

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

April 23, 2014

Easter Continues...
Baptisms, Music, and Dancing,
this Sunday, April 27th
You are Invited...

This coming Sunday we celebrate Easter in the form of four baptisms! Alleluia! This is going to be exciting. We will celebrate the births, lives, and baptisms of Renzo Olin Donadio and William Jayce DiGiorgio both about 7 months old. In addition, we will celebrate the baptisms of Raden Sorli Hawk and her mother, Jeannine Hawk. We rejoice that these families are so active in our church's ministry. Actually, both Renzo and William's mothers, Lauren (Gerbick) and Jill (Gonnam), spent their childhoods active at Centre Church. Raden plans to be confirmed as a Christian during Confirmation Sunday, May 4th.

In addition to the baptisms, Renzo and William's mothers plan to a special Song, The Blessing. "The Blessing," was written and composed by Brendan Graham and Gary Downes, and is frequently performed by the Celtic Women.

To accompany the song, Elizabeth Miller and her friend, Kayla Connolly, coached by Melissa Kramer, will dance to a dance that they are choreographing as accompaniment to "The Blessing." This will be the first time that Elizabeth has danced to a song in a worship service at Centre Church.

Baptism is a celebration of the gift of God's grace offered to all of us. It is God's unconditional love freely given to us all. It is not earned or merited. We, the church, are channels and instruments of that love to all who wish to share in it, receive it, and then, through their own discipleship and lives, share it with the world. In baptism, parents and participants promise to share

God's grace with their children through their own love and through their participation in a spiritual community, a church. We, the church, God's people, agree to be examples of God's unconditional love through our teaching and modeling. We agree to be available as needed to provide love, Christian teaching, care and spiritual presence to all who God brings to us.

I hope that you can attend our special services the next few weeks and continue to celebrate the Resurrection of our Lord on Easter with us:

Sunday, April 27th, Baptisms

Sunday, May 4th, Confirmation

Sunday, May 11th, Baptism of Charlotte Beckman daughter of Eric and Paige Beckman, granddaughter of Gage and Dotty Whittier.

In the Sanctuary

April 27, 2014

10:00 A.M. Morning Worship

Sermon by the Rev. Dr. Dennis C. Bailey

Sacrament of Baptism

10:00 a.m. Nursery & Pre-K, K Class

Gr. 1-8 Rotation Workshops.

May 4, 2014

10:00 A.M. Holy Communion

Confirmation Sunday

10:00 a.m. Nursery & Pre-K Class

Gr. 1-8 in Church

Alleluia! We had a wonderful Palm Sunday, with the Choir's beautiful Cantata, "The Power of the Cross," by Mark Hayes. I am extremely grateful to our Music Director, Douglas Hodgkins, and the Senior Choir, as well as individuals who joined the choir for this very special presentation! It was a tremendous addition to our Holy Week experience.

I am also grateful for the leadership of the Deacons, and those who volunteered to be readers for the Maundy Thursday service, perhaps the most powerful and meaningful service of the year. Again, the Choir and Douglas Hodgkins' rendition of "Were You There?" at the end of the service brought us meaningfully into the Passion of Christ.

Our Easter Sunday services, the 5:30 am Sunrise Service at Newhall Park, and the 10 am Easter Sunday Service were powerful and uplifting. The Deacons, again, bridged the gap with a pleasant and hearty breakfast. Thanks to the Deacons, again, our wonderful Choir, and to all who attended and made the day special.

I am grateful to Barbara Langill who helped me with the Easter Service Children's Message, researching and finding a good idea for communicating the Resurrection story.

I am also grateful for the "tie that binds all these things together to work in harmony," Susan Spear, organizing, coordinating, and making sure we have what we need for all of our services and activities.

We have very fine leaders here at Centre Church, who are willing to do whatever it takes to be faithful to God's calling to us. If you are not a member and would like to become one, feel free to talk with me about it.

I am honored to be the Pastor, and, look forward to continuing to celebrate Easter with you through all that we do.

Yours in Christ,
Dennis

Confirmation

The Confirmation Class will be meeting on Sunday, April 27 at 9 am with Mrs. Martin upstairs in the Counseling Office. Confirmands will attend the worship service and meet for luncheon in the Library after worship. At 12 pm, the Confirmands will present their Faith Projects to Rev. Bailey and members of Diaconate. Mentors are invited to attend.

Sunday Morning with the Children

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. The nursery is open at 9:45 am.

3-5 year old class

Children in PreK-K are invited to join us each Sunday at 10 am in Room 14 for a class just for this age group. There is time for free play, a Bible Story and a craft and/or activity to help reinforce the story.

Rotation Sensation

Sunday April 27 Rotation Workshops. After worshipping briefly with their families, children and youth in grades 1 through 8 will leave after the baptisms and meet in the chapel before heading to their Workshops.

There are no Workshops scheduled for Sunday, May 4. Children in grades 1-8th are invited to remain in worship for Confirmation Sunday. The PreK-K class will meet at 10 am in room 14.

Youth Group

Both youth groups will be meeting on Sunday, April 27 in the church kitchen from 6-7:30 pm. This will be our last regular meeting for the year. Our End-of-the-Year celebration will be on Sunday, May 18. We are planning a trip to Canobie Lake Park.

The 30 Hour Famine will be held on May 9-10 for High School Youth. Fundraising packets and information on the Famine will be available at Youth Group on Sunday, April 27.

2 Mission Trips Planned for the Summer

July 13-18: At Project HOME in Maine for High School Youth and adult chaperones. Please RSVP by April 27.

August 18-22 : Local Mission. Open to all church members, age 16 and up. We are planning to meet at the church each morning and travel by van to volunteer locally, hopefully with Habitat for Humanity. Details are still being worked out.



Paint Party - May 6

Join us for a fun fundraiser - a Paint Party at Border Cafe, Saugus on Tuesday, May 6th 7-9. You will get your chance to make a sunset painting with instruction and materials provided in our \$45 fee. You can order your own beverages from the restaurant and meet early for dinner.

Sunday, April 27th is the last chance to sign up. Contact Carrie Pericola with questions or to sign up 781-231-0954.

News From Around the Parish

Our love and sympathy are with Jo Farnsworth upon the recent death of her husband Allston (Al). His funeral was held at Centre Church on April 16.

We express our deep sympathy to the family and friends of Karen Colclough who died in Nicaragua last week. Funeral arrangements are pending.

Farewell Reception for Sally MacDonald

May 18 – 11 am – 2 pm

Join us after church on May 18 for a reception to honor Sally MacDonald who will be leaving Tower Day School at the conclusion of this school year. We are bidding farewell to someone who will be tremendously missed not only at Tower Day School, but also within our entire Centre Church community. Don't miss this opportunity to wish her well.

Cousin's Program

The Membership Ministries Team is starting a "Cousin's Program" to ensure that new people are welcomed and followed up on. In addition to welcoming a new person, this person (cousin) would also follow up with a phone call. They would be available to answer questions and even accompany the new person to a church fellowship event. Please call Dotty Whittier if interested (781-635-6225)

Saturday, May 17 Flea Market

Reserve Your Table Now!

Be part of Lynnfield's "Town Day" on May 17 from 9 am – 2 pm as Centre Church hosts a Flea Market on the lawn. It's a great way to pass on un-needed treasures! (indoor space will be used in case of rain.)

Get your space now for only \$30 if you bring your own table, or \$40 if you rent a table from us. You may download a table reservation form from our website, www.centre-church.org or call the church office at 781-334-3050 and one will be mailed to you.

Dotty Whittier, Chair - 781-635-6225

Looking Ahead

Lobster Rolls – Sunday, June 1st. Lobster Roll Sale after church. \$10:00 each.

Salem Trolley Trip:

Date: Sunday, June 8th. Time: Tour: 2:00-3:00p.m., so we will probably arrange carpools from church to leave by 1:00 p.m.

Cost: \$9.00 per person. And we'll have time to explore before we go to an early dinner! The tours got rave reviews on-line. Should be fun! Check with Dotty Whittier after church for more details.

Correction and Apology

It has come to our attention that for the last several years, in our Annual Report, we have been misspelling the surname of one of Centre Church's prominent families. Therefore, we want to express our sincere apologies for spelling the Holappa family name incorrectly as "Hollapa" in the Memorial Fund Report. The correct spelling of course is Holappa. We have taken steps to correct the source of the misspelling so that that this won't happen again.

Volunteers

Head Usher April 27: Bill Seelig

Lights out beginning April 25: Jeff Langill

Head Usher May 4: Margaret Waugh

Lights Out beginning May 2: John Walsh

Our Opportunities

Sun. April 27	10:00 am 10:00 am 10:00 am 6:00 pm	Morning Worship – Sanctuary Nursery & Pre-K, K Class Rotation Sensation Workshops Youth Groups - Basement
Mon. April 28	7:00 pm 7:30 pm	Boy Scout Troop #48 – Todd Hall Alanon/Alateen – Fireside & Libr.
Wed. April 30	7:00 pm	Women’s 12 Step Mtg. – Library
Thur. May 1	7:30 pm	Senior Choir – Choir Room
Fri. May 2	10:30 am	Bible Study – 2 nd Floor Office
Sun. May 4 Confirmation	10:00 am 10:00 am 10:00 am	Holy Communion - Sanctuary Nursery & Pre-K, K Class Older Children in Church No Youth Groups Tonight
Mon. May 5	7:00 pm 7:30 pm	Boy Scout Troop #48 – Todd Hall Alanon/Alateen – FR & Library
Tues May 6	7-9 pm	Paint Party – Border Café
Wed. May 7	7:00 pm	Women’s 12 Step Mtg – Fireside
Thur. May 8	7:30 pm	Senior Choir – Choir Room
Fri. May 9	10:30 am	Bible Study – 2 nd Floor Office
Fri - Sat	overnight	Youth Group 30-Hour Famine

The next *Tower Notes* will be the week of May 5.

Our prayers are with Dayl Hufford at Northeast Rehab, 70 Butler St., Salem, NH 03079; Barkey Gulezian at home; Jean Card at Rosewood; Marion Barnes, Helen Butcher, Marge Cole, Ginny Davis, Marion Edkins, Rose Giunta, Parker Holloway, and Arliene Thorn.

We remember in our prayers William Lafferty and Dan Neary who are serving in Afghanistan.
