

TOWER NOTES

Centre Congregational Church (United Church of Christ)

5 Summer Street, Lynnfield, Massachusetts 01940 Phone: 781-334-3050 Fax: 781-334-6463

Email: Office@Centre-Church.org Web Site: www.Centre-Church.org

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

Sally MacDonald, Director of Tower Day School

Susan Spear, Secretary

We Welcome Everyone: An "Open and Affirming" Church

November 7, 2012

When Disaster Strikes

Last week, the largest Atlantic storm in history caused an estimated 185 fatalities, from the Greater Antillies, Jamaica (1), Haiti (52), Bahamas (2), Dominican Republic (2), Puerto Rico (1), Cuba (11), to the United States (116), from Florida to Maine, coming ashore in New Jersey (24) and New York (49). It is estimated to be the second most costly storm in United States History (\$52.4 billion).

In Jamaica, alone, 70% of the residents were left without electricity. There have been extensive flooding, food shortages, loss of homes. In Haiti, for example, 200,000 left homeless and in Cuba, 15,000 homes were destroyed.

On any given night under normal circumstances, well over 50,000 people are homeless, 20,000 of whom are children, in New York City alone, according to the Coalition for the Homeless. As many as 40,000 additional citizens became homeless as the result of the Hurricane. Mayor Bloomberg estimated, on November 5th, that 20,000 of those could still be homeless in two weeks.

So many are working so hard to bring relief, sustain life, return electricity, provide food, shelter, water, and life's necessities.

What can we do to be God's people in such times? Our Outreach Ministries Team, under the leadership of Sandi Watson, has focused our attention upon our relationship with *Rauschenbusch Metro Ministries*. 410 West 40th St • New York, NY 10018 • 212-594-4464. A group from Centre Church went there this past year on one of our church sponsored Mission Trips and found it to be a place, a haven, for people in need, who are hungry and homeless. They provide a Teen Center, Clothing Closet, Food Pantry, HIV/AIDS services, toiletries, etc. to their clients.

I spoke with the Executive Director, Tiffany Triplett Henkel on November 5th asking her how they are helping those directly affected by the Hurricane. She reports that they immediately opened their doors, serving meals around the clock, helping people come in to meet their immediate needs for showers, shelter, clothing, toiletries, etc.

Tiffany wrote to me yesterday via email, *"...we are currently responding to needs as they arise and as we are able. At the moment, that is*

In the Sanctuary

November 11, 2012

10:00 A.M. Morning Worship

Sermon by the Rev. Dr. Dennis C. Bailey
Child Care in Room 11 for children up the age of 5.
All Older Children may worship with their families.

November 18, 2012

10:00 A.M. Morning Worship

Sermon by the Rev. Dr. Dennis C. Bailey
Nursery at 9:00 & 3-5 year olds at 10:00
Children Gr. 1-8 may worship with their families
before going to Rotation Workshops.

7:00 P.M. Ecumenical Thanksgiving Service

**at St. Maria Goretti Catholic Church,
112 Chestnut Street**

Sermon by Rev. Nicholas Morris-Kliment
Rector, St. Paul's Episcopal Church

November 25, 2012

10:00 A.M. Morning Worship

Child Care in Room 11 for children up the age of 5.
All Older Children may worship with their families.

through our ongoing efforts to supply food, clothing, and toiletries to those in need. We are grateful for your monetary donation (\$500.00 from Centre Church) that can aid in these immediate needs, as well as the long term effort we are part of through our partnership with New York Disaster Interfaith Services (www.dydis.org) and others here in the city." Rauschenbusch Metro Ministries was fortunately outside the area directly affected by the flood waters and is able to be there, on our behalf, to help our sisters and brothers in need. The Center has storage facilities for dropping off of food supplies, clothing, sump-pumps, and even generators. You can explore their ministries at [www.http://rmmnyc.org/](http://www.rmmnyc.org/)

If 200 of us each donate just \$50.00 to this effort, we could contribute \$10,000 to this wonderful direct service ministry! Checks should be made out to the church and marked "Hurricane Relief."

Long term: Tiffany looks forward to welcoming us to visit there on future Mission Trips as we, with many others, pledge our support to help rebuild the homes of those who lost so much. As we have done in New Orleans, New York, and in Joplin, Missouri, we will also do in New York, be the hands, hearts, and minds of Christ, helping to rebuild where disaster has struck.

When disaster strikes we find strength and direction in the Holy Scriptures:

I remember when the LORD called out to Isaiah, to serve him to help save his people,

Isaiah said, "Then I heard the voice of the Lord saying, 'Whom shall I send? And who will go for us?'"

"And I said, 'Here am I. Send me!'" (Isaiah 6:8)

Let us follow Isaiah's example and say, together, "Here we are, Lord. Send us!"

Yours in Christ, Dennis

P.S.: Wreath making Sunday, November 25th, 1 pm to 7 pm, Richards Hall. Make your own Christmas Wreath and decorations with fresh greens. Metal rings, red ribbon, greens, and pine cones provided. Cost about \$5/ person/wreath. I will show you how! Friends are welcome. Snacks are also welcome.



Turkey Drive: We will be collecting frozen turkeys for Haven from Hunger on Sunday morning, November 18 beginning at 9:30 a.m. We will have youth on hand to help carry your turkey to the Haven from Hunger truck.

Sunday Morning With the Children

Nursery Update: The nursery at Centre Church will now be open each Sunday morning at 9 am to provide child care for infants and children up to age 5. The nursery will also be open on long weekends and vacation weeks, even when there are no Rotation Sensation classes.

Sunday, November 11: No Rotations, no 3-5 Year Old Class, Nursery open in room 11 at 9 am for infants and children up to age 5

Sunday, Nov 18: Rotation Sensation- Heifer. 3-5 year old class 10 am. Nursery open in room 11 at 9 am

Pumpkin Carving Contest

Thank you to everyone who carved pumpkins to help raise money for the youth group's service project. Voting took place on Sunday, October 28 and we were able to raise \$119.00. This year's winner of the carving contest is Rebecca Sievers with her entry "I Feel Pretty!" Thanks to everyone for participating in this fun event.

Volunteers of All Ages & Abilities Needed

Education Ministries is seeking volunteers to help with our upcoming outreach event "A Journey to Bethlehem" which will be held Sunday, December 2 from 3 to 6 pm.

We need adults and youth to volunteer as shepherds, soldiers, townspeople and more. We will have a marketplace which will require many hands to help construct and decorate to look like booths in old time Bethlehem. Volunteers are needed to be in charge of a booth where you will lead participants in a craft or activity. We also need people who would like to help with publicity and outreach, getting the word out to the surrounding community.

If you have items we could borrow to help with the decorating, that would be very much appreciated. Items needed: large artificial plants, solid blankets and/or fabric, vases, urns, bowls etc. that look as if they might have been used during Bible times. Please contact Barbara Langill or Kathi Martin and let us know you can help make this event a success.

Kathi – 781-245-2409; Barbara – 781-334-3050

Youth Group Update

Nov. 11: No Youth Group Meetings

Nov. 18:

Middle School Youth Group will meet at 6:00 p.m.

No High School Meeting on Sunday, Nov. 18.

High School Group to Boston

The High School Youth Group and Confirmation Class will be participating in Ecclesia Ministries City Reach on Dec 7-8. We will meet here at Centre Church at 5:30 pm for dinner and then head into Boston where we will have the opportunity to learn first hand about homelessness from people who have experienced it. We will be spending the night at St. Paul's Cathedral and on Saturday we will offer clothing that we have collected and prepare and serve a simple meal to homeless people in the Cathedral's basement. We will return around 4 pm on Saturday. Please RSVP by Monday, Nov 12 .

News From Around the Parish

Our love and sympathy are extended to Bob Sweezy and family upon the recent death of his mother, Doris Sweezy of Saugus.

Our congratulations to Annabel Aldrich who will turn 90 on November 7 and to Priscilla Hahn who will turn 94 on November 18.

Note to Centre Church,

I want to thank you for the beautiful flowers that you sent to me during my recovery. They made me feel better every time I looked at them. Thank you for all the well wishes.
- From Risa Votano

Lights Out Program

We have about a dozen faithful souls who volunteer to make sure the doors are locked, the heat is set, the windows are closed and all the lights are turned out every evening at Centre Church. These same volunteers have been doing this for a long time and we could use some new able-bodied church members to come aboard! Please consider volunteering some of your time to assist in this way. Generally it takes no more than 20 minutes per evening and the sign-up is for a week at a time. More volunteers makes for light work. Please contact Phil Johnson (pcjohnson@meci.harvard.edu or 781-598-5678) if you can sign up or have any questions.
- Phillip Johnson

Apple Pie Sale – Carrot Cake Sale

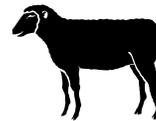
Sunday November 18, 2012

A team of Centre Church bakers will be baking 3 varieties of Apple Pies for your Thanksgiving feast. In addition, Rev. Dr. Dennis Bailey will also be making his famous Carrot Cakes in 2 sizes! Large carrot cake (serves 14-16) is \$15.00; small (serves 8) is \$8.00.

Pies, including Apple, Apple Crumb and Apple Cranberry are \$15.00. Pies may be ordered baked or unbaked and ready for your freezer so you can bake them fresh on Thanksgiving. Carrot cake also freezes perfectly!

Please send your orders and your checks to Susan Spear at the Church Office! [781-334-3050]

If you would like to help with assembling pies on either Friday, Nov. 16 or Saturday, Nov. 17, please call Sue Lambe at 781-334-2876



Heifer Marketplace Coming December 2

At the market you will be able to give a gift of hope in honor of your friends and family by purchasing a share of an animal. Your gift will be part of making a positive difference in the world. This will be a lively event in the narthex following the worship service where you will be able to visit different booths to learn more about the animals Heifer provides.

We Appreciate Our Volunteers

Sunday, November 11: Head Usher-Gage Whittier. Lay Reader-Gage Whittier. Provide Altar Flowers-Edith Wendt. Deliver Altar Flowers-Laurel Caputo. Lights Out beginning November 9- Roger Batchelder.

Sunday, November 18: Head Usher-Jeff Law. Coffee Hour-Kathi Martin. Lights Out beginning November 16- Charlie Wills.

Appliances & Electronics Recycling Day - Saturday, November 10 9:00-1:00

The following prices are lower than the town waste program and proceeds from this recycling drive will benefit the church. Some pickup will be available if necessary. Please call Barbara Langill at 781-334-3050 or email www.christianed@centre-church.org if you have questions. Computer Monitor, CPU, Laptop: \$15.00; Television: \$20.00 to \$35.00; Air Conditioner: \$15.00; Stove/Washer/Dryer/Refrigerator: \$20.00; Cell Phone/Small Items: \$5.00; Misc. Items: \$10.00.

Collection for City Reach

The High School Youth Group will be collecting donations to bring to City Reach, hosted by Ecclesia ministries in Boston. The items collected will be distributed to people who are homeless in the Greater Boston area. Please drop off your donations by Sunday, Dec. 2. There will be a box in the Narthex to collect these items .

Needed, YOUR GENTLY USED CLOTHING

- Nylon jackets and pants
- Warm coats
- Sweat shirts and sweat pants (especially hooded sweatshirts)
- Sweaters
- T-shirts
- Long-sleeve shirts
- Jeans, khakis and other casual pants (80% for men)
- Waterproof boots, comfortable shoes, and sneakers
- Hats, waterproof gloves, coats, belts

Large sizes (XL, XXL, and XXXL) are very much in demand, but all sizes are needed. Hooded sweatshirts and sweat pants in both very small sizes (a few for the women) and very large sizes are much appreciated.

We are also collecting:

- All kinds of carrying cases such as backpacks, tote bags, fanny packs, small suitcases with wheels (used and in good condition)
- Travel-size toiletries such as soap, shampoo, deodorant, lotion, Chapstick, toothpaste, and shaving cream in small sizes, as well as tooth brushes and disposable razors, and tampons in small quantities. (please no aftershave or mouthwash containing alcohol).
- **New white socks** (there can never be too many of these)
- **New underwear** (again, there can never be too many and be sure to bring 80% of the underwear for men)
- Sleeping bags & blankets (clean and in good condition)



POINSETTIA ORDER

I would like to order for \$8.50 each: ____ red poinsettia
Enclosed is my check for \$_____ made payable to Centre Congregational Church.
These flowers have been given by _____
in memory of _____

PLEASE CHECK ONE OF THE FOLLOWING:

- ___ I will take my plant(s) home after one of the services on Christmas Eve. (5 pm or 11 pm)
- ___ I wish to donate my plant(s) to the hospitalized, bereaved or shut-in.

***Plants will be displayed in the sanctuary on Sunday, December 16.
A list of donors will be printed in the bulletin on that day.
Wednesday, December 5 is the deadline for placing orders.***

Our Opportunities

Sun. Nov. 11	10:00 am 9:00 am 10:00 am	Morning Worship – Sanctuary Child Care for up to age 5 Older Children in Church
Mon. Nov. 12	----- 7:30 pm	Church Office Closed Alanon/Alateen – Fireside & Libr.
Tues. Nov. 13	7:30 pm	Deacons – Pastor’s Office
Wed. Nov. 14	7:00 pm 7:30 pm	Women’s 12 Step Mtg. – FR Education Ministries - Library
Fri. Nov. 16	10:30 am	Bible Study – 2 nd Floor Office
Sun. Nov. 18	10:00 am 10:00 am 10:00 am 11:30 am 6:00 pm 7:00 pm	Morning Worship - Sanctuary Nursery / 3-5 Yr Old Class Gr. 1-8 Rotation Sensation Youth Choir – Choir Room Middle School Youth – Basement Ecumenical Thanksgiving Service-at Maria Goretti Catholic Church
Mon. Nov. 19	7:00 pm 7:30 pm	Boy Scout Troop #48 – Todd Hall Alanon/Alateen – Fireside & Libr.
Wed. Nov. 21	7:00 pm	Women’s 12 Step Mtg. – FR
Thurs Nov. 22		<i>Happy Thanksgiving!</i> 
Fri. Nov. 23	10:30 am	Bible Study – 2 nd Floor Office

Church Office Hours 9 a.m. – 3 p.m. Monday-Friday
The next *Tower Notes* will be the week of November 19

Our prayers are with Edith Wendt, Spaulding Rehab., Dove Ave., Salem 01970; George Laing at Lahey Burlington; Priscilla Hahn and Ginny Daniels at Sunrise, Lynnfield; Charlotte Kilgore, Helen Butcher, Marion Edkins, Denis Edkins, and Priscilla Kress at Renaissance Gardens, Brooksby; Marion Barnes in Danvers, Ginny Davis in Amesbury 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.
