

TOWER NOTES

Centre Congregational Church (United Church of Christ)

5 Summer Street, Lynnfield, Massachusetts 01940 Phone: 781-334-3050 Fax: 781-334-6463

Email: Office@Centre-Church.org Web Site: www.Centre-Church.org

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

The Rev. Mark Freeman Strickland, Pastor Emeritus

Jill Couillard & Barbara Langill, Co-Directors of Christian Ed & Youth, ChristianEd@Centre-Church.org

Douglas W. Hodgkins, Organist/Choir Director

Sally MacDonald, Director of Tower Day School

Susan Spear, Secretary

We Welcome Everyone: An "Open and Affirming" Church

November 18, 2009

Happy Thanksgiving!

How do we show our thankfulness to God? A grateful attitude is a good place to start. Nothing encourages me more to serve the Lord than when people around me show me a grateful attitude. I am blessed in my life and in my position at Centre Church to be surrounded by people with grateful attitudes!

Recently, as many of you know, I was involved in preparing two funerals for the same day, Friday, November 13th. In the midst of this challenging work, I was surrounded by people who showed their *grateful attitudes* by offering to help the families and me in remembering, honoring, and comforting the families and each other.

The first was the funeral of Natalie C. Shove, age 27, who lived in Lynnfield most of her life before recently moving to Maine. From the first phone call I received telling me the tragic news to the end of the day of the funeral, people from Centre Church, the town of Lynnfield, from across the country, the funeral home, and our Lynnfield Police Department led by Chief Joseph Dunn surrounded Natalie's family with the love of God. Natalie's mother, Linda, felt so moved and blessed, as she told me of just some of the things people have done for them.

The second, earlier in the day, at 7 a.m. in the Chapel, was for Eric Fraser, who worked at the UPS Lynnfield Depot for over 18 years. His fellow workers asked me to lead them in saying good-bye to their friend because they were *so grateful* for having had the pleasure and honor of knowing him. Over 40 UPS employees gathered in the Chapel, dressed in their uniforms, to express their heartfelt grief. They had witnessed first-hand the deep love and dedication Eric showed as his 9-year old son, Jeremy suffered and died of cancer. And now,

Eric was dead as the result of injuries suffered from a motorcycle accident.

What was so helpful to me, was how many in our Centre Church community were present to serve as hosts, ushers, mourners, a loving presence as people came into our church building. Such grateful people present in such times allows me to feel tremendous support as I seek to bring my presence, words, music, and order to the chaos of a tragic loss. I know that some of you took a vacation day in order to serve the Lord in the form of

In the Sanctuary

November 22, 2009

Psalm 146 Matthew 6:25-33

10:00 a.m. Morning Worship

Message by the Rev. Dr. Dennis C. Bailey

and Ted Hubbard from Bread & Roses

"The Great Thanksgiving"

Sacrament of Baptism

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

November 22 – 7:30 p.m.

Ecumenical Thanksgiving Service

Sermon by the Rev. Michael Dangelo

of St. Paul's Episcopal Church

Special Music by Combined Choirs

under the direction of Douglas W. Hodgkins

November 29, 2009 – 1st Sunday in Advent

10:00 a.m. Morning Worship

Luke 21:25-36

Sermon by the Rev. Dr. Dennis C. Bailey

"Discontinuity"

Children's Message by the Rev. Dr. Calvin B. Kool

"Hope"

Children may worship with their families for the entire service.

comforting the Shove family and the UPS family. I know that you did it, in part, to lend your support to me as pastor, for which I am so grateful.

While this Thanksgiving and Christmas seasons will be extremely difficult for the family and friends of Natalie and Eric, I know that they have been blessed by a church that works together to bring comfort and healing to strangers and friends in such times. Those who grieve know that they are not alone. I know that as I do this important work I am not alone.

All of you who were there to be a compassionate presence have, in thanksgiving, offered yourselves to God!

The very next day, the same disciples of God were again present, to participate in our "Holiday Festival," (church fair) again in gratitude for our ministry and for each other. This time, instead of ushering and hosting mourners, you were serving chowder, selling white elephant specials, welcoming crafters, and giving yourselves to a noble cause, the strengthening of our ministry through fundraising.

And again, on Sunday, in worship, we gathered with all of these things on our minds to acknowledge that all the blessings we have come from God. Most importantly, are the blessings we have in each other! Thanks be to God!

This coming Sunday, November 22nd, we will gather for some special events for which we give thanks:

First, at the 10 a.m. worship service, we gather for the baptism of twins, *Emma Grace Connors and Claire MacKenzie Connors*. Oh, what a treat and occasion for celebration! Not to be missed! We will welcome their parents, Bill and Kerry, and Emma and Claire's proud grandparents. They are grateful for finding a faith community like Centre Church and we are grateful that they have decided to call us their church home.

Second, also at the 10 a.m. service, we welcome Ted Hubbard who will speak to us about our valued Bread and Roses Ministry. We will honor all of those who have worked as such a great team during the 22 years we have provided the guests at Bread and Roses with a meal once a month. We honor the faithfulness of the workers, the fine meals, and those who have generously supported this work through financial donations.

Third, at 7:30 pm, Centre Church is honored to host the Lynnfield Ecumenical Thanksgiving Service! We gather to give thanks for the faith we have in God who keeps honoring us by trusting us with the sacred gift of discipleship. Our Music Director, Douglas Hodgkins, has rehearsed an Ecumenical Choir that will bless and move us to thankfulness. I am grateful to welcome Rev. Michael Dangelo, of St. Paul's Episcopal Church, who will be our preacher. There will be many spiritual representatives from other faith communities in the Lynnfield, Wakefield and Peabody area who will honor us with their presence, also. Not to miss!

I welcome you to be present for these times in which we share our gratitude to God for the wealth of our faith and spiritual partners.

Our Youth Groups will prepare refreshments for the Ecumenical Service. You are welcome to bake and bring your special recipes, also.

In gratitude this Thanksgiving, Dennis

Sunday Morning With The Children

Nursery Care: Our Nursery will be open on Nov. 22 for infants through age 3. Join us for playtime and stories in Room 14.

Next Sunday, Nov. 22, the Rotation Sensation classes will begin to talk about the season of Advent and the story of Christ's birth. The Christmas Pageant (Dec. 20) is the children's way of telling that story to the congregation. It is hoped that all children in the church school will take part in the pageant as there are small parts requiring the ringing of an angel's bell to not-so-small, requiring memorizing some lines. Those who are interested in having a speaking role should let me know this Sunday in church school, or by email to ladd@neb.com. Thank you. -Linda Ladd

All children will worship with their families for the entire service on November 29.

Turkey Drive

Thank you to everyone who brought a frozen turkey to church last Sunday. We were able to send 24 turkeys (and one chicken), much needed food, and a cash donation to Haven from Hunger.

Youth Group News

The Middle School Youth Group recently volunteered at Cradles to Crayons. Volunteers included: Allison Carey, Laura Mucci, Elizabeth Miller and Rebecca Sievers.

Both the Middle and High School groups will be meeting this Sunday, 11/22 from 6:00-7:15. **Please note the time change due to the Thanksgiving Ecumenical Service.** Everyone is encouraged to attend the service at 7:30. The youth groups will be providing dessert after the service. The Middle School families are asked to bring a dessert to share. Please bring this with you to our youth group meeting. The High School will be baking during their meeting time.

Set aside the date of Sunday, December 13! Both groups will be traveling to Natick in the afternoon for a Christian Rock Concert by Jason and deMarco. Check out their website at: <http://www.jasonanddemarco.com>. Details to follow.

Advent Cometh

We will be lighting the first candle of Advent on November 29. The candles on the Advent wreath represent Hope, Peace, Joy, Love and Christ, in that order. We are looking for volunteers to light each candle, and share something about what that candle means to them, in our Sunday services. If you and your family, friends, partner, neighbor, co-workers, etc. would like to light a candle together, please let one of the Deacons know. The Deacons wear red name tags.

Thank you. – Linda Ladd, for the Diaconate.

Heifer Marketplace

The marketplace to purchase your holiday Heifer gift animals will take place in the Narthex immediately following worship on Dec. 6. We will have catalogs and order forms readily available to make your purchase quick and easy. Please consider a holiday contribution in your name, the name of a family member/friend and help us to buy another ARK with \$5,000 of purchased animals.

- Mary Ann and Allie Parker, Heifer Coordinators

If you would like to donate altar flowers for Sunday, Nov. 29 please call Susan Spear in the church office 781-334-3050.

Homelessness Awareness

Ten youth and three adults spent the night sleeping outside in cardboard boxes on Sat., Nov. 7. Several of the youth first spent the afternoon in Boston in an immersion experience to learn about homelessness. The youth had an hour to try and raise money. They then had to complete assignments such as finding free dental care, locating a place to get free food, finding a place to stay the night, etc. We also heard from 2 people who had experienced homelessness and the difficulties they and others face every day.

We returned to the church for an outdoor meal of soup cooked over an open fire. Thank You to the Potter-Furey Family for arranging that and thanks to Mrs. Morrissey who drove into Boston and helped chaperone. Also thank you to Rev. Bailey and others who cooked us a delicious breakfast in the morning. Most of all, thank you to the congregation for your generous donations of lightly used coats. With your help, we have collected almost 40 coats to help keep others warm this winter.

- Barbara and Jeff Langill

Yankee Candles Have Arrived

You may pick up your Yankee Candle order Sunday morning after 9:30 a.m. or Sunday evening at Youth Group. Orders may also be picked up in the church office M-F between the hours of 9-12. If you are not able to pick them up during these times, please call Barbara Langill or Jill Couillard to arrange a convenient time.

From the Mailbox

Dear Friends, Many thanks for all the thoughtful support from Centre Church – visits by Rev. Bailey, lovely flowers delivered by Doreen DiFillippo, kind notes and cards from friends. It's all made recovery much easier! Sincerely, Carol Carter

Prayer Vigil for Marcie Kennedy

All are welcome to attend a Eucharistic Prayer Vigil at St. Maria Goretti's Church in Lynnfield on Monday, Nov. 23 between 4-8 p.m. Marcie, a wife and the mother of young children, faces a rough battle with cancer. Family and friends would appreciate your commitment of "15 minutes for Marcie" when all can come together to experience the gentle and healing power love can bring.

For more information contact Katie Neenan at k.neenan@comcast.net.

Engraved Brick Patio

I have laid the most recent installment of engraved bricks in the patio behind the church. Look for one of these the next time your stroll by:

Matthew Andrew Julia
Rev. Joseph Searle 1824 - 1827
Rev. Stephen Chase 1730 - 1755
Rev. Joseph Mottey 1782 – 1821
Rev. Benjamin Adams 1755 – 1777
Rev. Nathaniel Sparhawk 1720 - 1731
In Memory Of Esther J. Johnson

by Phil and Sue Johnson

I would like to extend the offer to anyone who would like to purchase a brick to record a special moment or remember someone. Please contact me or the church office at any time to order a brick. The small bricks are \$50 and can hold up to 3 lines of 20 characters. The large bricks are \$100 and can hold up to 6 lines of 20 characters. Checks can be made payable to Centre Congregational Church.

- Phil Johnson - 781-598-5678

Thanks to Our Volunteers

Sunday, November 22 – 10 a.m. Head Usher - Kathi Martin. Greeters - Hagerty & White Families. Lay Readers – Priscilla Power & Emma Martin. Provide Altar Flowers - Edie and Earl Richard. Coffee Hour- George & Perry Hayden. Lights Out beginning Oct. 20- Jeff Langill.

Sunday, November 22 – 7:30 p.m. Ushers: Linda Ladd, Bill Seelig, Bruce Weaver & Carrie Pericola.

Sunday, November 29 – 10:00 a.m. Ushers - Bruce Weaver, Linda Ladd, Carrie Pericola & Bill Seelig. Lay Reader - Samantha White. Coffee Hour - Nancy Lauzon & the Whittiers. Lights Out beginning Nov. 27 - Steven Richard.

News From Around the Parish

We extend our love and prayers to Linda Shove Smith and her family upon the death of daughter, Natalie Shove on Nov. 8. Her funeral was held at Centre Church on Nov. 13.

Our love and sympathy are extended to Robert Schmidt and his family upon the death of his wife, Goldie on Nov. 4. A funeral service was held in Wakefield on Nov. 16.

Our best wishes to Rebekah Cintolo and Sunil Reddi who were married on Nov. 7 at the Historic St. George United Methodist Church in Philidelphia, PA. Rebekah is the daughter of Thomas and Jean Cintolo.

Our congratulations to Allan Marshall and Kristin Woodward who were married on November 9 in Jacksonville, NC. Allan is the son of Jim and Sheila Marshall.

Congratulations to Daryl and Alison (Waugh) Flynn of Tyngsboro upon the birth of a son, Noah Rogers Flynn on Nov. 5. Proud grandmother is Marcia Waugh.

Best Wishes to Priscilla Hahn who celebrates her 91st birthday on November 17.

Congratulations to Edith Wendt for her first place ribbon at the Topsfield Fair in the knitted doll category.

We extend our sympathy to Phil Johnson upon the death of his uncle, Walter Johnson of Guilford, CT. His survivors include his wife, Margaret “Peggy”.

POINSETTIA ORDER

I would like to order for \$8.50 each: _____ red poinsettia

Enclosed is my check for \$_____ made payable to Centre Congregational Church.

These flowers have been given by _____

in memory of _____

PLEASE CHECK ONE OF THE FOLLOWING:

___ I will take my plant(s) home after one of the services on Christmas Eve. (5 pm or 11 pm)

___ I wish to donate my plant(s) to the hospitalized, bereaved or shut-in.

Plants will be displayed in the sanctuary on Sunday, December 20.

A list of donors will be printed in the bulletin on that day.

Monday, December 7 is the deadline for placing orders.

***Ecumenical Thanksgiving Service
Centre Church – November 22
7:30 p.m.***

Our Opportunities

Sunday - November 22	10:00 am 10:20 am 11:30 am 11:30 am 6:00 pm 6:30 pm 7:30 pm	Morning Worship – Sanctuary Rotations & Nursery Youth Choir – Choir Room Confirmation Class – Kitchen Youth Groups – Lower Level Combined Choirs Rehearsal Ecumenical Thanksgiving Service
Thursday - November 26	-----	HAPPY THANKSGIVING!
Friday - November 27	10:30 am	Scripture Study – Pastor’s Office
Sunday - November 29	10:00 am	Morning Worship – Sanctuary Children in Worship
Wednesday - December 2	8am-2pm	Bread & Roses Meal Preparation
Thursday - December 3	7:30 pm	Senior Choir – Choir Room
Friday - December 4	10:30 am	Scripture Study – Pastor’s Office
Saturday - December 5		Centre Church Hosts Gingerbread House Display and Lynnfield Art Guild Show and Sale

Our love and prayers are with Ken Klopfer, Barbara Langill’s brother-in-law at Brigham and Women’s Hospital; 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 James Papagni serving in Afghanistan.

The Church Office is open 9am-3pm Monday – Friday.
The next *Tower Notes* will be the week of Nov. 30.
