



## **The Pastoral Perspective**

I have been encouraged of late to reflect upon the power and importance of a congregation with respect to our lives of faith. I was prompted in this endeavor by a "small talk" conversation with Philip Glass, famed American composer of operas and film scores. In a recent interview, Glass was asked, "Is music better experienced alone or with other people?" To which Glass replied, "Something happens in the company of an audience, you hear music a little bit differently, and in a way it can be very exciting. I remember hearing the classical Spanish guitarist Andres Segovia at Carnegie Hall when I was 18 or 19. He came out and sat on the lip of the stage, by himself, without a microphone, just a guitar. I had the cheapest seat I could get, way up at the top, and I could hear every note he played. And the experience of that audience, focusing -- there were maybe 2,500 people there -- the presence of the audience was a powerful additive to the experience."

I think that there is a parallel dynamic with respect to faith and religion. While such matters may, on the one hand, be very personal to many, indeed, even private, perhaps, the presence of a congregation, composed of a variety and diversity of seekers and believers bound together by certain common understandings, beliefs, and affirmations, appreciate, amplify, and articulate those same articles of faith through different lenses and in different voices based upon varied life experiences and unique DNA wirings and configurations. Thus, a gathered community of God's people inevitably enriches and expands one's engagement with faith and encourages a deepening of religious purpose along with life's essential story and trajectory. All of which causes me to pause and wonder, "What would my own life of faith be without the benefit and blessing of others whose very presence, building on Philip Glass' observations, enables me "to hear the music [of faith] a little bit differently" and whose very presence serves as "a powerful additive to the experience [of faith]."

May the celebration of Pentecost this month and the anniversary of the birth of the Christian Church give us pause to appreciate anew the beauty, wonder, and blessings of our common life before God and our community of faith through Christ and with one another.

Blessings,



## MAY WORSHIP

- May 3**                      **Service at 10:00**      **Mission Trip Service**  
**Service at 5:30 p.m.**   **First Sunday**
- May 10**                      **Service at 10:00**      Rev. Dr. John Lombard preaching  
**Baptism**                      Music beginning at 9:55 – come early! The Hosanna Singers will delight us with "Rejoice in the Lord Always." A 6-piece ensemble joins the Choir for several jazz tunes that have been arranged especially for us by Steve Dale.
- May 17**                      **Service at 10:00**      Rev. Dr. John Lombard preaching  
Music: Anthems by The Sunday-only Choir, under the direction of Matt DiBattista and guest organist Carmen Carbonell. All teens and adults are welcome to sing. Rehearsal is at 9:00 a.m.
- May 24**                      **Service at 10:00**      Rev. Robert Brown preaching  
**Pentecost**                      Music: We welcome the return of "SpiritJazz", with Carolyn Wilkins (piano and vocals) and Jon Voigt (bass).
- May 31**                      **Service at 10:00**      Rev. Robert Brown preaching  
**Confirmation**                Music: Featuring music of our own Sawyer Lawson.

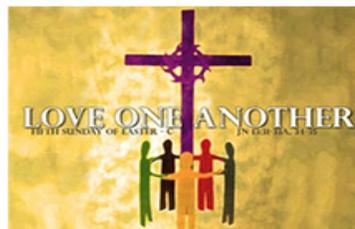
**TRICON**  
 WORSHIP

**FIRST Sunday**

*Sunday, May 3rd at 5:30p*

*Featuring the music of Mark Thirman*

*Worship led by Rev. Ross Lilley and Cheryl Shea*



**Informal  
 Interactive  
 &  
 Curiously Spiritual**

**TRICON**  
 Nurturing Discovery

## **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 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.

#### **Welcoming Coffee**

**Sunday, May 3 – following worship - in the church parlor**

#### **Exploring Membership**

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

Offered at two different times – select the one that best fits your schedule:

**Sunday, May 31**

**11:30 a.m. - brunch**

**or**

**Monday, June 1**

**11:00 a.m. -- light lunch**

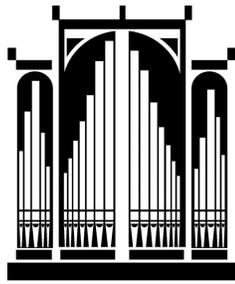
Please call the church office, 978 369-4837, if you would like to participate in either of these gatherings.

**New Members will join the church on Sunday, June 14.**

### **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](mailto:howes2012@gmail.com).



## Our Song Shall Rise to Thee

**"We are a singing church!" as Rev. John Lombard noted on Easter morning!**

And our singing will be even more spirited with the beautiful sounds of a new organ. Music is an important part of our worship and it will become more inspiring and exciting after the proposed improvements.

The Organ Fund-Raising campaign began in April. Copies of the brochure and pledge cards are available in the parish hall and narthex. Please prayerfully consider a generous commitment to this important and significant step for our church family.

On **Sunday, May 10<sup>th</sup>**, we will celebrate this opportunity as we accept the challenge of raising the funds needed. **Plan to attend the worship service which will include rousing hymns for the organ and congregation, a joyous anthem by the Hosanna Singers (grades K-4) and jazz standards ("Come Sunday", "Amazing Grace", "Get Happy") arranged especially for our choir and a 6-piece instrumental ensemble.** Music will begin 5 minutes before the service so come early. Stay for a festive coffee hour, cake and a chance to meet our organ builder.

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## 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, May 13 and 27 at 10:00 a.m. in the church parlor.**

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

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## RETIRED MEN'S GROUP

The Retired Men's Group will meet for lunch on Thursday, May 14, at noon. The entertainment will be the Yankee Stompers Jazz Band.

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 May 14, please call Robert Nelson (978 369-3105) or Charles Davis (978 369-6250) by May 9. The cost of the lunch is \$10.00.

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## IN MAY

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

**Come on Sunday, 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.)

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## 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:  
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.

## 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, May 18.** Your help will be greatly appreciated! Sign up in the parish hall.

The deadline for the  
June Newsletter  
is May 15.



## Knitwits

**JOIN US IN THE  
PARLOR  
Wednesday, May 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.



**PIANO CONCERT FEATURING  
WEN-YEE HO  
Sunday, May 31 - 3:00 p.m. at TriCon**

Wen-yee Ho will present a piano concert in our sanctuary featuring works by Rachmaninoff, Debussy, Granados, Ravel and Chopin.

Born and raised in Hong Kong, Mrs. Ho has retired from a long career in teaching French at Harvard University and Tufts University. Since her retirement, she has been participating in International Piano Competitions, both in the U.S. and in Europe. She won the Chopin award in Washington D.C., the Gold Medal and the Franz Liszt award in Seattle, and 2nd Prize in St. Petersburg, Russia. In the past six years, she has performed in Washington D.C., Boston, Middlebury, VT, Florence, Italy, Fontainebleau, France, and St. Petersburg, Russia.

Mrs. Ho has delighted audiences here with her incredible talent on previous occasions - don't miss this opportunity to enjoy a wonderful musical treat. The concert is free and open to the public.



### Were you born in 1935 or before?

If so, we hope you will come to our annual birthday party for those in our congregation who have celebrated (or will this year) their 80<sup>th</sup> birthday.

It is scheduled for **Thursday, June 4 at noon** and will include luncheon, some light entertainment and of course a birthday cake! Invitations will be mailed out in early May. Please let the church office know if you are eligible and have not been invited before.

## OPEN TABLE - MAY



**Spaghetti Sauce  
Pasta  
Rice  
and Other Grains**

Our friends and neighbors will appreciate the ever popular, filling and nutritious: **Spaghetti sauce, pasta, rice and other grains.** Our donations are an important factor in keeping the pantry well stocked. Thank you!

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## CHANGING LIVES AT ALL AGES AND STAGES

### Our church is a busy place - did you know?

- ✓ It takes over 1400 volunteer hours to staff and support our annual Senior
  - ✓ High Mission trip.
  - ✓ Since January 2015, we have spent \$15,890 on snow removal.
  - ✓ Each week on average, our clergy and lay volunteers make over 100 calls, emails and visits to parishioners in homes, hospitals and rehab facilities.
  - ✓ We send out over 550 Newsletters monthly and 10-15 volunteers work on preparing the mailing.
  - ✓ In the last 15 weeks, there have been Saturday events at the church on 13 of them, sometimes more than one happening on the same day.
  - ✓ Even with the fierce cold this winter, our new heating systems saved us over \$2,000 compared with previous years.
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## LIFE CHANGES



Sincere sympathy to Fred and Shirley Huettig and their family. Fred's father, Fred Roberts Huettig, died on March 22. A service will be held on May 30.

Our condolences to Ridge and Fran Powell and their family. Ridge's father, Willard Powell, died on March 23 in VT. The service will be held on May 16.

We have learned of the April 6 death of Frederick Barstow, who, along with his wife Doffie, was an active TriCon member for many years prior to his retirement to ME. We send our sympathy to his family.

Our thoughts and prayers are with Janet and Churchill Franklin and their family. Janet's father, Gordon Halstead, died on April 12 in CT. A service has been held.

Heartfelt sympathy to the family of our longtime member, Priscilla Strate, who died on April 16. Priscilla was a faithful TriCon volunteer for many years helping with the Sunday bulletins and the monthly newsletter. Her kind spirit will be missed by our staff and her many other friends at TriCon. A graveside service was held on April 23.

Sincere condolences to Betty and Billy Farfaras and their family. Betty's sister, Judith Nordstrom, died on April 17. There will be a service on May 2 at West Townsend Baptist Church.

We pray for Ethel Woodman and her family. Ethel's daughter, Joyce Woodman, sister of Byron Woodman, aunt of Woody Woodman and Hunter Hutchinson, died on April 20.

## ITEMS OF INTEREST

### EASTER OFFERING



This year's Easter offering raised over \$9,500 which will be sent to the *Friends of Boston's Homeless* where it will be put to good use addressing the basic needs of Boston's homeless population and helping them to transition to safe sheltered, and eventually permanent, housing situations. Our collective generous response will make a difference - thank you!

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

### **Thank you from CITY MISSION SOCIETY**

Dear TriCon Congregation,  
On behalf of the board and staff of City Mission Society of Boston, I want to thank you for your generous donation of \$10,000... Your continued support and partnership helps our efforts to address critical needs among under-resourced families and individuals in Boston. Thanks to your support, CMS can work to eliminate poverty and inequality in our communities.... City Mission is preparing to celebrate 200 years of continuous service in the Boston community.... We are so grateful for your support and prayers.

Sincerely,  
Rev. June R. Cooper, Executive Director

### 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.

## Lost & Found



**LOST NOT FOUND!!!** A black, down jacket, size large, was mistakenly taken from the coat closet on Easter. Please check your closets to see if you have the wrong jacket. Now that winter is over, you may not be using it before Autumn.

**DO WE HAVE YOUR KEYS?** We have found two keys on a ring. Both keys have plastic grips. They can be picked up in the church office.

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## SAY CHEESE!

It's been almost five years since we did a church photo directory. It's time to do another! We have lots of new people we need to include and those of us who were in the last directory have all gotten younger and thinner, so ... Next October, we will be scheduling photo sessions. There is no cost and everyone photographed gets a free photo. Watch for more information in future newsletters.

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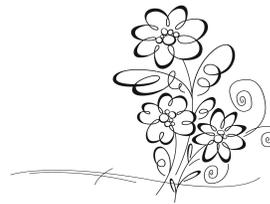
## SERMONS ON FACEBOOK

You can HEAR SERMONS  
on line by going to  
[www.triconchurch.org](http://www.triconchurch.org)

OR

Facebook.com and search  
*Trinitarian Congregational Church*

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## 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.

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## 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](mailto:jwalpole@triconchurch.org) or  
[abruning@triconchurch.org](mailto: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.

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## YOUTH GROUP



**YOUTH GROUP**      **Sundays, May 10, 17 and 31 – 7:00 p.m.**

## DISCUSSION GROUP

**Wednesdays, 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!



**Saturday, May 2 – Mission Trip Dinner**

**Sunday, May 3 – Mission Trip Service**

## CONFIRMATION 2014 – 2015

*May*

**Saturday, May 16    9:00 a.m. – 3:00 p.m.    Final Retreat    Confirmands**

In addition to a full retreat schedule & lots of fun, you will have a chance to work on writing your *Faith Statement*.

Read: *Words for the Journey*

Chapter 21, Vocation

Chapter 24, God's Call to You

Chapters 38 & 39, Why I Am a Christian

**Tuesday, May 19    7:00 p.m.    Faith Statement Sharing with Mentors    Confirmands & Mentors**

Meet in the sanctuary for a special evening of sharing your faith statements.

**Sunday, May 31    9:00 a.m.    Confirmation Sunday    Confirmands, Mentors & Parents**

Brunch for Confirmands, Parents & Mentors hosted by the deacons

**10:00 a.m.    Service of Worship & Rite of Confirmation**

# 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!!

## Annual Spring and Summer Clothing Drive for Milly's Place



The young moms, their small children and babies at Milly's Place Shelter in Lowell are in need of spring and summer clothes, as well as gently used bedding, shoes, spring jackets, and raincoats. Please leave your clean clothes in the box labeled Milly's Place in the Parish Hall during the month of May. Please save your winter clothes for our fall drive!

### Household Goods Recycling of Massachusetts (HGRM)

With our Mission budget, we have long supported this wonderful Acton-based non-profit that collects housewares and furniture so families moving into their first apartments, veterans returning home, and families leaving shelters can have what they need. Dr. Nancy Hendrie (a volunteer with HGRM) recently contacted us asking for help. Especially needed are volunteers to drive or assist clients and the following items:

- sets of dishes, glasses and utensils (minimum of 2 in a set)
- cookware
- bedding, towels and beds
- small kitchen tables and chairs

We will collect housewares and small items in the parish hall from May 1 - May 24. If you have large items (furniture, box springs), please leave a note in the collection box with your contact information and we will arrange pick-up. [Goods HGRM accepts](#) has a list of items that can be donated. (No clothes, toys, food or damaged goods.)

For information on volunteering call 978-635-1710 ext. 6 or [www.hgrm.org](http://www.hgrm.org). There are more families than ever in need of your "treasures", so together let's make a difference in the life of a family!  
The Social Action Committee

