

JANUARY
2016



The Pastoral Perspective

We spend days, weeks, and, in some instances, even months preparing for Christmas. Yet, in a few hours, it seems, the long anticipated celebration itself has come and gone and suddenly we are thrust into a New Year, the liturgical portion of it being highlighted as Epiphany. Even as we make annual resolutions as to the conduct we intend, hope for, and, with all good and earnest efforts seek to enact in 2016, perhaps, as a matter of faith, it would be helpful to remember a key point of this season. Though the festivities, celebrations, and activities of Christmas are over, the decorations are being taken down and put away for another year, and the seasonal activities have concluded with leftovers to be eaten, gifts to be returned, and thank-you notes to be written or emailed, the real work of our faith, now newly encouraged, strengthened, and empowered by the Good News of Christ's birth, begins in earnest. If it does not, then we may well ponder, "What's the point? What does it mean to proclaim and embrace the Christian faith, indeed, celebrate it with such joy, hope, and promise as embodied in and expressed through Jesus Christ if our own beliefs are not enfolded in the daily lives we lead?"

Few writers, theologians, preachers, educators, and mystics have expressed as beautifully as the late Howard Thurman our charge, responsibilities, and moral imperative as recipients of the Good News of Jesus Christ to be witnesses to and mediators of the compelling Truth of God's intrusion into our world with Christ's birth. Thurman was one of the intellectual and theological giants of the twentieth century offering daring and inspiring leadership to church and society. Of Christmas he wrote what I treasure to be a classic expression of our faith, "The Work of Christmas," something which I hold close to my heart and to which I earnestly aspire. Herewith is the challenge in Thurman's grace-filled words --- for you, and me, and all God's people:

*When the song of the angels is stilled,
When the star in the sky is gone,
When the kings and princes are home,
When the shepherds are back with their flock,
The work of Christmas begins:
 To find the lost,
 To heal the broken,
 To feed the hungry,
 To release the prisoner.
 To rebuild the nations,
 To bring peace among brothers [and sisters],
 To make music in the heart.*

FROM ALL OF US ON THE TRICON STAFF

May you have a blessed and peaceful
New Year



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, January 24

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

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, January 6 and 20 at 10:00 a.m. in the church parlor.** Call the church office, 978 369-4837, for more information.

THE SACRAMENT OF BAPTISM

Baptisms will take place at TriCon on Sunday, January 10, on Mother's Day, May 8, and on Father's Day, June 19. If you would like to have your child baptized on January 10, or you would like to be baptized yourself, please call the church office by January 4.

RETIRED MEN'S GROUP

The Retired Men's Group will meet for lunch on Thursday, January 14 at noon. The speaker will be Bill Davies who will talk about the Bruce Freeman Rail Trail.



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 January 14, please call Robert Nelson (978 369-3105) or Charles Davis (978 369-6250) by January 10. The cost of the lunch is \$10.00.



Knitwits

**JOIN US IN THE PARLOR
Wednesday, January 20 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.

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.

SERMONS ON LINE

You can HEAR SERMONS
on line by going to

www.triconchurch.org

OR

Facebook.com and search
Trinitarian Congregational Church

OPEN TABLE JANUARY

Jams and Jellies all kinds except grape

Thank you for your generous gifts of baking supplies and mixes received in December for our friends and neighbors at Open Table. Our category for this month is Jams and Jellies - all kinds except grape jelly as that is available thru the Greater Boston Food Bank. Your contributions make a big difference to those struggling to feed their families and themselves.

WE WELCOME OUR NEW MEMBERS

Ben and Annie Bailey have lived in Concord over ten years, having lived in Cambridge and Boston previously. Both Annie and Ben grew up in the area (Ben, Concord, and Annie, Wayland) and are excited to be back in a place they love. They have two children - Jeffrey (9) and Hadley (6), and a golden retriever, Molly. Ben and Annie have chosen a bit of an unusual lifestyle - dorm parents to 31 teenage girls at Concord Academy. Ask them about their often humorous adventures with adolescents. Their family enjoys spending time on Cape Cod and Martha's Vineyard and in Vermont.

Laura Johnston moved to Sudbury with her husband, George Caswell, and daughter, Violet (now 5), in 2013. Originally from Washington, DC, Laura came to Massachusetts in 2001 to attend graduate school at the School of the Museum of Fine Arts. After staying home with her daughter for several years, Laura now teaches preschool part-time and continues to pursue her own artwork (printmaking, photography, and mixed media) in her home studio.

Todd and Andrea Nelson both grew up in Bedford and attended Bentley University. They have lived in Westford for seventeen years and have four children, Jillian (17), Jackson (13), William (10), and Meaghan (7). Todd works in real estate development and Andrea has been a stay at home mom who just this fall returned to work as an operations manager. As a family they enjoy skiing, summers in Ocean Park, ME, and caring for their beloved pets on their small horse farm.

Noelle Valentine recently moved to Concord, from Charlotte, NC. A lawyer, Noelle has transitioned from working at a large law firm to an in-house position in Waltham. Noelle, and her daughter, Honour, enjoy winter activities, hiking, sports, and travel.

ITEMS OF INTEREST

THANKS TO THE TRICON CHOIR

Thank you to our choir for their music making throughout 2015, and especially during the Advent and Christmas Seasons. Did you know that they are a group of 26 singers from 13 different towns? To make music together twice a week, they travel not only from Concord and Carlisle, but also from Acton, Arlington, Bedford, Brookline, Clinton, Jamaica Plain, Lincoln, Maynard, Medford, Wayland, and Westford.

THANK YOU

Dear Friends,
I am so grateful for all the love and support my husband and I received during his final illness. The staff and the TriCon community made sure Hal and I were cared for with cards, calls, meals, visits, flowers and boundless prayers. The beautiful memorial service brought my family much needed comfort. Thank you all.
Karen Lord

MYSTERY DONOR

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

JOHN LOMBARD'S SABBATICAL

As of January 1, John Lombard is on sabbatical for six months. During his absence, Rev. Judith Brain and Rev. Robert Brown will take care of pastoral needs. If you would like to reach one of the pastors, please call the church office at 978-369-4837.

IT'S THAT TIME AGAIN

Attention Committee Chairs!
Annual Reports are past due
to Karen Lord.



Please submit your report by email. If you have any questions or would like to see a copy of prior year reports, call Karen Lord in the church office.



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.

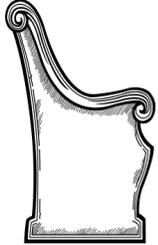
PASTORAL VISITS

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.

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.

The deadline for the
February Newsletter
is January 15.

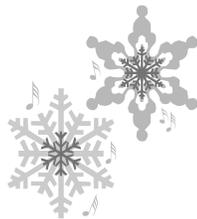


PEWS FOR SALE

As we prepare to start the construction in the balcony to accommodate the choir and new organ, we will be removing several large and small pews ranging in length from 5' to 14'. 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.

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.



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.



LIFE CHANGES

NEW BABY

We welcome Jackson Achtmeyer Boger born on December 22 to Olivia (Achtmeyer), Andrew and big brother Stuart Boger. Happy grandparents are Bill and Alli Achtmeyer and Bill and Barbara Boger.

WITH SYMPATHY

Sincere sympathy to Bob and Jill Robitaille and their family. Bob's father, Robert Robitaille, Sr., died on November 27. A service was held in New Bedford on December 12.

Heartfelt condolences to Tim and Isabella Ehrlich and their family. Tim's mother, Nancy Ehrlich, died on December 7. A service was held in RI on December 10.

Our thoughts and prayers are with Katharine and Charles Denault. Katharine's mother, Helen Carpenter, died on October 22 and her father, Derr Carpenter, died on December 12.



Annual Meeting – Sunday, January 31st 11:15 am – Parish Hall

Our Annual Meeting will be held on in the parish hall following the worship service at 51 Walden. This is an important time in the life of our church as we vote on the 2016 budget, elect officers and committee members and hear a report on the outcome of the 2015 fiscal year. All are welcome and encouraged to attend.

In preparation for the annual meeting, the Finance Committee will be holding an important **budget forum on Sunday, January 10th in the sanctuary following the worship service.** Please see the message below from Moderator, Bill Ackles and Finance Committee Chair, Betsy Veidenheimer:

“We began our annual Stewardship Campaign this year realizing that over the last year, a number of faithful parishioners had moved out of the area and several longtime members had passed away, so we knew it would be a challenge, even with new pledges, to match last year’s pledge total. *Indeed that has proved true.*”

Last year our pledges totaled \$800,800 and this year, as we await the last few outstanding responses, our total pledges to date are less than \$750,000. **There will be major decisions to be made to prepare a viable budget for 2016. Please come to the forum on January 10th to hear the latest figures and to discuss options.**

Meanwhile, if you feel you can raise your pledge, even a little to help bridge the gap, please call Judy Walpole at the church office or send a confidential email to jwalpole@triconchurch.org - a lot of little extra steps can make a big difference!

In that spirit, please read the following message given by Shirley Huettig during the November 22nd service – it might inspire you!”

Call to Stewardship – Shirley Huettig

What if everything fell apart tomorrow – if you lost your home, if a family member passed away, if you lost your income, if you or a loved one succumbed to mental illness, if you became unwell, if you just lost your way – where would you turn? To Starbucks or Dunkin' Donuts? Where many of us contribute nearly \$1200 a year, more if we get a muffin with our coffee every weekday? To Nordstrom's? Where some of us might contribute double what we initially pledged each year because we couldn't decide between the red sweater and the green one, so we bought both? To our fitness or country clubs? Where contributions of \$1,000s of dollars are made every year, but where the returns don't ever seem to be quite what was promised?

If everything fell apart tomorrow, where would each of us turn? We would come to the bountiful table set BY us and FOR us at TriCon. We would turn to the table where everyone is welcome and everyone is served. Where there is room for the Pauls, and the Marys, and the doubting Thomases. Where integrity and living the life God wants us to live is encouraged, protected, and taught.

Come to where we are always setting the table; where we share our joys and our concerns, where we praise and thank God for calling together this incredible community in his name, and where we serve those in need. Thank you for your contributions, large and small, weekly, monthly, or yearly. Thank you – to each of you who have pledged to help fill the table in this community – for we are here for each other, every day, every month, every year.

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

COMMUNITY EVENTS

Forgiveness and Reconciliation Workshop

Beginning on January 25, 2016, from 7:00 - 9:00 PM.

The group of 10 -14 participants will meet weekly for 10 weeks. The goal of this workshop is to help participants rebuild key pillars of their existence: meaning in life, psychological and physical security, and social integration. There are 10 chapters in the Forgiveness and Reconciliation training:

1. Recognizing Violence in Society and in Ourselves
2. From Darkness to Light
3. I Decide to Forgive
4. I See with New Eyes
5. I Understand My Offender
6. I Break Chains and Cleanse Pain
7. I Build Truth
8. I Promote Justice
9. I Make a Pact
10. I Celebrate the Memory

For more information or to sign up, please contact: Tom Sadtler, tom.sadtler@gmail.com 978-369-7929, Rev. Tony Buquor, Trinity Episcopal Church, tonybuquor@gmail.com (978) 369-3715, Rev. Dr. John Lombard, TriCon Church, revdrjcl@aol.com, Rev. Dr. Rodney Petersen rlp@coopmet.org 617-331-1747, Carl Miller, normancmiller@comcast.net 978 369-3755.

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 JANUARY 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, January 3

10:00AM **Special Family Worship Service "Light"**
Childcare available for children up to age five

Sunday, January 10

10:00AM Church School

Sunday, January 17

10:00AM Family Worship Service

Sunday, January 24

10:00AM Church School

Sunday, January 31

9:50AM **NEW Children's Worship**
Church School follows service

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



YOUTH GROUP
Sundays, January 10, 24 and 31 -- 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.

MISSION TRIP 2016
February 13 – 20 --- Webster Springs, WV

Sunday, January 10 12:00 – 1:30 p.m. – **MANDATORY Mission Trip Meeting**
Sunday, January 31 10:00 a.m. Service of Worship – **MISSION TRIP COMMISSIONING**
Meet in the Parish Hall at 9:45, and sit together in the reserved seats at the front of the room.

Sunday, January 31 12:00 – 1:30 p.m. – **MANDATORY Mission Trip Meeting**

For more information, contact Nick Bruning at nbruning@triconchurch.org

MISSION TRIPPERS - Please be aware of your FUNDRAISING responsibilities! Mary Jalenak is in charge of this. Contact her at MJalenak@comcast.net if you have any questions.

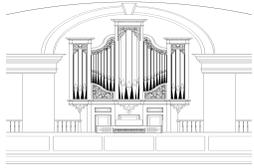


CONFIRMATION CLASS

Sunday, January 10, 5:00 p.m. – 7:00 p.m. **God & Innocent Suffering** Confirmands
Read: *Words for the Journey*
Chapter 1, God
Chapter 3, Holy Spirit
Chapter 6, Suffering

Sunday, January 24, 9:30 a.m. – 12:30 p.m. **Worship at Hope Church** Confirmands & Mentors

Sunday, January 31, 5:00 p.m. – 7:00 p.m. **Worship & The History of Christianity** Confirmands
Read: *Words for the Journey*
Chapter 9, The Church
Chapter 10, Worship



Our Song Shall Rise to Thee ***Noack, Opus 159***

It is happening! CE Floyd Company will begin construction on the balcony renovations on January 25th. The organ is taking shape in the Noack workshop –see the photos in the parish hall and on our website.

Here is some basic information about organs.

Q: How does a pipe organ work?

A: Basically, it's a big box of whistles. Each pipe belongs to a "rank", a set of pipes that has a particular tone color. A rank contains at least one pipe for every note on the keyboard. Each rank sits on top of a hollow chest filled with compressed air by the organ's blower. When the organist pulls out a "stop", a slider under that rank allows air to flow into that rank of pipes but no sound is made until a key is pressed down and its "pallet" (a valve that controls the air to each pipe) opens. Then the compressed air goes through the pipe and we hear sound!

Q: What is a pipe organ made of?

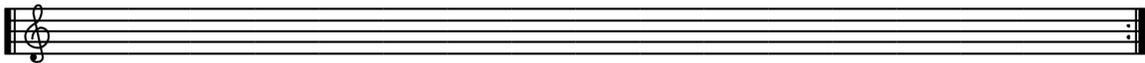
A: Organs use leather, felt, screws, and cables, but well-seasoned wood is the most important material. It is used to create the case, windchest, bellows compartment, console, and wooden pipes. Electronic components are needed for the stop and combination actions. Pipes are made of wood or metal. All of the wooden pipes are made by the Noack staff in Georgetown, MA. The metal flue pipes, crafted by a specialist in the Czech Republic, arrived in Georgetown on December 14. The reed pipes (trumpet, trombone, oboe) are coming from a pipemaker in France, and the front pipes are being made in Germany.

Q: How was our new organ designed?

A: Didier Grassin, president of the Noack Organ Company, studied our balcony's dimensions to establish the organ's potential size and appearance. Together with Vickie Wagner and Peter Sykes (organ professor at B.U.), he created a final stop list (the tone colors that could be included) that will suit our church's musical needs. Using drafting boards and computer software, Didier completed the design and created blueprints, in collaboration with our architects. While violins and trumpets are pretty much alike, organs vary a great deal in sound and appearance. To see a photo gallery of many different organs the world over, visit <http://pipedreams.publicradio.org/gallery>

Q: Can we visit the Noack shop?

A: The Music Committee will be organizing some field trips. Watch upcoming newsletters, the website, and the TriCon Facebook page.



If you have not yet make a pledge or contribution, please consider doing so now. All donors, large and small, will be listed in the commemorative program when the organ is dedicated. Full participation is critical and every contribution is important!

I/we wish to pledge/give \$ _____ to the Organ Campaign to be paid over:
(Check one) 1 2 3 years

Name/s _____ Phone _____

Email _____

Donations may also be made online thru our website: triconchurch.org

Worship Services During Construction



With construction beginning in the sanctuary on January 25th, we will hold **our first service at 51 Walden directly across the street from the church on January 31st**. See the schedule on the next page for the location of services thru June.

On days when there is no church school and attendance is likely to be lower, we will hold the service in the parish hall as we do during the summer months. There are also some dates, such as February 7th when 51 Walden is not available so that day's service will also be in the parish hall.

Church School, meetings, forums and coffee hour will remain at the church. On the Sundays when there is Church School and the service is being held at 51 Walden, parents may bring their children to the church before 10:00 a.m. Grades Pre-K- 8th will start the morning with their own worship service before going to their classes.

The church staff has (half-jokingly) adopted a mantra for this period of transition: **"We are Patient, Flexible and Cheerful!"** We hope and trust that you will all join us in reciting our mantra for **patience** when there are extra tasks to be done and for **flexibility** when there are slight inconveniences to work around.

We are confident that we will all remain **cheerful** as we anticipate our wonderful new organ and approach the months ahead as an exciting adventure and opportunity to experience worship in new ways and new settings.



Sunday Services - January - June 2016
All services at 10:00 a.m. except for Easter Sunday

January 3	Sanctuary
January 10	Sanctuary
January 17	Sanctuary
January 24	Sanctuary
January 31	51 Walden
February 7	Parish hall
February 14	Parish hall
February 21	Parish hall
February 28	51 Walden
March 6	51 Walden
March 13	51 Walden
March 20	51 Walden
March 27	51 Walden - Easter Sunday Two services at 9 and 11
April 3	Parish hall
April 10	51 Walden
April 17	Parish hall
April 24	Parish hall
May 1	51 Walden
May 8	51 Walden
May 15	51 Walden
May 22	51 Walden
May 29	Parish hall
June 5	51 Walden
June 12	Parish hall
June 19	Parish hall
June 26	Parish hall

