

TOWER NOTES

Centre Congregational Church (United Church of Christ)

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We Welcome Everyone: An "Open and Affirming" Church

January 23, 2013

Symbols of Christian Service

This week I will be part of the Memorial Service for Dorothy Dilts, member of Centre Congregational Church, Lynnfield. One of the things that her daughter, Diane Oliver said was a symbol of her mother's way of life was that she was always found wearing an apron in her kitchen, serving and waiting on those who came there, her family and friends.

An apron is a good symbol of Christian Service, given that it represents serving. There is no better way of finding a fulfilling life than to provide care and hospitality to others: family, friends, and strangers. Remember how Jesus took a towel, on the night of the Last Supper, knelt down, and washed the feet of his disciples. He told them that unless they were willing to have their feet washed and willing to wash the feet of others, they would not participate in the work of the Kingdom of God.

We, in our modern culture, like to go out to eat. It is nice. I enjoy it, too. We have gotten away from wearing the apron. We have gotten away from inviting folks over for dinner, going shopping for the ingredients for the recipes we have prepared, working to prepare a meal, a main course, dessert, the beverages, and such. Yes, when people come over, we enjoy the conversation. No TV is necessary. We sit around, talking, sharing, enjoying each others company, because, someone wore an apron and served.

I have some of my own symbols of faith:

A cup of tea: Years ago I would visit a couple originally from Germany. She served me tea and we sat at their humble kitchen table in their rented second story apartment. There was always a jar of honey on the table to sweeten the tea. She always had some homemade German pastry ready to share. We sat, talked, and shared blessed friendship. I learned of their past, their family, and they greatly appreciated the simple act of sitting, sharing tea and conversation. I was honored to know them, hear their stories. The simple gift of a cup of tea slowed me down for sacramental conversation.

Chores: we had chores to do on the farm when I was a child. Each day we had to do the chores twice,

once in the morning and once in the afternoon. I milked the cow, fed the cattle and pigs, collected the eggs, fed the chickens. The blessing for me was getting to know and appreciate the animals and how they depended on me. Of course, we depended on them, too. It taught me about how we depend upon each other and how we have responsibility for taking care of God's creatures. Doing chores was work, but it was also an act of love. We had to be consistent and couldn't miss a day. It taught me the importance of being a dependable servant of God. In today's world, we have lost dependability. We skip our chores. We play hooky. We think no one will notice, no one will be affected, no one will miss us. But that's not true. When we do not follow through, lives are affected, friendships weakened, and the love we once promised to show is gone.

In the Sanctuary

January 27, 2013

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 briefly with their families before going to Rotation Workshops.

February 3, 2013

10:00 a.m. Morning Worship

Souper Bowl of Caring

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 briefly with their families before going to Rotation Workshops

My parents gave me such a blessing by giving me chores. While doing our daily chores 7 days a week was necessary, so was attending church on Sundays. It was part of what we did, never missing, because God so richly blessed us and because we needed God and God needed us to be there. Even when it didn't seem like it, we were making a difference just by showing up.

A car in my own name: When I became 16 years of age, I got my driver's license. Then, I bought my own car. I had saved the money into a savings account, under the direction of my parents. The money they paid me for helping on the farm went into the savings account. That savings account had one purpose, to allow me to buy my first car. The important thing about the car was that it was in my own name, not in my parent's name. Why? Because if it was in their name and I had an accident, they could have lost everything. Besides, it taught me to take serious responsibility for my driving and car.

The car in my name taught me how important it is to take responsibility for what we do and what we have. I washed the car, took care of it, and fixed it when it broke. I was far from perfect with the car. I had my share of mistakes. But, the car in my own name taught me to grow up and take adult responsibilities seriously. Owning a car and driving it is an adult responsibility, not kid's play, as is the decision to follow Jesus.

Shiny shoes: Now some people have noticed that I like to have my shoes shined. I'm not as disciplined about it as I once was, but, it is still important me. Why? It is important to me to try to look neat and clean when I'm around the people I care about. It is a way of showing respect to those who see me. This is something taught to me by my best friend, Harry. When I show up to visit someone I want to look neat and clean, nice. I don't want them to be distracted by a tie that doesn't coordinate, by a shabby jacket, sloppy shoes, etc. I want them to focus on the reason for our meeting, perhaps their needs, their situation, and conversation about their faith. My shiny shoes symbolize, for me, that I respect you, and your life and your friendship are important to me.

When Jesus comes to me, he brings his best. I want to bring my best when I visit someone, meet someone, perhaps you.

What symbols are important to our faith? I would be very interested in hearing about them.

God bless you in your service to our Lord. What you do and the way you do it, matters! It matters to God. It matters to others.

Yours in Christ, Dennis

Going the Extra Mile for Centre Church Update

Thank you to everyone who went the extra mile for Centre Church! We have exceeded our goal. The latest total is \$27,300! Thank you all for your generosity and help to maintain our savings.

--Carrie Pericola, Stewardship Ministries Chair

You're Invited to a Reading Group

hosted by Educational Ministries on Wednesdays during Lent (February 20, 27, March 6, 13, 20, 27) 7:00 – 9:00 p.m. in Richards Hall.

We will be discussing *Dinner with a Perfect Stranger* by David Gregory. Please R.S.V.P. to Kathi Martin at mkm9291@verizon.net, 781-245-2409, or the Church office 781-334-3050. (cost of book is \$5.00)

Sunday Morning With the Children

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. The nursery is now open at 9 am.

3-5 year old class

Children ages 3 to 5 are invited to join us each Sunday at 10 am in Room 14 for a class just for this age group. There is time for free play, a Bible Story and a craft and/or activity to help reinforce the story.

Rotation Sensation (Grades 1-8)

This week we will continue learning the story of Esther and how she was a hero to her people.

Souper Bowl of Caring on February 3

We invite each parishioner, young and old, to participate in our Souper Bowl of Caring on Sunday, February 3. Youth will be on hand in the Narthex with soup pots hoping to collect at least \$1 from every person who comes to church. All the money donated by our congregation will be sent to help Bread & Roses. Youth across the nation come together on this Sunday and participate in this event.

Over the past 20 years, this event has raised more than \$50 million in cash and food for organizations that fight hunger. The Souper Bowl of Caring has become a powerful nationwide movement that touches more lives each year. As many of us prepare for Super Bowl celebrations with fancy hors d'oeuvres and special dishes, lets be mindful of those who will be attending Soup Kitchens on Super Bowl Sunday.

Cradles to Crayons

On Monday, Jan 22, our High School Youth Group made Martin Luther King Jr. Day not a day off, but a day of service. Eight youth from our church, along with 12 youth from Methuen, Salem and Middleton volunteered at Cradles to Crayons in Brighton. We cleaned and sorted toys to be distributed along with clothing and books to children in need across Massachusetts.

Thanks to everyone who contributed donations and to Risa Votano for volunteering to help chaperone and drive.

Snow Tubing

Both the High School and Middle School youth groups will be headed to Nashoba Valley on Sunday, Jan. 27 for an evening of snow tubing. We will meet in the parking lot at 4:45 p.m. The bus will be leaving promptly at 5 p.m. Please eat beforehand as we will not be having dinner at Youth Group. There is a snack bar at the lodge where food may be purchased. We will provide hot chocolate, water, and brownies.

There will be no youth group meeting on Sunday, Feb 3. Enjoy the Superbowl!

Confirmation Update

Jan. 27, 2013: This is the Sunday you are scheduled to attend worship with your mentor and/or family member. Please be sure to fill out the worship sheet.

On Sunday, Feb. 3, after attending the first part of worship for communion, we will be meeting with Mrs. Langill in the pastor's outer office to discuss your experience and you will turn in your worship sheets.

30 Hour Famine

On Feb 1-2, youth from our church will participate in World Vision's 30 Hour Famine.

As students go 30 hours without food, they'll get a taste of what it's like to be hungry, all the while reaching out to others in need. And as they do that, their compassion will grow: for people around the world, and right here at home. We will meet at the church at 7 am on Friday morning for a hearty kick off breakfast. Youth will then head off to school and meet back at the church at 6 p.m. We will spend the night at the church, participate in a service project on Saturday morning and break the fast with lunch on Saturday. To participate in the Famine, youth must turn in their parental consent form by Jan. 25.

The youth will be looking for sponsors after church on Jan 27. All funds will go to World Vision to help end hunger around the world.

***After the Storm* by Wendy Parker Illustrated by Allie Parker**

This illustrated story book for children ages 4-6 centers around a group of animals who have experienced a terrible storm and learn how to work together to recover from their shock and loss in order to rebuild their world.

Our thanks to Allie Parker for donating a copy of it to the church library.

News From Around the Parish

We extend our love and sympathy to the family and friends of Dorothy Dilts who died on January 14 in Pennsylvania. Her memorial service was held at Centre Church on January 22.

Congratulations to Meg and Barkey Gulezian and their family on the occasion of the birth of their great granddaughter Abigail (Abby) Aster Phillips, born to granddaughter, Jenn and her husband, Mark Phillips, and to grandparents, Dean and Jan Gulezian. Abby was born on January 17.

Our congratulations to John Potter Furey and Lucas Shaw whose Eagle Court of Honor was held at Centre Church on February 13.

Prince Pizza Take N Bake Fundraiser

Now through March, 2013

Sign up on Sundays

for a box of three frozen large-sized cheese pizzas from Prince for \$20 – regular price \$22.

Additional toppings may be purchased at Prince!

Pay on Sunday and we'll have the Prince voucher ready for you next week!

You are helping Centre Church meet our fundraising goal and getting great tasting pizza!!

From the Mailbox

Dear Friends,

What a lovely surprise to open our door and find Perry and George Hayden delivering a gorgeous poinsettia. Thank you so much. I think of all the wonderful people at Centre Church each time I look at the plant. We do miss being in church. Fondly, Betty Conn

Dear Centre Church Family,

We wish to thank you for your prayers, cards, well wishes and beautiful flowers. We wish to thank Pastor Dennis for knowing the right time to visit. His presence and prayers meant a lot to George.

Sincerely, Virginia Laing and Family

Thanks for my lovely Christmas plant. It is still in bloom and I enjoy it every day! I'm happy in my new home, but miss my old home on Carter Road and all my friends. My new address is 15 Elizabeth Rd., Amesbury, 01913.

Fondly, Ginny Davis

Thanks to Our Volunteers

Lights Out beginning January 25: Roger Batchelder

Lights Out beginning February 1: Steve Furey

Trivia Night & Silent Auction

Friday, February 8, 2013 - 6:30p.m.
Featuring Trivia Expert Jason Cotting
Hors d'oeuvres and Beverages, Pizza, Desserts and Coffee

Silent Auction during the Evening
\$15.00 per person
For more information contact Dotty Whittier@781-635-6225

[Silent Auction Item Sign Up](#)

Item: _____

Suggested starting bid: _____

Description: _____

Will you be providing pictures/object, etc.? _____

Name and Address of Donor: _____



Super Bowl Sunday Lobster Roll Sale!

Sunday February 3rd, 2013 - \$10.00 Each.

*******Deadline for placing orders is January 29*******

Please make checks payable to: Centre Church
5 Summer Street, Lynnfield, MA 01940 –
781-334-3050 - Office Hours 9 AM to 3 PM.

Lobster Rolls may be picked up after church on Feb. 3.
Those not picked up on time will be sold – refunds not available.

Name: _____ Contact Number: _____

Quantity: _____ **WITHOUT Mayo! YES** _____

Our Opportunities

Sun. Jan. 27	9:00 am 10:00 am 10 :00 am 11:30 am 5-9 pm	Nursery – Room 11 Morning Worship – Sanctuary Rotations / 3-5 Year Old Class Youth Choir – Choir Room Youth go Snow Tubing
Mon. Jan. 28	7:00 pm 7:30 pm	Boy Scout Troop #48 – Todd Hall Alanon/Alateen – Fireside & Libr.
Wed. Jan. 30	7:00 pm	Women’s 12 Step Mtg. – FR
Thurs. Jan. 31	7:30 pm	Senior Choir – Choir Room
Fri. Feb. 1	10:30 am overnight	Bible Study – 2 nd Floor Office Sr. Highs - 30-Hour Famine
Sun. Feb 3 <i>Souper Bowl of Caring</i>	9:00 am 10:00 am 10:00 am 10:00 am 11:30 am	Nursery – Rm 11 Morning Worship - Sanctuary Rotations/ 3-5 Year Old Class Confirmation – Pastor’s Office Youth Choir – Choir Room
Mon. Feb. 4	7:00 pm 7:30 pm	Boy Scout Troop #48 - Todd Alanon/Alateen – FR & Libr.
Wed., Feb. 6	8:30 am 7:00 pm	Bread & Roses Meal Prep. – Kit. Women’s 12 Step Meeting - FR
Thurs. Feb. 7	7:30 pm	Senior Choir – Choir Room
Fri. Feb. 8	10:30 am 6:30 pm	Bible Study – 2 nd Floor Office Trivia Night/Silent Auction

The next *Tower Notes* will be the week of February 4.

The Church Office is open from 9am – 3pm.

Our prayers are with Art Pyburn at Union Hospital; Ginny Daniels at Sunrise, Lynnfield; Peter Brown at Shaughnessy Rehab; John Wishart at Sunrise, Braintree; Ray and Arliene Thorn, 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 and Norma Holloway, Tom Vancor, Rev. Judy Hjorth and Al Merritt. We remember in our prayers Michael Bruce in the Far East; Dan Neary in Afghanistan, and Sam Schnare in Germany.
