

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

Leah O'Brien, Director of Tower Day School

Susan Spear, Secretary

We Welcome Everyone: An "Open and Affirming" Church

August 27, 2014

Dear Friends,

As I write this I am in my final weeks of service with you. I will always be deeply thankful to Dennis for this opportunity, and to the church leadership for saying, "Yes, we would like you to serve here as our sabbatical supply pastor."

This ministry enabled me to reconnect with the joy I have known in leading worship, and with the purpose that was at the heart of my call to ministry in the first place. I hope that my desire to help people realize how much they are loved by God has been evident in worship and in conversation. Also evident, I hope, is that such a realization of loving grace is not a resting place but a springboard leading to proactive love and care, compassion, humility, justice tempered with mercy and understanding, community characterized by inclusivity – and a good sense of humor.

A special thanks to Susan, Barbara, and Tony for their cheerful and steadfast support for this "temp" staff member.

And thank you all for your gracious welcome and encouragement during our shared time of ministry.

Yours in Christ,

Jamie Howard

In the Chapel

August 31, 2014 – Morning Worship

9:00 A.M. in the Chapel

Sermon by the Rev. Jamie R. Howard

Children may worship with their families for the entire service.

In the Sanctuary

September 7, 2014

10:00 A.M. Morning Worship

Message - "Partnering in Mission"

Nursery – Room 11

Class for Children ages 3-6 – Room 14

September 14, 2014

10:00 A.M. Morning Worship

Sermon by the Rev. Jamie R. Howard

Nursery – Room 11

Class for Children ages 3-6 – Room 14

Rotations for ages 7 and up

Looking Ahead

September 14 will be Rev. Howard's last Sunday with us.

September 21 will be Rev. Bailey's first Sunday back from his sabbatical.

Sunday Mornings with the Children

Nursery

Our Church Nursery is fully staffed and ready to receive infants and children up to age 3 on Sunday mornings during worship time. Pagery are available to ensure Nursery Caregivers can easily communicate with parents.

The Nursery opens Sunday, Sept. 7 and will be staffed every Sunday through June 9. This year we welcome Brenna Curren as our head Nursery Care Provider. Brenna will be in the Nursery each Sunday and will be assisted by experienced high school caregivers.

Class for Children ages 3-6

Children ages 3-6 are invited to join us in Room 14. They will go directly to their classroom at 10 a.m. The class will consist of play time (both indoor and weather permitting, outdoor), a Bible story lesson and an activity.

Rotation Sensation

For children ages 7 and up. Children and youth will begin worship with their families and then leave for a gathering time in the Chapel before heading off to their workshop. The model for this age group will be "Learning and Serving." Some weeks this group will be exploring Bible stories, while other weeks they will participate in a mission project or help in worship.

Help!

Volunteers Needed for Bread and Roses!

Our group of volunteers is looking for a few people to help us prepare a monthly meal for the patrons of Bread and Roses, a soup kitchen in Lawrence that feeds more than 200 people daily. No experience is necessary! If you can cut vegetables, you'll fit right in. We meet on the first Wednesday of every month at 8:30 am and are finished by 10:30, even earlier with more helping hands! We have recently lost a few volunteers who have moved out of the area or moved on to a "paying job"! Please consider this opportunity to help those in need in a local community. – Margaret Waugh

For the Bread and Roses Group

Youth Groups

All youth in grades 5-12 and their parents are invited to attend our opening meeting on Sunday, Sept. 14 at 6 p.m. 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.

Thanks to Our Volunteers

August 31: Head Usher-Margaret Waugh.
Lights Out beginning August 29 - Scott DeSantis.

September 7: Head Usher-Margaret Waugh.
Lights Out beginning September 5 – Roger Batchelder.

Annual Golf Tournament

Save the date of **Friday, September 19th** for the 11th Annual Centre Church Golf Tournament. The net proceeds go to our Operating Budget. This will be a **best ball** tournament with a tee time of **12:30 PM** at The Thomson Country Club in North Reading.

The cost is \$115 per player. This covers the cost of greens fees, cart, goody bags and prizes. All sorts of prizes and the chance to have your winning team's names engraved on "*The Unholy Grail*" are but a few of the benefits of playing in this tournament. Players of all skill levels welcomed.

Please invite your friends to play, too.

Sign up with Chuck Cotting (chuck@thecottings.com or 781-593-3120), Phil Johnson (pcjohnson@meei.harvard.edu) or Bruce Weaver (bruce@newenglandlab.com) no later than **Friday September 12th**.

Checks should be made payable to:

Centre Congregational Church
5 Summer Street Lynnfield, MA 01940.

News From Around the Parish

We rejoice with Barbara Jensen upon the birth of a grandson, Derek William Jensen on August 7. He is the child of Paul and Julie Jensen of Tewksbury.

Our love and sympathy are extended to the family of Shirley Wendel who died on August 15. Her funeral was held at Centre Church on August 21.

Our love and sympathy are extended to the Patterson family upon the recent death of Mark Patterson. Mark was raised in Lynnfield and was involved at Centre Church as a young man. A Memorial Service will be held for him on Sunday, August 31 at 11:30 a.m. in the Chapel.

The family of Barbara Hoffman, who died last year, held a celebration of her life at the club house in Essex Village in June. Family and friends attended and shared their many wonderful memories of her.

We recently received word of the death last year of long-time Lynnfield resident and former church member, George Caswell of Yorktown, VA.

Kids Sunday Summer Camp

This year we offered a faith-filled, Sunday Summer Camp for children ages 4 and up during summer worship. We would like to thank the many families who volunteered to help lead a class and to our high school volunteers who served as helpers.

A New *People Book* (directory of members and friends) will be distributed in a few weeks. If you have contact information changes please let the church office know.

Mission Trips Report

In July, 13 volunteers traveled to Orland, Maine under the leadership of Linda Ladd. In August, we offered our first, "sleep at home" mission trip. 10 volunteers traveled each day to Lawrence to work with Habitat of Humanity where they are converting a former convent into 10 units for low income housing. Many thanks to the congregation, Missions Ministry, family and friends for their generous support.

Please save the date of Sunday, September 21 at 6 p.m. to attend the Shareholders Dinner. Both the Habitat and Project HOME participants will be giving a presentation of their mission trips this year. Dinner and dessert will be served. Everyone is welcome to attend.

Below are excerpts from a thank you received from Habitat in Lawrence:

*"Love isn't confined to words or pretty things.
It's action."*

The Rev. Samuel Emerick

"On behalf of Merrimack Valley Habitat for Humanity – THANK YOU!! Please extend our gratitude to every member of the fantastic build team for their work of service to our 100 Parker St., Lawrence families. Also many thanks to your Missions Outreach Committee and to your church family for their generous financial donation. We are blessed to do the work of building safe, decent, affordable homes for hard working families in need, alongside partners like you."

Martha Learned, Faith Relations
Coordinator

Missions Pantry

Our ongoing collections include Redeemable Bottles & Cans, and Non-Perishable Food for Haven from Hunger, Aluminum Can Pull Tabs for the Shriners, Used Eyeglasses for Lyons Club, and Travel Size Toiletries for Lynn Shelter Association.

Our Opportunities

Sun. Aug. 31	9:00 am	Morning Worship - Chapel All Children may worship with their families
Mon. Sept. 1	----- 7:30 pm	Office Closed for Labor Day Alanon/Alateen – Basement
Wed. Sept. 3	----- 7:00 pm	No Bread & Roses this month Women's 12 Step Mtg. – Fireside
Thurs. Sept. 4	7:30 pm	Sr. Choir – Choir Room
Fri. Sept. 5	10:30 am	Bible Study – 2 nd Floor Office
Sun. Sept. 7	10:00 am 10:00 am 10:00 am 10:00 am	Morning Worship - Sanctuary Nursery – Room 11 Class – Ages 3-6 – Rm. 14 Rotations – age 7 and older
Mon. Sept. 8	7:00 pm 7:30 pm	Boy Scout Troop #48 – Todd Hall Alanon/Alateen – Fireside & Libr.
Tues. Sept. 9	7:00 pm	Diaconate
Wed. Sept. 10	7:00 pm	Women's 12 Step Mtg – Fireside
Thur. Sept. 11	7:30 pm	Sr. Choir – Choir Room
Fri. Sept. 12	10:30 am	Bible Study – 2 nd Floor Office

The next *Tower Notes* will be the week of September 8

Regular Office Hours of 9-3 will begin on September 2.

Our prayers are with Elaine Pyburn at Union Hospital; Annabel Aldrich at Brighton House, Brighton, MA; Peter Brown, Doug Hodgkins, Mary McCarthy and Dayl Hufford recuperating at home; Roger Lauzon, Marion Barnes, Helen Butcher, Jean Card, Harvey Card, Marge Cole, Ginny Davis, Marion Edkins, Rose Giunta, Parker Holloway, Edie Richard and Arlene Thorn.

We remember in our prayers Michael Bruce in Bahrain and Johnathan McCarthy who is in training with the US Marines.
