

April 2015

The Pastoral Perspective

I am not sure if it is the long, historically cold and snowy winter. Or, if it is the awful and daily news of brutality, violence, and suffering, faraway and, yes, nearby. Or, if it is more intimately and personally a burden, crisis, or concern of the human heart. But I have sensed an incredible yearning among God's people for the holiest day in the Christian year, Easter, to arrive on the calendar and its spirit to be born anew in the human heart. It is not simply our customary desire this time of year for spring to come. There is something more basic and essential: a pervasive sense in some places and with some people in our collective life that we deeply desire to "live again."

Kathy Galloway captures well the beauty, hope, promise, and possibility of the Risen Christ and life lived in Easter's dawning new day in her Easter prayer when she writes:

Christ our life, you are alive in the tenderness of touch, in the heartbeat of intimacy, in the insights of solitude. Alleluia!
Christ our life, you are alive in the creative possibility of the dullest conversation, of the dreariest task, the most threatening event. Alleluia!
Christ our life, you are alive to offer re-creation to every unhealed hurt, to every deadened place, to every damaged heart. Alleluia!
You set before us a great choice. Therefore we choose life.
The dance of resurrection soars and surges through the whole creation. It sets gifts of bread and wine upon our table. This is grace, dying we live. So let us live.



May the power and Truth of the Resurrection provide for our own renewal, restoration, and, yes, perhaps even our own resurrection from all that would seek to deny life and crush the human spirit. And may that same Resurrection spirit go forth to transform, heal, and redeem a broken and needy world!

Happy Easter!

PALM SUNDAY, March 29
Mozart's *Missa Brevis in d Minor* for Choir and Strings

APRIL WORSHIP

April 5
EASTER SUNDAY

Services at 9:00 and 11:00 Rev. Dr. John Lombard preaching

April 12

Service at 10:00 Janot Mendler de Suarez, guest preacher
 The Lawson Family musicians

Janot Mendler de Suarez has many years of experience on the front lines of climate change through her work with OXFAM America, the World Bank and the Red Cross/Red Crescent Climate Centre. A resident of Wayland, and a graduate of Mount Holyoke College and Tufts University, she is a member of the Wayland Ba'hai community. Janot is also a founding member of Boston University's Pardee Center for the Longer Range Future Task Force on Games for a New Climate, and has traveled around the world using participatory games to communicate complex scientific and policy concepts about climate change. She serves on the Council of Advisors for the Collaborative Institute for Oceans, Climate and Security at UMass-Boston, and chairs the Global Oceans Forum Working Group on Oceans and Climate.

April 19

Service at 10:00 Rev. Dr. John Lombard preaching
 Sunday-only Choir (See article for details)

April 26

Service at 10:00 Rev. Dr. John Lombard preaching
 Jeannette Taylor, pianist

Holy Week

Maundy Thursday, April 2 at 8:00 p.m. Tenebrae Service
 Choral responses from the Taizé Community

Good Friday Service, April 3 at noon in the Sanctuary
 Meditative music for organ and oboe

EASTER SUNDAY, April 5

Sunrise Service 6:30 a.m. at the North Bridge
 A continental breakfast will be served at the church following this service.

Traditional Easter Services
9:00 and 11:00 a.m.

Rev. Dr. John Lombard and Rev. Robert Brown officiating
 The Choir & Molly Callahan, trumpeter

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

EVENTS AND OPPORTUNITIES



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.

CAREGIVERS GROUP

The TriCon Caregivers Group is an opportunity for our parishioners and friends in caregiving roles to come together. This confidential group, shares 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 join the TriCon Caregivers Group. **We will meet on Wednesdays, April 1, 15 and 29 at 10:00 a.m. in the church parlor.**

Come as your schedule allows. Call the church office, 978 369-4837, for more information.

WELCOME TO TRICON!

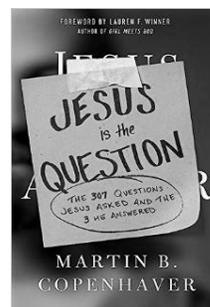
Whether you are just visiting, looking to find a church home or still feeling your way after several visits, we encourage you to pick up brochures and other information in the parish hall or the church entry, and to come for coffee and refreshments in the parish hall following the service.



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. There are registration forms for Church School for nursery through middle school in the parish hall. For more information, contact Christian Education Director, Carrie O'Brien. For more information on the youth programs, contact Youth Leader, Nick Bruning or Associate Minister, Rev. Bob Brown. Call the church office if you have any questions.

JESUS IS THE QUESTION!

Wednesday, April 8 - 7:00 p.m.



Everyone is invited to the parish hall on Wednesday, April 8, as we wrap up our Lenten small groups and our all-church book read with dessert and conversation. If you have read Martin Copenhaver's book, or even if you haven't, please join this evening of learning and sharing. Sign up in the parish hall or call the church office.

RETIRED MEN'S GROUP

The Retired Men's Group will meet for lunch on Thursday, April 9 at noon. The speaker will be Charles Davis who will talk about Antarctica.

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 April 9, please call Robert Nelson (978 369-3105) or Charles Davis (978 369-6250) by April 4. The cost of the lunch is \$10.00.



IN APRIL & MAY

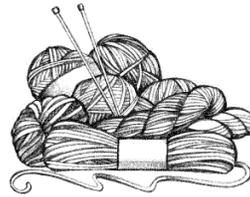
Like to sing, but can't commit to a group?

Come on Sundays, April 19 and May 17 for "Sunday-only Choir" (teens & adults)

Gather at 9:00 a.m. in the loft to learn music for that morning's service. (If you are teaching Church School and have to leave after the anthem, that's okay too.)

VOLUNTEERS NEEDED IN THE COMMUNITY

TriCon volunteers are needed to work at the Open Table in Maynard the third Monday of each month. You can serve dinner from 5:45 – 7:15 or help in the pantry at 4:30. Email Polly Vanasse (vanassefamily@comcast.net) if you can help. **The next date is Monday, April 20.** Your help will be greatly appreciated! Sign up in the parish hall.



Knitwits

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.

**JOIN US IN THE
PARLOR
Wednesday, April 22
AT NOON!**

UNITED HOMES SHELTER

We provide a hot meal once a month to the 120 homeless men who receive food and lodging through the United Homes shelter in Dorchester. Cooking takes place in the church



kitchen after Sunday coffee hour. Drivers are needed to take the meal to Dorchester at 4:00 p.m. You may drop off the food or you may remain to serve it. Servers return to Concord about 7:30 p.m. (If you are not serving, you may return to Concord immediately after drop off.)

The upcoming meal schedule is:

April 26

May 17

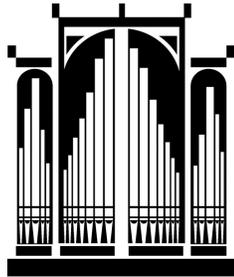
If you would like to volunteer on a particular Sunday, please be sure to sign up in the parish hall or call the church office ahead of time so we can plan for cooks and drivers.

PIANO CONCERT

Sunday, May 31st – Save the Date

Wen-yee Ho, award-winning pianist and friend of our church will present a concert in our sanctuary on Sunday, May 31st at 3:00 p.m. Those who have attended Mrs. Ho's previous performances here can tell you that this is a not-to-be-missed musical treat!

It is free of charge and open to the public so invite friends and neighbors.



ORGAN UPDATE

Since the unanimous vote at the Annual meeting in February to move forward with the commissioning of a new pipe organ and the plans to move it and the choir to the back balcony, things have been moving forward! The contract with the organ builder was signed and a very generous anonymous donation was received to cover the initial down payment.

Committee members have been busy working on the campaign to be launched early this month. Work has become on the organ – the initial phase of design will take about 3 months. The excitement is building – watch for more information!

The deadline for the
May Newsletter
is April 15.

Open Table – April

Baking Mixes and Fruit Juices



It's school vacation, so this month we are featuring easy to prepare baking mixes (muffins, cakes and cookies) and 100% fruit juices. Your donations will make school break a little sweeter for our friends and neighbors who depend on the Open Table. Thank you!

CHANGING LIVES AT ALL AGES AND STAGES



Thru this challenging winter, the church continues to serve and minister to our congregation during all of life's phases. Since January we have conducted memorial services, welcomed new members, added children to our church school rolls, had over 45 people participate in small Lenten study groups and are preparing to send 53 young people and their adult leaders on a mission trip. Flowers and Valentine treats were delivered to those in the hospital and nursing homes and recuperating at home, rides were given, calls made and notes written. Whatever your age or stage in life, the church is here for you.

WELCOME

New Members

Abigail Dressler

Britt Ellison lived in Concord while she attended high school at Lawrence Academy, moved away for college, and returned to MA for business school. After years on the South Shore, Britt and her children, Cole (10), Tristan (8), and Kirsten (5), moved to Concord in 2013. All the children love soccer and Kirsten also enjoys ballet and singing. Britt's hobbies include yoga, dance and holistic health and nutrition.

Josh and Kim Stirling moved to Concord from Arlington in 2011. Kim, a Concord native, is thrilled to be living where she grew up, and has lots of family in the area, including her parents. Josh works as an investment analyst and Kim teaches high school writing part-time when she is not chasing around their two girls, Alice (6) and Jane (2). Kim and Josh are both avid sailors and, as a family, the Stirlings enjoy all activities on or related to the water.

Margaret Trimble moved from Kentucky to Concord in late 2012 following the deaths of her husband and son. She resides with her brother and sister-in-law, has siblings in Littleton and Peabody, as well, and is enjoying the time she is spending with all of them. A retired paralegal and office administrator, Margaret has become a faithful TriCon volunteer working on the Friday bulletins and the Newsletter. Margaret enjoys reading mysteries, crossword puzzles, watching British drama, and traveling, especially with her 22-year-old grandson. Margaret often visits churches during her travels and says she feels at home among any gathering of God's children.

LIFE CHANGES

A NEW MEMBER OF THE FAMILY

It's a joy to announce the arrival of two-year-old Zola Theresa Bates, recently adopted from the Democratic Republic of Congo by Burton and Marie Bates and big brother, Charlie. Beaming grandparents are Tom and Susan Bates.

Congratulations to Emma and Nick Probolus on the February 26 birth of Jonathon James. Happy grandparents are Leslie and Bill Ackles.

Best wishes to Amy and John Egge. Josephine Eloise Egge was born on March 11. Joyful first time grandparents are Sally and Michael Schnitzer.



Sincere sympathy to Linda Andersen and her family. Linda's father, Russell Miller died on February 21. A service will be held in the Spring.

Heartfelt condolences to Chip and Bobbi Benson and their family. Chip's father, Arthur Benson, died on February 27. A service was held at TriCon on March 14.

Our thoughts and prayers are with Elise and Alan Woodward and their family. Elise's father, Shervert Frazier, died on March 3. A service was held at TriCon on March 7.

MEMORIAL SERVICE

The Memorial Service for Jim Keith, who died on February 9, will be held on Saturday, April 18 at 11:00 a.m. with a reception following.

ITEMS OF INTEREST

STEPHEN MINISTRY

Stephen Ministers are always available to help you. Contact Rev. Lombard, or Rev. Brown, for more information or to request a Stephen Minister.

OFFERING ENVELOPES



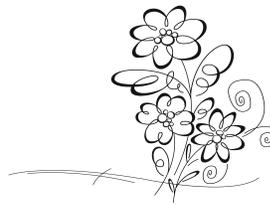
Green OFFERING ENVELOPES FOR 2015 are now available in the parish hall. Please take as many or as few as you need. If you use cash, kindly put your name on the envelope.

MUSIC NEWS

We welcome Matt DiBattista back to our choir after several months "on the road". Since January, Matt has been performing leading roles with Long Beach Opera, Chicago Opera Theater and Tulsa Opera, and singing as a soloist with the Dayton Philharmonic (conducted by Keith Lockhart) and the Boston Modern Orchestra Project.

Congratulations to Lucas Hickman for his acceptance in this summer's program at the Boston University Tanglewood Institute. Active in CCHS music and theater programs, he was also recommended for All-State Chorus this year. Son of Amanda and Walter Hickman, Lucas is a member of TriCon's Choir, Youth Group, and Music Committee.

Kudos to Reilly Haring, a CCHS Senior chosen for All-State Chorus this year. A member of the TriCon Youth Group, Reilly often shares her musical gifts with the church in worship service. Brava, Reilly!



ALTAR FLOWERS

If you would like to donate flowers for a Sunday service in 2015, you may sign up on the flower chart in the parish hall.

KELLY DONAHUE GRADUATES

Kelly Donahue, our 2013-2014 seminary intern, will graduate from Andover Newton Theological School on Saturday, May 16. The ceremony takes place at 2:00 p.m. at the First Baptist Church, 848 Beacon St. Newton Centre. Everyone is welcome, kids included.

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).

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.



YOUTH GROUP



YOUTH GROUP Sunday, April 12 – 7:00 p.m.

DISCUSSION GROUP

Wednesdays, April 1, 8, 15 and 29 -- 7:30 – 8:30

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!



Sunday, April 12, 10:00 - MT Commissioning during the worship service

Sunday, April 12, 12:00-1:30 - MT meeting

April 19 - 26 - Mission Trip to Jamaica!

CONFIRMATION 2014 – 2015

APRIL

Thursday, April 2

8:00 p.m.

Maundy Thursday

Confirmands & Mentors

Confirmands and mentors attend the Maundy Thursday service of worship.



TriCon Celebration of Service Sunday, April 26, 2015

At 10:00 a.m. we will gather in the sanctuary for an inspirational commissioning service and communion. At 10:30, we will grab coffee and a donut and then head to our work sites. Here's the menu - you may sign up at church on the poster in the parish hall or on this tear-out, which you can drop in the offering plate or leave in the church office. Questions? Email Polly Vanasse (vanassefamily@comcast.net)

OFF SITE:

1. **GAINING GROUND** with Russell Sanna: A huge volunteer base helps this Concord program raise thousands of pounds of vegetables and fruits each year that are distributed to local pantries, shelters and programs for hungry families. Our church has supported Gaining Ground since its inception and now you can come spend the morning planting at the Virginia Road main garden. Bring gloves and wear gardening clothes. You may want to bring a snack. **11:00 a.m. - 1:00 p.m.**
2. **RIPLEY PLAYScape** with Polly Vanasse: Have you seen the Playscape at Ripley lately? Located on town land adjacent to the Ripley School and the Concord Children's Center, the Playscape is an extensive nature-based park and playground designed to actively engage the whole child, adult as well, in play, relaxation and interaction within a large natural environment. This spring completes the second phase of its development. Today's volunteers have an opportunity to help to control invasive species at the site. Bring gloves and wear gardening clothes. **10:45 a.m. - 12:15 p.m.**
3. **OPEN TABLE PANTRY** with Kathe Falzer: For 26 years, Open Table has provided groceries and a community supper! Each week, the pantry supplies groceries to over 300 people. Learn how the pantry food gets to clients on Thursdays, help stock the shelves and clean the pantry. See for yourself what is needed. Walk/drive from church to pantry. **10:45 a.m. - 12:15 p.m.**

AT CHURCH:

4. **CHURCH HOUSEKEEPING** with Jim Davidian: Cleaning and organizing the basement kitchen, washing windows, etc. - plenty of chores for everyone. **10:45 a.m. - 12:00 p.m.**
5. **COOK THE SHELTER MEAL** with Carol Antos: Since 1990, United Homes Shelter for unaccompanied homeless men has been operated at Pilgrim Church in Dorchester. Originally established by *Positive Lifestyles*, it is now under the direction of the United Homes Adult Services division of Children's Services of Roxbury. (This connection began with the recognition that a large number of homeless adults are, in fact, former foster children.) United Homes offers overnight shelter, food, clothing, showers, first-aid, and transitional and other supportive services. On any given night, there are 120 to 140 men sheltering there. Volunteers from TriCon prepare and deliver a delicious and nutritious dinner for those men one Sunday each month. **10:45 a.m. - 12:45 p.m.**
6. **ASSEMBLE THE MAY NEWSLETTER**: A fun intergenerational activity guaranteed to bring on some great conversation as the newsletter is prepared for mailing. No experience necessary. **10:45 a.m. - 12:00 p.m.**
7. **CHURCH BEAUTIFICATION** with Holly Darzen: As you tackle some outdoor beautification projects in the church gardens and outdoor spaces. Bring gloves and wear work clothes. **10:45-12:15**

Please sign up !

YES, I want to join in FAITH WORKS on April 26!

_____ would like to volunteer for:
PLEASE PRINT:

- _____ 1. GAINING GROUND
- _____ 2. RIPLEY PLAYSCAPE
- _____ 3. OPEN TABLE PANTRY
- _____ 4. CHURCH HOUSEKEEPING
- _____ 5. COOK THE SHELTER MEAL
- _____ 6. ASSEMBLE THE NEWSLETTER
- _____ 7. CHURCH BEAUTIFICATION

MY PHONE AND E-MAIL CONTACT INFORMATION:

Thanks for volunteering! Together we can show how our FAITH WORKS !



Advocates and Legislators Learn About Strategies for Addressing Family Homelessness

Every night in Massachusetts a record 3,100 families are in homeless shelters and 1,850 additional families stay in motels with great risk to their children's health and development. *The Advocacy Network to End Family Homelessness* (ANEFH) presented their 11th Annual Forum on Family Homelessness on Sunday, March 1, at First Parish in Bedford. Attendees learned that it truly "takes a village" to assist homeless families in transition to more stable housing.

The Bedford Housing Task Force was formed in 2011 by community volunteer leaders and local congregations and soon grew to include school and police representatives, as well as many organizations that lend support to homeless families. The Mass. Department of Housing and Community Development (DHCD) began placing homeless families in the Bedford Plaza Motel in 2011. The current number of homeless families in the motel is 22-25 but many more could be served.

Sue Baldaulf spoke about the Task Force's efforts to "respond to homeless family needs and broaden access to local, state, and federal resources." She described a goal to support families in developing self-sufficiency by listening to their needs, being encouraging and respectful, and not overcompensating with help. Many homeless families lack transportation and the task force group volunteers take turns driving families to doctor appointments and food shopping. Community Cooks, provides a weekly hot meal for homeless families while Minuteman Early Intervention works with them on early childhood learning needs. Youth and Family Services provides counseling as needed. Ann Guay, from the Bedford Housing Task Force, described the strategy of coordinating "wrap around services," working with Bedford schools to identify children's needs. Volunteers deliver backpacks in time for first day of school, as well as costumes for Halloween.

Exa Mendez, legislative advocate from Mass Coalition for the Homeless, stated that "each homeless family has its own voice and story to share." Between July 2013 and Jun 2014, 607 families with children stayed overnight in unsafe places before becoming eligible for the state's Emergency Assistance (EA) shelter program. Another nearly 2,000 homeless families stayed in shelter or overflow motels across Massachusetts. While families stay an average of 8 months in shelters, some are there up to 2 years. Exit strategies include the state funded in HomeBASE household assistance, Massachusetts Rental Voucher Program (MRVP), public housing, and units from private developers. Additional funding, for a growing number of homeless families, is needed for subsidized childcare, job training, education resources, and transportation.

Sher Omerovic, from Jewish Vocational Services, described the Secure Jobs Program which provides job training and support services in conjunction with the Metropolitan Boston Housing Partnership. The program has three distinct tracks to help heads of families obtain jobs when emerging from shelters or motels. The first track is for the employment-ready persons who need job search and interview support. The second track prepares clients to overcome employment barriers and work on job-readiness training in a five week program. The third track involves offsite vocational training which results in certification for employment. The program provides all needed support services, including childcare resources, financial literacy classes, computer skills classes, and post-employment consulting.

Sen. Jamie Eldridge outlined a new zoning reform bill to allow building multi-family housing on single family one-acre lots. Additionally, he cited Housing Bill HR3173 that would provide assistance to towns for building more affordable housing units. Sen. Mike Barrett urged support of the Homeless Person Bill of Rights, which would help homeless people gain a fresh start. He also encouraged the state to increase the supply of housing to drive down rental prices. For more information on ANEFH and homeless family advocacy efforts, see www.endfamilyhomelessness.net

Mission Trip Jamaica

Dinner

Saturday, May 2nd

Tickets go on sale Easter Sunday, April 5th, and will be sold throughout the month in the parish hall

\$20 per ticket

\$15 for seniors and children 12 and under

You can call the church office during the week to "make a reservation" and then pay at the door

This dinner has historically been a popular evening ... please let us know you're coming before the tickets sell-out!

The parish hall is transformed through the creative works of the TriCon Mission Trip decorating team.

Dinner will feature Jamaican Jerk Chicken, Caribbean Rice and Beans, Fresh Fruit Salad, and a yummy tropical dessert.

Rev. Bob will emcee the informative and always entertaining portion of the evening.

The Mission Trip team, all 61 of them, works hard to make this evening a success by serving as waitstaff, hosts, set-up and clean-up crews, food prep, and entertainment.

Come be a part of the fun, and learn about the unique people of Catadupa, the mountainous region above Montego Bay on the island nation of Jamaica!



TriCon Mission Trip Basket Raffle

Support the TriCon Youth Mission Trip to Jamaica

Raffle Tickets for Sale every Sunday morning in the Parish Hall

We're raffling off chances to win these awesome baskets:

Date Night

Kids' Stuff

Ski

Golf

Grilling Goodies

Music, Movies & More

Summer Fun

Guatemalan Goodies

Boston Spectator Sports

We've got everything from ski and golf lessons to music lessons
from museum passes to movies on your couch
from hot cocoa to hot coals
from ski mittens to beach towels
from toys for kids to babysitting and date night
and loads in-between!

Raffle tickets are \$20 each,
or a special 6 for \$100!

Sixty-one Tri-Con Youth and Leaders are heading to Catadupa, Jamaica in April, working with the group Experience Mission, in the mountainous region around Montego Bay. While there they will be doing light construction in public areas and private homes, as well as meeting the people and learning the culture of this impoverished area.

These Mission trips are only made possible by the generous contributions from this congregation ...
the entire Youth Mission Trip Team THANKS you for your support!!

