

TOWER NOTES

Centre Congregational Church (United Church of Christ)

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We Welcome Everyone: An "Open and Affirming" Church

June 27, 2012

A Surprising Day in Worship

As I was preparing to start the 9 a.m. worship service in the Chapel on June 24, Dottie "Bunny" Holden walked in with her sister, Murmi Morrell, visiting from Silver Spring, Maryland. Dottie introduced me to her sister and told me that this would be her last visit to church before going away for the summer.

I told Dottie, "Then, we better make this service very special!" Dottie had no idea what we had in store for her, just how special this day was going to be for her! No idea!

When Dottie sat down in the pew she called my attention to the bulletin in which we had noted that her youngest grandson, Mark Holden, was home from Afghanistan. Dottie told me that Mark was not home yet. I apologized for the mistake and said that we would correct it next week. Still, Dottie had no idea!

After the congregation gathered and the prelude music played, I welcomed everyone. We sang happy 90th birthday to Elva Batchelder. I noted that later in the service we would pray for those who are serving in Afghanistan, including, Mark Holden, Dottie's grandson, praying that he would soon come safely home.

That was the cue for our unexpected visitors to enter the Chapel. As clarinet and piano played "Stars and Stripes", in walks Mark Holden, United States Navy, Dottie's

grandson, safely home, the "very special" something for Dottie! Accompanying him were his father and step-mother, Reed and Carolyn Holden, Dottie's son and daughter-in-law. Of course, Dottie was shocked, overcome, and speechless as she embraced her grandson! Our prayers, answered.

Once Dottie caught her breath she explained how six years ago Mark had been accepted to Northeastern University and was about to enroll when he surprised everyone with a different decision: to enlist in the Navy. While this change of heart was upsetting to his family at the time, they are now very proud of Mark, his service to our country, two tours of duty in Afghanistan, and the great man he has become, a leader.

In the Chapel – 9:00 a.m.

July 1, 2012

Holy Communion

July 8, 15, 22, and 29, 2012

Morning Worship

Sermon by the Rev. Dr. Dennis C. Bailey

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

I invited Mark to share of his experiences at the end of the service and in his well-spoken manner he thanked us for our prayers and asked us to continue to pray for those who are in harm's way all over the world.

In the worship I spoke of how there are times when Jesus calls us to sail into a "storm" as part of our discipleship. Mark Holden answered that call six years ago! Thanks be to God!

May we also listen to and hear God's call, knowing that where we want to go may not be where our Savior wants us to go. Which choice will we make? The easy or the hard?

What has God given you to do today! Do you want meaning in your life? I pray you and I follow Jesus Christ's call, wherever it leads.

Dear Lord, we give thanks for those who have served and are serving in the cause of freedom on behalf of our United States Military. May you protect them, help them fulfill their mission for peace in all of our world, for all of God's people. May you guide and bless our world leaders so that they seek your peace for all people and nations. And may we be willing to serve you as you call us to serve, without hesitation, holding nothing back, so that your Kingdom on Earth will be established. In the name of our Savior, Jesus. Amen.

Dennis

Congratulations!

We congratulate Barbara Langill who recently completed the requirements for her Certification in Christian Education. She was recognized at the Annual Meeting of the Massachusetts Conference on June 15.

Bread and Roses Reminder

There will be no Bread and Roses on July 4. The regular schedule of first Wednesday of each month will continue in August. Extra hands are always appreciated. If you could help out in the kitchen occasionally or bake brownies, please contact Kathi Martin. (781-245-2409.)

News From Around the Parish

We congratulate Elva Batchelder upon her recent 90th birthday!

Our congratulations to Arthur and Elaine Pyburn who just celebrated their 60th wedding anniversary.

We extend our love and sympathy to the family and friends of long-time member, Louise Allen who died on June 21. She had most recently been living in Westborough. A family service will be held at the Cathedral of the Pines in Rindge, NH.

Our congratulations to the following families who presented their children for baptism in June:

Hayden Mae Bayer, daughter of Reilly and Jennifer (Waugh) Bayer. Hayden's proud big brother is Rowan.

Kyle Francis Mauser, son of Kamden and Sara Mauser. Kyle's proud big brothers are Kamden and Colin.

Robert Charles van Twuyver, son of Christopher and Sheila van Twuyver. Robert's proud big sister is Amanda.

Our best wishes to Paul Diminico and Amie Turnullo who were married at Centre Church on June 16.

We Appreciate Our Volunteers

Ushers

July 1 – Dave Clough & Doreen DiFillippo
July 8 – Margaret Waugh
July 15 – Leslie Carey and Margaret Waugh
July 22 – Dave Clough and Gage Whittier
July 29 – Bill Seelig and Margaret Waugh

Lights Out

June 29 – Scott DeSantis
July 6 – Rick Carey
July 13 – Phil Johnson
July 20 – Jeff Langill
July 27 – Phil Johnson
Aug. 3 – Steve Furey

Thank You!

From the Church Office

A big thank you to the following people who rotate the job of making sure that *Tower Notes* gets processed for mailing: Liz Baud, Marjorie Potter, Harriet Holt, Grayce Kushmerek, Nancy Loyd and Marcia Stevens. Also, thank you to Linda Ladd, Lola Leggett, Shirley Orr and Dana Richardson for their specialized help with publication and delivery.

Special thanks to Cindy Trayers for her graphic design ability and to Carol MacKendrick for her beautiful calligraphy for certificates.

Each one of you makes the job in the church office go more smoothly.

Summer Office Hours

9:00 a.m. – 12:00 p.m.

The next *Tower Notes*
will be the week of July 30.



Come Celebrate!

You are cordially invited by Harvey Card's family to an Open House in Todd Hall on Sunday, July 22 to celebrate his 90th Birthday. Feel free to drop in any time between 10 am and 2 pm to wish him well!

WANTED

Items currently collected in the Missions Pantry

Redeemable Bottles and Cans
(for Haven from Hunger)

Non-perishable food items
(for Haven from Hunger)

Pull tabs from cans
(for the Shriners)

Travel-size toiletries
(for Lynn Shelter)

Used eyeglasses

Used Cell phones
(for HAWC)

Keep recycling your newspapers,
magazines, catalogs, junk mail, etc. in the
Paper Recycling Dumpster
in the parking lot.

Reminder: Please do not recycle cardboard,
food boxes, phone books or hard cover
books in this dumpster.

Our Opportunities

Sun. July 1	9:00 am 9:45 am	Holy Communion – Chapel Punch & Fellowship – Fireside
Mon. July 2	7:30 pm	Alanon/Alateen – Basement
Wed. July 4	----- 7:00 pm	No Bread and Roses Women’s 12 Step Mtg. – FR
Fri. July 6	10:30 am	Bible Study – 2 nd Floor Office
Sun. July 8	9:00 am	Morning Worship - Chapel
Mon. July 9	7:30 pm	Alanon/Alateen – Basement.
Wed. July 11	7:00 pm	Women’s 12 Step Mtg. – FR
Fri. July 13	10:30 am	Bible Study – 2 nd Floor Office
Sun. July 15	9:00 am	Worship Service - Chapel
Mon. July 16	7:30 pm	Alanon/Alateen – Basement.
Wed. July 18	7:00 pm	Women’s 12 Step Mtg. – FR
Fri. July 20	10:30 am	Bible Study – 2 nd Floor Office
Sun. July 22	9:00 am 10am-2pm	Worship Service – Chapel Harvey Card 90 th Birthday Celebration – Todd Hall
Mon. July 23	7:30 pm	Alanon/Alateen – Basement.
Wed. July 25	7:00 pm	Women’s 12 Step Mtg. – FR
Fri. July 27	10:30 am	Bible Study – 2 nd Floor Office
Sun. July 29	9:00 am	Worship Service - Chapel

The next *Tower Notes* will be the week of July 30.

Our prayers are with Ginny Daniels at Spaulding Rehab, Dove Avenue, Salem, 01970; John Wishart at Wingate at Reading, 1364 Main St., Reading, 01867; Chuck Levis (Linda Ladd’s father) in rehab; Ginny Davis at Country Manor, 180 Low St., Newburyport, 01950; Rose Giunta, Norma Holloway and Bo Martin recuperating at home; Priscilla Hahn at Sunrise, Lynnfield; Helen Butcher, Marion Edkins, Denis Edkins, and Priscilla Kress at Renaissance Gardens, Peabody; Marion Barnes and Carolyn Furey.

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

