

# TOWER NOTES

## Centre Congregational Church (United Church of Christ)

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The Rev. Dr. Dennis C. Bailey, Pastor, [Pastor@Centre-Church.org](mailto:Pastor@Centre-Church.org)

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Sally MacDonald, Director of Tower Day School

Susan Spear, Secretary

*We Welcome Everyone: An "Open and Affirming" Church*

**September 25, 2013**

### **People I've Met Who Confirm My Faith: In Fargo, ND**

People that I have met continue to influence me, even years later. Scripture shows how this is also true in the faith that we have inherited.

The Prophet Isaiah spoke about how a new way of living needed to come to pass if Israel was to be reborn as per God's will:

#### Isaiah 61:1-2 (NIV)

1 The Spirit of the Sovereign LORD is on me,  
because the LORD has anointed me  
to proclaim good news to the poor.  
He has sent me to bind up the brokenhearted,  
to proclaim freedom for the captives  
and release from darkness for the prisoners,  
2 to proclaim the year of the LORD's favor  
and the day of vengeance of our God,  
to comfort all who mourn.

Jesus, early in his ministry, references Isaiah's very words as a way of reminding those of his time, and I believe, us, that this remains his primary mission and message if we are to be true to God's will for us, his people:

#### Luke 4:18-19 (NIV)

18 "The Spirit of the Lord is on me.  
He has anointed me  
to tell the good news to poor people.  
He has sent me to announce freedom for prisoners.  
He has sent me so that the blind will see again.  
He wants me to free those who are beaten down.  
19 And he has sent me to announce the year when  
he will set his people free."

### **July 5, 1997:**

I was just over 2,000 miles on my 4,600 mile bicycle trip from West Coast to East. I had been invited to spend two nights at the Fargo, ND Fire Department Station Headquarters by Assistant Chief Joe Upton, member and President of the First Congregational Church, U.C.C., Fargo, North Dakota. My bicycle desperately needed two new tires, tubes, and brakes.

I learned from the Firefighters that there was a bicycle shop 2 ½ blocks away, around the corner from the Fire Station. I called. Phil Stone answered. I explained what I needed. He said they could help me. "Do you need directions?" he asked. I said, "No. I'm staying at the Fire Department around the corner. I'll be right over." Once at the bicycle shop I met Phil.

### **In the Sanctuary**

#### September 29, 2013

10:00 A.M. Morning Worship  
Sermon by the Rev. Dr. Dennis C. Bailey  
Nursery open in Room 11.  
Ages 3-5 meet in Room 14 at 10:00 a.m.  
Rotation Workshops after brief worship.

#### October 6, 2013

10:00 A.M. Holy Communion  
World Communion Sunday  
Bibles Presented to 8<sup>th</sup> & 9<sup>th</sup> Grade  
Sermon by the Rev. Dr. Dennis C. Bailey  
Nursery open in Room 11.  
Ages 3-5 meet in Room 14 at 10:00 a.m.  
All older children will remain in worship  
for Communion & a Family Friendly Service.

We looked at my bike, what it needed. He assured me that he could do all that I needed, that it would be ready in a couple of hours.

Then, Phil asked, "How did you come to stay at the Fire Department?" I went on to explain that I was a United Church of Christ (Congregational) minister, that I had contacted local churches asking for help finding places to stay on my cross country bicycle trip. The pastor of First Congregational Church in Fargo had put me in touch with Assistant Chief Upton, and he did the rest.

Phil was beaming with a big smile as I talked and finally, when I let him get a word in, he shared, "My father is Rev. Nelson Stone, former pastor at First Congregational Church, Fargo, and my father was the Chaplain of the Fargo Fire Department, and I spent most of my childhood hanging out at the Fire Department."

What a coincidence! Of all the people in Fargo to work on my bicycle! Phil and I agreed, someone besides human beings had a hand in this. I had been in Fargo just an hour and I had already heard from the firefighters about how Rev. Nelson Stone had been chaplain to the department and that he was a great guy. His picture was still posted beside all the firefighters. Now, in just over an hour, I had also met Rev. Stone's son, still living and working in Fargo. Rev. Stone's son was going to "bless" my bicycle and my trip, by servicing it!!!

You know, I felt as if the hand of the Lord was upon me! I was greeted in Fargo, ND with great and grand hospitality by the Firefighters, by Phil Stone at the bike shop, and then, again on Sunday morning, the day after I arrived, in worship and fellowship at the First Congregational Church.

Assistant Chief Upton picked me up after worship that Sunday and gave me his own personal grand tour of Fargo and then took me to the airport to witness the July 6<sup>th</sup> Air Show which included the Navy's Blue Angels.

The Firefighters welcomed me to their table for meals and conversation. I was a stranger, and they welcomed me, carrying on the grand spiritual tradition of hospitality that Jesus taught us to model to everyone we meet. I have never forgotten my spiritual friends in Fargo. God was, and I pray, remains present there.

Thanks be to God who goes ahead of us to prepare the way. I pray that I can continue to stay on the path that God has prepared so that I continue to meet God's special disciples.

Yours in Christ, Dennis

## Annual Meeting Sunday, September 29 - 11:30 am

There will be a brief meeting of the congregation to

- Receive reports of Officers and Ministry Teams
- Approve the 2013-2014 Budget
- Elect Officers, Ministry Team Chairs, etc.
- Remember Deceased Members
- Recognize 50-Year Members

Bruce Weaver, Moderator

## Potluck Corn Bingo Luncheon



**Sunday, September 29, 2013**  
**after church**

**Bring your favorite entrée,  
salad or dessert  
to share!**

**Followed by Corn Bingo!**

**Fun for the Family!**  
**Prizes!**

**Contact Dotty Whittier at 781-635-6225**

## Youth Group Kick Off October 6

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.

Be sure to join us for food, fellowship and fun!

Jeff and Barbara Langill

## **Sunday Morning With the Children**

### **Nursery**

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. Pagers are available for all parents.

### **Rotation Sensation**

Our focus in September is the story of Jonah. Children in Grades 1-8 will worship briefly with their families before leaving for a movie workshop on Sunday, Sept. 29. There are no workshops on Sunday, Oct. 6. Children in grades 1-8 are invited to remain in worship for a family friendly service on the first Sunday of every month.

### **PreK-Kindergarten class**

Children ages 3-5 years will go directly to room 11 at 10 am to join friends for story time, playtime, and an activity. This class will be using the Spark Story Bible. There will be class in Room 14 on the first Sunday of each month.

## **Yankee Candle Fundraiser**

Our Yankee Candle fundraiser begins September 22nd and runs until October 6<sup>th</sup>. Catalogues and order forms will be available in the narthex on Sunday mornings and in the church office during the week. Treat yourself to some of the Yankee Candle fall scents like Apple Cider or Pumpkin Pie. Stock up on holiday scents like Red Apple Wreath or White Christmas. The Yankee Candle catalogue contains some great gift ideas as well as a lovely selection of gift wrap.

Please support Centre Church by placing an order and be sure to share the catalogue with family and friends. We will receive all orders before Thanksgiving.

For more information, call Debbie Cotting at 781-593-3120.

## **Shareholder's Dinner**

Many thanks to all who helped make the shareholders dinner a success. We enjoyed a delicious dinner of pulled pork sandwiches, coleslaw, corn and many wonderful desserts.

We heard from the participants of both the Joplin trip and the Atlantic City mission trips.

We are all grateful for the generous support of the congregation and Missions who helped make the trips possible.

## **News From Around the Parish**

Our congratulations to Dom and Lauren (Gerbick) Donadio whose son, Renzo "Renny" Olin Donadio was born on September 16. Proud grandmother and aunts are Diana, Sarah and Lisa Gerbick.

We extend our love and prayers to the Furey family upon the death of Carolyn Furey on September 13. Her memorial service was held at Centre Church on September 21.

We extend our love and sympathy to Ginny Daniels and her family upon the recent death of her brother, Jim Tabor.

Our best wishes to Harriet Holt's granddaughter, Alyse Murray and Joseph Bonfiglio who were married on September 14. They will make their home in North Reading.

## **Thanks to our Volunteers**

Sunday, September 29: Ushers-Margaret Waugh, Bill Seelig, Mary McCarthy, Gage Whittier. Reader-Mia Sievers. Lights Out beginning September 27-Dave Bjorkman.

Sunday, October 6: Ushers-Mary McCarthy, Gage Whittier, Jeff Law, Bill Seelig. Provide Altar Flowers-Cheryl Schedin. Deliver Altar Flowers-Laurel Caputo and Marian Orfeo. Lights Out beginning October 4-Steven Richard.

## **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](http://uccwomenscelebration.org).

Registration has started. Usually, workshops and hotel rooms fill up quite quickly, so act now! Hope to see you in Portland in March.

Blessings, Mary McCarthy

## *Our Opportunities*

Sun. Sept. 29	9:00 am 10:00 am 10:00 am 11:00 am 11:30 am	Confirmation - Kitchen Morning Worship – Sanctuary Nursery, Preschool & Rotations Annual Meeting – Sanctuary Potluck Luncheon – Downstairs
Mon. Sept. 30	7:00 pm 7:30 pm	Boy Scout Troop #48 – Todd Hall Alanon/Alateen – FR & Library
Wed. Oct. 2	8:30 am 7:00 pm	Bread & Roses - Kitchen Women’s 12 Step Mtg. - Fireside
Thur. Oct. 3	7:30 pm	Senior Choir – Choir Room
Fri. Oct. 4	10:30 am	Bible Study – 2 <sup>nd</sup> Floor Office
Sun. Oct. 6	10:00 am 10:00 am 10:00 am 11:30 am 11:30 am 6:00 pm	Holy Communion - Sanctuary Nursery and Preschool Class Older Children in Church Confirmation - Kitchen Youth Choir – Choir Room Youth Group & Parents Mtg.
Mon. Oct. 7	7:00 pm 7:30 pm	Boy Scout Troop #48 – Todd Hall Alanon/Alateen – Basement
Tues. Oct. 8	7:30 pm	Diaconate – Pastor’s Office
Wed. Oct. 9	7:00 pm	Women’s 12 Step Meeting - FR
Thur. Oct. 10	7:30 pm	Senior Choir – Choir Room
Fri. Oct. 11	10:30 am	Bible Study – 2 <sup>nd</sup> Floor Office

Our prayers are with Tom Vancor, Roger Lauzon, and Norma Holloway at home; Ginny Davis at Sea View Retreat, 50 Mansion Dr., Rowley, 01969; Rose Giunta at Bright View, 50 Endicott St., Danvers, 01923; Wendell “Red” Hollett; Marion Barnes; Marge Cole, Ray and Arlene 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 October 7.  
Deadline is noon on October 7.**

**Church Office Hours are 9am – 3 pm  
Monday through Friday**

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