

TOWER NOTES

Centre Congregational Church (United Church of Christ)

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The Rev. Dr. Dennis C. Bailey, Pastor, Pastor@Centre-Church.org

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We Welcome Everyone: An "Open and Affirming" Church

September 28, 2011

Crying Out to the LORD

(Please read Psalm 28)

How often do you cry out to the Lord? How often do you cry out to the LORD for mercy, for help? How often have things been so bad in your life that you lift your hands up to God and cry out for help?

I was in Junior College in the fall of 1966. I was confused and afraid. I had little or no self-confidence. I had family and friends who believed in me more than I believed in myself. And yet, as I think of it now, I had a lot more strength than it seemed at the time.

I had the strength of my faith, born of a rural, hardworking, persistent community of people dependent on the land. Such faith is not one easily given to conceding to defeat. In fact, the faith born of such places is known for its ability to bring people together to help each other against the most challenging of circumstances.

We knew how to cry out to the Lord, for rain, for the harvest, for the well-being of our family and friends who were sick, who were getting married, giving birth to children, trying to find work.

In Psalm 28 reference is made to "your Most Holy Place." Our "Most Holy Place" was considered to be the sanctuary of our church where we gathered every Sunday, even when it was a good day to harvest the wheat or bale the hay. We believed that when we honored the Lord, Our God, who had given us all that we had, God would bless us, no matter how hard things may have seemed at the time. We had faith that the Lord would see us through.

Sometimes, as a child, it seemed silly to me that we were so very faithful in setting aside

everything in order to attend worship every Sunday. I would see other people doing other things on Sundays that I would like to do, instead of going to church. I would think about how lucky they are to be able to do such, although I did not want to be bringing in the crops on a Sunday morning.

I know now, though, that because of my parents' persistence in faith and worship, they gave me something that was stronger than what a lot of my peers had and have, a faith in God and the Lord, Jesus, that has the ability to prevail against all evil, sin, and bad luck.

What is especially important, I believe, is that the more we honor the Lord with our presence, the more capable we become as servants of the Lord to be of assistance to others who cry out to the Lord, or who need help crying out, offering prayers,

In the Sanctuary

October 2, 2011

10:00 A.M. Holy Communion

Confirmation Class Dedication
Sermon by the Rev. Dr. Dennis C. Bailey
Children may worship with their families before going to Rotation Workshops.

The Nursery will be open in Room 11.

October 9, 2011

10:00 A.M. Morning Worship

Sermon by the Rev. Dr. Dennis C. Bailey
Children may worship with their families for the entire service.

and finding the strength to see things through. The more experience we have following Jesus, putting ourselves at risk on his behalf, the more capable we can become as leaders of others, and the more we are able to give of ourselves for the sake of others.

What a joy, what a reward to be able to be of support to others in their time of need, of congregations and communities when leadership is needed and to know that we have this gift because we were taught to cry out to the Lord for help, and found the Lord to be responsive.

I invite you to find "your Most Holy Place," and talk with God about what plans he has for you, to comfort, to lead, to allow you the honor of helping him build a better world, in your house, church, community, and in our world.

The LORD will not turn a deaf ear to you.

Yours in Christ, Dennis

Rotation Sensation & Nursery

On Sunday, Oct 2, students PreK – 8th Grade will continue learning the story of Adam & Eve in cooking, art and storytelling. There will be no Rotation Sensation classes on Sunday, Oct. 9, Columbus Day Weekend.

On Sundays when there are no Rotation Sensation classes, the nursery will not be open.

Youth Group News

There are no scheduled youth group meetings on Sunday, Oct. 2. Youth are encouraged to attend the Shareholder's Dinner with their families.

There are no youth group meetings scheduled for Oct 9, Columbus Day Weekend.

Shareholder's Dinner

Please join us Sunday, October 2 at 6 p.m. to hear both the Young Adult and the High School Youth Groups' presentations of their mission trips this year. Dinner and dessert will be served. Everyone is welcome to attend. There will be a freewill offering.

Pumpkin Patch



On Saturday, Oct. 15, the church will host our first Pumpkin Patch from 10 a.m. - 2 p.m. We will be selling pumpkins of all sizes. Don't let rumors of a pumpkin shortage scare you. Wait and buy your pumpkins from Centre Church and help raise money for the church at the same time.

We will have a Pumpkin Moon Bounce for the kids, and many other fun activities.

Adult and High School youth volunteers are needed to help make this event a success. Please contact Barbara Langill or Kathi Martin to sign up.

Secret Pen Pals Meet!

On Sunday, Sept 18, the participants of the Write On! Secret Pen Pal Program were able to meet in person after several months of letter writing. Along with Ice Cream, a good time was enjoyed by all

News From Around the Parish

We extend our love and prayers to Tower Day teacher, Kathy Dickson upon the death of her husband, Dennis Dickson on September 22. His funeral will be held on Thursday, September 29th at 10:30 a.m. in Saugus.

We extend our love and sympathy to Janice Flight and her family upon the recent death of her mother, Emma Kerr of Everett.

A memorial service for Hal Holappa will be held on Tuesday, October 4 at 12:30 p.m. at the Veterans' Administration Chapel in Bedford.

Our congratulations to Rev. Nancy Strickland who has been called to The First Church in Sterling, MA as Interim Pastor. Mark and Nancy's new address is: 48 Main St., Sterling, MA 01564.

Confirmation Class

Confirmands are asked to be in Worship on Sunday, Oct. 2 at 10 am for a brief Dedication Service. Students will then leave to attend class in the Pastor's Outer Office with Kathi Martin. Please return permission forms for The UCC Heritage Tour.

**Appliances & Electronics Recycling Day –
Saturday, Oct 22**



Start gathering your old TVs, DVD Players, AC Units and larger appliances and get rid of them here in the church parking lot on Sat., Oct 22 from 9 a.m. to 2 p.m.

The following prices are lower than the town waste program and proceeds from this recycling drive will benefit the church. Some pickup will be available if necessary. Please call Linda Ladd or email ladd@neb.com for more information. Microwave Ovens, Garbage Disposals, Trash Compactors, Printers, DVD Players, Hard Drives – all are welcome here!

Computer Monitor, CPU, Laptop: \$15.00
Television: \$20.00 to \$35.00
Air Conditioner: \$15.00
Stove/Washer/Dryer/Refrigerator: \$20.00
Cell Phones & Small Items: \$5.00
Other Miscellaneous Items: \$10.00 each

College Freshman Addresses Needed

The High School Youth Group will be sending care packages out to our college freshmen this fall. Please call or e-mail the church office with their college address so that they will be sure to get a surprise package from their friends at youth group.

Yankee Candle Fundraiser

Do you like candles, candle accessories? Centre Church is holding a Yankee Candle fundraiser from Oct 16- 30. This is the perfect opportunity to start your holiday shopping or purchase something special for yourself.

For a peek at the wonderful items offered in the Fall 2011 catalog, visit:
<http://yankeecandlefundraising.com>

We greatly appreciate your support in making this fundraiser a success!

Bits 'n Pieces

If you would like to donate altar flowers for Sunday, October 16 in memory of someone or in celebration of an event, please call the church office. These flowers may be taken home and enjoyed by you and your family or donated to be delivered to shut-ins.

Copies of the newest church directory, *The People Book* and copies of the Annual Reports are available in the church office during the week or are on the table in the narthex on Sunday morning.

You can find Centre Church on Facebook at:
www.facebook.com/centrechurchucc

Thanks to Our Volunteers

Sunday, October 2, 2011

Ushers: Jeff Law, Gage Whittier, Carrie Pericola, Bill Seelig. Provide Altar Flowers: Dotty and Gage Whittier. Lights Out beginning Sept. 30: Steven Richard & Phil Johnson.

Sunday, October 9, 2011

Ushers: Linda Ladd, Karen and Paul Harrington, Al Johnson. Greeters: Shirley Orr, Ariel and Baylee Priestley. Coffee Hour: Bob and Lauri Priestley. Provide Altar Flowers: Cheryl Schedin Caron. Deliver Altar Flowers: George and Perry Hayden. Lights Out beginning October 7: John Walsh.

Missions Pantry

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, etc. to the paper recycle bin in the parking lot. No phone books or cardboard, please.

The Church Office is open Monday-Friday 9 am-3 pm.

The next Tower Notes will be the week of October 10.

Our Opportunities

Sunday - October 2	10:00 am 10:00 am 10:00 am 11:30 am 6:00 pm	Holy Communion – Sanctuary Rotations/Nursery Confirmation Class – Pastor’s Ofc. Youth Choir – Choir Room Shareholder’s Dinner - Richards
Monday - October 3	7:00 pm 7:30 pm	Boy Scout Troop #48 – Todd Hall Alanon/Alateen – Fireside & Libr.
Tuesday - October 4	7:00 pm 7:00 pm	Educational Ministries – Library Membership – Pastor’s Office
Wednesday - October 5	8:30 am 7:00 pm	Bread & Roses Meal Prep- Kitchen Women’s 12 Step Mtg. – FR
Thursday - October 6	7:30 pm	Senior Choir – Choir Room
Friday - October 7	10:30 am	Bible Study – 2 nd Floor Office
Sunday - October 9	10:00 am 10:00 am	Morning Worship– Sanctuary Children in Church
Monday - October 10	----- 7:30 pm	Church Office Closed Alanon/Alateen Anniv. - Richards
Tuesday - October 11	7:30 pm	Diaconate – Pastor’s Office
Wednesday - October 12	7:00 pm	Women’s 12 Step Mtg. – FR
Thursday - October 13	7:30 pm	Senior Choir – Choir Room
Friday - October 14	10:30 am	Bible Study – 2 nd Floor Office
Saturday - October 15	10-2	Pumpkin Patch – Front Lawn

Our prayers are with Jean Card at Rosewood, 22 Johnson St., Peabody 01960.; Elouise Bjorkman in hospice care at home; Esther McGrath, Myrna Shorey, Al Farnsworth and Irene Allyn recuperating at home; Caroline Walsh recuperating at the home of her son, John; Olive Wood at Woodbriar, 90 West St., Wilmington 01887; Marion Edkins, Denis Edkins, Harold Kress and Priscilla Kress at Renaissance Gardens, Peabody; Louise Allen, Marion Barnes, Carolyn Furey, and Art Pyburn. We also remember in our prayers Bob Trayers and David Tuttle in Afghanistan.

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