

CENTRE CONGREGATIONAL CHURCH
UNITED CHURCH OF CHRIST

193 Main Street Brattleboro, Vermont 05301
centrechurch@centrechurchvt.org

CHANGE SERVICE REQUESTED

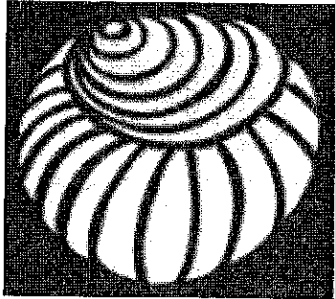
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PERMIT # 8

BRATTLEBORO, VT 05301

AUGUST



2016

CHURCH STAFF AND LEADERSHIP

Rev. Bert Marshall: revbert@centrechurchvt.org	Interim Minister
Christine Yost: finance@centrechurchvt.org	Financial Secretary
Mary Milkey-May: music@centrechurchvt.org	Music Director
Ernest May	Assisting the Music Director
Gary and Paul Smith	Sextons
Bruce Landenberger: bruce@centrechurchvt.org	Church Administrator
Matt Kennedy	Council Chair
Holly Kennedy / Constance Bresnahan	Treasurer / Clerk

Office Hours: M - F: 8:30am - 12:30pm
 Church Office: (802) 254-4730 / centrechurch@centrechurchvt.org
 Website: www.centrechurchvt.org
 Facebook: Centre Congregational Church-Brattleboro
 Current news and information in the larger UCC Community:
 VT Conference: www.vtcucc.org / National: www.ucc.org

Celebrating 200 years in the heart of Brattleboro!

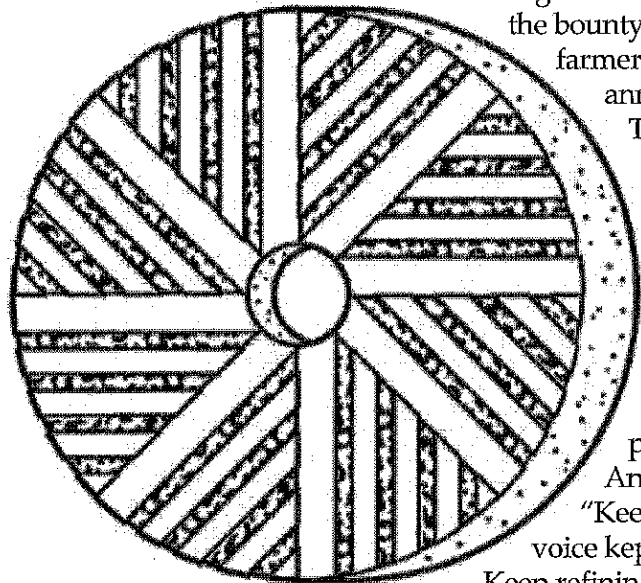
193 Main Street, Brattleboro, VT 05301

CENTRE CONGREGATIONAL CHURCH, UNITED CHURCH OF CHRIST

INTERIM MINISTER'S COLUMN, Rev. Bert Marshall

The Inner Voice

From a marvelous collection of stories and parables from the Jewish Talmud (*Saving The World Entire* by Rabbi Bradley R. Bleefeld and Robert L. Shook), here's one of my favorites:



During the months of April, May, and early June, Israel always enjoyed the bounty of its barley harvest. The gathering of the grain, when farmers worked in the fields under the warming skies, was an annual ritual. One of the most arduous tasks was the grinding. The workers labored all day long. Eventually, they were able to transform the barley corn into fine flour. They repeatedly ground the barley to the finest flour possible, until it was pure enough to be considered for an offering at the Temple in Jerusalem. The grinding process was over only when the flour was as fine as it could possibly be. At first a grinder might think it is impossible to produce a finer flour. Again and again, when the grinder thought he had reached the point where no improvement was possible, the rabbis teach that the grinder relied on a voice. And what would the voice always say? Nothing less than, "Keep grinding." For the grinder needed this voice, and the voice kept the grinder on track. "Keep grinding, keep improving. Keep refining the flour until it is as smooth as it can be."

[Talmudic Source: *The Midrash*]

The authors comment:

What applies to the harvest of barley applies to the harvest of life. Just as we reach a point in our work where we believe no further effort is required, we, too, need a voice from within to say, "Keep grinding. Keep improving. Keep working and refining and polishing"

Further improvement is always attainable because perfection is never achieved. The voice gently whispers in our ears at moments of despair, at times when we think we have done enough, and when we are frustrated with the belief that we can do no more. The voice repeats, "Keep grinding."

My comment:

These are good words for us – as individuals and as a community of faith. During this time of transition, we should be especially attentive to the sound of this voice. It's a voice that can help us refine and polish our identity, our vision, and our spiritual well-being. It is a voice that can help us through difficult times, help us see and think more clearly, help us walk the walk of compassion and justice with courage and grace. It can remind us that we can always do more, always improve, always engage our struggles with confidence and hope. The Rabbis of the Talmud teach us that the divine voice of God doesn't necessarily come to us in lofty, eloquent language. "Keep grinding" is about as earthy as you can get! We are living through a time when we should strive to grind the rough grains of our hearts and minds into a fine flour of inner peace and holiness, as well as an enlightened engagement in the challenges of our era - for the glory of our God and for the healing of our world. It is a time to keep grinding, keep improving, keep polishing ourselves as the people of God together. The fine flour of our work will be a blessing to us all, and to many others as well.

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Bert Marshall". The signature is stylized and includes a long horizontal line extending to the right.

CENTRE BELLS The Newsletter of
Centre Congregational Church, United Church of Christ
August 2016

From Council Chair, MATT KENNEDY

We're in the heart of summer, and I hope that everyone's had a chance to enjoy the wonderful weather. Even though summer it the time things generally slow down a bit there had been a lot of activity at Centre Church.

As we continue to celebrate our Bicentennial, Rev. Bert and Bill McCarty are busily planning for our next event; a Bicentennial Union Worship Service on Sunday, August 28th. All area congregations are being invited, and the service may include events at the Brattleboro Common, the original site of Centre Church.

Following a statewide meeting in Morrisville, the Strategic Investment in Sacred Places Team (SISP) team finished the formal part of their mission. I want to take a moment to publically thank involved with the team, Marion & Peter Abell, Jenifer Ambler, Julie Ball, Dart Everett, Holly Kennedy, Margo Neal, and Rev. Bert Marshall for all their dedication. The team's hard work has culminated in an accessibly study and a plan for renovating the kitchen space in Memorial Hall. To carry the work forward we have formed a Kitchen-Accessibility Renovation Team (KART) that will work to take the plans and put them into reality.

Every month we have the opportunity to donate to various organizations through the Special Offerings. Mission & Service has been discussing changes to the Special Offerings choices for 2017 and would welcome suggestions form the congregation.

As I mentioned, there has been a lot of hard work going on around Centre, with more in the works as we look to propel the church into its next 200 years.



CHURCH LIFE

BROWN BAG LUNCH GROUP

Because of the heat and busy schedules, the group was smaller in July and it was decided to skip the August get-to-gether and meet again September 7. The July lunch hour was involved in a fun art project and round singing with Jim Bedard and his ukelele. The first Wednesday of the month pops up so quickly, so mark your calendars now and join us for a fun hour and get to know your friends at church in a new way.

PASTORAL RELATIONS

The Pastoral Relations committee will have a regular meeting on **Tuesday, August 30**. This group is the liaison between pastor and the congregation to discuss and share activities of the church. If you have a concern you would like to have discussed, please contact a member of this committee, which is made up of the pastor, Joanne MacLean, Lisa Keller, Kathryn Kindopp, and Don Webster.

BOARD of DEACONS

The Deacons are still trying so hard to find another two -three Deacons. We will be down to 3 in the Fall once Patti leaves for Florida and Joy is having knee surgery. Please consider helping us out. We really need HELP.

The Deacons also decided to buy flowers from Windham Florists for only November, December, January, February and March. During the other months, we have been asking members to bring anything from their gardens that fits the month; so now we have added on April to the Spring season. Even tall grasses, bittersweet, sedum in the Fall or Spring is lovely. Let's be creative and see what we can bring to set near the altar. This is our way of trying to cut our budget. PLEASE, PLEASE, PLEASE continue to sign up for flowers throughout the year, whether you bring them from the garden, or reimburse the Church for flowers from Windham Flowers in the Winter months. Tell Bruce who you want them dedicated to or in memory of and he will put it in the bulletin for that week. The sign-up sheet is in the parlor.

A Tarp has been found on the stairway behind the organ. We have found this to be a fire hazard and a safety concern. If this belongs to you please contact Carlene: 257-1440 / vtbooklady@gmail.com and we will get it to you. Just let us know within the week; if not, anyone who needs a tarp, it is yours!!!

BOARD FOR MISSION & SERVICE

Our Special Offerings for August will be for the AIDS Project of Southern VT and Brattleboro Senior Meals.

AIDS Project of Southern VT

"The AIDS Project of Southern Vermont is a regional AIDS service organization providing direct services to people living with HIV/AIDS and HIV prevention services to those at most risk in Windham, Bennington, and southern Windsor counties. Founded by volunteers in 1988 as a grassroots, community based group, the AIDS Project fills an important statewide role in making sure that Vermont's fight against the AIDS epidemic is strong and effective.

Our mission is to provide direct services to those whose lives are affected by HIV/AIDS, to offer education to help prevent its spread, and to promote understanding within the communities served.

For more information, call us at (802) 254-4444 or email apsv@sover.net"

Brattleboro Senior Meals

"Brattleboro Senior Meals provides daily meals to seniors from the greater Brattleboro area at the Senior Center in the Gibson Aiken Building at 207 Main Street in Brattleboro. We also run the Meals On Wheels program, bringing nutritious meals to the homebound. We can be reached at the site Monday through Friday between 8AM and 3PM, by phone at 802-257-1236 or by email chrismcavoy@brattleboroseniormeals.org. Hot meals are offered every day at 12 noon at The Brattleboro Senior Center. For those over 60 there is a suggested donation of \$3.50. All those under 60 are charged \$6.00 per meal. The menu is set one month in advance, but is subject to change due to food availability and severe weather conditions.

Meals on Wheels is a program that is designed to help people over 60 who face challenges in preparing health adequate meals due to such situations as advancing age, hospital recovery, or physical disability. Any person over 60 who experiences "Food Insecurity", is unable to participate in the noon time meal available at the Brattleboro Senior Center or has a spouse who is eligible for meals on wheels will qualify for the program. BSM also serves participants who are under 60 that are funded through Vermont Center for Independent Living.

The program in Brattleboro is a full time program that runs five days a week. Most recipients receive meals five times a week, although in certain rural areas, delivery is not possible on every week day. In these instances, frozen meals are available. Delivery takes place during the noon hour and is completed by volunteers."

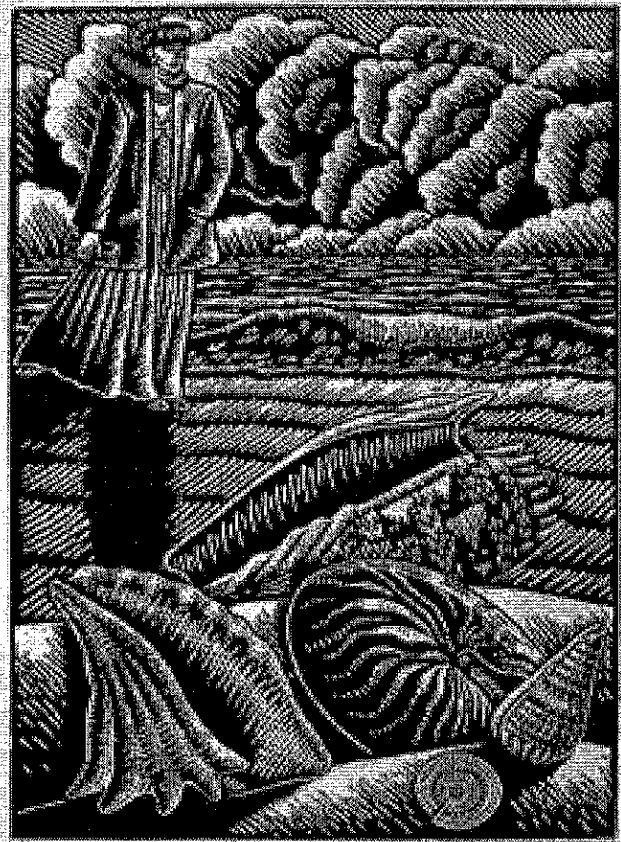
PEACE & JUSTICE COMMITTEE

Everyone is invited to the
MOMENT for PEACE

Friday, August 5, 5:30-6:00PM,
Centre Church Parlor

This month the meditation will be led by members of the Village Harmony who will be singing some songs and talking about music and peacemaking.

Village Harmony, Inc. is a not-for-profit organization based in central Vermont with activities around the world welcoming singers of all colors, creeds, ethnicities, nationalities, gender orientations & socio-economic backgrounds.



WOMEN'S SPIRIT...

Continues to meet each Thursday at 4:30 in the library. Reza Aslan's book, *ZEALOT, The Life and Times of Jesus of Nazareth* continues to be the focus of reading and discussion for this stimulating group of women. Everyone is invited to join the group at any time.



BOARD FOR CHRISTIAN EDUCATION

ADULT EDUCATION OFFERINGS

BOOK STUDY: an adult group book study currently reading *The Meaning of Human Existence* by Edward O. Wilson

Sunday mornings, 9:00-10:00AM

SPIRITUAL CONVERSATIONS: Led by the Rev. Sandy Daly, a group of adults gather in Chesterfield, NH at Hallelujah Farm to discuss how and where God is moving in our lives and what we are being called to be and do. Directions to Hallelujah Farm are in the church office.

BOARD FOR MEMBER CARE

Purpose of Member Care

Last month at our Church Meeting Night we were asked to think about and tell what our main purpose is. Several of us responded that our purpose is in the name of this board "Member Care."

The bicentennial book *This Jewel on Main Street*, authored by Dot VanderMeulen, tells the history of Centre Church. There is good history of the changes in the building over its 200 year history. Reading it one learns how the governance of this church has changed. Names of offices, committees, boards, departments, council, stewards and such have evolved over the years as the culture and our needs changed.

Member Care was an outgrowth of the Deacons.

Once-upon-a-time there used to be Deacons and Deaconesses. That's when Centre Church had a much large congregation. The twelve men Deacons always served Communion. I was amused by the story Annette Pestle told. She said the deaconesses were quaking in their high heels the first time they were to serve communion. It was a "first" for them. This happened in the early 1970s. I don't know how many deaconesses there were. They carried out much of what we on Member Care do today.

It was back about 25 years ago that the Deacons (12 men and women) delegated many of their responsibilities to a committee named "Member Care." This committee was to visit the sick help with meals for families in need. Later it became a department and still later a "Board."

We have a long list of things we do, but I won't write them all here. They all have to do with caring for members of Centre Church.

One thing we agreed to do this next year is try to coordinate with the very diminished in number Board of Deacons in their many responsibilities

you know someone's special to you when... you don't talk for a while because things get busy but when you two eventually do it's like you didn't miss a beat. you talk like there was no gap in between and you laugh until both your stomachs hurt. it's a rare and special connection and personally I think it's pure magic. if you ever find someone like this in your life, never let them go.

BICENTENNIAL COMMITTEE

UPCOMING BICENTENNIAL EVENTS

August 28 History-Based Union Service (organized by Bill McCarty and Rev. Bert)

September 24-25 Weekend Festival

Saturday Ice Cream Social & Dance

Sunday Kurn Hattin chorus in church

Lawn Barbecue & games

(organized by the Abells, Holly Kennedy, Dart Everett, and Judy Palmer)

October 4 7:30pm -Bread & Puppet Theater performance in sanctuary

October 15 Spaghetti Supper & Quilt Auction (organized by the Abells, McCartys, Harrimans, and Dart Everett)

October 23 light luncheon followed by Glen Andres talk on Church Architecture. (organized by Jack Bixby, Connie Bresnahan, and Judy Palmer)

November (date TBD) Central American dinner followed by Gould & Stearns performance of *A Peasant of El Salvador*.

PASTORAL SEARCH COMMITTEE

One of the special parts of each Search Committee meeting is the Chaplin portion. These shared thoughts, prayers and readings keep our goal focused on our faith, not just a task. At each meeting we build our faith, in God and in each other. The strengthening bonds of faith and friendship are amazing in the few months we have been meeting. One meeting our Chaplin and back up Chaplin were both away meeting night. Bert shared this with us. We were so moved I was asked to share this with our Church Family...

From The *Thin Book of Appreciative Inquiry*; quoted in *Transitional Ministry Today* (ed. Norman B. Bendroth)

ASSUMPTIONS OF APPRECIATIVE INQUIRY

1. In every society, organization, or group, something works.
2. What we focus on becomes our reality.
3. Reality is created in the moment, and there are multiple realities.
4. The act of asking questions of an organization or group influences the group in some way.
5. People have more confidence and comfort to journey to the future (the unknown) when they carry forward parts of the past (the known).
6. If we carry parts of the past forward, they should be what is best about the past.
7. It is important to value differences.
8. The language we use creates our reality.

Our Search Committee continues to gather data related to the financials needed for our Church Profile. Some data is gathered from our Mission Committee others from UCC National. I have found it interesting to learn about both Centre Committees and our UCC National Organization. The draw of our churches giving locally, to our state conference, nationally and internationally was something I never gave thought to. This mission work is a serious point of interest of our Profile. We do Mission Work!

While pulling financial information together this month we are also going full forward on the first draft of our survey. We are looking on what should be on it, how to ask these questions and how to present this survey. Our diverse group is coming up with many ideas...more to come!

Feel free to talk to any and all of us on the Search Committee. We want to have conversations with all of you about our task a hand. We are excited to be part of this special group.

-Anne Fecto, Jenifer Ambler, Jim Bedard,
Roger Brown, Tony Grobe, Judy Palmer,
Kate Maisner and Priscilla Svec.

PEOPLE



A word of good cheer would be warmly received by church members and friends who are in nursing homes, assisted living centers, or housebound as of July 25th.

JEANNE RUETER

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

NANCY CLARKE

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

WANDA GODFREY

Vernon Hall, 13 Greenway Dr.,
Vernon, VT 05354 254-2444

PHYLLIS HICKOK

1520 Little Blue Stem Ct.
Ames, IA 50014 (515) 292-9196

ROBERT & JANE REED

461 Grafton Rd., #201
Townshend, VT 05353 (802) 221-4213

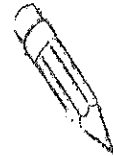
MARJORIE SPRAGUE

Nason Center, Room 221
Breckenridge Village, 36859 Ridge Road
Willoughby Ohio 44094 (440) 497-5208

*Please let Bruce know
if we've missed someone*

New Contact Information

Virginia Knuebel
30 Main St. #304
Brattleboro, VT 05301
802.490.2563



A memorial service for

Kingsley Mitchell

will be held at Centre Church
on Saturday, August 20, at 11:00am

Reception to follow in the Parlor.



To Everyone Who Helped and Supported Nan Mann in a time of need:

By now most of you know I had heart surgery in late June. This affected not only me and my family but my work at Brattleboro Centre for Children, by my absence there. I want to publicly thank all of those in the congregation who helped me and my family with food, thoughts, prayers, support, rides, visits (in the hospital and at home) the prayer shawl, cards, and so much more. It shows me that my church community, my church family, is a vital and loving, living group of people who care and give so much, and without whom I would not be able to heal the way I am. Thank you all. You mean so much to me.

-Nan Mann

Emory A. Felch Jr.

brother of Marilyn Felch Young and Arnold Young, died on July 4, 2016

His family also includes Susan, Christopher, Douglas, Elissa, and Sarah Gray, as well as four nephews.

A long time Brattleboro resident, he had lived at The Historic Homes of Runnemedede in Windsor, VT since losing his home in the flood of Irene.



WANTED

More foster families are urgently needed in communities across Vermont for all age groups, especially infants and teens.

All types of families are welcome to apply! To learn more, call Michelle Colburn at (802) 257-2888

fostercare.vt.gov

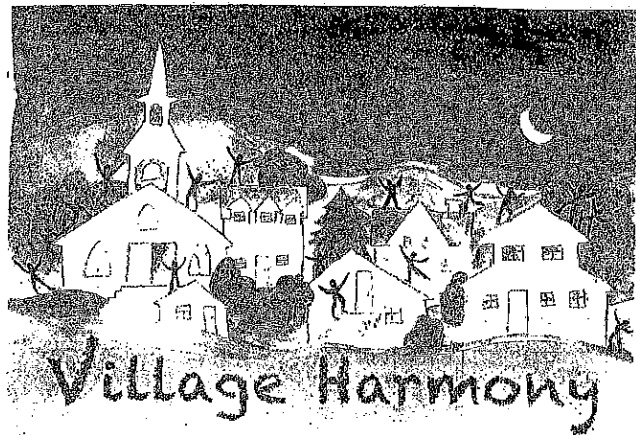
YANKEE MALE CHORUS

concert Wednesday, August 10, 7:30pm

First Congregational Church of West Brattleboro
880 Western Ave.

This group of about 90 singers will perform four-part harmony songs from the sacred, spiritual, Broadway, and novelty areas of music.

Admission is free
a free-will offering will be received



Teen World Music Ensemble

Led by Patty Cuyler, Bongani Magatyana,
and Lysander Jaffee

20 sparkling young singers and instrumentalists perform songs and dances from South Africa, traditional songs from Georgia, Corsica, and the Balkans, American shape-note songs, and renaissance works.

Friday, August 5, 7:30pm

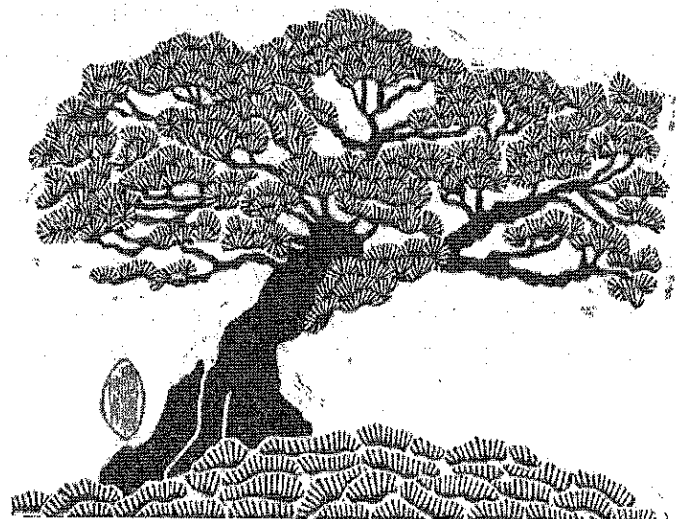
Centre Congregational Church, Brattleboro VT

Suggested admission: sliding scale \$5-\$15

Information: 802-254-4730

We will need overnight lodging for about 20 people; if you are willing to host, please let Rev. Bert or Bruce know: 254-4730 / centrechurch@centrechurchvt.org

We will also be hosting the group for a pizza and potluck supper that evening at 6:00pm. All Welcome!



AUGUST 2016

*Holy Communion
celebrated

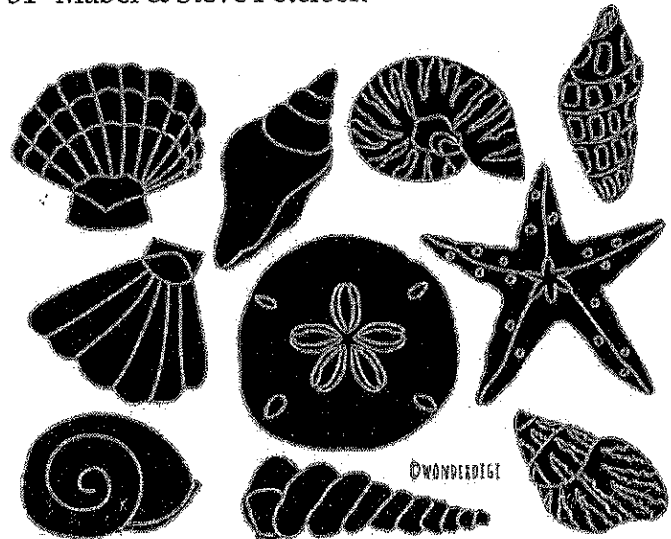
SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY
	1 4 ³⁰ Prayer Shawl	2 11 ³⁰ Loaves & Fishes 5 ³⁰ Search 7 ³⁰ AA Meeting	3 12 ⁰⁰ Brown Bag Lunch	4 1 ³⁰ Quilting Ministry 4 ³⁰ Women's Spirit	5 11 ³⁰ Loaves & Fishes 5 ³⁰ Moment for Peace 6 ⁰⁰ Pot Luck 7 ³⁰ Village Harmony 7 ³⁰ AA Meeting	6
7 9 ⁰⁰ Book Study 10 ⁰⁰ Worship* 10 ⁰⁰ AA Meeting 6 ⁰⁰ AA Meeting	8 4 ³⁰ Prayer Shawl 7 ³⁰ AA District 8	9 11 ³⁰ Loaves & Fishes 6 ⁰⁰ Meeting Night 7 ³⁰ AA Meeting	10	11 1 ³⁰ Quilting Ministry 4 ³⁰ Women's Spirit	12 Centre Bells Deadline 11 ³⁰ Loaves & Fishes 7 ³⁰ AA Meeting	13
14 9 ⁰⁰ Book Study 10 ⁰⁰ Worship* 10 ⁰⁰ AA Meeting 6 ⁰⁰ AA Meeting	15 4 ³⁰ Prayer Shawl	16 11 ³⁰ Loaves & Fishes 7 ³⁰ AA Meeting 6 ⁰⁰ Church Council	17 12 ⁰⁰ BALL	18 1 ³⁰ Quilting Ministry 4 ³⁰ Women's Spirit	19 11 ³⁰ Loaves & Fishes 7 ³⁰ AA Meeting	20 11 ⁰⁰ Kingsley Mitchell Memorial Svce.
21 9 ⁰⁰ Book Study 10 ⁰⁰ Worship 10 ⁰⁰ AA Meeting 6 ⁰⁰ AA Meeting	22 4 ³⁰ Prayer Shawl 7 ⁰⁰ Spiritual Conversations	23 11 ³⁰ Loaves & Fishes 5 ³⁰ Search 7 ³⁰ AA Meeting	24 Mail Centre Bells	25 1 ³⁰ Quilting Ministry 4 ³⁰ Women's Spirit	26 11 ³⁰ Loaves & Fishes 7 ³⁰ AA Meeting	27
28 9 ⁰⁰ Book Study/ 10 ⁰⁰ Worship Union Svce @ CCC 10 ⁰⁰ AA Meeting 6 ⁰⁰ AA Meeting	29 4 ³⁰ Prayer Shawl	30 11 ³⁰ Loaves & Fishes 5 ⁰⁰ Pastoral Relations 7 ³⁰ AA Meeting	31			3

BIRTHDAYS

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

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 |



Centre Bells

is published monthly by
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News items and articles, address changes, or requests to be added or removed from the *Centre Bells* mailing list should be submitted to the church administrator at:
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