

February 2019

Last month we held a memorial service for a woman named Breezie Howard. Although homebound in Stow for a good many years now, Breezie had been a member of TriCon Church for 71 years! Her husband, Stan was baptized as a baby at TriCon and was active here his entire life. Their three boys were also baptized here and grew up in these halls.

The Howard family and countless others who have come before have left us the gift of an enduring legacy. Even if we don't know their names or their contribution to the church, we greatly benefit from what every one of them built during their time here. TriCon's past is irrevocably woven into our DNA today.

We often think of legacy as the ending rather than the beginning. "Legacy" is even defined as, "anything handed down from the past, as from an ancestor or predecessor." But as I think about it, legacy is really about our life now. Our legacy is shaped and defined by the moments we share today, the decisions we make, the actions we take, and even the mistakes. Our legacy is fashioned through continuous discovery, informed and influenced by the past yet lived in the present. Our choices today most certainly affect future generations to come. Together we are co-creating with God what a relevant and vibrant community of faith looks like now in this time and place. This is an ongoing process of reflection and adaptive reinvention.

How will we continue to co-create a church that has significant influence in the wider community and a sustainable impact in the world we live? What foundational building blocks are we laying down for others to stand on? What wisdom have we gained that contributes to our spiritual growth, sparks daring innovation and recognizes new opportunities to proclaim the Good News of the Gospel both in and outside the TriCon community? What will we leave behind for future generations of TriCon Church and the people we serve?

We continually develop our legacy with each new experience we have, with each previously untested idea we consider and every bold project that we are courageous enough to fully engage for the sake of making God's love and justice real. Each of us plays a critical and necessary part.



Sunday February 10th is our Annual Meeting Sunday. This year it seemed good to start off with a pre-worship, all-church, pancake breakfast. Beginning at 9:00AM, we will **celebrate 2018** as the year of emergence – a year of new growth, steady progress and achievement. Immediately following our 10AM worship service, we will officially call to order the 192nd annual meeting in our sanctuary. For 192 years we have practiced this congregational tradition of voting in new committee members and bylaw revisions. This is where we courageously anticipate and imagine where God might lead us in 2019 and approve a budget to fund the vision. All TriCon members have an equal voice and vote and it is important that your voice be heard and your vote be counted! Non-member friends are warmly invited to attend, but only members can vote. As always, childcare will be available.

This congregational model relies wholly on all our prayers and participation. You influence the design and shape of today's TriCon legacy. May our stewardship preserve and build upon what was handed down to us while insuring a firm foundation for future generations to come.

In faith and hope!

Bob

PANCAKE BREAKFAST

FEBRUARY 10
9 - 10 AM

ALL AGES WELCOME!



*What's better than the smell of fresh, hot pancakes in the morning?
How about pancakes, friendly TriCon company, and a song?*

Come join us for a warm social breakfast before the worship service on Sunday, February 10th, and stay afterwards for TriCon's

ANNUAL MEETING.

We'll be serving PANCAKES, an egg breakfast casserole, fresh fruit, juice and hot beverages.

People of all ages are welcome.

Please sign up through our church website, in the parish hall, or by calling the church office. Let us know you're coming, so we know how many flapjacks to flip!

Save the date to join us ... and participate in the life of our church!

ANNUAL MEETING

Sunday, February 10th
immediately following the
10 AM worship service
ALL are welcome to stay and listen.
TriCon Members are encouraged to vote.
This meeting sets the budget for 2019.

TRICON EMERGE 2019

REFLECTIONS FROM THE INTERIM

2 Corinthians 4:16-17

Therefore we do not lose heart. Though outwardly we are wasting away, yet inwardly we are being renewed day by day. For our light and momentary troubles are achieving for us an eternal glory that far outweighs them all. So we fix our eyes not on what is seen, but on what is unseen, since what is seen is temporary, but what is unseen is eternal.

There is so much that is truly temporary in life: breakfast, a bad mood, relationships, a cold, and even *good* health! Cars, houses, and bank accounts are also temporary; the material wears out or wears away. Jobs change. Politicians rise and fall. People die. Championships hold for just a year.

It's no different in the church world. The reality is that committee members have terms of service, the boiler conks out, and clergy don't stay forever. Interim/transitional ministries acknowledge this reality and exist to assist. Clergy like me also recognize that they themselves are temporary shepherds.

The normal course of good practice is that transitional ministers enter a congregation at a vulnerable point, offer continuity and ask important questions, so that the congregation can take the time to grieve and let go of what is temporary, perceive the eternal call of God, and be on better footing to search for the next pastoral leader. This space of gracious time also paves the way for the one who is newly called, in such a way that she or he can be truly welcomed by the congregation, pitch her or his tent among

them, and take up the staff of ministry in a prepared fashion.

When your search here for the Minister of Congregational Life is completed, it will be *my* time to exit. Rest assured that TriCon's leaders and I will do our parts to provide for a smooth transition. You and I will naturally feel sadness in parting and will have occasion to express this. It wouldn't have been an effective interim if we hadn't allowed ourselves to connect and care! But it won't be the kind of good-bye that leaves us in grief, because, as the Apostle Paul writes to the 'UCC' in Corinth: "We don't lose heart...we know that our inner nature is being renewed day by day...and what cannot be seen is eternal."

In other words, while the nature of life is certainly temporary, a robust faith helps us to see the Eternal weaving through life as it is and continuing beyond it. Hence, the symbol of the Celtic cross below – a circle that intersects with and encompasses the cross.

That which is unseen and spiritual is just as present and having impact right now during the interim as it will across the new manifestation of leadership. You and I will have much to notice and celebrate when the time comes!

Your Servant in the Spirit of Christ,

Jean





February 3	Service at 10:00 a.m.	Rev. Dr. Jean Vandergrift preaching
February 10	Service at 10:00 a.m.	Rev. Robert Brown preaching
February 17	Service at 10:00 a.m.	Rev. Robert Brown preaching
February 24	Service at 10:00 a.m.	Rev. Dr. Jean Vandergrift preaching

Warrant for the Annual Meeting Sunday, February 10, 2019

To the Members of the
Trinitarian Congregational Church in Concord
County of Middlesex, Commonwealth of Massachusetts

You are hereby notified that the Annual Meeting of said church will be held on Sunday morning, the *10th of February, 2019, at 11:15 am in the sanctuary, immediately following the 10am worship service for the following purposes, to wit:

- Article 1. To receive and act upon reports of the Church officers and committees.
- Article 2. To choose all necessary Church officers and committees for the church year 2019.
- Article 3. To appropriate money for all Church expenses and to determine the manner of raising same.
- Article 4: **To consider and vote on proposed by-law changes.
- Article 5. To transact any other business which may legally come before said meeting.

M. Dixie Grimes, Clerk Concord, Massachusetts - January 2019

*Snow date: Monday, February 11th 7:00 pm

**The proposed by-law changes:

- Clarify the review process for the Senior Minister
- Replace "Associate Minister" with "Additional Clergy" in a number of places
- Remove "parsonage" from the responsibilities of the Property Committee

The full details of the proposed changes will be mailed prior to the meeting.

Membership News



Find our "**Feeling New**" table in the parish hall on **March 10th** after worship ... we would like to welcome you!

Jill Robitaille, Co-Chair of Membership: jb.robitaille190@gmail.com
Sarah Hart, Co-Chair of Membership: sarahphart@earthlink.net
Amy Bruning, Membership Coordinator: abruning@triconchurch.org
~ church office: 978-369-4837



CONFIRMATION

Sunday, February 10th 5 - 7 PM, "God"

Confirmands only

Suzanne Giles, 978.505.9176
David Hart, 978.618.1855
and Rev. Bob Brown, 978.204.7739



YOUTH GROUP MISSION TRIP

Youth Group will meet on Sundays, Feb. 10th & 24th
(NO YG on 3rd or 17th)

DG will meet on Weds, Feb. 6th, 13th & 27th
(NO DG on 20th)

SNOW TUBING SUNDAY MARCH 10TH - details coming

Christine Kelley,
Youth Leader
ckelley@triconchurch.org
978.337.6171 call or text

Youth Mission Trip FUNDRAISING will begin on Feb. 10th ... see full page in this newsletter for more details!

Nick Bruning
Mission Trip
nbruning@triconchurch.org
978.618.1629 call or text



YOUTH GROUP MISSION TRIP

Mission Trip 2019 - Puerto Rico



42 TriCon high schoolers and 8 adult leaders will go to Puerto Rico this April to offer aid and relief work in a coastal area still trying to recover from Hurricane Maria.

Please help our TriCon high-school group raise funds for their Mission Trip!

We are offering LOTS of fun and different things, opportunities, and outings that YOU can win!!

Raffle tickets are \$25 each, or FIVE for \$100!

Raffle Tickets will be sold starting at Annual Meeting Sunday, Feb. 10th, and then during coffee hour in the months of March and April.

We have

- ❖ concert tickets ❖ sporting events ❖ broadway show
- ❖ hand-done watercolor of your house ❖ watercolor of TriCon church
- ❖ pie-of-the-month for a year ❖ golf outing ❖ movie night
- ❖ handmade wooden rocking horse ❖ brunch for ten ❖ ukulele
- ❖ sailing excursion for six with picnic lunch

Bring your checkbook to church to help support our youth Mission Trip ... and Good Luck in the drawing!!!

Thank you to those who have helped our Fundraising by donating to our Raffle!





COURAGE

TRICON
EDUCATION

SMALL GROUPS

LENT 2019

WORLD DAY OF PRAYER

Friday, March 1, 2019

11:00 a.m.

TriCon Church



AN INTERFAITH SERVICE

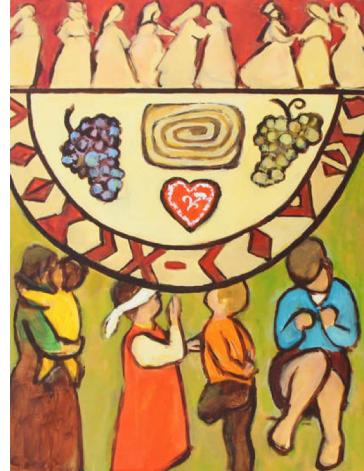
Written by the women of Slovenia

followed by a light luncheon and fellowship

World Day of Prayer (WDP) is a worldwide ecumenical movement of women of many faith traditions who come together each year, on the first Friday in March, to observe a common day of prayer. Women from a different country each year write the World Day of Prayer worship service. For 2019, that country is SLOVENIA. The 2019 World Day of Prayer service will begin at the first sunrise on March 1, 2019, in the Pacific region and, following the Earth's rotation, will spread around the world.

This is an excellent opportunity to contribute to a beautiful worldwide service right here in Concord.

In 2018, 100,571 services were held worldwide, in 108 countries, in 88 languages, with 1,457,479 participants.



TRICON VOLUNTEERS NEEDED

For World Day of Prayer

TriCon participants are needed, both to help with planning and to participate in the service. For further information and to volunteer, please contact Patience Jackson at (978) 897-4956 or patiencekj@aol.com.



January 18, 2019 - WHERE WE STAND:

The Good News;

We have received 260 pledges to date. Over half of those pledges contain a significant increase - a 15.5% increase in aggregate! We have 20 new or "new again" pledges! Those pledging have shown they value the relevance of this church and are financially invested in our continued mission.

The Not-So Good News:

We still have over 50 pledging units (families or individuals) who pledged last year but have not yet responded for 2019. We believe that they too value the relevance of this church. Many are attending services; some have children in the Confirmation Class or going on the Mission trip; some are active volunteers in the Children's Ministry; some are serving on Church Committees.

Perhaps, they forgot? or they are waiting for the haversack, which is not coming? or perhaps, we were not clear about the need for a timely response? Perhaps it is on the bottom of the giant pile on their desk? If this speaks to you, please know that your commitment is needed and significant – no matter how large or how small - we literally cannot do it without you! **It is not too late!** You can turn in a pledge card or make a pledge online through our website.

**On February 10th, at our Annual Meeting,
we will approve a budget and set our "course" for the year,
guided by our Vision Statement and priorities.**

VISION STATEMENT

God is calling us to be a nurturing community of faith that honors God through service and mission.

PRIORITIES

Create vibrant worship through a spectrum of opportunities, including Sunday Services, small group gatherings, church school, youth, and adult programs.

Live out our faith through caring for one another and hands on service and mission, including youth, family, and adult mission opportunities.

Cultivate our church community to grow and thrive through increased collaboration, communication, and harnessing our collective talents.

EVENTS AND OPPORTUNITIES



WELCOME TO TRICON!

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

You are welcome to participate in any of our church programs and activities and to sign up your children for Children's Ministry or youth programs. Call the church office with any questions.

ATTENTION MEN OF THE CHURCH Join the Anchor Group

The Anchor Group meets on the **first and third** Tuesdays of each month at 7:00 a.m. in the church parlor. The Anchor Group is a group for men of all ages who discuss and share issues of religion and spirituality in light of contemporary culture. Any questions, email Greg Howes at howes2012@gmail.com.

The deadline for the March Newsletter is February 15.



Knitwits

Wednesday, February 27 at Noon in the Church Parlor All knitters at any skill level are welcome to join us. Come and get help, give help, share projects, get new ideas or just enjoy the conversation. If you are new to knitting, we are happy to welcome you and teach you some basic stitches. If you need a project, we can make suggestions. As a group, we make prayer shawls for the Caring Connection, plus donations of hats, mittens, and scarves for City Mission Society.

Open Table Food Donations FEBRUARY 2018



Our friends at Open Table will appreciate our donations of some hearty "meal-makers" of canned stew, chili, hash or chunky soup.

Helping Our Neighbors Locally and Globally



Serving Over 300 Guests Weekly



Please leave donations in the marked bin in the Parish Hall

LIFE CHANGES

WITH SYMPATHY

Sincere sympathy to Sally and Dale Clutter and their family. Sally's brother, William Leighton, died on December 25 in TX.

Heartfelt condolences to John and Kathy Flynn and their family. John's sister, Jean Kashian, died on December 29 in Wayland.

We have learned of the death of Flo Madlala of South Africa. Flo, who visited TriCon in 2003 and 2011, was the founder and director of the Lamontville Thembalethu Care Centre which TriCon has supported for many years. Her death is a great loss to her community.

Our prayers and sympathy go out to Sandy and Rob Freund and their family. Sandy's mother, Carolyn Rice, died on January 9.

We pray for Sandy and Peter Nash and their family. Sandy's father, Charles (Wally) Nichols, died on January 13.

Sincere condolences to Kathy Molony, Richard Hollingsworth and their family. Kathy's mother, Dorrit Molony, died on December 26. There will be a service for Mrs. Molony at Dee Funeral Home on February 23 at 1:00 p.m.

Concord Prison Outreach's Holiday Gift Bag Project

From the voices behind the prison walls:
"Thank you once again for making our Christmas Season that much brighter." John

"Christmas day, we spend most of the time in our cells because there is less staff here.... Thank you for your prayers and generosity. You guys are truly amazing people. We feel very blessed and honored to have folks who really care about us, the invisible population. Thank you again..." Chuck

THANK YOU from REACH Beyond Domestic Violence

On behalf of all of us at REACH Beyond Domestic Violence, thank you for your generous donation of \$3,000. Your gift makes a powerful statement that you have joined us to help build healthy communities by ending dating and domestic violence....We are grateful for your generosity to our organization and your commitment to helping individuals and families in need....Together we will reach beyond domestic violence.

*Laura R. Van Zandt,
Executive Director*

Your Generous Mission Dollars at Work

FEBRUARY 2019 SPOTLIGHT



REACH Beyond Domestic Violence

REACH Beyond Domestic Violence is a non-profit organization providing safety and support to survivors of abuse while engaging communities to promote healthy relationships and prevent domestic violence.

This comprehensive domestic violence service agency serves 7,000 people a year through a combination of intervention and prevention services. Their shelter, 24-hour hotline, and community-based direct services provide domestic violence survivors with the help they need to achieve permanent safety and independence. The Prevention programs engage the community, generate conversations, and create locally-based solutions to end domestic violence.



Learn more at:
triconchurch.org/mission-outreach



CHILDREN'S MINISTRY

Our Children's Ministry Program in February



Sunday, February 3rd

10:00am Creative Church

Wednesday, February 6th

6:00pm SEEKERS Valentines & Pizza

Sunday, February 10th

9:00am Pancake Breakfast
10:00am Creative Church
11:15am Annual Meeting –
Childcare Provided

Sunday, February 17th and 24th

10:00am Winter School Break
No Children's Programming
Childcare provided
during worship

Session Two Children's Ministry January - June

We have a great offering of
Children's Ministry programming
coming up in Session Two.
More Exploring Faith Groups,
Creative Churches,
Mission Projects Sundays and
Worshiping Together services!

Signups to participate in
programming have already begun.
Please consider joining in on the fun!

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

Children's Ministry Morning Routine

Before the 10:00AM service, nursery age children, up to age three, are dropped off in the nursery on the first floor of the Children's Ministry wing. Pre-Kindergarten through 8th Grade join worship with their families for the first part of the service before leaving for programming. On Sundays when there is no Children's Ministry programming, there is child care in the nursery for children up to age 5. There are activity clipboards for older children in the Narthex.

ITEMS OF INTEREST

TOGETHER WE MAKE A DIFFERENCE!

Our Christmas offering for the UCC Disaster Relief Fund raised \$15,000. Combined with a \$5,000 match from our Mission budget, we were able to send \$20,000 to support rebuilding efforts for the victims of the recent hurricanes in Florida, Puerto Rico, Texas and the Carolinas and the wildfires in California.

ENDOWMENT FUND GIFT

We are pleased to report that we have received a bequest from the estate of Ruth Chappell of \$97,833 to be added to our General Endowment Fund. Ruth, a member of TriCon for over 40 years passed away last March. By remembering the church in her will, her impact will live on for our benefit and that of future generations to come.

Bequests to the Fund are wonderful way to give a lasting legacy to the church. Each year we take a modest amount (approximately 4%) from the interest earned by the Fund to supplement the annual operating budget.

We are extremely grateful for this generous donation but even small amounts added to the Fund can reap significant benefits over the long-run. While doing estate planning, please consider including a bequest or gift to the church.



ALTAR FLOWERS

If you would like to donate flowers for a Sunday service in 2019, you may sign up on the flower chart in the parish hall or on our website.

OPEN TABLE MAYNARD

Open Table Maynard is changing and TriCon's service date is now the THIRD MONDAY of each month, beginning March 18, and May 20. We encourage new participants to this program. Volunteers will dish up plates in the kitchen, serve meals in the dining room, clear and rinse plates at the "slop station" or help with dishes in the kitchen. The meal is served at 6, so volunteers are asked to arrive by 5:40 and we are usually finished between 7 and 7:20, depending on the meal. Great restaurants nearby in Maynard offer us the opportunity for dinner and fellowship after we serve the meal, too.

Polly Vanasse 617 584-1705 or pyoungkeller@gmail.com for questions

VOLUNTEER OPPORTUNITY!

We are in need of one or two volunteers to straighten up the sanctuary each week. The work takes about an hour, your schedule can be flexible and the job runs from September through June. If you would like to help keep the sanctuary neat and orderly, please contact the church office.

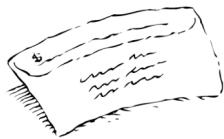
SNOW POLICY

When the Concord Public Schools or the Concord-Carlisle Adult Education classes are canceled, so are our events, classes, meetings. If there is a question, call the chairman or convener. While we hope never to have to cancel a worship service, in the event of severe weather call the church answering machine, check the TriCon website or watch Channel 4 for the latest information.



OFFERING ENVELOPES

Light blue offering envelopes for 2019 are now available in the Parish Hall. Feel free to take as many as you need. Please mark your giving code on your envelopes, if possible.



As we move forward living out our Vision Statement, we have TriCon

HATS that identify us as joining together in FAITH, SERVICE, AND MISSION. The hats will be sold for \$12 each. You can pick one up in the church office or Parish Hall. We hope you'll purchase one and look forward to many opportunities to DON our VISION HATS!



**www.triconchurch.org
has a new look with easier navigation!**

Now you can find our Latest News, Sign Ups, Sermons, Welcome Brochure, Calendar, and Payments button all on our homepage **[triconchurch.org](http://www.triconchurch.org)**
Check it out!

HEARING AID UNITS Available on Sunday Mornings

Individual hearing units that are part of our sound system are available on Sunday mornings. Just ask an usher for help.

We also have a hearing loop in our sanctuary for those whose hearing aids are compatible.

For more information, call the church office.

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: jwapple@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 LINE

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

OR

Facebook.com and search *Trinitarian Congregational Church*

February 2019

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