

# 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*

May 25, 2011

## Power

*(Please read Exodus 3:1-15)*

Moses was a runaway Egyptian fugitive. Even though he had grown up as one of Pharaoh's sons, he could no longer handle seeing the Hebrew people beaten down. So, one day, while seeing a slave master beating one of the slaves, he intervened and killed the slave master, a capital crime.

He ran and found a new life tending sheep. But, the *power* of the cries of his people resonated in him and in the heart of God. The liberating *power* of the love of God will stop at nothing to bring freedom to God's people.

But the *power* of God is not a dominating *power* to suppress, to maim or to kill. It is not a *power* that deems it fine that one people have *power* over another, that one person use *power* to abuse another.

God's vision of *power* is different: not dominating *power* over the natural world, but liberating *power* that flows from relationship between the God of love and those whom he loves. This is the *power* that enabled Moses to lead the Israelite people from bondage to freedom. God was ready to perform spectacular displays of *power* apparently without limit in order to free the people and to let the world then and today know that the injustice of oppression is a misuse of *power* and sign of weakness and cowardice.

Through Moses we can understand the source of our *power* as we live our lives. Our *power* comes from our intimate relationship with the One who is deeply in love with all creation and who longs for our liberation.

Spending time with the Holy One (God) in worship, prayer, and service, increases our *power* and our ability to understand what real *power* is. It is the *power* that comes from God's love for us and our love for God.

This is the *power* that puts courage into the heart.

This is the *power* to forgive  
when we do not know if it will be appreciated.

This is the *power* to speak the truth  
under the threat of retaliation.

This is the *power* to beat the lure of addiction.  
This is the *power* to go beyond what is expected,  
in faith that God will honor it.

This is the *power* that sees that humility  
is stronger than arrogance.

This is the *power* that knows the heart is stronger  
than the sword.

God frequently appears in surprising manifestations. For ancient hearers, a blazing bush might have been just a means of getting the attention of Moses. The more important learning from this story is that God's

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## In the Sanctuary

May 29, 2011

10:00 A.M. Morning Worship

*Matthew 25:31-46*

Sermon by the Rev. Dr. Dennis C. Bailey

"Under Construction"

Children's Message: "Feather: Sign of the Spirit"

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

Nursery open in Room 14.

June 5, 2011

10:00 A.M. Holy Communion

*John 17:1-11*

Sermon by the Rev. Dr. Dennis C. Bailey

"To Make God Known"

Recognition of High School Graduates

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

Nursery open in Room 14.

self-revealing love ignites in our all-too-reluctant hearts the *powerful* flame of our passion for the healing of the world.

God of the universe, with your power you created us. With your power you sustain us. Remind us that you are the source of our power and let us use it in ways that honor you. Amen.

Yours in Christ, Dennis

***Congregational Meeting – June 5, 2011  
Immediately following 10:00 a.m.  
Worship Service***

Items to be considered:

- Proposed Budget for the 2011-2012 Fiscal Year
- Ratify extending the term of the Officers until the Annual Meeting in September.

Bruce Weaver, Moderator

**Sunday Mornings With the Children**

*Nursery Care:* Infants through age 3 are invited to join our experienced Nursery staff in Room 14 for stories and playtime during the church service. Pagers are available for all parents.

**Rotation Sensation**

May 29: 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 5: 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.

June 12: 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.

**Youth Group News**

Both youth groups wrapped up the year with an evening of miniature golf and ice cream at Richardson's in Middleton. Many thanks to our youth group leaders and parent volunteers for a great year.

**UCC Disaster Relief for Storm Victims**

Joplin, Missouri is the latest victim of the monster tornadoes that have taken hundreds of lives and destroyed billions of dollars worth of property, including St. John's Hospital in Joplin. If you can and wish to contribute, you may write checks to "Centre Church," and write in the memo – "Disaster Relief." Let us also keep our brothers and sisters in our prayers!

**June 5: Last Day for Shopping Card Orders**

Please take a minute to look ahead to this summer's shopping and see if you might be able to use shopping cards for some of your needs and wants.

Will you be traveling? We offer cards for gas, oil changes, and hotels like Marriott and Hyatt. Will you be reading books? Will your college student be buying text books in August? We offer cards for Barnes & Noble, including cards good at the B&N college bookstores. Will you need summer clothes? We offer cards for Macy's, LL Bean, Land's End, Talbots, American Eagle, and many other clothing stores. Will you be dining out? We offer cards for the 99 Restaurant, Legal Sea Food, Outback Steakhouse, the Cheesecake Factory, and more, ranging from take-out to fine dining. Please think about graduations, weddings, birthdays, baby showers, and Father's Day, too.

We'll take the last orders on June 5 and distribute the cards on Sunday, June 12. Thanks to all who support the shopping card program!

-- Debbie Cotting and Sandi Watson

**Red Sox Ticket Raffle**

Attention Red Sox Fans: Want to head to Fenway and catch a game, but find ticket prices too high? Here's your chance to win two tickets to the Boston Red Sox vs. Milwaukee Brewers on Friday, June 17, 2011 at 7:05 pm. Tickets will be on sale after worship Sunday, May 29 and June 5. The raffle will be held June 12. Tickets are 3 for \$10.00 or 9 for \$20.00. Please call Barbara Langill in the church office for more information. All proceeds will go toward the High School Mission trip to New Orleans this summer.

**News from around the Parish**

We extend our love and sympathy to Phil and Sue Johnson and their family upon the recent death of Sue's mother, Donna Sasso in Florida. A memorial service will be held at a later date.

Our love and prayers go to Jon and Sue Durkee upon the death of Jon's mother, Nancy Durkee of Marblehead. A memorial service will be held June 3 in Swampscott.

We rejoice with Stephen and Betsy Ragalevsky upon the baptism of their daughter, Catherine Carolyn "CC" Ragalevsky on May 15. Proud grandparents are Stanley and Emily Ragalevsky of Topsfield.

Congratulations to Matthew and Allison Strickland of Alexandria, VA upon the birth of a daughter, Violet Elizabeth Strickland on May 8. Her proud big brother (age 2) is Oliver and her proud grandparents are Mark and Nancy Strickland.

## **Congratulations Graduates!**

Diana Gerbick – Master of Science in Nursing from Salem State University.

Brian DiFillippo – Bachelor of Science in Business/Finance and Operations Management from Boston University.

Keep sending us information about your graduates. High School Graduates will be recognized during the worship service on June 5.

## **Write On! Secret Pen Pal Program!**

I am looking for a few more adults to participate in the Secret Pen Pal Program. We have children signed up who I would love to match up with an adult. Here's all you need to do:

- 1.) Pick a secret code name for your letters
- 2.) Send and receive at least 4 letters or post cards from June-September
- 3.) Meet your secret pen pal at an ice cream social in the fall.

Want to sign up? Call or e-mail Barbara Langill at 781 334-3050 or [christianed@centre-church.org](mailto:christianed@centre-church.org) with your name, summer address, phone number and a secret code name that you want to use.

## **Stock Sales**

This July, 9 youth and 3 adults will be traveling to New Orleans to help with the rebuilding efforts after Hurricane Katrina. We invite you to "share" in this experience by purchasing stock in our Mission Trip.

For just \$20.00 per share, you will be helping our youth and adult volunteers give New Orleans residents in need hope for a better future. All shareholders will receive a stock certificate and an invitation to a shareholder dinner in the fall where our youth will give a presentation of their experiences. Shares will be on sale this Sunday after worship.

## **Thanks to Our Volunteers!**

**May 29:** Head Usher-Carrie Pericola. Greeter-Barbara Becker. Lay Reader-Carrie Pericola. Coffee Hour-George & Perry Hayden. Lights Out beginning May 27-Steve Furey.

**June 5:** Head Usher-Margaret Waugh. Greeter-Betty Hayter. Coffee Hour-Deacons. Lights Out beginning June 3-Al Johnson.



## **From the Mailbox**

Dear Centre Church,  
Thank you for recognizing our many years of teaching at Tower Day School during our annual Teacher Appreciation Luncheon sponsored by the Tower Day School Parents Forum. We love the beautiful silver earrings you gave us – almost as much as we love teaching at Tower Day!

Kathy Dickson – 29 years  
Eileen Trapasso – 28 years  
Eileen Goodwin – 27 years  
Debbie Cotting – 25 years

Dear Friends,  
Perry and I have always thought we were lucky to be part of the Centre Church Family. But this past winter has really taught us what living with faith is all about. Whenever there was a burst of weather from mother nature, someone would stop by and make sure we did not get snowed in. If we were too busy seeing doctors, getting to treatments, trying to get discharged from the hospital – food appeared to make sure we had the energy to keep going. Visits, cards, and calls have a way of cheering you up and making you smile no matter when they arrive... faith keeps us moving ahead.

Thank you, George and Perry Hayden

Dear Friends of Centre Church,  
Thanks so much for all the caring that you have shown our family during the past few weeks. All the many cards from the congregation, flowers from the church, and Easter tulips from Annabel Aldrich, together with the visits from Rev. Bailey have helped us all through a very difficult time. It is great to be a part of such a generous community.  
–The Foulds Family

Dear Dr. Bailey and Friends of Centre Church,  
It's so good to be home again after a long journey to health. I thank God and all my friends at Centre Church for your calls, cards, visits and flowers. You are all in my prayers!  
God's love and laughter, Dorsey Holappa

**MISSIONS PANTRY:** Our ongoing collections include Aluminum Can Pull Tabs, Used Eyeglasses, Non-Perishable Food, Travel Size Toiletries, and Used Cell Phones (numbers erased with charger).

**PAPER RECYCLE BIN:** Don't forget to bring your newspapers, magazines, catalogs, & junk mail to the bin in the parking lot. (no cereal boxes or cardboard please)



# JuneFest at Centre Church – Fundraiser

## Saturday, June 11, 2011

9 a.m. – 2 p.m. on the church lawn (weather permitting)

**Membership is looking for volunteers to help out.**

**Flea Market Tables** – You may either rent a table for \$30 (or \$25 if you provide your own table,) Contact Susan Lambe (781-334-2876)

**Morning Coffee:** muffins, donut holes, coffee, tea  
Contact Laurel Caputo (781-245-3874) or Debbie Newman (781-246-2291)

**Baked Goods and Food Table:** cookies, cake, pie, squares, bread, baked beans, candy etc.  
Contact Debbie Cotting (781-593-3120) or Meg Gulezian (781-334-4504)

**Activities or Children Tables:** fun activities for children  
Contact Dotty Whittier (781-635-6225)

**Plant Table:** Plant sale – plants from Barbara Langill’s family farm  
Contact Dotty Whittier (781-635-6225)

**Lunch:** Bob and Myrna’s Famous **Lobster Rolls**, Steamed Hot Dogs, Chips.  
Contact Laurel Caputo (781-245-3874) or Debbie Newman (781-246-2291)  
See Lobster Roll Order Form below.

**Raffle:** Red Sox Basket with two tickets donated by Mary McCarthy for the  
Red Sox vs. Milwaukee Brewers on Friday, 6/17/11 at 7:10p.m.  
with \$50 for parking and other goodies.  
Contact Chuck Cotting (781-593-3120)

**Set Up:** Need help Friday June 10 starting at 1 PM  
Need help Saturday June 11 starting at 7 AM  
Contact Chuck Cotting (781-593-3120)

**Clean Up** Need help Saturday June 11 after 2 PM  
Contact Chuck Cotting (781-593-3120)

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**LOBSTER ROLL ORDER:** (\$10 each)  
**Pre-order** lobster rolls by **noon on Tuesday June 7**  
(check to Centre Congregational Church with form)

Pick up Saturday June 11 any time after 9 AM

Name \_\_\_\_\_

How Many? \_\_\_\_\_

## *Our Opportunities*

Sun. May 29	10:00 am 10:00 am 10:20 am	Morning Worship - Sanctuary Nursery – Room 14 Children Plant Flowers
Mon. May 30	----- 7:30 pm	Office Closed/Memorial Day Alanon & Alateen – FR & Library
Tues. May 31	7:00 pm	Membership – Pastor’s Office
Wed June 1	9:00 am 7:00 pm 7:00 pm	Bread & Roses Meal Prep Women’s 12 Step Mtg. – FR Parish Council – Pastor’s Office
Thurs June 2	5:45 pm 7:30 pm	Weight Watchers – Fireside Room Choir Rehearsal – Choir Room
Fri. June 3	10:30 am	Bible Study – 2 <sup>nd</sup> Floor Office
Sun., June 5	10:00 am 10:00 am 11:30 am	Holy Communion - Sanctuary Nursery/Rotations Congregational Meeting – Sanct.
Mon. June 6	7:30 pm	Alanon/Alateen – FR & Library
Tues. June 7	1:00 pm	Caregivers – Fireside Room
Wed. June 8	7:00 pm	Women’s 12 Step Mtg. - FR
Thur. June 9	5:45 pm 7:30 pm	TDS Kindergarten Graduation Weight Watchers – Downstairs Senior Choir – Choir Room
Fri., June 10	10:30 am	Bible Study – 2 <sup>nd</sup> Floor Office
Sat., June 11	9am-2pm	JuneFest – Front Lawn

Our prayers are with Irene Allyn at New England Rehab Hospital, 2 Rehab Way, Woburn 01810; Andy Gehret, Dorsey Holappa and Ginny Richardson recuperating at home; Olive Wood at Woodbriar, Room 204B, 90 West St., Wilmington 01887 – 978-658-5393; Barbara Bean at Daniels House, 59 Middlesex Avenue, Reading, 01867; Marion Edkins, Denis Edkins and Priscilla Kress at Renaissance Gardens, Peabody; Art Pyburn at home; Louise Allen, Marion Barnes, Glady Davis, Carolyn Furey, and Hal Holappa.

We also remember in our prayers Bob Trayers and David Tuttle who are in Afghanistan.

**Office Open 9am-3pm Monday through Friday.**

**The next *Tower Notes* is the week of June 6.**