

**CENTRE CONGREGATIONAL CHURCH
UNITED CHURCH OF CHRIST**

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

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JANUARY



CENTRE CONGREGATIONAL CHURCH, UNITED CHURCH OF CHRIST
193 Main Street, Brattleboro, VT 05301
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, VT / Kidz Club at Centre Church

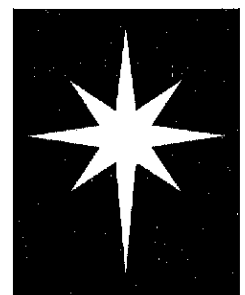
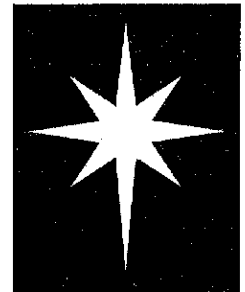
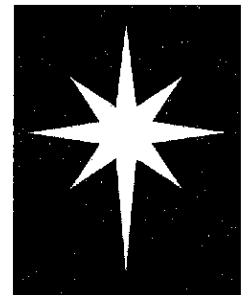
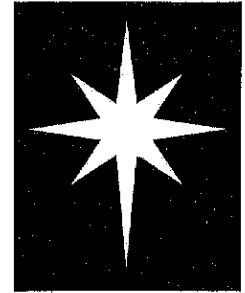
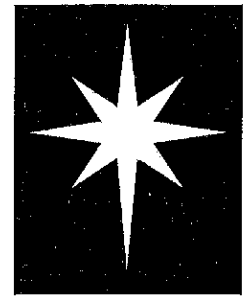
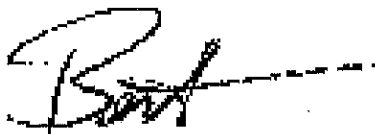
CHURCH STAFF AND LEADERSHIP

Interim Minister	Rev. Bert Marshall: revbert@centrechurchvt.org
Financial Secretary	Christine Yost: finance@centrechurchvt.org
Music Director	Mary Millkey-May: music@centrechurchvt.org
Substitute Music Director	Ernest May
Sexton	Gary and Paul Smith
Church Administrator	Bruce Landenberger: bruce@centrechurchvt.org
Council Chair / Vice-Chair	William McCarty / Matt Kennedy
Treasurer / Clerk	Rennie Washburn / Constance Bresnahan

INTERIM MINISTER'S COLUMN, Rev. Bert Marshall

Low-Income Workers and Foreigners

you never noticed how we watch and wait with mounting anticipation
singing praying shopping gifting pushing down doors
everywhere yet each time suddenly the year changes
and we look around and wonder what became of the One
whose arrival we awaited so fervently
whose advent we sang prayed shopped gifted pushed down
even while we go crashing through the affairs of ordinary life
with its comforting chaos and kind-hearted consumerism
hardly noticing that something else is moving swiftly through the cold winter
shadowed days silent nights something just beyond the arc of knowing
a place we tend to ignore this time of year because the story
the story we think we know so well is really about something
so unspeakably strange mysterious uncanny as to lie
outside the realm of comprehension no matter how many times we hear it
in the same old familiar way performed once again thank you very much
ladies and gentlemen by the old tried and true angel chorus back by popular demand
another command performance here above the haloed hills of wherever we are
and lo and behold the real angel has meanwhile slipped in through the backyard gate
and latched onto some poor unsuspecting young girl and tells her
everything she's never heard and never hoped to find out
and how God has chosen her to do this thing that God has decided to do
in spite of all the evidence supporting the probable
yes even inevitable failure of such an outrageous plan
but the girl says ok as if she had any choice and now she feels the ground tremble
now the starry sky goes in and out of focus as the divine seed spark breath word
penetrates her mind heart womb wrapped in fire and blood
flashes of lightning outside above the hills or is it wings
the world breaks out into yet another advent of waiting and watching
and the eventual not seeing not hearing not knowing that plagues all our yearning
because we think we know what to look for what to pray for and don't we know
all the words to the all the old songs and then wouldn't you know
God's winged messengers go off and spread the news
first to a bunch of low-income workers and foreigners
shepherds and Magi
as the imperial powers snore themselves into unexpectedly bad dreams
and the Earth hurtles along toward its appointed rendezvous with some wine
and a few crusts of bread O come O come Emmanuel we sing Emmanuel we sing
another year of waiting and watching winging its way here will we see it this time
hear it receive it in the city of David in the city of somewhere unto you is born this day
some day and this will be a sign for you that the least lowest and most foreign of all
will see it first and then the rest good news great joy O child of hope child of peace
love unleashed cut loose spilled out set free be not afraid no be not afraid amen



CENTRE BELLS

The Newsletter of
Centre Congregational Church
United Church of Christ
January 2016

From Council Chair, BILL McCARTY

Merry Christmas!

A wonderful greeting and much more appropriate than "Happy Holidays". The continued secularization of Christmas is a sad commentary on our society. But enough said from me. Others can comment or ignore the issue. I won't!

It is hard for me to realize that another year has gone by and 2016 is fast approaching. We have accomplished much this year, but more needs to be done.

On January 1, 2016 we will begin to celebrate the 200th year of Centre Church. A wonderful year of celebrations is being planned. Look for the schedule of events that will be forthcoming.

Have you seen the Centre Church history, "The Jewel of Main Street"? A wonderful history and one we should be proud of. A wonderful addition to your library, and a great Christmas gift for your family or a friend.

Mark your calendars, January 10, 2016 directly after church for the First Bicentennial Event. To honor, Author, Dot Vander Meulen, for "The Jewel of Main Street." It is a treasure that we will all cherish for many years. Thank you Dot, for your hard work!

On January 24, 2016 we will have our annual Financial Meeting after Sunday services. Our annual budget and election of new Treasurer, Auditors, and Endowment Committee members. If you are interested in serving please contact a Council Member or me. Everyone's participation and help is always needed. Many hands make work and duties much easier and more effective.

The selection and initial organization of a Settled Pastor Search Committee will begin in January. An extremely important committee for Centre Church. Council is looking for people to "self nominate" to serve. Approximately 7 members will comprise this group. If interested, self nominate yourself!

It is now a time for New Year's Resolutions! We all have them and it would be great to include Centre Church in your resolution, for a pledge and stewardship.

Merry Christmas and Happy New Year.
See you at Centre Church!

From Music Director, MARY MILKEY-MAY

By the time you all read this, Advent will have come and gone and we will be thinking about the New Year, 2016! As I write this, I am mindful of the many blessings I have already experienced during my time at Centre Church! Here are some of my reflections.

From the very beginning, I have found this congregation to be welcoming, helpful, appreciative and extraordinarily hard-working. The choir members have been flexible, willing to try new music and eager to do their best as we provide special music for each Sunday service. Due to an unforeseen circumstance, Ernie and I (after 30 years) have found ourselves working together rather than in separate churches. Even out of a not-so-fun injury comes something positive! I am deeply appreciative of everyone's patience with my recovery time which has been much slower than anticipated! I am very excited to be able to use my left hand a bit more each week. I eagerly await the day when I can play the way I used to!!

As I have mentioned in previous newsletters, many folks have stepped up to the plate to help the music program in some way. Recently, two more folks have done just that! Virginia Knuebel has generously donated her "Rise Up" funds to provide the much needed music stands that we are now using. It is a luxury to have stands that stay up without duct tape! We have three!! Also, Matt Kennedy has revived the Hand Bell Choir which will have made its debut on Christmas Eve. Thanks to all of the bell ringers, Matt and Virginia for your contributions to the music program!

If any of you are considering singing in the choir, a great time to begin is January! If you can carry a tune and like to sing, it might just be the thing for you!

Try it!!





CHURCH LIFE

JUMBLE SALE...A big thank you to everyone who helped in some way with the Jumble Sales over the years, particularly Mary Bristol for all the phone calls she made. As I prepared for the Jumble Sale last spring, I realized I would not be able to chair the Jumble Sale this fall. A very special thank you to Priscilla Svec, Jenifer Ambler and Mary Bristol who chaired the Jumble Sale this last fall. They did a terrific job.

I was undecided about chairing next spring's Jumble Sale. In some ways, I felt it was time for someone else to lead this fund-raiser. I have come to the conclusion that it is indeed time for me to step down and allow someone else the opportunity to serve as chair of the Jumble Sales.

If anyone is interested in chairing the sales, please contact a member of the Mission & Service Board.

Again, thank you to all of my helpers over the years. Take care & God bless.

-Laura Slate

WOMEN'S SPIRIT...Now that the holidays are over, the Women's Spirit will be meeting again each Thursday afternoon at 4:30 in the library for one hour of spirited sharing and discussions. All women of any age are welcome.

BOARD FOR CHRISTIAN EDUCATION

CHRISTIAN EDUCATION @ CENTRE CHURCH

Sunday School every Sunday from 9:00 to 9:45 for ages 4+; nursery care is provided during this time for ages 0-4.

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.

ADULT EDUCATION OFFERINGS

BOOK STUDY: an adult group book study currently reading *Rumi: The Life and Work of the Great Sufi Poet* by Annemarie Schimmel.
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.
Fourth Monday of each Month, 7:00-8:30PM

PLEDGE CARDS!...We are collecting pledge cards for our current Stewardship campaign. The early results are very encouraging! If you have not yet made your pledge, please prayerfully attend to it. If you've determined your pledge but have not yet turned in your card, you can put it in the offertory plate this morning, drop it off at the church office, or mail it in. Thank you for your generosity and faithful commitment to Centre Church, and to the work of the Gospel in our midst. Together we can make a difference!

BOARD FOR MEMBER CARE

Happy New Year!

Happy 200th Anniversary Centre Church!

This bicentennial year, 2016, holds promise of many special events, celebrations and commemorations. While there will be new events we will still keep some of the tried and successful ways of doing things. One that continues to work well for this board is to have a Contact Person for each month. The person for January is Judi Miller.

The supper groups that were formed will probably be starting now that the celebration loaded Christmas holiday season is over.

Here is a repeat of something you have read before in this column—*Coffee Hour Assignments*. By assigning a month (or months) to boards and committees it was never intended that just those folks on the board would host every Sunday of that month. It was more of a plan that the board would find hosts from among the many who attend coffee hour. We were probably living in the past when we had many more members! Almost everyone who comes to coffee hour is already on a board and a couple of committees. Many people end up serving 2, 3, or 4 times in the months between September and June (Member Care does July and August with lemonade on the lawn).

Soooo---We really haven't found a solution. Your gracious hosting is appreciated; Thank you. The assignments for the next three months are:

January: Choir

February: Endowment Committee and Finance Committee

March: the Council

Thank you also to those who have volunteered to do some visiting.

We on Member Care are looking forward to a grand and glorious bicentennial year for Centre Congregational Church "The Jewel on Main Street."

BOARD FOR MISSION & SERVICE

The Special Offerings on Sundays in January are for the *Luz del Mundo Scholarship* Fund and for *Bread for the World*. With our Luz del Mundo funds, Centre Church supports the education of about thirty young people of kindergarten through college age in our El Salvador Sister Parish. Bread for the World lobbies Congress about legislation addressing hunger in the U.S. and around the world. Bread workers have a track record of winning bipartisan legislation on numerous hunger issues.

Centre Church has signed up to supply an evening meal at the Overflow Shelter on the third Monday of upcoming winter months. Please sign up on our hall bulletin board to bring a main dish, a vegetable, a salad, or a dessert for Mon. January 18. The Faith in Action children's group will also be making contributions to this event.

The January Brattleboro Gallery Walk "Moment for Peace" will feature stories from a couple who recently hiked the Camino de Santiago in Spain.

Your Mission and Service Board and Rev. Bert helped to facilitate Groundwork Collaborative's distribution of holiday hams to registered recipients from our sanctuary on Dec. 21 and 22.

Gloria Vicente, our UCC mission worker in Guatemala since 2007, will be visiting New England churches April 11-30. Mission and Service will be planning opportunities for Centre Church folks to hear about her work in Guatemala, which focuses on poverty issues and managing gang violence. Dee and Bob Keller are helping to schedule Ms. Vicente's time here and will be looking for a cat-free host family.

PEACE & JUSTICE COMMITTEE

Everyone is invited to the
MOMENT for PEACE,

Friday, January 8, 5:30-6:00PM, Centre Church Parlor

This month Kate & Paul Link invite you to walk with them as they reflect on their experience in Spain last spring. Walking the 500 miles of the ancient pilgrimage route from the French Pyrenees across Spain to Santiago de Compostella takes place in three parts: Physical, Mental and Spiritual. These three parts emerge sequentially as one sheds the ties to what is familiar in order to uncover a new norm for being in the world.

Kate & Paul, residents of Brattleboro, walked the El Camino in spring 2015. Kate, as a life and business coach, saw many metaphors for growth and renewal. Paul, as a carpenter, loved the natural and built environment as they "kissed the earth with each step."

BICENTENNIAL COMMITTEE

Our two hundredth year has arrived! During 2016, we hope to reach out to the greater Brattleboro-area community as well as our own Centre Church members and friends with celebratory occasions for fun and fellowship. Your Bicentennial Committee has been meeting monthly since February 2015 to plan such occasions.

Our January focus will be on our church history book, *This Jewel on Main Street* and its author, Dot Vander Meulen. We invite all to a book celebration, signing, and luncheon after church in the parlor on **Sunday, January 10**. Other events through the year will include:

- Community Pancake Shrove Tuesday Supper, featuring music by the Dixieland West River Wildcats (**February 9**)
- Rev. Bert's presentation of the Gospel of Mark (**March 13**)
- music festival (**April 23-24**)
- volunteer marchers in the Strolling of the Heifers parade (**June 4**)
- church service on the Common (**August**)
- weekend public gala, featuring a Kurn Hattin choir (**September**)
- expert talk on church architecture, focusing on Centre Church (**October 23**)
- Leaf Peeper Fundraiser Spaghetti Dinner (**October**).

Please put these on your calendars and we'll try to keep you posted right along.

Bicentennial Committee members include Marion & Peter Abell, Jack Bixby, Connie Bresnahan, Mary Bristol, Gary Carrier, Marion Daley, Dart Everett (co-chair), Meg Harriman, Margaret Johnson, Holly & Matt Kennedy, Joanne MacLean, Bert Marshall, Bill & Carlene McCarty, Judy Palmer (co-chair), and Dot Vander Meulen.

T-SHIRTS The Bicentennial Committee is selling new, 100% cotton, indigo blue Centre Church T-shirts featuring a church logo in the parlor on Sundays after the service. The shirts are available in a variety of sizes, including kids', and would make wonderful Christmas gifts for \$15 each.

As part of our Bicentennial year, we are working on sprucing up all parts of the facility. **New table and chairs** have been purchased for the Library. Anyone wishing to contribute can either send a donation to the church office, or put in an envelope marked *Library Furniture* on Sunday.

BOARD of DEACONS

Happy New Year Everyone!

The Deacons approved 3 events for the month of January:

- Village Harmony - January 6, 2016
- Rock Voices- January 8, 2016
- MLS event- January 17, 2016

The date for cleaning the chandeliers is changed to **February 9, 2016.**

Carlene McCarty is Deacon of the month.

FUNDRAISING COMMITTEE

Our last fund raiser of the year was a success, thanks to 95% of the church Members. Many thanks to our chair, Meg Harriman, and her committee, for planning all the fund raisers of the year ending with the Christmas Craft Fair. Mary Bristol organized the cookie walk. Joy Everett and Karen Rydant ran the vendor raffle and silent auction. Tom Harriman hung the decorations generously. Carlene McCarty organized the lunch and waffles. Gisela Robeck planned the church boutique gifts. Laura Slate organized the extensive advertising. Anne Doesburg communicated with the vendors and organized ticket sales for the raffle quilt. Top salesman was Steve Brown. The winner of the raffle quilt was Valerie English, of Brooklyn, NY (Tom & Meg Harriman's neighbor). Patti Reardon organized Santa's attic. Marion Abell organized the live music. Kare Marshall manned the purple table. Heidi Mario made the Christmas wreaths and swags, created small signs and a Santa doll to raffle off. Michael Mario entertained children with arts & crafts. A special thanks to Terry Briggs for mending the metal frame banner sign, helping us set up, cooking hot dogs, running errands, helping vendors, and closing down the fair at the end of the day. A good time was had by all. Merry Christmas!

-Anne Doesburg



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 December 25th.

JEANNE RUETER

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

NANCY CLARKE / BABS DUNN

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 05350 (802) 221-4213

MARJORIE SPRAGUE

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

DON STOCKWELL

Vernon Green, 61 Greenway Dr.,
Vernon, VT 05354 254-6041

Please let Bruce know if we've missed someone





THANK YOU to Anne Doesburg for donating the beautiful upright piano to our church! The piano belonged to Anne's mother, June Generous. It is currently located in Memorial Hall.

NATIONAL UCC NEWS The national United Church of Christ has a home web site: <http://www.ucc.org> which covers many topics and directories. It also has web sites for several different publications such as "UCC Congregational Vitality" newsletter. There's a weekly "Keeping You Posted" e-zine to which anyone with a computer may subscribe free, full of UCC news. *God is Still Speaking* is an 88-page, oversize, full-color magazine "Still Speaking" to be published twice annually in spring and fall. Order on-line at UCC.org/magazine.


COMIC PAGE

COFFEE WITH JESUS






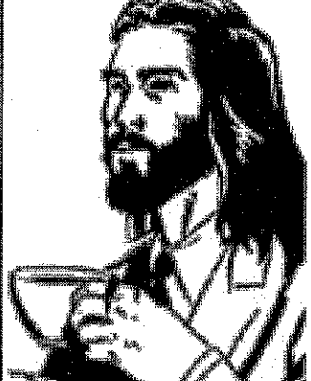
I always wondered why your first miracle was turning water into wine.



It just happened that way, plus my Mom kind of forced me into it.



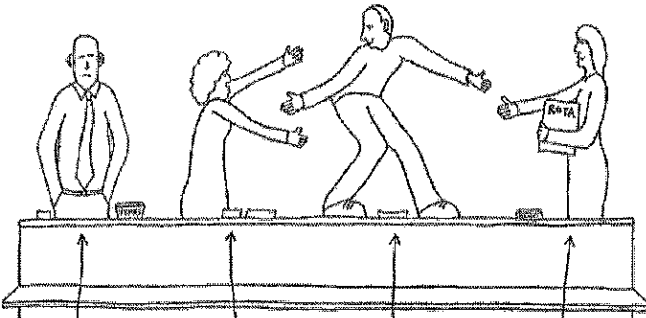
I like to use that miracle to explain to isototolans that God is pro-alcohol.



It was a wedding, Carl. I don't turn water into alcohol in your office every morning.

THE PEACE

THIS IS A TIME DURING THE SERVICE WHICH IS SET ASIDE FOR PEOPLE TO BE NICE TO ONE ANOTHER. DIFFERENT PEOPLE SHARE THE PEACE IN DIFFERENT WAYS:



THE NON PARTICIPANT TRIES TO AVOID EYE CONTACT IN THE KNOWLEDGE THAT SOON THIS INDIGNITY WILL END

THE PERSONAL SPACE INVADER, PURVEYOR OF UNWANTED HUGS AND KISSES


THE OLYMPIC PEACEGIVER, AIMING TO GREET ENTIRE CONGREGATION. EYES ALREADY ON NEXT VICTIM

THE CHURCH BUSINESS CONDUCTOR. WILL BLESS YOU WITH MANY MINISTRY OPPORTUNITIES

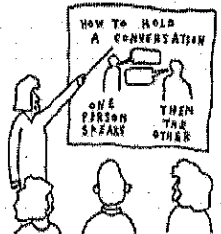
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THE WELCOMERS

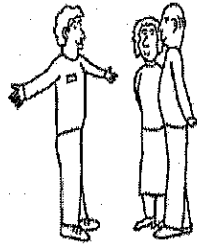
IT IS THE JOB OF THE WELCOMERS TO BE WELCOMING AND WEAR A BADGE



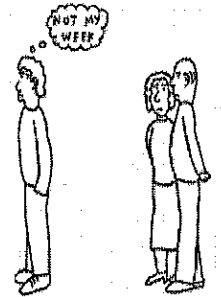
THEY ARE GIVEN IN-DEPTH TRAINING TO EQUIP THEM FOR THIS ROLE



IN THE EVENT OF ANY NEWCOMERS ATTENDING A SERVICE A WELCOMER WILL BE SUMMONED TO DEAL WITH THE SITUATION





THERE IS A ROTA SO THAT THE SAME PEOPLE DO NOT HAVE TO BE WELCOMING EVERY WEEK



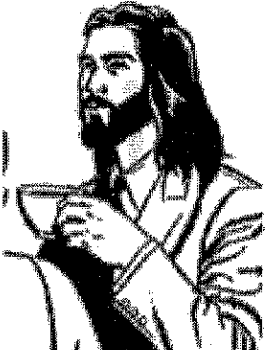
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The Original COFFEE WITH JESUS






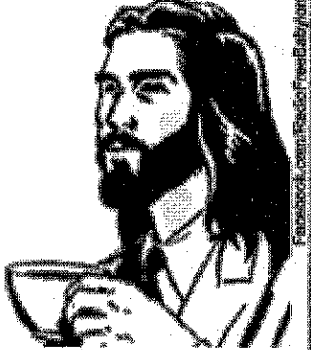
You're like my bro, Jesus. You're always there for me. I appreciate your friendship.



And I yours, Carl. And do keep in mind, please, that I'm also your Lord.



Well, of course, J-Man. Goss without saying.



I wouldn't be reminding you if it goes without saying, Carl.

JANUARY 2016

*Holy Communion
celebrated

SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY
					1 NEW YEARS DAY OFFICE CLOSED 6 ⁰⁰ Alcañon Ends 7 ³⁰ AA Meeting	2 9 ⁰⁰ SEVIA
3 9 ⁰⁰ Book Study/ Sunday School 10 ⁰⁰ Worship* 6 ⁰⁰ AA Meeting	4 4 ³⁰ Prayer Shawl	5 11 ³⁰ Loaves & Fishes 3 ³⁰ Fundraising 7 ³⁰ AA Meeting	6 5 ³⁰ Pot Luck Supper 7 ⁰⁰ Village Harmony Concert	7 9 ³⁰ Quilting Ministry 4 ³⁰ Woman Spirit 7 ⁰⁰ Choir Rehearsal	8 11 ³⁰ Loaves & Fishes 5 ³⁰ Moment for Peace 7 ⁰⁰ Rock Voices 7 ³⁰ AA Meeting	9 8 ³⁰ Rich Earth Inst.
10 9 ⁰⁰ Book Study/ Sunday School 10 ⁰⁰ Worship/FIA 11 ³⁰ Book Celebration 6 ⁰⁰ AA Meeting	11 4 ³⁰ Prayer Shawl 7 ³⁰ AA District 8	12 11 ³⁰ Loaves & Fishes 6 ³⁰ Meeting Night 7 ³⁰ AA Meeting	13 6 ³⁰ Race Dialogue	14 9 ³⁰ Quilting Ministry 4 ³⁰ Woman Spirit 5 ³⁰ Brattleboro SOS 7 ⁰⁰ Choir Rehearsal	15 CENTRE BELLS DEADLINE 11 ³⁰ Loaves & Fishes 7 ³⁰ AA Meeting	16
17 9 ⁰⁰ Book Study/ Sunday School 10 ⁰⁰ Worship/FIA 4 ⁰⁰ MLK Memorial Service 5 ⁰⁰ Spaghetti Dinner 6 ⁰⁰ AA Meeting	18 MLK DAY OFFICE CLOSED 4 ³⁰ Prayer Shawl	19 11 ³⁰ Loaves & Fishes 7 ³⁰ AA Meeting	20 12 ⁰⁰ BAIL 6 ³⁰ Church Council 7 ⁰⁰ BMC rehearsal	21 9 ³⁰ Quilting Ministry 4 ³⁰ Woman Spirit 6 ⁰⁰ BCC 7 ⁰⁰ BMC rehearsal 7 ⁰⁰ Choir Rehearsal	22 11 ³⁰ Loaves & Fishes 7 ³⁰ AA Meeting	23 7 ⁰⁰ BMC Concert
24 9 ⁰⁰ Book Study/ Sunday School 10 ⁰⁰ Worship/FIA 11 ³⁰ Annual Financial Meeting 4 ⁰⁰ BMC Concert 6 ⁰⁰ AA Meeting	25 4 ³⁰ Prayer Shawl 7 ⁰⁰ Spiritual Conversations	26 11 ³⁰ Loaves & Fishes 7 ³⁰ AA Meeting	27 MAIL CENTRE BELLS	28 9 ³⁰ Quilting Ministry 4 ³⁰ Woman Spirit 7 ⁰⁰ Choir Rehearsal	29 11 ³⁰ Loaves & Fishes 7 ³⁰ AA Meeting	30
31 9 ⁰⁰ Book Study/ Sunday School 10 ⁰⁰ Worship/FIA 4 ⁰⁰ BMC Concert 6 ⁰⁰ AA Meeting						

BIRTHDAYS

- 4 Rene LaPlante
- 5 Torin Kindopp
- 6 Terrance Slate
- 7 Marielle Holbrook
- 11 Marion Daley
- 13 Kathryn Kindopp
Adelaide Minott
Nancy Wittler
- 14 Myrna Melroy
Katherine Maisner
- 15 Christina Goodwin
Joanne MacLean
- 16 Levi Healey
- 17 William McCarty
- 18 Dorothy Vander Meulen
- 21 Bert Marshall
- 25 Ron Svec
- 26 Rennie Washburn
- 30 Holly Kennedy
Tyler Momaney

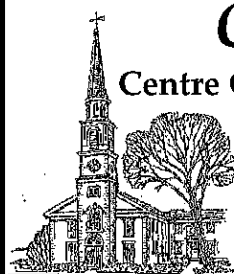
Village Harmony

Returns to Centre Church on January 6, 2016, with a VH Alumni concert.
Led by founder Larry Gordon, the ensemble of Village Harmony alums
will perform old favorites and new music.

Potluck Supper begins at 5:30pm

Singing begins at 7:00pm, Donation \$10 at the door

Please plan to be here...Great way to celebrate the Epiphany!



Centre Bells

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News items and articles should be submitted to the
church administrator. Please contact the church admin-
istrator with address changes or requests to be added or
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