

# 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)

The Rev. Mark Freeman Strickland, Pastor Emeritus

Barbara Langill, Director of Christian Ed & Youth Ministry, [ChristianEd@Centre-Church.org](mailto: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*

## December 31, 2013

### Happy New Year!

New Year's Eve in my childhood involved as much, if not more, planning than Christmas Day for my parents. It was spent with a circle of friends that my parents played cards with, a form of the New England Whist card game. There was a lot of food that everyone brought to whichever family hosted the event. They played cards from early evening into the wee hours of the new year, pausing, briefly, to celebrate the new year. The children played games and such, enjoyed the food, falling asleep before our parents. On occasion, someone had a few simple fireworks to send off outside, to make loud noises to bring in the new year. It was simple, family and friends fun in the country. Being with friends who cared about each other was the most important thing.

As the years passed, the circle was broken by the death of one of its members, my father, in particular. New Year's was never the same, again. New traditions began, came and went, as the children grew and moved. I will always cherish, though, that childhood experience on New Year's Eve because it gave to me a sense of security born, in large part, out of two things: the farming community in which we lived and the church which we all attended. We experienced each other's company and lives in our homes, at church, at weddings, funerals, church events, local carnivals and such. On occasion, my parents and that circle of friends even spent vacations together. I still remember the summer vacation at "the shore" (Wildwood, New Jersey) when the horseshoe crabs washed ashore. Scary!

This childhood experience reminds me of how God calls us to be in community together, hearing God's word and God's call, answering it, singing it, preaching it, living it, doing it. Being in community together helps us all be better and do better. We can keep each other honest, improve on each others ideas, teach each other new things, remind each other of important old things.

In community, we can celebrate each others accomplishments, support each other in struggles, raise our voices together to make a more harmonized song. John Donne wrote a poem about how "No Man Is An Island." In it he speaks about how we are all connected. This is true whether we want to accept it or not.

### In the Sanctuary

#### **January 5, 2014**

#### **10:00 A.M. Holy Communion**

Sermon by the Rev. Dr. Dennis C. Bailey  
Nursery (up to age 3) in Room 11  
3-5 yr. old Class in Room 14  
Grades 1-8 in Church.

#### **January 12, 2014**

#### **10:00 A.M. Morning Worship**

Sermon by the Rev. Dr. Dennis C. Bailey  
Nursery (up to age 3) in Room 11  
3-5 yr. old Class in Room 14  
Grades 1-8 – Rotation Sensation

#### **January 19, 2014**

#### **10:00 A.M. Morning Worship**

Nursery (up to age 5) in Room 11  
Older Children in Church

In this New Year, I look forward to continuing to enjoy the ties that currently bind us together. I look forward to extending those ties, creating new ones, and using our ties to strengthen us, others, and to be a greater and greater blessing in the Lord's work.

I pray that God will help me welcome you, welcome your ideas, listen to your conversations. I pray that God will help me recognize and acknowledge how the Holy Spirit is moving in your life, in our community's life, and in our world so that I might participate in it, contribute to it. I pray that we will do the same for each other.

May God's light shine in and through you this New Year, 2014, which, I pray, will be a Year of the Lord's Blessing.

Yours in Christ, Dennis

*"For I know the plans I have for you," declares the LORD, "plans to prosper you and not to harm you, plans to give you hope and a future".*

(Jeremiah 29:11)

### **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:

There are no workshops on Sunday, January 5. Children in grades 1-8 are invited to remain in worship for a family-friendly service on the first Sunday of every month. The PreK-K class will meet at 10 am in room 14.

On Sunday, Jan 12, children in grades 1-8 will worship briefly with their parents before heading to the chapel and Rotation Workshops.

### **Youth Group**

Youth in grades 5<sup>th</sup> -12<sup>th</sup> will meet on Sunday, January 5 from 6:00-7:30. We will be having an "Epiphany Party". Please bring a gift (less than \$10) suitable for a boy or girl.

The City Reach overnight planned for January 10-11 will be rescheduled to a later date. Details will be sent home.



### **Christmas Pageant**

Thank you to Linda Ladd for directing the Christmas Pageant on Dec. 22.

Many thanks to all of the children and youth who participated.

### **New Members Received**

The following people have recently joined the membership of Centre Church. We welcome you to our fellowship of faith.

Scott and Elizabeth DeSantis  
Dominic Donadio  
Philip and Cheryl Fisher  
Wendy Hollett  
Robert, Lauri and Ariel Priestley  
Christopher and Sheila VanTwyuver  
Pamela VanTwyuver

### **Thank You!**

The sanctuary was especially beautiful on Dec. 15 and 22. The vibrant red of the poinsettias was even more spectacular beneath the backdrop of the illuminated nativity. Many thanks to Joe Gallo and Plantscape Designs for supplying the plants.

We especially thank those who donated plants, and the crew of volunteers who delivered them to the shut-ins and bereaved in our church family. The thank you notes received from recipients will be posted on the bulletin board.

Laurel Caputo for the Flower Committee

There are plenty of poinsettias remaining. Please feel free to take one home if you would like.

**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.



**In Lieu of Christmas Cards**

Additional Christmas/New Year's Greetings have come in the mail from:

The Bommers  
 Harvey and Jean Card  
 Marilyn and Bill McCarthy  
 Paul and Karen Harrington  
 Phil and Sue Johnson

The generous donations to City Mission Society will be forwarded to them for their continuing work to help families avoid homelessness, bring meals to elderly shut-ins, and work with at-risk teens.

**Tower Day School Accepting Applications  
 for 2014/2015 Academic Year**

We have 2 or 3 day classes for 3 year olds, 3 or 5 day classes for 4 year olds, a Transition Class for students before Kindergarten and a full day Kindergarten program.

Centre Church members have priority for enrollment before January 10, 2014. Please download an application from towerdayschool.org or call the school office after the holidays (781-334-5576)

Sally MacDonald, Director

**Our Opportunities**

Sun. Jan. 5	10:00 am 10:00 am 10:00 am 11:30 pm 6:00 pm	Holy Communion – Sanctuary Nursery & 3/5 Yr. Old Class Older Children in Church Confirmation Class – Kitchen Youth Group Epiphany Party
Mon. Jan. 6	7:00 pm 7:30 pm	Boy Scout Troop #48 – Todd Hall Alanon/Alateen – Fireside & Libr.
Tues. Jan. 7	7:00 pm	Council – Pastor’s Office
Wed. Jan. 8	7:00 pm	Women’s 12 Step Mtg. - Fireside
Thurs. Jan. 9	7:30 pm	Senior Choir – Choir Room
Fri. Jan. 10	10:30 am	Bible Study – 2 <sup>nd</sup> Floor Office
Sun. Jan. 12	9:00 am 10:00 am 10:00 am 10:00 am	Confirmation Class - Kitchen Morning Worship - Chapel Nursery & 3/5 Yr Old Class Rotation Sensation
Mon. Jan. 13	7:00 pm 7:30 pm	Boy Scout Troop #48 - Todd Alanon/Alateen – FR & Library
Tues. Jan. 14	7:30 pm	Diaconate – Pastor’s Office
Wed. Jan 15	7:00 pm	Women’s 12 Step Mtg - Fireside
Thurs. Jan 16	7:30 pm	Senior Choir – Choir Room
Fri. Jan. 17	10:30 am	Bible Study – 2 <sup>nd</sup> Floor Office

Our prayers are with Jean Card, Andrew Warburg, Lee Clarke, Rose Giunta, Parker Holloway, Ginny Davis, Marion Barnes, Marge Cole, Ray and Arlene Thorn, Helen Butcher and Marion Edkins.

We remember in our prayers Cody Ryan and Dan Neary who are serving in Afghanistan.

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**The next *Tower Notes* will be the week of January 13.**

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