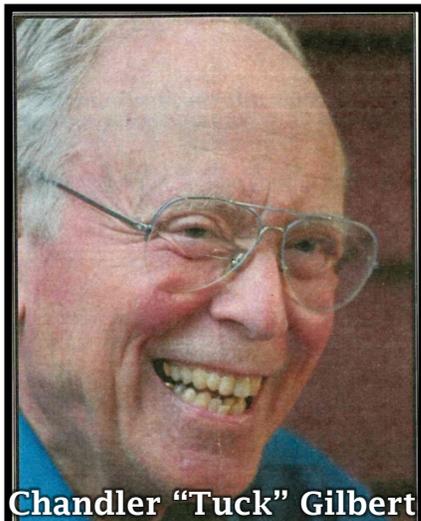


July 2018

It was his first sermon as Trinitarian Congregational Senior Minister. On Sunday March 7, 1971, The Reverend Chandler "Tuck" Gilbert challenged TriCon Church "to join him in a mutual ministry, one marked by an intentional and responsible lay participation."¹ This Biblically centered idea became a foundation on which we still very much stand. It calls on the theology of "the priesthood of all believers" (1 Peter 2:4-9). Each one of us has a particular and crucial function in this Body of Christ. No church is ever summed up in the abilities and skills of clergy and staff. It is all of us together, walking in unity toward our common goal of making God's love and justice real here, now on earth as it is in heaven. This is our legacy and this is our future.

I had the great privilege to meet with Tuck Gilbert and his wife Bobbie on two brief occasions. His rich ministry here was quickly



Chandler "Tuck" Gilbert
Senior Minister 1971-1988

confirmed in my heart and mind. It appears to me that much of the last 45 years of TriCon history has been greatly shaped by Tuck's leadership and your participation in it.

¹A History of the Trinitarian Congregational Church,
Watson, Robert A.

Last month I mournfully attended Reverend Gilbert's memorial service in New Hampshire. Family and friends, in front of a packed sanctuary, richly eulogized a life dedicated to following Christ and nurturing a beloved

No church is ever summed up in the abilities and skills of clergy and staff. Our impact is our collective unity, walking in love toward our common goal of making God's mercy and justice real, here and now on earth as it is in heaven. This is our legacy and this is our future.

community. He was 92 years old when he passed on to new life.

On June 3, 2018 you confirmed my call to be the 20th Senior Minister of Trinitarian Congregational Church. I humbly accept this call in the full knowledge of the weighty and worthy history that has so graciously brought us to this point. Together we stand on the foundations of our past. We look back with reverence at what God has done and now boldly look forward to what God is calling us to be today. The Church has evolved since the time of Tuck Gilbert but the Gospel message remains consistent. As we continue to emerge into today's relevant, reflective and socially active expression of what the Christian Community can be, we will do so with grateful hearts, carrying the memory and legacy of The Reverend Chandler "Tuck" Gilbert.

In faith and hope,

Rev. Bob Brown – Senior Minister

MARKERS ALONG THE JOURNEY

REFLECTIONS FROM JEAN VANDERGRIFT



According to Wikipedia, an acoustic echo chamber is “a hollow enclosure where sounds reverberate.” The term can be used metaphorically too, for “a situation in which beliefs are amplified or reinforced by communication and repetition inside a closed system.”

The church, by contrast, exists for mission, not just for itself, so becoming an echo chamber is a negative identity for a congregation. God calls us to share the good news in word and deed and to reach out in service and mission.

Any group is susceptible to becoming an echo chamber in the negative sense of that term when it looks inward exclusively and listens only to itself. Some cultural observers have noted that our nation seems to be becoming more fragmented as a result of this propensity. Even churches must intentionally refrain from these behaviors to avoid this end.

One way that TriCon can prevent becoming an echo chamber is by getting out in the world, listening to and dialoguing with those who aren't in the church. We must not keep to ourselves alone, but stay in touch with young people and seek out voices, beliefs, and practices that aren't 'normal' or comfortable to us. We certainly do not need to agree with or simply go along with all that we hear and see going on in the world, but developing authentic relationships and positive dialogue with those

who are different from us will keep our good news *actual* good news for today, reverberating with Truth.

A second way that Tri Con can avoid the echo chamber syndrome that predominates our culture is to nurture connection with the wider Body of Christ, both other denominations and within our own United Church of Christ. It's a good idea for us to attend sister congregations, Association meetings, and Conference events. We may share much of the same faith language, but may not mean the same thing when we use it. As a first step, read Nancy Haynes' summary in this newsletter of the latest annual joint meeting of the Massachusetts, Rhode Island, and Connecticut Conferences of the UCC that occurred in Springfield, MA, June 15-16, and consider the benefits that come of these three conferences working together more closely, as well as with nonprofits and other movements. Imagine what beautiful 'music' may be made when we exit the echo chamber and harmonize with others.

Jean

SINCE YOU'VE ASKED...

Yes, Jean Vandergrift will remain on staff in an interim capacity for a little longer. With the positive vote and call to Rev. Bob Brown to be the settled Senior Minister of TriCon, the search for a second clergy staff person to work with him is underway. The Church Council has extended Jean's contract and is taking steps to begin the search for a Minister of Congregational and Family Life. The search to fill this role will make use of the current congregational profile, inclusive of its Vision and Priorities, while adapting it to the skills and traits necessary to this second clergy position. Stay tuned for more details.



BEATITUDES

SUMMER SERMON SERIES

Beginning Sunday July 1, 2018

TRICON
Nurturing Discovery

BLESSED ARE THE
POOR IN SPIRIT
MOURNERS
MEEK
HUNGRY
FOR GOD
MERCIFUL
PURE IN HEART
PEACEMAKERS
PERSECUTED

Join Us!

Sundays, 10AM

in our AIR-CONDITIONED Parish Hall



JULY WORSHIP

JULY 1 COMMUNION	Service at 10:00 a.m.	Rev. Robert Brown preaching
JULY 8	Service at 10:00 a.m.	Rev. Dr. Jean Vandergrift preaching
JULY 15	Service at 10:00 a.m.	Rev. Dr. Jean Vandergrift preaching

**We will have joint services with West Concord Union Church on Sundays, July 22 & 29.
Their service is at 9:45 a.m.**

JULY 22	Service at 9:45 a.m.	Rev. Hannah Brown preaching
JULY 29	Service at 9:45 a.m.	Rev. Dr. Jean Vandergrift preaching

AUGUST WORSHIP

**The members of West Concord Union Church will be worshipping with us
on Sundays, August 5 & 12.**

August 5	Service at 10:00 a.m.	Rev. Robert Brown preaching
August 12	Service at 10:00 a.m.	Rev. Hannah Brown preaching
Our regular summer services will continue on:		
August 19	Service at 10:00 a.m.	Rev. Robert Brown preaching
August 26	Service at 10:00 a.m.	Rev. Dr. Jean Vandergrift preaching



2018 - 2019 CONFIRMATION PROGRAM

IMPORTANT INFORMATION for GRADE 8 and GRADE 9 STUDENTS and PARENTS

The 2018/2019 Confirmation Program will include 9th grade and 10th grade students. Eligible students will be sent the schedule of next year's program. Please contact the church office, 978 369-4837, if you do not receive it. If you are new to the church and would like to be confirmed, call the church office.

We are looking forward to a wonderful year of questions, faith, doubts, beliefs and growth of the outstanding young people in our midst.

David Hart
Suzanne Giles



GOD is calling us

to be a **nurturing community** of

faith

that **HONORS GOD** through
service & mission

Good News!

From our Moderator, Russell Sanna:

Our June 3rd Congregational meeting voted joyously to call Rev. Robert W. Brown as our Senior Minister. TriCon's pews were filled to the brim and afterwards our fellowship was abundant and embracing. We are renewed by God's blessings, energizing us for our work now ahead, working together to put our Vision Statement into action.

Russell

From our Senior Minister, Rev. Bob Brown:

Thank you for the overwhelming show of support for my call. You affirmed not only my ministry, but also the Vision Statement that will guide this unified Body of Christ into a Spirit-led future. As Jacob said, "Surely God is in this place." (Gen 28:16)

Onward and upward,

Bob

THREE PRIORITIES

under the Vision

Create Vibrant Worship

through a spectrum of opportunities

Live Out Our Faith

through caring for one another
and hands on service and mission

Cultivate Our Church Community

to grow and thrive through increased
collaboration, communication,
and harnessing our collective talents

HELP US LIVE OUT THE VISION

September 30th - Join TriCon Church!

Details to follow in next month's newsletter.

Contact Paul Mahoney, Chair of Membership Committee,
or Amy Bruning at the church office if you are interested in
learning more about joining our church.

paul@mahoneyarchitects.com
abruning@triconchurch.org

JOIN
US



Take Me Out to the Ballgame!

**Sunday, August 19th at 5:35pm
only \$15 per person**



Join your TriCon Friends
for a fun outing to the
Lowell Spinners Game on August 19th.

Each ticket comes with a hot dog, drink, ice cream, and a
souvenir ticket ... right behind home plate!

Bring the whole family!



Sign Up through our church website
or call the office.
\$15 per ticket
payable by check to the church
or through the website payment tab

Al Filipov peace & justice FORUM 2018

this year honoring
UTEC
Breaking barriers to youth success



Based in Lowell, UTEC helps young people develop skills through paid work experience. Social justice and civic engagement are embedded in all programming. Join us to hear a panel of participants talk about their experiences.

“Peace. Positivity. Empowerment”



Sunday, September 16, 2018
4:30 pm Program and Award Presentation

Free and open to all - donations welcome

Trinitarian Congregational Church
54 Walden Street, Concord MA 01742
(978) 369-4837

Thank you to our Endorsers:

Christ Church United, UCC, Lowell . City Mission Boston . Cooperative Metropolitan Ministries
Justice & Witness Ministries, Massachusetts Conference, UCC . Massachusetts Council of Churches
Trinitarian Congregational Church, Concord



For more information contact Al Filipov Peace & Justice Forum . www.AIFilipov.org

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 up your children for Church School or youth programs. Call the church office with any questions.

ATTENTION MEN OF THE CHURCH Join the Anchor Group

The Anchor Group meets on the **first and third** 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
August Newsletter
is July 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, July 11 and 25 at 10:00 a.m. in the church parlor.** Call the church office (978 369-4837) for more information.



48TH ANNUAL ANTIQUES SHOW

**Friday, November 2
10:00 a.m. - 5:00 p.m.**

**Saturday, November 3
10:00 a.m. - 4:00 p.m.**

See the September and October Newsletters for opportunities to volunteer during this All-Church event.

LIFE CHANGES

NEW BABY

We welcome Maryn Isabel Rodriguez, born on May 11 to Katie (Wayland) and Luis Rodriguez. Beaming grandparents are Carole and Bob Wayland.

WITH SYMPATHY

Sincere sympathy to Gloria Pinkham and her family. Gloria's sister, Ruth Chamberlin, died on May 18. A service was held in Sudbury on June 5.

ITEMS OF INTEREST



THANK YOU to the Fellowship Committee. The April *Potluck*, May *Mothers' Day Tea* and June *Strawberry Festival* were all great successes. A good time was had by everyone!

THANK YOU to our singer, Marcia Macres, and our pianist, Jim Zaroulis, for entertaining the guests at the birthday party for members and friends over 80. You lifted our spirits!

Your Generous Mission Dollars at Work **MONTHLY SPOTLIGHT**



GAINING GROUND

Gaining Ground grows organic produce for hunger relief with help from volunteers of all ages, abilities and backgrounds.



Learn more at:
triconchurch.org/missions-outreach

THANK YOU FROM GAINING GROUND

Alleviating hunger is a team effort, and Gaining Ground could not accomplish our important work without you. This year, because of your donation and that of many others, 650 families in need received 80,000 pounds of fresh, organic food from our farm... Together we are working hard as a community dedicated to hunger relief. We are truly grateful for your generous support...
Sincerely,
Amy (Capofreddi)
For Gaining Ground

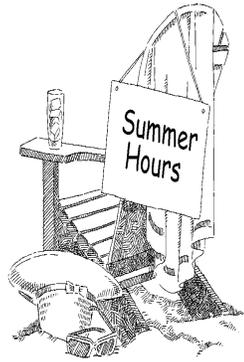


With summer vacations at hand, please notify the church office at 978 369-4837 of any pastoral care situations or

hospitalizations, particularly at hospitals other than Emerson. Anyone entering Emerson who desires pastoral care and has not notified the church office should indicate a "congregational affiliation" as part of their hospital admission intake interview if they would like a pastoral visit.

SUMMER OFFICE HOURS

**The Church Office
will be open
9:00 a.m. - 1:00 p.m.**



HEARING AID UNITS

Available on Sunday Mornings

Do you have difficulty hearing our Sunday service? Individual hearing units that are part of our sound system are available on Sunday mornings. Just ask an usher for help.

For more information, call the church office.

ALTAR FLOWERS

If you would like to donate flowers for a Sunday service in 2018, you may sign up on the flower chart in the parish hall or on our website.

USHERS/GREETERS AND COFFEE SERVERS NEEDED

In August, we put together schedules for the fall for ushers/greeters and coffee servers - two easy ways to participate in the life of the church and get to know more of your fellow parishioners.

New volunteers are always needed. You do not have to be an official member to usher/greet or serve coffee. Please call the church office or email Judy Walpole at jwalpole@triconchurch.org or Amy Bruning at abruning@triconchurch.org if you would like to volunteer.

Ushers are asked to come a few minutes early, hand out bulletins, greet arriving worshippers, take up the offering and stay a few minutes after the service to straighten up the pews. Complete instructions are provided and each week, there is an experienced head usher to give direction, as needed. Children are always welcome to participate with their family before going to class and - a popular bonus - they get to ring the church bell!

Coffee servers are asked to leave church during the last hymn and pour the coffee, which the sexton will have ready. He also does all the clean-up. Children are always welcome to participate with their family and - another popular bonus - they get first dibs on the munchkins!

OFFERING ENVELOPES



Canary yellow offering envelopes for the year 2018 are available on the literature table in the parish hall. Feel free to take as many as you need. Please put your name and your giving code (if you know it) on the outside of 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

REMINDER: FIND IT ON OUR WEBSITE TRICONCHURCH.ORG

If you have recycled your paper copy of this Newsletter and then remember an article you wanted to save or are looking for a date you forgot to put on your calendar, you can always find it on our website. Past and current newsletters are available there as well as a complete calendar of church events and lots of other important information about the church.

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”. Any questions, please call or email Judy or Amy at the church office: jwalpole@triconchurch.org or abruning@triconchurch.org.

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.



NEW BACKGROUND CHECK FOR SAFE CHURCH

For a number of years, as part of our Safe Church policy, we have asked all volunteers working with children and youth to submit information for a CORi check which covers Massachusetts records. Our insurance company is now requiring that we also do a national background check. You can do it on-line and it is quick and easy. We will be sending information this summer to those who have volunteered in the past. Please watch for it and take just a minute to help us fulfill these insurance requirements.



Celebrating Community

As we celebrate our community of faith, it is interesting to look back at our history and the many parishioners and events that came before us and shaped the church we are today.

TRICON HISTORY - PART 1:

The early settlers to Concord established the First Church in 1635, based on a Trinitarian and evangelical tradition. By the early 19th century, First Church was drifting more and more towards Unitarianism. In 1826, nine members of First Church "crossed the brook" over "the leaving out of the Trinity" and formed an independent religious society which became the Second Congregational Society and the First Calvinistic Religious Society. Maria, Elizabeth and Jane Thoreau, aunts of Henry David Thoreau, were among the original nine.

They were joined by seven other residents of the town and in June of that year met in ecclesiastical council to form Trinitarian Congregational Church. The council chose Rev. Lyman Beecher (father of Harriet Beecher Stowe and Henry Ward Beecher) to give the sermon. They met in John Vose's house on Walden Street before the meetinghouse was erected on land donated by Ebenezer Hubbard. That building cost somewhat less than \$6,000, including the bell, which weighed 1,172 pounds!

The new church's financial condition was feeble but their faith was strong and prayer was the backbone that held them together. A prominent member of the community was quoted as saying he was "not in favor of the enterprise but God was, and is yet, I see."

Very soon, the church established a Sabbath School with branches throughout the town with members paying 25 cents a year for its support. In 1828, the Massachusetts Legislature passed a law separating church and state and religious instruction could no longer take place in the public schools, increasing the importance of the Sabbath Schools.

Rev. Daniel Southmayd was called as the first pastor with an annual salary of \$600. Mrs. Southmayd played an important role organizing the women of the church in a female prayer group and the Ladies Sewing Society, later named the Ladies Missionary Society, providing clothing to the poor in the town and beyond.

Opposition to slavery was an early cornerstone of our church and in 1836, a statement was adopted that "no persons claiming property in human beings, or in any way connected in this, shall be eligible to membership in this church."

The Ladies Emancipation Society sent money and clothing to escaped slaves.

(To be continued in the next Newsletter.)



CHILDREN'S MINISTRY

Happy summer greetings!

I hope you and your family are enjoying the myriad of God's gifts this lovely season and are finding lots of opportunity for rest and renewal.

Brand new programming is being decided for next year. We are considering a new curriculum, more teacher support workshops and an updated Children's Ministry format.

Input from TriCon families is vital to our planning process. By registering now, we will be able to tailor programming to meet the needs of our children and youth. **Our on-line registration form can be found on our TriCon website at www.triconchurch.org.** It just takes a minute to complete.

Volunteer opportunities and sign-ups will be available once registration has been completed and we know where help is needed.

Our 2018 - 2019 year begins on Sunday, September 9th and I am looking forward to seeing many smiling happy faces. If you have any questions about Children's Ministry over the summer I can be reached through the church office 978 369-4837 or at cobrien@triconchurch.org.

Peace,
Carrie O'Brien
Children's Ministry Director



YOUTH GROUP POSITION

Youth Group Leader - Concord Center Church - part-time;
approximately 10 hours per week, mid-August - mid-June

Plan and lead Sunday evening youth group; facilitate Wednesday evening youth discussion; coordinate and lead annual youth mission trip; occasional weekend retreats or activities

Needed: Ability to relate to high school youth and parents; Organizational and communication skills;
Apply: info@triconchurch.org or call Amy Bruning or Judy Walpole at the church office for more information.



NEWS FROM THE ANNUAL MEETING OF THE MASSACHUSETTS CONFERENCE OF THE UNITED CHURCH OF CHRIST

The Annual meeting of the Massachusetts conference of the UCC was held in conjunction with the annual meetings of the Rhode Island and Connecticut conferences on June 15-16 at the MassMutual Center in Springfield, MA.

Significant news from the Annual Meeting is that all three conferences voted in the affirmative to form a new conference with the provisional name of "Together as One." This has been a multi-year process of planning, discernment and prayer. For more information go to: <https://www.macucc.org/newsdetail/connecticut-massachusetts-and-rhode-island-conferences-vote-to-go-forward-together-as-one-11500172>

Other business before the conference included an affirmative vote to become an immigrant-welcoming conference.

At the recognition luncheon TriCon was awarded the 2017 top giving church for OCWM Basic Support. "Our Church's Wider Mission" supports many programs including excellence in prophetic witness through:

- Massachusetts Conference Disaster Response Team
- Chile Mission Partnership
- Hispanic Ministries
- Task Teams on Ecumenism and Interfaith ministry, LGBT concerns (ONA Ministry), Environmental Ministries, Homelessness, Immigration and Refugee Concerns, Innocence Commission, Race & Justice and Restorative Justice

It is a privilege to be one of your lay delegates to the Massachusetts Conference and I thank you for the opportunity to serve and represent TriCon.

Nancy Haynes



Open Table - July 2018

Jams & Jellies



Thank you for remembering our friends and neighbors.
Please place donations in a bag and place in the Parish Hall bin.

Helping Our Neighbors Locally and Globally

TRICON
OUTREACH



Serving Over 300 Guests Weekly

Concord & Maynard
Open Table



YOU CAN SAVE A LIFE!

(It's easy and painless!)

RED CROSS BLOOD DRIVE

HERE AT TRICON

Tuesday, July 17th

1- 6 pm

Register at redcrossblood.org or just come!

