

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

June 29, 2011

Change

I have been thinking about how our lives can change so quickly, so significantly.

I think about it at the scene of an auto accident when the lives of one or more families are so sadly changed. Even those first responders who arrive to try to save lives can be changed by what they witness, by what they try to do.

I think about it as communities struggle over budgets to provide or not to provide services for their citizens, their children.

I think about how change comes when two people go from being a couple to a family, with the birth of one child, or the birth of twins. In this case I think about it as I witness the children grow, requiring the parents to adapt to the changes that come their way every day.

I think about it as children graduate from High School and are now preparing for their new journey, new life, in colleges and universities near and far.

I think about it as some of the changes we witness in our children can come about when God's Spirit is alive in them, calling forth from them and in them, a yearning to make a positive difference in the lives of others, in service to God's call in them.

I think about the changes that have come to so many as a result of the natural disasters we have recently witnessed: Haiti earthquake, Japan Tsunami, storms in the south, tornadoes in western Massachusetts, floods in Minot, North Dakota, etc.

I think about the changes wrought by the terrorist attacks of September 11, 2001, how the changes of that day continue to affect us.

I think about how God promises to be with us through the changes in our lives, be they changes

of a personal nature, or changes that affect communities, nations, and the world.

Psalms 46 speaks of this, when it says:

*God is our refuge and strength,
an ever-present help in trouble.*

*Therefore we will not fear,
though the earth give way*

*and the mountains fall into the heart of the sea,
though its waters roar and foam
and the mountains quake with their surging.*

*Nations are in uproar, kingdoms fall;
he lifts his voice, the earth melts.*

The LORD Almighty is with us....

Like you, I have had many, many changes in my life. I have had many losses, and I have also had many, many gains. I can testify that through all

July Worship Services In the Chapel – 9 a.m.

July 3, 2011

Matthew 11:16-19, 25-30

Sermon by the Rev. Lois Coppola

“Rest for the Weary”

We welcome Rev. Coppola to our service on July 3.

She is a full time chaplain at Merrimack Valley Hospice. She and her husband live in Haverhill.

July 10, 17, 24 & 31, 2011

Sermon by the Rev. Dr. Dennis C. Bailey

These brief, informal services are followed by punch and fellowship in the Fireside Room.

of these changes, God has been and continues to be with me. Yes, there have been many times when I have wished and prayed that God would intervene to bring different outcomes, to prevent losses, to prevent the pain and suffering of others.

I know, though, that through all of the changes, God has allowed me and others to persevere, gain strength through adversity, courage to endure, and, through hope, faith, and love, to find life. Through the changes in my life, I have gained an understanding of how the Lord waits for me and loves me through enduring friendships, non-judgmental spiritual mentors, and opportunities to affirm God at work through my own life.

I pray, in this season of summer, that all the changes that come your way will be a blessing to you and yours. I pray that the Lord keeps you safe, heals you to wholeness, and is with you as you go through challenging times and experiences in your life, as he has been in mine.

God bless you all. Dennis

Mission Trip Thanks

The High School Youth Group would like to thank everyone for helping us achieve our fundraising goal for the upcoming Mission Trip to New Orleans. Whether you bought shares, Mother's Day Flowers, Subs, Red Sox Raffle tickets, or all of the above, your continuing support is very much appreciated.

Special thanks go to Mary McCarthy for her generous donation of the Red Sox tickets and goodie filled basket. The raffle was held on Sunday, June 12 and the lucky winner was Ariel Bjorkman.

Confirmation Class

Educational Ministries, with the help of Rev. Bailey, is working on fine tuning the Confirmation Program at Centre Church. Confirmation is open to youth in grades 9 and above. Our hope is that the class will meet on Sunday mornings, sometimes during worship and other times directly after. If your child is in 9th-12th grade and would like more information, please call the church office 781 334-3050.

Plantings In Loving Memory of Dr. Elmer T. (Ted) Mitchell:

We are grateful to the family of the late Dr. Elmer T. (Ted) Mitchell who have decided to remember him by replacing the overgrown shrubs at the Summer Street entrance of Centre Church with beautiful, new, plantings.

Dr. Mitchell died on December 27, 2010, at 80 years of age. He was Chief of Plastic Surgery at Salem Hospital. He lived in Lynnfield with his wife, Evelyn. Dr. Mitchell's wife, daughter, Martha Planton, and granddaughter, Claire Planton decided to remember him in this special way. Dr. Mitchell loved his family and was an avid golfer. The new plantings are a beautiful and living way to remember someone so special, who dedicated his life to helping others through his work. We are also grateful to Marcia Imbrescia, who helped the Mitchell family select the new plantings and arrange for their installation.

If you have a similar interest in remembering someone, honoring someone, feel free to speak with Rev. Dr. Bailey.

News From Around the Parish

We rejoice with Michael and Jill Gonnam DiGiorgio upon the baptism of their son, Cameron Michael on June 12, 2011.

Our love and prayers are with Cheryl Wersackas and her family upon the death of her husband, Jim on June 12. His funeral was held at Centre Church on June 15.

A belated Happy Birthday to Marion Barnes who turned 101 on June 14.

Congratulations to Daryl and Alison Waugh Flynn of Tyngsboro upon the birth of a daughter, Emma Rose Flynn on June 2. Her proud big brothers are Ryan (11 years old) and Noah (19 months old). Proud grandmother is Marcia Waugh.

Our love and sympathy are with Suzanne Whitney and her family upon the death of her husband, William Whitney. His funeral will be held in Wakefield on Thursday, June 30.

Tower Day Graduates

One day last fall, Michelle Hagerty stopped by the Tower Day School Office to say that the members of our first kindergarten class would be graduating from high school in June. She suggested that it would be great if we could invite them to our current kindergarten class' end of the year celebration. With the help of Michelle and Allie Hagerty, we were able to contact all of the members of that kindergarten class! And, each of them responded to our invitation. As a result, eight members of the first Tower Day School Kindergarten Class joined us on June 9 at the Celebration in the Sanctuary. Allie Hagerty, Evan Nasson, and Gino Cohee were among those students who introduced themselves to the kindergarten students and their families, telling them where they graduated from, what their activities had been and where they will be attending college. Although Kyle Pomeroy could not attend from California, we found out that he will be attending University of Hawaii. It was a really special evening for all involved! - Sally MacDonald, Dir, Tower Day

Vacation Bible School Volunteers Needed.

Vacation Bible School

August 8-12 from 9:30 am- 12 noon.

The theme is the "Shake it Up Café, Where Kids Carry Out God's Recipe!" . We need leaders for Storytelling, Crafts, Discovery Time (science), Mission, and Recreation (games). Please contact Barbara Langill in the church office, or Samantha White, this year's VBS coordinator to volunteer.

Bits 'n Pieces

Lost: Navy Blue Windbreaker with Bowdoin College insignia. Misplaced in the church building on Friday, June 24. Property of Seavey Bowdoin.

Yard Sale for Special Needs Young Adults: Sat., Sept. 17 at the Meeting House. Donations of all items are appreciated. Contact Fran Soderberg 781-334-3437. This 24th annual yard sale will raise funds for special needs activities for young adults.

During the summer months, we put garden flowers on the altar in the Chapel each Sunday. If you would like to help in this way, please contact Susan Spear in the church office.

From the Mailbox

Dear Centre Church Family,

Thank you for all your cards and notes and words of comfort at the time of Jim's death. It is a source of strength knowing you are surrounded by love and caring.

Fondly, Cheryl Wersackas and family

Secret Pen Pal Program

Remember to keep up with your letter writing over the summer. Please try to ask your pen pal at least one or two question because it helps them think of things to write about. Your letters do not have to be long ones, but you should try to answer your mail within 7 days. Remember, you need to send at least four pieces of mail to your pen pal by the end of September. Have fun, send a vacation postcard, add stickers, cartoons, word puzzles, jokes, etc. You can leave your letters in the mailbox at the bottom of the office stairs, just put up the flag so I know to take a look. You can also mail the letters to:

[your pen pal's secret codename]

c/o Barbara Langill

Centre Church, 5 Summer Street

Lynnfield, MA. 01940

and I will forward them on to your secret pen pal.

Thanks to Our Volunteers

July 3: Ushers- Leslie Carey and Jeff Law. Lights Out beginning July 1-John Walsh.

July 10: Ushers: Carrie Pericola and Margaret Waugh. Lights Out beginning July 8- Dave Clough.

July 17: Ushers-Margaret Waugh and Gage Whittier. Lights Out beginning July 15-Drew Taylor.

July 24: Ushers-Linda Ladd and Dave Clough. Lights Out beginning July 22-Roger Batchelder.

July 31: Head Usher-Bill Seelig. Lights Out beginning July 29-Charlie Wills.

Big Thanks to All Shopping Card Shoppers

Thank you for purchasing shopping cards through the church this year. Your willingness to plan ahead a bit to use these cards has made a big difference! You helped the church take in \$2,179 this year. Thank you very much for your continuing support

■ *Debbie Cotting and Sandi Watson*

Our Opportunities

Sun. July 3	9:00 am	Morning Worship - Chapel
Mon. July 4	-----	Office Closed
	7:30 pm	Alanon & Alateen – Basement
Wed July 6	9:00 am	Bread & Roses Meal Preparation
	7:00 pm	Women’s 12 Step Mtg. – FR
Fri. June 8	10:30 am	Bible Study – 2 nd Floor Office
Sun., July 10	9:00 am	Morning Worship - Chapel
Mon. July 11	7:30 pm	Alanon/Alateen – Basement
Wed. July 13	7:00 pm	Women’s 12 Step Mtg. - FR
Fri., July 15	10:30 am	Bible Study – 2 nd Floor Office
Sun., July 17	9:00 am	Morning Worship - Chapel
Mon. July 18	7:30 pm	Alanon/Alateen – Basement
Wed. July 20	7:00 pm	Women’s 12 Step Mtg. - FR
Fri., July 22	10:30 am	Bible Study – 2 nd Floor Office
Sun., July 24	9:00 am	Morning Worship - Chapel
Mon. July 25		High School Mission Trip to New Orleans this Week
	7:30 pm	Alanon/Alateen – Basement
Wed. July 27	7:00 pm	Women’s 12 Step Mtg. - FR
Fri., July 29	10:30 am	Bible Study – 2 nd Floor Office
Sun., July 31	9:00 am	Morning Worship - Chapel

Our prayers are with Irene Allyn and Olive Wood at Woodbriar, 90 West St., Wilmington 01887; Barbara Bean at Daniels House, 59 Middlesex Avenue, Reading, 01867; Marion Edkins, Denis Edkins, Harold Kress 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.

Summer Office Hours are 9 a.m. – 12 p.m.

The next *Tower Notes* is the week of July 25.
