

Minister's Column—Scott Couper

“Abundance isn't God's provision for me to live in luxury. It's [God's] provision for me to help others live. God entrusts me with his money, not to build my kingdom on Earth, but to build his kingdom in heaven”. -Randy Alcorn

This past week, and for the following four weeks to come, we will be thick into our Stewardship Campaign. The campaign itself is five weeks (21/28 October and 4/11 November) and it will culminate on the fifth week with Stewardship Sunday (18 November) when we will pledge our tithes for the year. Week one focused on the difference between giving from a worldview of scarcity verses a worldview of abundance. Week two will focus on the biblical concepts of tithing, first fruits and gleaning. Week three highlights the importance of leaving a legacy and thus emphasizes on investment portfolios and estate inheritances will predominate. Week four will remember that stewardship is not all about money, but also time and talents too. Week five, just before Thanksgiving, we will focus on our outreach ministries and what we love about our church, and thus we will declare to the world where our priorities lie. We will disclose to one another what hope we have for our beloved church's future.

The above quote has much to do with the concept of 'investment'. During my studies in International Relations, I excelled in Economics. I learned enough to know that you want to invest in something early, when the risk may be high, when the market is low, a good price can be got, and, well, when the prospects are great for the future. 'Buy low', the maxim goes.

Well, our world, our country, and our church is struggling! In my opinion, we are at a low. And therefore, I firmly believe with all my heart, now is the time to invest! Now is the time to buy! Our church has so much potential! We are ideally situated. We can fill a vital need in our beautifully progressive and active community. I believe we have the right product, the Gospel of Jesus Christ! I believe we have the right people, and that includes YOU! I believe we are in the right environment and I believe we are in the right location. Now, now is the time to invest!

Friends in Christ, I love all of you. I have served as your minister long enough to see things as they are, warts and all. And yet, I see us flying! I believe very strongly that the kingdom of God can be glimpsed in downtown Brattleboro and that Centre Congregational Church will be the beacon that it was always meant to be.

Let us together start boldly. Now, now is the time to strike! Now is the time to be optimistic. Now is the time to invest in the kingdom of God on earth, in Brattleboro, just as it is in heaven!

Our Stewardship Campaign theme comes from Isaiah, “Behold I am doing a new thing; do you not perceive it?” I do! I perceive it at Centre Congregational Church. I see liberal and conservative, male and female, black and white, gay and straight, rich and poor all working together with one common source and one common goal. So, make your pledge and make it bold, give electronically, so you and others will have confidence and optimism that our investment in the ministry of Christ will more than benefit us and our progeny.

What a time! Where has the summer gone?

It is now late October and we are entering November, an increasingly busy time in our church calendar. We have much for which to be thankful: A wonderful country, time, place, and church.

Though we may complain about certain things or individuals, overall we are fortunate to be living in such a time and place - the Brattleboro area, Vermont/New Hampshire and the United States. Many people aspire to what we have. We have much for which to be thankful. We must remember.

November 11, 2018 (Armistice Day, Veteran's Day, Remembrance Day) is the 100th anniversary of the "Great Armistice", "the end of the war to end all wars", the end of the "Great War" and World War I. Peace, however, did not last.

Nevertheless, we should recognize the sacrifice of so many to maintain a free world, our free world.

A special thank you to all who have worked so hard, and often, to clean and refresh Centre church building and sanctuary. We appreciate Peter and Marion Abell, Priscilla and Ron Svec, Margo Neale, Bonnie Girvan, Dawn Chattin and Heidi Mario. I am sure I have overlooked many others who have worked hard. I apologize. Thank you to those who have put forth effort to restore and maintain this wonderful place, our legacy from our forbearers.

Many things are planned for the coming months. Probably the busiest time of the church calendar: Stewardship, Thanksgiving, Christmas Bazaar, Christmas and New Year's. More information will be forthcoming as we progress.

May we all enjoy and give special thanks to God that we live in such a wonderful place and time. We have been blessed. Enjoy and be thankful.

Bill McCarty

Council Chair



From Music Director, MARY MILKEY-MAY



MUSIC NOTES

Special thanks go to the Senior Choir members for participating in Pastor Scott's installation service on October 6th. We were grateful that Lisa and Steve joined us that day. Their singing added to a beautiful and uplifting experience for all who attended.

For World Communion Sunday our Children's Choir sang "Changamano", a lively song with words in Swahili. It translated to mean 'coming together, one by one, being united, joined in a song'! How fitting words for our world on that special Sunday. The children are already preparing more selections to present during church. So, stay tuned.

As I say each month, "We can always use more singers anytime so please feel free to join us."

You are always welcome!



BOARD FOR MEMBER CARE

We welcomed back Karen Rydant at our meeting in October. She and her husband Al had spent the summer months plus early autumn in their British Columbia home. Karen and Carolyn Smith will be sharing the representation to the monthly meetings of the Church Council

We are reviving a custom that we had for many years. We used to have a sign up sheet titled "Feeding the Flock" It had been created by former member Margit Lily.

Often members are in need of a meal, or meals following a hospital stay, or the death of a loved one. We on Member Care try to fulfill that responsibility, but we cannot do it alone. There will be a place on the main hall bulletin board for you to sign up as a volunteer to bring a meal to a church family. Sometimes we go weeks without any need...and then suddenly there are several all in a short period of time. We need you to volunteer.

Heidi Mario has volunteered to make and post the chart. That bulletin board has been kept up to date and decorated with seasonal flowers, flags, colors by Judi Miller for several years. It has been an attractive way to display the church news, with the added color of pictures of festive events. Judi is stepping back and Heidi will continue with the upkeep of the board. Take a look! Thank you Judi, and thank you Heidi for taking over this ongoing responsibility.

Marion Daley for Member Care

"CENTRE BELLS"

The newsletter of
Centre Congregational Church
United Church of Christ

November 2018

Children's Page



My Stewardship Card

I promise to be a steward by: (circle as many as you would like)



Name: _____

BOARD FOR MEMBER CARE

Member Care Memorandum for November

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Marion Daley for Member Care

Deacons' Doings

April Harkness and Carlene McCarty are the deacons of the month for November. All Souls' Day is November 1, 2018. This is when we honor members and friends from our church who have died during the last year. If you have someone you would like to be added to the list, please let the office know. November 18th is Harvest Sunday. If you have any vegetables to add to our cornucopia on the altar please bring on that day.

Carlene McCarty, Deacon

BOARD FOR MISSION & SERVICE

November Second Sunday Offering



The November Second Sunday Offering will benefit the Boys & Girls Club of Brattleboro, which “provides a safe place for youth to learn and grow, develop ongoing relationships with caring adult professionals, engage in life-enhancing programs, character development experiences, and create hope and opportunity.” The facility is a safe place to preteens and teens to be after school and on non-school days, providing activities year round. Summer camps, skateboarding, field trips, music, art, gaming, even quiet space to concentrate on homework. Free meals are provided year round due to the high number of youth with families unable to afford sufficient nutritious food. Youth from Centre Church have been involved with B&GC in past years and could attest to the value it gave them in their lives.



El Salvador Sister Parish Meeting

M&S Committee member Jenifer Ambler will attend the 5th El Salvador Sister Parish Encuentro (Meeting) from November 6 to 12 and would love to carry down greetings from Centre Church. Haley Marcil has been working with the children on cards and artwork. Anyone who has visited El Salvador in the past or remembers when Samuel and Antonia visited for Samuel’s Shrine Hospital treatments or when Pastor Francisco Aguilar preached at Centre Church, please feel free to write a note or a card and put it in Jenifer’s church mailbox. She would also like to have deflated soccer balls to give to the children, and if anyone has a used but working pump that would be wonderful. Esteban (“Steve”) is a young man with spina bifida who needs a new wheelchair because the one he has now is wearing out. Jenifer looked into getting a donated one from a Salvadoran Rotary Club that was having a wheelchair drive, but it was too complicated to take care of long distance. If there is anyone who might have a used wheelchair in good condition, contact Jenifer ASAP before Nov 4 to discuss specifications, otherwise she will try to collect enough money to just buy one in El Salvador.

Building and Grounds Committee

We are happy to announce that the painting and restoration of our church steeple and front facade have recently been completed by Skyline Engineers of Ashburnham, Massachusetts. Their thorough, fastidious and caring work shines brightly over our town.

It is with our entire church's gratitude that we thank Cynthia Terzariol and Lisa Terzariol, her daughter, for her mother's generous bequest. The Congregation still owes \$20,000 to replenish our Endowment Fund for the amount that we, as a Congregation, voted to borrow from it, at last January's church wide financial meeting. Please support this decision with your dollars. Installment payments are welcome.

Building and Grounds Committee

News items and articles should be submitted to the church administrator. Please contact the church administrator with address changes or requests to be added or removed from the **Centre Bells** mailing list at:

(802)254-4730

centrechurch@centrechurchvt.org



WOMEN'S SPIRIT . . .

This group that meets each Thursday at 4:30 in the library continues to read together and discuss John Selby Spong's book *UNBELIEVABLE*. The group is open to anyone with an adventurous reading spirit. The hour spent together never seems long enough to hear everyone's thoughts on the portions read.

You do not need to own a copy of the book. Everyone is welcome.



Member Care is collecting the names of your relatives and friends that have died in this past year since last "All Saints' Day".



They will be remembered during the morning worship service by the reading of their names. Please send to Marion Daley. Her phone and email is listed in the Centre Church directory.

BE THE CHURCH

'Be the Church' is the United Church of Christ's theme this year and we, here at Centre Church, are putting it into action. Our Be the Church Clean Team has two goals: to clarify and re-define our church space and to present a cleaner, brighter, welcoming face for our congregation and for the wider community. We welcome your help. Please give us your ideas (jot them down) or email them, and we "The Queens of Clean," "The Biblical Marthas," will scrub the steps, polish the furniture, and create happy spaces for all of us to 'Be the Church'.

Ad Hoc Committee

Marion Abell, Dawn Chattin, Bonnie Girvan,
and Margo Neale

Over the years our church building complex has acquired donations of furniture, lamps, music and other miscellaneous items that are no longer in use, are dilapidated, or outdated. In an attempt to derail the clutter, Building & Grounds has created "The Depot," a space at the end of the Riverside Room where these odds and ends are being collected. The items will be left there for a period of a few weeks and you are welcome to help yourself to them. If you would like to make a donation to Centre Church for the items, it would be most welcome. After a period of time, the items not taken will hop on "the train" and be on their way to NeverNeverland. Please stop by The Depot and see what's waiting for you!

Brown Bag Lunch Group

November 7th is the date for the next "munch and chat get-together" for this group who have no agenda. It's just a time at noon on the first Wednesday of the month to bring your lunch and converse with one another. See you then.



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 September 26.

Fran Burrows
Holton Home,
158 Western Ave,
Brattleboro, VT
254-4934

Jeanne Rueter
Thompson House,
80 Maple St.,
Brattleboro, VT
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 Atomanuk
665 U. Dummerston Rd.,
Brattleboro, VT
254-6929

Please let the Administrative Assitant know if we've missed someone

NOVEMBER 2018

*Holy Communion celebrated

SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY
				1 1 ³⁰ Quilting Ministry 4 ³⁰ Women's Spirit 7 ⁰⁰ Choir Rehearsal	2 11 ³⁰ Loaves & Fishes 5 ³⁰ Moment for Peace 7 ³⁰ AA Meeting	3 11 ³⁰ Loaves & Fishes
4 9 ⁰⁰ Book Study 10 ⁰⁰ Worship/FiA 10 ⁰⁰ AA Meeting 6 ⁰⁰ AA Meeting	5 4 ³⁰ Prayer Shawl	6 11 ³⁰ Loaves & Fishes 7 ³⁰ AA Meeting	7 12 ⁰⁰ Brown Bag	8 1 ³⁰ Quilting Ministry 4 ³⁰ Women's Spirit 7 ⁰⁰ Choir Rehearsal	9 11 ³⁰ Loaves & Fishes 7 ³⁰ AA Meeting	10
11 9 ⁰⁰ Book Study 10 ⁰⁰ Worship/FiA 10 ⁰⁰ AA Meeting 6 ⁰⁰ AA Meeting	12 4 ³⁰ Prayer Shawl 7 ³⁰ AA District 8	13 11 ³⁰ Loaves & Fishes 7 ³⁰ AA Meeting	14	15 1 ³⁰ Quilting Ministry 4 ³⁰ Women's Spirit 7 ⁰⁰ Choir Rehearsal	16 11 ³⁰ Loaves & Fishes 7 ³⁰ AA Meeting CB DEADLINE	17
18 9 ⁰⁰ Book Study 10 ⁰⁰ Worship/FiA 10 ⁰⁰ AA Meeting 6 ⁰⁰ AA Meeting	19 4 ³⁰ Prayer Shawl	20 11 ³⁰ Loaves & Fishes 7 ³⁰ AA Meeting	21	22 Office Closed Thanksgiving	23 11 ³⁰ Loaves & Fishes 7 ³⁰ AA Meeting	24
25 9 ⁰⁰ Book Study 10 ⁰⁰ Worship/FiA 10 ⁰⁰ AA Meeting 6 ⁰⁰ AA Meeting	26 4 ³⁰ Prayer Shawl 7 ⁰⁰ Spiritual Conversations	27 11 ³⁰ Loaves & Fishes 7 ³⁰ AA Meeting 6 ⁰⁰ Church Council	28 CB Mailed	29 9 ³⁰ piano tuned	30 Centre Church Holiday Fair	

BIRTHDAYS

2 Judy Palmer
3 Joanne Clark
5 Fred Edmonds
13 David Henry
Stephanie Brown
30 Jonathan Secrest

8 Sylvia & Milton Eaton
10 Anne & Steve Fecto
13 Roger & Sandy Daly
27 Bob & Sen Pu
29 Mo & Jeffrey Meyer

ANNIVERSARIES

November

Lectionary

Texts:

Thurs., Nov. 1
All Saints' Day
Solomon 3:1-9
or Isaiah 25:6-9
Psalm 24
Rev 21:1-6a
Jn 11:32-44

Sun., Nov. 4
Ruth 1:1-18
Psalm 146
Hebrews 9:11-14
Mark 12:28-34

Sun., Nov. 11
Ruth 3:1-5; 4:13-17
Psalm 127
Hebrews 9:24-28
Mark 12:38-44

Sun., Nov. 18
1 Samuel 1:4-20
1 Samuel 2:1-10
Hebrews 10:11-14 [15-18] 19-25
Mark 13:1-8

Thurs., Nov. 22
Thanksgiving
Joel 2:21-27
Psalm 126
1 Timothy 2:1-7
Matthew 6:25-33

Sun., Nov. 25
2 Samuel 23:1-7
Psalm 132:1-12
[13-18]
Revelation 1:4b-8
John 18:33-37



CENTRE CONGREGATIONAL CHURCH, UNITED CHURCH OF CHRIST
193 Main Street, Brattleboro, VT 05301-2842

Office Hours: M - F: 9:00am—1:00pm

Church Office: (802) 254-4730 / centrechurch@centrechurchvt.org

Website: www.centrechurchvt.org

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

CHURCH STAFF AND LEADERSHIP

Minister and Teacher

Scott Couper: centrepastor@centrechurchvt.org

Music Director

Mary Milkey-May: music@centrechurchvt.org

Administrative Assistant

admin@centrechurchvt.org

Financial Secretary

Christine Yost: finance@centrechurchvt.org

Custodian

Council Chair

Bill McCarty

Treasurer

Anne Fecto

Clerk

Connie Bresnahan

2 0 1 8



NOVEMBER

CHANGE SERVICE REQUESTED

centrechurch@centrechurchvt.org

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

BRATTLEBORO, VT 05301

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