

TOWER NOTES

Centre Congregational Church (United Church of Christ)

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We Welcome Everyone: An "Open and Affirming" Church

August 31, 2011

In Loving Memory of FF Michael Francis Lynch 12/12/70 — 9/11/01

On the evening of Tuesday, September 18, 2001 I met Jack Lynch and one of his sons in a large hotel ballroom in New York City. It was just one week after the terrorist attacks of September 11, 2001. We met on the occasion of a gathering of all New York City first responder families who shared in common a tragic reality: a member of their family was missing in the line of duty as a result of the terrorist attacks on the World Trade Center.

I was one of about a dozen members of the Massachusetts Corp of Fire Chaplains who had been deployed to New York City to provide aid and comfort to First Responders, their families, and others deeply affected by the events of 9/11.

On this particular evening I met and talked with Jack Lynch about his missing son, Firefighter Michael Francis Lynch. He came to the meeting that evening knowing that his son had been lost when the World Trade Towers came crashing down. He admitted, though, that his wife, Michael's mother, Kathleen, was still hoping that her son would walk out of the rubble and come back home.

Jack's son, Michael, was last seen entering WTC Building 4 at the corner of Church and Liberty Streets with other firefighters from Engine 40. This event was captured by a news cameraman which helped in identifying where and what happened to the twelve out of thirteen firefighters from E40/L35 that perished. They were headed to the lobby of Tower 2 and were in the South Tower when it fell.

When Michael's body was finally recovered on March 21, 2002, the Medical Examiner determined he was either carrying a woman or

shielding her with his coat. Their remains were mingled. The family hopes that someday they will learn her identity.

Michael Francis Lynch was the fifth son and seventh child in a family of ten children. As an infant, Michael seemed fragile, weathering illness at only two weeks of age. His family soon learned that their wiry little Michael was a person of great strength, bravery, and fortitude. Michael's mother, Kathleen, recalls that despite his slender frame, Michael would remain outdoors for hours, enduring cold and bad weather to play.

One of Michael's greatest qualities was his ability to truly enjoy himself, despite adverse circumstances. This was a quality ideally suited to a firefighter who would spend his days alternately



In the Chapel

September 4, 2011

9:00 a.m. Morning Worship

1 Kings 6:1-14 Romans 12:4-8

Sermon by the Rev. Dr. Dennis C. Bailey

“Labor Intensive”

Punch and Fellowship following the service

In the Sanctuary

September 11, 2011

10:00 a.m. Holy Communion

Ps. 130 and 2 Cor. 4:7-12

“9/11: Our Occupation is Hope”

Sermon by the Rev. Dr. Dennis C. Bailey

Children may worship with their families before leaving for a special 9/11 activity.

battling dangerous fires and enjoying the company of his fellow firefighters. Michael's brothers and sisters remember him as a small child, at one point afraid to take a bath for fear that there were jellyfish in it. Michael grew up an avid fisherman and scuba diver. He was not afraid to face his fears.

Michael loved being a disc jockey. He played music for many events including weddings and christenings. He entertained friends regularly in local establishments and was always willing to give of his time to play for charitable events. Michael's love of music became evident even when he was a small child. The family remembers him singing songs such as, "My name is Michael, I have a nickel . . ." a song they later learned was one of his fiancée, Stephanie Luccioni's favorites as a child. Even before they met, Michael and Stephanie shared a love of similar things.

Michael was a gentle, loving human being. In the midst of a large family, with all the commotion and activity it generated, Michael was always one to inject humor. They could rely on Michael to make them all laugh. In his quiet, unassuming manner, Michael would offer quips, imitations, and jokes that lightened their hearts. In the Throgs Neck, NY tradition, Michael affectionately bestowed appropriate nicknames on his brothers-in-law. He gave his family the gift of funny, lasting memories. His nieces and nephews regarded him as the "fun uncle." Michael always had time for them. He loved children and they loved him.

Michael was coach of a local boys' soccer team. He loved to run, ski, scuba dive, rollerblade, and had recently learned to play golf. He loved to be part of many extracurricular activities. He belonged to the FDNY Holy Name Society. He loved being part of the fire department — he admired the brotherhood and love the fire department gave to him and his family.

The family has set up The Michael Lynch Memorial Foundation - a scholarship program which provides grants to enable children of firefighters and other victims of the September 11 attacks and other fires and disasters to afford higher education.

Jack told me the night I met him that there were two Michael F. Lynch's who were missing, both of whom were members of the FDNY. The other FF Michael F. Lynch, age 33, was a member of Ladder 4. We now know that there was also a third Michael Lynch who died, Michael Lynch, WTC, who worked as a Broker for Cantor Fitzgerald, New York, NY. This Michael Lynch,

age 34, was originally from and grew up in Lynnfield, MA.

9/11: Never Forget!

Jesus said, "Greater love has no one than this, that he lay down his life for his friends." (John 15:13)

Please join us as Lynnfield remembers on September 4 and September 11th. See enclosed flyer and/or go to: <http://sites.google.com/site/lynnfield911/>

Rev. Dr. Dennis C. Bailey, Chaplain
Lynnfield Fire Department

Rotation Sensation

On Sunday, Sept 11, we will be observing the 10th anniversary of 9/11. After briefly worshiping with their families children will leave to go to the chapel to hear the story "The Little Chapel that Stood" by A. B. Curtiss and participate in an all ages activity.

Rotation Sensation begins Sunday, Sept 18

Join us Sunday, Sept 18 as we kick off the year with our first Rotation, Adam and Eve. After briefly worshiping with their families, children in grades Pre-K through 8, will head out to participate in fun filled activities to learn about the Bible story.

Registration for Rotation Sensation will be held before and after church on Sept. 11 and Sept. 18.

Secret Pen Pal Program

Lots of letters and postcards have been exchanged this summer. Remember, you need to send at least 4 letters before our Ice Cream Social on September 18. 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 the church office and I will forward them on to your secret pen pal. Or just e-mail your pen pal letter to me at Christianed@centre-church.org and I will print it out and mail it.

Leaders and Shepherds

A Leader and Shepherd meeting is scheduled for Wednesday, September 14. This meeting will be for all the volunteers for the 2011-2012 Rotation Sensation season. We will be going over the workshops planned for the year and setting up schedules. Please bring your calendars.

Youth Group

All youth in grades 5-12 and their parents are invited to an early evening meeting on Sunday, September 25 to discuss the year ahead. You will receive details in a letter soon.

Do you Love Babies and Toddlers?

Education Ministries would like to be able to offer Nursery Care every Sunday, including school vacations and holidays. Often, our High School caregivers are not available on these Sundays. We are looking for adult volunteers who could give just 1 Sunday a month to assist in the Nursery. If there are no children by 10:05, you would be free to attend worship.

Please contact Barbara Langill in the church office if you are interested or would like additional information.

Shake it Up Café, VBS

Vacation Bible School was held August 8-12 with 13 children learning how to Carry Out God's Recipe. Many thanks to our volunteers, Samantha White, Megan White, Becky Ladd, Madeleine Law, Marissa Taylor, Alyssa Langill and Susan Spear.
-Barbara Langill

Mission Trip Report

9 youth and 3 adults traveled to New Orleans July 23-30 to volunteer in the continuing rebuilding efforts there. One group worked on painting the home of twin sisters who are still living in their FEMA trailer. Others worked on renovations at Beecher Memorial Church, UCC. Many thanks to the congregation, Missions Ministry, family and friends for their generous support. A special thank you to our chaperones Jeff Langill, Barbara Langill and Mary McCarthy.

Please save the date of Sunday, October 2 at 6 p.m. to hear both the Young Adult and the Youth Group's presentation of their mission trips this year. Dinner and dessert will be served. Everyone is welcome to attend.

Safe Church Meeting

There will be a Safe Church Training Meeting on Thursday, September 8 at 7:00 p.m. in the Fireside Room. Anyone who will be leading a group at the church or will need a key for any reason should call the church office to register for this meeting.

Barbara Langill

From the Mailbox

Do you believe in miracles? I do – with Dennis' prayers and encouragement and the hands of a good surgeon and the prayers of all my friends, I survived the operation and I am now on the road to recovery. Thanks be to God and thanks to all of you for your prayers and good thoughts. –Pinky Warnock

News From Around the Parish

Our love and sympathy are extended to the family and friends of Gladys Davis who died on August 5, 2011. Her memorial service was held at Centre Church on August 8.

Our love and sympathy are extended to Sue Lambe and her family upon the August 19th death of her father, Karl Engel of Middleton and Naples, FL.

Volunteer Needed

We currently collect used eyeglasses in the missions pantry to be recycled and distributed to those in need. We need someone who would be willing to take these eyeglasses to a local Lens Crafters store where they are processed. Call the church office if you could help out once every 2-3 months.

Special Needs Yard Sale Needs You!

Getting Organized?...Moving? ..Cleaning House?

Items are needed for the

September 17 Annual Yard Sale

to benefit special needs activities for young adults. Items may be brought to the meeting house on the common on Friday afternoon, September 16. Questions? Call Fran Soderberg 781-334-3437

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).

Don't forget to bring newspapers, magazines, catalogs, junk mail, etc. to the paper recycle bin in the parking lot. No phone books or cardboard, please.



LYNNFIELD REMEMBERS 9.11.2001

The public is invited to remember 9.11.2001, through the following activities

Sunday September 4, 2011

- **2 p.m.** - The placement of 2,974 U.S.A. flags in remembrance of the heroes and victims who died as a result of the terrorist attacks on 9.11. These flags will be placed on the lawn in front of the Historical Centre, 35 Common Street across from the Town Common. The flags will be left in place until Sunday September 18th, 2011.

Sunday September 11, 2011

- **8:30 a.m.** - A service of remembrance in front of Fire Headquarters, 59 Summer Street, Lynnfield, MA denoting when the first plane hit the World Trade Center.
- **2 p.m.** - The reading of the 2,974 victims' names of 9.11, on the Lynnfield Town Common.
- **6 p.m.** - A service of remembrance on the Town Common, for the whole community. (In case of rain, in the Centre Congregational Church 5 Summer Street.) The Service will include bagpipers, special music, Katherine Bailey, Guest Speaker, and prayers.

Volunteers Needed

- A Community Choir that will sing as part of the 6 p.m. service on Sunday, September 11th, (rehearsal on Wednesday, September 7th, 7 pm, at Centre Congregational Church, 5 Summer Street, Lynnfield, Douglas Hodgkins, Music Director)
- Reading of names for Sunday, September 11, 2 pm.
- Field of Flags planting flags, Sunday, September 4, 2 pm
- Distributing flyers
- Help with set-up and break-down

Please visit the Lynnfield 9.11 Website to volunteer @

<http://sites.google.com/site/lynnfield911>

Or contact: Rev. Dr. Dennis C. Bailey, Chaplain
Lynnfield Fire Department @ 978-375-0176

Remember your folding chair!

Pot Luck LUNCHEON!

Sunday September 25, 2011

- **Bring your favorite Appetizer, Salad, Luncheon Item or Dessert**
- **If you don't want to cook – sign up to Serve / Clean Up, bring Beverages, Utensils, Tablecloths, Paper Plates, Cups**

Sign up sheets are in the Narthex on Sundays!

Please contact Susan Spear at the Church Office 781-334-3050 or contact Chuck Cotting [charles.cotting@us.ngrid.com] or 781-593-3120.

This will be a great time to catch up with friends after Church and eat some great food!

Our Opportunities

Sunday September 4	9:00 am	Morning Worship - Chapel
Monday September 5	----- 7:30 pm	Office Closed for Labor Day Alanon/Alateen – Basement
Wednesday September 7	8:00 am 7:00 pm 7:00 pm	Bread & Roses Meal Prep. Women's 12 Step Mtg. – FR 9/11 Choir Rehearsal – Choir Rm.
Thursday September 8	7:00 pm	Safe Church Training – Fireside
Friday September 9	10:30 am	Bible Study – 2 nd Floor Office
Sunday September 11	10:00 am	Holy Communion – Sanctuary
Monday September 12	7:00 pm 7:30 pm	Boy Scout Troop #48 - Todd Alanon/Alateen – Fireside & Libr.
Tuesday September 13	6:00 pm 7:00 pm	Cub Pack #48 Sign Ups – Todd Membership – Pastor's Office
Wednesday September 14	7:00 pm	Women's 12 Step Mtg. – FR Rotation Leaders & Shepherds
Thursday September 15	7:30 pm	Senior Choir – Choir Room
Friday September 16	10:30 am	Bible Study – 2 nd Floor Office

Our prayers are with Irene Allyn and Norma Holloway recuperating at home; Caroline Walsh recuperating at the home of her son, John; Elouise Bjorkman in hospice care at home; 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; Louise Allen, Marion Barnes, Carolyn Furey, Hal Holappa and Art Pyburn.

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

The Church Office will be closed September 5.
Office Hours of 9am – 3pm will resume on September 6.

The next Tower Notes will be the week of September 12.