

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

November 6, 2013

Strength

Yesterday while I was speaking at the Memorial Service for Norma Elizabeth Kenerson Holloway, I was thinking and speaking about strength. I was speaking of it in reference to Norma, how she had strength to see herself through challenges in her life, seldom, if ever, complaining. I'm still thinking about it, the morning after, because it is an important spiritual issue.

The words "strength" (242 times), "strengthen" (32), "strengthened" (39), strong (255), and stronger (21) appear in the King James Version 589 times.

Growing up in a rural community it was beneficial to have a strong body or brute strength, especially when tossing bales of hay around a wagon. There was a time when I, working as a carpenter's helper, could throw a bundle of roofing shingles onto my shoulder and carry them up a 30 ft. ladder to the roof. And yet, I was never one of the guys who could wrestle very well in gym class and pin a classmate to the mat.

The apostle Paul speaks of strength in this way: *"I have learned to be content whatever the circumstances. I know what it is to be in need, and I know what it is to have plenty. I have learned the secret of being content in any and every situation, whether well fed or hungry, whether living in plenty or in want. I can do all this through him who gives me strength."* (Philippians 4:11-13, NIV).

This was especially true for Norma Holloway because she showed this kind of strength. She never grew spiritually weary throughout her life, even when she had plenty or a little, even while she was suffering through cancer these past few years.

She maintained a strong faith, a firm sense of humor, and a confidence that God would take care of her today and into eternity.

Moses, at the age of 120, spoke to his people, the Israelites, telling them he was no longer able to lead them, and that Joshua would be their new leader. He told them, as they were about to cross the Jordan River into the Promised Land, that God would go ahead of them and prepare the way. Then, Moses said, *"Be strong and courageous. Do not be afraid or terrified because of them, for the LORD your God goes with you; he will never leave you nor forsake you."* (Deuteronomy 31:6)

The apostle Paul spoke of strength in this way, also: *"But he (the Lord) said to me, 'My grace is sufficient for you, for my power is made perfect in weakness.' Therefore I will boast all the more gladly*

In the Sanctuary

November 10, 2013

10:00 A.M. Morning Worship
Sermon by the Rev. Dr. Dennis C. Bailey
Nursery (up to age 5) – Room 11
Grades 1-8 in Church.

November 17, 2013

10:00 A.M. Morning Worship
Sermon by the Rev. Dr. Dennis C. Bailey
Nursery (up to age 3) – Room 11
Pre-K Class – Room 14
Rotations for Grades 1-8

November 24, 2013

10:00 A.M. Morning Worship
7:30 P.M. Ecumenical Thanksgiving Service

about my weaknesses, so that Christ's power may rest on me. That is why, for Christ's sake, I delight in weaknesses, in insults, in hardships, in persecutions, in difficulties. For when I am weak, then I am strong." (2 Corinthians 12:9-10)

We, as pilgrims and disciples in the ways of God's people, can continue in this strength of God to serve and proclaim God's good news as did Moses, Joshua, Esther, Ruth, Isaiah, Amos, Jesus Christ, the disciples, the Apostle Paul, Mary, the mother of Jesus, Elizabeth, the mother of John the Baptist, the woman who washed Jesus' feet, Mary Magdalene, and Priscilla and Aquila in Corinth, a married couple, tent-makers, who bravely risked their own lives to hold church services in their home. (Acts 18:1-3)

We can do this by expressing our gratitude no matter our circumstances, not just at Thanksgiving, but all year, every day.

We can show the strength of God even when we are weak, by never giving up, even though we suffer many losses.

We can lean on God's strength, and the strength and support of others, through our recovery and sobriety when addictions threaten us and are a part of us.

We can depend on God's strength now, even when many in our society have and are turning away from God, believing they can make their way by themselves, "in their own way," and through their own resources.

We know we can depend on God's strength because even when God's people, the Hebrews, were a small band of struggling pilgrims in the wilderness, God was always with them, to strengthen them and see them through.

Strength is an interesting thing because we fool ourselves into thinking that strength is found in military might, in big shopping malls, large bank accounts, fancy cars, and in political power. Scripture tells a different story, that our greatest strength is found in our faith in God, the Creator and Author of life, in serving God's ways, and in loving God, and loving our neighbor as God loves us. Strength is not found in these human made things, but in the spiritual things: faith, hope, and love.

School yourself and your children in the strength of God and we will all have the greatest resource we will ever need, to see ourselves through every circumstance, as well as serving the Lord, our God.

Remember the story Jesus told of the mustard seed. (Matthew 13:31-32) One of the smallest of seeds and yet it grows into a large fruit-

bearing plant where birds can come and rest. If each of us plants some of God's strength inside of us and goes into the world, we can become a powerful force for goodness. Just as Jesus' small band of disciples changed the world, so, too, does God give us the strength to do the same.

Together, as God's people, God's church, we have the strength to endure all things, and to make all things of God's will possible. As a mushroom pushes through hard soil, as one cup of water can save a life, and as one kind word can save a person from giving up their life, so, too, do we have the strength to bring God's Kingdom to our world today.

Yours in Christ, Dennis

Want to Know More?

Everyone is invited to explore membership in Centre Congregational Church, United Church of Christ, by attending a meeting with Rev. Bailey this coming Sunday, November 10, 11:30 a.m. in the Pastor's Outer Office. Even if you have not decided to join the church, you are welcome to attend to ask questions and to explore. Please call the church office, (781-334-3050) or email Rev. Bailey (pastor@centre-church.org) to indicate your interest if you haven't already.

Sunday Morning With the Children

Sunday, November 10

Nursery open in Rm 11 for all children up to age 5

No 3-5 year old class

Grades 1-8 in church

Sunday, November 17

Nursery open in Room 11.

3-5 year old class 10 am

Rotation Sensation - Moses



Turkey Drive: We will be collecting **frozen turkeys** for Haven from Hunger on Sunday morning, November 17 beginning at 9:30 a.m. We will have youth on hand to help carry your turkey to the Haven from Hunger truck. Please consider donating a turkey to help provide a Thanksgiving Dinner for those who might otherwise go without.

Youth Group

There are no youth group meetings on November 10. Both the Middle School & High School Youth Group will meet on Sunday, Nov. 17 from 6-7:30 pm. Please plan to join us for a night of food, games, fellowship and fun.

On Tuesday, Oct 29 members of the Middle School Youth Group hosted a Halloween Party for the children at Bridge House in Lynn. We provided pumpkins for the children to decorate, games, story time, and pumpkin shaped cookies for frosting and eating!

Confirmation Class News

The confirmation class will meet on Sunday, Nov. 17 at 9 am with Kathi Martin in Todd Hall.

Care Package sent to West Africa

In October, the youth groups put together a care package for Devon Abt who is volunteering with the Peace Corp. in Benin, West Africa. We melted down broken crayons into heart shaped crayons to send to the children of her village, along with bouncy balls, glow stick bracelets, Smarties and Pixie Sticks. To help Devon meet her nutritional needs we packed energy bars, peanut butter, canned chicken, dried soup mixes, and turkey jerky. We also included treats such as Peanut M&M's and Double Stuffed Oreos. As youth group leaders, we are so proud of Devon's unselfishness and commitment to service. It is inspiring to know that she was one of our youth here at Centre Church and participated in one of our first mission trips. - Jeff and Barbara Langill

Night in Bethlehem

A Hands-On Holy Land Experience

On Thursday, November 14 at 6:00 p.m. the Night in Bethlehem organizers will be doing some preparation of crafts and scenery. We need as many hands as we can get. If you have some time to spare, please join us in the church library. - Carrie Pericola

News From Around the Parish

We extend our love and prayers to Leslie Carey and her family upon the recent death of her mother, Elizabeth Boone Neikirk Grizzell of Hendersonville, TN.

Happy Birthday to Annabel Aldrich who turns 91 on Thursday, November 7th!

Deacons Bring Home the Bacon – Nov. 17

The Diaconate will be hosting our first breakfast of the year on Sunday, Nov. 17. There will be eggs, bacon, coffee, juice and fruit. The Diaconate will be cooking this up for you starting at 8:15 am and serving until 9:30 am. Food will be found in the downstairs kitchen, and dining tables in Richards Hall. All are welcomed!

This will be the first in a series of Diaconate fundraising events to benefit the repair and maintenance of our church organ. We hope you will come to enjoy a breakfast out, and to support the music portion of our worship services. Suggested donation is: \$10/person, \$25/family. If you'd like to help, or have any suggestions about these breakfasts, please let us know. (Deacons wear red name tags). We're looking forward to seeing you there.

--Your Faithful Diaconate.

Sunday November 24, 2013

APPLE Pie/Carrot Cake Sale

A team of Centre Church bakers will be baking pies on Nov. 21, Nov. 22, & Nov. 23, for sale on **Sunday, November 24.**

Rev. Dr. Dennis Bailey will also be making his Carrot Cakes!

Please send your orders and checks to Susan Spear at the Church Office!
5 Summer Street - [781-334-3050]

Pie & Carrot Cake Sale Order Form

Fresh Baked Pie [\$15]:

Apple: ___ Apple Crumb: ___

Apple-Cranberry: ___

Unbaked Pie [\$15]:

Apple: ___ Apple Crumb: ___

Apple-Cranberry: ___

Carrot Cake:

Large [\$15 each] ___ Small [\$8 each] ___

With Walnuts: ___ Yes ___ No

Name _____

From the Moderator

As you know, we recently held our Annual Meeting on September 29th. One of the many financial topics that were discussed was the issue of funding capital maintenance projects. This topic has been discussed many times by Parish Council and mentioned at prior congregational meetings but no further action was ever implemented. As a team, to this point, our financial priority has been to minimize our operating budget loss yet maintain the structural soundness of the building as best as we could with the funds that were available. Unfortunately, we have reached a point where it's time to act.

The issue of most immediate need is the roof. As mentioned before, the roof over the sanctuary and office area has far exceeded its life expectancy. For the past few years we have hired roofing contractors to patch things as best as possible. This action, complimented by a couple of mild winters, has allowed us to keep the roof replacement on the back burner. With a little luck, we will be able to push one more season out of the old roof but it's pretty clear that we need to have a contractor scheduled for the replacement once Tower Day has completed its school year.

Parish Council is presently facing the inevitable challenge of financing this repair. We have discussed the implementation of a capital campaign, but the time required for this would delay a new roof for at least a full year. It has become an obvious need to create an "in house" project fund drive, similar to the supplemental pledge drive we so successfully accomplished last year. This fundraising campaign titled "Raise the Roof" will run until May 4, 2014. The total amount needed to replace the roof over the sanctuary and office area is \$90,000.00. Thus far, we are grateful to have received several generous donations amounting to \$30,000.00. I am so thankful to all who have given us this fantastic head start!!

We need to raise \$60,000.00 by spring. I have strong faith that we can achieve this goal. In working together, we will meet this challenge head on and we will eliminate a serious building concern.

Stay tuned in hearing about the details of the drive over the next few weeks. If you have any questions or concerns regarding this plan, or any other church-related issue, please contact me at 781-334-4341 or bcweaver@verizon.net.

Many thanks!

Sincerely,

Bruce Weaver, Moderator

Our Opportunities

Sun. Nov 10	10:00 am 10:00 am 10:00 am 11:30 am	Morning Worship – Sanctuary Nursery (up to age 5) Gr. 1-8 in Church New Members Mtg – Pastor’s Ofc.
Mon. Nov 11	----- 6:30 pm 7:30 pm	Office Closed-Veterans’ Day Alanon/Alateen – Richards Hall Education Ministries - Library
Tues. Nov 12	7:30 pm	Diaconate – Pastor’s Office
Wed. Nov 13	7:00 pm	Women’s 12 Step Mtg. – Fireside
Thur. Nov 14	6:00 pm 7-8 pm 8-9 pm	Bethlehem Comm. - Library Ecumenical Choir – Choir Room Senior Choir – Choir Room
Fri. Nov 15	10:30 am	Bible Study – 2 nd Floor Office
Sun. Nov 17	8:15-9:30 9:00 am 10:00 am 10:00 am 10:00 am 6:00 pm	Deacons Breakfast – Richards Confirmation Class – Todd Hall Morning Worship - Sanctuary Nursery (Rm 11) – Pre-K (Rm 14) Rotation Workshops Youth Group - Basement
		Bring a frozen turkey for Haven from Hunger
Mon. Nov 18	7:00 pm 7:30 pm	Boy Scout Troop #48 – Todd Hall Alanon/Alateen – FR & Library
Wed. Nov 20	7:00 pm	Women’s 12 Step Meeting - FR
Fri. Nov 22	10:30 am	Bible Study – 2 nd Floor Office

Our prayers are with Barbara Ericson at Union Hospital; Clayton Conn at Rosewood Nursing and Rehab, 22 Johnson St., W. Peabody, MA 01960; Wendell “Red” Hollett at Meadowview Care and Rehab, 134 North St., N. Reading, 01864; Parker Holloway, Essex Park Nursing Center, 265 Essex Street, Beverly, MA 01915; Rose Giunta, Roger Lauzon, Stephen Mitchell, Ginny Davis, Marion Barnes, Marge Cole, Ray and Arlene Thorn, Helen Butcher and Marion Edkins.

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 November 18.
Deadline is noon on November 18.**
