

**CENTRE CONGREGATIONAL CHURCH
UNITED CHURCH OF CHRIST**

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

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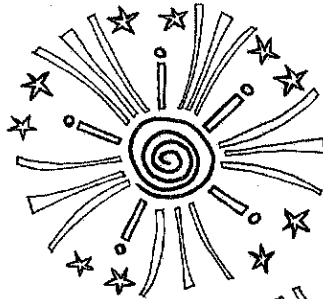
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BRATTLEBORO, VT 05301

JULY



2016

CENTRE CONGREGATIONAL CHURCH, UNITED CHURCH OF CHRIST
193 Main Street, Brattleboro, VT 05301
Celebrating 200 years in the heart of Brattleboro!

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.vtucc.org / National: www.ucc.org

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

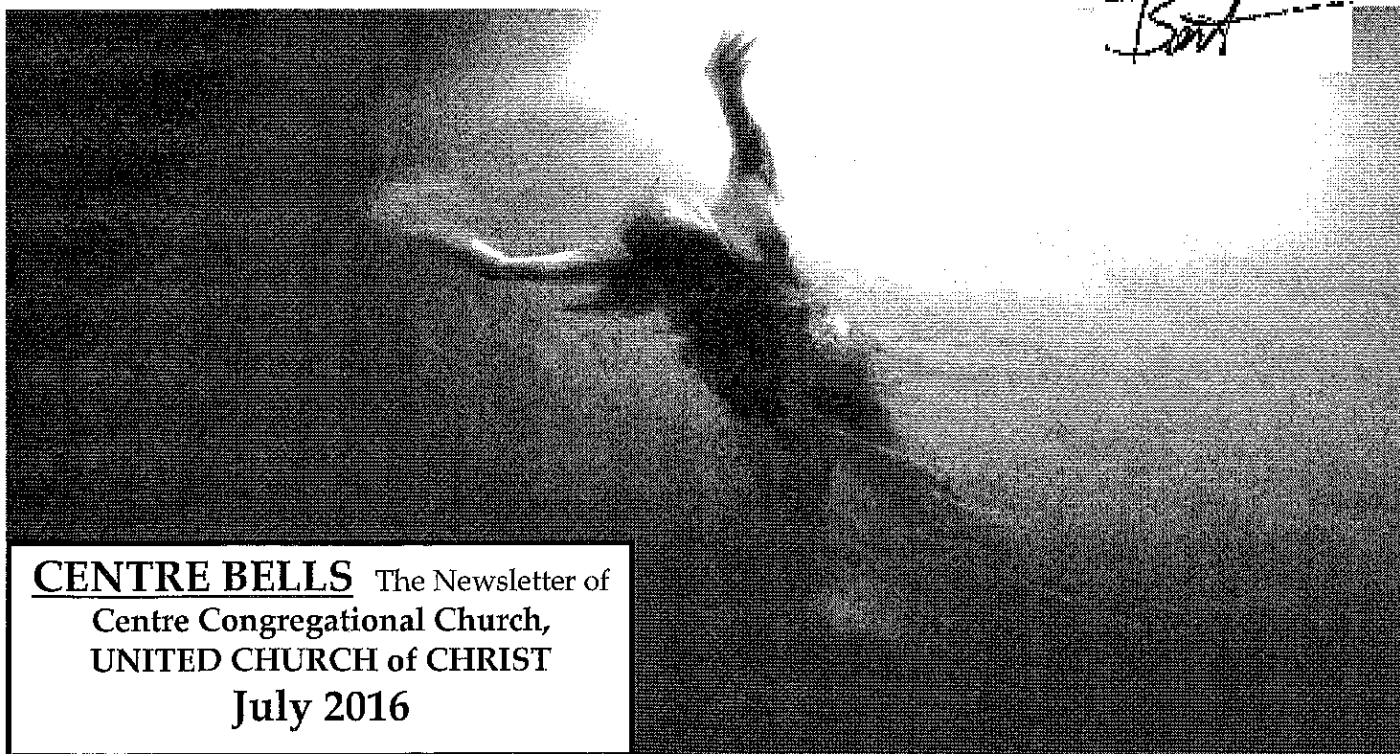
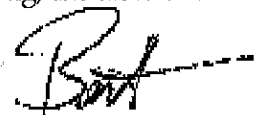
INTERIM MINISTER'S COLUMN, Rev. Bert Marshall

Galilean Dreamin'

Is it OK to wonder – now that the solstice is here, with summer dreams drifting in through open midnight windows, kayaks gliding across sparkling ponds, cyclists barreling over green hills and through lush valleys, the days of warmth and heavenly bliss overflowing with barbecue and baseball – I mean, is it OK to imagine, as we turn to long-awaited novels, camping trips, walks in the woods, short-sleeves, sandals, sunscreen and insect repellent – that is, are we allowed just this once perhaps to picture a sly twinkle in the eye of one Jesus of Nazareth as he and his companions make their way to a secret cove on the Galilean Sea where, after another long hot dusty day of walking around teaching and healing, they strip down to their skivvies (or less) and, laughing wildly, plunge into the splashing cool waters of salvation – another day's sacrament of survival and celebration, a welcome and needed cleansing from the day's danger and disappointment?

How unfortunate that the New Testament Gospels are essentially humorless, devoid of mirth, largely lacking in playfulness and laughter. Even more unfortunate that most interpreters of our sacred stories down through the centuries have been equally lacking in those areas – opting instead for a stiff hermeneutic of stifling seriousness, harsh judgments, and assurances of grave consequences for doubters and scoffers. And this in spite of the fact that there are stories in the Gospels, and throughout scripture, that are humorous, playful, lighthearted. Some of them require just a little imagination in order to see it. Yes, there are many texts in scripture that are meant to be approached with the deepest reverence, read with a straight face, and pondered with a keen eye and with heart and mind tuned to receive the profound mysteries hidden within. But those texts do not convey the sum and total of a whole life lived in the noisy unpredictable mess we call the world. The Gospels are tightly focused on making assertions about who Jesus was in the cosmic scheme of things; they are not historical biographies of his life and times.

Must we conclude, then, that Jesus never experienced the lightness and lightheartedness of human life, the little ironies, the inside jokes, the unexpected delights, the fun-loving pranks among friends? Must we think of him as someone who never made a dumb mistake, never felt regret, never stood in need of forgiveness, never even mustered a sheepish grin – or worst of all, never had any fun? I don't think so. Go ahead. Picture it in your mind. Think of Jesus stroking through the chilly moonlit waters. A certain Mary Magdalene is trying to catch up. He turns and splashes her in the face. She splashes him back. They laugh. They tumble together in the dark silver-tipped waves. Later, there will be time enough for the suffering, the weeping, the slow descent into death, the unfathomable rising. Right now, it's summertime and the livin' is easy.



CENTRE BELLS The Newsletter of
Centre Congregational Church,
UNITED CHURCH of CHRIST
July 2016

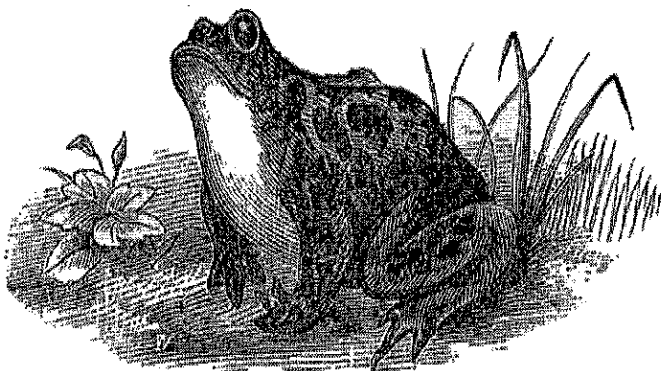
From Council Chair, MATT KENNEDY

Centre Church has been going through many transitions recently, and this month marks another one. As this year marks the end of Centre's first 200 years it also marks the end of Bill McCarty's tenure as council chair. I want to take a moment to thank Bill for all his hard work in leading us, and I especially want to acknowledge his efforts during the beginning of this time of pastoral leadership change. Thank you Bill!

Speaking of the search for our next settled minister, the process is well on its way. The Search Committee was recently installed during worship, they've met several times and elected Jim Bedard as its chair, and are in the process of establishing their plan for moving forward and for keeping the congregation informed of their progress. One of the tools that the Search Committee will be using to help guide them is the write up from the cottage meetings that were held over the winter, which is available to anyone.

Another exciting step forward is the ability to electronically donate to the church, more commonly known as "e-giving." We are in the process of setting up the program which will enable you to have your offering automatically deducted from your checking account. No more worrying about getting to church on a Sunday morning and realizing that you've forgotten to bring your offering because it will already have been taken care of automatically! With this program there will also be the ability for anyone to donate at any time through the church's web site.

So as you can see, while there is a lot of change happening at Centre Church; exciting changes that will help propel us into our next 200 years. Speaking of our Bicentennial, the Bicentennial Committee has several more celebratory events planned for later in the year, listed later in this issue.



CHURCH LIFE

PASTORAL SEARCH COMMITTEE

The Pastoral Search Committee has continued to meet regularly. We have started pulling information together for our Church Profile. Actually we have all taken a task or two that are the first steps to writing the profile. One of our major tasks is to develop a survey for our church family to take. This survey is to give us history of our church family and direction in our growth together. Thinking of our church, we are likely to have a pot luck one Sunday after church and ask our church family to fill out the survey as the activity of the pot luck. The committee will be there to ask questions of, support the process and break bread with you.

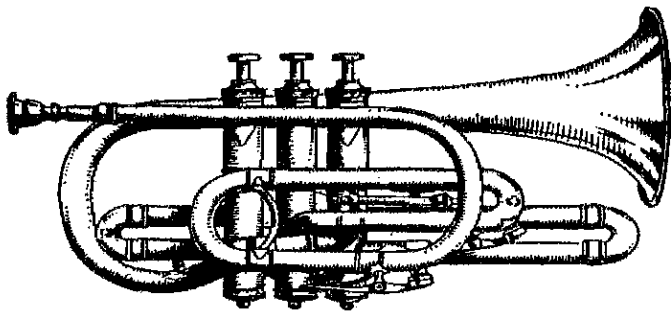
We all received copies of the Cottage Meeting write ups. Thank you Pastoral Relations Committee! The most current Church Profile finalized December 2007 has also been shared with our members for reference. They did an amazing job with this profile, a huge resource and reference for us to use. We also enjoyed all the pictures included in their report. We will also be using the report from our Sacred Places team. The Vermont Conference has supplied support and direction in this process at each step.

As you can see, the Church Profile that we are creating is a large task that we are taking very seriously. We are pulling information together from many areas of our active church. Having a Chaplain and back up Chaplains (to support vacations) has helped keep our work in faith, not just task. We are a group of our Church Family that is growing stronger together with each meeting. Please continue to pray for our Pastoral Search Committee and our work as you did when we were commissioned and affirmed in Church on Sunday, June 12th.

-Anne Fecto

BROWN BAG LUNCH GROUP

This group of persons will meet this month on **Wednesday, July 6**, at noon in the church parlor for an hour of conversation and sharing. Just pop that sandwich into a bag and come. Beverage will be provided. Last month Marion & Peter Abell shared the report with pictures that http://images.vectorhq.com/images/premium/thumbs/131/black-and-white-vector-illustration-of-a-lunch-bag_131368817.jpg Marion will be presenting to the Vermont churches involved with the Sacred Places experience. Great report, Marion. Something interesting will be ready for discussion and conversation at the next meeting. Come, relax and enjoy.



BICENTENNIAL COMMITTEE

BOARD FOR CHRISTIAN EDUCATION

As the church school year winds down, CE is looking forward to Youth Sunday, June 12. This is the day the Board will thank and recognize the many people who have contributed to a variety of CE programs this past year. The children will sing a song for the congregation and help us express our gratitude. This will be the last Sunday of Church School and Faith In Action. Programming will begin again in the fall, with the Ice Cream Social in September.

The children's message will continue to be provided throughout the summer whenever children are in the congregation. Nursery will also continue each Sunday following the children's message. It has been a full and fruitful year and the CE Board looks forward to the future. Nan Mann will be stepping down and the other board members, Abi Healey, Logan Lefebvre, and James Cera would appreciate your time and support for the future of Centre Congregational Church's Christian Education programs.

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.



WOMEN'S SPIRIT...

continues all summer to meet on **Thursdays at 4:30** in the library. The group is working on the reading and discussion of Reza Aslan's well researched book *ZEALOT, the life and times of Jesus of Nazareth*. Everyone is welcome to join the group at any time for a warm hour of sharing and study.

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*.

BOARD FOR MEMBER CARE

ALL CHURCH PICNIC 2016....

....and a Good Time Was Had by ALL

The All Church Picnic held at Living Memorial Park on Sunday June 12th ranked as our windiest picnic ever! The Member Care crew that set up, had as its chief challenge getting the plastic tablecloths to stay put. Rock gatherers tried those as weights to keep the plastic cloths from blowing away. Another item to add to our shopping list next year is table cloth clips.

Darrel Daley, Steve Fecto and James Cera were the grill masters this year. The Miller's toted cold drinks and ice for the beverages. Other members of the Board shopped and set up for the event. Once everyone arrived the food tables were laden with delicious salads and scrumptious desserts of great variety. Torin Kindopp made a count of 58 members in attendance. We were happy to see the familiar faces of Liz and George Patch, former members, visiting from Oregon.

And one picnicker said as she headed for her car—"When I get home, I'm going to turn up the heat!" And this was June 12th!

ARE you
WHO
 you ARE

PEACE & JUSTICE COMMITTEE

Everyone is invited to the
MOMENT for PEACE
 Friday, July 1, 5:30-6:00PM, Centre Church Parlor
 This month the meditation will be led by
 Jess Diamondstone, long time member of the
 Dummerston-Brattleboro community,
 sharing a conversation with Spirit on Peace.

FUNDRAISING COMMITTEE

Dear Members & Friends,

Due to last year's great success, The Fundraising Team is sponsoring a NON 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 are asking 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!

Our best wishes,
 The Fundraising Team of Centre Church

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 April 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

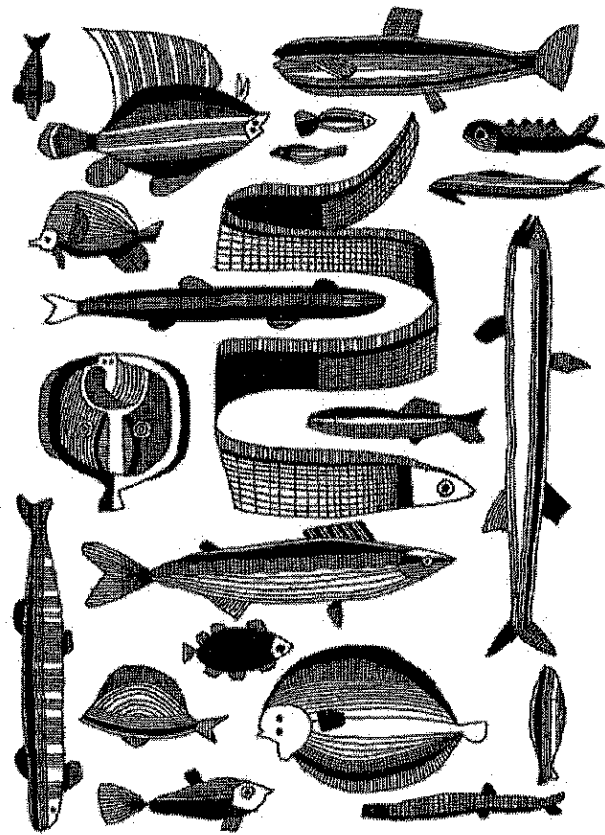
ROBERT & JANE REED

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



JULY 2016

*Holy Communion
celebrated

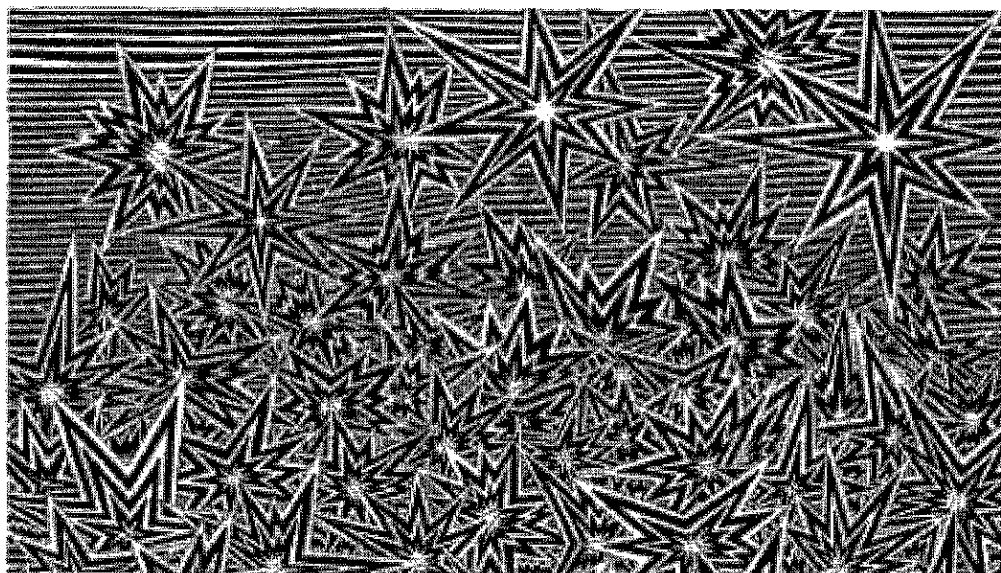
SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY
					1 11 ³⁰ Loaves & Fishes 5 ³⁰ Moment for Peace 7 ³⁰ AA Meeting	2
3 9 ⁰⁰ Book Study 10 ⁰⁰ Worship* 10 ⁰⁰ AA Meeting 6 ⁰⁰ AA Meeting	4 Independence Day Office Closed	5 11 ³⁰ Loaves & Fishes 7 ³⁰ AA Meeting	6 6 ⁰⁰ Frederick Douglas	7 1 ³⁰ Quilting Ministry 4 ³⁰ Women's Spirit	8 11 ³⁰ Loaves & Fishes 7 ³⁰ AA Meeting	9
10 9 ⁰⁰ Book Study 10 ⁰⁰ Worship* 10 ⁰⁰ AA Meeting 6 ⁰⁰ AA Meeting	11 Bruce out 4 ³⁰ Prayer Shawl 7 ³⁰ AA District 8	12 Bruce out 11 ³⁰ Loaves & Fishes 6 ⁰⁰ Meeting Night 7 ³⁰ AA Meeting	13 Bruce out	14 Bruce out 1 ³⁰ Quilting Ministry 4 ³⁰ Women's Spirit	15 Bruce out Centre Bells Deadline 11 ³⁰ Loaves & Fishes 5 ³⁰ Washburn Rehearsal 7 ³⁰ AA Meeting	16 4 ⁰⁰ Washburn Wedding
17 9 ⁰⁰ Book Study 10 ⁰⁰ Worship 10 ⁰⁰ AA Meeting 6 ⁰⁰ AA Meeting	18 Bert out 4 ³⁰ Prayer Shawl	19 Bert out 11 ³⁰ Loaves & Fishes 6 ⁰⁰ Church Council 7 ³⁰ AA Meeting	20 Bert out 12 ⁰⁰ BALL	21 Bert out 1 ³⁰ Quilting Ministry 4 ³⁰ Women's Spirit	22 Bert out 11 ³⁰ Loaves & Fishes 7 ³⁰ AA Meeting	23
24 Bert out 9 ⁰⁰ Book Study/ 10 ⁰⁰ Worship 10 ⁰⁰ AA Meeting 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 1 ³⁰ Quilting Ministry 4 ³⁰ Women's Spirit	29 11 ³⁰ Loaves & Fishes 7 ⁰⁰ Rock Voices 7 ³⁰ AA Meeting	30
31 9 ⁰⁰ Book Study/ 10 ⁰⁰ Worship 10 ⁰⁰ AA Meeting 6 ⁰⁰ AA Meeting						

ANNIVERSARIES

- 11 Jack & Mary Ellen Bixby
- 14 John & Sheila Pinkney
- 30 Bill & Carlene McCarty

BIRTHDAYS

- 3 Anne Fecto
Ralph Melroy
- 5 Darlene LaPlante
- 7 Dwight Henry
- 9 Jeffrey Meyer
- 13 Lisa Vose
Florence Storey
- 14 Jane Reed
- 16 Dennis Newman
- 19 Dee Keller
- 24 Susan Gray
- 26 Bob Pu
- 27 Sheila Pinkney
- 29 Allen Myrick
Seth Marcil





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