



FEBRUARY 2016

The Pastoral Perspective

Beloved in Christ, I am delighted to be at TriCon. From my first interview with the search committee, I had a feeling it was going to be a joyful calling. Let me count the ways I've been blessed to be here.

- Experiencing a truly hospitable congregation. I've been warmly welcomed and included. Rev. Lombard opened his office to me and made me feel very much at home. People introduce themselves after worship and a remarkable number of you wear name tags. (Yay!) I think this friendliness is not reserved only for visiting pastors; you seem to reach out to everyone and care for one another.
- Looking over the balcony into the parish hall to see it crammed with young people sitting around tables planning the mission trip. What a strong and important ministry you are supporting. Wyatt Hickman's testimonial in worship reminded us how a nurturing and challenging youth group can be life-changing.
- Admiring your steadfast commitment to mission and social justice. You are a leader among churches.
- Watching things get done!
You are blessed with a remarkable staff that makes this place just hum. Your leaders are smart, competent, dedicated, and caring. The Deacons make their commitment to the church a priority. The Finance team led a meeting to discuss the budget that was focused, civil, and productive.
- Being here in a beautiful, well-kept building. The longshoreman/philosopher, Eric Hoffer wrote: "How do you judge the health of an institution? The answer? Maintenance, maintenance, maintenance. When people care about the spaces they inhabit, they care about their mission too."
- Partnering with Bob Brown. What a treat to share ministry with such a creative, competent, and spiritually grounded colleague!

John Lombard always refers to you as "The People of God" and I know he is right.

We will be a different kind of church at 51 Walden, but all the qualities that make you a special congregation cannot be contained in a building. I expect we will be awakened to what truly makes us a community and we will have some invigorating experiences on the way to Exodus 2016! I'm looking forward to this re-invention and I know that God is in the midst of it.

Judy

FEBRUARY WORSHIP

EXODUS 2016

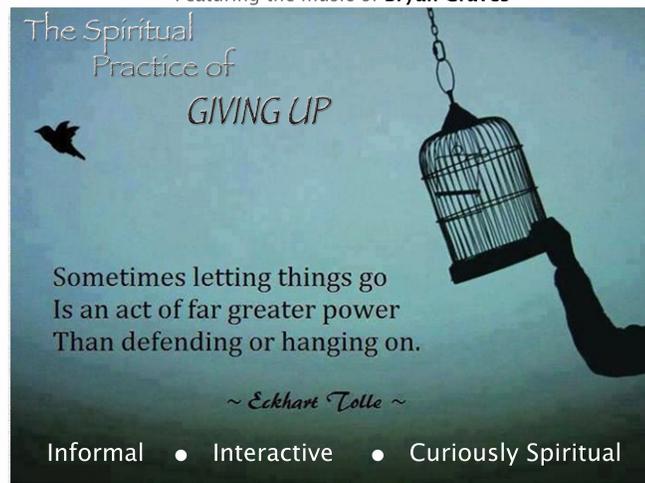
During February we will hold our worship services **in the parish hall on February 7th, 14th and 21st**. To address any concerns of those who find the folding chairs a little challenging for various reasons, we want to assure you that we have a number of new sturdy chairs with arms that will be scattered thru out the rows of seats, so don't let that concern stop you from attending worship!

February 7	Service at 10:00	Rev. Judith Brain preaching in the Parish Hall
	First Sunday Service at 5:30 p.m.	
February 10	Ash Wednesday Service at 7:30 p.m.	
		Rev. Judith Brain preaching in the Parish Hall
February 14	Service at 10:00	Rev. Judith Brain preaching in the Parish Hall
February 21	Service at 10:00	Nancy Haynes preaching in the Parish Hall
February 28	Service at 10:00	Mission Trip Service at 51 Walden Street

TRICON
WORSHIP

FIRST|Sunday

Sunday February 7 at 5:30 PM
Featuring the music of **Bryan Graves**





ASH WEDNESDAY SUPPER
The Shroud of Turin

6:00 p.m. in the Parish Hall

Everyone welcome - Sign up in the parish hall or call the church office

(YOU MUST sign up if you want to attend the dinner
even if you have signed up to be part of a Small Group discussion.)

ASH WEDNESDAY SERVICE

7:30 p.m. in the Parish Hall

FINDING
JESUS
FAITH FACT FORGERY

Nearly all of us have presuppositions and particular ideas about who Jesus of Nazareth actually was. We also have doubts and questions about the Gospels and some of the commonly held Christian teachings that, for many, are hard to truly believe in the modern era.

Few would argue that Jesus of Nazareth is the most famous person of the last two thousand years. This one man, in three short years, has influenced art, politics, education, literature, music, law and philosophy. Yet, how much do we really know about him? Why do so many devote their lives to following his teachings and pray in his name?

Our 2016 Lenten Small Groups will investigate fascinating new insights into the historical Jesus. CNN produced a provocative series called **FINDING JESUS: Faith, Fact, Forgery**. Clips from the television series will inform our discussion as we read about the state-of-the-art scientific techniques and archaeological research that lends new insight into Jesus and his first followers. We will discuss the importance of this critical science and how it affects our faith. Join us for 6 intriguing sessions beginning with an All Church Ash Wednesday dinner on February 10th. **Sign up in the parish hall, or at triconchurch.org. Invite a friend to join you.**

Week One:	<i>the Gospel of Mary</i>
Week Two:	<i>the Gospel of Judas</i>
Week Three:	<i>the burial box of Jesus' brother James</i>
Week Four:	<i>relics of John the Baptist</i>
Week Five:	<i>relics of the Cross</i>

EVENTS AND OPPORTUNITIES



WELCOME TO TRICON!

Whether you are just visiting, looking to find a church home or still feeling your way after several visits, we encourage you to pick up brochures and other information in the parish hall or the church entry, and to come for refreshments in the parish hall following the service.

You are welcome to participate in any of our church programs and activities and to sign your children up for Church School or youth programs. For more information, contact Christian Education Director, Carrie O'Brien or Youth Leader, Nick Bruning. Call the church office if you have any questions.

Welcoming Coffee - Sunday, February 28

Come to the church parlor following the worship service to meet members of the Welcoming Committee and other new worshippers.

Exploring Membership

An informal gathering with clergy and the Membership Committee
For those interested in learning more about TriCon and about membership

Sunday, March 6 -- 11:30 a.m. - brunch

Please call the church office, 978 369-4837, if you would like to participate.

New Members will join the church on Sunday, March 20.

ATTENTION MEN OF THE CHURCH **Join the Anchor Group**

The Anchor Group meets on the second and fourth Tuesdays of each month at 7:00 a.m. in the church parlor. The Anchor Group is a group for men of all ages who discuss and share issues of religion and spirituality in light of contemporary culture. Any questions, email Greg Howes at howes2012@gmail.com.

The deadline for the
March Newsletter
is February 15.

CAREGIVERS GROUP

The TriCon Caregivers Group is an opportunity for parishioners and friends in caregiving roles to come together to share accomplishments and failures, joys and sorrows, laughter and hope, as well as information about caring for others and ourselves.

If the role of caregiver is part of your life, please consider joining the TriCon Caregivers Group. **We will meet on Wednesdays, February 3 and 17 at 10:00 a.m. in the church parlor.** Call the church office, 978 369-4837, for more information.

RETIRED MEN'S GROUP



The Retired Men's Group will meet for lunch on Thursday, February 11 at noon. The speaker will be Dr. Edward Bouquillion of Minuteman Career and Technical High School speaking about plans for the new school.

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 February 11, please call Robert Nelson (978 369-3105) or Charles Davis (978 369-6250) by February 9. The cost of the lunch is \$10.00.



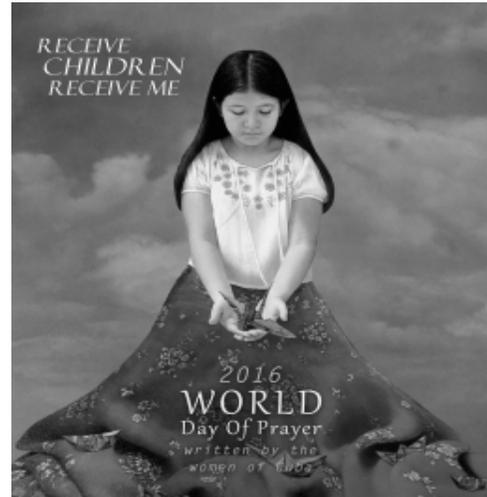
Knitwits

**JOIN US IN THE PARLOR
Wednesday, February 24 AT NOON!**

The Knitting Group meets in the church parlor once a month. Everyone from beginner to expert is welcome. Bring your own project or work on one of ours'. You need not come every month but can join in when it is convenient for you. You may also choose to work on projects at home. Prayer shawls may be left at the church any time.



WORLD DAY OF PRAYER



MARCH 4, 2016

INTERFAITH SERVICE

A light luncheon follows the service

Receive Children Receive Me
Written by the women of Cuba

Each year this worldwide service focuses on a different culture and a specific theme. Through music, stories and prayer, this year's ecumenical observance is designed to create an understanding of the concerns and needs of the women and children of Cuba, to feel in solidarity with them. *Receive Children Receive Me*, was written by Christian women in Cuba.

Since its North American origins in the late 19th Century, World Day of Prayer has grown to be observed in 170 countries. Its early emphasis on prayer has led to today's annual worldwide celebration, which also promotes justice and equality for women.

This years World Day of Prayer will be held at **Trinity Episcopal Church**. Please contact the Trinity Church office 978-369-3715 for more information.

GOSPEL OF LUKE BIBLE STUDY

This Lenten season Luke is the prescribed lectionary gospel. This offers an opportunity, as we hear and reflected on the Word, to explore the Gospel of Luke more fully. Do you want to begin exploring the Gospel of Luke? Do you struggle with some aspects of the text? Are you seeking an opportunity to discuss and share your thoughts and questions? Then this Bible Study is designed for you.

Beginning with the Annunciation and the narratives of Jesus' birth, and continuing on with the naming of John the Baptist, Jesus' preparation for his public ministry to his ministry in Galilee, his journey to Jerusalem through the Last Supper, Passion, death and Resurrection together we will discuss and reflect on what Luke tells us about the life and ministry of Jesus and how this Gospel informs our theology.

TriCon's Seminarian in Training, Nancy Haynes, will facilitate this Bible study during the month of March. The specific day and time will be settled on depending on what is best for those participating and include the option of Sunday before or after Worship or Monday or Tuesday. To express interest or if you have questions contact Nancy Haynes at nebhaynes@yahoo.com or 978-369-3829.



Early in December, Nick Noyes delivered the following Call to Stewardship. While it was inspired by the Advent Season, it is a message for any season.

Ah, the Advent Season!

Advent Calendars; Decorations; Lights; The Pine Candle in the downstairs bathroom- memories of my Advents Past.

Now: Secret Santa lists with siblings and in-laws: who will produce first? Got your list yet? I Really want to get done Early this year! (asked Day before Thanksgiving).

Christmas and the holiday season can touch on deep family dynamics and bring out the best in us - or something else.

Which brings up the eternal question -

Is it better to Give, or to Receive? Not so Fast!

Consider: What are you giving? What are you receiving?

When I wake up and think about doing something for church, it often feels like giving: committee work, ushering, cleanup, service work, mentoring...

Yet, oddly, when I am doing it, and upon reflection, it really feels more like receiving.

In reality, I - we all - choose to give our most precious resources: our time, our attention, and yes, our money. In return for this, we receive peace, reflection, perspective, renewal, community, support, love. The time I often feel moves too fast to give away seems to slow and I enter a different dimension within these four walls; suddenly there is enough time - enough, in fact, of everything.

It is through this lens that I can see that the eternal question can be easily re-framed, and answered: It's not to give or to receive; at TriCon, to Give IS to Receive.

OPEN TABLE FEBRUARY

Cereal

All kinds, from "kid friendly" to super- healthy!

If you've purchased cereal, recently, you know how expensive it can be which makes it a luxury and a real treat for our friends and neighbors at Open Table, struggling to feed themselves and their families.

Thank you for your donations.

ITEMS OF INTEREST

OUR CHRISTMAS OFFERING

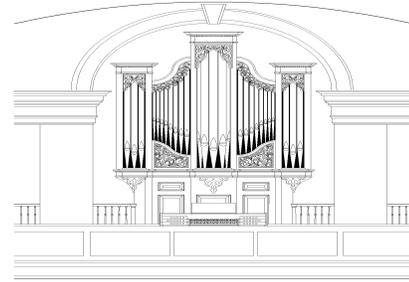
Our Christmas offering raised \$14,438. which was sent to the International Rescue Committee in support of Syrian refugee relief efforts to bring peace and hope into chaos and despair. Your generosity will make a difference in the lives of many desperate people.

UNIDENTIFIED STOCK DONOR

The church received a gift of Phillips Corp. stock on November 30th for which we are thankful but we don't know whom to thank! If you are the donor, please call Judy Walpole in the church office.

ALTAR FLOWERS

If you would like to donate flowers for a Sunday service in 2016, you may sign up on the flower chart in the parish hall.



Our Song Shall Rise to Thee Noack, Opus 159

Check out the photos on our website (triconchurch.org) of our new organ being built in the Noack workshop - it is really beginning to take shape.



PEWS FOR SALE

As we start the construction in the balcony to accommodate the choir and new organ, we have 5' and 10'7" pews with cushions for sale. If you have any interest in purchasing a pew or know of an individual or group who might be interested call Judy Walpole in the church office.

PASTORAL VISITS

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

TWO VOLUNTEER OPPORTUNITIES AT TRICON

Ushers/Greeters:

If you have never been an usher or greeter, consider volunteering for this meaningful way to contribute to our ministry. There are complete instructions and experienced ushers to guide you so it is a simple job but an important part of extending a warm welcome to all worshipers.



Coffee Servers: Serving coffee is the easiest volunteer job in the church. You do not need to bring anything, prepare anything or clean up anything! You simply leave church during the last hymn, smile and pour! And you get first chance at the munchkins!!

Call the church office or email Judy at jwalpole@triconchurch.org if you are willing to help in either or both of these ways. We will be putting together new schedules starting in March.

Children are welcome to participate along with their parents and we can always accommodate last minute cancellations if illness or bad weather is a factor.

SNOW POLICY

When the Concord Public Schools or the Concord-Carlisle Adult Education classes are canceled, so are our events, classes, meetings. If there is a question, call the chairman or convener. While we hope never to have to cancel a worship service, in the event of severe weather call the church answering machine, check the TriCon website or watch Channel 4 for the latest information.



THANK YOU

The many organizations our congregation supports through our Mission donations often send us thank you letters. Below are two.

Thank you for your steadfast loyalty, support and generosity for the children of The Sharing Foundation. Your donation is a gift of education, health and a safe and happy environment in which to thrive. You are always there for the children and we send you a heartfelt thank you. The Sharing Foundation

Thank you for your generous gift of \$2,000 to Household Goods, Inc. Through your generosity and support, families and individuals in need throughout Massachusetts are now able to transform empty living spaces into real homes with basic household items that they could not afford otherwise. On behalf of all of us at Household Goods, as well as our clients and their referring agencies, thank you! We can't do this without you.

*Sincerely,
Barbara and Ira Smith, Founders*

HOLIDAY GIFT BAG PROJECT

Thank you once again for bringing some joy and compassion to the men incarcerated at MCI-Concord and Northeastern Correctional Center. Concord Prison Outreach's Holiday Gift Bag Project would not be possible without your homemade cards, gift bag items, financial donations and volunteering in the 'workshop'. In the words of one of the recipients: "You have no idea how much it means to me and how it brightens up our lives. People on this earth who have never done prison time, have no idea what it is like, and how your generous gift makes life in here better knowing you care. Thank you so much."

THE SACRAMENT OF BAPTISM

We will be celebrating the sacrament of Baptism during the worship service on April 24th. If you are interested, please contact the church office by April 8th.

ON-LINE GIVING AVAILABLE AT TRICON

We are able to accept on-line donations and payments via our website – **Triconchurch.org**. On the homepage, you will see “Click here to make donations and pledge payments”. You will have the option of transferring funds from your bank account or using a credit card. You can make a one-time payment or set up recurring ones.

If you have any questions, please call or email Judy or Amy at the church office:
(jwalpole@triconchurch.org or
abruning@triconchurch.org).

PAYING ON-LINE? DON'T FORGET TO UPDATE YOUR INFORMATION

If you have chosen the option of paying a pledge by a weekly or monthly electronic transfer or credit card payment thru our website, please be sure that you have updated the information so that your donation continues in 2016.

TRICON'S QR CODE

This QR code automatically opens a special webpage on mobile devices (phones, iPads, etc.) that's designed for smaller screens. You can scan the code with your phone to make the process of giving to the church that much simpler.



OFFERING ENVELOPES

Cherry colored OFFERING ENVELOPES FOR 2016 are now available in the parish hall. Please take as many or as few as you need. If you use cash, kindly put your name on the envelope.

SERMONS ON LINE

You can HEAR SERMONS
on line by going to
www.triconchurch.org

OR

Facebook.com and search
Trinitarian Congregational Church

LIFE CHANGES

NEW BABY



Best wishes to Taylor (Parrott) and Chris Finke on the January 20th birth of their daughter, Hunter Grace. Beaming grandparents are Hilda and Charles Parrott.

WITH SYMPATHY

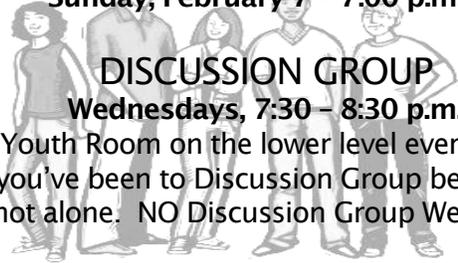
Sincere sympathy to Fabian and Suzanne Fondriest and their family. Fabian's mother, Viola Fondriest, died on January 15. A service was held at Holy Family Church on January 23.

We pray for Marcia and Brian Ackley and their family. Marcia's mother, Arlene Kelly, died on January 15. Services were January 19 in CT.

Heartfelt condolences to Annabelle Kellogg and her family. Annabelle's husband, Jack, a longtime TriCon member, died on January 20. A service has been held.

Our thoughts are with David and Ellen Mushlitz and their family. David's father, Richard Mushlitz, died on January 20 in IN.

YOUTH GROUP
Sunday, February 7 -- 7:00 p.m.



DISCUSSION GROUP
Wednesdays, 7:30 – 8:30 p.m.

Discussion Group meets in the Youth Room on the lower level every Wednesday. If you're new, come tell us what's on your mind. If you've been to Discussion Group before, come bring your opinions, and let yourself be heard. You are not alone. NO Discussion Group Wednesday, February 17.

TRICON
EDUCATION

CONFIRMATION CLASS

Wednesday, February 10 - 7:30 p.m.

Ash Wednesday Service

Confirmands & Mentors

Mission Trip 2016 Dinner

Saturday, February 27 – 6:00 p.m.

Tickets will be on sale in the parish hall on Sunday mornings and in the church office.

\$20 Adults, \$15 Seniors & Students (\$100 maximum per family)

Mission Trip 2016 Fund-Raising

We have a fantastic, enthusiastic group of 47 teens and 8 adult leaders who will travel to Webster Springs, West Virginia during the February school vacation to provide direct services to the people of this impoverished area. The youth and their families pay a fee for the trip and the Mission Committee provides a grant from our Mission budget but each year the congregation generously supports fund-raising efforts to cover additional expenses, including the airfare and program fees for the chaperones.

Once again, we are raffling off some great prizes – please look for the Mission Trip table at coffee hours. Your purchase of a raffle ticket (or tickets) will support the team and you might even win something for yourself! Tickets are \$25 each or 5 for \$100. All proceeds help defer the Mission Trip expenses and you could win:

A Family Heirloom: Two sturdy handcrafted rocking horses painted by artist, Natalie Gardner – put your tickets on the horse of your choice

Cook's Tools: – Deluxe model Keurig coffee maker and a stand mixer

Music Lover: – Concert tickets – Janet Jackson appearing in Manchester, NH – June 21, 2016 - parking included

Sports Fan: – Celtics tickets (2) with package

Effortless Entertaining: – Dinner for 12 delivered to your house or (even easier) served to your 12 guests at our home

Rock Star: – Blue Hills Pavilion tickets – date & show to be mutually agreed upon

Movie Buff: – You and 3 friends will Join Rev. Bob Brown for popcorn and a movie shown in his home on his 70-inch screen

CHURCH SCHOOL NEWS**Church School Newsletter Now On-Line**

Our monthly Church School newsletter is now available on-line! Church School families, and any other interested TriCon members, will receive our newsletter via MailChimp, our new on-line email provider. In addition to important detailed program and event information, this version of our newsletter will also include Carrie's Comments, photos and links to click that will directly connect you to family resources, Class Liaisons and other program volunteer staff, and our TriCon website. Only our Church School calendar and special announcements will be included in the monthly TriCon newsletter.

All registered 2015 - 2016 families are already on our on-line email distribution list.

If you are new and would like information about our Church School program, please contact Church School Director, Carrie O'Brien, at cobrien@triconchurch.org. You may also visit our church website at www.triconchurch.org.

CHURCH SCHOOL FEBRUARY CALENDAR

Church School takes place during the 10:00AM Sunday service.

Nursery age children go directly to their classroom at the beginning of the morning.

Pre-K through 8th graders begin the morning in worship and are then released to their classrooms.

Sunday, February 7

10:00AM Church School
Worship Service in the Parish Hall

Sunday, February 14

10:00AM Family Worship Service in the Parish Hall

Sunday, February 21

10:00AM Family Worship Service in the Parish Hall

Sunday, February 28

10:00AM Mission Trip Family Service at 51 Walden Street

To sign up to receive the Church School newsletter, please contact Carrie O'Brien at cobrien@triconchurch.org or call the church office.

