



The Pastoral Perspective

For several years, thanks to the initial support and encouragement of Rebecca Purcell, Janet and I have enjoyed maintaining and cultivating a plot at the Hugh Cargill Community Garden. We delight in getting to know our fellow gardeners, sharing camaraderie with them, and learning constantly from their experience, expertise, and knowledge. It is also very gratifying to work the good earth and enjoy the literal fruits (and vegetables) of our labors, taking special delight in sharing our extra produce with friends, neighbors, and Open Table. Plus, beyond the simple pleasure of being outdoors and savoring the natural world, it is neat to think that we are doing something that might get the approving nod from Concord's preeminent native son (who, one could imagine, might actually have stepped foot on this tiny piece of God's good earth), Henry David Thoreau.

All the above notwithstanding, our plot this season is in total disarray. To the casual observer it might appear to be simply a matter of benign neglect. At best, that is a rather charitable description. Truth be told, our garden is an object of overwhelming and profound neglect.

Given our history over the years of fairly responsible stewardship of our plot, surely our gardening buddies must sense something more than simple neglect is going on, especially because our customary tomato cages are absent. That is the biggest clue. Janet, who absolutely loves the tiny sun gold tomatoes and grows them annually in abundance, is not in town. She has traveled to Virginia for a month to welcome our new granddaughter, Olivia Frances Cruse, and to lend a hand in bringing order to whatever domestic chaos ensues. If nothing else, Janet, as Grammie, is a ready presence to 4 ½ year old Benjamin to reassure him that what he thought in prenatal days was a pretty nifty notion -- i.e. having a baby sister -- is still worth embracing and loving despite the creeping realization that he is no longer "king of the castle."

Anyway, my partner in the gardening enterprise (and for 40 years of life!) is not around. While our customary division of labor generally assigns me the original cultivation of the plot and its fertilization, a major part of the seed planting, and the bulk of the watering, Janet, while sharing in the ongoing maintenance, takes on entirely the exceedingly tedious task of weeding our plot. And, how truly grateful I have been. Thanks primarily to my wife, our modest garden plot has flourished historically. Without her, along with my inattentiveness to the weeding task, our initial efforts have fallen on hard times.

The plot is overrun with weeds, crowding out and choking off at least a third of our plantings. The weeds have siphoned off the nutrients and soaked up the water, leaving little to nourish our seedlings and their potential growth. I have trekked to the garden very early in the morning and late at night to

water the rows of vegetation (some mostly weeds) only to be drawn in to yanking out weeds here and there or gently pushing aside greenery, some of which I am not even sure whether it qualifies as growth from a seed we planted or God's good humor in outstripping my feeble if not futile efforts with weeds. One thing I have noticed, however, is that all is not in vain. With some consistent care, ridding overcrowded areas of life-denying weeds, opening up space for plants to take in the sun and rain and have access to more generous nutrients in the soil, I can sometimes succeed at a modest level in nurturing fledgling, weak, and struggling shoots to fullness of life, renewal, new growth, and abundance.

I like to think that the same principles governing gardens might also apply to our lives of faith. Consistent attention to the life of the Spirit, mindful and prayerful ways of opening our lives to take in the life of the Spirit, and honest and earnest efforts to weed out all that is life-denying and critically incapacitating are but a few things to which we can attend in the sure hope of an abundant life. And what a gift to partner with another or the faith community itself to make light the work and meaningful the task. And, finally, to know at the end of the day that we are mentored in all of our spirit-growing work by a good and gracious God made known in Jesus Christ.

Peace,

AUGUST WORSHIP

In the Air-Conditioned Parish Hall

We will have joint services with West Concord Union Church at TriCon at 10:00 a.m. on:

August 7 **Service at 10:00** Rev. Robert Brown preaching

August 14 **Service at 10:00** Rev. Cindy Maybeck preaching

Our regular summer services will continue on:

August 21 **Service at 10:00** Rev. Robert Brown preaching

August 28 **Service at 10:00** Rev. Robert Brown preaching

TRICON WORSHIP

*Summer
Sermon
Series*

The MIRACLES of Jesus

JULY

24

HEALED

at West Concord Union Church

AUGUST

7

FED

21

RAISED

28

FREED

Follow along on line: www.triconchurch.org or follow us on Facebook

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, and to stay 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.

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 Wednesday, August 17 at 10:00 a.m. in the church parlor.** Call the church office (978 369-4837) for more information.

The deadline for the September Newsletter is August 15.

TRY ONE OF TRICON'S MOST VIBRANT SMALL GROUPS...

The Senior Choir (teens and adults)

- A shared love of choral singing brings us together.
- We find joy in the challenge of learning music in a wide variety of styles.
- Friendships are forged and deepen as we work and laugh together.
- Our new organ loft offers more space and improved worship experience for the choir.
- Singers of all abilities are needed and welcomed--for a season, a year, or a "lifetime".

Rehearsals: Thursday evenings (7:45-9:15) beginning September 1 this year.
Sunday mornings (9:00 a.m.) beginning September 11 this year.

While commitment is expected, nobody has perfect attendance. We ask singers to keep the director informed, so she can plan accordingly.

Come. Give us a try. You might just stay!

Interested? Contact Music Director, Vickie Wagner, so she can prepare a folder of music for you.

vwag@aol.com 978-369-4837 x 227)



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.

Sunday, September 11th

The Fellowship Committee invites everyone to a delicious brunch following the 10:00 a.m. worship service and beginning of the Church School year.

Enjoy quiche, fruit, pastry, punch, cake and coffee.

Welcome new worshippers and welcome back those who have been away!

SILENCE IN THE STORM: A WEEKLY MEDITATION GROUP

When: Mondays, 10 A.M.-11:30 A.M.
in the Church Parlor
Resuming on September 12

Looking for a quiet space for meditation and prayer? We meet weekly in the church parlor. We explore both guided and unguided meditation and prayer with music and occasional speakers. We mainly seek to find and honor the present. It is an exercise in being, rather than doing.

If this appeals to you, please contact Liz Crowell at Lbenema@gmail.com or 781-608-4765.



46TH ANNUAL ANTIQUÉ SHOW & SALE

Friday, November 4
10:00 a.m. – 5:00 p.m.

Saturday, November 5
10:00 a.m. – 4:00 p.m.

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

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ANNOUNCING THE 2016
Al Filipov Peace & Justice Forum

Sunday, September 25 at 4:00 p.m.

"The color of our blood is red, the suffering that each of us experienced is enormous, all of our tears are equally bitter. If we can talk to each other everyone can."

These are the words of members of the *Parents Circle – Families Forum (PCFF)*, based jointly in Israel and Palestine and this year's award recipient and speakers for the *Al Filipov Peace & Justice Forum*. The Forum honors the memory of TriCon member, Al Filipov, who died in the terrorist attacks of September 11, 2001.

The *PCFF* is a unique organization made up of more than 600 Israeli and Palestinian bereaved families. Since its establishment in 1995, the members – all of whom have lost a family member to the conflict between these two countries – have undertaken a joint effort in the midst of ongoing violence to transform their incredible loss and pain into a catalyst for reconciliation and peace. Members have chosen to convert anger, vengeance, helplessness, and despair into actions of hope through education, public awareness, and advocacy projects that foster humanization and empathy towards both Israelis and Palestinians. They believe that a mutual recognition of the personal and national narrative of each side is critical to achieving a lasting peace.

Moreover, the *PCFF* has concluded that the process of reconciliation between nations is a prerequisite to achieving a sustainable peace. Although the *PCFF* has no stated position on the political solution of the conflict, most of its members agree that the solution must be based on free negotiations between the leadership of both sides to ensure basic human rights, the establishment of two states for two peoples, and the signing of a peace treaty. The historic reconciliation between the two nations is a necessary condition for obtaining a sustainable peace treaty.

Mark your calendars now and join us on September 25 for an inspirational and special time. For more information about *PCFF*, go to: <http://www.theparentscircle.com>.

HOPE
Love
JOY
Peace
FAITH

ITEMS OF INTEREST

TRICON PLANNING PROCESS

Over the past few months, several of our church committees concluded that it would be productive to take some time to reflect on who we are as a church and how we want to allocate our resources of time, talent and treasure to do God's work. Therefore a survey was developed and circulated by mail and email.



As a healthy and thriving congregation this reflection, coming at a time of strength, allows us the opportunity and the space to thoughtfully and prayerfully guide a conversation on our shared vision for TriCon now and into the future.

We are pleased to have over 182 completed surveys but we hope to get even more - paper copies are available from the office or you can complete it on our website by going to the parishioner section - call the church office for the login.

YOU are an important part of this process - your input is needed and welcomed!

Russell Sanna has agreed to chair a committee that will review the results of the survey and develop questions for further discussion at small group meetings in the fall. Other committee members are Carol Antos, Breht Feigh, Amanda Hickman, Jon Rennert, Shane Siefer and Betsy Veidenheimer.



**SENIOR HIGH
YOUTH GROUP
RESUMES IN SEPTEMBER**

**SENIOR HIGH
YOUTH DISCUSSION GROUP
RESUMES IN SEPTEMBER**

SERMONS ON LINE

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

Facebook.com and search
Trinitarian Congregational Church

SUMMER OFFICE HOURS

During the summer
the Church Office will
be open
9:00 a.m. - 1:00 p.m.



With summer vacations at hand, 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 interview if they would like a pastoral visit.

WELCOME OUR NEW CHURCH MEMBERSHIP COORDINATOR

We are pleased to announce that Dale Ryder will be joining the church staff filling the position of Membership Coordinator vacated by the retirement of Mary Lou Esposito.

Dale, her husband, Don and children, Peter and Lindsay have been active participants in our church community since 1996. Dale has held many volunteer positions in the church, is currently serving on the Mission Committee and has chaired the Antiques Show Committee for the past twelve years.

Your Generous Mission Dollars at Work MONTHLY SPOTLIGHT



Each year, **THE FOOD PROJECT** works with 120 teenagers and thousands of volunteers to farm on 40 acres in eastern Massachusetts (including a farm in Lincoln). Food from the farms is distributed through community supported agriculture programs and farmers' markets, and donated to local hunger relief organizations. The young people working in The Food Project programs participate in all of these distribution streams, giving them valuable job experience and a personal connection to our food system and issues of food justice.



Learn more at:
triconchurch.org/missions-outreach

THANK YOU

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

...On behalf of the board, staff and youth participants of The Food Project, I thank you for Trinitarian Congregational Church's generous gift... This grant will support our innovative youth development program. This immersive program employs teenagers on our sustainable farms to grow food, and to learn about social justice, diversity, and food systems.... Your commitment to The Food Project is deeply appreciated...

*James Harrison
Acting Executive Director*

ALTAR FLOWERS

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

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.

SERMONS ON FACEBOOK

You can HEAR SERMONS on line by going to www.triconchurch.org
OR
Facebook.com and search *Trinitarian Congregational Church*

CHURCH PHOTO DIRECTORIES

Photo Directories and/or Photos for the following people are on the literature table in the parish hall. Please take yours'.

| | |
|---------------|-----------|
| Armstrong | Bailey |
| Baldwin | Bonoma |
| Caswell | DeLong |
| duFour | Forsberg |
| Freeland | Freund |
| Hall, Bruce | Hall, Jim |
| Honan | Judicke |
| Johnson, Mary | Kakas |
| Keesler | Lamont |
| Ledoux | Lilly |
| Marshall | Moroney |
| Mushlitz | Pappas |
| Quackenbush | Ryder |
| Schmidt | Soleau |
| Veitch | Weil |
| Wolf | Wyeth |

LIFE CHANGES

NEW BABY

We welcome Hughes Martin Woodward born to Andrew and Kristen Woodward on July 16. Happy grandparents are Alan and Elise Woodward.

WITH SYMPATHY

Heartfelt sympathy to Sue, Ned, and Emily Roos and their family. Sue's husband and Ned and Emily's father, Peter Roos, died on July 17. A memorial service will be held in Plymouth, MA on August 7.

OPEN TABLE JULY AND AUGUST

Cereal - All Kinds

Have you noticed how expensive cereal has become? Do you know how much cereal growing kids can consume? Have you had days when dinner is a bowl of cereal? Have you heard that a good breakfast is an essential start to the day? Let's bring cereal this summer for our neighbors at Open Table!

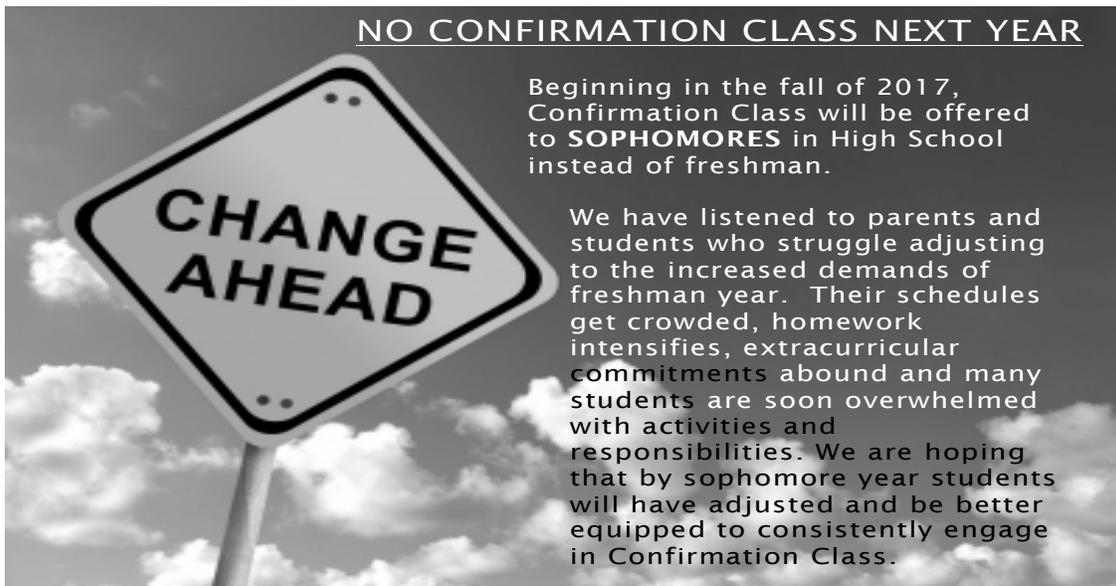
FOOD SUPPLIES ARE LOW!

Food contributions at Open Table are at a low. They are delighted to get our contributions of cereal which is a very popular item but if you can do a little more, consider also bringing another staple - such as pasta sauce, soup, peanut butter, crackers, mac & cheese. Thank you!



CONFIRMATION CLASS

NO CONFIRMATION CLASS NEXT YEAR



Beginning in the fall of 2017, Confirmation Class will be offered to **SOPHOMORES** in High School instead of freshman.

We have listened to parents and students who struggle adjusting to the increased demands of freshman year. Their schedules get crowded, homework intensifies, extracurricular commitments abound and many students are soon overwhelmed with activities and responsibilities. We are hoping that by sophomore year students will have adjusted and be better equipped to consistently engage in Confirmation Class.

For further inquiries or discussion please contact Rev. Bob Brown, Suzanne Giles, or David Hart.

A STEWARDSHIP MESSAGE

Come to the Table; Share in the Bounty



Our Community of Hope, Peace, Love and Joy in All Seasons

Last winter, Richard Pasley, church member and our “resident photographer”, gave the following Call to Stewardship during a Sunday worship service. If you were there, you may remember that Richard increased the speed at which he was reading as the message went on until he was at the pace of those rapid –fire “*side-effects include.....*” at the end of every drug commercial. This brought peals of laughter but also an amazing realization of all that our faith community does and has done over recent years.

If you are a long-time worshipper, you may remember many of the things, Richard mentions and if you are relatively new, you will get a preview of all that is to come.

“If you’ve been attending services here at TriCon for any length of time, most of you know me, if not by name, then at least as ‘the photographer’...that substantial shape furtively skirting the periphery capturing the moments that define the life of our church community.”

Frankly, from my point of view, it can be a bit of a mixed bag...after all, it is ‘work’ for me when I could otherwise enjoy the peace and quiet of a Sunday morning church service, and, despite my best intentions, it’s often difficult to know if I’m intruding on your peace and quiet or agitating the minister who is just trying to stay on-message.

But the positives far outweigh the negatives for me. In fact, much like with the rock and roll photography I did earlier in my career, being a church photographer offers me an ALL ACCESS pass to get up close and personal and to really experience first hand the wonders of the thriving community that means so much to all of us.

I literally get a front row seat to capture the nervous excitement when the kindergartners get their first Bibles and I get to witness the laughter and love when Rene Pfister entertains so many wonderful friends who sing along at the annual Birthday Party for Those Over 80. I was there when Karen Lord played the role of Vanna White at John Lombard’s 20th anniversary party and I cried while I photographed my own daughter singing Bob Dylan’s “Make You Feel My Love” as a coda to one of Bob Brown’s sermons.

I've been witness to and chronicler of incredibly rich events in a community that's overflowing with living history. In 2002, I took pictures from the choir loft of the standing room only crowd during the life affirming performance of the South African Sinikithemba HIV+ Choir and less than a year later, I had the honor to photograph Loretta Filipov and her brave, beautiful family with Jim Wallis on the occasion of the Al Filipov Peace and Justice Forum; and I've photographed every Filipov Forum since. I've photographed the Blessing of the Animals and the Advent Remembrance Wreath with hundreds of ribbons, each lovingly tied in memory of one of your deeply held personal relationships.

I've photographed scores of magnificent music performances, from Baroque to folk to modern jazz to the Occasional Multigenerational Gospel singers. I've photographed the all-volunteer TriCon Cafe staff at the annual Antiques Show, and the Seekers rollerskating at Happy Wheels Skating Center in Portland, Maine. I've photographed Chang Kim Leng, also known as Elephant, when he's brought, twice now, his story of hope and devotion halfway around the world in the service of The Sharing Foundation.

I've photographed every Christmas pageant AND every tableau for the past ten years and, though it seems like it was only last week, I photographed Pastoral Care Minister, Margaret Crockett-Dickerman reading the story of Jesus' birth to the very young children at the Angel Breakfast - and then her retirement celebration in 2009 - and then her memorial service in 2013.

I've photographed a six year old boy standing at his father's side watching as a helpful finger traced the lyrics in the hymnal they were both singing from. I've photographed brilliant young adults delivering intensely mature and confident faith statements to the assembled congregation.

I've photographed Easter egg hunts and Mission trip dinners and homelessness forums and The Three Kings bearing gifts during Epiphany and baptisms and cakewalks. I've photographed Anita Hill, the Reverend Peter Gomes, John Hockenberry, the Reverend Dr. James Forbes, Liz Walker, and the Boston Gay Mens Choir.

I've photographed candlelighters; I've photographed Annual Meetings; I've photographed CropWalks; I've photographed stewardship kickoffs, and Fourth (and First) Sunday services. I've photographed the joyous monthly preparation of a meal for the residents of United Home Shelter in Roxbury. I've photographed fellowship coffees and prison outreach meetings.

I've photographed my beautiful, crazy wife dressed as Loretta Lynn singing Coal Miner's Daughter to kick-off a mission trip fund-raiser, and I've photographed Mary Lou Esposito swinging from the chandelier in John Lombard's office. And, if I haven't already, I'm probably going to photograph you in an equally embarrassing way sometime very soon. But it's only in fun, and because you, too, are part of this vibrant, caring community of Hope, Peace, Love, and Joy."

Holy, Holy, Holy, Lord God Almighty Early in the Morning, Our Song Shall Rise to Thee

Our wonderful new organ is taking shape and voice. As we prepare to hear its first notes on our traditional "Welcome Sunday" service on September 11th and to celebrate its dedication on September 18th, fund-raising efforts continue.

As you consider a new or additional gift, please look over these quotes on music and reflect on what music means in your life.

Music is the universal language of mankind. Henry Wadsworth Longfellow

Where words fail, music speaks. Hans Christian Andersen

Who hears music, feels his solitude peopled at once. Robert Browning

Music produces a kind of pleasure which human nature cannot do without. Confucius

Music is the language of the spirit. It opens the secrets of life, bringing peace, abolishing strife.
Kahlil Gibran

Music, once admitted to the soul, becomes a sort of spirit and never dies. Edward Budwer-Lytton

Music can change the world because it can change people. Bono

Music is the divine way to tell beautiful, poetic things to the heart. Pablo Casals

Where words leave off, music begins. Heinrich Heine

We still have a distance to go to cover all the costs of the organ and construction. Please consider donating if you have not yet done so or making an additional contribution.

All donors will be listed in the dedication booklet.

Yes, I/we want to help **Meet The Match!**

I/we will give a new or additional contribution of:

\$ _____
to the Organ Campaign to be paid over 1 or 2 years.

Name/s: _____
(please print) Thank You!

CONCORD ORGAN CELEBRATION

September 11-18

Events to Dedicate Two New Organs

Sunday, September 11

10:00 a.m. **Worship Service and Blessing of Noack Opus 159 at TriCon**

Take part in this historic moment, as we dedicate our organ to the glory of God. Be inspired by its glorious sounds through congregational hymn singing, choral music, and organ solos.

12:00 - 2:00 p.m. **Pipe Organ Open Houses at TriCon, First Parish, Trinity Episcopal**
Bach's "Toccatina in D Minor" will be played on all 3 organs simultaneously (noon).

Visitors will be invited to:

Hear the variety of tonal colors Play music with hands and feet Ask questions
Hear presentation: "Introduction to the Organ" at Trinity at 1:00 p.m.

Friday, September 16

8:00 p.m. **Organ Dedication Concert at First Parish**

Russell & Co, Opus 54; David Briggs, Concert Organist

Organ Dedication Recital at TriCon

Peter Sykes, Organist

Sunday, September 18

4:00 p.m.

Reception following
Free and open to the public.



Saturday, October 29th, 7:00 p.m. in our sanctuary
a special showing of the Silent Film
("Phantom of the Opera")
with live organ accompaniment by Peter Krasinski.

