you do not want your email address in the directory, simply check the box below or call the church office. If we do not have an up to date email address for you, please fill out the form. Forms may be placed in the collection plate on Sunday or returned to the church office.

Name: _____

Address: _____

Phone: _____

Email: _____

Include in directory

Church office use only

COMMUNITY EVENTS



THE CHOIRS AND CHORUSES OF CONCORD PRESENT

THE SECOND ANNUAL CONCORD SUMMER SING!

Small Organ Mass ... Haydn
Coronation Mass ... Mozart

Wednesday, August 11, 7:30 p.m.
HOLY FAMILY PARISH
12 Monument Square, Concord

Join other Concord area choral enthusiasts in an informal sing-through of two beautiful choral works on a midsummer eve! \$5.00 general admission. Bring your own choral scores if you have them. Scores will also be available at the door.

Elizabeth Norton and James Barkovic
Conductors
Carol Messina and Terry Halco
Pianists
Lauren Sprague, Rhonda Doll,
Chris Porth and Merrill Liteplo
Soloists (Mozart)

The church is air conditioned and wheelchair accessible. For more information call 978 486-4377.

Affordable Ownership Opportunity at Lalli Woods in Concord

Six units available. Information session Thursday, August 12, 7:30 p.m. at 141 Keyes Road, Concord.

Applications accepted through September 10 at 1:00 p.m. Lottery on September 21. For more information see the bulletin board in the church reception office or call 978 639-3388 or email Housing@sudbury.ma.us.

DISCOVER BALANCE AND MEANING

*Taming the To-Do List & Finding Meaning
through Your Inner Wisdom*
--A group for women in the art of slowing down

Leslie Ackles will be offering her Discover Balance and Meaning series on Monday evenings, 7 – 9 p.m. starting October 18 at the Wright Tavern in Concord! If you are interested or have questions contact Leslie at leslie@oasisconsultant.com

Based on Abby Seixas's new book, *Finding the Deep River Within: A Women's Guide to Recovering Balance and Meaning in Everyday Life*, these groups will introduce the three preliminary doorways and six core practices that can support us in allowing our own deeper currents to flow through daily life. With the help of readings, meditative exercises, discussion, creative expression, humor, and each other, we will explore ways to free ourselves from the tyranny of our "To-Do's", and to rest more in our deeper selves and in the gift of life itself.

Leslie Ackles has a Masters in Education from Harvard University and is Director of Training at the UMass Donahue Institute. She is a work/life balance coach and is a trained facilitator of *The Deep River Within*.



FROM YOUR STEWARDSHIP TEAM

This is the fifth in a series of conversations that our Stewardship Team has had based on John's twenty questions. In past months we have addressed "What does our congregation accomplish through the financial support that members and friends provide?", "What would motivate you to give to the work of the church?", "What must the church manage to afford no matter what?" and "How can we, individually and collectively, be better stewards of what God has given us?"

This month, the question is:

"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?"

Two years ago, we re-introduced the so-called "pony express" form of stewardship campaign where most of the congregation is divided into routes - loose geographical groupings. A pouch is passed around the route and parishioners are asked to make a confidential pledge, seal it in an envelope, and pass the pouch to the next person/s on the route. Those not receiving the pouch for reasons of personal choice, location or limited mobility were contacted by mail. This method, while not perfect, seems to be the most effective and we propose to use it again this year.

We are especially grateful to the 70+ "dispatchers" who shepherd the pouches along a route - an important key to the success.

This year, we will be providing stewardship information in a new form - a narrative budget. This approach, allocating the budget to the various components of our church's mission and ministry will help us all to see how our financial resources are spent and the many ways that they empower our collective work and witness.

In September, at the Welcome Picnic and in a future Newsletter, we will be inviting you to tell us how you might like to offer your time and talent to the church. Serving on a committee, providing a ride or a meal through the Caring Connection, sharing a love for gardening or sewing, lending editing or publicity skills, chaperoning a youth event, serving as a liturgist are only a sampling of ways to consider getting more involved and offering your gifts.

As always, we invite your suggestions, ideas or comments!

The Stewardship Team: Rick Olney, Chair; Thad Jackson, Anne Keesler, Annabelle Kellogg, Charity Tremblay, Judy Walpole and Tussie Williams