

TOWER NOTES

Centre Congregational Church (United Church of Christ)

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We Welcome Everyone: An "Open and Affirming" Church

October 10, 2012

Pictures: Lost Treasures Returned

I was recently given lost treasures, treasures that I did not know I had lost. Wow, what a blessing! Thanks be to God!

Jesus said, *"The kingdom of heaven is like treasure hidden in a field. When a man found it, he hid it again, and then in his joy went and sold all he had and bought that field."* (Matthew 13:44)

I was recently given some pictures I left behind at my previous parish in Billerica. While doing some "church" cleaning, former parishioners came across a huge cache of photos that obviously belonged to me. Many of the photos were Christmas cards sent to me by families in the parish, photos of their children, many of whom I baptized. I posted all of those photos on the bulletin board outside my office at the church during the holiday season. I loved receiving and posting those photo Christmas Cards because, in part, they represented the new life God was giving us. It was also a reminder of the work we had done and were doing in God's Kingdom, as Jesus said, "Let the children come to me."

Many of the found photos included pictures of pets, like the family pet, the family pets of others, like the cat belonging to a close friend of my mother's who we were visiting years ago. The cat had a habit of daily sitting on a 30" tall wooden stool at the front window of the house content to watch traffic and pedestrians going by the busy country intersection.

Many of the pictures were of the children of our family, at birthday parties, and special occasions. Some of the pictures were of vacations, like a trip to England, outside the Queen's palace. Many of the pictures were of church dinners, confirmation class backyard parties which included water fights, volley ball, and plenty of food.

I treasure one photo of me with Rev. Oliver Powell in retirement in Claremont, California. Oliver was very influential early in my career in his role as a church Conference staff person, "Area Minister" in the Metropolitan Boston Association, Massachusetts Conference. He encouraged me, mentored me, and

entrusted me with opportunities for leadership. I felt honored to know him and then, to visit him in his retirement. On my last visit with Oliver his mind was no longer able to recall his wonderful ministry in Massachusetts and the names of the people, people like me, who he pastored. And yet, he listened to me tell my version of his wonderful ministry and life with great interest and appreciation. He still responded with the same cute and unique nuisances which I found so reassuring because not everything had been lost. A great man with a great heart and great faith. He died a few months after that visit.

I also treasure a photo of me getting an autograph from the Rev. Dr. Robert H. Schuller, the

In the Sanctuary

October 14, 2012

10:00 A.M. Morning Worship

Sermon by the Rev. Dr. Dennis C. Bailey

October 21, 2012

10:00 A.M. Morning Worship

Sermon by the Rev. Dr. Dennis C. Bailey

October 28, 2012

10:00 A.M. Morning Worship

Sermon by the Rev. Dr. Dennis C. Bailey

(This service will be preceded by a

Halloween Breakfast sponsored by the Diaconate.)

Each Sunday (Oct. 14, 21, & 28)

Children Gr. 1-8 may worship with their families before going to Rotation Workshops.

The Nursery and 3-5 Yr Old Classrooms will be open at 10:00

founder of the Crystal Cathedral, Garden Grove, CA. Rev. Dr. Schuller preached and lived out his faith believing "positive messages are a source of strength and hope, motivating and encouraging people of all nationalities, races, creeds and faiths." I was blessed to be given a trip to his annual leadership conference via a late parishioner, Dr. Lee Sutherland, who wanted for me to experience a special blessing. I shall always be grateful for this treasure because Rev. Dr. Robert H. Schuller did indeed welcome and bless people and leaders of all faith traditions, encouraging them in their work of spiritual growth.

One of my favorite pictures found in this collection of lost treasures is of me holding twins, Devon and Trevor on the occasion of their baptisms, Sunday, January 30, 2000. Devon and Trevor and I share one thing in common, our birthdays are on the same day!! They live in Tewksbury now and have occasionally visited me at Centre Church.

These lost photos remind me of what is important in my life; loving friendships, friendships that continue to inspire me, strengthen me, and encourage me. They remind me that it remains important for us, together, to live out our faith for the sake of others, for the sake of the gospel, and for the sake of the salvation of our world. What we do as a church becomes, in the hands of our Lord, a blessing to others now and in the years ahead. It is important that we try to do the Lord's work as best as we are able, and to be ready, always ready, to respond at a moment's notice to what the Lord has for us.

I thank you for your support that makes it possible for me to be able to be part God's work here, among you. And, I appreciate all that you do to make for new treasures that I will also cherish in the years to come.

Every day is a blessing! Every person, a gift!

Thanks be to God! Yours in Christ, Dennis

P.S.: If anyone would like the bread recipe used in worship last Sunday, please email me and I will gladly send it to you, or, you can stop in the church office for a copy.

Sunday Morning With the Children

Nursery

Our Nursery, located in Room 11, is open each week for infants through age 3. Experienced staff and volunteers are on hand to welcome children for story time and play.

Rotation Sensation

Our theme for the year is "Faith Heroes". Our focus in October is the story of King Solomon. Children in grades 1-8 will worship briefly with their families before leaving for their workshops.

3- 5 year old class

Children ages 3-5 years will go directly to room 11 at 10 am to join friends for storytime, playtime, and an activity. This class will be using the Spark Story Bible. A copy of this special Bible will be given to each child who registers for the class.

Youth Notes

High School Youth Group

The High School Youth Group will meet at the church at 6:45 pm on Friday, Oct 12 to carpool to Danvers for the Kick Off meeting of our new joint youth group. We will join youth from UCC churches in Middleton, Danvers, Salem, and Methuen (including many of the kids from our NYC mission trip).

So what will we be doing? Laughing, stupid human tricks, bizarre games with **Great** but weird prizes, yummy snacks, all with a spiritual twist. This time, we'll also be getting to know each other, choosing a name/logo for our joint youth program (so bring some ideas), and going over the exciting events for this year. There will be no High School Youth Group meeting on Sunday, Oct. 14.

Middle School Youth - Bring a Friend Night

The Middle School Youth Group will meet on Sunday, October 14 from 6-7:30 pm in Todd Hall. All youth are invited to bring a friend along for an evening of food, games, fellowship and fun.

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 current address so that they will be sure to get a surprise package from their friends at youth group.

Confirmation Class

The first confirmation class will be held on Sunday, Oct 21. At the beginning of worship, Rev. Bailey will offer words of blessing as our confirmands begin their faith journey. The class will then head out to meet with Kathi Martin upstairs in the Pastor's outer office. **Each confirmand should be sure to bring their completed time line.** After worship, the class will meet downstairs in the kitchen for lunch with Rev. Bailey and their first meeting with mentors.

UCC Heritage Tour

The confirmation class will be heading into Boston on Sunday, Oct 28 directly after worship. Everyone is asked to bring a bag lunch which we will eat in the Congregational Library when we arrive in Boston. The cost of the tour is \$10.00 per person. Please RSVP by Sunday, Oct. 14. Parents and mentors are welcome to attend. We will be carpooling into Boston, so please let us know if you are willing to drive.

Thanks to Our Volunteers

Sunday, October 14: Head Usher- Deacon. Reader-Sue Lambe. Provide Altar Flowers-Ruth McMahon. Deliver Altar Flowers-Margaret Waugh and Barbara Ericson. Lights Out beginning October 12-Drew Taylor.

Sunday, October 21: Head Usher-Jeff Law. Provide Altar Flowers-Marge Cole. Deliver Altar Flowers-Randy Russell and Judith Doe. Lights Out beginning October 19-CharlieWills.

Yankee Candle Fundraiser

Our Yankee Candle Fundraiser ends Sunday, October 14. When you look through the Yankee Candle catalogue, you will see that it contains much more than candles. You'll find wonderful wrapping paper and gift bags, reed diffusers, air and car fresheners, hand soap, and lots of gift ideas. Those who use wood burning fireplaces may want to purchase Yankee Candle Kindle Candle Fire Starters so you can say good-bye to kindling and newspapers.

Centre Church will earn 40% of all sales. A portion of what we earn will support the annual mission trip and the rest will support the church operating budget. For more information, contact Debbie Cotting at 781-593-3120.

Upcoming Activities

Trivia Night!!!

Friday, October 12, 2012 - 6:30p.m.

Fun, fellowship, food, wine or beer

Featuring Trivia Volunteer Jason Cotting

Get your team of up to 6 people together!

PRIZES!!!

Only \$15.00 per person

Contact Dotty Whittier, Membership Committee,
@781-635-6225

Pumpkin Patch and Craft Fair



Sat., October 20, 2012 from 10am-2pm

On Saturday, October 20, the church will host its 2nd annual Pumpkin Patch. We will be selling pumpkins of all sizes. We will have a Pumpkin Moon Bounce for the kids along with many other activities. Adult and High School volunteers are needed to help make this event a success. Please contact Barbara Langill to sign up. (christianed@centre-church.org) In addition, we will host a **Holiday Craft Fair** featuring a wide variety of hand-crafted and vendor items (i.e. Tastefully Simple, Pampered Chef, etc., etc.)

Please contact Carrie Pericola for more information and to reserve a table or space. 781-231-0954 or cpericola@comcast.net.

PSST! You don't want to miss this....

"Double Indemnity" – Sunday, October 21st, Stoneham Theatre for the 2:00 p.m. matinee. Come enjoy a great "who dunnit" by this outstanding local theatre troupe. We will have dinner afterwards at one of the great eateries nearby. Matinee tickets are \$25. Book soon as there are a limited number of tickets for this price!

Dotty Whittier – 781-635-6225

Pie Making - November 17: Sign up to make or buy a pie for the holidays! To see how you can participate and order, contact Sue Lambe 781-334-2876.

News From Around the Parish

We express our sympathy to Ann Decker's family on the occasion of the death of her mother, Barbara Wishart, Wakefield, MA, who died Sunday, October 7th. Barbara was married to her husband John lived in Wakefield, MA. She leaves her 4 children and several grandchildren. Her funeral service will be held at Centre Church on Saturday, October 13 at 10:00 a.m.

We express our sympathy to Linda Levis Ladd's family on the occasion of the death of her father, Dr. Charles E. Levis, Jr. on October 4, 2012. Dr. Levis was married to his wife, Elaine, for 61 years. He was the loving father of 3 children, 8 grandchildren and 1 great-grandchild. Levis was a doctor of optometry.

A Memorial Service in his honor will take place on Saturday, October 27th, 11 am, at Payson Park Church, 365 Belmont Street, Belmont, MA. If you can drive and have room for others and/or need a ride, please call the church office (781-334-3050). A group of us plan to leave from Centre Church parking lot at 10 am, October 27th, to attend the service in Belmont.

Congratulations to Rev. Stephen Edwin Ericson on the occasion of his 35th Anniversary of Ordination in the United Church of Christ. Rev. Ericson is the son of Ed and Barbara Ericson, Lynnfield, MA. Steve is currently pastor of Bethany United Church of Christ, 140 E. Main Street, Ephrata, PA 17522. Rev. Dr. Bailey is sending a gift to him on behalf of his spiritual family here at Centre Church.

We extend our love and sympathy to Debbie Newman and her family upon the death of her brother-in-law, Kenneth Lowry. His funeral will be held at Centre Church. Arrangements are pending.

Save the Date!

On Friday, November 3, at 7:00 p.m. at the Windham High School, a benefit concert "Perfectly Frank" will be presented to raise money to provide mental health services for veterans and their families. The New England Pastoral Institute in Salem, NH is sponsoring this fundraising concert so that no veteran or family member of a veteran will ever be without psychotherapeutic services because of a lack of funds.

"Perfectly Frank" is the highly successful tribute to the great Frank Sinatra. This performance will star vocalist Steve Marvin with the 16-piece Boston Big Band. Tickets are \$20 for adults, \$12 for children and students. There is no charge for veterans and military personnel in uniform. Speak with Rev. Bailey if you would like to carpool.

Our Opportunities

Sun. Oct. 14	10:00 am 10:00 am 10:00 am 10:00 am 11:30 am 6:00 pm	Morning Worship – Sanctuary Nursery – Room 11 3-5 Year Olds – Room 14 Gr. 1-8 Rotation Sensation Youth Choir – Choir Room Middle School Youth - Basement
Mon. Oct. 15	7:00 pm 7:30 pm	Boy Scout Troop #48 – Todd Hall Alanon/Alateen – Fireside & Libr.
Tues. Oct. 16	7:00 pm	Education Ministries - Fireside
Wed. Oct. 17	7:00 pm	Women’s 12 Step Mtg. – FR
Thurs. Oct. 18	7:30 pm	Senior Choir – Choir Room
Fri. Oct. 19	10:30 am	Bible Study – 2 nd Floor Office
Sat. Oct. 20	9am-2pm	Pumpkin Patch & Craft Fair
Sun. Oct. 21	10:00 am 10:00 am 10:00 am 11:30 am 2:00 pm 6:00 pm	Morning Worship - Sanctuary Nursery / 3-5 Yr Old Class Gr. 1-8 Rotation Confirmation Class - Kitchen Stoneham Theatre Youth Groups - Basement
Mon. Oct. 22	7:00 pm 7:30 pm	Boy Scout Troop #48 – Todd Hall Alanon/Alateen – Fireside & Libr.
Tues. Oct. 23	12:30 pm	Get-Together Wheel – Fireside Rm
Wed. Oct. 24	7:00 pm	Women’s 12 Step Mtg. – FR
Thurs. Oct. 25	7:30 pm	Senior Choir – Choir Room
Fri. Oct. 26	10:30 am	Bible Study – 2 nd Floor Office
Sat. Oct. 27	2-4 pm	Youth Groups Pumpkin Carving

Church Office Hours 9 a.m. – 3 p.m. Monday-Friday
The next *Tower Notes* will be the week of October 22.

Our prayers are with Priscilla Hahn and Ginny Daniels at Sunrise, Lynnfield; Ginny Davis in Amesbury; Helen Butcher, Marion Edkins, Denis Edkins, and Priscilla Kress at Renaissance Gardens, Brooksby; Marion Barnes in Danvers and Carolyn Furey in Charlton. 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.
