

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

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Douglas W. Hodgkins, Organist/Choir Director

Sally MacDonald, Director of Tower Day School

Susan Spear, Secretary

We Welcome Everyone: An "Open and Affirming" Church

June 11, 2014

Dear Friends,

As I write this, the day of Pentecost has just passed; the Christian calendar holds just a short "after Pentecost" time before we enter into the season called "Ordinary Time."

What's point of writing about the liturgical year? Most of us never think about it except perhaps for Advent to Christmas and Lent to Easter. It doesn't seem to connect with our daily living.

A couple of gifts come from it, though. One: it tells the story of God's loving power and powerful love through the gift and presence of Jesus, the mystery of the Resurrection, the hope given in the gift of the Holy Spirit, and then what it means to be the church in the world. And two: we get a reminder every year that Ordinary Time doesn't have to be ordinary.

When I first shared in worship with this congregation on June 1, I offered a little preface to the wonderful Pentecost service that Barbara, Doug, volunteers, and students created for us the following Sunday. I mentioned the fruits of a life lived open to God's Holy Spirit and encouraged us all to examine both where those fruits are already evident in our lives and where we might pray for the ones we'd like to show forth day-to-day.

The fruits of the Holy Spirit are: love, joy, peace, patience, kindness, generosity, faithfulness, gentleness, self-control. They are not gold stars to be achieved; they are GIFTS. They shine forth in a life open to God's Spirit for guidance, learning, comfort, strength, challenge, and courage.

Do you know someone who is willing to accept others, to act on behalf of another even when he or she doesn't "feel" like doing so? There's love. How about someone who has real hardships and losses but seems to meet them realistically yet

without rancor or bitterness? There's joy. The person who may be able to do something very easily but who waits over and over while a child, friend, or co-worker has to try again and again? Patience. You get the idea.

These are gifts that are "lived into." When you pray for the Holy Spirit to guide your days, and you remember each day that you have done so (no autopilot here!), you can discover yourself having opportunities to live them out. You always have the choice to say "no!" – the Spirit does not coerce, only invites and empowers – but if you are like me, often when you said "no" to the moment, later you will find that you could have done something helpful (or refrained from doing something hurtful).

Ordinary Time doesn't have to be ordinary. It can be a real adventure in faith, leading to an increasingly fruitful harvest. Try it out this summer.

Yours in Christ,

Jamie Howard

In the Chapel

9:00 A.M. Morning Worship

June 15, 22, and 29

Sermon by the Rev. Jamie R. Howard
Childcare for children 3 & under – Room 11
Summer Sunday Kids Camp
for children ages 4 & up – Todd Hall

Our summer services are brief and informal followed by a time for punch and fellowship.

Sabbatical Coverage

We welcome Rev. Jamie Howard as our Pastor through mid-September while Rev. Bailey is on Sabbatical. She plans to be in the office on Wednesday and Thursday mornings. You may reach her by calling the church office which will be open each morning 9-12 Monday through Friday. When the office is closed you may call the number provided on the office answering machine in case of an immediate pastoral need.



New! Summer Childcare

This summer we will be offering childcare during our Sunday worship service in Room 11 for infants and children 3 and under. Experienced staff and volunteers are on hand to welcome children for story time and play.

Also this summer, we are excited to be offering a ***Summer Sunday Kids Camp***. Each Sunday during worship, children ages 4 and up are invited to join us downstairs in Todd Hall for Bible stories, crafts, games and snack. We hope your family will join in the faith-filled fun.

Rotation Sensation

What a wonderful year we had learning about the different parts of worship and delving into the Bible through our Best of Rotation Sensation unit. Thank you to our great group of Leaders and Shepherds for working with the children and youth throughout the year. Thank you to our Nursery staff and volunteers for providing care each week to our little ones here at the church.

We all have wonderful gifts to offer. If yours is working with children and youth, please contact Barbara Langill in the church office and volunteer to help next year. I will be happy to provide you with specific information about the responsibilities of the positions.

Special thanks to the children and youth who participated in our special Children's Sunday Worship service and especially to all those who helped with the Pentecost Skit. Everyone did a terrific job!

News From Around the Parish

We extend our sympathy to the Doe/Russell family upon the recent death of Randy's father in Wisconsin.

Our sympathy goes out to the Edson family upon the death of Tom Edson. His funeral was held at Centre Church on June 7.

Our congratulations and best wishes to Marion Barnes who will celebrate her 104th Birthday on June 14.

Our congratulations and best wishes to Ed and Barbara Ericson who will celebrate their 70th Wedding Anniversary on June 15.

Congratulations to Michael Bruce who was recently promoted to Captain in the United States Marine Corp. Captain Bruce will be deployed to Bahrain in July. Please keep him, William Lafferty and Jonathan McCarthy in your prayers.

From the Mailbox

Dear Centre Church Community,

Words cannot express my deep appreciation for the wonderful "send-off" you gave me on May 18th! It was so nice to re-visit with friends whom I have not seen in a long time...many of whom travelled a distance! It will be a lasting memory for me! I appreciate all the work Dennis did to acknowledge me at the Service!

As for the party....who knew Richards Hall could look so pretty?! And the food – just magnificent!!

It has been my pleasure to work at such a beautiful school with an amazing church staff and school staff.

You will always be in my heart!

Thank you Again! Sally

To my friends and family of Centre Church,

My greatest thanks to Dennis for his many visits, the prayers, the cards, the flowers, love and sympathy upon the recent death of my husband, Al.

Most sincerely, Jo Farnsworth



Mission Money

Please remember to bring back your M & M mini tubes filled with quarters. The donations received will go toward supporting the two Mission Trips planned for this summer. There is a basket in the Fireside Room for your filled tubes.

Stock Sales

We invite you to “share” in our mission trip experience by purchasing stock. For just \$20.00 per share, you will be helping our youth and adult volunteers give those in need hope for a better future. All shareholders will receive a stock certificate and an invitation to a shareholder dinner in the fall where mission trip participants will give a presentation of their experiences.

You will find a donation form on the insert in this *Tower Notes*. Please send your completed form and donation to the church office.

Engraved Brick Patio

Many people have asked me if there is still an opportunity to purchase an engraved brick for the patio at the rear of the church. I am taking orders now through June 30th.

The small bricks are \$50 and the large bricks are \$100. The small bricks hold up to 3 lines of 20 characters each (including spaces and punctuation). The large bricks hold up to 6 lines. Checks should be made payable to Centre Congregational Church and can be mailed to the church office.

This is a great way to memorialize someone you know or a family member. Or you can use the brick to thank someone special or record an important date. You may have a favorite Bible verse or inspirational quote. Or you may just want to put your name on the brick. Anything works!

If you have any questions you can get in touch with me at pcjohnson@meei.harvard.edu or 781-598-5678.

- Phil Johnson

Congratulations Graduates!

Our congratulations to the following young people who graduated from high school this year:

Kelsey Claflin, Joseph Crowther,
William Durkee, Baylee Priestley
Mia Sievers, Allison Watson

Our congratulations to the following college graduates:

Dan Johnson from Wake Forest University with a B.S. in Physics.

Rhett Batchelder - Bachelors in Business Administration from U Mass Amherst

Ross Batchelder - Bachelors in Business Administration from University of New Hampshire

Ryan Batchelder - Masters in Chemical Engineering from U Mass Lowell

Debra Ricci, daughter of Nancy (Hayter) and Paul Ricci - Bachelors in Marketing from Southern NH University

Thanks to Our Volunteers

Sunday, June 15:

Ushers-Doreen DiFillippo and Marian Orfeo.
Lights Out beginning June 13-Roger Batchelder

Sunday, June 22:

Ushers-Margaret Waugh and Gage Whittier
Lights Out beginning June 20-Scott DeSantis

Sunday, June 29:

Head Usher-Gage Whittier
Lights Out beginning June 27-Steve Furey

Sunday, July 6:

Holy Communion
Lights Out beginning July 4-Al Johnson

A Special Thank You to Carol MacKendrick who, over the past many years, has put her calligraphy talents to good use by doing all of our wedding and baptism certificates. We appreciate her dedication to the task!



We are pleased to announce that we have hired a new director for Tower Day School. After an extensive search process, we are delighted to inform you that Leah O'Brien has been named Tower Day School Director beginning July 1, 2014.

Leah comes to us from the Franciscan Hospital for Children where she has spent nearly 15 years as Program Director for their Child Care Center. Approximately two years ago, she was given additional director responsibilities when she was made Director of the Hyman Novack Medical Day Care Center, a center that serves medically fragile children. Prior to her time at the Franciscan Hospital for Children, Leah spent two years as Director and Child Life Specialist for Community Teamwork, Inc. in Wakefield, MA. Leah received her Bachelor of Arts degree in Social and Rehabilitation Services from Assumption College, and she received her Master of Science degree in Child Life and Family Centered Care from Wheelock College.

The centers where Leah has been Director are all licensed by the Department of Early Education and Care so she is well-versed in the regulations that Tower Day must follow. She is Director II certified by the DEEC. Leah is experienced in curriculum development, supervising staff, maintaining staff ratios, managing budgets, and working with young children and their families.

Leah understands the challenges of following our current director, Sally MacDonald, who has been with us for 29 years. She is excited at the prospect of working with our experienced staff, our supportive parents, and the children of Tower Day to ensure that Tower Day School continues to offer excellent programs to our pre-school and kindergarten students in a safe and nurturing environment. Over the coming weeks, Leah will meet with Sally in order to make a smooth transition.

We feel that Leah has all the qualities we were looking for in our new director. Leah brings not only her education, knowledge, and experience, but also a friendly personality and sense of humor-important qualities in any preschool and kindergarten setting. We are thrilled that Leah is joining the Tower Day Team.

The Tower Day School Director Search Committee

Take Stock in 2014 Mission Trips

This July the High School Youth group will be traveling to Project HOME in Orland, ME. In August an all church group will be volunteering with Habitat for Humanity in Lawrence to help convert a former convent into 10 condominiums for deserving families. We invite you to “share” in these experiences by purchasing stock in our Mission Trips. For just \$20.00 per share, you will be helping our youth and adult volunteers give these communities hope for a better future. All shareholders will receive a stock certificate and an invitation to a shareholder dinner in the fall where mission trip participants will give a presentation of their experience.

Please use the order form below and return it to the church office with checks made payable to “Centre Church”.

Stock Order Form

Yes! I would like to “share” in the Mission Trip experience

Name _____

Address _____

Number of Shares _____ at \$20.00 a share Total enclosed _____

(checks may be made payable to Centre Congregational Church with Mission Trip noted)

Our Opportunities

Sun. June 15	9:00 am 9:00 am 9:45 am	Morning Worship – CHAPEL Nursery & Kids Camp Punch & Fellowship – Fireside Rm
Mon. June 16	7:00 pm 7:30 pm	Boy Scout Troop #48 – Todd Hall Alanon/Alateen – Fireside & Libr.
Wed. June 18	7:00 pm	Women’s 12 Step Mtg. – Fireside
Fri. June 20	10:30 am	Bible Study – 2 nd Floor Office
Sun. June 22	9:00 am 9:00 am 9:45 am	Morning Worship - CHAPEL Nursery & Kids Camp Punch & Fellowship – Fireside Rm.
Mon. June 23	7:30 pm	Alanon/Alateen – Basement
Wed. June 25	7:00 pm	Women’s 12 Step Mtg – Fireside
Fri. June 27	10:30 am	Bible Study – 2 nd Floor Office
Sun. June 29	9:00 am 9:00 am 9:45 am	Morning Worship - CHAPEL Nursery & Kids Camp Punch & Fellowship – Fireside Rm.
Mon. June 30	7:30 pm	Alanon/Alateen – Basement
Wed. July 2	8:30 am 7:00 pm	Bread & Roses - Kitchen Women’s 12 Step Mtg. – Fireside
Fri. July 4	-----	Church Office Closed

The next *Tower Notes* will be the week of June 30.

Summer Office Hours: 9 am – 12 noon Monday-Friday

Our prayers are with Doug Hodgkins who is to undergo hip surgery on June 11, Rolf Owens in hospice care at Continuing Care, Brooksby Village; Dayl Hufford in rehab at Edgewood, North Andover, Barkey Gulezian, Jean Card, Harvey Card, Marion Barnes, Helen Butcher, Marge Cole, Ginny Davis, Marion Edkins, Rose Giunta, Parker Holloway, and Arlene Thorn.

We remember in our prayers William Lafferty in Afghanistan, Michael Bruce who will be in Bahrain beginning in July, and Johnathan McCarthy who is in training with the US Marines.
