

BRIDGE MINISTER'S COLUMN:

Minister's Message, June Centre Bells

The Tuesday group is reading and discussing Paul's *Letter to the Philippians*. From the book of Acts we know these three people became members of that congregation. The first was Lydia who was a merchant of purple cloth, a wealthy person with a house large enough to accommodate Paul and his traveling companions. No doubt Lydia was a financial supporter of the Apostle, his work, and her congregation.

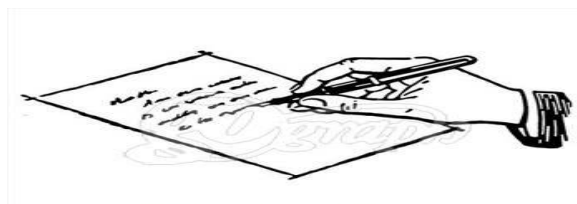
Then there was a slave girl who could tell fortunes and made money for her owners. She kept following Paul and one day he exorcized the spirit of divination that had led to her enslavement. She could no longer tell the future, but she became a Christian and a church member.

Third, was the warden of the jail in Philippi. Probably he was a grizzled veteran of the Roman Army. Now the government gave him the job as jailer. To learn how Paul met him, you'll have to read Acts 16, but after a short while, Paul baptized him and his family. The jailer also became a member of the Philippian church.

Just think for a moment about that odd collection of people: a wealthy business woman, a slave girl, and an old war vet/jailer. There would have been almost no other place in Greco-Roman culture where those three could have been part of a community together. As diverse as they were, we must also note their religious backgrounds were also quite different. One was probably a Jew, one probably a 'none,' and one probably came from an eclectic Gentile religion (a little of this, a little of that). They found a new Lord whose name was not Caesar, who brought them all together and taught them to love each other and their neighbors.

One of the things I worry about in the modern church is that we have become much less like the Philippian congregation. We tend only to pray with people whom we like, who resemble us, who hold similar political views. We talk about the church as a place that welcomes all, but we are quite selective in how we define *all*. Paul's congregations were ecumenical, from the old Greek word, meaning 'the whole civilized world.' As long a person believed in Jesus, he or she could be part of the church. The smaller disagreements were expected but did not break community. Our concept of God is probably also too small. Some of us think God couldn't be a Republican, others, that God can't be a Democrat.

What about a church where wealthy sit with the poor, where rehabilitated convicts sit with members of the DAR, where working people are at home with management? Can we all pray to the same God together? ~J.D. Stinson



From Acting Council Chair, MARGO NEALE

I am writing on Mother's Day, 2018. By the time you read what I have written we will almost be at Father's Day, 2018. It makes me reflect on the differences between being a young parent now and when I was a young parent. Young parents now have many issues that parents in my generation never had, but I hope that at Centre Church we can continue to dialogue and to find ways of being supportive of young families. Growth for all of us depends on it.

I have typically used this column to thank people/groups that have made special contributions to the life of our church community. There are many and I am a little nervous about overlooking someone or some group. However, I am going to take a risk in thanking Jennifer Ambler. Jennifer is a busy optometrist by day but she manages to make huge contributions not only to our church community but to many other local organizations. Here at Centre Church she sings in the choir, works with the Search Committee, and often attends Council meetings. What you may not know is that she handles the audio visual demands of the many organizations that use our church for their gatherings. She often supplies equipment that makes it possible for them to rent space in our building. On many evenings she has made sure that the building was locked up and secure. Finally, although it probably is not "finally", she has been trying to keep the antiquated computers in our front offices up and running. The results are sporadic but Jennifer is working on that now. So, heart felt thanks from all of us to Jennifer.

And, does anyone want to step up to be her apprentice? As a church community we need someone to back her up.

At the last Council meeting we learned that Patricia Reardon is willing to step up to provide Senior Assistance and Support Services (SASS) for those in our congregation who need health care support. Patty, a retired nurse, has already provided support for several of our friends and comes highly recommended by them. A flyer outlining her services is available in the office. This is a remarkable offering which may be helpful to many of the older members of our community. Many thanks to Patty for making this service available.

Stewardship has been very much on my mind. Our stewardship drives for the past few years have been limited conceptually and in implementation. Two very smart women in our congregation, Lisa Keller and Lynn Herzog, have agreed to help us find ways to grow in stewardship. I trust that their efforts will result not only in greater financial contributions but also in a greater appreciation of the gifts each of us brings to our church community. It is a tremendously important task that they are undertaking and we can be very grateful to them.

Finally, I think I am beginning to feel some stability in our lives together here at Centre Church, thanks in no small part to our "Bridge Minister", Reverend David Stinson. I hope that over the summer we will be able to consolidate the gains we have made and can move into the fall with a strong sense of our purpose as a Christian community.

In the meantime, be safe and well

and aware that you are held in the heart

of Centre Congregational Church.



Board for Member Care

Church Picnic 2018

You don't have to make reservations! You don't have to sign up anywhere!

Just plan to come to the All Church Picnic held annually in June since the beginning of who knows when?

The time is right after church service on June 17th.

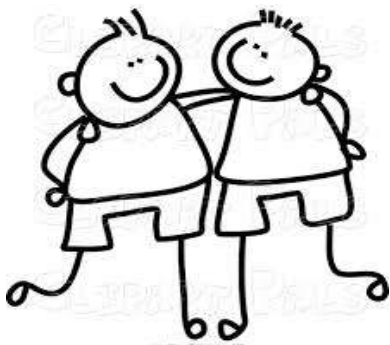
The place is the Kiwanis Shelter at Living Memorial Park Attire is casual
Member Care sets up the tables and provides, hot dogs, hamburgers, tofu burgers, plates, utensils, drinking cups, condiments, beverages, and lots of smiles!

What should you bring?....Let me check my notes from last year

Okay..People with last names starting with letters A through K bring desserts. That means people with last names starting with L the end of the alphabet bring salads and serving spoons.

See you there.....

Marion Daley for Member Care



Village Harmony

From Music Director, MARY MILKEY-MAY



MUSIC NOTES

During May, we were fortunate to have some special music provided by Alison Hale and Tony Grobe. On May 6th, Alison played a lovely Bach Flute Sonata for the Prelude, accompanied the anthem and played the Postlude (Handel). Such a treat! On May 13th, Tony Grobe did a beautiful solo in honor of Mother's Day (The Gift of Love) accompanied by Kate Butterfield while I was on vacation. The beauty of technology enabled me to hear Tony and Kate while I was away thanks to Dawn Grobe's recording. They did such a terrific job!

Sunday, June 3rd will be the choir's last Sunday for this season. Please take a moment to thank a choir member for his/her service throughout the year. These folks comprise such a dedicated group and each one has made a commitment to not only be present on Sundays but also on Thursdays for rehearsals. Without their commitments, Sundays would look very different!

With the choir enjoying a well-deserved break, we are counting on volunteers, both instrumental and vocal, to provide music for summer services. Even if you haven't done this before, if you are a singer or player, please consider sharing your gifts. Without volunteers, summer music will be limited to organ/piano!

Stay tuned for another chance to hear the Children's Choir!

BOARD FOR BUILDING & GROUNDS

It won't be long before Skyline Engineers arrive with their 125 ft man-lift to begin work on cleaning, caulking and painting the front facade and steeple. As you recall, we voted at the annual meeting to borrow \$40,000 from the endowment to pay for this work. We also agreed to repay the endowment ASAP, so I am using this opportunity to request contributions. A member has offered to match contributions up to a limit of \$5000, so now is a good time to double your donation. Please make you check out to Centre Church, and on the memo line put "endowment restoration" or "steeple fund", so the money doesn't get used for church operation. Sunday morning offering "counters" have been asked to keep those checks separate from the regular offering.



BOARD of DEACONS



Come check out the sparkling Sanctuary at Centre Church. During clean up day we had some great folks shining the pews, dusting, cleaning and making everything look great ! Many thanks to Joy and Dart, Heidi and Michael, Mary Bristol and Lynn Herzog . Wendy Randall also did a great job with our communion cloth.

Deacon of the Month of May was Joy Everett.

If you would like to join a committee this year please contact Carlene McCarty on nominating.

We need more help and you would be warmly welcomed. Check out the bulbs and flowers that have finally graced the front walkway. This is years of work and it looks great. Many thanks to Bill McCarty, Heidi Mario, Margo Neale and Tom Harriman.

And to the Centre Church Children who help every year planting flowers.

Happy Spring !!!

Carlene McCarty,
Chair of the Deacons

ANNUAL PROGRAM MEETING

Pursuant to our By-Laws, this is to notify you that:

The 202nd Annual Program Meeting will be held Sunday, June 3, 2018 after the worship service for the

1. Receipt of Annual Reports of all Boards and professional staff.
2. Election of church council members, church officers, and board and committee members.
3. Setting of church priorities for the ensuing program year, and the transaction of any other business that may be properly brought before the meeting.
4. Newly elected Officers and Council Members shall take office after the program meeting. (first day of June)

Mission & Service - June Second Sunday Offering

The June Second Sunday Offering on June 10th will be for Centre For Children, Centre Church's own child care facility for about 15 years now (for history buffs, looking back, the first director was hired in September 2002!). It provides quality care to children from infants to preschool age, many from families who struggle to pay for a safe place for their children. Our church has helped in many ways through the years, including waived rent and paid insurance when the Centre was starting out. Anything we can give through our Second Sunday Offering helps them to better serve the children in their care. On June 10 all offering income not otherwise designated will go to Centre For Children. If you miss that week and still want to give, just clearly mark "Centre For Children Second Sunday Offering" on your check or envelope.

Sister Parish Meeting in
El Salvador November 2018

Have you felt moved by the stories from past travelers to our Sister Parish?

Have you been intrigued by the photos and occasional Facebook posts about Cristo Redactor Church and would you like to meet our Luz del Mundo scholarship students? Do you want to enjoy the tropics during cold gray Vermont weather? There will be a Sister Parish Meeting the first week of November 2018, and it would be wonderful if a few people from Centre Church could attend! The convention fee of \$400 covers meeting materials, housing, meals, transportation, translators for the meeting itself, and extras (like side trips to tour and visit) are very inexpensive. Flights are currently around \$730. More details to come, and feel free to talk with Jenifer Ambler about it at coffee hour or amblerj@sover.net or 802-380-2805

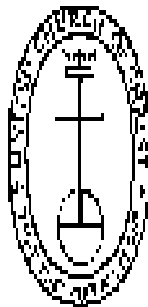
CHRISTIAN EDUCATION @

CENTRE CHURCH

Faith in Action during the worship service for ages 5+; nursery care provided during the service for ages 0-5.

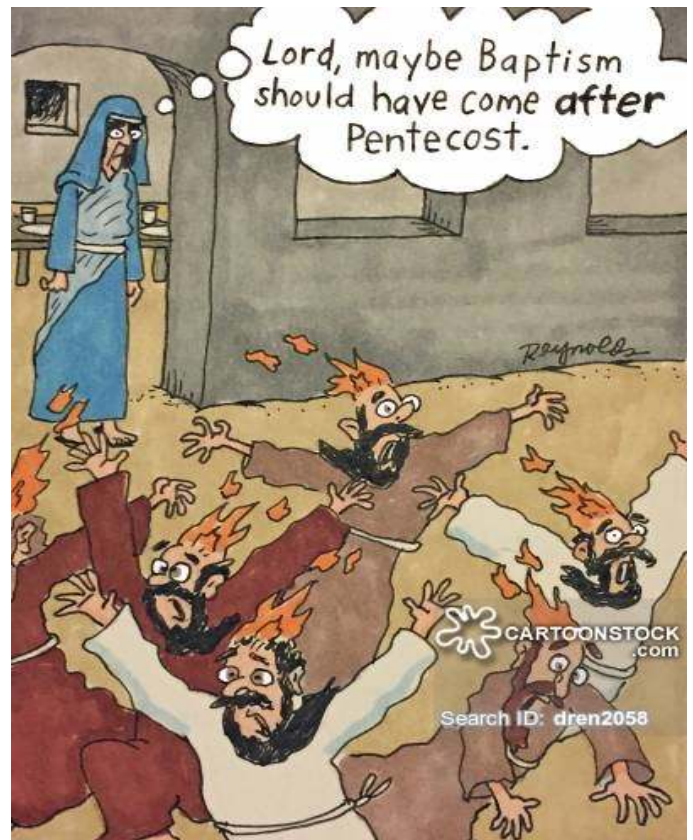
Every Sunday except Communion Sunday, the 1st Sunday of the month.

God is still speaking,
**UNITED CHURCH
OF CHRIST**



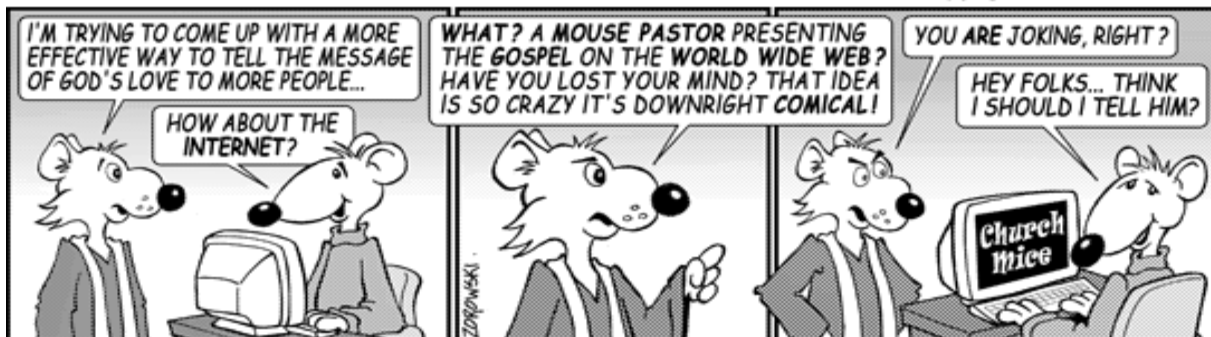


Pentecost Humor



Church Mice

Copyright Karl A. Zorowski



CHURCH LIFE

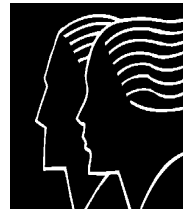


WOMEN'S SPIRIT

This group that meets each Thursday at 4:30 p.m. in the library are in the midst of reading and discussing Reza Aslan's *GOD, A Human History*. Everyone is welcome and you do not need to own the book to participate. Discussion and opinions are welcome.

BROWN BAG GROUP

The Brown Bag Group will NOT be meeting as long as Pastor Stinson is leading the Tuesday morning Bible Study. Those who enjoy sharing conversation during the lunch hour will resume meeting the first Wednesday of the month at noon, when the Bible Study is no longer meeting. If you have questions, call Joanne MacLean 603-363-8348.



PEOPLE



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 housebound as of May 24th 2018.

If we've missed someone,
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NANCY CLARKE

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ROGER KETCHAM

c/o 8 Williams Court
DOT ATOMANUK
665 U Dummerston Rd.
Brattleboro, VT 05301
(802) 254-4365



June

*Holy Communion celebrated

					1 11 ³⁰ Loaves & Fishes 5 ³⁰ Moment for Peace 7 ³⁰ AA Meeting	2 Strolling of the heifers
3* 9 ⁰⁰ Book Study 10 ⁰⁰ Worship* 10 ⁰⁰ AA Meeting 6 ⁰⁰ AA Meeting	4 1 ⁰⁰ Prayer Shawl	5 11 ³⁰ Loaves & Fishes 7 ³⁰ AA Meeting 600 Meeting night	6	7 1 ³⁰ Quilting Ministry 4 ³⁰ Women's Spirit 7 ⁰⁰ Choir Rehearsal	8 11 ³⁰ Loaves & Fishes 7 ³⁰ AA Meeting	9 11 ³⁰ -9 ³⁰ Book Study
10 9 ⁰⁰ Book Study 10 ⁰⁰ Worship/FIA 10 ⁰⁰ AA Meeting 6 ⁰⁰ AA Meeting	11 1 ⁰⁰ Prayer Shawl 7 ³⁰ AA District 8	12 11 ³⁰ Loaves & Fishes 7 ³⁰ AA Meeting	13	14 1 ³⁰ Quilting Ministry 4 ³⁰ Women's Spirit 7 ⁰⁰ Choir Rehearsal	15 11 ³⁰ Loaves & Fishes 7 ³⁰ AA Meeting CB DEADLINE	16 4 ⁰⁰ pm 4-host (MH) 9:30- Robin Recital (P)
17 9 ⁰⁰ Book Study 10 ⁰⁰ Worship/FIA 10 ⁰⁰ AA Meeting 6 ⁰⁰ AA Meeting All Church Picnic	18 1 ⁰⁰ Prayer Shawl	19 11 ³⁰ Loaves & Fishes 7 ³⁰ AA Meeting 6⁰⁰ Church Council	20 12 ³⁰ BAI	21 1 ³⁰ Quilting Ministry 4 ³⁰ Women's Spirit 7 ⁰⁰ Choir Rehearsal	22 11 ³⁰ Loaves & Fishes 7 ³⁰ AA Meeting	23
24 9 ⁰⁰ Book Study 10 ⁰⁰ Worship/FIA 10 ⁰⁰ AA Meeting 6 ⁰⁰ AA Meeting	25 OFFICE CLOSED 7 ⁰⁰ Spiritual Conversations	26 11 ³⁰ Loaves & Fishes 7 ³⁰ AA Meeting	27 Centre Bells mailed	28 1 ³⁰ Quilting Ministry 4 ³⁰ Women's Spirit 7 ⁰⁰ Choir Rehearsal	29	30

BIRTHDAYS

- 3 Alina Secrest
- 4 Hannah Svec
- 7 Roger Ketcham
- 9 Jack Bixby
Don Webster
- 10 Roger Miller
- 12 Carolyn Smith
- 13 Jenifer Ambler
- 16 Pat Verboom
- 18 Bob Keller
- 19 Marion Abell
Patti Neubauer
- 23 Allen Vander Meulen
- 24 Alta Barber
- 26 Morgan Randrup, Jr

ANNIVERSARIES

- Peter & Marion Abell
- Julie Ball
- Gary Carrier
- Susan Cay
- Mary Ann Day
- Betty Ingleheart
- Frank & Joyce Klucken
- Darlene Laplante
- Allen & Judith Myrick
- Judith Palmer
- Jane Reed
- Mike Robertson
- Jeanne Rueter
- Jonathan & Kerry Secrest
- Lisa Terzariol
- David & Rennie Washburn
- Arnold & Marilyn Young

JUNE Lectionary Texts:

1 Samuel 8:4-11 [12-15] 16-20 [11:14-15]
 Psalm 138 2 Corinthians 4:13-5:1
 Mark 3:20-35 1 Samuel 15:34-16:13
 Psalm 20 2 Corinthians 5:6-10 [11-13] 14-17
 Mark 4:26-34 1 Samuel 17:[1a, 4-11, 19-23] 32-49
or 1 Samuel 17:57-18:5, 10-16 Psalm 9:9-20 *or*
 Psalm 133 2 Corinthians 6:1-13 Mark 4:35-41



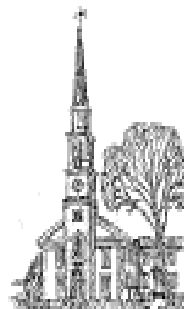
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Admin@centrechurchvt.org



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

CHURCH STAFF AND LEADERSHIP

Bridge Minister
Music Director
Administrative Assistant
Sexton
Financial Secretary
Acting Council Chair
Treasurer / Clerk

Rev. David Stinson : centrepastor@centrechurchvt.org
Mary Milkey-May: music@centrechurchvt.org
Tina Harris Admin@centrechurchvt.org
Gary Smith
Christine Yost: finance@centrechurchvt.org
Margo Neale
Holly Kennedy / Constance Bresnahan

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JUNE

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