

TOWER NOTES

Centre Congregational Church (United Church of Christ)

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The Rev. Dr. Dennis C. Bailey, Pastor, Pastor@Centre-Church.org

The Rev. Mark Freeman Strickland, Pastor Emeritus

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Susan Spear, Secretary

We Welcome Everyone: An "Open and Affirming" Church

Oct 7, 2009

Changes

"I the LORD do not change" (Malachi 3:6)

"I am who I am" Ex. 3:15

This morning as I write this I am aware that things change. I have received word that some things have changed in the lives of some of my friends. Some of these changes are not good. And yet, as I think of these changes and pray about them, I also remember that God does not change. God told Moses, "I am who I am", Exodus 3:15. And "I the LORD do not change," is written in Malachi 3:6.

With change comes fear and a greater dependence on our faith and upon God. With change comes an awareness that things cannot continue as they have been going. With change comes changes in our relationships. Our friends become more important to us. We think about the things that we have always wanted to do and haven't gotten around to doing. We think about the people we love.

Like you, I have had a lot of changes during my lifetime. How do we cope? How do we cope?

Speaking for myself, the things that have been most helpful to me during the changes in my life have been my family, my friends, and my church community. That said, it has been the belief and trust in God in all of those people and places that has been the common thread.

Growing up as I did in a rural and agricultural community, God was a frequently referenced and recognized source of all life. It was deeply engrained into me from my earliest days. Now, as an adult, I remember those teachings and how I depended upon God to see me through the changes and challenges of my life.

"The LORD is my rock, my fortress and my deliverer; my God is my rock, in whom I take refuge" (Psalm 18:2, NIV).

I am very grateful to my parents for taking me to church, (yes, sometimes forcing me). I am very grateful to my parents for taking me to church and allowing me the pleasure of developing relationships with adults who deeply believed in God and wanted the same for me. They gave me the faith that has held me close to the heart

and security of God through all the changes I have been through. Without these teachers and mentors, I would not have been blessed with the living faith that holds me secure today.

I am very grateful for peers who were also learning to believe, trying to live a life of faith, and be disciples of Jesus Christ. While many of us have grown in different directions and places, I still think of them, our classes, our lives, and how we worked and grew together.

It is, for me, in the midst of a community of faith that the story of Jesus Christ comes alive. Jesus is seen in the hearts and souls of those with whom I live and practice my faith. I cherish the sound of the voices of my brother and sister Christians as they speak to me of their beliefs, tell me of their journeys and advocate for what they feel to be true and right, even when we disagree.

I am grateful that, through my unique role as pastor, I get to see the fruits of faith and the benefits of the church community. Those who go through tough and challenging times, who have deep relationships with the people in the church community, and a strong family who also believes, survive the changes and endure the

In the Sanctuary

Sunday, October 11, 2009

10:00 A.M. Morning Worship

Mark 10:17-31

Sermon by the Rev. Dr. Dennis C. Bailey

"Such Drastic Action!"

Children's Message: "Our Spiciness"

Children may worship with their families for the entire service.

Sunday, October 18, 2009

10:00 A.M. Morning Worship

Mark 10:32-45

Sermon by the Rev. Dr. Dennis C. Bailey

"The Way to Prominence"

Children's Message: Zacchaeus Song

Children may worship with their families before going to Rotation Workshops. The Nursery is open in Room 14.

challenges much better than those who do not. Such people know where to turn for help, prayers, support and such. They know that there will be others who will be there to walk with them and support them and their family.

And, though we go through challenges, we have joy, joy in the midst of adversity. We can sing the hymns of our faith, and have the weight of our burdens lifted for a while at least, and lightened. We can share the burdens we feel with each other and feel the support of companionship at its best. We can be at the ready any hour day or night, to respond to each other's needs.

As I have found so many times, over and over again, there is no place like a church community to help us through the challenging times. God does not leave us and our church community is there to be the presence, feet, hands, voices, and hearts of Christ to prove it to us.

Come, says Jesus, walk with me as I minister to and with your sisters and brothers in Christ.

Yours in Christ, Dennis

Rotation Sensation

Nursery Care:

We invite you to worship with your little ones together as a family in the Sanctuary on October 11 or if you prefer you may bring your little ones into the Fireside Room and enjoy the worship service together via cable television. Our Nursery Room will re-open on Sunday, October 18.

Rotation Sensation:

There will be no Rotation Sensation workshops this Sunday, October 11 due to the long weekend. We welcome you to join together as a family and worship in the Sanctuary. Workshops will resume on Sunday, October 18 when we begin a new unit: Zacchaeus.

Registration:

All children must be registered for the Rotation Sensation program. If you have not yet filled out your registration form, kindly see Jill Couillard or Barbara Langill and they would be happy to give you a form or, you may print out your registration form from our website at: www.Centre-Church.org. Return all registration forms to Barbara or Jill as soon as possible. *This is of the utmost importance.*

New Carpet in the Main Hallway

The new carpet in the main hallway on the first floor was installed the first part of September. Thanks to those of you who have made a difference by making a special donation to help to defray the \$3,400 installation cost. It is not too late to help our budget by making a special contribution to the carpet fund. All amounts will be greatly appreciated. For questions please contact Phil Johnson - pcjohnson@meei.harvard.edu or 781-598-5678.

Youth Group

There will be no Youth Group meetings on Sunday, October 11 due to the long weekend. Both groups will resume their meetings on Sunday, October 18 from 6:00-7:30 p.m. Join us at that time for games, fellowship and fun. The High School will be in Richards Hall and Middle School will be in Todd Hall.

Registration Forms must be turned in as soon as possible. No youth will be allowed to participate in off-site programming without a registration form. For your convenience, the registration form is available from our website at: www.Centre-Church.org. Return your paperwork promptly to Barbara Langill or Jill Couillard. *This is extremely important.* Schedules for the groups may also be found on our website at: www.Centre-Church.org.

If you were not at Youth Group this past week, you missed some important information about an upcoming walk for My Brother's Table. We ask that you log onto: www.Centre-Church.org for the material you missed. Your cooperation in our efforts to save money by not mailing out missed information is appreciated.

Yankee Candle Fundraiser

The High School Youth Group is raising money for their next mission trip. They will be selling products from Yankee Candle. Members of the Youth Group will be on hand after church to show you the catalog and take your order. A catalog is also available in the church office. We appreciate your support.

2009 Golf Tournament

The 7th annual Centre Church Golf Tournament was held on 9/25 at Thomson Country Club. It was a huge success. It was a beautiful day, we had a record turnout of 24 players, we had a lot of fun and we raised \$1,211 for our Missions Fund. We have now raised over \$6,100 for Missions over the life of this tournament. Thanks to all who participated. —Phil Johnson

Deacons' Breakfast Success

The Diaconate would like to thank everyone who made Sunday's pancake breakfast such a success. The lively fellowship found around the tables in Richards Hall, and around the griddles in the kitchen, was fun for all. Profits of \$500 will go directly into our "Organ Fund", to be put towards the maintenance expenses of our church organ. The Deacons had such fun with this and feel that maintaining our church organ is so important, that we might just do this type of fundraiser again. Maybe pancakes, maybe omelets?, maybe crepes?? Please stay tuned. Most importantly, thank you for supporting the music program here at Centre Church, which is such an integral part of our worship services.

News From Around the Parish

Our congratulations to John Harris who received the 33rd Degree, the highest honor of Scottish Rite Freemasonry in September.

Our congratulations to former member, Camille Utterback who recently won a MacArthur Foundation Fellowship with a stipend of \$500,000 over five years for her work as an interactive installation artist.

Our congratulations to Edie and Earl Richard who are celebrating their 60th wedding anniversary on October 8.

Our love and sympathy are extended to Douglas Wills of Malden and Charlotte Brooks of Katy, TX upon the death of their mother, Helen Wills on September 26.

We extend our love and sympathy to Emily Ragalevsky and her family upon the recent death of her mother, Carolyn Sutliff of Lynnfield.

From the Mailbox:

We wish to thank you for the beautiful flowers delivered to us on Sunday 9/20 by Sue Gustavsen with whom we had a wonderful visit. We also wish to thank Rev. Bailey for his visit which we enjoyed so much. It is so nice to feel a part to the church life even though it is difficult for us to attend the regular services. Again our thanks and regards to all. Sincerely, Olive and Carl Wood

Bits 'n Pieces

We are no longer collecting knitted squares here at the church for the Red Cross. If you have any to donate, you may take them directly to the Peabody Red Cross.

Do any of you quilters out there have any fall leaf colored scraps to spare? (5-6" x 10-12"). Please contact Shirley Orr, 781-334-6584.

The Northeast Animal Shelter in Salem, MA is in need of old towels, hand towels and facecloths. You are welcome to bring any you have to the Missions Pantry.

Get Together Wheel

Our first meeting will be held on October 27 in the Fire-side Room. We meet at 12:30 for refreshments and the program begins at 1:00. We are pleased to have Meg Gulezian who will speak on our church's mission work of preparing a hot meal once a month to be taken to "Bread and Roses", a soup kitchen in Lawrence.

If you are new to the church or would like to know more, the Get Together Wheel is one of two women's groups that meet at the church for fellowship and fun. This is a perfect time to meet new people or maybe become reacquainted with friends. If you have questions, please give me a call. Donna Marino (781-581-2022)

Centre Church Shopping Card Program

Shopping with Spirit

This shopping card program offers you a chance to donate to Centre Church simply by doing your usual shopping. You buy prepaid shopping cards at face value. Great Lakes Scrip Center (GLSC), the organization that administers the program, buys these cards in bulk. Because of their volume buying, merchants offer the cards to GLSC at a discount. The difference between the card's face value and the discounted price goes to the church. For example: You pay \$25.00 for a card. GLSC charges us a discounted price of \$23.75. The church gets the \$1.25 difference.

On Sunday morning, visit our table in the Narthex after worship. Place your order and pay with a check made out to Centre Church, noting that it is for the shopping card program. That's it! On the following Sunday, we will have your shopping cards for you.

All kinds of merchants and restaurants participate in this program, including Barnes & Noble, Home Depot, L.L. Bean, Stop and Shop, and Talbots. Even Dunkin Donuts and Starbucks have cards! You'll also find gas and grocery store cards. You can pick up a list of participating companies on Sunday morning, or you can view the list on the Great Lakes Scrip Center web site: <http://www.glscrip.com> The percentage of each purchase that goes to Centre Church varies by merchant, with 5% as the average. Please read the fine print. Most cards never expire but some do – we urge you to be a savvy consumer.

The Shopping Card program is off to a great start this fall. In the month of September, we've already raised over \$300 for Centre Church. We thank those of you who are already purchasing shopping cards, and we urge those of you have not yet participated, to please give it a try. For questions, please contact Gift Card Coordinators, Sandi Watson, Phil Triffletti, or Debbie Cotting

Thanks to our Volunteers

Sunday, October 11:

Head Usher - Linda Ladd.
Greeters - Paul and Sue Gustavsen.
Reader: Edie Richard
Coffee Hour - Delaney/Law Family.
Provide Altar Flowers - Schedin Family.
Deliver Altar Flowers - Marjorie Potter & Doreen DiFillippo.
Lights Out beginning October 9 - Rick Carey.

Sunday, October 18:

Head Usher – Jeff Law
Greeter – Barbara Becker
Coffee Hour – Tony and Judy Lucia
Provide Altar Flowers – Marge Cole
Deliver Altar Flowers – Chuck Cotting & Sue Gustavsen
Lights Out beginning October 16 – Charlie Wills

Holiday Festival
Saturday, November 14 - 9 a.m. – 3 p.m.

Over 15 crafters and vendors will be selling

candles	coins
jewelry	origami
greeting cards	original artwork & photography
Christmas crafts	knitted items
& collectibles	fleece blankets
gift baskets	children's books and much more

Featured Activities Include:

A Children's Room with games and crafts
Coffee and donuts in the morning
Lunch – lobster rolls by reservation,(see form below)
soup, hot dogs, desserts, etc. to eat in or take out
A White Elephant Sale including books, movies, music and new gifts
Sales of Plants, Jewelry, Baked Goods, and Crafts

How You Can Help:

- Mark the date and plan to join us that day!
- Start setting aside jewelry, books and white elephant items that we can sell. Bring the jewelry in as soon as possible - but we ask that you delay bringing white elephants and books until the last week of October due to lack of storage space.
- Bring in the handmade crafts you are making for our craft table
- Call one of the planning committee to volunteer a few hours of your time to help out the day of the fair.

Donna Marino (781-581-2022), Kathi Martin (781-245-2409),
Nancy Miller (978-536-4488) or Carrie Pericola (781-231-0954)

Lobster Roll Order Form - \$10:00 each

Please make checks payable to Centre Congregational Church
5 Summer Street, Lynnfield, MA 01940

Deadline for orders is Monday, October 30

Lobster Rolls may be picked up on Saturday, Nov. 14 from 11 a.m. to 12:30 p.m.
Lobster Rolls not picked up on time will be sold – refunds not available.
Lobster Rolls are made with lobster meat and just the right quantity of mayonnaise.

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Name: _____ Quantity _____

Contact Number: _____

Our Opportunities

Sunday - October 11	10:00 am 10:00 am	Morning Worship – Sanctuary Children in Church. (Rotations, Nursery, Youth Choir & Youth Groups will resume next week)
Monday - October 12	-----	Church Office Closed for Columbus Day
Tuesday - October 13	10:00 am 7:30 pm	Caregivers – Fireside Room Diaconate – Pastor’s Office
Thursday - October 15	7:30 pm	Senior Choir – Choir Room
Friday - October 16	10:30 am	Scripture Study – Pastor’s Office
Saturday - October 17		Delegates & Pastor at MA Conference Annual Meeting
Sunday - October 18	10:00 am 10:20 am 11:30 am 11:30 am 6:00 pm	Morning Worship – Sanctuary Rotation Workshops Youth Choir – Choir Room Confirmation - Kitchen Youth Grps (Gr. 5-12)-Basement
Thursday October 22	7:30 pm	Senior Choir – Choir Room
Friday October 23	10:30 am	Scripture Study – Pastor’s Office

Our love and prayers are with Ginnie Davis at home; Charlotte Orrall at Masconomet Health Care Center, 123 High St., Topsfield, 01983; Betty Campbell; Anne Gist; Louise Allen at Beaumont Nursing Home, Westborough; Muriel Badger at Nashoba Valley Life Care Center, Littleton; Marion Barnes, Harborside: Cedar Glen, Danvers; Glady Davis, Haven Health Care, Derry NH; Carolyn Furey, Overlook Masonic Health Ctr., Charlton; Hal Holappa, Veterans’ Hospital, Bedford; Helen Miller, at the Meadows, Edgewood; June Rose, 37 Spring St., Lunenburg, MA 01462.

Our prayers are with Andy Gehret in Iraq; George Robinson, III in the United States on medical leave; and James Papagni serving in Afghanistan.

*The Church Office is open Monday through Friday from 9-3.
The next Tower Notes will be published the week of October 19.*
