

# TOWER NOTES

Centre Congregational Church (United Church of Christ)

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

**February 15, 2012**

## What Do You Value? What Do You Cherish?

I am often in the position of hearing about how special loved ones and friends have been. People tell me about those who have been a blessing in their lives. It could be a mother, a father, a son, a daughter, a grandparent, a friend. Often I hear about how much was sacrificed in order to provide for children and other family members to have a better life.

What would have been if those who have gone before us had said "It's all about me?" Or even now, what if you and I were to say, "It's all about me?" Most likely, it would be a very lonely path.

What I find is that people who have generous hearts and actions dance through life with an upbeat tempo in their step! Recently I was honored to sit on the chancel while a colleague celebrated his 50th Anniversary Mass. While he preached the homily he still had a spring in his step, rocking up on the ball of his feet as he preached (one of his trademarks). A couple of days later I asked him, "How, after 50 years, are you able to continue to enjoy your ministry and have a smile on your face?" He said, "Jesus." He lets Jesus lead the way. He follows Jesus as his example, by the way he meets and greets his parishioners, friends, colleagues, and everyone he meets. He reaffirms why I went into the ministry to begin with.

Do you value things that last? Do you cherish that which lasts? Things of God last. They do not decay, rust, spoil, and cannot be stolen! Respect for everyone you work with, live with, and depend upon lasts. That lasts and has a positive impact on those to whom you give it.

Hope also lasts. I attended a church service this afternoon where I witnessed a 17 year old girl who has survived cancer. When she was just a young child she was on the prayer list of the church I was serving. Now, she serves on the altar of her church and sings in the church choir. Seeing her there today was like seeing a living miracle before my eyes. She is a miracle, and, sure enough, God is at work! She and her family are extremely generous, loving, caring. They move me to be more giving to those things that last.

## Worship Services

**Sunday, February 19, 2012**

**10:00 A.M. Morning Worship**

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



**Ash Wednesday - February 22, 2012**

**7:30 p.m. in the Chapel**

Renewal of Baptism and  
Disposition of Ashes

**Sunday, February 26, 2012**

**1<sup>st</sup> Sunday in Lent**

**10:00 A.M. Morning Worship**

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.

Last Friday, while I was attending the Cub Scout Pack #48 Blue and Gold Banquet in Richards Hall of our church, I was mindful of the legacy left to us by those who have come before, those people who sacrificed to build our church. Wow, did they do a great, great job, leaving us with something in which mission and ministry happens.

I pray that you and I will also be generous and leave a legacy that continues to be a blessing to those who come after us. But also, let us be generous, respectful, and kind to all people we meet. If we are, then these things will last and bring meaning and purpose to those who follow us.

Respect, prayers, miracles, kindness, mission and ministry last. They last because they come from God!

I invite your participation!

Yours in Christ, Dennis

### **Sunday Mornings with the Children**

All children may worship with their families on Sunday, February 19.

On February 26, we will resume Nursery and Rotation Sensation Workshops. The theme for this Rotation will be "A Walk Through Holy Week."

### **Prison Book Program**

On Sat., Feb 18, members of the High School Youth Group will be heading into Quincy to serve as volunteers in the Prison Book Program. We will meet in the church parking lot at 1:30 pm and car pool into the United First Parish Church in Quincy. It is very important to know how many volunteers to count on. Please RSVP by Feb. 16. Be sure to bring your Permission Slip with you.



### **Simple Soup Supper – Feb. 26**

Education Ministries would like to invite everyone to join in fellowship for a Simple Soup Supper on the First Sunday in Lent, Feb 26 at 5 pm. We will have activities for all ages to help prepare for the 40 days of Lent and the coming of Easter. Soup and bread will be provided. Please bring a dessert to share and a can of soup which will be donated to Haven from Hunger.

### **Women's Bible Study During Lent**

Educational Ministries will be offering a Lenten Bible Study using the book "Women of the Bible" by Ann Spangler and Jean E. Syswerda. This will be held on either Monday or Wednesday evenings from 7-8:00 beginning February 27 or 29 for 6 weeks. You need not commit to all 6 weeks - drop ins are welcome. Each week we will read about and discuss a different woman from the Bible. We used this book last year, but there are many more women to discuss. Again, we hope to cap off our Bible Study with a Women's Retreat in the spring.

Please sign up in the narthex or call the church office by Feb 21 if you are interested so that we can order the books (approx. \$11.00 each) from Amazon. We encourage you to come and bring a friend!

We are happy to arrange rides for those who would appreciate that. –Barbara Langill

### **February Food of the Month: SOUP!**

We're collecting food for Haven from Hunger in our Missions Pantry (just inside the Summer Street entrance to the church). Given the weather, it seems like a good time to collect cans of soup. If you are able to donate even one can, you'll be helping to make a difference for our brothers and sisters in need. Thank you in advance for anything that you can do to help.

-- Sandi Watson, on behalf of the Outreach Team

### **Fundraisers a Success!**

Souper Bowl of Caring: The Middle School Youth Group collected \$165.00 in cash and 69 cans of soup, all of which will go to Haven from Hunger in Peabody.

Subs and Salads: Thank you to all who supported the High School Youth by purchasing subs and salads on Super Bowl Sunday. We were able to raise over \$200.00 to help fund this year's mission trip.

### **Thanks to our Volunteers**

February 19, 2012 – Head Usher: Jeff Law. Reader: Sue Gustavsen. Provide Altar Flowers: Barbara Barké. Lights Out beginning Feb. 17: Bill Seelig.

February 26, 2012 – Head Usher: Linda Ladd. Reader: Phil Johnson. Provide Altar Flowers: Barbara Becker. Lights Out beginning Feb. 24: Drew Taylor.

### Joplin, Missouri Mission Trip

This year we will be offering an All Church Mission Trip the week of August 12-18 for anyone high school age and older. There are 20 spots reserved for Centre Church participants. Please send in your deposit of \$25.00 by Friday, Feb 17 if you are interested in going on the trip.

Contact Barbara Langill for more information.

### From the Mailbox

To the members of Centre Church,  
Thank you for the cards and the kind expressions of sympathy. Thank you for all the help with the services. It is deeply appreciated. The church was an important part of Mum's life for a very long time. She treasured time spent with friends there.

John and Maura Walsh and family

### National Youth Event July 9-14, 2012

Every 4 years the UCC offers a National Youth Event for youth and youth leaders throughout the country. The event will be held at Purdue University in Indiana and is expected to draw over 3,000 people. There will be worship, workshops, social activities and many opportunities for fellowship and fun.

All youth entering High School in the fall up through graduating seniors are encouraged to attend. We will be traveling to Indiana by bus with youth from churches across the Northeast. The bus will leave on Monday, July 9 and return on Sat. July 14. Please return NYE form by Feb 17 or call Mrs. Langill in the church office if you are interested in attending.



## Lenten Events at Centre Church



- Wed, Feb 22** 7:30 pm Ash Wednesday Service with Renewal of Baptism and Disposition of Ashes - Chapel
- Sun, Feb 26** 10 am First Sunday in Lent  
5 pm Simple Soup Supper in Richards Hall
- Sun, Mar 4** 10 am Second Sunday in Lent and Outreach Ministries Sunday  
with the Rev. Marie Lucca of *A Different Christian Voice* preaching
- Sun, Mar 11** 10 am Third Sunday in Lent and Girl Scout Sunday - 100<sup>th</sup> Anniversary of Girl Scouts!  
2 pm Service of Remembrance for those recently deceased - Chapel
- Sun, Mar 18** 10 am Fourth Sunday in Lent with Music by Petals, St. Theresa's Catholic Church, Billerica
- Sun, Mar 25** 10 am Fifth Sunday in Lent followed by *A Walk through Holy Week*  
an interactive drama by our church youth
- 7 pm *Resurrection* by the Saint Patrick Family Players. Reception following.
- Sun, Apr 1** 10 am Palm Sunday Cantata: "Who Do You Say That I Am?" by the Centre Church Choir
- Thu, Apr 5** 7:30 pm Maundy Thursday Service - *The Office of Tenebrae* - Sanctuary
- Sun, Apr 8** 5:45 am Easter Sunrise Service, Newhall Park, Lynnfield  
7 am Easter Breakfast at Centre Church - Richards Hall  
10 am Easter Sunday Service

## Spread the Love!

I don't know if anyone else has this problem, but, I really believe that I have a sock monster that lives down in my laundry area. I put socks in the washer and dryer and suddenly when I go to match them up, they are not all there. Now, eventually some might return but I think they go on vacation for a bit because it might be a couple of weeks.

This is my attempt at humor, but the fact is that if you only have a couple of pairs of socks and sometimes don't have a place to do laundry, you do not have the luxury of waiting until the pairs of socks match up again.

We are continuing with our Share the Love Drive for the Lynn Shelter throughout the month of February. If you can help in any way, it would be appreciated. Items needed are new white socks and tee shirts. Also, items like shampoo, soap, toothpaste and other toiletries. Finally, twin sheets, blankets and towels would be a big help too. (These do not have to be new but in good condition.)

Thank you for all your help. Donna Marino

(Even one single donation from every household would help immensely!!)



### Our Opportunities

Sun. Feb. 19	10:00 am 10:00 am 11:15 am	Morning Worship – Sanctuary All Children in Church High School Youth Leave for Mission Trip to New York City
Mon. Feb. 20	----- 7:30 pm	Office Closed for Presidents' Day <i>Office Hrs. for the remainder of this week will be 9-12.</i> Alanon/Alateen – Fireside & Libr.
Tues Feb. 21	7:30 pm	Membership – Pastor's Office
Wed. Feb. 22 <i>Ash Wednesday</i>	7:00 pm 7:30 pm	Women's 12 Step Mtg. – FR Ash Wednesday Service - Chapel
Fri. Feb. 24	10:30 am	Bible Study – 2 <sup>nd</sup> Floor Office
Sun. Feb. 26 <i>1<sup>st</sup> Sunday in Lent</i>	10:00 am 10:00 am 10:00 am 5:00 pm	Morning Worship – Sanctuary Rotations/Nursery Confirmation Class – Library Simple Soup Supper - Richards
Mon. Feb. 27	7:00 pm 7:30 pm	<i>Regular Office Hours (9-3) will resume this week.</i> Boy Scout Troop #48 – Todd Hall Alanon/Alateen – Fireside & Libr.
Tues. Feb. 28	7:00 pm	Council – Pastor's Office
Wed. Feb 29	7:00 pm	Women's 12 Step Mtg. – FR
Thurs. Mar 1	7:30 pm	Senior Choir – Choir Room
Fri. Mar 2	10:30 am	Bible Study – 2 <sup>nd</sup> Floor Office Confirmation Retreat - Craigville

Our prayers are with Priscilla Hahn recuperating at home – (Windsor Place, Wilmington) Muriel “Mickey” Nasson at Kindred Hospital, Peabody; Helen Butcher, Marion Edkins, Denis Edkins, Harold Kress and Priscilla Kress at Renaissance Gardens, Peabody; Louise Allen, Marion Barnes, and Carolyn Furey.

We also remember in our prayers John Clarke (Lee Clarke's nephew), Allan Marshall (Jim and Sheila Marshall's son), Sam Schnare (Dick and Carol Carter's grandson), and David Tuttle (Kathy Delaney's cousin), in Afghanistan.

**The next Tower Notes will be the week of Feb 27.**