

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

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Douglas W. Hodgkins, Organist/Choir Director

Sally MacDonald, Director of Tower Day School

Susan Spear, Secretary

We Welcome Everyone: An "Open and Affirming" Church

August 1, 2012

Awards

Have you ever received an award, won a competition, received recognition for something? I remember how excited I was when I received my acceptance letter to college. That felt like a great award. And, after a sometimes very difficult 5 years, I remember how amazed I was to be graduated from college, going on to graduate school.

When I think about my life thus far, the places where I have felt special recognition have been at my graduations, and when I have been offered the opportunities to be a pastor. I don't remember where I was when I was offered my first position as pastor, but I do remember how excited and honored I was to be called as pastor of Central Congregational Church, Jamaica Plain, MA. Oh, the honor it was to be the pastor of the people there, and to be given the opportunity to be involved in the community, serving on the Board of Directors of a social service agency where I met so many people who gave of themselves so generously to make life better for so many others.

My second call to be pastor came in the summer of 1989, when I was attending the General Synod of the United Church of Christ in Dallas, Texas. The secretary of the Search Committee of First Congregational Church in Billerica, MA, called me and told me that they wanted me to be their candidate. They had actually offered me the position three days earlier, but I had to tell them that I was having brain surgery to remove a benign tumor, an acoustic neuroma, August 23, 1989. After prayerful consideration, they decided I was still their candidate and in early October, 1989, I candidated and was voted their pastor! What an honor, what an award!

And my third call came while I was driving one day. Debbie Cotting called me, and knowing that this could be an important call, I stopped my car along the side of the road before continuing the conversation. She told me that the Search Committee had voted to ask me to be their candidate for the position of Pastor of Centre Congregational Church. Again, they voted this despite some challenging personal circumstances that I was going through at the time. And, when Debbie told me, that day, I danced along the side of the road, so excited. Again, what an honor! What an award!

One of my greatest "awards" is to continue to serve as your pastor because you are a congregation that successfully serves the work of God here and in the world. I have the privilege to work with wonderful colleagues in ministry who are

In the Chapel – 9:00 a.m.

August 5, 2012

Holy Communion

Sermon by Guest Preacher

August 12, 2012

Morning Worship

Sermon by Guest Preacher

August 19 and 26, 2012

September 2, 2012

Morning Worship

Sermon by Rev. Dr. Dennis C. Bailey

**Worship in the Sanctuary at 10:00 a.m.
will resume on September 9.**

the pastors of other churches in Lynnfield, Wakefield, and Peabody. I have the privilege to serve as Chaplain of the Lynnfield Fire Department, getting to know those who are ready to risk their lives for the sake of others.

What a surprise it was to walk into Teresa's Italian Eatery Restaurant, Middleton, MA, on Wednesday, July 18th, to find at least 30 members of Centre Church at the Lynnfield Rotary Club's annual dinner, where I was to be inducted as a new member! Well, obviously, there was more to it than that. The invitation had been secretly sent out for the occasion of the Rotary Club's presentation of their Citizen of the Year award. I had no clue! You can keep a good secret.

I am so honored to be considered for this honor by the Rotary Club but even more honored that so many from Centre Church attended! The award was given for my work in organizing Lynnfield's remembrance of the tenth anniversary of the terrorist attacks on the United States on September 11, 2001.

Therefore, I dedicate this award to the memory of all who died on 9/11, and especially to all of the first responders who died in an effort to save the lives of others.

I am grateful for the love and support of all at Centre Church who helped with all that we did in the town of Lynnfield for the 9/11 remembrances, including Douglas Hodgkins and the ecumenical choir. I also appreciate the efforts of so many in the town, the Rotary Club, the Lynnfield Fire Department, the Department of Public Works, the Lynnfield Police Department, and so many citizens and persons who contributed financial and personal involvement support.

Like all meaningful things that we accomplish in life, we never do it alone. I appreciate everyone who came to the many meetings, who contributed so many wonderful ideas, the hundreds of volunteers to read names, those who sang, those who built a platform, those colleagues who supported and participated, the support of our elected officials in Lynnfield and at the state level, and so many others.

There are awards that we are given that we do not strive for. This is one such award for me. I did this for the sake of those who died, for the sake of those who live with the loss of loved ones, for the sake of the first responders who died and for the sake of the first responders who continue to serve knowing that at any moment they may have to put their lives in harm's way in order to save others.

My award is to see others find their place of service to Jesus Christ in the world and, in that, find fulfillment and reward.

Let us continue to give ourselves to this great purpose, serving the Lord our God without thought of award and/or reward, but for the sake of anyone, anywhere to whom we can be a blessing - sharing the gospel, being the gospel, building houses, sharing life (through Heifer International, in particular), and sharing the good fortune, education, opportunity, and countless resources that have been given to us.

I congratulate Fr. Jack Farrell on his retirement as Pastor and Priest from Our Lady of Assumption Parish, Lynnfield. I shall miss him so much, as a colleague and friend. I ask God's blessing upon him, and upon the Our Lady of Assumption Parish. It has been a great honor for me to know him and work with him. He is one of a kind!!!

Thanks, my friends, for your support!

God bless us all, Dennis

Super Sweet Fundraiser

The Mission Trip Participants will be selling freshly picked McKinstry's Sweet Corn on Sunday, August 5 after worship. The cost will be \$10.00 for a baker's dozen or \$1.00 an ear. You may call the church office or Jeff or Barbara Langill at 781 334-5504 to reserve your order. McKinstry's Market Garden, located in Chicopee, Massachusetts, is known far and wide for the best sweet corn imaginable. Be sure to support the mission trip of Centre Church and enjoy the best corn you've ever eaten!

News From Around the Parish

Our prayers and sympathy are extended to Chris Parker and his family upon the death of his mother, Dorothy B. Parker on July 17.

Our congratulations to Lynsey Ells and David Evans who were married at Centre Church on July 21. They will make their home in Amesbury.

Our best wishes to Lauren Gerbick and Dominic Donadio who were married on July 28 in North Conway, NH. They will make their home in Marblehead.

Secret Pen Pals

I hope all the participants in the Secret Pen Pal program are having fun. Lots of letters and postcards have been exchanged. Remember, you need to send at least 4 letters before the end of September. 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.

Barbara Langill

SKY Vacation Bible School

VBS was held June 25-29 with 13 children learning that everything is possible with God. Many thanks to our Sky VBS Director Emily Couillard and to all our volunteers: Becky Ladd, Marissa Taylor, Baylee & Harlee Priestley, Alyssa Langill, Lisa Gerbick, Marjorie Dwyer, Carol MacKendrick, Brittany DeSantis and Carrie Pericola. It was a great week of faith-filled fun.

Mosquito Nets for Mali

The children and their families at Sky VBS participated in Operation Kid to Kid and learned how World Vision is working to protect children from malaria by providing mosquito protection bed nets for children in the African country of Mali. On our last day of VBS children brought in money to send to World Vision and our congregation also donated funds on the Sunday after VBS. Together, we raised \$160.00 which has been sent to World Vision to purchase 26 bed nets which will each protect two or more children. These specially treated nets, draped over a child's bed while he or she sleeps, can last up to four years and are powerful weapons against malaria. Many thanks to all who contributed.

We Thank Our Volunteers

August 5: Head Usher: Leslie Carey. Lights Out beginning August 3: Steve Furey.

August 12: Head Usher: Bill Seelig. Lights Out beginning August 10: Steven Richard.

August 19: Head Usher: Linda Ladd. Lights Out beginning August 17: Bruce Weaver.

August 26: Head Usher: Margaret Waugh. Lights Out beginning August 24: Phil Johnson.

September 2: Head Usher: Margaret Waugh. Lights Out beginning August 31: Roger Batchelder.

Young Families Group

The Young Families Group of Centre Church has been successfully running since the winter of 2012. The group consists of parents and their children under five years old (older siblings are also welcome). Meetings occur on the first Saturday of each month at 10:00 am and begin at a local playground or Mall Tots at the Liberty Tree Mall in Danvers. Members of the group then choose a nearby restaurant and enjoy lunch together. The Young Families Group provides a friendly, comfortable environment where members are able to enjoy each others company and form relationships with one another. It's a nurturing community where parents can provide each other with the support and encouragement needed to help get through some of the challenges of raising young children. The Young Families Group is a great place for parents and their young children to relax, have fun, and simply enjoy being together. We welcome any new members who are interested in participating! Please contact the church office (781-334-3050) if you would like to either hear more about the Young Families Group or join us for the next meeting.

Carrie Pericola and Jill DiGiorgio

Address Changes

We are in the updating our printed directory of members and friends, *The People Book*. It will be available in September. The following address changes have occurred recently:

Ginny Davis, Elizabeth Calsey House, 15 Elizabeth Street, Amesbury, MA 01913 978-388-0293

Judi and Tony Lucia, 24 Niblick Way, North Reading, MA 01864 978-207-0290

Charlotte Orrall, 1202 Essex Village, Lynnfield, MA 01940 781-334-4539

Missions Pantry: Our ongoing collections include Redeemable Bottles & Cans, 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.

Summer Sunday Adventure

Essex River Cruise – REVISITED

Sunday September 9, 2012 - 4:00 - 5:15 PM

Back by popular demand: The Essex River Cruise and Woodman's/Peking and the Mystics Adventure. The Essex River Cruise is a narrated 1¼ Hour Cruise from 35 Dodge St., Essex - the Essex Marina - down the Essex River to the ocean on a large safe and comfortable vessel with a restroom and bar aboard.

We chartered the large boat – the Essex River Queen II for up to 58 people!!

The cost is \$18 per person. Please call to make a reservation for yourself, your family and friends now!

**Call Dotty Whittier, 781-635-6225,
or Susan Spear, 781-334-3050**

or Dotty will have sign up sheets on Sundays.

If you have not signed up yet, please sign up soon –

the more, the merrier!

Send in your \$18 right away!

After the Cruise: Join up at Woodman's [just around the corner on Rt. 133] for dinner. Chris Parker's A Cappella Group, Peking and the Mystics, will be performing at Woodman's. Dinner will be on your own, so you can pick the food you want. There is a very large tent just at the back of the restaurant that can seat up to 120 people and, hopefully, we can all eat together.

If you need a ride, please let Dotty or Susan know!

Hosted By Your Membership Ministries Committee

Our Opportunities

Sun. Aug. 5	9:00 am 9:45 am 10:00 am	Holy Communion – Chapel Punch & Fellowship – Fireside Mission Trip Meeting - Library
Mon. Aug. 6	9:30 am 7:30 pm	Middle School Beach Day Alanon/Alateen – Basement
Wed. Aug. 8	7:00 pm	Women’s 12 Step Mtg. – FR
Fri. Aug. 10	10:30 am	Bible Study – 2 nd Floor Office
Sun. Aug. 12	9:00 am 9:45 am	Morning Worship – Chapel Punch & Fellowship - Fireside <i>Mission Trip to Joplin begins</i>
Mon. Aug. 13	7:30 pm	Alanon/Alateen – Basement.
Wed. Aug. 15	7:00 pm	Women’s 12 Step Mtg. – FR
Fri. Aug. 17	10:30 am	Bible Study – 2 nd Floor Office
Sun. Aug. 19	9:00 am 9:45 am	Worship Service – Chapel Punch & Fellowship - Fireside
Mon. Aug. 20	7:30 pm	Alanon/Alateen – Basement.
Wed. Aug. 22	7:00 pm	Women’s 12 Step Mtg. – FR
Fri. Aug. 24	10:30 am	Bible Study – 2 nd Floor Office
Sun. Aug. 26	9:00 am 9:45 am	Worship Service – Chapel Punch & Fellowship - Fireside
Mon. Aug. 27	7:30 pm	Alanon/Alateen – Basement.
Wed. Aug. 29	7:00 pm	Women’s 12 Step Mtg. – FR
Fri. Aug. 31	10:30 am	Bible Study – 2 nd Floor Office
Sun. Sept. 2	9:00 am 9:45 am	Worship Service – Chapel Punch & Fellowship - Fireside

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

Our prayers are with Anne Gist, Roy Sorli and Mary McCarthy at home; Ginny Daniels, Sutton Hill Center, 1801 Turnpike St., N. Andover 01845; Jean Card at Rosewood, 22 Johnson St., Peabody, 01960; Ginny Davis at Elizabeth Calsey House, 15 Elizabeth St., Amesbury, 01913; Priscilla Hahn at Sunrise, Lynnfield; Helen Butcher, Marion Edkins, Denis Edkins, and Priscilla Kress at Renaissance Gardens, Brooksby Village; 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.
