

MINISTER'S COLUMN: Rev. Dr. Scott Couper

As the gospel according to Luke tells us, Jesus began his ministry in Galilee at Nazareth with a short sermon. Jesus quoted Isaiah saying he was to bring good news, heal and proclaim the inauguration of God's realm (4:18-19). And from that period on, Jesus seems to get himself in all sorts of arguments and trouble. No sooner had Jesus rolled-up Isaiah's scroll, Jesus managed to fill with rage those gathered in the synagogue (4:28) and, (Oh, my hat!) one verse later Jesus was thrown-out (4:29).



God and you called me to Centre Church. Needless to say, as I began my ministry I prayed the 'honeymoon' after my calling would last at least a few more seconds longer than Jesus' did!

Thankfully, it has. I have already preached twice now and I have not been thrown-out yet! In fact, I have been welcomed with beautiful hospitality and graciousness.

Jesus' ministry created some incredible tensions. And so might mine. However, Jesus and my ministries are different in emphasis, though they serve the same God. Jesus' ministry was revolutionary and prophetic. He turned the world upside down. I believe my ministry needs to be more pastoral, more healing. Not that Jesus was not pastoral. He certainly was! Not that Jesus did not heal. He certainly did! Not that I won't be prophetic. I will!

You see, it is a matter of emphasis. I perceive that Centre Church already hears the gospel Jesus proclaimed and, though imperfectly, has lived it out since 1816. Throughout its history, Centre Church and its ministers have taken bold stances in the name of the gospel and the church currently serves the most marginalized through its extensive Christian outreach.

I believe I am called to support, empower and strengthen that which Centre Church already does well. I hope to care for you, so you can continue to serve the world in Christ's name!

Loaves and Fishes, Brattleboro Children's Centre, the Overflow Shelter, The Pastoral Counseling Center, and Our Sister Parish outreach to El Salvador all must grow from strength to strength. Centre Church will live-out more fully its proclamation to be an Open & Affirming congregation and Just Peace church.

I feel called to strengthen and empower you to do more fully that which you are and have been doing for so many years.

So, from here on out, 'you' is now 'we'.

I seek to be pastoral so we can continue to be prophetic.

Be well.

In Christ, Scott

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



COUNCIL CHAIR, BILL MCCARTY

A new era has begun at Centre Church.

On Sunday, 22 July the Rev. Dr. Scott Couper began his ministry with us.

We are looking forward to a rich and rewarding relationship with Scott in the years ahead.

A reminder that your Council meets every fourth (4th) Tuesday at 6PM.

Everyone is invited to attend—and if any issue or questions arise, everyone is welcome to address it to Council and its members.

The Verizon antennae installation continues in our steeple and it is almost completed.

It is hoped to be operational in early August. It has been over three years of negotiating, planning and installation. The end is almost here. We hope to garner the benefits soon. We will keep everyone advised as matters develop.

As a part of the Verizon antennae installation, changes have been undertaken in the rear of the Church and in Centre for Children's play area. The area has been enlarged and changed.

Various issues are still being attended to- you will see as they develop.

It is difficult to believe that we are more than half way through the summer. The weather may disagree, but we are closer to September, choir returning and full, cooler, services.

Everyone can see the great work and improvement to our steeple over the past four weeks. It is anticipated that the steeple repair and painting will be completed by the end of July. Some issues were discovered in the steeple area but are being attended to (200+ years does take a toll). The finished work will brighten Centre Church and add to the Brattleboro landscape for years to come.

Board and Committee meetings are held monthly on the second Sunday of the month immediately after Sunday services. Please plan on attending. All are welcome.

If you are not a member of a board or committee please join. All friends and members are welcome to become active partners in the activities of Centre Church.

Remember, if anyone (Member or Friend) has any interest or ideas, please do not hesitate to confer with a council, board or committee member.

See you all at Church!

Bill McCarty

Council Chair

BOARD of DEACONS

Margo Neale agreed to be our Liaison to Council.

Communion during August and September will be served by intinction. In October, it will be served by passing the bread and small cups to the congregation in the pews.

Our sound system needs some professional attention. Dart Everett will be in charge of finding the right person to assist. Any costs will be paid by funds recorded in the Book of Remembrance.

As a reminder, money can be donated at any time to the Book of Remembrance, whether it is in honor of someone who has died, as a bequest from one's estate, or as a gift to help maintain and enhance our sanctuary.

Deacons of the Month:

August - Heidi Mario

September - Joy Everett

October - Wendy Randall

November - April Harkness/Carlene McCarty

December - All Deacons

MISSION AND SERVICE

This month we look forward to supporting Brattleboro Senior Meals for our Second Sunday Offering on August 12th. Last month, we did a quick switch to support Inga Plisz Paluch, Director of Carry Me Home, who was traveling to Greece to visit and work at several refugee camps. These funds went directly to her to use for the refugee needs. It was terrific to be able to get the funds to her so promptly and be able to support Carry Me Home in the important work that they are doing in the world.

Thank you to all who supported this important mission.

We are looking forward to getting involved with Project Feed the Thousands for support of Loaves and Fishes. We hope to learn more as we approach the fall drive, we will let you know more, as we learn more!

Jenifer Ambler is gearing up for her trip to El Salvador in November. She will join many others from around the country and globe at the Sister Parish Conference. This is the second four day conference that she has attended, and she is very much looking forward to it. If there are people who would be interested in attending this conference with her, please let her know. She would love to have others experience both this conference and El Salvador with her!

Priscilla

Village Harmony

FROM MEMBER CARE

Welcome and Farewell

This month started off with a little celebration following the July 1st worship service and church meeting to vote on the candidate for settled pastor of our church.

After the vote by acclamation we greeted our new pastor, the Rev. Dr. Scott E. Couper and family, and then found delicious refreshments in the parlor prepared by members of our board.

It was a happy occasion as we celebrated the long search to find Scott Couper. We look forward to many years of his ministry here among us.

We had a second Sunday of special refreshments and remarks on July 15th when we bade farewell to our Bridge Minister, Rev. Dr. J. David Stinson who has served us so well in this short, but critical time. Sen Pu had a cake decorated with a picture David Stinson in his Navy uniform on one-half, and an outline of Centre Church sailing atop a ship. It was all quite colorful...and those who ate the dark blue icing were easy to spot when they opened their mouths to talk! I was one of them. I laughed when I looked at myself in the mirror when I arrived home. Many expressed the hope that David would return in the fall to teach another series of Bible studies.

On that same Sunday our former and beloved pastor, Jack Bixby, had the Moment for Peace. In his topic of "Big Things and Little Things" he wove in the sad news that one of our most longtime and strong members, Don Webster, had died.

It was a joy to meet Mike and Julie Ball, long time members who now live out on the flat land Illinois. Their reason for moving there is the joy of being helping grandparents to their 11- month- old- grandson. We keep in close contact with the Balls through Facebook and other communications.

Joanne Clark has recently retired from her job at Holstein. It must be come kind of record. She told us that she had been employed by that company for 48 years. Congratulations. Enjoy the extra time.

A custom that began with David Stinson was putting the names of people that we are praying for in the e-news each week. This is the easiest way we have of setting up a prayer line

What do you think?

Marion Daley

For Member Care

SUMMER UNION SERVICES

at our **BRATTLEBORO AREA CHURCHES**

August 27 - Centre Congregational Church

A reminder to all that worship for all four congregations on those Sundays takes place at the host church!



BROWN BAG GROUP will not be meeting in August, but will reconvene the first Wednesday at noon in September. It will be a time of sharing summer experiences.



CHURCH LIFE



Everyone is invited to the

· *MOMENT for PEACE* ·

Friday, August 3rd

5:30-6:30PM

Centre Church Parlor

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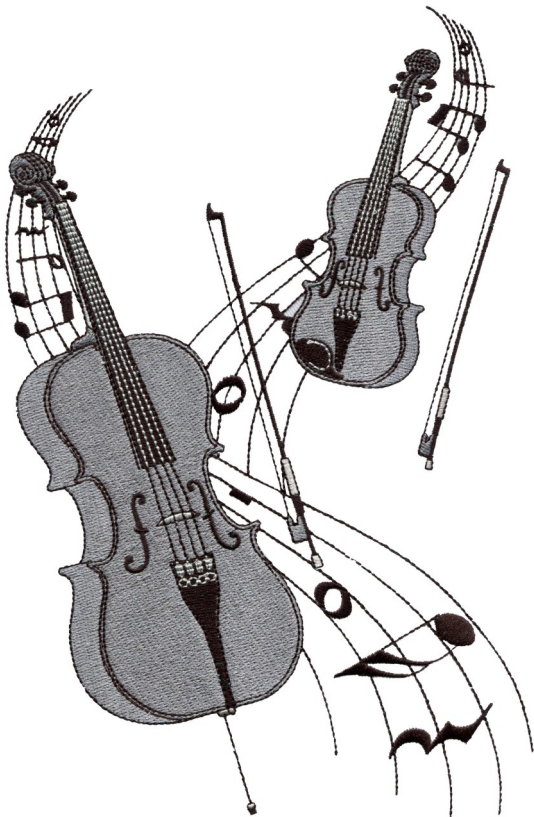
Moment for Peace

August 3

Performers

Peggy Spencer and Michelle Liehti, violins, and Zon Eastes, cello

These three long-time Brattleboro area musicians will present delightful and restful works from the baroque period; trio sonatas by George Frideric Handel and Johann Sebastian Bach.



FROM FAITH FORMATION

Reminder that there is no Faith In Action for the older children while we are on summer break schedule. Looking forward to seeing you all in the pews or in the Fall! As always, nursery care is provided for those Five and under every Sunday.

Happy Summer Vacation!



“Whether you turn to the right or to the left, your ears will hear a voice behind you saying, ‘This is the way; Walk in it’”
(Isaiah 30:21)

WOMEN'S SPIRIT...

The group who meet each Thursday at 4:30 in the library is nearing the end of *GOD* by Reza Aslan and they are looking to choose another book to enjoy together. The group is open to anyone who enjoys stretching the mind a bit with congenial discussions as well as book sharing.



From Music Director, MARYMILKEY-MAY

MUSIC NOTES

During July we were blessed to have several vocal soloists filling in for the anthem/offertory spots. Thanks go out to Jenifer Ambler, Stephanie Cary, Roger Miller, Eric Strickland and Tony Grobe. I really appreciate these folks stepping forward while the choir is on summer vacation.

August promises to include more special music as well as a combined chorus gathering on August 26th for our combined service. For any of you interested in being a part of that choir, please come at 9:00 AM on Sunday, the 26th!

As I write this, we are about to enter August which means I spend a fair amount of time looking at choral music for the coming season, both for the adult and youth choirs. It is a fun task to sit with a bunch of anthems in my lap and read through them with an eye and ear to which might work for our particular groups. Some, I am tempted to purchase, but resist as they would require a larger group than we have. Others seem just right for Centre Choir.

It is an enjoyable process.

Perhaps you have contemplated joining our group. I would encourage you to act on that idea. We can use you and I bet you'd enjoy it. We begin rehearsals on Thursday after Labor Day and we will sing the following Sunday.

I dare you!





FROM NAN MANN, Brattleboro Centre for Children

This summer has been full of challenges for BCC as we faced record-high temperatures as well as construction on the shaded side of our playground and workers on the steeple. This affected our ability to engage in daily water play on the front lawn and to be outside all together in a large group on the playground. Fortunately, all our rooms now have air-conditioning, so the children and staff could stay comfortable even if not able to be outside as much as we like. We also welcomed Micah and Maddie (Rev. Scott's teenage children) as volunteers in some of our classrooms. Their presence is cheerful and engaging. The children loved them. We thank Scott for offering them to us and thank them for their willingness.

August has us looking toward a graduating class of six going to Kindergarten in many area public schools, in Vernon, Brattleboro, and Newfane. After that, we prepare for a week of in-service for the staff while the children take a week off from school. We will come back after Labor Day, as usual, ready for new rooms and new arrangements and new perspectives. August, therefore, is a month of preparation and moving toward all the next year has to bring us.

Respectfully,



“Jesus did not seek out sin to correct, but rather sought out suffering to heal” — Scott Couper from Richard Rohr

I have been running Carry Me Home for over two years now, collecting, sorting, packing aid for the refugees stranded in Greece, communicating with volunteers who have been helping on the ground, but nothing prepared me for what I have witnessed.

I have witnessed families with an infant and a pregnant woman sleeping on a street in front of a refugee camp, because they were not allowed in for five weeks.

I have witnessed two brothers (16 and 12 years old) living alone in a refugee hotel, because their father was taken away from them at gunpoint from their home in Afghanistan and their mother brought them to Greece, but left them there, because the only way she could help them was to pay someone to take her to Holland. So she could later send for her boys when she is settled in.

I have witnessed families with little children who walked for 70 days without food to get away from their war effected country.

I have witnessed people struggling, after leaving everything they had in their countries, to save their lives and the lives of their families.

Thank you to the parishioners of the Centre Congregational Church for the support.

Together we can make a difference.

Inga Plisz Paluch

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 July 25th.

Fran Burrows
*Holton Home,
 158 Western Ave, Brat,
 254-4934*

Jeanne Rueter
*Thompson House,
 80 Maple St., Brat,
 254-4977*

Nancy Clarke
Holton Home

Wanda Godfrey
*Vernon Hall 13 Greenway Dr., Vernon,
 254-2444*

Phyllis Hickok
*1520 Little Blue Stem Ct.,
 Ames IA 50014
 515-337-1956*

Jane Reed
*461 Grafton Rd., #201, Townshend VT
 802-221-4213*

Karen Getty Peter
*The Cottage Hospital,
 PO Box 2001, Swiftwater Rd.,
 Woodsville, NH 03785
 603-747-9000*

Dot Atoamanuk
*665 U. Dummerston Rd., Brat,
 254-4365*

**Darrel Daley had surgery on July 3rd, at
 Dartmouth Hitchcock Hosp.**

Donald Ambler, Jenifer's father, at home .

Please let Tina know if we've missed someone.

AUGUST 2018

	PLEASE NOTE: <i>August 12th is Don Webster's memorial.</i> At 1:30 PM		1	2 1 ³⁰ Quilting Ministry 4 ³⁰ Women's Spirit	3 11 ³⁰ Loaves & Fishes 5 ³⁰ Moment for Peace 7 ³⁰ AA Meeting	4 10:00 am BCC Riverside Room
5* 9 ⁰⁰ Book Study 10 ⁰⁰ Worship/ Communion 10 ⁰⁰ AA Meeting 6 ⁰⁰ AA Meeting	6 1 ³⁰ Prayer Shawl	7 11 ³⁰ Loaves & Fishes 7 ³⁰ AA Meeting	8	9 1 ³⁰ Quilting Ministry 4 ³⁰ Women's Spirit	10 12 ³⁰ 11 ³⁰ Loaves & Fishes 7 ³⁰ AA Meeting	11
12 9 ⁰⁰ Book Study 10 ⁰⁰ Worship/FIA 10 ⁰⁰ AA Meeting 6 ⁰⁰ AA Meeting 11:30 Board Mtg	13 1 ³⁰ Prayer Shawl 7 ³⁰ AA District 8	14 11 ³⁰ Loaves & Fishes 7 ³⁰ AA Meeting	15	16 1 ³⁰ Quilting Ministry 4 ³⁰ Women's Spirit	17 11 ³⁰ Loaves & Fishes 7 ³⁰ AA Meeting Centre Bells Deadline	18
19 9 ⁰⁰ Book Study 10 ⁰⁰ Worship/FIA 10 ⁰⁰ AA Meeting 6 ⁰⁰ AA Meeting	20 1 ³⁰ Prayer Shawl 7 ⁰⁰ Spiritual Conversations	21 11 ³⁰ Loaves & Fishes 7 ³⁰ AA Meeting 6 ⁰⁰ PM Council Meeting	22 Tina out of OFFICE	23 1 ³⁰ Quilting Ministry 4 ³⁰ Women's Spirit	24 11 ³⁰ Loaves & Fishes 7 ³⁰ AA Meeting	25
26 10 ⁰⁰ Union Service: W. Brattleboro 10 ⁰⁰ AA Meeting 6 ⁰⁰ AA Meeting	27 1 ³⁰ Prayer Shawl	28 9 ⁰⁰ Book Study 10 ⁰⁰ Worship* 10 ⁰⁰ AA Meeting 6 ⁰⁰ AA Meeting 6:00PM CHURCH COUNCIL	29 Centre Bells Mailed	30 1 ³⁰ Quilting Ministry 4 ³⁰ Women's Spirit	31 Welcome Centre	

ANNIVERSARIES

- 3 Dawn & Tony Grobe
- 5 Damon & Kathryn Kindopp
- 6 Bob & Dee Keller
- 9 Christopher & Susan Gray
- 12 Al & Karen Rydant
- 25 Bev & Don Webster
- 27 Priscilla & Ron Svec
Becky Day & Graeme King
- 29 Allen & Dot Vander Meulen
- 31 Mabel & Steve Peterson

BIRTHDAYS

- 3 Patricia Reardon
- 4 Lynn Herzog
- 8 Carlene McCarty
- 10 Laura Slate
- 12 Stephanie Cary + Margo Neale
- 13 Carol Edmonds + Lisa Keller
- 14 Wendy Randall
- 16 Clyde Johnson
- 17 Verne Bristol
- 20 Sue Rowell
- 21 David Brown
- 23 Patricia Neer
- 26 Dan Healey
- 30 Mary Milkey-May
- 31 Mary Bristol + Peter Abell

August Lectionary Texts:

Psalm 37:12-22 2 ;Chronicles 9:29-31; Mark 6:35-44;Psalm 51:1-12;Exodus 32:19-26a;1 Corinthians 11:17-22 ;Psalm 51:1-12;Joshua 23:1-16;1 Corinthians 11:27-34;Psalm 51:1-12;Judges 6:1-10;Matthew 16:5-12; 2 Samuel 11:26— 12:13a;Psalm 51:1-12;Ephesians 4:1-16;John 6:24-35;Psalm 50:16-23;2 Samuel 12:15-25;Ephesians 4:17-24;Psalm 50:16-23;2 Samuel 13:1-19;1 Corinthians 12:27-31;Psalm 50:16-23;2 Samuel 13:20-36;Mark 8:1-10;Psalm 130 2 Samuel 13:37— 14:24;Romans 15:1-6;Psalm 130;2 Samuel 14:25-33;Galatians 6:1-10;Psalm 130 2 Samuel 15:1-13 Matthew 7:7-11;2 Samuel 18:5-9, 15, 31-33 Psalm 130 Ephesians 4:25— 5:2 John 6:35, 41-51;Psalm 57 2 Samuel 15:13-31 Ephesians 5:1-14; Psalm 57 2 Samuel 18:19-33 2 Peter 3:14-18; Psalm 57 2 Samuel 19:1-18 John 6:35-40;Psalm 111 1 Kings 1:1-30 Acts 6:8-15;Psalm 111 1 Kings 1:28-48 Romans 16:17-20;Psalm 111 1 Kings 2:1-11 John 4:7-26;1 Kings 2:10-12; 3:3-14 Psalm 111 Ephesians 5:15-20 John 6:51-58;Psalm 101 1 Kings 3:16-28 Acts 6:1-7 ;Psalm 101 1 Kings 7:1-12 Acts 7:9-16 ;Psalm 101 1 Kings 8:1-21 Mark 8:14-21;Psalm 84 1 Kings 4:20-28 1 Thessalonians 5:1-11;Psalm 84 1 Kings 4:29-34 Romans 13:11-14 ;Psalm 84 1 Kings 5:1-12 Luke 11:5-13 ;1 Kings 8:[1, 6, 10-11] 22-30, 41-43 Psalm 84 Ephesians 6:10-20 John 6:56-69; Psalm 11 1 Kings 5:13-18 Ephesians 5:21— 6:9;Psalm 11 1 Kings 6:1-14 Ephesians 6:21-24 ;Psalm 11 1 Kings 6:15-38 John 15:16-25 ;Psalm 45:1-2, 6-9 Song of Solomon 1:1-17 James 1:1-8 ;Psalm 45:1-2, 6-9 Song of Solomon 2:1-7 James 1:9-16

CENTRE CONGREGATIONAL CHURCH, UNITED CHURCH OF CHRIST
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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

Settled Minister
Music Director
Administrative Assistant
Sexton
Financial Secretary
Council Chair
Clerk
Treasurer

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Tina Harris Admin@centrechurchvt.org
Gary Smith
Christine Yost: finance@centrechurchvt.org
Bill McCarty
Constance Bresnahan
Anne Fecto

8 1 0 2

AUGUST

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