

December 2017



The season of Advent is a time of shadows. As darkness gradually encroaches on our daylight hours we purposefully take time to notice and examine the shadowed places of our own lives. Advent is also an expectant journey with Mary and Joseph through the wilderness of an uncertain future. So we light candles of hope to navigate our way while repeating the angel Gabriel's greeting to Mary, "Do not be afraid." Like first time parents in the last weeks of pregnancy, we know love will find a way to give birth to new life and nothing will ever be the same again. This is the Advent hope that evokes exhilaration and fuels anticipation. So we wait and prepare for the coming of Love Incarnate, the Light of the World, the Prince of Peace, God in flesh appearing. To defy the lingering darkness, we light candles of hope, peace, joy and love, trusting that God will come to light the way of

reconciliation and bring peace to all creation.

It may seem to some that we are lighting candles in a windstorm of gloom. Conflict and dissention top the news cycle. Gun violence escalates, murdering more and more innocents. Refugees flee their homeland, terrorized by yet another genocide. World leaders threaten each other with massive demonstrations of weaponry. This is indeed a sorrowful and darkening world that can lead many into utter despair, questioning the very existence of goodness and light.

This is exactly why we cling to an ancient story that boldly proclaims the good news of God with us. A story so tender and unlikely that it is impossible to fully absorb, yet we are captivated and caught up in its mystery and beauty. The same God who breathed this world into being, formed the vast cosmos and painted

yellow and black hoops on the back side of bees, is the same God who entrusted his life completely into the care of simple, ordinary people who had no idea what was even happening. God chose vulnerability and humility as the way to demonstrate to all humanity how strong and intractable the power of love is. To linger in this story as a foundational mystical truth can only leave you breathlessly awed, astonished in wonder. To wait for the coming is also to be filled with a deep yearning for Jesus' return. The promise of a second coming emboldens us to name the looming darkness, light a candle against it and choose to become light ourselves, radiating the warmth of kindness, generosity, mercy and forgiveness.

This Advent we will wait, we will prepare and we will practice our faith with a hope that eases the chronic ache of despair and provokes us into acts of compassion. We can find lasting peace in this faith that unapologetically proclaims God's justice as inevitable. We can be filled with the profound joy that comes with reconciliation and connection, and we will once again be caught up in the story of how love comes like a miracle in the still of night and remains as the only hope there really ever is.

With expectant faith and Advent hope,

Rev. Bob Brown

Acting Senior Minister

Advent Prayer

~ written by Fr. Henri J. M. Nouwen

Lord Jesus,

Master of both the light and the darkness,

send your Holy Spirit

upon our preparations for Christmas.

We who have so much to do

seek quiet spaces to hear your voice each day.

We who are anxious over many things

look forward to your coming among us.

We who are blessed in so many ways

long for the complete joy of your kingdom.

We whose hearts are heavy

seek the joy of your presence.

We are your people,

walking in darkness, yet seeking the light.

To you we say,

"Come Lord Jesus!"



TRICON EVOLVE 2017

MARKERS ALONG THE JOURNEY

Transition Team Updates & Comments

REFLECTIONS FROM JEAN

After Annunciation by Madeleine L'Engle

*This is the irrational season
Where love blooms bright and wild.
Had Mary been filled with reason
There'd have been no room for the child.*



Most days of my life, I ask myself *how* I'm going to accomplish what I've already decided are priorities on my to-do list. This way of living is reasonable and productive in some ways, but it doesn't leave much room for remembering *why* I do what I do, or for quiet imagination about what could be, or for surprises.

Had the Bible characters in the stories of Jesus' birth only asked how they were going to do what they were already doing, would our Savior ever have been born? Mary was puzzled by the angel's proposal, but open to the greater call of God; Joseph had figured out his course of action until a dream changed his mind. The shepherds made room in their work schedule to go to Bethlehem; the magi studied and followed a star when they could have stayed in the comfort of their own country. All of these

Your Transition Team

Nick Bruning
Cynthia Schweppe
Andrew Thut
Charity Tremblay
Jane Turner Michael, Chair

Your Search Committee

Matt Boger
Peter Bruning
Michele Forinash
Loretta Filipov
Paul Mahoney
Ellen Quackenbush
Prescott Stewart, Chair
Jane Turner Michael



Points of Progress

- + Rev. Bob Brown has submitted his Ministerial Profile to the Conference.
- + The Transition Team has completed its first draft of the Congregational Profile and is sharing information with the Search Committee.

ordinary people were open to God’s vision and their vocation within it even when it completely upended their own plans.

During the season of Advent, you and I have the opportunity to make room for the Christ child anew, which means welcoming mystery and being open to change. During transition also, TriCon has accepted the invitation to do more than what it has already been doing and to ask more of itself than usual so that God can do something special with TriCon. We’re on an *adventure* of faith together during which love can bloom bright and wild!

As Mary said, May it be with us according to God’s will,

Jean



+ The two groups are working together productively and gracefully.

+ The Transition Team and the Search Committee are in the process of crafting a Vision Statement and Priorities for this coming era of ministry, and will weave this content into the Profile.



Coming Soon

+ The Transition Team will submit the Congregational Profile to the Rev. Wendy Vander Hart of the Conference for her review.

+ The Search Committee will be commissioned and blessed during the worship service, **Sunday, December 3.**



TRANSITION TIMELINE

Spring 2017



Summer 2017



Fall 2017



Winter 2017/2018



DECEMBER WORSHIP

- December 3** **FIRST SUNDAY OF ADVENT – HOPE** **COMMUNION**
Service at 10:00 a.m. Rev. Robert Brown preaching
Choral Music: "Christ, Whose Glory Fills the Skies" (Aarons)
- December 10** **SECOND SUNDAY OF ADVENT - PEACE**
Service at 10:00 a.m. Rev. Robert Brown preaching
Choral Music: "There Shall a Star Come Out of Jacob" (Mendelssohn)
- December 17** **THIRD SUNDAY OF ADVENT - JOY**
Services at 9:00 a.m. and 11:00 a.m.
MUSIC SUNDAY: "Images of Mary"
A prayerful service of music and poetry featuring The Senior Choir, tenor Matt DiBattista, harpist Franziska Huhn, and reader Jane Bird
- December 24** **FOURTH SUNDAY OF ADVENT - LOVE**
Service at 10:00 a.m. Rev. Dr. Jean Vandergrift preaching
A simple Service of Worship for Christmas Eve morning
- December 31** **Service at 10:00 a.m.** Rev. Dr. Jean Vandergrift preaching
A Service of Worship for starting the new year.



December 24, Christmas Eve Services at 4:00, 5:30, 8:00 and 11:00 p.m.* **Led by Rev. Robert Brown and Rev. Dr. Jean Vandergrift**

- | | |
|--------------------------------------------------|-----------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| 4:00 p.m. Service
3:45 p.m. carol sing | Christmas Story and Tableau (3 rd - 4 th grades)
<i>Designed for the youngest children</i>
Music: Alden, Piper, and Reilly Harring |
| 5:30 p.m. Service
5:15 p.m. carol sing | Lessons & Carols with Living Crèche (5 th - 8 th grades)
<i>Perfect for families of school-age children</i>
Music: The Lawson Family |
| 8:00 p.m. Service
7:45 prelude | Lessons & Carols with Service of Lights
<i>For those who seek tranquility</i>
Music: Organ & Choir
(soloists Matt DiBattista & Lucas Hickman) |
| 11:00 p.m. Service | Lessons & Carols with Service of Lights
<i>Candlelight worship led by Youth Group alumni</i>
Music: Organ & Brass Quintet |

Celebrate Christmas with Old Friends

Join us for a gathering of Returning College Students
and Current High School Students

Christmas Eve – Sunday, December 24th

10:00 p.m. Cider and cookies in the parish hall

11:00 p.m. Christmas Eve service in the sanctuary



Spread the word!

Welcome home! Come celebrate! Welcome home!

Open Table - DECEMBER 2017

Cereal - especially Oatmeal packets



Packets of oatmeal are very popular and a great way to start a cold winter morning with an easy quick warm breakfast!

Helping Our Neighbors Locally and Globally

Serving Over 300 Guests Weekly



We hear every month from the Pantry staff at Open Table about how much our donations mean.

Special thanks to the **Skelly, Meyer** and **Liazos-Coffey** families who take turns delivering our food donations to the pantry!



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. For more information, contact Christian Education Director, Carrie O'Brien or Youth Leader, Nick Bruning. Call the church office if you have any questions.

DEDICATION OF GIFTS December 3



At the worship service on December 3, we will dedicate the gifts our church has collected for City Mission Society, as well as the gifts that have been provided for the prisoners in Concord.

SILENCE IN THE STORM: A WEEKLY MEDITATION GROUP

When: Mondays, 10 A.M.-11:30 A.M.
in the Church Parlor

There will be no Meditation Group during the month of December. The group will meet again on January 8.

For more information, please contact Liz Crowell at Lbenema@gmail.com or 781-608-4765.

The deadline for the
January Newsletter
is December 15.

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.

CHILDREN'S CHRISTMAS STORY HOUR TUESDAY, DECEMBER 12 - 6:30PM

Children of the church are invited to join Rev. Brown and Rev. Dr. Vandergrift around the fireplace in the parlor for a Children's Christmas Story Hour. Designed for children ages 4 to 8, the gathering includes Christmas readings and will conclude with hot cocoa and Christmas cookies. During the story hour waiting parents can enjoy a cup of eggnog and conversation with other parents in the parish hall. Children may come dressed in sleepers and pajamas.

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, December 13 at 10:00 a.m. in the church library.** Call the church office (978 369-4837) for more information.

CITY MISSION SOCIETY CHRISTMAS SHOP

**Drop-Off gifts
by December 17 (no later)**

Every year the City Mission Society's Christmas Shop brings holiday joy to the neediest families and individuals in the Boston area. Your donations help to make this possible.

NEW items from the list below may be left in the Parish Hall.

**Winter Coats, Hats, Mittens, Gloves,
Scarves, Sweaters, Sweatshirts,
Socks, Underwear,
Blankets and Backpacks
Toys, Books & Games for All Ages
Gift Cards for Target, Walgreens,
Marshalls, CVS**

LIFE CHANGES

WITH SYMPATHY

Sincere sympathy to the family of our former Sexton, Ed Schlaich. Ed died on October 31. A service was held on November 4 in Lexington.

Heartfelt condolences to Dawson and Debra Rutter and their family. Their son, Dawson, who was baptized and confirmed at TriCon, died on November 6. Services were held at TriCon on November 12.

We pray for the family of our member, Helen Spring. Helen died on November 19. There will be a service for Helen at TriCon on Sunday, December 17 at 3:30 p.m. with a reception following.

COMMUNITY EVENTS

The Concord Carlisle Human Rights Council invites you to attend the annual Human Rights Day Breakfast with featured speaker -- Joseph F. O'Connor, Concord Chief of Police
Monday December 4, 2017 7:30-9am
Trinitarian Congregational Church
All are welcome!
cchumanrights.org

Amahl and the Night Visitors

by Gian Carlo Menotti

December 17 at 2:00 p.m. & 4:00 p.m.
The Performing Arts Center
at 51 Walden Street
\$20 adults, \$10 children
978 369-7911 or 51walden.org



Celebrating Community

As we enter the last few weeks for wrapping up our 2018 Stewardship Campaign this month, we are grateful to those who have already pledged and urge those who have not yet done so to please get your pledge in as soon as possible. We need the support of all to continue the church's mission and ministry in the new year.

As we celebrate our community, we have heard some wonderful stories and reflections on what our TriCon community means to our parishioners.

Zander Kessler told us "TriCon has taught me how to be a leader, how to be accepting and how to be myself. What makes all these experiences possible is the support of my family and my second family, everyone here in this congregation. I owe so much to the people here and I am eternally grateful."

Marcia Macres challenged us "Take a few minutes and really look at the Organizations We Support chart in the parish hall. I guarantee you will feel PROUD like I do, to know that your generous giving to TriCon means that we are giving to all these organizations. We ARE involved and are making a difference in our own backyards and the world."

Betsy Swaim articulated "Coming to church for me is like coming home, in the best possible way. With all the commitment, caring, creativity, compassion, and concern that this church maintains year-round. I am connected again and again, to God in this place, in this space. And I am so grateful for that gift."

Ellen Quackenbush reflected "TriCon has been that nurturing mother to me, helping deepen and broaden my faith. It begins when I walk into this beautiful sanctuary on Sunday. I can feel God's presence. And as others join, I can feel the energy and spirit grow. I love the music, the sermons and the fellowship.

And at the end of the service, when our service really begins, I'm ready -to see God in everyone I meet, to see the potential for good and grace in this broken world, and to join my TriCon brothers and sisters in all the opportunities for mission that our church provides. I feel so blessed to be a member of this church family."

What do you celebrate and appreciate about our church?; what is important to you?; what inspires you? May you feel the connections, the blessings, the love and support of our community of faith as we enter a new year together.

The Stewardship Team -Jeff Campbell, Chair; Rich Hollingsworth, Jon Piper, Beth Vause, Judy Walpole and Katie Wilson

Confirmation Class in December

Sunday, December 10 – 5:00 – 7:00 p.m.

Christmas Dinner at the church

Mentors and Confirmands will share a meal
and favorite memories of Christmas

Please contact Rev. Bob Brown, Suzanne Giles, or David Hart with any questions.

TRICON
EDUCATION

CONFIRMATION

TRICON
EDUCATION

CHURCH SCHOOL



Saturday, December 2nd

10:00am Voyagers

Sunday, December 3rd

9:00am Angel Breakfast

10:00am Church School

1:30pm SEEKERS and City Mission Society

Sunday, December 10th

10:00am Children's Chapel

10:00am Choose Pageant Roles

Sunday, December 17th

9:00am Church School

Pageant Rehearsals

Sunday, December 24th

10:00am Christmas Morning Service

4:00pm and 5:30pm Christmas Pageants

Sunday, December 31st

10:00am Service of Worship

Childcare for children up to five years

Check out our December on-line Church School newsletter for detailed information about calendar programming as well as news, photos and announcements.

Where Can You Share Your Faith?

In Church School!

Our invitation to participate in Children's Ministry is extended to our entire TriCon family, not just those with children in our program. For all, it is the connections with children that help broaden and nurture our church community.

Many opportunities to support programming exist for people with a variety of gifts, in and out of the classroom. Church School Director, Carrie O'Brien, is looking forward to sharing them with you.

All of us working together will continue to pave the way for TriCon's children's journey of faith. They are the church of today and tomorrow!

There are opportunities to help support our winter program right now!

If you are a new family and would like information about our Church School program, please contact our Church School Director, Carrie O'Brien, at cobrien@triconchurch.org. You may also visit our church website at www.triconchurch.org and click the Christian Education tab.



YOUTH GROUP MISSION TRIP 2018

Important Mission Trip Dates this Month

Fundraising Begins!

Sundays after services in the Parish Hall we will be gratefully collecting donations to the Mission Trip -- Nick Bruning is organizing the groups of MT kids to man the donation table each Sunday. Call or text him with any questions.

NO Mission Trip Meetings in December.

There are two meetings in January - 7th & 21st, 12:00-1:30.

Youth Group in December

Sundays, Dec. 3rd, 10th, & 17th

7:00 PM - 8:30 PM

NO Youth Group on the 24th or 31st



Discussion Group meets most Wednesday evenings

7:30 PM - 8:30 PM



Christmas Eve at 10PM

All current and 'returning home for the holidays' Youth Groupers are welcome to join Nick Bruning and Rev. Bob Brown for an informal gathering before the 11PM Christmas Eve Service. Enjoy light holiday refreshments while you catch up with your TriCon friends!

Nick Bruning, Youth Leader nbruning@triconchurch.org 978.618.1629 call or text



Youth Mission Trip FUNDRAISER!

Find the Table in the Parish Hall after services on Sundays!

Two ways to support the Trip

Every donation of \$25 or more gets you a STAR sign for your yard to proudly display your support of the TriCon Mission Trip Team!



Or, purchase a chance to win a handcrafted wooden rocking horse, generously donated by a TriCon member.

The 2018 February TriCon Youth Mission Trip Team THANKS YOU

39 high-schoolers and 8 adult leaders will travel to the Lone Star State to serve immigrant families on the margins of society.

ITEMS OF INTEREST

Volunteers Needed For HOLIDAY GIFT BAG PROJECT Concord Prison Outreach

Volunteers are needed to sort items and prepare gift bags at Trinity Episcopal Church, Concord, weekday mornings Tuesday, November 28 through Friday, December 8 from 9:00 a.m.-12:00 p.m. There will be one evening session on Wednesday, December 6 from 7:00 - 9:00 p.m. Please sign up in advance for the evening session: Carol Miller (978-369-3755 or carolhmiller@comcast.com).

ADVENT RESOURCES

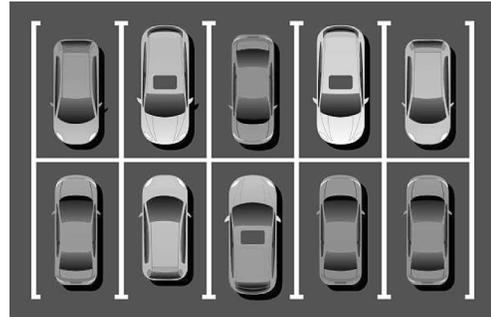
The Advent/Christmas season is not always a joyous time for everyone. Those who are feeling depressed or stressed may find it hard to get into the spirit and it can be particularly difficult for those who have recently lost a loved one.

In the parish hall, we have a collection of Care Notes - small booklets that provide helpful advice on getting through the holidays when you are finding it difficult to feel the joy of the season. Feel free to take them for yourself or to give to a friend or relative.



NOW DUE

ALL COMMITTEE CHAIRS:
Please submit your report to Karen Lord in the church office. Call Karen with any questions or for a copy of prior year reports.



DECEMBER PARKING

The Post Office is very generous in allowing us to park in their lot on Sunday mornings most of the year but in December and early January they have workers there on Sunday.

**Please observe posted signs.
The Post Office lot is off limits
through January 14.**

Help us to be good neighbors and show our appreciation by respecting their needs.

VOLUNTEER OPPORTUNITY!

We are looking for one or two people to straighten up the sanctuary each week, either following the Sunday service or at a time that is convenient for you during the week. If you have an hour to spare each week from September through June and would like to help keep the sanctuary neat and orderly, please contact 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.

Who Is My Neighbor? THANK YOU TRICON for the warm coats & jackets

On November 1, eleven bags of warm coats and jackets for men, women and children were delivered to a representative of LexRAP, a local organization supporting the efforts of the *International Institute of New England* to help refugees in New England. Many refugee families have come from countries with much warmer climates and find our cold winters particularly uncomfortable. Your donations will keep them warm as they go through the difficult process of starting over.

THANK YOU TRICON for the generous donation

Dear Members of the TriCon Mission Committee:

...Thank you for your donation of \$5,000 to the *International Institute of New England* (editor's note - see above article)...Your gift means a great deal to the refugees and immigrants who rely on IINE to help them integrate into their new communities and become active participants in the social, political, and economic richness of American life...Our clients know they are welcomed and supported by you...We deeply appreciate your partnership in this important work, and we are proud to stand with you and with the immigrant community during these challenging times...

Sincerely,
Jeffrey Thielman,
President & CEO

Your Generous Mission Dollars at Work MONTHLY SPOTLIGHT



COMMUNITY SERVINGS

Community Servings is a not-for-profit food and nutrition program providing services throughout Massachusetts and in Rhode Island to individuals and families living with critical and chronic illnesses. We give our clients, their dependent family members and caregivers appealing, nutritious meals, and send the message to those in greatest need that someone cares. Our goals are to help our clients maintain their health and dignity and preserve the integrity of their families through culturally appropriate, home-delivered meals, nutrition education, and other community programs.

TRICON
OUTREACH

Learn more at:
triconchurch.org/missions-outreach



Caring Connection ... Did you know??

We have a list of people who are happy to bring you to church or take you to a medical appointment. Please feel free to call Cynthia LaMothe at [978-369-9676](tel:978-369-9676), Polly Vanasse at [978-369-5268](tel:978-369-5268) or the church office [978-369-4983](tel:978-369-4983).



AntiqueS Show Results

The Antique dealers have moved out, the pies and cookies have been eaten, the signs are down, the furniture is back in place (mostly) –

another Antiques Show has come and gone! **What is left is over \$15,500 to be distributed to agencies that help and support our neighbors in need!**

Funds from this year's show will benefit **Open Table** (our local community supper and food pantry), **Household Goods** (providing gently used furnishings and housewares to those transitioning from homelessness and other situations) and **Operation Homefront** (helping military families with temporary housing, food and overall support).

The monies raised at the Show come from four sources - the "rents" paid by the dealers for their exhibit space; the entrance fees paid by those attending the show, proceeds from the Café and tips given to the porters.

Thanks to all who helped make this all-church effort a success –those who donated food, the bakers, the Café workers, the decorators, the front desk, the movers and porters, the night watchmen and parking attendant, and especially the Committee!

CROPWalk RESULTS

Thanks to all who were involved with this year's successful CROPWalk. You helped raise over \$40,000 for the hungry in our own neighborhoods and those in crisis around the globe! If you made pledges and still owe money, please mail checks made out to CWS/CROP either to Mary Jalenak at 13 Cutting Drive, Maynard, MA 01754 or drop them off in the church office. **YOU MADE A DIFFERENCE!**

WREATH OF LOVE & REMEMBRANCE

The holiday season makes especially poignant memories of those whom we have loved and lost. During the upcoming Advent and Christmas season, we shall have a *Wreath of Love and Remembrance* in the front of our sanctuary. Near the wreath will be a small basket of ribbons. Individuals are invited to take a ribbon and tie it to the wreath in remembrance of a loved one whose life meant much and whose loss lingers long in aching but grateful hearts.

OUR YOUTHFUL SINGERS

Congratulations to our four young singers who participated in the 11th annual *Children's and Youth Choir & Arts Festival*, organized by Choristers Guild Boston: Addison Boger, Charlotte Huettig, Elizabeth Huettig, and Lilly Woodman. The group of seventy singers from eight churches gathered at St. Andrew's in Wellesley for a day of singing, art, drama, dance, drumming, and bell playing. The day culminated in a worship service, "Singing Through the Church Year."

Open Table Community Dinners All are Invited and Welcome!

DINNERS ARE HELD:

Tuesdays at 5:30 p.m.

Open Table, 33 Main Street, Maynard

Thursdays at 5:30 p.m.

First Parish, 20 Lexington Road, Concord



First Day of Winter

December 21



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



OFFERING ENVELOPES

Canary yellow colored OFFERING ENVELOPES 2018 are 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.

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.



“At least they saved themselves a co-pay.”

LET'S GET TO KNOW EACH OTHER BETTER!!



Russell Sanna

Who do you know who actually gets paid to travel around the country and hang out with casino owners and other leaders of the gambling industry? Russell

Sanna does! It's not as though he woke up one day and said to himself, "that's what I want to do" but his "current day job" happens to be raising money for research on the gambling industry. He even brings his golf clubs along sometimes because his boss requires it of him!

Russell grew up in a small town in southwestern Wyoming. After he graduated from the University of Wyoming, he pursued further studies at Boston College (where he met Mary) and Brandeis. He worked for thirty years in senior management positions at Harvard University where his responsibilities included the positions of Assistant Director of the Harvard Art Museums, Associate Dean of the Design School, and Executive Director of Sleep Medicine at Harvard Medical School.

When Russell and his wife, Mary Hennings, moved to Concord in 1994 with their children, James and William, their "church shopping" led them to TriCon and its variety of programs and strong sense of community. Russell never set out to get deeply involved at TriCon but when the Nominating Committee called, he responded, subsequently serving on the Diaconate, the Organ Committee and Social Action Committees as well as accepting the position of Church Moderator starting in February 2018.

Russell is grateful for the opportunity to be part of the TriCon faith community.



Trish Siefer

Trish was raised in New Jersey, the middle of three children. Growing up, she was surrounded by lots of cousins, aunts and uncles and a dog named, Duffy. She

played soccer, basketball and ran track and played the piano. At Colgate University, Trish majored in Psychology and was captain of the women's rugby team. After college, Trish went to law school and worked in a law firm in Philadelphia for several years before moving to Concord in 1998 to be with her boyfriend (now husband, Shane). After working for several years at a Boston law firm and then at the Massachusetts Attorney General's office, Trish took some time off to raise their five children, Blaise, Cole, Declan, Eli and Ainsley.

Trish has been an active and enthusiastic volunteer serving in the Concord schools, on the Board of the Concord Carlisle Community Chest and as a Corporator at Emerson Hospital. She co-founded a local women's running group, the Concord Grapes", completing the Reach the Beach 200 mile NH running relay with the group for the past nine years. She loves to read, exercise and dance.

Trish loves spending time with Shane and their five children at their many soccer games. Their "happy place" is a family home in the Adirondack Mountains in upstate NY where Trish has summered her whole life and where Shane proposed to her.

Trish is passionate about her community and feels strongly that Concord is a special place to live and work. She is very thankful to be part of TriCon, a wonderfully open and caring community.



Again this year, we will have a mitten tree in the Parish Hall during Advent where you may select a mitten providing information about a toy or an article of clothing that you purchase for one of the children at the Transitions Shelter for homeless women and their children located in Devens, MA.



A special invitation for all the women
in the church to enjoy fellowship
and tasty treats at an

Advent Tea

Wednesday, December 6th - 12:30 – 2:00 p.m.

If you would like, please bring a small gift for one of the moms at the Transitions Shelter.

These women, who have so little, would be delighted to receive personal care products such as shampoo, conditioner, soap, body and face lotion, makeup, toothpaste, toothbrushes, etc; towels (bath, hand and washcloths), and gift cards to places like Walmart and Target.

Sign up in the parish hall or call the church office.





Christmas Flowers

Each year, members of our church family are invited to contribute to the Flower Fund which will be used to decorate our sanctuary for the holidays and to send plants to shut-in members during this Advent Season and at other times during the year. In addition, due to your generosity, the Flower Fund has been able to provide transportation and a few important and appreciated “extras” for elders.

You are invited to take this opportunity to remember or honor a friend, family member or special blessing in your life while helping to make a difference in the lives of others. **All donors will be listed in the bulletin on Christmas Sunday, December 17.**

Please fill out the form below and return it to the church
by noon on December 11.



I/We wish to contribute \$ _____ to the Flower Fund to decorate the sanctuary and bring cheer to our shut-ins.

(Please write **Flower Fund** on the memo portion of your check.)

Please list our names and message as follows:

Given by: _____

In memory of: _____

Or

In celebration of: _____

Or

In honor of: _____

MEET VICTORIA WAGNER Director of Music

Personnel Committee member Carole Wayland recently interviewed Music Director, Vickie Wagner, to ask her about what inspired her to become a church organist.

Carole: Many children take piano lessons (often at the insistence of their parents) and then some switch to another instrument. Did you follow this path or were you attracted to the organ at an early age?

Vickie: I had a yearning for piano lessons because I wanted to play the most beautiful song in the world, "White Christmas." After Sunday dinners at my grandparents' house, I'd scamper back to the church and try my piano music on the Hammond organ. When our junior high offered lessons with a former silent film organist, I jumped at the chance. Experimenting with the seemingly endless variety of sounds and multiple keyboards was fascinating. Thanks to years of dance lessons, learning to play pedals was like discovering a third hand.

But I was really hooked after two summers of lessons on a pipe organ with a conservatory-trained organist. When he moved away, we found a new teacher 100 miles away at the college in Fredonia, NY. During a lesson on their new 3-manual concert hall organ, I was sure I spotted cherubs floating over the pipes!

Carole: Tell me about your musical education.

Vickie: In my youth music was something to be *made*, not *consumed*. All elementary school students were taught to read music, to sing and play recorder. Varsity athletes and cheerleaders were in high school chorus or band. Even in our rural area, there were fine teachers for voice, clarinet and sax. Thanks to a summer enrichment program, we had Stage Band for county high school students. Local musicians booked touring military bands, as well as jazz greats like Buddy Rich, Lionel Hampton, Stan Getz, and Maynard Ferguson.

Teens were welcome to join the Franklin Silver Cornet Band, one of the oldest town bands in the country. We played concerts in the Victorian park bandstand, marched in parades, and played at the revered Chautauqua Institution. I love musical theater today because Franklin Civic Operetta got us involved, both on and off the stage.

Church leaders nabbed me for Sunday School pianist early on, and later to substitute for the organist. Since Lutherans sing almost the entire liturgy, that was a great learning experience! And I got to accompany choruses throughout high school. The junior high choral director generously invited me to conduct one song in every concert, and soon I wanted to be a chorus teacher too.

At SUNY Fredonia I earned a BM in music education and a Performer's Certificate in organ. But the summer before graduation the path toward teaching took a sharp turn. Two weeks at Oberlin Summer Organ Academy introduced me to the sound and feel of organs built in a historical style, along with historic playing styles and repertoire. I was smitten anew. Instead of applying for teaching jobs, I entered New England Conservatory for a master's in organ performance.

Carole: What brought you to TriCon? When was this?

Vickie: For several years after NEC I taught piano, conducted a community chorus-theater group in Walpole, and directed music at First Parish in Lincoln. After the beloved Rev. Bill Gregory moved to California, I needed a change too.

During Trinitarian's hiring process, the first people I met were the sweet Ellie Stengel and the jovial Terry Miller, who showed me around the church. What a good omen! The organ, dedicated only two years prior, was so musically uncooperative that I nearly withdrew my application but so many other things were promising. The choir seemed to be enthusiastic and good-natured, and the kindness of Rev. Tuck Gilbert put me at ease. At the final interview he wondered whether I could imagine being at Trinitarian for five to ten years. Five years, yes. But certainly not ten! That was in 1986, over three decades ago.

Carole: In planning a service how closely do you work with the ministers to find meaningful, appropriate music? Do you consider the preferences and ability of the congregation and choir?

Vickie: We three work together thoughtfully to weave an integrated whole. Ideally, the choral music ties in with the scripture. Sometimes images in the music's lyrics are integrated into the Call to Worship or prayers.

But it's in hymn singing that Word and Music intersect most powerfully. So we choose hymns together. As we consider various possibilities, we ask...

How familiar is that hymn to our current congregation?
When did we last sing it?
What is that Sunday's attendance likely to be?
Will the choir be singing?
What instrument(s) will be leading?

Yes, a congregation's personality influences one's musical choices. Our congregation values tradition without being repulsed by unfamiliarity. The great musical masterworks aren't seen as irrelevant "dead white guy" music. We can sing Renaissance motets in Latin, 20th century anthems with challenging harmonies, and modern gospel arrangements. There's no mass exodus when we invite an Arabic Music Ensemble or a jazz combo.

And yes, one has to select music that is appropriate for the size and abilities of one's choral singers. What is sung by the Mormon Tabernacle Choir or at Ebenezer Baptist Church may not work with a smaller choir or in a New England meeting house. Music chosen needs to engage the most accomplished singers in the group, without overwhelming the least. Anthems need to be user-friendly for newcomers, without boring the stalwart members. And as people's lives become increasingly complicated, the director needs to be increasingly flexible.

When rehearsal or worship ends, I hope that our singers depart with hearts that have been touched, brains that have been exercised, bellies that have laughed, and spirits that have been bathed in the love of community.

Carole: You must be pleased with the new pipe organ! Is it everything you hoped for?

Vickie: Oh my, yes...and then some! I've barely scratched the surface.

December 2017

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
					1	2
3 1st Sunday of Advent 9:00am Angel Breakfast 10:00am Worship/Communion 7:00pm Youth Group	4	5 7:00am Anchor Group	6 12:00pm Advent Tea 7:30pm Youth Discussion	7 7:45pm Choir Rehearsal	8 7:30am Mission Committee	9
10 2nd Sunday of Advent 10:00am Worship 5:00pm Confirmation Dinner 7:00pm Youth Group	11	12 6:30pm Children's Christmas Story Hour 7:00pm Diaconate	13 10:00am Caregivers 7:30pm Youth Discussion	14	15	16 Choir Rehearsal
17 3rd Sunday of Advent MUSIC SUNDAY 9:00 & 11:00am Worship 7:00pm Youth Group	18	19 7:00am Anchor Group	20 7:30pm Youth Discussion	21	22	23
24 4th Sunday of Advent 10:00am Worship 4:00, 5:30, 8:00 & 11:00pm Christmas Eve Services	25 	26	27	28	29	30
31 10:00am Worship						

November

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12	13	14	15	16	17	18
19	20	21	22	23	24	25
26	27	28	29	30		

January

S	M	T	W	T	F	S
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