

The Newsletter

Trinitarian Congregational Church
72 Elm. St. North Andover, MA
978-686-4445



November 2014

November Highlights

“An Evening with C.S. Lewis”

Sat. Nov. 1, 7:00 pm

*With Professional Actor J.T. Turner
Tickets are \$10.00*

Pulpit Exchange

Sun. Nov. 9, 10:00 am

*Rev. Carrie Burnap
Forest St. Church, Methuen*

Neighborhood Parties!

Fri. Nov. 14

Sat. Nov. 15

*Sign Up for Dinner Parties
At the Hollenbecks, Adams or Knights*



Thanksgiving Sunday

Sun. Nov. 23, 10:00 am

Ecumenical Thanksgiving Service

Sun. Nov. 23, 7:00 pm

United Methodist Church



Spirituality & Wellness Go Together!

Adult Yoga

Friday night classes, 5:30 pm - 6:30 pm.

*Gentle yoga stresses relaxation and
stretching. Call Glen Ayer for more info:*

978-9940 430 or gayer@aol.com

Christian Education



Dear Friends in Christ,

Thank you for all of the donations of food boxes! The children really enjoyed decorating the shoe boxes with hopeful, Christian decorations this past Sunday during Be the Church Sunday. The kids did a great job! Now all we need is food! Below are two different suggestions of meals for the boxes: Pasta, pasta sauce, canned vegetables and bread mix Chili, Cornbread, canned vegetables or canned fruit, Hearty soup, canned vegetable, bread mix. Please take your children shopping to the grocery store to buy a meal or two to put in one of our boxes. We will stop collecting meals on Sunday November 9th. On November 23rd, we will put the food into the Thanksgiving boxes. You'll find a guide in this newsletter of what food to bring to donate. As always, your support and participation in our Christian Education program is really appreciated! Hope to see you Sunday!

Many Blessings to you!

Alisa

Confirmation Class Orientation

On Sun. Nov. 16 there will be an orientation meeting for the 2015 Confirmation Class. The class is for 8th graders and older. Classes will begin in February. Although there will be a Christmas Class in Dec. and a meeting regarding Confirmation "mentors" in January. Please contact Pastor Rich with any questions.

"An Evening with C.S. Lewis" Sat. Nov. 1, 7:00 pm

Those of you who saw JT Turner as Robert Frost last Spring know that JT is a first-rate professional actor. He truly becomes his characters. This evening promises to be entertaining, engaging and educational. To the general public Lewis is best known for "*The Chronicles of Narnia*" series. To those in the church world he was one of the most influential writers of the 20 century. His "Basic Christianity" is a classic. The Men's Book Club has certainly enjoyed, "The Screwtape Letters." Lewis lived an amazing life. He went from being an atheist to one of Christianity's most important voices. A confirmed bachelor, Lewis married late in life to an American poet, Joy Davidman. Their love story was quite profound and life-altering, as we'll see on Nov. 1. Please join us! Tickets are only \$10.00 and may be purchased at the church office or at the door.

Neighborhood Parties! Fri. Nov. 14 & Sat. Nov. 15



The Diaconate and the Stewardship & Financial Planning Committee are sponsoring "Neighborhood Parties" the weekend of Nov. 14 & 15. Parties will be:

Fri. Nov. 14, 7:00 pm at the Hollenbecks
Sat. Nov. 15, 6:00 pm at Al & Donna Adams
Sat. Nov. 15, 5:00 pm at the Knights

The party at the Knight's is for parents with little ones, infants up through elementary school. You can sign up at church or contact the church office. Please join us for an evening of good food and fellowship!

Mission and Outreach

Discretionary Donations – The Missions Board made 3 recent donations to worthy local charities with budgeted funds made possible through your generous pledges. We donated \$200 to Teen Challenge, a faith based program out of Boston that reaches, rescues and restores young people and at-risk youth from the grip of drug and alcohol addiction. We also donated \$200 to support 'TIP' of Merrimack Valley. This Trauma Intervention Program is a group of specially trained citizen volunteers that provide emotional and practical support to victims of traumatic events and their families in the first few hours following a tragedy. Finally, we donated \$200 to Angel Flights, NE, a nonprofit organization providing air transportation out of Lawrence airport to those whose medical problems require travel that is otherwise not affordable.

Heifer – Trinitarian donated a total of \$555 to the Heifer Fund...collected through the children's arks as well as a donation from the Mission Board funded through your generous pledges. The children voted to use this money to donate 2 llamas, 2 trios of rabbits and 2 sets of tree seedlings. Thank you to all!!

Thanksgiving Food Drive - For the past 13 years the Trinitarian Church has donated Thanksgiving food boxes with gift certificates for turkeys, to the North Andover Youth Center. These boxes are delivered to needy North Andover families. The Sunday school children decorate the boxes, make cards and donate food. We are asking the congregation to participate! If you could bring in the food items associated with the first letter of your last name, the food boxes will be overflowing! Please bring the items

to church on or before November 23rd. Thank-you for your generosity!

A –B Butternut or another type of squash; quick bread mix
C – E Canned vegetables and can of cranberry sauce
F – H Pie crust mix with filling or brownie mix or cake with frosting mix
I – N Canned fruit and bottle of fruit juice
O – R 5 lb bag of potatoes
S - T Fresh onions, canned yams
U – Z Stuffing mix and can/jar of gravy

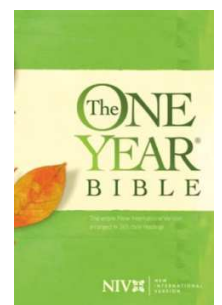
Knight Lines

I know it's a little early to be thinking about New Year's Resolutions (don't you hate it when people rush the season? Even New Years!). But I'd like to make a suggestion for your 2015 resolution: read the New Testament. If you haven't, I'll bet you've thought about it. Here's your chance.

The best way I know to do it is twofold. One is, join a group. I envision a "New Testament Club" that meets monthly to discuss the readings. And secondly, the best resource I know of is "The One Year Bible." It's a wonderful daily devotional with an Old Testament, New Testament, psalm and proverb for each day. We'll just be studying the New Testament. The cost is only \$16.00. We'll be taking orders at church.

The New Testament is the foundation of our faith. As Martin Luther said, "It's the cradle where we find Christ." Let's read it together in 2015. You'll find it's pretty easy and very rewarding.

Serving God with You,
Rich



Ten Reasons Why You Should Be Going to Church

10. Coming to church doesn't mean you have no doubts about God or faith or religion. It means you have a place you can share with people who have their own doubts.

9. Bad stuff is going to happen in your life. It just is. A church community cannot be everything to everyone in times of crisis, but when the bottom falls out of your world, it's great to have a community to lift you back up.

8. Bad Stuff is going to happen in your life, part two. The time to build a relationship with God is not when life turns ugly, and you've run out of all other options. Attending worship regularly helps build a relationship with God and others that will give you a solid foundation when the winds blow and the storm comes.

7. Not all churches are anti-something. Most of us are for people, acceptance, for hospitality. Really, we're out there. We just don't get the good press.

6. Any good church worth its salt has really good food on a regular basis.

5. Churches offer paint-by-number opportunities to serve. Many people would like to help the poor, the hungry and the homeless, but they don't know how to get involved, how to make the time to be involved, or what they can do to really make a difference. Churches offer you ways to plug in to help those who need it most.

4. You've got a gift. Probably two or ten of them. Becoming involved in the ministry of a church will help you discover and use gifts you never even knew you had.

3. Not all churches are after your money. Good churches want you to have a healthy relationship with money. Sure, churches need to pay the electric bill and the pastor and youth director, but money and the church is more about you than it is about the church. It's about your own relationship with money. World events have proven that it's much better to put faith in God than in a bank account. Church can help you with that.

2. Taking a break from our hectic lives to come to church is accepting the gift of Sabbath. Wayne Mueller says "Sabbath dissolves the artificial urgency of our days, because it liberates us from the need to be finished." We don't take Sabbath and come to worship because we have time and have finished up everything that needs to be done. We take Sabbath because it is time to stop, and we are designed to stop, rest and reflect. Those who don't are destined to crash and burn.

1. Jesus is really cool. Even if you don't know if you can believe in the whole Son-of-God thing, even if you refer to resurrection as the Zombie Jesus event and even though those of us already in church often do a lousy job of following him, come to church to get to know Jesus. The more you get to know him, the more you'll understand why people call his way The Way.

- Rev. Anne Russ, Pastor, Argenta Presbyterian Church, North Little Rock, Arkansas

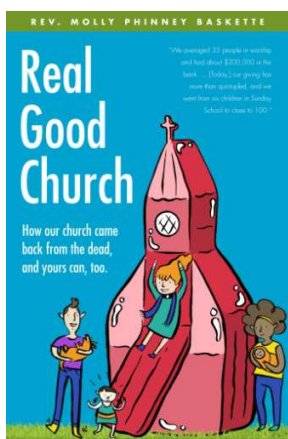




Grief Support Gathering
Mutual Support, Strength for the Journey
Tues. Nov. 18, 7 pm
For parents who've lost children.

Church Growth Book Club

Pastor Rich will be doing a book club on "Real Good Church: How our church came back from the dead, and yours can, too" by Rev. Molly Phinney Baskette. It's the story of the renewal and resurgence of First Church Somerville UCC in Somerville, MA. A donor is covering the cost of the book. If you're interested please speak with Rev. Knight.



A Message from Sue Northam

My Dearest Church Family,

Here I am again to tell all of you how very grateful to have all of you in my life. These past ten months of my life have been so very hard for me, but by the Grace of God and all of you and your prayers, I am trying to work through all of this heartache. When the chips are down you really do know who your friends are. Good Christian friends for sure. A big "thank-you" to our Pastor Rich, Hazel, Pam, and Gladys who helped to make Walter's service to be as wonderful as it was. Thanks to all for all your cards and love. Peace and love to each of you.

New Address

Stan and Sandy Boothby would like to share their new address with the Congregation:

4808 Law Blvd., Summerville, SC 29485

Youth Group

On Sunday, Nov. 16 we'll be heading to Laser Quest for laser tag. Time to be announced. Contact Pastor Rich to sign up.



Our Sincere Thanks!

Our thanks to all those who served on "BE the Church Sunday!" Teams went to Lazarus House and the Senior Center. The choir performed at the Sutton Hill Nursing Home. And six individuals visited several of our homebound members. Sounds like "church" to me!

Our thanks also to all those who helped make the Flea Market so successful! Thanks especially to Sarah Dunlap for her tireless coordination of the entire event.

Bible Memory for November

And whatever you do, whether in word or deed, do it all in the name of the Lord Jesus, giving thanks to God the Father through him.

- Colossians 3:17

