

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

June 26, 2013

Whip-poor-will

If I say, "Surely the darkness will hide me
and the light become night around me,"
even the darkness will not be dark to you;
the night will shine like the day,
for darkness is as light to you.
(*Psalm 139:11-12*)

Have you heard it? Have you heard the
song of the Whippoorwill? In certain locations,
away from the sounds of traffic, at night, when I am
walking outside in or near a wooded community, I
hear a sound, clear and true. It is a beautiful sound.
I savor it and I am in awe of it.

The Whippoorwill is frequently noted in
song and poetry. From Rogers and Hammerstein's
"A Cockeyed Optimist" in South Pacific,

*hear the human race
Is fallin' on its face
And hasn't very far to go,
But ev'ry whippoorwill
Is sellin' me a bill,
And tellin' me it just ain't so.*

to Jim Croce's "I Got a Name," to Hank Williams'
"Alone and Forsaken," in which he sings, "*And out
in the darkness the whippoorwills cry*" we are
reminded of the power of one who sings out at night,
as if it is God speaking to us again and again,
sometimes repeated in the song of the Whippoorwill
as many as 100 times without ceasing.

The Whippoorwill sings out. It sings out
boldly. It does not know or seem to care if anyone is
listening. It does not see its audience. It is rare for
us

to see the Whippoorwill because it sleeps during the
day and starts its song at dusk, singing till about 9:30
pm, starting again around 2 am till dawn. Rarely is
the song heard during the intervening hours.

The Whippoorwill arrives in the northeast
USA in the spring, heading to Florida in late August,
early September. Its song is stronger early in the
season than it is later in the season.

I love the sound of the Whippoorwill
singing in the darkness. It beckons me to have
conversations with God in the midst of the darkness
of my life. Even in the darkness, I am reminded that
God is near. God's presence is bolder than the sound
of the Whippoorwill at night, never daring to leave
me even in the most difficult of times in my life.

In the Chapel – 9:00 a.m.

July 7, 2013 Holy Communion

Sermon by the Rev. Dr. Dennis C. Bailey

July 14, 2013 Morning Worship

Sacrament of Baptism

Sermon by the Rev. Dr. Dennis C. Bailey

July 21, 2013 Morning Worship

Commissioning of New Jersey Mission Trip Group

Sermon by the Rev. Dr. Dennis C. Bailey

July 28, 2013 Morning Worship

Sermon by the Rev. Dr. Dennis C. Bailey

These brief, informal services in the air-conditioned
Chapel are followed by punch and fellowship.

When I grow frustrated, in despair, feeling as if I'm forsaken, the song of the Whippoorwill at night is not interrupted by my sorrows. It sings on, as if reminding me that the love of God is not stopped by the circumstances in my life or by my desire to not listen to what God is trying to speak to me.

Even when I try to push God away, telling God to leave me alone, the Whippoorwill sings on, strong as ever. God will not be pushed away. God will not forsake me, even when it feels as if others have.

The song of the Whippoorwill also reminds me that I have many friends to whom I can call out in the darkness who will also sing their song of love and friendship, should I need it, anytime. I am only alone when I choose to be alone, the fact is. And then, even then, the Whippoorwill sings on. At night, while most other birds sleep from their singing, the Whippoorwill, sings out, "you are not alone, you are not alone."

I wonder why the Whippoorwill sings at night? Is it God's way of not letting me get away with "No one is listening? No one sees me?" Or, is it God's sense of humor, God's way of keeping me awake when, while trying to sleep, windows open, the sound of the Whippoorwill will not let me sleep. Perhaps God has something that I need to hear, something that only when I'm laying alone, away from other distractions, I can hear? I cannot count the number of times the Whippoorwill sings, nor can I count the times that God has kept me awake in order to speak to me a new word.

Today I am grateful for the Whippoorwill's song. It reminds me how my conversations with God leave me with the awe of gratitude for a God who creates sounds of hope in the midst of the darkness of life.

Sing to me, oh Whippoorwill! Sing to me so that I know that I can still hear what God speaks to me in the midst of my dark times. Yes, oh Whippoorwill repeat it over and over again. You will not be denied your song. Likewise, may God's word to me not be denied. May God also sing to me, speak to me, and, if necessary, repeat it over and over again, till I hear, till I understand, till I know what the Lord desires me to hear and to know and to do.

What is God's Whippoorwill singing to you that will not be denied? Listen till you hear and then, listen again, till you understand.

Yours in Christ,

Dennis

Mission Trip Updates

Seven youth and 3 adults will be participating in the Atlantic City, NJ Mission Trip. All participants and their families are asked to attend worship on Sunday, July 21 at 9 am for a commissioning by the congregation. We will be leaving directly after worship.

Nine youth and 6 adults will be leaving for Joplin, MO August 11-17 to help with the rebuilding efforts there. On Sunday, August 18, the participants will plan to lead the worship service.

All Church Cook Out

Thanks to the generosity of the congregation, we were able to raise \$500.00 for the Mission Trips at the all church cook out held on Sunday, June 2. Thank you to all who make this a success. Your donations of time, food, drinks, burger flipping, etc. were all very much appreciated.

Have Toiletries Will Travel

As nice weather is finally approaching, I would like to ask that if you are lucky enough to get away and travel, would you please save all the personal products that are found in your room? Shampoo, body wash, toothpaste, etc. are greatly needed at the Lynn Shelter. Another thing that people appreciate are the small vinyl bags. These come in handy for the visitors at the shelter to store some of their supplies in so they don't get lost. Of course they can also be found at local stores if you would like to buy just a couple.

I recently brought down a big box filled with all these things and more. **Thank you all for your generous support in this effort to help others. Thank you also to the Lambe family** for donating a whole bag full of the cosmetic and toiletry bags.

Wishing you all a wonderful and safe summer.

Blessings, Donna Marino

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.

**Vacation Bible School:
Volunteers and Decorations needed**

Our theme this year for VBS is *Everywhere Fun Fair; Where God's World Comes Together*, which will be held the week of July 15-19 from 9- 12 each morning.

Each day a different country will be highlighted. If you have items you would be willing to share to help us decorate an area for each country please let us know. The countries are: Japan, Zimbabwe, United Kingdom, Australia, and Mexico. We are also looking for carnival/fair decorations. High School youth & adults are needed to lead stations such as science, snack, games, and more.

Contact Barbara Langill in the church office for more information. (781-334-3050)

Children's Sunday

The Church School year ended on Sunday, June 9 with a presentation on Faith Heroes given by the children and youth. Thank you to all who participated. Worship was followed by an Ice Cream Social on the front lawn. Many thanks to our scoopers, Nancy Miller and Jeff Law.

News From Around the Parish

We extend our love and sympathy to Leslie Carey and her family upon the recent death of her father in Tennessee.

Our love and sympathy are extended to Bruce Gist and his family upon the death of his wife, Anne Gist. Her funeral was held at Centre Church on June 24.

Write On! Secret Pen Pal Program!

We have 6 youth and 6 adults participating in the Secret Pen Pal Program. Please leave your letters in the white mail box located in the narthex. Be sure to put up the flag so I will know there is a letter. Remember, you will need to send 4 letters over the summer. You can send postcards, letters, cards, etc. Happy Writing!
- Barbara Langill

Red Sox Ticket Raffle

Congratulations to Johnathan McCarthy who won the raffle for the pair of Red Sox tickets. Johnathan generously donated the Red Sox Build a Bear back to the church. A second drawing was held for the Bear, which was won by Margaret Waugh.

**2013 Annual Golf Tournament –
New Date: Friday, September 13th!**

The 10th Annual Centre Church golf tournament has been re-scheduled. The new date is: Friday September 13th with Friday, September 27th as a rain date. Please let us know if you would like to play!

Sign up with Chuck Cotting (chuck@thecottings.com or 781-593-3120), Phil Johnson (pcjohnson@meei.harvard.edu) or Bruce Weaver (bruce@newenglandlab.com) no later than **Sunday September 8th**.

Chuck Cotting for the Golf Team
chuck@thecottings.com or 781-593-3120

Calling all Centre Church Cyclers

Do you like riding your bike? Do you like hanging out with fun people? Do you like great food, music and a beautiful view? If so – we have the event for you!

Many church members have been enjoying all of the above for quite a few years now, by participating in the Reid's Ride Bike-a-thon held annually on the 3rd Sunday in July. Some of us ride the 28 mile route from Lynnfield High School to Stage Fort Park in Gloucester, some decorate and mark the course with balloons, others work the food tables at the finish line. All of us are proud to be supporting the efforts of the Reid R. Sacco AYA Cancer Alliance which recently funded the opening of the **Reid R. Sacco AYA Clinic for Cancer & Blood Diseases** at Tufts Medical Center in Boston.

This year, we are forming a Centre Church team: Team C.C.Cyclers. YOU are invited to ride with us, or to support those of us who are riding! Join the team or make a donation online at: <http://www.firstgiving.com/fundraiser/lindakladd/2013-reids-ride> You can also send checks made out to "Reid's Ride" to the church, Attn: C.C.Cyclers. Together, we will help to make a difference in the fight against cancers affecting Adolescents and Young Adults.

The 9th annual Reid's Ride will be happening on July 21st, 2013. Please contact Judie Potter or Linda Ladd for more information.

Our Opportunities

Sun., June 30	9:00 am	Morning Worship - Chapel
Mon., July 1	7:30 pm	Alanon/Alateen - Basement
Wed. July 3	7:00 pm	Women's 12 Step Mtg. - Fireside
Thurs July 4	-----	Office Closed – Independence Day
Fri. July 5	10:30 am	Bible Study – 2 nd Floor Office
Sun. July 7	9:00 am	Holy Communion - Chapel
Mon. July 8	7:30 pm	Alanon/Alateen – Basement
Wed. July 10	7:00 pm	Women's 12 Step Meeting - FR
Fri. July 12	10:30 am	Bible Study – 2 nd Floor Office
Sun. July 14	9:00 am	Morning Worship - Chapel
Mon. July 15	9am-12pm 7:30 pm	Bible School – all week Alanon/Alateen – Basement.
Wed. July 17	7:00 pm	Women's 12 Step Mtg. - Fireside
Fri. July 19	10:30 am	Bible Study – 2nd Floor Office
Sun. July 21	9:00 am 10:00 am	Morning Worship – Chapel Mission Trip to New Jersey
Mon. July 22	7:30 pm	Alanon/Alateen – FR & Libr.
Wed. July 24	7:00 pm	Women's 12 Step Meeting - FR
Fri. July 26	10:30 am	Bible Study – 2nd Floor Office
Sun. July 28	9:00 am	Morning Worship - Chapel
Mon. July 29	7:30 pm	Alanon/Alateen - Basement
Wed. July 31	7:00 pm	Women's 12 Step Mtg - Fireside

Lights Out Volunteers

June 28: David Bjorkman
 July 5: Phil Johnson
 July 12: Steven Richard
 July 19: David Bjorkman
 July 26: Al Johnson
 August 2: Roger Batchelder

**The next *Tower Notes* will be the week of July 26
and will cover the month of August.**

Church Office Hours during the summer are 9-12.
