

**CENTRE CONGREGATIONAL CHURCH
UNITED CHURCH OF CHRIST**

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

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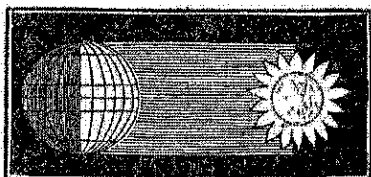
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BRATTLEBORO, VT 05301

SEPTEMBER



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Matt Kennedy / Holly Kennedy / Constance Bresnahan

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Gary and Paul Smith
Bruce Landenberger: bruce@centrechurchvt.org

CHURCH STAFF AND LEADERSHIP

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](https://www.facebook.com/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
Financial Secretary
Music Director
Sextons
Church Administrator
Council Chair
Treasurer / Clerk

INTERIM MINISTER'S COLUMN, Rev. Bert Marshall

Traveling Light

I have a beautiful little book called *Journeys of Simplicity: Traveling Light* by Philip Harnden. It contains accounts of persons famous and not-so-famous who found ways to "travel lightly" on the earth. Harnden includes lists of these persons' possessions. Most of the lists are short. You realize while reading them that our own lists of possessions are considerably longer, more complex, and seemingly indispensable to a "quality" of life we have come to expect and take for granted. Harnden begins with this little story:

Twelve hundred years ago in China a middle-aged man named P'ang Yun loaded everything he owned onto a boat and sank it all in the Tung-t'ing Lake. After that, we are told, "he lived like a single leaf." See him there in the early morning, treading water in the middle of the lake, watching the last bubbles rise from the depths. The air crisp and quiet. The lake misty and as still as the sky. Then turning, stroking toward the shore.

And while we might not – probably can't – travel as light as the extraordinary people in this book, we *can* work on traveling lighter than we do. This is not easy in a society that lifts up consumer capitalism as an idol of worship and a symbol of success. We have to be mindful in our resistance. It takes practice. Here are some suggestions to help you travel lightly: (1) **read scripture:** read through the lectionary texts printed elsewhere in this newsletter, study them, meditate on them; (2) **pray:** for others, for enlightenment, for peace, for justice, for forgiveness, for someone you love, for someone you don't; (3) **do some things differently:** do one thing at a time, set aside some regular time to do nothing, turn off your cell phone or computer for awhile, watch less TV, take a retreat, do something you like but never have time for, visit a church member, write a letter, surprise someone with an act of kindness; (4) **practice keeping the Sabbath:** make Sunday morning worship *mandatory*, do something with family or friends afterward, try not to spend money or keep to a schedule, don't wear your watch.

Envision your worldly possessions – your share of the immeasurable excess baggage of our material culture – sinking to the bottom of the lake. Imagine yourself living as a single leaf. Think about Jesus sending the disciples out two-by-two, instructing them to take nothing on their journey except a staff – no bag, no bread, no money in their belts, but to wear sandals and not to put on two tunics. They cast out demons and healed the sick. What would our lives look like, feel like, sound like without all our stuff. In what ways would we feel diminished? In what ways would we be empowered? Imagine your life with only the barest essentials. Imagine being able to list everything you own on a post-it note or on the back of a business card. If you can, you are not far from God's realm.



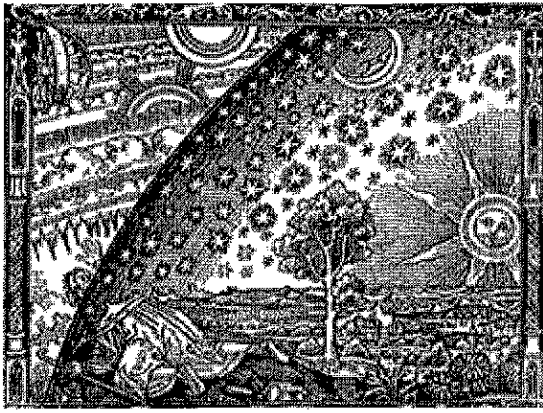
September Lectionary Texts:

- 4 Jer 18:1-11 ■ Ps 139:1-6, 13-18 ■ Deut 30:15-20 ■ Ps 1 ■ Philem 1:1-21 ■ Luke 14:25-33
- 11 Jer 4:11-12 ■ Ps 14 ■ Ex 32:7-14 ■ Ps 51:1-10 ■ 1 Tim 1:12-17 ■ Luke 15:1-10
- 18 Jer 8:18-9:1 ■ Ps 79:1-9 ■ Amos 8:4-7 ■ Ps 113 ■ 1 Tim 2:1-7 ■ Luke 16:1-13
- 25 Jer 32:1-3a, 6-15 ■ Ps 91:1-6, 14-16 ■ Amos 6:1a, 4-7 ■ Ps 146 ■ 1 Tim 6:6-19 ■ Luke 16:19-31

CENTRE BELLS

The Newsletter of
Centre Congregational Church, UCC
September 2016





From Council Chair, MATT KENNEDY:

During its 200 years Centre Church has seen many changes, and we are about to experience another. About the time you receive this edition of Centre Bells, Bruce Landenberger will be finishing his tenure as our Administrative Assistant. Bruce has served the church for many years filling many roles, keeping track of all that goes on, and working with the large number of members, visitors, and organizations that pass through the doors of Centre Church. He is leaving some big shoes to fill, and we are sad to see him go, but we are also glad that he will be able to pursue his passion. Bruce's last day with us is Friday, September 2nd, so if you have the chance be sure to stop by and wish him well.

A few months ago I mentioned another change coming to Centre Church: E-Giving. We are excited to announce that e-giving will be available beginning in September. E-giving is setting up an automatic recurring contribution to the church, and is a convenient option where you don't have to remember to bring your offering every week. More information will be in the e-news, weekly bulletins, and a table will be set up at coffee hour through the month of September to answer questions and assist those interested in signing up.

With the addition of E-Giving, an official church Facebook Page, a live web-cam for broadcasting worship services, and other technological advances at Centre we have formed a Technology Team to keep it all organized. Keep your eyes peeled for a revised web-page once the team gets up and running.

And lastly, I hope everyone will join us for the Bicentennial Gala weekend on **September 24-25**. Events will include a contra dance and ice cream social on Saturday night, and the Kurn Hattin Select Choir will sing during the Sunday morning worship, with a barbeque on the church lawn to follow.

From Music Director, MARY MILKEY-MAY

It is truly mind-blowing that summer is quickly coming to a close, especially with a slew of August days in the 90's! However, September is almost here....the school pace begins anew and **SO DOES CHOIR!!**

For those used to being in the choir, it's business as usual beginning the first Thursday after Labor Day, September 8th at 7:00 PM. Please plan on being at rehearsal so we are prepared to be on board for Sunday, September 11th! For those of you who love to sing but haven't tried us out yet, please know that you are welcome to be a part of this wonderful group of singers. We work hard, but we laugh too, so honestly, what better way of experiencing fellowship is there than being in the choir?? Some of you may be a bit hesitant thinking that it is an every-Sunday commitment. Actually, choir folks have lives too, so people come as much as they are able. We are happy to have you join us when you are available.....even if that means one week a year!!! Please give it serious consideration!!! You do not have to be a "reader" but being able to "carry a tune" is helpful!

AND, it is my intention this year to make it through Labor Day weekend with no broken bones!! Here, here!!

 **CHURCH LIFE**

BICENTENNIAL COMMITTEE

UPCOMING BICENTENNIAL EVENTS

September 24-25 Weekend Festival (organized by the Abells, Holly Kennedy, Dart Everett, and Judy Palmer)

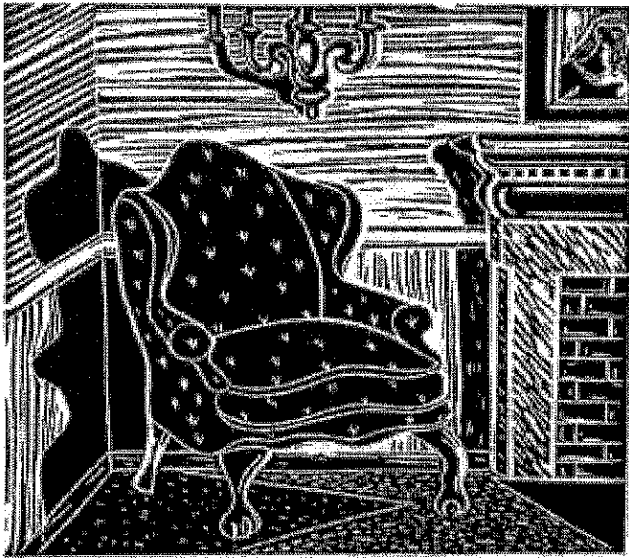
Saturday 7-9pm - Community Contra Dance for all ages (no experience needed), with caller Andy Davis, and refreshments in Memorial Hall

Sunday Kurn Hattin chorus in church followed by Lawn Barbecue & games (Memorial Hall in bad weather)

October 6 (Thurs) 7:30 pm - Bread & Puppet Theater performance in sanctuary

October 15 (Sat) Spaghetti Supper & Quilt Auction in Memorial Hall (organized by the Abells, McCartys, Harrimans, Dart Everett, and Anne Doesburg)

October 23 (Sun) History-Based service, followed by potluck luncheon and Glen Andres talk on church Architecture (organized by Jack Bixby, Connie Bresnahan, and Judy Palmer)



PASTORAL SEARCH COMMITTEE

With our 7th meeting on the books, we continue to work with our UCC State Conference. They are supporting us during the developing of our church profile. They are a great group to work with! Bert let us know our national conference is currently working on updating the UCC Church Profile. We are working to find out what that means for us. Our current survey is 24 pages, yes that's 24 pages! May you all could say a prayer that it might be a bit more condensed....please! :-)

Our last meeting we talked about doing a Community Survey! We discussed who we ask to fill it out, when we would do this, and what we will ask them! Currently we plan to share this with our congregation. More to come on this survey.

Speaking of survey, our next few meetings will be dedicated to developing our Church Survey. We are discussing the different formats to deliver this survey. I am pushing for a pot luck! I love these get togethers with you all!

We also want to send a BIG THANK YOU out to Bruce Landenberger, Rev Bert Marshall, Peter & Marion Abell and Bill McCarty! You all have been very generous with your time and skills supporting our Church work. Opps! I almost forgot to thank our families. We have missed many dinners and family time to be part of this very special group. The bonds that we are building will last our lifetime. We have been blessed. Please continue to keep us in your prayers.

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

BOARD FOR CHRISTIAN EDUCATION

Christian Education is looking forward to the Fall and the return of Faith in Action for our children. This was a popular program last year with the youth taking part in putting their beliefs into action through various volunteer activities during the service time. We are still looking for volunteers who would like to help out with the program for some Sundays this Fall. Faith In Action will kick off with an Ice Cream Social registration on **September 11** following the service, and with regular programing beginning on **September 18**. The nursery care program will continue as usual for our youngest attenders every Sunday.

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.

Fourth Monday of each Month, 7:00-8:30PM

BEGINNING SEPTEMBER 18...

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.



BOARD FOR MEMBER CARE

New Coffee Hour Schedule

Printed below is the 2016-2017 schedule for hosting Fellowship Time (a.k.a.Coffee Hour).

Making this list is a task we on Member Care do every year. It is challenging as we try to spread the responsibility over the several committees and boards of our church. Those who read the list know they are on a couple of committees and so might be asked twice in a year to host the coffee hour.

There are two committees that are listed here that are new to the calendar; 1) the Fundraising committee and 2) the Bicentennial committee. The Bicentennial committee is scheduled for September. That has been the month that C.E. has had for years. The members of that board are so few that we are calling for help from a larger group. The C.E.Board will still host the annual Ice Cream Social on Sunday September 11th. The schedule will be posted on the bulletin board in the parlor where the sign up for flowers is posted also. There is another sign up sheet for treating for coffee. If you would like to buy a pound of Fair Trade Coffee we use for church events sign up there. It is \$7.00 a pound. When you write out your check please be sure to note that this is for Coffee.

Thanks to all who served up lemonade, iced tea and simple snacks these past hot summer Sundays

September ¹	Bicentennial Committee	March	Council
October	Deacons	April	Pastoral Relations / Peace & Justice
November	Pastoral Search Committee	May	Fundraising Committee
December	Mission & Service	June ²	Building & Grounds
January	Choir	July ³	Member Care
February	Finance and Endowment Committees	August ³	Member Care

1. Except for C.E. Ice Cream Sunday
2. First and Third Sundays only
3. Lemonade on the Lawn

How to Host Coffee Hour

Coffee Hour has been a Sunday morning tradition here at Centre Church for many years. Those who have done it in the past know how to go about it. One of the newer members said they would be willing to host this, but did not have a clue as to how to do it. So, we'll write some simple guidelines here. This is not to say that it is a simple job. Two or better, three people are needed to set up serve and clean up.

In the kitchenette you will find Fair trade Coffee Tea, sugar, and sweeteners.

You will need to bring 2 quarts of juice for the children's table, 1 quart of homogenized milk or coffee cream. Providing snacks is optional: some people bring cookies crackers, and cheese.

Plan to set up before church. The coffee urn takes about 1 hour to percolate. The proportions of coffee needed are posted inside the white wooden cabinet on the wall. You can prepare tea early as it will stay hot in the thermal pitchers. Use 3 tea bags for each pitcher.

Juice for the children can be set up on a separate card table usually close to the piano. There is an underpad to protect the parlor table in the large drawer with the other table cloths.

Those who have done this find that it can be fun, and a time to socialize. Your willingness to host is much appreciated as you provide a time for fellowship for many.

-Marion Daley, *Member Care Board Chair*



WOMEN'S SPIRIT...



The Thursday afternoon (4:30) group continues the reading and study of *ZEALOT*, by Reza Aslan. It's a book that stimulates discussion and the group welcomes many viewpoints and opinions and have come to a more in depth understanding of who Jesus was. The group is two thirds through the written pages and are open to any ideas of new or old books to take up next. **Everyone is welcome!**

FUNDRAISING COMMITTEE

REMINDER! Due to last year's great success, The Fundraising Team is sponsoring a **WELCOME CENTER COFFEE BREAK** again this summer. This event will not require a lot of heavy lifting, coordination of food and supplies, set up, clean up, or working the crowds.

We ask you to send a donation to Centre Church, equal to what you would donate if we held this event at the Welcome Center. Please make your check payable to *Centre Church*, and put *Welcome Center Event* on the memo line of the check. What is all of this worth to you?

Last year we raised \$2,100 from this new approach. This year we believe that, with the help of our members and friends, we can do even better.

The Fundraising Team is grateful for your donations!

PEACE & JUSTICE COMMITTEE

Everyone is invited to the
MOMENT for PEACE

Friday, September 2, 5:30-6:00PM,
Centre Church Parlor

This month Elizabeth Pittman will lead the meditation honoring The International Day of Peace coming up Wednesday, Sept. 21. We'll begin with a Peace & Healing Qigong from Guatemala and close with a Shinto Peace Mudra from Japan. In between we'll share readings on pilgrimage, whether far afield, deep within, or both. After serving nearly 19 years as Brattleboro Area Hospice Bereavement Care Coordinator, Elizabeth now teaches Tai Ji in Putney, Marlboro and Brattleboro.

BROWN BAG LUNCH GROUP

Next meeting is coming up quickly on Wednesday, **September 7**. Come to chat with your friends for an hour and be surprised at what some of them will contribute to your noon hour munching. Everyone is welcome at 12:00 in the church parlor (probably). Lemonade and ice water will be provided.

**IF YOU WANT
SOMETHING YOU'VE
NEVER HAD,
THEN YOU'VE
GOT TO DO
SOMETHING YOU'VE
NEVER DONE.**

BRATTLEBORO CENTRE FOR CHILDREN

With the start of the traditional school year, we said farewell to 5 students who went off to Kindergarten this year! We also have children moving into new classrooms, some new teachers who started with us in the summer and some new children and families who have joined our community. We are ever grateful to the Centre Church members for your ongoing generosity in helping us by being on our Board of Directors (Lynn Herzog, Jim Bedard, Bob Neubauer, Becky Day, and James Cera), bringing quilts to our new infants (Gisela Robeck and the Quilting Ministry group), donating supplies when we need them (Tom and Meg Harriman and others) and of course sharing spaces indoors and out.

We are looking forward to eating tomatoes and squash from our own garden in the back, adjacent to the church's well-kept one. You may notice that our sunflowers have grown to incredible heights this year! They remind us of the flower in the wonderful Eric Carle book, "The Tiny Seed".

We have a facebook page and if you want to see what we are up to, please "like" our page. Find us at Brattleboro Centre for Children, Inc. Thanks!

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 August 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

Many thanks to all who have sent cards, called, and lent their support to Milt and myself. We are very grateful. Please extend my gratitude to members through Centre Bells.

Sincerely, Sylvia Eaton

ORDER *This Jewel on Main Street*

The history of Centre Congregational Church published for our bicentennial year, is available for sale every Sunday during coffee hour. For those who do not intend to be in the area and wish to buy a copy of this remarkable book, you may purchase it by sending a check for \$20.00 to cover the book and shipping, made out to Centre Church. Please send your orders to:

Marion Daley
PO Box 445
Putney VT 05346

Dot Vander Meulen will be happy to autograph the book before they are packed and mailed to you

Dear Centre Church Members and Friends,
As this will be my last issue of Centre Bells, I wanted to take the opportunity to thank you all for your friendship, support, and collaborative spirit during my time here with you.. It has been challenging, refreshing, fun, and always interesting working with all of you.

My best wishes for Centre Church's continued and future programs, personnel, and spiritual growth!

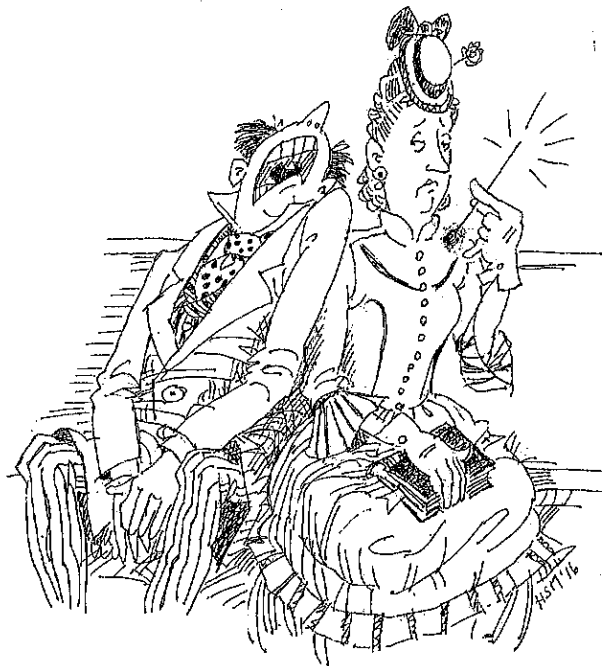
With Much Love,

Bruce

And now, a (pointed) word from the Pastor:

An attentive congregation is a wonderful incentive to a preacher. Learn to be good listeners, and you will help the messenger greatly. Don't go to sleep, if you are not interested in the sermon; rather keep yourself awake by goading yourself with a pin. And if you do go to sleep, don't snore, or you may awake your next neighbor.

(from "The Household of Faith", a news sheet published in Bradford, VT, September, 1882)



SEPTEMBER 2016

*Holy Communion
celebrated

SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY
				1 1 ³⁰ Quilting Ministry 4 ³⁰ Women's Spirit	2 11 ³⁰ Loaves & Fishes 5 ³⁰ Moment for Peace 7 ³⁰ AA Meeting	3
4 9 ⁰⁰ Book Study 10 ⁰⁰ Worship* 10 ⁰⁰ AA Meeting 4 ³⁰ McDougle-Washburn Wedding 6 ⁰⁰ AA Meeting	5 <u>Labor Day—Closed</u>	6 11 ³⁰ Loaves & Fishes 5 ³⁰ Search 7 ³⁰ AA Meeting	7 12 ⁰⁰ Brown Bag Lunch	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 10 ⁰⁰ AA Meeting 11 ³⁰ Ice Cream Social 6 ⁰⁰ AA Meeting	12 4 ³⁰ Prayer Shawl 7 ³⁰ AA District 8	13 11 ³⁰ Loaves & Fishes 6 ⁰⁰ Meeting Night 7 ³⁰ AA Meeting	14	15 1 ³⁰ Quilting Ministry 4 ³⁰ Women's Spirit 7 ⁰⁰ Choir Rehearsal	16 <u>Centre Bells Deadline</u> 11 ³⁰ Loaves & Fishes 7 ³⁰ AA Meeting	17 6 ⁰⁰ Joanna Macy Lecture
18 9 ⁰⁰ Book Study/ Sunday School 10 ⁰⁰ Worship / FiA 10 ⁰⁰ AA Meeting 6 ⁰⁰ AA Meeting	19 4 ³⁰ Prayer Shawl	20 11 ³⁰ Loaves & Fishes 6 ⁰⁰ Church Council 7 ³⁰ AA Meeting	21 12 ⁰⁰ BALL	22 1 ³⁰ Quilting Ministry 4 ³⁰ Women's Spirit 7 ⁰⁰ Choir Rehearsal	23 11 ³⁰ Loaves & Fishes 7 ³⁰ AA Meeting	24 7 ⁰⁰ Contra Dance
25 9 ⁰⁰ Book Study/ Sunday School 10 ⁰⁰ Worship / FiA 10 ⁰⁰ AA Meeting 11 ³⁰ Picnic/Games 6 ⁰⁰ AA Meeting	26 4 ³⁰ Prayer Shawl 7 ⁰⁰ Spiritual Conversations	27 11 ³⁰ Loaves & Fishes 7 ³⁰ AA Meeting	28 <u>Mail Centre Bells</u> 8 ⁰⁰ -AAUW Book Sale	29 8 ⁰⁰ -AAUW Book Sale 1 ³⁰ Quilting Ministry 4 ³⁰ Women's Spirit 7 ⁰⁰ Choir Rehearsal	30 8 ⁰⁰ -AAUW Book Sale 11 ³⁰ Loaves & Fishes 7 ³⁰ AA Meeting	

BIRTHDAYS

- 1 Betty Igleheart
- 4 Gary Carrier
- 6 Mary Robertson
- 9 Lillian Griffin
- 10 Margaret Johnson
Jim Bedard
- 13 Gary Smith
- 18 Gisela Robeck
- 23 Joy Everett
- 25 Marlene Jameson
- 29 Rebecca Day
- 30 Richard Nelson

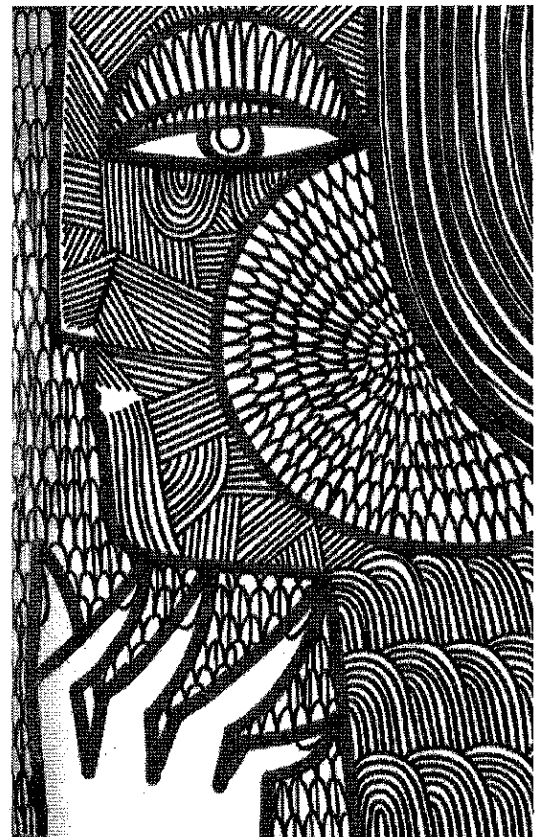
ANNIVERSARIES

- 4 Rob & Sue Rowell
Lisa & Matt Vose
- 5 Adelaide & Addison Minott
- 18 Dawn & Ron Pollard
- 19 Richard Nelson & Pat Verboom

*I slept and dreamt that life was joy.
I awoke and saw that life was service.
I acted and behold, service was joy.*

-Rabindranath Tagore

[submitted by Allen & Judy Myrick]





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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