

BRIDGE MINISTER'S COLUMN: The Rev. Dr. Joseph David Stinson

Thank you for your warm welcome to me this month. I am beginning to get to know you by name. Each Sunday when we greet, give me a few moments to see if I have your name before you tell me again. I hope by Easter to have the ability to address you by your names.



It is interesting the power of names.

In the 20th chapter of John when Mary Magdalene was weeping in the garden for Jesus after his death, never suspecting the resurrection, she was met by a man whom she presumed was the gardener. After a few moments of conversation with him he called her by name, *Mary*. And then she knew it was Jesus.

How important are names!

God's name is more important than we realize. The Israelites (and early Christians) were urged not to say God's holy name in vain. (Exodus 20:7) When our children were young and they began to socialize with other children, they picked up the habit of saying 'my God' randomly. I would reprimand them and say, "Are you praying? Don't call on God unless you need him or are praying!" One day we were all driving somewhere in the minivan and Cyndi and I heard a 'my God' coming from the back seat. I turned around but before I could say anything, the offending daughter said, "It's okay, Dad, I was only praying."

We pray in the Name of Jesus and invoke the Name of the Trinity in our prayers, worship and hymns. It is a conscious way to call God into our lives. Jesus said, "Whenever two or three of you gather in my name, there am I in your midst." (Matthew 18:20). How important is the Name!

Rabbi Henry Slonimsky the late Dean of Hebrew Union College once said:

The assertion of God in a godless world is the supreme act of religion. It is a continuing of the act of creation on the highest plane... That is true religion: to insist on God in a god-forsaken world or rather in a world not yet dominated by God, and thus to call him into being.

How important is the Name!

Just as the Lord called Mary by name on that first Easter morning, I hope you will gather with us this Easter season to call Jesus by name and affirm his resurrection and reality in our lives today. How important are our names and his!

~David Stinson



CENTRE BELLS

The Newsletter of
**Centre Congregational Church,
United Church of Christ**
APRIL 2018



From Acting Council Chair, MARGO NEALE

As I write today, it is a little warmer than it has been, the snow is melting, and there is more daylight, thank heavens. We have come through a difficult winter here at church and now arrive at a very hopeful place.



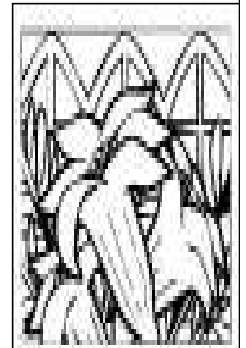
We sent the Rev. Bert Marshall off in great style with a delicious luncheon and a beautiful scrapbook including photos and writing from many of us. The send off was organized by Anne Doesburg, Meg Harri-man, and Carlene McCarty with contributions from every group within the church. The Quilting Group stepped up once again with the gift of a lovely quilt and the Knitting Group presented Kare with an equally lovely shawl. As is the custom of that group, the shawl was presented with a prayer for their happiness and well-being. On the day that he left Bert gave me a big hug and told me once again that he will always hold this church in great respect and affection. That was for all of you, folks!

The Rev. Mr. Stinson has begun his tenure with two excellent worship services. He has gotten the hang of our insistence on greeting each other effusively at the beginning of each service. He has been happy to collaborate with Mary in planning the music for our worship. He himself has provided very thought pro- voking sermons. In addition, on Meeting Day, he visited both the Deacons and the Board for Member Care where he learned how he might be supportive of those groups and how they might support him. His ex- perience and his dedication to us as parishioners has been very evident.

In another turn of events, we have been fortunate in enlisting Haley Keller Marcil to lead the Faith Forma- tion group. Haley will plan and provide, for all our children, a consistent program that is relevant to the life of our church. In doing so, she will be strongly supported by Kate Maisner who has been providing infant care during the services, and an adult volunteer from the congregation. We are very grateful that Haley was available to take on this responsibility.

Finally, Council has taken on a somewhat different format. In addition to the usual business of the Coun- cil, we have set aside several meetings to brainstorm around problems that are very evident within our con- gregation. The first issue we considered was the dwindling membership. The brainstorming generated many ideas but the most immediate and pragmatic was that we all wear our name tags and take it upon ourselves to greet newcomers. This may seem simple and obvious but we haven't been doing it. Please wear your name tag if you have one or ask that one be made for you if you don't. The second brainstorm- ing session was on how we could be more supportive of the children in our church. The main concern of the parents was to find a way to provide consistent leadership in Faith Formation. Fortunately for us, just after that session, Hayley became available and was happy to take on that role.

Now we come to the hard part. At the meeting on March 27 Council will brainstorm around the matter of Stewardship. Stewardship has been almost an afterthought in recent years with predictable results. Al- though some folks have raised the dollar amounts they pledged, the total pledged has been smaller and smaller each year. This needs to change. But, just as importantly, concepts around stewardship need to change. We all need to think more deeply about how we might become better stewards of our faith and, in fact, stronger in our care for each other. That's a lot for one meeting but we are going to try. If you can, please join us on March 27 at 6pm in the Library for this conversation. In the meantime, be safe and well and aware that you are held in the heart of Centre Congregational Church.



BOARD of DEACONS

Deacon's Doings!!!

The Deacon's are busy organizing all the events around Easter with Rev. Mr. Stinson.

This is what the calendar looks like for March/April. March 25th Palm Sunday (the children will participate with distributing the palms). March 29th Maundy Thursday (8 people from our congregation will read from The Passion). Mr. Stinson will lead us in Communion . April 1, Easter Sunday and Communion Don't forget to order your Hyacinths, Lilies & Tulips. All flowers will be in the front of the church. Please take home your flowers at the close of the service. Flowers remaining will be delivered to our members who are unable to come to church.

Next time you are in church look up!!! The Spring wreaths are hanging and the Deacons are hopeful that Spring is around the corner!

Peace ,

Deacon, Carlene McCarty

Everyone is invited to the MOMENT for PEACE

Friday, April 6
5:30-6:00PM

Centre Church Parlor

This month, Manny Mansbach, will be speaking on "The Community of All Beings"

Coming together in silence, in words, and in song to honor and express our solidarity and loving connection with all beings. Manny is a longtime practitioner of Buddhist meditation and social activist, and a teacher with Vermont insight Meditation Center in Brattleboro.



*I want to thank all my dear friends at
centre church for their love
and support at a very difficult time
For myself and my daughters,
Raelene and Alison.
Darlene LaPlante*



Search Committee

We continue to receive and read Ministerial Profiles. The faith and journey of these ministers continue to amaze and excite us. These are people who are at different stages on their life paths in UCC ministry. It is a joy to read and share our thoughts on these people of faith at our Search Committee meetings.

After each member shares the strengths and areas for growth that speaks to us, of a ministerial profile, we vote. This vote is to move forward to interview, keep on the maybe list, or we discontinue conversations with this minister.

Having a committee of 8, you can only imagine the challenges we face agreeing on times to interview candidates! After we agree with dates, then I contact the candidate and work on a time and place that work for all of us. Keep in mind that we are working to schedule time with people who already have fulltime jobs, families, and do not live in town next to us. :-)

As I write this, we have interviewed one candidate using Skype during a snow storm and have 2 more scheduled! another by Skype and the third coming to meet us, our church, and our community. A couple of members will share lunch, give a tour of the town, a tour of our church, and then a full committee interview.

Things are moving forward in our search. We are excited and exhausted at the same time. Please continue to pray for us, our families that we miss so much time with and the candidates.



New Administrative
Assistant
Tina Maree Harris

Tina Comes to us from Charlestown NH.
She has a Bachelors Degree in Criminal Justice,
Associates degree in Human Services and her own
Photography business in her spare time.
She and her husband, AJ Harris enjoy breeding
Huskies and riding motorcycles.
They have two Children,
Walker and Allana Harris.

“Thank you to all who have stopped by
to say hello, and
please forgive me if I forget your name.”

A member looking for work

She does light house keeping and is very
handy with a needle, has been a member of
the quilting club. Duo Is available on Tuesdays,
Fridays and Sundays.
Her fee is \$25.00/hr

Please contact

Anne Doesburg (802) 490-2075
or
Duo (802) 257-2454

Duo does not have a vehicle,
so she will need transportation
depending on location.

Brown Bag Lunch Group

We're going to try again to meet on the first
Wednesday of April (7th) at noon. We were
snowed out in January and February. Bring
your lunch and something hot will be pro-
vided to drink while we catch up on the ac-
tivities of the church and each other.

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removed from the *Centre Bells* mail-
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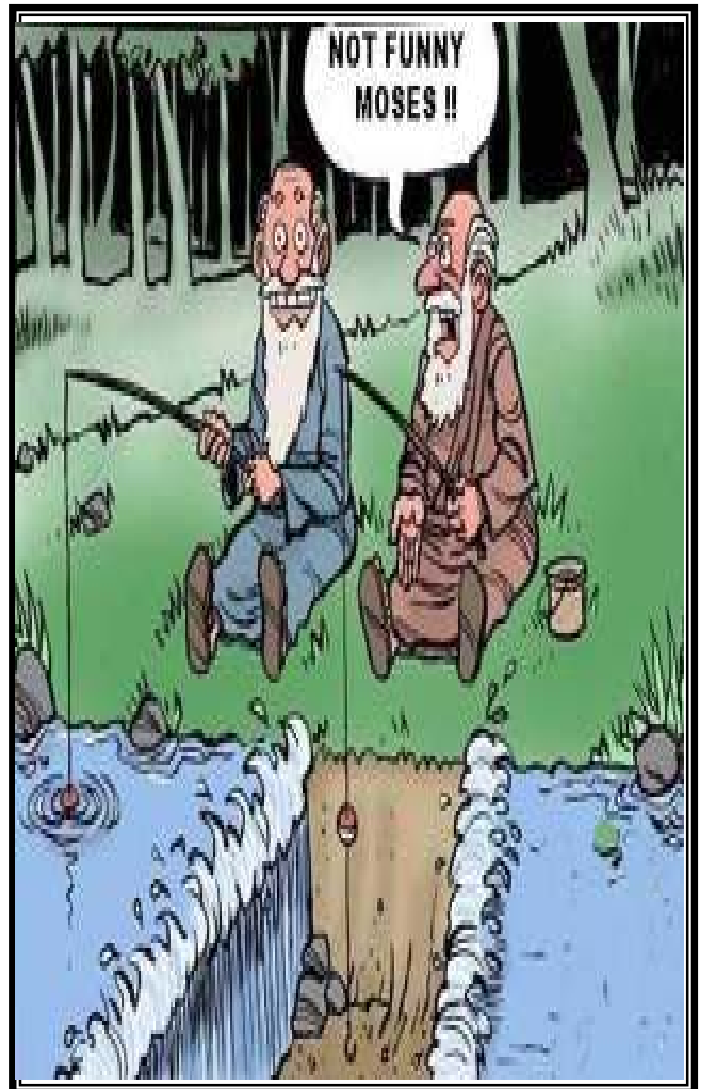
Lenten Bible Study Announced



You are invited to participate in a study of the Sermon on the Mount (Matthew 5-7) on Tuesdays at noon, which began **March 13**. The course taught by Mr. Stinson will last seven weeks. This section of Jesus' teachings is one of his most famous, having motivated and influenced St. Francis, Leo Tolstoy, Dietrich Bonhoeffer, Gandhi, and Martin Luther King, among others. John Stott, the Anglican priest, wrote that the Sermon is a brief statement of "a Christian value-system, ethical standard, religious devotion, attitude toward money, ambition, life-style and network of relationships—all of which are totally at variance with those of the non-Christian world."

At the time Matthew's gospel began to circulate, the church was living in the Roman world. The standards of Jesus and the church are still profoundly counter cultural in our own time and place. Come and delve deeply in to the challenge of living as a follower of Jesus. Participants should bring a Bible and a bag lunch to each class. A syllabus of reading assignments is available on the table in the hallway outside the offices. For more information, please call Tina in the office.

CHURCH LIFE



WOMEN'S SPIRIT . . .

The group continues sharing Victor Frankl's book *MAN'S SEARCH FOR MEANING*. The book has been a challenge to us to look at our own life's meaning as well as to be concerned about as how mistreatment of some is still going on. Come join us each Thursday afternoon at 4:30 in the library. You do not need to own the book.



Deacon's Meeting Minutes

March 11, 2018

Present were: Carlene McCarty, Bill McCarty, Joy Everett, Heidi Marion, David Stinson, and Wendy Randall.

The meeting was called to order following the worship service. The minutes of the February meeting were approved as written. The Spring wreaths were hung on March 4 as planned. Carlene told us of the thank you received from Kare & Bert for their farewell luncheon the previous Sunday. Despite the weather, there was a good turnout & all went well.

Mr. Stinson asked for any feedback we might have. There was a brief discussion on follow up to folks signing the pew registers. Heidi will advise Member Care of gift bags to use to welcome new people. A decision was made to light the communion table candles during the introit. Mr. Stinson will preside at a funeral for Roger Dietrich (not a member of Centre Church) on Friday, the 16th. He is also in touch with Lisa Terzariol who would like to organize a service for her Mom, Cynthia, perhaps on Memorial Day weekend. In order to visit the shut in and/or recently widow/widowed members, Carlene will 'vet' a list for our Bridge Pastor.

Easter Week:

Palm Sunday will not include a procession from Pliny Park this year. Palms will be distributed with help from the children.

There will be a Maundy Thursday Service on March 29th at 7 pm. The Tenebrae Service will include communion by intinction. Readers will be needed to assist at the service and Carlene agreed to help Mr. Stinson with potential participants.

There is a union Good Friday service in Guilford this year. All are welcome, and Mr. Stinson will participate. On Saturday, the 31st, Heidi, Carlene, and Bill will set up the Easter flower display on the altar.

The Svecs and the Rydants will usher and greet on Easter Sunday. Communion will be shared, and will be the traditional communion served to the pews.

Other New Business:

Concern was expressed about the safety of the baptismal font being moved to the rear of the church, particularly in so far as there are numerous renters who very often move our furnishings as it suits their needs. A motion was made and seconded to keep the baptismal font near the altar. The motion was unanimously passed.

The next meeting is April 8.



"Here's a résumé from a candidate who says he can't grow a church but loves attending conferences to learn how."

Member Care Memo

This and That

Making the schedule for Coffee Hour is assigned to this committee .Thank you all who have treated us to beverages and treats every Sunday. With our smaller congregation this hospitality falls on some folks more than once a year.

Thank you

Sometimes drivers are needed to bring members to church who no longer drive. This may not be an every- Sunday- thing. If you are one who can do this sometimes, let us know. Marion Daley contact info in the e church directory.

Gisela Robeck, with the help of others, creates a photo letter to send to members who live far away, are homebound, or are folks we miss seeing in our church pews. She often gets responses and sometimes these are posted on the bulletin board. We try keeping in contact with members sending birthday cards, get well, anniversary, sympathy and holiday greeting cards.

With too much snow this winter, visitation has been minimal. We have been in contact with many on our list, and are looking forward to spring when getting out and about is easier.

Bulletin Board... Take a look.

You may see yourself in one of the photos posted by Judi Miller. She tries to keep this current. Heidi Mario offers her artistic talent when Judi is away in Florida.



Marion Daley



Mouse Ears

Place: Centre Church Parlor
Time: An hour before the reception

Voice 1..Do y'know how many are coming?

Voice 2..I think about 50.

Voice 3 I heard they expect 70!

Voice 4 We really can't set up the card tables then, y'think?

Voice 5 Shouldn't the serving table be in the middle of the room?

Voice 6 Let's just leave it where it is and set up a separate table for the beverages.

Voice 3 Who was s'posed to bring the cream?

Voice 1 I did, and it's in the fridge.

Voice 2 Let's fix it so people can serve themselves on either side of the table.

Voice 4. When is the food gonna arrive? Do they know where to deliver it?

Voice 5 Let's make 60 cups of coffee.

Voice 2..No,we'll never use that much!

Voice 3. How about decaf?

Voice 5 I thought the church coffee was decaf.

Voice 4. No it's regular... We had "coffee debates" back in the 1990's

Voice 5 I wasn't attending here then. What coffee "debates"?

Voice 4. Oh forget it! I hope we have enough paper plates.

Voice 3 We should have some containers for the family to take the extra home with them. Put that on our to-do list.

Voice 5 What about the children?...Are we having juice?

Voice 6. No juice, but we have lemon water.

Over heard by a Church Mouse as Member Care set up for a reception

A word of good cheer would be warmly received by members and friends of our church who are in nursing homes, assisted living centers, or are home bound.

DON WEBSTER

50 Highlawn Road
Brattleboro, VT 05301 257-1434

FRAN BURROWS

66 Green Meadow
Brattleboro, VT 05301 254-4934

JEANNE RUETER

Thompson House, 80 Maple St.,
Brattleboro, VT 05301 254-4977

NANCY CLARKE

Holton Home, 158 Western Ave.,
Brattleboro, VT 05301 254-5005

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Vernon, VT 05354 254-2444

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KAREN GETTY PETER

Langdon Place, 136 Arch Street,
Room 152
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ROGER KETCHAM

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Weymouth, MA 02188

DOROTHY ATOMANUK

665 Upper Dummerston Road
Brattleboro, VT 05301 254-6929

ALICE STOCKWELL

39 Country Hill
Brattleboro, VT 05301 254-5504

Please let Tina know if we've missed someone.

Board for Member Care

Member Care is always hoping people would find some time to visit our homebound members. That list of members and friends of our church is always in Centre Bells. Also, some members are in need of a ride to and from church on Sunday. Please contact the church office if you are able to help. ~Carolyn Smith, Member Care

April 2018

SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY
1 9 ⁰⁰ Book Study 10 ⁰⁰ Worship* 10 ⁰⁰ AA Meeting 6 ⁰⁰ AA Meeting	2 1 ⁰⁰ Prayer Shawl <u>No office hours today</u>	3 11 ³⁰ Loaves & Fishes 12 ⁰⁰ Sermon on the Mount Class 5 ³⁰ Search Committee 7 ³⁰ AA Meeting	4 12:00 Brown Bag	5 10 ⁰⁰ BWC Rehearsal 11 ³⁰ Quilting Ministry 4 ³⁰ Women's Spirit 7 ⁰⁰ Choir Rehearsal	6 11 ³⁰ Loaves & Fishes 5 ³⁰ Moment for Peace 7 ³⁰ AA Meeting 7:00 BWC fundraiser	7 12:00 Private Event (kitchen)
8 9 ⁰⁰ Book Study 10 ⁰⁰ Worship/FIA 10 ⁰⁰ AA Meeting 6 ⁰⁰ AA Meeting	9 1 ⁰⁰ Prayer Shawl 7 ³⁰ AA District 8	10 11 ³⁰ Loaves & Fishes 12 ⁰⁰ Sermon on the Mount Class 5 ³⁰ Search Committee 7 ³⁰ AA Meeting	11 12 ⁰⁰ Brown Bag Lunch	12 10 ⁰⁰ BWC Rehearsal 1 ³⁰ Quilting Ministry 4 ³⁰ Women's Spirit 7 ⁰⁰ Choir Rehearsal	13 11 ³⁰ Loaves & Fishes 7 ³⁰ AA Meeting 6 ⁰⁰ WWAC 4P-9PVT works	14
15 9 ⁰⁰ Book Study 10 ⁰⁰ Worship/FIA 12 ⁰⁰ Meetings Day 10 ⁰⁰ AA Meeting 6 ⁰⁰ AA Meeting	16 1 ⁰⁰ Prayer Shawl 7 ³⁰ AA District 8	17 11 ³⁰ Loaves & Fishes 12 ⁰⁰ Sermon on the Mount Class 5 ³⁰ Search Committee 7 ³⁰ AA Meeting	18 12:30 BALL	19 10 ⁰⁰ BWC Rehearsal 1 ³⁰ Quilting Ministry 4 ³⁰ Women's Spirit 7 ⁰⁰ Choir Rehearsal	20 11 ⁰⁰ Funeral service 12 ³⁰ Centre Bells deadline 11 ³⁰ Loaves & Fishes 6 ⁰⁰ M&S Dinner 7 ³⁰ AA Meeting	21
22 9 ⁰⁰ Book Study 10 ⁰⁰ Worship/FIA 10 ⁰⁰ AA Meeting 6 ⁰⁰ AA Meeting	23 1 ⁰⁰ Prayer Shawl 7 ⁰⁰ Spiritual Conversations	24 9 ⁰⁰ Meetings (L) 11 ³⁰ Loaves & Fishes 12 ⁰⁰ Sermon on the Mount Class 5 ³⁰ Search Committee 6 ⁰⁰ Church Council 7 ³⁰ AA Meeting	25 <u>Centre Bells mailed</u> 12 ⁰⁰ ACA 12 ⁰⁰ ACA	26 10 ⁰⁰ BWC Rehearsal 1 ³⁰ Quilting Ministry 4 ³⁰ Women's Spirit 7 ⁰⁰ Choir Rehearsal	27 11 ³⁰ Loaves & Fishes 7 ³⁰ AA Meeting 3P-5P Compassion comm.	28 TBD WWAC
29 9 ⁰⁰ Book Study 10 ⁰⁰ Worship/FIA 10 ⁰⁰ AA Meeting 6 ⁰⁰ AA Meeting	30 1 ⁰⁰ Prayer Shawl					



April Lectionary Texts:

Acts 10: 34-43 or Isa 25:6-9*
 Ps 118:1-2, 14-24 *1 Cor 15:1-11 or
 Acts 10:1-4* JN 20:1-18 or Mk 16:1-8
 Acts 4:32-35* 1JN 1:1-2:2 *
 Ps 133 Jn 20:19-31 *
 Acts 3:12-19 * Ps 3 c 1Jn 3:1-7 *
 Luke 24:36b-48 ♦ Acts 4:5-12 *
 Ps 23 c 1 Jn 3:16-24 * Jn 10:11-18 ♦
 Acts 8:26-40 * Ps 22:25-31 *
 1 Jn 4:7-21 * Jn 15 :1-8

CENTRE CONGREGATIONAL CHURCH, UNITED CHURCH OF CHRIST
193 Main Street, Brattleboro, VT 05301

Office Hours: 9:00 AM—1:00PM

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Website: www.centrechurchvt.org

Facebook: [Centre Congregational Church-Brattleboro, VT](https://www.facebook.com/Centre-Congregational-Church-Brattleboro-VT)

CHURCH STAFF AND LEADERSHIP

Bridge Pastor

Music Director

Administrative Assistant

Sexton

Financial Secretary

Acting Council Chair

Treasurer / Clerk

Rev. David Stinson: cetrepastor@centrechurchvt.org

Mary Milkey-May: music@centrechurchvt.org

Tina Maree Harris Admin@centrechurchvt.org

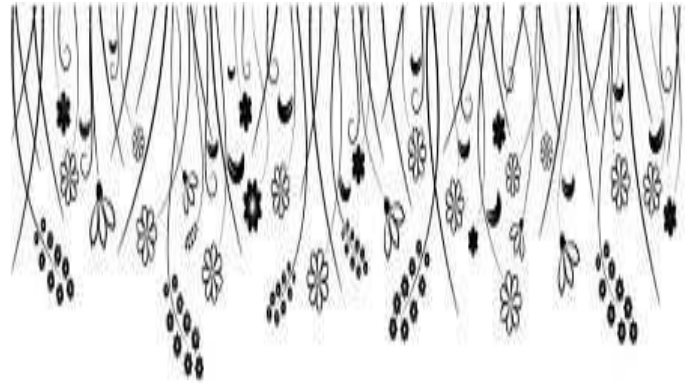
Gary Smith

Christine Yost: finance@centrechurchvt.org

Margo Neale

Holly Kennedy / Constance Bresnahan

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