

# 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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Douglas W. Hodgkins, Organist/Choir Director

Sally MacDonald, Director of Tower Day School

Susan Spear, Secretary

*We Welcome Everyone: An "Open and Affirming" Church*

**January 19, 2011**

## What Shapes a Community of Faith?

What shapes us as a Community of Faith? What makes a Christian Community of Faith different?

In Leviticus 19, it is written how the LORD told Moses to tell his community of faith, Israel, "*Be holy because I, the LORD your God, am holy.*" (v. 2) The LORD also told Moses to say, "*Each of you must respect your mother and father, and you must observe my Sabbaths. I am the LORD your God.*"

To be "holy" is to be set apart, special, blessed, and safe. A Community of Faith is to be holy so that people can gather and feel the presence of the LORD, feel the blessed presence of God's trusted and trustworthy people there to support and care for each other. The Church (God's people) is holy when the people respect one another. It is holy when the members consider it a holy act to reach out to others near and far to extend the care of God's people and resources to others.

What sets a Community of Faith apart to me is that we are always welcoming. We welcome those we have known throughout the years and cycles of life. We welcome those who arrive for the first time, taking time to know their names, to tell them we are glad to meet them, to be holy enough to break our old patterns of interaction in order to make the visitor feel holy. What sets us apart is that most of us come looking for something, something of meaning in the worship experience and in the fellowship of faith.

Smiles and open arms are important. We come to God's people for food, conversation, and spiritual nourishment. It is so nice to be greeted, welcomed, and connected. It is not always apparent that we are, in fact, connected, but God has

connected us long before we meet and greet another person.

Sometimes we are connected through some mutual acquaintance in the congregation. Sometimes we are connected through our common search for meaning. Sometimes we are connected through our mutual desire for service, for singing in the choir, for being inspired by the church's music, for a spiritual life for our children, etc.

Sometimes, we are connected into a church community simply because the building reminds us of the church we grew up in. Of course, this connection needs to be followed by immediate and sincere friendship coming from those who have found this place a place of spiritual nurture for years.

## In the Sanctuary

**January 23, 2011**

*I Corinthians 1:10-18 Matthew 4:12-23*

10:00 A.M. Morning Worship

Sermon by Guest Preacher, Lauren Lorincz

"Has Christ Been Divided?"

Children's Message: "Fishing with Jesus"

Children may worship with their families

before going to Rotation Workshops.

Nursery Open in Room 14.

**January 30, 2011**

*Matthew 5:1-12*

10:00 A.M. Morning Worship

Sermon by the Rev. Dr. Dennis C. Bailey

"Real World vs. New World"

Children's Message: "Happy as a Bee"

Children may worship with their families

before going to Rotation Workshops.

Nursery Open in Room 14.

What also makes a Community of Faith set apart is when we find our connections turning into relationships that feed us and feed others. The apostle Paul talks about this in 1 Corinthians 12: "Just as a body, though one, has many parts, but all its many parts form one body, so it is with Christ." (v. 12) And further Paul writes, "Now you are the body of Christ, and each one of you is a part of it. And God has placed in the church first of all apostles, second prophets, third teachers, then miracles, then gifts of healing, of helping, of guidance, and of different kinds of tongues." (vv. 27-28)

We are set apart to be and become the church leaders of which Paul speaks. We may not realize our gifts for leadership, at first, but they are there and God has put them there before we even realize.

So now, we are set apart, holy, welcoming, loving, connected, and then, in full relationship with one another, trusted and trustworthy disciples, able and ready for leadership in the work of God through a specific Community of Faith, the church. And in this church we serve and worship. The church has many names, many denominational names, some that we call Protestant, some Roman Catholic, some with Orthodox in the name, some with a different ethnic name in the title, but we are still part of the same church that Jesus established through his disciple, Peter, the Rock.

I take great pride in following and leading the unique, and more excellent way of God's people, who, together, serve the one God, through Jesus Christ, our Savior.

Yours in Christ,  
Dennis

### **Snow Tubing**

Both the High School and Middle School youth groups will be headed to Nashoba Valley on Sunday, Jan. 23 for an evening of snow tubing. We will meet in the parking lot at 4:45 p.m. The bus will be leaving promptly at 5 p.m. Please eat beforehand as we will not be having dinner at Youth Group. There is a snack bar at the lodge where food may be purchased. We will provide hot chocolate, water, and brownies.

If you plan to attend, you must call the church office and let us know before Friday, January 21.

### **QP Play Tickets On Sale Now**

Tickets for the Jan 30<sup>th</sup> performance of Lend Me a Tenor, will be available after church services, or can be purchased using the included order form.

All of us are encouraged to invite and sell tickets to our friends and neighbors. The more the merrier when watching the hilarious series of mishaps this show entails: Proceeds from ticket sales will benefit the care and maintenance of our Centre Church facility which is used by so many community groups.

Quannapowitt Players will present this extra performance of their upcoming comedy, just for us. We can sell 150 tickets and the more we sell - the more profit goes to Centre Church. We'll have a very fun day of theater and fellowship and support our local ministry!

When you sign up for tickets, please note how many passengers you could take or if you'd appreciate a ride. For more information contact Linda Ladd, [ladd@neb.com](mailto:ladd@neb.com), 781-334-6170

### **Rotation Sensation**

This week we will continue learning the story of "The Widow's Mite" through our Cooking and Storytelling Workshops.

Our Nursery, located in Room 14, is open each week for infants through age 3. Experienced staff and volunteers are on hand to welcome children for story time and play. Pagers are available for all parents.

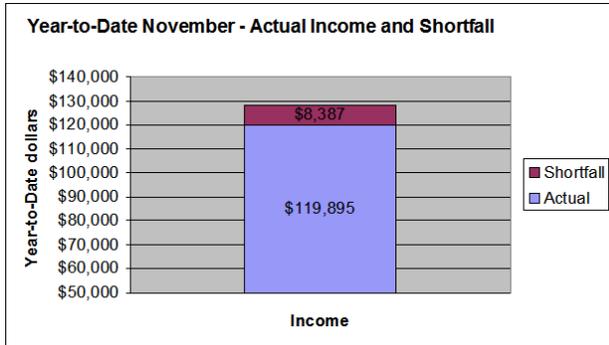
### **Youth Groups**

There will be no Youth Groups scheduled for Sunday, January 30 as we hope everyone will attend the performance of "Lend Me a Tenor" at 2 pm. Student tickets are just \$10.00 each. Please plan to attend with your families. You must purchase your tickets in advance. High School youth are needed to help sell refreshments at intermission. All proceeds will go toward this year's mission trip.

On Sunday, Feb 6, we will be selling subs and salads after worship to raise money for this year's mission trip. High School youth are asked to meet in the kitchen at 9:30 am to start putting together the orders. Please call or e-mail Carrie Perricola and let us know that you can help.

**A Financial Update from your Treasurer**

We are just about halfway through our fiscal year now, and our financial results (through November) are mixed. On the expense side, we have had good expense controls and have been fortunate to have a limited number of unexpected repair and maintenance issues, so our expenses are running within budget. On the income side, we are running behind where we should be at this point in the year by about \$8,000. Here is a chart showing where we are for income through November.



If everyone can take a look at where you are on your pledge – and catch-up if needed – that would be most helpful. Thank You! Jeff Law, Treasurer

**News From Around the Parish**

Our best wishes to Marge Cole as she celebrates her 99<sup>th</sup> birthday on January 26.

**Entertainment Opportunity!**

**TRIVIA NIGHT II @ Centre Church  
Friday evening February 11, 2011 @ 6:30 PM**

**Pizza, salad, dessert and beverages \$15  
Donations of desserts are very Welcome!**

Trivia brought to you by Jason Cotting.  
Come on down to a nice evening  
of great fun and fellowship.

There will be prizes for the best two teams!  
Team limit six people – get your team together now!  
Please contact Susan Spear at the Church Office [781-334-3050] or Chuck Cotting [781-593-3120].  
Make out your check to Centre Church, return it to the church office or Chuck Cotting and include your name, how many on your team and your team name.

**We Thank Our Volunteers!**

Sunday, January 23: Head Usher-Linda Ladd.  
Greeters: Gage and Dotty Whittier. Provide Altar Flowers-Jeff and Barbara Langill. Deliver Altar Flowers-Judith Doe and Randy Russell. Lights Out beginning January 21-Bill Seelig.

Sunday, January 30: Head Usher-Linda Ladd.  
Greeter: Marjorie Potter. Lights Out beginning January 28-Jeff Langill.



**Subs and Salad - February 6**

Please check off the type of sub and salad requested and circle what you would like on it.



**Submarine Sandwiches**

- |                          |            |                                 |                                  |                                 |                                |                                 |
|--------------------------|------------|---------------------------------|----------------------------------|---------------------------------|--------------------------------|---------------------------------|
| <input type="checkbox"/> | Roast Beef | <input type="checkbox"/> Cheese | <input type="checkbox"/> Lettuce | <input type="checkbox"/> Tomato | <input type="checkbox"/> Onion | <input type="checkbox"/> Pickle |
| <input type="checkbox"/> | Ham        | <input type="checkbox"/> Cheese | <input type="checkbox"/> Lettuce | <input type="checkbox"/> Tomato | <input type="checkbox"/> Onion | <input type="checkbox"/> Pickle |
| <input type="checkbox"/> | Turkey     | <input type="checkbox"/> Cheese | <input type="checkbox"/> Lettuce | <input type="checkbox"/> Tomato | <input type="checkbox"/> Onion | <input type="checkbox"/> Pickle |

Chef (Turkey, ham and cheese)

Name \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_ Subs at \$5.00 each=\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_ Salads at \$5.00 each=\_\_\_\_\_

Total enclosed \_\_\_\_\_

**Special production of .... *Lend Me A Tenor***  
**Sponsored by Centre Congregational Church, Lynnfield, MA**  
 All profits benefit Centre Congregational Church's ministry to its community

**Performance will be held at the Quannapowitt Players Theatre, 55 Hopkins St, Reading**

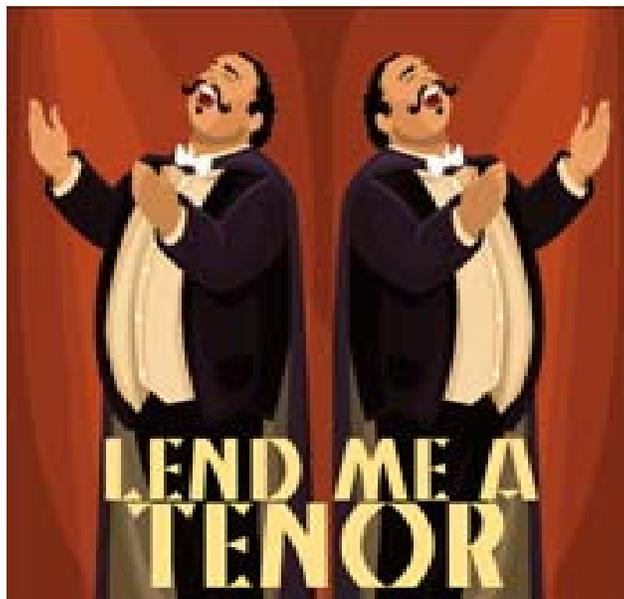
**Sunday, January 30<sup>th</sup>, 2011 @ 2pm      \$20 adult/ \$10 student**

To order tickets, please return the form below to the church office,  
 with a check payable to Centre Congregational Church, memo "QP Play"



**Quannapowitt Players, Inc.**

<http://www.qptheater.com>



**by Ken Ludwig, QP Director John Pease**

Can the world's most famous tenor put the Cleveland Opera Company on the operatic map in his greatest role as Othello? Come see the hilarious series of mishaps with tranquillizers, too many doors and a very reluctant replacement that puts two Othello's on stage - a perfect farce!

**January 30, 2011 CCC/QP Play - ticket order form**

Name	# Adults @ \$20	# Students @ \$10	Total \$	Prefer a Ride?	Can Give a Ride? (# of seats available)

**Your contact phone #(s):** \_\_\_\_\_

**Email address:** \_\_\_\_\_

**Please make checks payable to Centre Congregational Church, memo "QP Play"**  
**And return to the church office @ 5 Summer St., Lynnfield MA 01940**

## *Our Opportunities*

Sun. Jan. 23	10:00 am 10:00 am 11:30 am 4:45 pm	Morning Worship - Sanctuary Nursery/Rotations Confirmation/Youth Choir Youth Groups Go Tubing
Mon. Jan. 24	7:30 pm	Alanon & Alateen – FR & Library
Tues., Jan. 25	12:30 pm	Get-Together Wheel - Fireside
Wed. Jan. 26	7:00 pm	Women’s 12-Step Mtg. – Fireside
Thur. Jan. 27	7:30 pm	Senior Choir – Choir Room
Fri., Jan. 28	10:30 am	Bible Study – 2 <sup>nd</sup> Floor Office
Sun., Jan. 30	10:00 am 10:00 am 11:30 am 2:00 pm	Morning Worship Service Nursery/Rotations Confirmation/Youth Choir Quannapowitt Players - Reading
Mon. Jan 31	7:30 pm	Alanon/Alateen – FR & Library
Wed. Feb. 2	8:30 am 7:00 pm 7:00 pm	Bread and Roses Meal Preparation Women’s 12-Step Mtg. – Fireside Council – Pastor’s Office
Thur. Feb. 3	7:30 pm	Senior Choir – Choir Room
Fri., Feb 4	10:30 am	Bible Study – 2 <sup>nd</sup> Floor Office

Our prayers are with Marion Edkins at Lahey, Burlington; Al Farnsworth at Salem Hospital; Barbara Bean and Abbott Cofran at Meadowview, North Reading; Denis Edkins and Priscilla Kress at Renaissance Gardens, Peabody; George Hayden, Frank Scott and Art Pyburn at home; Louise Allen, Marion Barnes, Glady Davis, Carolyn Furey, and Hal Holappa. We also remember in our prayers Allan Marshall who is serving in Afghanistan.

**The next *Tower Notes* is the week of January 31.**

**The Church Office will be open 9-3 Monday-Friday.**

