

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

April 7, 2010

Receiving the Joy

Easter eggs are fun to hunt when we are children. But, as I was reminded on Easter Sunday, children can also love to hide the eggs for the adults to find.

Children love to share with us what gifts they have received on Easter, Birthdays, and Christmas. Of course, they are excited to "show off" what special things have come their way. I cherish these opportunities to sit with children and watch them share, to see the excitement in their faces, to listen to the excitement in their voices, and to be blessed with the gift of being one of the people they want to share their joy with. What an honor! What a blessing!

Imagine the excitement of those first disciples to meet and see the Risen Christ. Imagine how they couldn't wait to tell the other disciples that they had seen and talked with the Risen Jesus.

Now, it is important for us to listen to those who have special experiences to share of their joy, of good news, of spiritual revelations, of how the love of God has been a blessing in their lives.

Some of my celebrations have included when my parents bought me the first pieces of my drum set when I was in high school. I was so shocked and so excited because up until that time all I had at home to practice on was a rubber practicing pad. I didn't think they could afford to buy me an actual drum set. When I needed a marching drum to play in the marching band we bought a used one off one of my classmates, Spencer Walker. I still have that and I can remember going to Spencer's house on Middletown Road, Middletown, Maryland, and buying it. I remember it because it was so important to me to have a drum I could use to participate in the marching band. That was new life for me!

When children share their new excitements with us, we are experiencing new life for them and

for ourselves. There is nothing so pure as to hear the excitement of a child who runs, jumps up and down, who can't wait to tell us, show us, and invite us into their joy.

It is to this joy I believe we are called by God, to encourage, to witness, and to revel in. When we encourage such joy in the lives of children we are also encouraging it into our own lives, a joy we desperately need!

If a child we know wins a trophy at a Pinewood Derby, at a dance recital, at a gymnastics competition, at a baseball game, or at anything, let's encourage them to share the good news and the joy of it. If our children, grandchildren, and/or young neighbors and friends, have a joy to share, let us stop what we are doing and listen to the good news. Let us rejoice in the Lord, that new life is still so

In the Sanctuary

April 11, 2010

John 20:19-31

10:00 A.M. Morning Worship

Sermon by the Rev. Dr. Dennis C. Bailey

"Refugees"

Children's Message by Rev. Bailey

Children may worship with their families before going to Rotation Workshops.

Nursery Open in Room 14.

April 18, 2010

Acts 9:1-20

10:00 A.M. Morning Worship

Sermon by the Rev. Dr. Dennis C. Bailey

"Conversion"

Children's Message by Rev. Bailey

All Children may worship with their families for the entire service.

conveniently present to us in the lives of children and to the child in all of us.

Jesus came to us to teach and show us how to love and how to give. His death and resurrection teach us that Jesus' love and giving is never shared and received in vain. Not even death can destroy its power. It is for me, when love and giving is experienced through the most vulnerable of our society, a sign, a testimony, that the resurrection continues to overcome everything we might try to put in its way.

Jesus Christ lives! How do I know he lives? He lives in those who invite me to share the joy in their lives, a joy I promise to them and to God, to never forget. I ask you to dedicate your lives to taking the time to experience that joy when you find it because when you welcome that joy you welcome the love and life of another, just as Jesus did and does. Happy Easter!

Yours in the Risen Christ.

Dennis

Church Office Hours

- * On April 12-16, the Church Office will be open from 9 a.m. – 3 p.m.
- * The Church Office will be closed on Monday, April 19 and open 9 a.m. – Noon for the remainder of the week.
- * The next issue of *Tower Notes* will be the week of April 19.

Rotation Sensation

Nursery Care: We invite all of the little ones (up to age 3) to join our trained staff in the Nursery, Room 14, each Sunday morning for stories and playtime.

Workshops Resume: Rotation Workshops will begin again on Sunday, April 11. Children and youth, PreK-Grade 8, are invited to participate. Join us as we learn about "Fruits of the Spirit".

An Easter Thank You!

The flower committee would like to thank all who helped to make our sanctuary look so beautiful on Easter Sunday. Thanks to Joe Gallo of Plantscape Designs for supplying the beautifully colored plants. Thanks also to those who ordered and donated the plants and to the committee who helped set up the display on Good Friday. A special thank you to the team of volunteers who delivered the plants to our shut-ins.

With much appreciation,
Laurel Caputo

Youth Group News

April 11: Middle School and High School Youth Groups will be meeting this Sunday from 6:00-7:30. The Middle School will meet in the Library and the High School will meet in the Fireside Room.

April 18: Because of school vacation, there will be no youth group meetings on this date.

Many thanks to our High School and Middle School youth for volunteering at Easter Fun Day; because of you our morning moved along smoothly with almost 30 children in attendance!

Two Mission Trips Planned

High School Mission Trip Meeting

Parents and youth: there will be an informational meeting on Sunday, April 11 at 5 pm in the Chapel. All youth who are participating in the July Mission Trip to New Orleans should plan to attend, along with a parent. We will be discussing the cost of the trip, possible fundraisers, etc. Please let us know if you are unable to attend. –Barbara Langill

Young Adult Mission Trip

The young adult group would like to thank everyone who supported our fundraising efforts by purchasing goodies at the bake sale. Everyone was very generous with their donations and we are off to a great start. We will be going to New Orleans May 23-29 and working on rebuilding efforts with the Mennonites.

Mission Money

Save your quarters! On Sunday, April 11, youth group members will be handing out tubes of M&M mini candy. Go ahead and enjoy the candy, then refill the tube with quarters. Please be sure to return your filled tubes to the church by Sunday, April 25.

SAVE THE DATE!!

May Day Celebration at Centre Church

**Saturday, May 1, 2010 – 9 a.m. – 3 p.m.
(on the church lawn - weather permitting)**

(Details elsewhere in this issue.)

News From Around the Parish

Our love and sympathy are extended to Paulette Boling and her family upon the recent death of her mother, Itle Higginbotham of Devon, PA. A memorial service will be held on April 10 in Ohio.

We extend our love and sympathy to Susan Spear and her family upon the death of her brother, Thomas E. Smith, Jr. of Pamplico, SC. A memorial service will be held at a later date in SC.

Lost and Found

A coin purse was found in the sanctuary some weeks ago. If you think it might be yours, please call the church office. 781-334-3050

Thanks to Our Volunteers

Sunday, April 11, 2010:

Head Usher: Deacon. Greeter: Betty Hayter. Lay Reader: Gage Whittier. Lights Out beginning April 9: Drew Taylor.

Sunday, April 18, 2010:

Head Usher: Jeff Law. Greeters: David and Diane Bjorkman. Lay Reader: Doreen DiFillippo. Coffee Hour: George and Perry Hayden. Lights Out beginning April 16: John Walsh.

Baked Goods and Food Table

At May 1 Celebration

The purpose of this event is to raise enough money to cover the shortfall between pledges and our budget. This is your church and we need your help.

If you would be willing to bake

- cookies
- cake
- squares
- pie
- bread
- baked beans
- or candy

(It must be homemade food.)

please call either Meg Gulezian at 781-334-4504 or Cheryl Wersackas at 781-334-5711.

It would be most helpful if you would call us before we call you!

This is a way for you to do your part and it isn't a big commitment. If you can't deliver your contribution to the church we would be happy to pick it up from you. We would like to have your donation on Friday afternoon, April 30. Otherwise, we need it one hour before the event.

Thank you very much!

May Day Celebration at Centre Church

Saturday, May 1st – 9 a.m. – 3 p.m. on the church lawn (weather permitting)

*******New Exciting Feature: "Holy Soakings Dunk Tank" – Rev. Bailey and Friends*******

Flea Market Tables – You may either rent a table for \$25 (or \$20 if you provide your own table,) or contribute flea market items for the Centre Church tables (small items only, no TVs or monitors, etc.)
Contact Donna Marino (781-581-2022)

Raffle: Two Red Sox tickets for the Friday, June 18th game.

Baked Goods & Food Table: Call Meg Gulezian (781-334-4504) or Cheryl Wersackas (781-334-5711)

Morning Coffee: muffins, donuts, bagels (Barbara Langill and the Youth Group)

Lunch

Bob and Myrna's Famous Lobster Rolls, Steamed Hot Dogs, Chips.

Pre-order lobster rolls by noon on April 23 - check to Centre Congregational Church with form.
(Return reservation to the church office during the week or Chuck Cotting on Sundays)

LOBSTER ROLL ORDER: (\$10 each)

Name _____

How Many? _____

Our Opportunities

Sunday - April 11	10:00 am	Morning Worship - Sanctuary
	10:00 am	Rotations/Nursery
	11:30 am	Youth Choir
	11:30 am	Confirmation Class – Kitchen
	6:00 pm	Youth Groups – Lower Level
Monday - April 12	7:30 pm	Alanon and Alateen Groups –Fireside Room and Library
Tuesday - April 13	10:00 am	Caregivers – Fireside Room
	7:30 pm	Diaconate – Pastor’s Office
Wednesday - April 14	7:00 pm	Women’s AA – Fireside Room
Thursday - April 15	7:30 pm	Senior Choir – Choir Room
Friday - April 16	10:30 am	Bible Study – 2 nd Floor Office
Sunday - April 18	10:00 am	Morning Worship – Sanctuary
	10:00 am	Children in Church
Monday - April 19	-----	Patriots’ Day – Office Closed
	7:30 pm	Alanon/Alateen – Fireside & Libr.
Tuesday - April 20	7:00 pm	Pastoral Review Committee – Pastor’s Outer Office
Wednesday - April 21	7:00 pm	Women’s AA – Fireside Room
Thursday - April 22	-----	No Senior Choir this week
Friday - April 23	10:30 am	Bible Study – 2 nd Floor Office

Our love and prayers are with David DiFillippo recuperating at home; Rev. Bailey’s mother, Betty Whitcraft, Manor Care South, 200 Pauline Dr., York, PA 17402; Abbott Cofran (Annabel Aldrich’s brother), Meadow View, North Reading; Barbara Bean, Emeritus at Cherry Hill, 220 Conant St., Danvers 01923; Muriel Badger, RiverCourt Residences, West Groton; Louise Allen, Beaumont Nursing Home, Westborough; 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, the Meadows, Edgewood, North Andover; June Rose, in Lunenburg.

Our prayers are with James Papagni serving in Afghanistan.
