

CENTRE CONGREGATIONAL CHURCH
UNITED CHURCH OF CHRIST

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

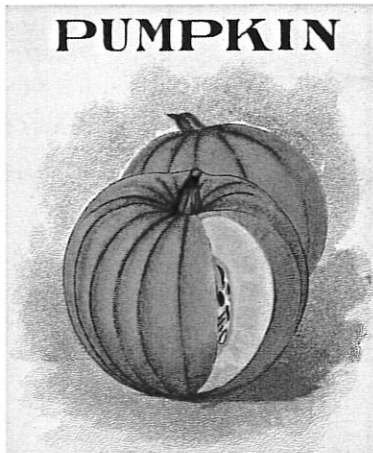
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OCTOBER



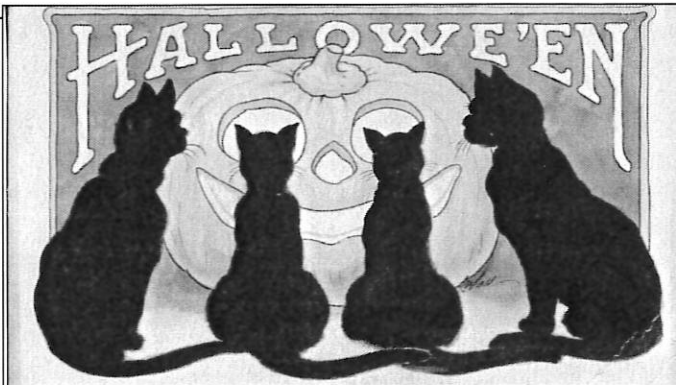
2017

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
CHURCH STAFF AND LEADERSHIP
 Rev. Bert Marshall: revbert@centrechurchvt.org Interim Minister
 Music Director
 Administrative Assistant
 Sextons
 Financial Secretary
 Council Chair
 Treasurer / Clerk
 Mary Milkey-May: music@centrechurchvt.org
 Hilary Farquhar: hilary@centrechurchvt.org
 Gary and Paul Smith
 Christine Yost: finance@centrechurchvt.org
 Matt Kennedy
 Holly Kennedy / Constance Bresnahan

OCTOBER 2017

*Holy Communion

1 9 ⁰⁰ Book Study 10 ⁰⁰ Worship* 10 ⁰⁰ AA Meeting 6 ⁰⁰ AA Meeting	2 9 ⁰⁰ Meetings (L) 4 ³⁰ Prayer Shawl	3 11 ³⁰ Loaves & Fishes 6 ⁰⁰ Church Council 7 ³⁰ AA Meeting	4 12 ⁰⁰ Brown Bag Lunch	5 10 ⁰⁰ BWC Rehearsal 1 ³⁰ Quilting Ministry 4 ³⁰ Women's Spirit	6 11 ³⁰ Loaves & Fishes 5 ³⁰ Moment for Peace 6 ⁰⁰ M&S Dinner 7 ³⁰ Dakin Lecture 7 ³⁰ AA Meeting	7
8 9 ⁰⁰ Book Study 10 ⁰⁰ Worship/FIA 10 ⁰⁰ AA Meeting 6 ⁰⁰ AA Meeting	9 OFFICE CLOSED Indigenous Peoples' Day 7 ³⁰ AA District 8	10 11 ³⁰ Loaves & Fishes 6 ⁰⁰ Meeting Night 7 ³⁰ AA Meeting	11	12 10 ⁰⁰ BWC Rehearsal 1 ³⁰ Quilting Ministry 4 ³⁰ Women's Spirit 7 ⁰⁰ Choir Rehearsal	13 12 ³⁰ Centre Bells deadline 11 ³⁰ Loaves & Fishes 7 ³⁰ AA Meeting	14 9 ⁰⁰ Brattleboro Literary Festival
15 9 ⁰⁰ Book Study 10 ⁰⁰ Worship/FIA 10 ⁰⁰ AA Meeting 1 ⁰⁰ Brattleboro Literary Festival 6 ⁰⁰ AA Meeting	16 4 ³⁰ Prayer Shawl	17 11 ³⁰ Loaves & Fishes 7 ³⁰ AA Meeting	18 12 ³⁰ BAII 3 ³⁰ Fundraising Committee	19 10 ⁰⁰ BWC Rehearsal 1 ³⁰ Quilting Ministry 4 ³⁰ Women's Spirit 7 ⁰⁰ Choir Rehearsal	20 11 ³⁰ Loaves & Fishes 3 ³⁰ Charter for Compassion 7 ³⁰ AA Meeting	21
22 9 ⁰⁰ Book Study 10 ⁰⁰ Worship/FIA 10 ⁰⁰ AA Meeting 6 ⁰⁰ AA Meeting	23 4 ³⁰ Prayer Shawl 7 ⁰⁰ Spiritual Conversations	24 11 ³⁰ Loaves & Fishes 6 ⁰⁰ Church Council 7 ³⁰ AA Meeting	25 Centre Bells mailed	26 10 ⁰⁰ BWC Rehearsal 1 ³⁰ Quilting Ministry 4 ³⁰ Women's Spirit 7 ⁰⁰ Choir Rehearsal	27 11 ³⁰ Loaves & Fishes 5 ⁰⁰ Jumble Sale 7 ³⁰ AA Meeting	28 8 ⁰⁰ Jumble Sale
29 9 ⁰⁰ Book Study 10 ⁰⁰ Worship/FIA 11 ³⁰ Harvest Luncheon 10 ⁰⁰ AA Meeting 6 ⁰⁰ AA Meeting	30 Rev. Bert on vacation this week 4 ³⁰ Prayer Shawl	31 11 ³⁰ Loaves & Fishes 7 ³⁰ AA Meeting				



October Lectionary Texts:

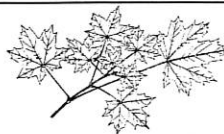
- 1 Ex 17:1-7•Ps 78:1-4, 12-16 or Ezek17:1-7 • Ps 25:1-9•Phil 2:1-13•Matt 21:23-32
- 8 Ex 20:1-4, 7-9, 12-20•Ps 19 or Isa 5:1-7•Ps 80:7-15 •Phil 3:4b-14•Matt 21:33-46
- 15 Ex 32:1-14•Ps 106:1-6, 19-23or Isa 25:1-9•Ps 23• Phil 4:1-9•Matt 22:1-14
- 22 Ex 33:12-23•Ps 99 or Isa 45:1-7•Ps 96:1-9, (10-13)• 1 Thess 1:1-10•Matt 22:15-22
- 29 Deut 34:1-12•Ps 90:1-6, 13-17 or Lev 19:1-2, 15-18 •Ps 1•1 Thess 2:1-8•Matt 22:34-46

BIRTHDAYS

- 2 Steve Fecto
Alice Carrier
- 4 Dorothy Atomanuk
- 5 Duo Xi
- 9 Kare Marshall
- 12 Peter Jameson
- 16 Jeanne Reuter
- 24 Edith Cay
- 29 Nancy Clarke

ANNIVERSARIES

- 24 Laura & Terrence Slate
- 31 Lynn & George Herzog



"Anne reveled in the world of color about her.

"Oh, Marilla," she exclaimed one Saturday morning, coming dancing in with her arms full of gorgeous boughs, "I'm so glad I live in a world where there are Octobers. It would be terrible if we just skipped from September to November, wouldn't it? Look at these maple branches. Don't they give you a thrill-several thrills?"

— L.M. Montgomery, *Anne of Green Gables*



Centre Bells

is published monthly by

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UCC**

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

INTERIM MINISTER'S COLUMN: Rev. Bert Marshall

"Heart Before Wallet"

On January 12, 2010, most of you remember, a devastating earthquake struck Haiti. The quake measured 7.0 in magnitude. The death toll was somewhere between 220,000 and 316,000, according to varying estimates. Another 300,000 were wounded. 1.5 million people were displaced (over 55,000 are still displaced). Port au Prince, the capital city, was leveled. Nearly 4,000 schools were destroyed.

I was working at the time as New England Director for Church World Service. In the quake's aftermath, we were all scrambling to mount a response. People were calling our office. I was calling churches and individuals. We organized a massive drive for hygiene kits, school kits, baby kits, blankets, and monetary donations. Churches took up special offerings, made special appeals. Everyone sensed the urgency, the magnitude of the disaster, the desperate need. I had traveled in Haiti two years before the earthquake with a group of staff and our local partners, and as a result I was feeling an intense personal sense of responsibility to do whatever I could to help. Our partners in Haiti had become friends and colleagues.



I received a call one day in early February that year. It was from the pastor of a small UCC church in Vermont. She said they had voted at their annual meeting to make a donation to our Haiti Earthquake relief effort and asked if I could come to their church on a Sunday morning that month to receive it. I checked my calendar and said that I was already scheduled to preach at another church that day. She replied that they would really like to present it personally. I said I'm sorry, I'd love to come up to do that, but my Sundays are booked solid into the foreseeable future. She said, well, we voted to give \$25,000 from our endowment, plus our remaining annual mission budget of another nearly \$5,000. I said: I'll be there, what time is your service? At that service they presented a check for CWS in the amount of \$29,000+ for Haiti earthquake relief. Every face in that congregation was beaming with joy. The sanctuary was overflowing with holy spirit. I was moved to tears by their response. They were so excited! It was a beautiful morning in the Green Mountains!



"Heart before wallet" is a favorite expression of someone I know. Deep generosity comes from the heart. We give to what we're passionate about. We give because we want to make a difference in people's lives. We give because we believe we can change the world in small but significant ways. In the church we also give because God calls us into relationship and discipleship, and asks us to be builders of the Kingdom of God on earth. Our giving to our church should reflect the passion in our hearts for the Gospel and for the mission and ministries that help to transform people's lives. And deep generosity transforms the life of the giver in ways that cannot be adequately described without being experienced.

As we move into our Fall season at Centre Church, I invite each of you to first consider prayerfully *not* what's in your wallet (or paycheck or bank account), but *what's in your heart*. "Heart before wallet" is the path to church growth and vitality. There is no other way. *You* are the answers you're looking for.

Grace & Peace,

Rev. Bert

CENTRE BELLS

The Newsletter of
Centre Congregational Church,
United Church of Christ

October 2017



The Way of Jesus

Journey to Generosity

"The harvest is plentiful, but the laborers are few; therefore ask the Lord of the harvest to send out laborers into his harvest." Matthew 9:35-10:23

One virtue of this passage for today's church, with respect to stewardship, is that it underlines the importance of making as clear a choice as possible in using resources in favor of the Realm of God. Individuals, households, and congregations become clearer and deeper in stewardship commitment when we make a deliberate "Yes."

By making a strong pledge of time, talent, money, and other resources, we reinforce others who have already done so, and we encourage those who have not done as much to do the same. Another virtue of the passage is that it underscores the fact that our choices have long-term consequences.

We may not believe that failure to give to the church is going to keep us out of heaven, but we certainly know that investing money in the work of ministry and mission on behalf of others improves the quality of life in our community. It also directly benefits us with a sense of purpose, overall well-being, and being a part of something that is larger than ourselves. It is good for us!

To accept the command of Jesus to engage in bringing wholeness to a fragmented world is to be on a mission that matters. It is a mission that is not without risk, cannot be taken without deep personal commitment, and requires that we ultimately trust God to provide what we need. Then again, most things that matter in life are not necessarily easy or without effort.

MUSIC NOTES

September has been a busy month as the choir has reassembled for another season of singing. Attendance has been a bit sketchy due to illness, travel, company, busy schedules and you name it. However, there have been enough folks to sing each week and I deeply appreciate all the effort choir members put forth to make it to rehearsals and services whenever they are able. I am always happy to have new folks, even if you can't make it regularly. Come when you can!

I greatly appreciated Joanne MacLean's willingness to fill in for me on Labor Day Sunday and again, in early October. It is such a treat to have a member who can readily play the hymns and help out so graciously! Thanks Joanne!

On September 24th, thanks to Bonnie Girvan, we were lucky to have her longtime childhood friend, Athena, provide the anthem and offertory music. What a wonderful gift, not only for Bonnie's birthday, but for the congregation as well. Thanks Athena!

In closing, you may have noticed the Steinway Grand Piano, owned by BMC and formerly housed in the sanctuary, is no longer with us. Because the BMC now has new space that will accommodate their piano, it was moved there on September 9. Thanks to Marion and Peter Abell for being present during this transition. They also oversaw the moving of our Baldwin Grand Piano into the sanctuary where it will permanently reside. I am so grateful to Karen Getty Peter for her gift, enabling us to continue the tradition of having a wonderful piano in the sanctuary. It looks and it sounds terrific!



BOARD of DEACONS

There will be an Honorary Award Certificate hanging next to the Deacon's Door to honor Mary Bristol. Mary was treated to a lovely lunch at the Marina Restaurant and toasted by 26 Centre Church friends in August. Take a look in the next few weeks before you come in the Sanctuary. We are forever grateful to Mary for all she does for Centre Church.

Flowers from your gardens have been a huge success this summer and hopefully throughout the Fall. After the end of October we go back to individuals buying flowers. If you would like to honor someone or give a bouquet in memory of a loved one please let Hilary know so she can list it in the bulletin. We still have a sign-up sheet in the parlor.

The Deacons appreciate the beautiful flowers that have graced our church! Thank you to everyone that shared their gardens with us!

~Carlene McCarty



Autumn is a second spring when every leaf is a flower.
~Albert Camus

SEARCH COMMITTEE

As September comes and goes we celebrated the completion of the first draft of our Church Profile! Our Chair, Jim Bedard, sent it off to Lynn Bujnak at the UCC Vermont Conference. Due to it currently being 45 pages their server kicked it back! Jim had to send it to Lynn's home email. She has already said it needs to be shorter. We will wait to see her suggestions after she reads it. She is meeting with us the end of September. We will then discuss her suggestions and make revisions that we agree on.

Early in October we will send the profile to Council for review. Our church family will also have access to the profile, though the details have not been worked out yet. We are planning to have a photo gallery/album created to put on our web site and Facebook page for everyone to enjoy and candidates to learn more about us.

We are excited about completing the profile and working with our conference in the next step to calling a settled minister to our Centre Church.

~Anne Fecto

BOARD FOR MEMBER CARE

You may have noticed the bulletin board in the main hall now decorated with autumn leaves. The photos displayed were taken at two of our well attended summer events. The June All Church Picnic is on the righthand side. In the center are the snapshots taken at the August picnic/barbecue hosted by Kare and Bert Marshall at their historic home in Massachusetts. Those who attended got to see the scenic drive Rev. Bert has on his almost everyday trip to Brattleboro.

In this technological age when more of our pictures are on the church webpage or Facebook or cell phones, it's a good thing to have a display that one can look at without clicking anything. News about members, hand-written thank you notes, print outs of messages sent from our faraway members are posted there. Take a look! Thanks to Judi Miller (and her assistant, Roger) for a great job. When they are away, Heidi Mario has offered to keep the bulletin board current. Check out her clever cartoons.

Many enjoyed the delicious sundaes served up by the few on the Christian Ed Board. They did a grand job of keeping this tradition of sundaes on the second Sunday in September. Elsewhere in this paper is a request for help with the children of the church.

Member Care tries to respond to the needs of our church members. The contact person for October is Sen Pu; her number is 254-8361.

~Marion Daley

Everyone is invited to the
MOMENT for PEACE

Friday, October 6•5:30-6:00PM

The Hallowell Singers will perform songs from our repertoire that offer peace and comfort to the listening heart of our community. Most often our songs are prayers at the bedsides of the dying. This evening's songs stir the well of grief and remind us that the peace that lives within each one of us softens the grief in the world. Please come and be anointed by the music we share with so many in this community during times of transition.

BOARD FOR MISSION & SERVICE

Gallery Walk at Centre Church

October 6, 2017

All are Welcome!

Moment for Peace – 5:30pm to 6:00 pm in the parlor. The Hallowell Singers perform songs from their repertoire that “offer peace and comfort to the listening heart of our community.”

Pasta Supper – 6:00 pm to 7:30 pm in Memorial Hall. All are invited. \$10 for adults, \$5 for children 6-10, children under 6 free.*

Lecture – 7:30 pm in the nave. Mr. Lloyd Dakin (see box), UN High Commissioner for Refugees (ret.), will speak about “The Current State of Refugees and Forced Displacement in the World.” This talk is sponsored in collaboration with the Windham World Affairs Council.*

*Donations for the dinner and the lecture are for the benefit of Carry Me Home, a local group supporting children fleeing zones of conflict.



Mr. Lloyd Dakin's experience with refugees started in the mid 1970s and went up to 2009 when he retired from UN High Commissioner for Refugees. He worked in Thailand, Pakistan, and Tanzania, as well as in UNHCR headquarters in Geneva, where he covered the Horn of Africa and the five Central Asian Republics, among other places. He was also UNHCR Representative in Armenia and Central Europe, based in Budapest and responsible for Slovenia, Hungary, Slovakia, Poland, Romania and Bulgaria. Finally, he was acting Director of the Division for External Relations, the largest division in UNHCR, in Geneva.

Mr. Dakin's close ties to our area have brought him back to Brattleboro in retirement. He is a graduate of the PIM program at SIT and taught there from 1983-85.

In his talk Mr. Dakin will focus on the current state of refugees and forced displacement in the world. From his extensive experience, he has learned that not all refugee situations are the same, but ultimately their resolutions are very similar. Refugees either return home, stay in the country they fled to, or seek resettlement in another country. He will give us his perspective on how these processes are progressing globally and locally at this moment in time.

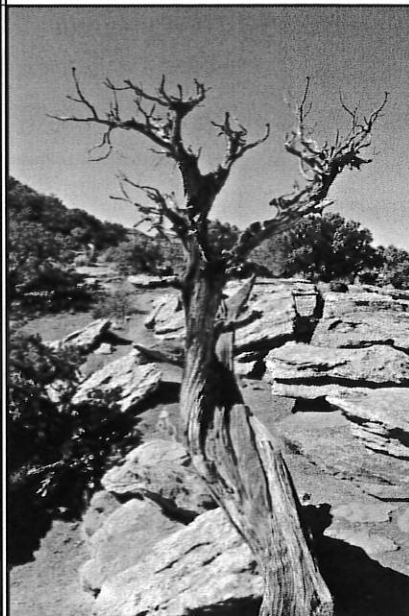
... suddenly the woods opened upon light, and they had reached the river. Everyone stopped, but Doc talked on ahead as though nothing had happened. 'Only today,' he said, 'today, in October sun, it's all gold—sky and tree and water. Everything just before it changes looks to be made of gold.'

“The Wide Net,”

Eudora Welty

(The Collected Stories)

OCTOBER 9: INDIGENOUS PEOPLES' DAY



Hold on to what is good,
Even if it's a handful of earth.

Hold on to what you believe,
Even if it's a tree that stands by itself.

Hold on to what you must do,
Even if it's a long way from here.

Hold on to your life,
Even if it's easier to let go.

Hold on to my hand,
Even if someday I'll be gone away
from you.

~Pueblo prayer

CHURCH LIFE

JUMBLE SALE

FALL JUMBLE SALE 2017

It's back! The Jumble Sale is scheduled for Friday, Oct. 27, from 5-7 p.m. and Saturday,

Oct. 28, from 8 a.m. - 1 p.m. in Memorial Hall.

Items to be donated can be dropped off Sat., Oct. 14, and Sat., Oct. 21, from 9 - 11 a.m. If you cannot drop off items at these times, place them at the bottom of the stairs by Memorial Hall.

✓Please make sure that your items are clearly marked for the Jumble Sale.

✓Please be sure that your donations are in good, clean condition.

We are accepting Fall and Winter clothing, household items, toys, books, games and sporting goods.

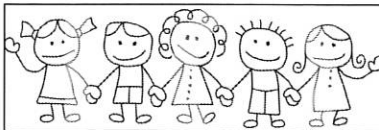
Any help at the above times would be greatly appreciated. Please call Mary Bristol to offer your help. Her number is 254 - 6713. Thank you!

CHRISTIAN EDUCATION

THE CHRISTIAN EDUCATION COMMITTEE

is looking for volunteers for **Faith in Action** for this upcoming year. We hope to run Faith in Action every 2nd and 4th Sunday for our church's children if enough volunteers sign up. A sign-up sheet is in the parlor with the coffee hour sign-up sheet, or see Logan Lefebvre or James Cera.

The CE Committee is also looking for one person who might be interested in volun-



teering for a Sunday School/childcare position on the 1st and 3rd Sundays of the month for the elementary-aged children in the church. Contact Logan (loganff@gmail.com) or James for more details. Thank you!

WOMEN'S SPIRIT . . .

When we began GOD IS NOT ONE, our group of women were all thinking some of these religions we'd never heard of, and printed in very small print, would be a trial to study. What a surprise to find that it is one of the most interesting books we have encountered. We're a little more than half-way through the book and would welcome anyone who would like to join the group, studying the major politically influential religions in the world. Meetings are each Thursday at 4:30 in the library.



SECOND SUNDAY OFFERING for OCTOBER

Neighbors in Need (NIN) is a special mission offering of the UCC (one of the 5-for-5) that supports ministries of justice and compassion throughout the United States. One-third of NIN funds support the Council for American Indian Ministry (CAIM). Two-thirds of the offering is used by the UCC's Justice and Witness Ministries (JWM) to support a variety of justice initiatives, advocacy efforts, and direct service projects through grants.

Neighbors in Need grants are awarded to churches and organizations doing justice work in their communities. These grants fund projects whose work ranges from direct service to community organizing and advocacy to address systemic injustice. Funding is provided through donations to the Neighbors in Need offering.

Most UCC congregations will receive the NIN offering on **October 1, 2017**, as part of their World Communion Sunday observance; NIN will also be Centre's Second Sunday offering. NIN contributions can be made on-line at any time; go to www.ucc.org/nin.



New Contact Information

Here are new email addresses and phone numbers for Meg and Tom Harriman:

meg.harriman.nyc@gmail.com

#718 - 744 7846

tom.harriman.nyc@gmail.com

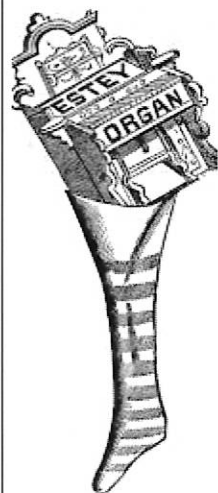
#718 - 744 8065



Estey Organ Museum

Reed Organ "Re-Homing" Event

October 7 • 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 re-building.

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.

Brown Bag Lunch Group

The first Wednesday of the month is October 4. It will come up early, so mark your calendars and join others for interesting conversation and life experiences while you munch your noon time sandwich or salad. We meet at noon in the lounge for just 1 hour and all are welcome.

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 September 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.

The next Fundraising Committee Meeting will be **Wednesday, October 18**, at 3:30 p.m. in the library.

Dear Bert and Members of Centre Church,

I could see Marty smiling down from heaven as we celebrated her life last Saturday, following her instructions so well! Our special thanks go to:

Bert for the good planning and leading of the service,

Hilary's help with the details,

Mary's beautiful playing of the music Marty loved,

A group of stalwart deacons to make everything go together smoothly,

Gorgeous garden flowers, beautifully arranged by Priscilla, Dottie, Cynthia,

A refreshing reception hosted by the Member Care Committee.

All of you who have expressed your support and sympathy to us in many ways.

Centre Church truly is a wonderful community of followers of Jesus!

With our deep gratitude,

Sue Bowman on behalf of Marty Fenn's family

