

TOWER NOTES

Centre Congregational Church (United Church of Christ)

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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

May 19, 2010

Serving Faithfully

This past Sunday, May 16th, we celebrated the 25th anniversary of Susan Spear's service to the ministry and people of Centre Congregational Church, United Church of Christ, in her role as our church's Administrator. She has served faithfully the people, the pastors, the whole staff, and even the community when they request to use the facilities.

In this we also celebrate the faithful service that any and all of us perform in this ministry we are blessed to have and share.

We are called to serve God by doing the very best job that we can on any task that is given to us, to serve the Lord in this way every single time. Almost anybody is capable of giving a maximum effort once on any given project. Almost everybody knows what it is to have gone above and beyond the call of duty on one occasion. To serve the Lord faithfully is to be consistent. To serve faithfully means that God can count on us on a daily basis.

We benefit because people decide to serve faithfully every day, consistently. When an airline pilot serves faithfully every time, hundreds of lives fly safely. When a surgeon serves faithfully every time, the patient lives. When the people who cook our food serve faithfully, we do not get sick from food poisoning. When an entertainer performs faithfully, we find joy and happiness for periods of time away from our hard work and stress.

I grew up enjoying the songs of the Temptations. For a short period of time I even played in a band that played some of their music. I was always impressed to watch them as every dance move they made seemed to be perfect. When I watched them on TV I loved how it seemed to me that when they sang "My Girl" they seemed to sing it with all the passion and polish they possessed as when they first sang that song when it was recorded in 1965. Every time they sang, danced, and served faithfully.

Should God expect anything less from us than we expect from those who fly us through the air, treat our medical conditions, prepare our meals, or entertain us with our favorite songs? I think not! We need to make it our intention to serve God faithfully on a daily basis. This is one of the

In The Sanctuary

Sunday, May 23, 2010 - Pentecost Sunday

10:00 A.M. Morning Worship

Acts 2:1-21

Sermon by the Rev. Dr. Dennis C. Bailey

"A Diverse Crowd!"

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

The Nursery will be open in Room 14.

Sunday, May 30, 2010

10:00 A.M. Morning Worship

Proverbs 8:1-4, 22-31

"God Gets Personal"

Children may worship with their families before going outside to plant flowers.

Sunday, June 6, 2010 - Children Sunday

10:00 A.M. Holy Communion

Message delivered by
the Children of the Church

Followed by Ice Cream Social
on the front lawn.

characteristics of being a servant of God.

I give thanks for those who have been a blessing to my life and faith because they sought to serve God faithfully every day: the Sunday School teachers of my childhood, my family and relatives who modeled fidelity and faith, my school teachers who trained me to see in myself the potential that I have realized in my adult life, my close friends who have faithfully and consistently been there in my times of crisis, and the people of faith in the congregations I have served.

Serving faithfully in the work of our Lord is a great pleasure full of magnificent rewards!

Yours in Christ, Dennis

Rotation Workshops

Nursery Care: Nursery Care will be provided on May 23 in Room 14. All infants through age 3 are invited to join our trained staff for story time and fun.

Rotation Workshops: Our workshops have concluded for this year, however, we will STILL be meeting.

May 23: EVERYONE, PreK-grade 8, is **encouraged to attend** this Sunday. We will be practicing for Children's Sunday. Please make every effort to be with us as we prepare for our special Sunday.

May 30: Flower Planting Sunday. PreK-Grade 8, are invited to join us as we plant flowers. Please bring trowels, watering cans and wear garden-friendly clothes ☺

June 6: ALL children and youth, leaders and shepherds are invited to join us for a special Children's Sunday! Our children and youth will be participating in the service. There will be a recognition of all volunteers. It promises to be a memorable day for all. Ice-Cream Social to follow on the front lawn.

Notice of Special Meeting

A Special Meeting of the Congregation of Centre Church will be held on Sunday, June 13, 2010 immediately following the worship service for the purpose of approving the budget for fiscal year 2010-2011.

Youth News

Zip-Line Adventure! 18 of us traveled to Charlemont, MA to enjoy some outdoor fun. We were zipping through the air at 30-50 mph on 330-550 ft. of cable! It was a great day, God provided wonderful weather and everyone enjoyed the fun.

This Sunday, May 23, members of the Young Adult Group, (Rhett Batchelder, Lisa Gerbick, Alyssa Langill, Jessica Ladd and Roger Potter-Furey) along with their leaders (Barbara and Jeff Langill) will be heading to New Orleans for a week-long Mission Trip. We will be staying and working with the Mennonites. Please keep us in your prayers.

Stock Sales: There is still time to invest in our youth, and for just \$20.00, become a shareholder in the upcoming High School Mission Trip. Please send in your completed form to the church office.

Thank You!

I can't begin to tell you how wonderful the celebration of my 25 years at Centre Church was on Sunday! It was so great to see so many people who I have encountered over the years! I'd like to thank Mark Strickland, Nancy Brown, Lola Leggett and Chris Parker for their kind words and the members of Centre Church who made possible the lovely gift (a beautiful bracelet) and a very generous check. Your generosity is greatly appreciated!

Thanks to Dennis for the overall planning and the wonderful worship service. Thanks to the choir for the great, uplifting music and thanks to Grayce Kushmerek and her crew for the luncheon which was perfect and enjoyed by all.

The work we do as a church is so important. I am honored and happy to facilitate that work in any way I can, and look forward to more years of working with you. Fondly, Susan Spear

I thank Grayce Kushmerek for leading the effort for the luncheon for Susan Spear's special day. I also thank Douglas Hodgkins and the choir for providing such special music for the day. I thank all who came to worship and celebrate - especially our special visitors.

- Rev. Dennis Bailey

Thanks!

I hope everyone enjoyed the luncheon reception for Susan last Sunday. It was truly a team effort and would not have come together without the help of so many willing volunteers. Special thanks to Al Johnson, Chuck Cotting, Jeff Law, Jane Vancor, Betty Hayter, Sue Gustafson, Marcia Stevens, Pinky Warnock, MaryAnn Parker, Carrie Pericola, Judy Johnson, Linda Ladd and the many people who baked desserts. I am truly grateful for all your help.

~ Grayce Kushmerrek

News From Around the Parish

We extend our love and sympathy to Deborah Rose upon the death of her mother, Ernestine June Rose on May 15. Visiting hours were held in Wakefield and burial will be in Farmington, ME.

Our love and sympathy go out to Kristin Robinson and her family upon the death of her mother, Elsie Robinson. A memorial service will be held on May 21st at the Old North Church in Marblehead.

From the Mailbox

Dear Centre Church,

Just a line to tell you that Barkey and I will not be working at Bread and Roses any longer. We have served for almost twenty years. The time has come for some young people to take over. We do want to extend our thanks to our wonderful workers. Cooks: Ginny and Dana Richardson, Louise Siebert, Edie Richard, Norma Holloway, Pinky Warnock, Harriet Holt, Kathi Martin, Barbara Jensen, Nancy Loyd; Steve and Judie Furey for delivering the ingredients to the church; and Henry Flickinger for delivering the food to Lawrence, with the help of Judy Johnson.

Thank you all, Barkey and Meg Gulezian

Thanks to our Volunteers

Sunday, May 23: Head Usher – Linda Ladd. Lay Reader – Chris Lambe. Provide Altar Flowers – Betty and Clayton Conn. Deliver Altar Flowers – The Aslanian family and Barbara Ericson. Lights Out beginning May 21 – Roger Batchelder.

Lights Out beginning May 28: Al Johnson.

If you can volunteer for coffee hour, please contact Dotty Whittier – 978-362-3504 or Chuck Cotting – 978-593-3120.

Bread and Roses

It is with deep regret that after over 20 years, Barkey and Meg Gulezian have decided to step down as leaders of the Bread and Roses meal program. Meg and Barkey, along with many others, have supported and developed this wonderful Centre Church outreach through which we prepare a meal once a month for approximately 150 people. Those who wish to continue to support this program are invited to join us for a meeting about the future of the Bread and Roses program in the Library on Sunday, June 13th, immediately following the Church's Business Meeting. For more information, please see or contact Rev. Bailey.

Congratulations Graduates!

- Michael Bruce graduated from Northeastern University, College of Criminal Justice and was commissioned 2nd Lt. in the United States Marine Corp upon graduation. He is the grandson of Barbara and Ernest Becker.
- Stefanie Imbrescia graduated from Boston University with a Master's degree in Occupational Therapy.
- Courtney Bourque, granddaughter of Dana and Ginny Richardson, graduated from Bryant University with a Major in Communications and a Minor in Marketing.
- Alicia Shorey, granddaughter of Bob and Myrna Shorey, graduated from Acton-Boxboro High School and will be attending BU in the fall.
- Frank Triffletti will graduate from U Mass Amherst with a triple major, BS in Sports Management, Finance and Economics.

We will feature our high school graduates in the next issue of *Tower Notes*.

Ministerial Review Survey

A big thank you goes out to everyone who took time to fill out and return a Ministerial Review survey. An impressive number of 90 surveys were returned! This is very helpful in setting our church's goals and priorities for the upcoming year. You may already have seen some of your suggestions implemented in our worship services. Please contact any member of the committee with further comments you may have.

With gratitude, your Ministerial Review Committee: Chris Parker, Linda Ladd, Phil Johnson, Bruce Weaver

Our Opportunities

Sun., May 23	6:00 am 10:00 am 10:00 am 11:30 am	Young Adult Group leaves for New Orleans Mission Trip Morning Worship - Sanctuary Rotations/Nursery Youth Choir - Sanctuary
Mon., May 24	7:00 pm 7:30 pm	Boy Scouts – Richards Hall Alanon & Alateen –FR & Libr.
Tues., May 25	10:00 am	Caregivers – Fireside Room
Wed., May 26	7:00 pm 7:30 pm	Women’s 12-Step Mtg. – Fireside Sr. Choir - Sanctuary
Fri., May 28	10:30 am	Bible Study – 2 nd Floor Office
Sun., May 30	10:00 am 10:00 am	Morning Worship – Sanctuary Children Plant Flowers on Lawn
Mon., May 31	----- 7:30 pm	Office Closed – Memorial Day Alanon/Alateen – Fireside & Libr.
Wed., June 2	----- 7:00 pm	Bread & Roses Off -Site Women’s 12-Step Mtg. – Fireside
Fri., June 4	10:30 am	Bible Study – 2 nd Floor Office
Sun., June 6	10:00 am 11:00 am	Children’s Sunday Ice Cream Social – Front Lawn
Mon., June 7	7:00 pm 7:30 pm	Boy Scouts – Richards Hall Alanon/Alateen – FR & Libr.
Wed., June 9	7:00 pm	Women’s 12-Step Mtg. - Fireside
Thurs., June 10	6:00 pm	Tower Kindergarten Graduation
Fri., June 11	10:30 am	Bible Study – 2 nd Floor Office

Our love and prayers are with Ginny Davis at Country Manor Rehab. and Nursing, 180 Low Street, Newburyport, MA 01950-3519 978-465-5361; Charlotte Orrall at Salem Hospital; Louise Allen, Beaumont Nursing Home, Westborough; Marion Barnes, Harborside; Cedar Glen, Danvers; Barbara Bean, Emeritus at Cherry Hill, Danvers; Abbott Cofran (Annabel Aldrich’s brother), Meadow View, North Reading; Glady Davis, Haven Health Care, Derry NH; Carolyn Furey, Overlook Masonic Health Ctr., Charlton; Hal Holappa, Veterans’ Hospital, Bedford; Helen Miller, Edgewood, North Andover; Rev. Bailey’s mother, Betty Whitcraft, Manor Care South, York, PA;

Our prayers are with James Papagni who is on his way home from Afghanistan.

Next Tower Notes - week of June 7.

Summer Office Hours of 9-12 begin on June 1.