

# 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

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*

**July 31, 2013**

### Mission Ready

As I write this I celebrate the two Mission Trips launched from Centre Church this summer, the result of much preparation, fund-raising, and sacrifice on the part of the individuals going. I give thanks for those who recently went to New Jersey to help rebuild homes stricken there by the recent Hurricane Sandy. I look forward to hearing about their experiences there.

Fifteen of us are presently preparing to leave for Joplin, Missouri, early Sunday morning, August 11<sup>th</sup> for a week of rebuilding there. That community continues to rebuild after the devastating monster tornado of May, 2011, tore through Joplin leaving 61 dead and hundreds more injured.

Miles of once populated communities were destroyed and flattened. Businesses and homes, churches, schools, at least one hospital, were completely destroyed. It is rated one of the worst in the history of the United States.

We will be joining forces with others there, long term volunteers, and another church group of the Disciples of Christ. The United Church of Christ and the Disciples of Christ have a partnership in their work of rebuilding in Joplin, Missouri.

Some of us, like myself, will be visiting Joplin for the first time. Some others of us are returning after going to Joplin last year. All of us are excited to be representing Centre Church in our work to serve Christ by helping rebuild the homes and lives of our sisters and brothers in Joplin.

When I was being interviewed for the position of Pastor of Centre Church, I remember hearing about the pride that members of the search committee had in the Mission Trip Ministry of Centre Church. And, our pride continues, because we continue to send out members (or disciples) from

our faith community to serve the Lord in places where people like us need help in rebuilding their lives.

In the Gospel of Matthew (25:31-46) Jesus tells a parable in which he describes our call to ministry:

*"For I was hungry and you gave me something to eat, I was thirsty and you gave me something to drink, I was a stranger and you invited me in, I needed clothes and you clothed me, I was sick and you looked after me, I was in prison and you came to visit me."*

It doesn't matter where or when, this is our call. It is our call to service whether the person is family, friend, neighbor, or stranger, living near or far.

### In the Chapel - 9:00 a.m.

August 4, 2013

Holy Communion

Sermon by the Rev. Dr. Dennis C. Bailey

Commissioning of Joplin Mission Trip

August 11, 2013

Morning Worship

Sermon by Elizabeth Walsh

August 18, 2013

Morning Worship

Message by Joplin Mission Trip Group

August 25 and September 1, 2013

Morning Worship

Sermon by Elizabeth Walsh

Please keep our Mission Trip Ministry in your prayers as we prepare, travel, serve, rebuild, visit, sleep, and travel home again. On Sunday, August 18<sup>th</sup>, some of us will be present in church to share about our experiences in Joplin.

May the Holy Spirit bless us with empowering strength, faith, and continued opportunities for Mission to and with each other.

Yours in Christ,  
Dennis

### August Schedule

When I am absent this summer, we welcome Elizabeth Walsh who will preach and lead worship, with the assistance of the Deacons. I appreciate and am grateful for Elizabeth's willingness to serve in this way. Please welcome her, get to know her as she journeys in faith to become a member of our congregation at Centre Church.

#### Rev. Bailey will be away:

Aug. 11-17 – Joplin Mission Trip

Aug. 19-Sept. 3 – Vacation

In case of emergency, please call the church office.  
(781-334-3050)

Rev. Glenn Mortimer, Pastor, Wakefield-Lynnfield Methodist Church will be covering for Rev. Bailey.

The church office will be open 9-12 Monday – Friday and the answering machine will be monitored at other times.



### 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 white mailbox in the narthex, 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, Postmistress

### New Jersey Mission Trip

Eight of our high school youth and 3 adult chaperones have just returned from a mission trip to Atlantic City, New Jersey.

The team was greeted by members of the Margate Community Church in affiliation with the Fuller Center, who supervised the rebuilding projects. Margate Church was our home away from home. The church also hosted a team from St. Paul's UCC church in Wheatland, Iowa. It was a real treat for our kids to meet up with not only students who wanted to make a positive change to the destroyed community, but more importantly, they learned a lot about life in the Midwest.

Many members of the church hosted a wonderful pot luck dinner on Wednesday evening, in our honor, and expressed their appreciation for the help that we were offering to their community. We were led to home sites in Atlantic City that experienced destruction from Hurricane Sandy. We spackled, sanded and painted. We heard many stories from various residents, including the homeowner of our site, and we learned firsthand about how they coped with the losses brought on by this natural disaster.

Denise Weaver

### Help with a Kindle

Rev. Bailey is looking for someone who knows how to operate a Kindle and would be willing to teach another person in the parish how to use one. If you would be willing, please contact Rev. Bailey: in person, by phone (office)781-334-3050, (cell) 978-375-0176, or email [pastor@centre-church.org](mailto:pastor@centre-church.org). Thanks

### CCcyclers Raise Funds for Reid's Ride

On Sunday, July 21<sup>st</sup>, ten friends of Centre Church teamed together as the "CCcyclers" and bicycled 28 miles in the Reid's Ride bike-a-thon from Lynnfield to Gloucester. Our fundraising efforts helped us to raise more than \$2,000 for the Reid R Sacco AYA Alliance which recently funded the opening of a unique cancer clinic at Tufts Medical Center focusing on Adolescents and Young Adults. It provides resources the Sacco family wishes they'd had when Reid Sacco's symptoms first appeared. The grand opening of that clinic happened just this past April, 2013. Thank you to all church friends who donated to our efforts. Next year, you should join us on the ride too. Start training!

--Linda Ladd & Judie Potter

### **CCC 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 13<sup>th</sup> with Friday, September 27<sup>th</sup> as a rain date. Please let us know if you would like to play!

Sign up with:

Chuck Cotting ([chuck@thecottings.com](mailto:chuck@thecottings.com) 781-593-3120)

Phil Johnson ([pcjohnson@meei.harvard.edu](mailto:pcjohnson@meei.harvard.edu))

or Bruce Weaver ([bruce@newenglandlab.com](mailto:bruce@newenglandlab.com))

no later than **Sunday September 8<sup>th</sup>**.

Chuck Cotting for the Golf Team

### **UCC Women's Celebration**

Every 4 years in March, the UCC Women's Celebration is held in New England. This coming year, it will be held in Portland, Maine from March 28-30, 2014. It is a great opportunity to be a part of such a memorable and inspirational weekend of music, workshops, and being together with friends. If you would like more information about this event, the website is: [uccwomenscelebration.org](http://uccwomenscelebration.org). Registration begins September 15, 2013. (Usually workshops and hotels rooms fill up quickly.)

Hope to see you up in Portland in March!

Blessings, Mary McCarthy

### **News From Around the Parish**

We extend our love and sympathy to Heather Sievers upon the death of her father, Allan Thompson in Pennsylvania and to John Sievers upon the death of his mother, Betsy Ross in California.

We rejoice with Barbara and Ed Ericson who have recently welcomed 2 new great-grandchildren into the world:

Ketna Elizabeth Bhagat, born on April 5, 2013 to Jatin and Elizabeth Bhagat. Grandparents are Steve and Shirley Ericson.

Micah Sebastian Silva Ericson born on July 11, 2013 to Sasha Ericson and Gildezo Silva. Grandparents are Peter and Gladys Ericson

Our best wishes to Spencer Campbell who turned 95 at the end of July.

Our best wishes to Margaret Markham who turns 90 on August 10.

### **From the Mailbox**

Dear Centre Church Family,

Thank you so much for the flowers from Gage that Dennis brought Sunday. They are lovely. My window here at the Rehab hospital is very full and brings a wonderful sunshine atmosphere. Thank you all for the cards and phone calls. It is going to take time, but I'll make it. Love, Meg Gulezian

*(PS – Meg is now recuperating at home.)*

### **Every Where Fun Fair VBS**

Vacation Bible School was held July 15-19 with 14 children learning how to be good neighbors. Many thanks to our VBS Director, Mia Sievers and to all our volunteers who helped provide a wonderful week of faith filled fun.

### **Thanks to Our Volunteers**

August 4: Head Usher-Mary McCarthy. Lights Out beginning August 2-Roger Batchelder.

August 11: Head Usher-Doreen DiFillippo. Punch-Sara Perkins. Lights Out beginning August 9-Steve Furey.

August 18: Ushers-Linda Ladd and Bill Seelig. Lights Out beginning August 16-Phil Johnson.

August 25: Ushers-Margaret Waugh and Gage Whittier. Lights Out beginning August 23-Scott DeSantis.

September 1: Ushers-Dave Clough and Margaret Waugh. Lights Out beginning August 30-Jeff Langill.

### **10:00 am Worship in the Sanctuary**

#### **Communion**

September 8: Ushers-Linda Ladd, Margaret Waugh, Gage Whittier, Jeff Law.

### **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.



### Christmas in July!

A group of us have been working to plan a huge Night in Bethlehem event for December 7th (night of the tree lighting). We are at the point of needing some help from everyone. Our goal for this event is to offer the community a wonderful biblical experience and to show people all our church has to offer. We will need everyone's help to pull off this amazing event. Stay tuned for different preparation events coming soon!

First we are looking for people who may be able to do demonstrations of the following crafts as it would have been in Biblical times:

- Pottery
- Weaving and Spinning
- Tying Fishing Nets
- Carpentry/Wood working

Then we are looking for many items to make the event look like we have taken a step back in time to the first Christmas Eve.

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|---|----------------------------------|
| • Pottery Wheel                                 | • Burlap                         |
| • Hand Spindle and/or Spindle Whorl             | • Nativity cookie cutters        |
| • Horizontal Ground Loom                        | • Mortar and pestle              |
| • Small oriental rugs                           | • Large canopy or tent           |
| • Large floor pillows                           | • Old balance scale              |
| • Potted trees and large potted plants          | • Sheep skins                    |
| • Brightly colored blankets, pashminas          | • Leather pieces                 |
| • Large black iron lantern about 18 or 24" tall | • Large vases, urns and pitchers |
| • Navy tulle                                    |                                  |

Craft Items that we will need:

- Leather lacing in different colors (to make bracelets)
- Scrolls
- Sealing wax
- Air Drying Clay
- Whole Flax Seeds
- Rope for tying fishing nets

## *Our Opportunities*

Sun., Aug. 4	9:00 am	Holy Communion - Chapel
Mon., Aug. 5	7:30 pm	Alanon/Alateen - Basement
Wed. Aug. 7	8:30 am 7:00 pm	Bread and Roses Meal Prep. Women's 12 Step Mtg. - Fireside
Fri. Aug. 9	10:30 am	Bible Study – 2 <sup>nd</sup> Floor Office
Sun. Aug. 11	9:00 am	Morning Worship – Chapel Joplin Mission Trip Begins
Mon. Aug. 12	7:30 pm	Alanon/Alateen – Basement
Wed. Aug. 14	7:00 pm	Women's 12 Step Meeting - FR
Fri. Aug. 16	10:30 am	Bible Study – 2 <sup>nd</sup> Floor Office
Sun. Aug. 18	9:00 am	Morning Worship - Chapel
Mon. Aug. 19	7:30 pm	Alanon/Alateen – Basement.
Wed. Aug. 21	7:00 pm	Women's 12 Step Mtg. - Fireside
Fri. Aug. 22	10:30 am	Bible Study – 2 <sup>nd</sup> Floor Office
Sun. Aug. 25	9:00 am	Morning Worship – Chapel
Mon. Aug. 26	7:30 pm	Alanon/Alateen – FR & Libr.
Tues. Aug. 27	7:00 pm	Council – Pastor's Office
Wed. Aug. 28	7:00 pm	Women's 12 Step Meeting - FR
Fri. Aug. 30	10:30 am	Bible Study – 2 <sup>nd</sup> Floor Office
Sun. Sept. 1	9:00 am	Morning Worship - Chapel

Our prayers are with Meg Gulezian and Priscilla Power recuperating at home; Wendell "Red" Hollett at Bayberry at Emerald Court, Emerald Court, Tewksbury, 01876; Carolyn Furey at Overlook in Charlton; Marion Barnes at Hawthorn Hill in Danvers; Marge Cole, Ray and Arlene Thorn, Helen Butcher, Marion Edkins and Priscilla Kress at Continuing Care at Brooksby Village.

We remember in our prayers Cody Ryan, Dan Neary and Bruce Bennard who are serving in Afghanistan

**The next *Tower Notes* will be the week of August 26.**

***Church Office Hours during the summer are 9-12.***

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