

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

August 28, 2013

The Sounds of the Church Picnic

When I was a boy, growing up in the country, every August our church had its church picnic in a wooded grove about ¼ mile from our church. Another church near where we lived had the same kind of picnic, also in a wooded grove.

Tonight, as I sit on the porch of my house, I again hear those sounds of the night, chirping, whirling away, almost like the tick of a clock. What are these creatures that make such sounds of the night? Crickets? Bugs? Toads? Something else? I remember such sounds putting me to sleep as a child on our farm, windows open, breezes blowing.

I remember them when I was backpacking on the Appalachian Trail, camped out in a tent or in a shelter, somewhere between Georgia and Maine. Are these sounds signs of God's beating heart? Are they reminders that all creation is at work even as we sleep? Are they what God has created in addition to ourselves, millions and trillions of other creatures of the earth, sky, lake, and pond that are valued by God just as much as all the rest of creation that we take for granted?

I go about my life without thought of the creatures that make these night sounds. I walk through grass and forest wondering where they hide. Can I greet them and thank them for their lovely sounds and for what else they might do that benefits the environment that gives me life?

These sounds of the night can, perhaps, remind me to respect the earth and all of creation that God has given to me, to us. There is room for all of us here, even though we think there is not. I am reminded that we need to be careful of what we

build, lest we harm the others of creation with whom we share this earth.

I share the land upon which my house sits with at least one rabbit, sometimes two. I saw one rabbit in my backyard earlier this evening. Rabbit seems to spend a lot of time under my rhododendron bush. That's where he moved from this evening when I walked out onto my deck. So cute! I wish we could talk.

This is a good night on which to hear the night creatures speaking because it is pleasant enough to turn the air conditioning units off. I hear some jets and planes, vehicles on the road, but, they do not stop or dampen the sounds of the night.

In the Chapel – 9:00 a.m.

September 1, 2013

Morning Worship

Sermon by Elizabeth Walsh

In the Sanctuary – 10:00 a.m.

September 8, 2013

Holy Communion

Sermon by the Rev. Dr. Dennis C. Bailey

Nursery open 9-11 a.m.

Ages 3-5 meet in Room 14 at 10 a.m.

Joint activities for older children after communion.

September 15, 22 and 29, 2013

Morning Worship

Sermon by the Rev. Dr. Dennis C. Bailey

Rotation Workshops resume.

As a boy, I ran around the night woods where the church picnic was held, hearing these very sounds, feeling safe and secure that all was at peace in the world. And now, tonight, I again feel that security blanket that God has set out for us, that God intends for us.

I know that not everyone lives in a place where such security exists. I pray that they might, and will, very soon. I cannot see my neighbors in their homes, but, I know they are there. I cannot see the creatures but, by their sounds, I know they are there/ here. I cannot see God tonight, but, I know God is there/here, moving among us, helping the creatures sing, buzz, whirl, stir.

Oh God, I pray, please keep us safe tonight. Keep the singing creatures safe. Let them sing, let them grow, live, and find security here among us. I pray that when they hear us, they also feel the joy that I feel at the hearing of their sounds.

*Oh Lord, our Lord,
how magnificent is your singing creation,
the sounds of the church picnic!
Blessed be this place you have given us.*

Your servant, Dennis

Now serving and making sounds as
Rev. Dr. Dennis C. Bailey

Rotation Sensation begins Sunday, Sept 8

Our church school program, Rotation Sensation, is now in its 11th year. This year we will be reviving our top 10 favorite workshops during the course of the year. Join us Sunday, Sept 8 as we kick off the year with a Welcome Back Carnival. After briefly worshipping with their families, children in grades 1 through 8 will head out to participate in fun-filled activities. Children ages 3-5 should go directly to classroom 14 at 10 am.

Nursery

Our Church Nursery is fully staffed and ready to receive infants and children up to age 3 on Sunday mornings from 9-11 a.m. Pagers are available to ensure Nursery Caregivers can easily communicate with parents. The Nursery opens Sunday, Sept 8 and will be staffed every Sunday through June 9. This year we again welcome Lisa Gerbick as our head Nursery Care provider. Lisa will be in the Nursery each Sunday and will be assisted by experienced High School caregivers.

Centre Church 2013 Golf Tournament at The Thomson Club – September 13th

Save the date of **Friday, September 13th** for the 10th Annual Centre Church golf tournament. The net proceeds go to our Operating Budget. This will be a **best ball** tournament with a tee time of **12:30 PM** at The Thomson Country Club in North Reading. Please plan to arrive by Noon.

The cost is \$110 per player. This covers the cost of greens fees, cart, goody bags and prizes.

All sorts of prizes and the chance to have your winning team's names engraved on "*The Unholy Grail*" are but a few of the benefits of playing in this tournament. Players of all skill levels welcomed.

Please invite your friends to play, too.

Please let us know as soon as possible – Thanks!

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 **Friday September 6th.**

*Checks should be made payable to
Centre Congregational Church, 5 Summer Street
Lynnfield, MA 01940.*

Secret Pen Pal Program

Lots of letters and postcards have been exchanged this summer. Remember, you need to send at least 4 letters before our Ice Cream Social on September 15. You can leave your letters in the mailbox at the bottom of the office stairs, 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. Or just e-mail your pen pal letter to me at Christianed@centre-church.org and I will print it out and mail it.

Barbara Langill, Postmistress

Mission Trip Report

15 volunteers traveled to Joplin, MO August 11-17 to help in the continuing rebuilding efforts there. Many thanks to the congregation, Missions Ministry, family and friends for their generous support. Please save the date of Sunday, September 22 at 6 p.m. to attend the Shareholders Dinner. Both the New Jersey and Joplin participants will be giving a presentation of their mission trips this year. Dinner and dessert will be served. Everyone is welcome to attend.

Youth Groups

All youth in grades 5-12 and their parents are invited to attend our opening meeting on Sunday, **October 6** at 6 pm in Richards Hall. We will all enjoy pizza together and learn about the exciting year ahead. Youth will head off to participate in games, while parents attend an informational session. Parents should bring along their calendars, as we will be asking you to sign up to chaperone and provide a meal or two throughout the year.

UCC Women's Celebration

Every four years in March, the UCC Women's Celebration is held in New England. This coming year it is being 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. Registration begins September 15, 2013. Usually, workshops and hotel rooms fill up quite quickly, so act now! Hope to see you in Portland in March.

Blessings, Mary McCarthy

News From Around the Parish

Our love and sympathy are extended to the family and friends of Richard Hatfield who died on August 4. He is survived by his children, Sarah and Justin and his sister, Sally Mucica.

We rejoice with Lindsey Perkins and Sean Tainsh who were married at Centre Church on August 3. They will make their home in Somerville.

Our best wishes to Jean Card who recently celebrated her 90th Birthday!

Thanks to Our Volunteers!

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

Sunday, September 8: Ushers: Linda Ladd, Margaret Waugh, Gage Whittier and Jeff Law. Lights Out beginning September 6: John Walsh

Our Opportunities

Sun. Sept. 1	9:00 am	Morning Worship - Chapel
Mon. Sept. 2	----- 7:30 pm	Church Office Closed/Labor Day Alanon/Alateen – FR & Library
Tues. Sept. 3	7:00 pm	Council – Pastor's Office
Wed. Sept. 4	8:30 am 7:00 pm	Bread and Roses Meal Prep. Women's 12 Step Mtg. - Fireside
Thurs. Sept. 5	7:30 pm	Senior Choir – Choir Room
Fri. Sept. 6	10:30 am	Bible Study – 2 nd Floor Office
Sun. Sept. 8	9-11 am 10:00 am 10:00 am 10:00 am	Nursery – Room 14 Holy Communion - Sanctuary Ages 3-5 Class – Room 14 Rotation Registration & Activities
Mon. Sept. 9	7:30 pm 7:30 pm	Senior Choir – Choir Room Alanon/Alateen – Basement
Tues. Sept. 10	7:00 pm 7:30 pm	Membership – Fireside Room Diaconate – Pastor's Outer Office
Wed. Sept. 11	7:00 pm	Women's 12 Step Meeting - FR
Fri. Sept. 13	10:30 am	Bible Study – 2 nd Floor Office Golf Tournament – Thomson Club

Our prayers are with Ginny Daniels, Pam Hodgkins and Roger Lauzon recuperating at home; Rose Giunta; Ginny Davis; Wendell "Red" Hollett; Carolyn Furey; Marion Barnes; Marge Cole, Ray and Arliene Thorn, Helen Butcher, Marion Edkins and Priscilla Kress.

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 September 9. Deadline is Monday morning.
Church Office Hours beginning September 3, are 9am – 3 pm**