

INTERIM MINISTER'S COLUMN: Rev. Bert Marshall

Road Trip



One Saturday, maybe 15 years ago or so, I remember the phone system at our house in Plainfield was knocked out during a severe thunderstorm while we were at Tanglewood for a live broadcast of Garrison Keillor's *A Prairie Home Companion*. We weren't able to report the trouble until Sunday, and our phone service was finally restored on the Fourth of July. Meanwhile, our son Eli was trying to call and couldn't get through (this was before cell phones). He finally called one of his friends who lived down the street, and the friend drove up to relay the message. I rode over to his house with him and managed to connect with our son. As I rode home with our young friend, he remarked that he and another friend were planning a road trip in August. "Where ya going?", I asked. "Nebraska," he replied.

"Nebraska? Seriously? You guys have family or friends out there?"

"No. We just wanted to take a trip and we got out the road atlas and picked Nebraska because it's about half way across the country and we've never been there before."

"I was born and raised in Nebraska, you know."

"Oh? Oh yeah, I think I knew that."

I could barely contain my excitement, not to mention my urge to become their personal travel consultant.

"Well," I said, "I could give you a list of places to see and visit."

"That'd be great," he said, with somewhat less enthusiasm than I'd hoped for.

"Yeah, like for example, there's a great blues bar in Lincoln. Right downtown. They get all the big name performers. They're on the big-time circuit, you know. It's called the *Zoo Bar*. I used to have a T-shirt."

It occurred to me almost immediately that this may not have been the best possible destination to recommend to two young guys just out of high school. Especially coming from a responsible adult member of the clergy.

"Sounds great!" he replied, with far more enthusiasm than I'd hoped for.

"Yeah," I said, "but, you know, there's also Triple-A baseball in Omaha. And there's a couple of fantastic Platte River parks. The state capitol building in Lincoln is pretty cool; museums and stuff. The plains are beautiful. I'll work up a list."

"OK. That'd be good. So, how long does it take to drive out there?"

"Oh, heck, I used to drive it straight through in just a little over 24 hours," I said, trying to cut myself off in mid-sentence.

It occurred to me almost immediately that this may not have been the best possible information to share with these two young guys embarking on their first cross-country trip.

"But now I take *two days* to make the trip," I quickly continued. "Stay in a motel on the way. You can make it to western Ohio, or maybe even eastern Indiana, in a full day's driving if you keep at it. Consolidate your stops. Yeah. Two days is definitely best. Construction slows you up nowadays, too."

He pulled to a stop in our driveway.

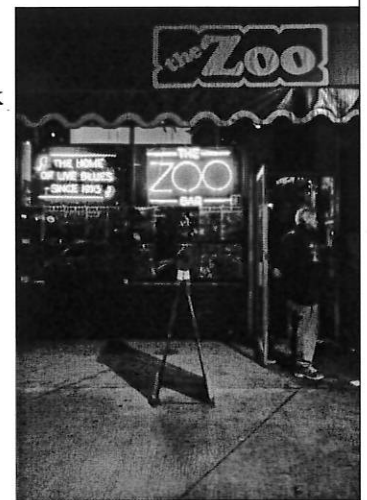
"Thanks for letting me use your phone," I said. "I'll make up a list of stuff you guys can do while you're in Nebraska."

"OK. Great," he replied. "Where's that blues club again?"

"Uh, it's downtown. Downtown Lincoln. Ask anybody. They'll tell you. I'll make you a list of things to check out while you're out there. Parks. Museums. Points of interest, you know."

"Cool." And off into the night he drove.

Sometimes you've just got to get out the road atlas, pick out a spot, and go for it. I don't know how many trips I've planned



(Road Trip, cont.) by similar means. Churches need to do this, too, and this is my point. Open up the theological road atlas, unfold the map, select a destination, and head out: you share the expenses and the driving; you keep each other awake and alert. Set some goals for yourselves. Have some adventures trying to reach them. You are people on a journey. You *need* to be out there.

Every congregational study and survey I've seen, every article and book on church vitality and growth I've read, every colleague I've talked to over the last 20 years – they all overwhelmingly agree: in order to survive and thrive in the 21st Century, churches have to be willing to try some new things, work on some new ideas, be open to change, stop doing the things that don't work. Invite the Holy Spirit into your deliberations. Listen for the voice of God. Make worship a priority. Think creatively about mission and ministry. Recommit to outreach and service. Read the Gospels. Get *everyone* into the conversation. Pray without ceasing. Keep the faith.

Grace & Peace,



July 7th, Summer Salad Supper:

A Huge Success!

The **Fundraising Committee** would like to thank the 65 Church people who contributed to the July 7th supper! Your contributions and the friends who came and ate the wonderful meal made it possible to raise \$800.00 for the church. It was a great idea from Mission and Service to also set up on the front lawn. Many ate outside and enjoyed the new venue.

Mission and Service is organizing another supper on **August 4th**. We hope you come and enjoy a night with friends, good food, and a yummy dessert. For additional details, please contact Priscilla Svec at: psvec48@yahoo.com.

By working together we stay strong.

Thanks again, **The Fundraising Committee**

CENTRE BELLS

The Newsletter of
**Centre Congregational Church,
United Church of Christ**
August 2017

From Council Chair, MATT KENNEDY

You can tell we're well into summer, not just by the temperatures, but also by the fact that we don't always see all the familiar faces at Sunday morning worship. People are taking time with their families, or maybe just getting caught up with projects around the house. I know that my summer has been busy too, and I haven't made it to Sunday morning worship as often as usual.

Fewer people at Worship usually correlates to decreased pledge giving during the summer, which can put a bit of a financial squeeze on the church. One way we can help lessen the impact of the summer slump is to sign up for E-giving. With E-Giving you can have your pledge automatically sent to the Centre on a weekly or monthly basis. This eliminates needing to have to worry about remembering your offering each week, or having to figure out how much you need to "catch up" if you miss a Sunday or two. Plus, if you've already got E-Giving set up and you find yourself with a little extra in your pocket one week you can donate that towards your Pledge Plus.

Setting up E-Giving is easy. Just go to Centre Church's home page (www.centrechurchvt.org), click on the "Online Donations" link in the menu at the top, then click on "Click Here!" and follow the directions. Holly and I set up our E-giving last year, and it's so nice not to have to remember to grab an envelope or money as we're hurrying out the door on a Sunday morning. I encourage you to check it out and sign up.



August rain: the best of the summer gone, and the new fall not yet born. The odd uneven time."

—Sylvia Plath, *The Unabridged Journals of Sylvia Plath*

BOARD FOR MISSION & SERVICE



BRATTLEBORO SENIOR MEALS

The August **Second Sunday Offering** is Brattleboro Senior Meals, which encompasses the lunches served at the Senior Center and Meals On Wheels delivered to seniors at home. Affordable nutritious meals are a very important service to the seniors in our community, especially those on limited incomes.

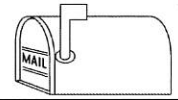
Federal and State funding for such services has decreased recently, leading to even more need for community support.

"Hot meals are offered every day (Monday-Friday) 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. During special programs, times and fees are subject to change. Reservations are appreciated. Some special programs require reservations. Weekend meals can be arranged for take home on Fridays with the Executive Director or Head Cook. You must sign up before Wednesday. In addition, Brattleboro Senior Meals currently runs a breakfast program twice a week on Tuesdays and Fridays at 7:45 a.m."

"Meals on Wheels is a program that is designed to help people over 60 who face challenges in preparing healthy 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."



New Contact Information



Anne Doesburg has a new home phone number:

802-490-2075

* * * * *

Gary Carrier's new mailing address:

10 Harding Road
Gorham, ME 04038-2047

* * * * *

Best email address for **Mary Milkey-May**:

marymm55@aol.com

"The crickets felt it was their duty to warn everybody that summertime cannot last for ever. Even on the most beautiful days in the whole year – the days when summer is changing into autumn – the crickets spread the rumor of sadness and change." —E.B. White, *Charlotte's Web*

August Lectionary Texts:

6 Gen 32:22-31•Ps 17:1-7, 15 or Isa 55:1-5 • Ps 145:8-9,14-21•Rom 9:1-5•Matt 14:13-21

13 Gen 37:1-4, 12-28•Ps 105: 1-6, 16-22, 45b or 1 Kings 19:9-18 •Ps 85:8-13•Rom 10:5-15•Matt 14:22-33

20 Gen 45:1-15•Ps 133 or Isa 56:1, 6-8•Ps 67•Rom 11:1-2a, 29-32•Matt 15:(10-20), 21-28

27 Ex 1:8-2:10•Ps 124 or Isa 51:1-6•Ps 138•Rom 12:1-8•Matt 16:13-20

From Music Director, MARYMILKEY-MAY

Music Notes

It's getting to be that time in summer when I begin thinking about choir starting up again! We have been very fortunate to have several choir folks along with Bert who have willingly filled the "anthem" slots with solos this summer as the choir enjoys a well needed break. As usual, we will begin again in September with our first rehearsal on SEPTEMBER 7. The choir will be ready to sing on SEPTEMBER 10 (she says optimistically!!) Please join us this year!! We always can use more singers!

There is an opportunity for folks to participate in a "pick-up" choir on **August 27th** when the union service happens at Centre Church. If you would like to join us, we will rehearse at 9:00 AM that morning. We are hoping folks from the other churches will join us as well.

I will include a list of the summer anthem volunteers in the next newsletter when I can officially thank them at the same time.

By the way, the best way to get in touch with me via email is at marymm55@aol.com. I didn't realize people were using my centrechurch account, which I don't always check, and missed some emails.

I hope everyone is having a wonderful summer!

Estey Organ Museum
Reed Organ "Re-Homing" Event
August 5 • 2-4 p.m.



Our Warehouse is overflowing with reed organs—beautifully constructed instruments that graced Victorian, late 19th century, and early 20th century parlors and chapels. Many of these instruments are duplicates of items in our permanent collection and are in need of re-homing. They range in condition from just dusty to requiring complete rebuilding.

We are offering these instruments to the public for restoration or repurposing. Also available are parts for reed organs, pipe organs, and early electronic organs. For more information: info@esteyorganmuseum.org.

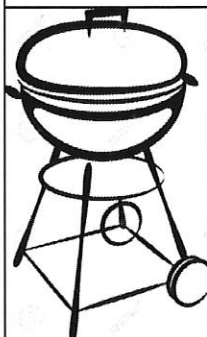


...
After days of labor,
mute in my consternations,
I hear my song at last,
and I sing it. As we sing,
the day turns, the trees move.

"I Go Among Trees," Wendell Berry

Barbecue on the lawn!

Following the great success of the July 7 Friday Gallery Walk Night supper, we will be having a repeat performance on **Friday, August 4**. Mission and Service is taking on the task this time



to help Fundraising. We will once again have tents and tables on the lawn, and this time passers-by will be tantalized by the smells of delicious food being grilled! Stay tuned for opportunities to sign up to contribute food and work!

The Centre Church Fundraising Committee
Announces Its ANNUAL ALTERNATIVE
WELCOME CENTER EVENT:

Dear Friends, Since we were not awarded an actual date for the Welcome Center, we are asking for monetary donations equal to or greater than the food or time you would have donated to this Church wide event. Checks or cash can be sent to the church, or put in with the weekly offering. However . . . please mark them for the Welcome Center Event. Thank you for supporting this alternative to being at the Welcome Center. The Church is counting on your donations for this important fundraiser. Thank you!



CHURCH LIFE

Everyone is invited to the
MOMENT for PEACE
Friday, August 4 • 5:30-6:00PM
Centre Church Parlor

The Moment for Peace this month will have "two of Haydn's variation movements with silence between for meditation and any response to the music, whose power we celebrate," played by Gudrun Weeks and Karen Engdahl, violins; Brian Cohen, viola; and Miranda Bohl, cello.

Gudrun's husband, Sheldon, brought her to Vermont 60 years ago for a job at Putney School work camp as music counselor. Gudrun was part of the earliest beginnings of the Brattleboro Music School with Cathy Stockman. Sheldon and Gudrun are Quakers who spent a big part of their lives in Botswana and Papua New Guinea, so string quartets were sorely missed during those 35 years and it is wonderful to have a regular group coming to the house every week now.

WOMEN'S SPIRIT . . .

Women's Spirit continues to meet each Thursday at 4:30 in the church library; we are in the midst of learning about the most politically strong religions in the world through the sharing of reading and discussing **GOD IS NOT ONE** by Stephen Prothero. You do not need to own the book to take part.



ORDER *This Jewel on Main Street*

The history of Centre Congregational Church, published for our bicentennial year, is still available for purchase from the office or during coffee hour following Sunday services.

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 made out to Centre Church. This covers the \$15.00 book and shipping. Please send your orders to:

Marion Daley
PO Box 445
Putney VT 05346

Dot Vander Meulen will be happy to autograph the book before it is packed and mailed to you.

SUMMER UNION SERVICES at our BRATTLEBORO AREA CHURCHES

August 27 - 10:00 a.m.

Centre Congregational Church

A reminder to all that worship for all four UCC congregations takes place at the host church! And in August, that's us! If you would like to sing in the choir that morning, please come at 9:00 a.m. to rehearse; more details to come.



From First Congregational Church in West Brattleboro following the Union Service on June 25:

"Greetings to Centre Church: June 25th was Pride Sunday at First Congregational Church. The Local Mission money, which was collected for Green Mountain Crossroads, totaled \$799. It was a joy to share and worship with the larger community."

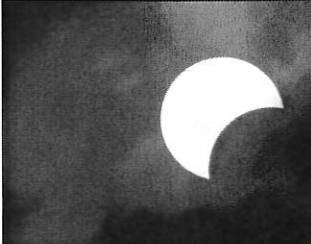
~Peace and Blessings, Carol Eddy, Financial Secretary

Brown Bag Lunch Group

This group continues to meet the first Wednesday of the month (**August 2**) at noon to share conversation and lemonade to accompany the item you bring for your lunch. We were delighted to have Hilary Farquhar join us last month and are looking forward to seeing any of the great people who show up. All are welcome.



AUGUST 21, 2017



"But in those days . . . the sun will be darkened, and the moon will withhold her light, and the stars will be falling from the heavens, and the powers in the heavens will be shaken . . . [Mark 13:24-25]"

El Salvador Trip

October 28-November 5



Travelers wanted for an El Salvador trip that will be a combination of medical, house-building, sister parish and educational tourism.

Contact **Jenifer Ambler** (email: amblerj@sover.net) for more information; plane tickets need to be purchased soon. Estimated expenses: \$1,500-\$1,600 per person.

BOARD FOR MEMBER CARE

This and That

On a beautiful mid-July Sunday afternoon, many Centre Church folks and friends drove the beautiful scenic ride to picnic at Bert and Kare Marshall's homestead in Plainfield, Massachusetts. Riding along I commented to my husband that this was almost as pretty as Vermont!

Their yard was spacious and people were able to gather in the shaded areas for talking and eating.

Some sat on the porch or the deck. Some stayed in the historic house. Bert grilled up the hot dogs and hamburgers. Kare and Steve Fecto were busy carrying them up to the kitchen. The indoor tables were covered with delicious salads and desserts. "Chilly bins" were around filled with cold beverages and ice.



Judi Miller has been the chief (only) designer of the large bulletin board in the main hall for more years than we can remember. Sometimes she is away and help was needed to keep the news up to date. Heidi Mario volunteered to do just that,— so now Judi has help with that big bulletin board. She keeps it seasonal.

Drivers are needed. Several members have need of a ride, some on a weekly basis. We do have a couple of women who are doing that, but help is needed. Is this something you can do?

Not everyone has Facebook. Gisela Robeck keeps many members informed with a picture letter that goes out in the USPS mail to some and by email to those who have computers. We appreciate her doing this on a regular basis."

In August we continue to serve lemonade, cold drinks and light refreshments for Fellowship Hour. The last Sunday in August is our turn to host the other three churches. We look forward to a larger group for Fellowship Time that Sunday.

~Marion Daley for Member Care

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 26.

DON WEBSTER

50 Highlawn Road
Brattleboro, VT 05301 257-1434

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

KAREN GETTY PETER

Langdon Place, 136 Arch Street, Room 152
Keene, NH 03431 (603)357-3902

Please let Hilary know if we've missed someone.

Haley Marcil to Visit El Salvador

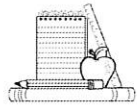
Centre Church member **Haley Marcil** will be traveling to El Salvador in August with a group from Bethany UCC in Montpelier, visiting our Sister Parish of Cristo Redentor as well as Bethany's Sister Parish. They will also be joining groups from all over to celebrate the 100th birthday of Archbishop Oscar Romero, whose assassination on March 24, 1980, while saying Mass after having spoken out against the ongoing war, galvanized protests in El Salvador and raised global awareness of human rights violations in El Salvador's brutal war. We



will be sending greetings from our church to Pastor Francisco Aguilar and the members of Cristo Redentor.

AUGUST 2017

*Holy Communion celebrated

		1 11 ³⁰ Loaves & Fishes 5 ³⁰ Search Committee 7 ³⁰ AA Meeting	2 12 ⁰⁰ Brown Bag Lunch	3 1 ³⁰ Quilting Ministry 4 ³⁰ Women's Spirit	4 11 ³⁰ Loaves & Fishes 5 ³⁰ Moment for Peace 6 ⁰⁰ BBQ on the Lawn 7 ³⁰ AA Meeting	5
6 9 ⁰⁰ Book Study 10 ⁰⁰ Worship* 10 ⁰⁰ AA Meeting 6 ⁰⁰ AA Meeting	7 4 ³⁰ Prayer Shawl	8 11 ³⁰ Loaves & Fishes 5 ³⁰ Search Committee 6 ⁰⁰ Meeting Night 7 ³⁰ AA Meeting	9	10 1 ³⁰ Quilting Ministry 4 ³⁰ Women's Spirit	11 12 ³⁰ Centre Bells deadline 11 ³⁰ Loaves & Fishes 7 ³⁰ AA Meeting	12
13 9 ⁰⁰ Book Study 10 ⁰⁰ Worship/FIA 10 ⁰⁰ AA Meeting 6 ⁰⁰ AA Meeting	14 4 ³⁰ Prayer Shawl 7 ³⁰ AA District 8	15 11 ³⁰ Loaves & Fishes 5 ³⁰ Search Committee 7 ³⁰ AA Meeting	16 12 ³⁰ BALL	17 1 ³⁰ Quilting Ministry 4 ³⁰ Women's Spirit	18 11 ³⁰ Loaves & Fishes 7 ³⁰ AA Meeting	19
20 9 ⁰⁰ Book Study 10 ⁰⁰ Worship/FIA 10 ⁰⁰ AA Meeting 6 ⁰⁰ AA Meeting	21 4 ³⁰ Prayer Shawl	22 11 ³⁰ Loaves & Fishes 5 ³⁰ Search Committee 6 ⁰⁰ Church Council 7 ³⁰ AA Meeting	23 Centre Bells mailed	24 1 ³⁰ Quilting Ministry 4 ³⁰ Women's Spirit	25 11 ³⁰ Loaves & Fishes 7 ³⁰ AA Meeting	26
27 9 ⁰⁰ Book Study 9 ⁰⁰ Choir Rehearsal 10 ⁰⁰ Worship/FIA Summer Union Service 10 ⁰⁰ AA Meeting 6 ⁰⁰ AA Meeting	28 4 ³⁰ Prayer Shawl 7 ⁰⁰ Spiritual Conversations	29 11 ³⁰ Loaves & Fishes 5 ³⁰ Search Committee 7 ³⁰ AA Meeting	30	31 1 ³⁰ Quilting Ministry 4 ³⁰ Women's Spirit		

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

And every August Marcy was glad she added "help set up my classroom during back to school season" to the wedding vows.



someecards

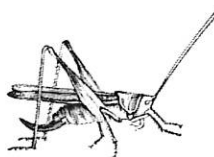
The Fundraising Committee is taking a break in August; its next meeting is **Wednesday, September 13, at 3:30 p.m.**

Happy road trip!



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



Centre Bells

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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 administrative assistant at: 802-254-4730/
centrechurch@centrechurchvt.org



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

Interim Minister
Music Director
Administrative Assistant
Sextons
Financial Secretary

Rev. Bert Marshall: revbert@centrechurchvt.org
Mary Milkey-May: music@centrechurchvt.org
Hilary Farquhar: hilary@centrechurchvt.org
Gary and Paul Smith
Christine Yost: finance@centrechurchvt.org

Council Chair
Treasurer / Clerk

Matt Kennedy
Holly Kennedy / Constance Bresnahan



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