

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

Barbara Langill, Director of Christian Ed & Youth Ministry, ChristianEd@Centre-Church.org

Douglas W. Hodgkins, Organist/Choir Director

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Susan Spear, Secretary

We Welcome Everyone: An "Open and Affirming" Church

June 13, 2012

Maintaining Community

I believe that it is the church's job to maintain community even while many of its members are in the world involved in many things. I believe it is the church's job, but also one of its greatest challenges.

I know what God has promised: *"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."*

"Be still, and know that I am God; I will be exalted among the nations, I will be exalted in the earth."
(Psalm 46, excerpts, NIV)

By this I know that no matter where I go, God is with me. No matter my circumstances, no matter how I am dressed, from bath robe to suit and tie, I can pause and speak with God, be with God. The important thing is that I pause, be still, and know God.

I will often pause and be still before God throughout the course of my day. Before worship on Sundays, after worship on Sundays, before visiting a person in the hospital, asking God to be with me in the visit, the conversation, in the hope that I may be of comfort and strength to the person I am visiting on behalf of the spiritual community that has called me.

You can pause, before getting into your car to drive to work, before and after waking your children, even while dressing them for the day, giving yourself just a moment to ask God to be strength for them, to be your love for them, to help you speak the right words, to make the right decisions on their behalf. The "roar and foam" and the "quake" of your day can come at any moment

and God is ready to be there with you and for you as you struggle to maintain a firm footing in the midst of it.

I also know that Jesus has called us to be a community together, to be present for each other as God is present for us. Therefore, **I know that we have promised to be present to each other, as the church.** We have promised to be "a refuge and strength" to each other, when there is quaking and shaking.

I am very proud when I see members of our church community taking it upon themselves to be present to people in their time of difficulty, to be present in expressions of appreciation, to be present through celebrations of accomplishment. I am proud that our church community seeks and acts to give strength and support to others all around the world, outside of the enclave of our immediate community.

In the Sanctuary

June 17, 2012

10:00 A.M. Morning Worship

Sacrament of Baptism

Sermon by the Rev. Dr. Dennis C. Bailey
Brief Congregational Meeting following
the service.

Children may worship with their families
for the entire service.

Summer Schedule of Services Begins

In the Chapel

June 24, 2012 and July 1, 2012

9:00 A.M. Morning Worship

Sermon by the Rev. Dr. Dennis C. Bailey
Brief, informal service
followed by punch and fellowship.

The challenge for us is to know. The challenge is to find the time and ways to be aware of the needs of God's people. I know that the members of our spiritual community desire to be of strength and help to others, to give beyond themselves, to live their lives for the benefit of others. I know that we do not want to find ourselves saying, "If only I had known."

- We know through our informal networks.
- We know through our church's weekly service of worship.
- We know through our church's newsletters.
- We know when we pause, be still, and ask God to lead and direct us.
- We know when we pause, come together as community, refusing distractions and denials.

I welcome your willingness to know and to serve as an agent of God's community. You can be an agent of prayer, a kindly visitor, an agent of service through sharing your availability for rides, and errands.

Presently, we have a family of 5 in Lynnfield who needs our assistance. The mother has a serious illness and is limited in what she can do to take care of their three children on a daily basis. It is important that the father go to work every day and he is very limited in the amount of time he can take off. The children are ages: 4, 7, and 13 (two boys and a daughter).

They need volunteers who can watch the younger children while the mother rests, fix a snack, maybe help with preparing dinner on occasion, occasional rides to school, summer camp, classes, appointments, etc. If you can be an agent of our caring community of faith, please let me or Denise Weaver know (dweav57@verizon.net; or call 781-334-3360) and we can put you in contact with the family.

Please keep the ministry of Centre Church in your prayers. Please keep the staff in your prayers as we seek to be faithful to what we have pledged to do on your behalf. Please attend worship as you are able so as to strengthen our ties. Please be generous in your giving in support of our work together. And, also, consider helping us maintain our precious church property through special gifts. (We need a new roof and painting of the exterior, among other significant improvements.)

I love the work of Ministry and the wonderful people I am privileged to serve with at Centre Church and in the greater Lynnfield Community. I have great colleagues via the

Lynnfield Clergy Association. I am proud to serve as a volunteer in the role of Chaplain with the Lynnfield Fire Department. And, I am very proud of the many ways that you volunteer throughout the greater Lynnfield Community, as well as in and through the church.

Have a blessed summer!

Yours in Christ, Dennis

Brief Congregational Meeting

June 17, 2012 Following Worship
To consider preliminary budget for 2012-13

Congratulations Graduates!

Congratulations to the following young people in our congregation who graduated from high school this year.

Stephen Lambe, Victoria Martin
Kerry Morrissey, Alexandra Parker
John Potter Furey, Frederick Shove
Samantha White

Rotation Sensation

What a wonderful year we had of delving into the Bible through our Rotation Sensation units. This year we learned about: Adam & Eve, The Lost Coin, Jesus Calls the Disciples, A Walk through Holy Week, the Journeys of Paul and also Heifer International. Special thanks to all of the children and youth who participated in our Children's Day Service this past Sunday. You made it a wonderful, memorable service.

Thank you to our great group of Leaders and Shepherds for working with the children and youth throughout the year. We all have wonderful gifts to offer. If yours is working with children and youth, please contact Barbara Langill in the church office and volunteer to help next year. I will be happy to provide you with specific information about the responsibilities of the positions.

Thank you to our Nursery staff and volunteers for providing care each week to our little ones here at the church. The nursery will not be staffed throughout the summer, but our volunteers will return in the fall.

Youth Groups

The Middle School Youth Group ended the year with an overnight at the church and a fun day of zip lining at Alpine Adventures in Lincoln, NH. Many thanks to our volunteer leaders, Nancy Miller, Kathy Delaney and Denise Weaver.



Write On! Secret Pen Pal Program!

Do you like getting mail? Have you always wanted a pen pal? We are looking for adults and youth interested in being secret pen pals over the summer. 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 by June 18 with your name, summer address, phone number and a secret code name that you want to use.

News From Around the Parish

We extend our love and sympathy to Tony and Sheila Ramirez (our custodian and his wife) upon the death of her father, Richard Cole of Lynn on June 5. Services were held on Friday, June 8.

Our love and sympathy are extended to Rev. Nancy Strickland and her family upon the death of her mother, Mercia Wilkins, longtime resident of Lexington. A Memorial Service will be held on June 15 at 11:00 a.m. at Hancock UCC in Lexington.

We were saddened to learn of the death of former member, Helen Ogilvie on June 6. A Memorial Service will be held at Brooksby Village Chapel on June 14 at 2:00 p.m.

Dear Friends, I have returned to Sunrise Assisted Living in Lynnfield. Thank you for the flowers, cards, and visits during my stay at Bear Hill.

Priscilla Hahn

Annabel Aldrich's new address: 7 Center Village – Bldg. 2, Lynnfield. 781-334-3389

Are you looking forward to summer?

Are you looking for a reason to get together with your friends?

See the enclosed flyer!

Present the flyer to your server on Tuesday, June 19 - 4:00-10:00 p.m.

Call Dotty Whittier at (781)635-6225 to sign up or with any questions

Mission Money

Thanks to all who filled up their M& M Mini tubes with quarters (or cash) and sent them in to help support the Mission Trip to Joplin in August. If you still have a tube at home, it's not too late. Please drop it off in the church office or next Sunday after worship.

Stock Sales

Thanks to everyone who purchased stock in the Joplin Mission Trip. All share holders will receive a stock certificate and an invitation to a shareholder dinner in the fall where mission trip participants will give a presentation of their experiences. There is still time to "share" in this experience. Please send in your completed form and donation to the church office and note it is for the Mission Trip. Thank you.

Barbara Langill

Calling All Gardeners!

We always enjoy having garden flowers on the altar in the chapel for summer services. If you have some flowers in your garden that you would like to bring on a particular Sunday, please contact Susan Spear in the church office. (781-334-3050)

Office Schedule

Summer Hours in the Church Office:
9-12 Monday through Friday.

Tower Notes will be monthly during the summer:
(weeks of June 25, July 30 and August 27.)

Thanks to Our Volunteers

Lights Out beginning June 15: Roger Batchelder
Lights Out beginning June 22: John Walsh
Lights Out beginning June 29: Scott DeSantis

Print this form and present at Applebee's Restaurant on Rt.1 in Saugus on June 19th 4-10pm, to donate 15% of your bill to Centre Church



Dining to Donate

Enjoy a meal that's filling - and fulfilling.

Dine at Applebee's®
and **15** % of your bill
will be donated to

Centre
Congregational
Church

Present this flyer
to your server on

Tuesday June 19 from 4-10p.m.
at

214 BROADWAY RT1 SAUGUS MA

You must bring this flyer for your donation to be counted.



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©2005 Applebee's International, Inc. Donation percentage excludes tax, tip and alcohol sales. Valid at participating restaurants during specified hours. Must present flyer in order for organization to receive credit for purchase. Flyers are not to be distributed in the restaurant or within the perimeter of the parking lot.

Our Opportunities

Sun. June 17	10:00 am 10:00 am 11:00 am	Morning Worship - Sanctuary All Children in Church Congregational Mtg. – Sanctuary
Mon. June 18	7:30 pm	Alanon/Alateen – Basement
Tues. June 19	4-10pm	Applebee’s Fundraiser
Wed. June 20	7:00 pm	Women’s 12 Step Mtg. – FR
Fri. June 22	10:30 am	Bible Study – 2 nd Floor Office
Sun. June 24	9:00 am	Morning Worship - Chapel
Mon. June 25	9:30-12 7:30 pm	Vacation Bible School Mon-Fri. Alanon/Alateen – Basement.
Wed. June 27	7:00 pm	Women’s 12 Step Mtg. – FR
Fri. June 29	10:30 am	Bible Study – 2 nd Floor Office
Sun. July 1	9:00 am	Worship Service - Chapel

The next *Tower Notes* will be the week of June 25.

Our prayers are with Ginny Daniels at Union Hospital; Ginny Davis at Salem Hospital; Norma Holloway at Spaulding Rehab., Dove Ave., Salem, 01970; Priscilla Hahn who has returned to Sunrise Assisted Living, Room 221, 55 Salem St., Lynnfield; Rose Giunta at Sutton Hill Rehab Center, 1801 Turnpike St., No. Andover 01845; Muriel “Mickey” Nasson at home; Helen Butcher, Marion Edkins, Denis Edkins, and Priscilla Kress at Renaissance Gardens, Peabody; Louise Allen, Marion Barnes and Carolyn Furey.

We remember in our prayers Mark Holden (Dot Holden’s grandson), and Dan Neary (Jo Ann Neary’s son) in Afghanistan, and Sam Schnare (Dick and Carol Carter’s grandson) in Germany.

We rejoice that Allan Marshall is home from Afghanistan
