

TOWER NOTES

Centre Congregational Church (United Church of Christ)

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We Welcome Everyone: An "Open and Affirming" Church

October 8, 2014

Change, from the Ground Up!

One of my sabbatical projects was laying down about 20 Patio blocks, 25 lbs. each, to elevate my nice, new Weber Grill off the ground so that dirt would not splash up onto it when it rained. This was an area about 5 feet by 6 feet square.

How much experience did I have doing this? Very little. I had laid down 6 such patio blocks a year ago at the base of a set of stairs where the ground was relatively level. But now, this area was not level, and, some of the patio blocks would have to be cut.

So, first, I worked to level the ground, digging, shoveling, raking, filling, and using a level. Next, I went to the home improvement store and found the patio blocks I wanted, along with the patio block sand. I asked the Pro person at the home improvement store, "*How do you cut patio blocks?*" The Pro person explained that I could use my electric skill saw with a special masonry blade to cut the blocks. My Centre Church Pro person, Scott, told me to run water over the cutting area to keep the blade from overheating.

With all of this new knowledge, materials, and tools, I went to work, on my knees, to lay out the blocks, first, on the bare ground, to get each one precisely level with the neighboring blocks. This is very time consuming, requiring each block to be laid and lifted at least 20 times, till it is level. Then, I lifted all of the blocks out, and put down the patio block sand, and, again, one by one, placed them back in place, lifting and leveling over and over.

My neighbors watched and ached, on my behalf, not daring to come out to talk to me about the project till it was finished because I was working so

hard. Sweat, dirt, back pain, and frustration, were all part of the job.

Once all of the uncut blocks were in place, I started the step of cutting blocks to fit the area adjacent to the building. Wearing ear and eye protection, and being assisted by a friend, I successfully cut the first three blocks. They fit! Amazing. A few days later I cut the remaining 4 blocks to size and again, they fit. A last minute adjustment in the layout design prevented me from making the mistake of cutting several blocks to the wrong size. Phew!

Completed: a four day project, spread over 3 weeks, over 20 blocks now in place. Now, my neighbors came out and admired my work. "You work hard," they said. "Work hard, play hard," I responded.

Now, my cherished grill will suffer less disgrace, and can be easily moved around as needed.

In the Sanctuary

October 12, 2014

10:00 A.M. Morning Worship
Nursery (up to age 3) – Room 11
ARK (PreK-1st) in Church or Nursery
SPARK (age 7 & up) in Church

October 19, 2014

10:00 A.M. Morning Worship
Nursery (up to age 3) – Room 11
ARK (Pre-K-1st) – Room 14
SPARK (ages 7 & up) – Chapel & Workshop

Lessons:

I continue to enjoy hard work that results in a gratifying result.

I enjoy learning new skills, learning from others.

I enjoy doing something that likely results in something that will be of service for many years to come.

Hard work has its own rewards.

I enjoyed the solitary nature of this project, doing it alone, at my own pace. While there were others around, seldom did anyone speak to me or interrupt me. (Perhaps they were afraid I would ask them to help! I know that some of my neighbors thought I was crazy, working so hard while on vacation.)

I was able to reclaim and remember a part of my childhood, growing up on a farm where we all, my father, mother, and brother, worked hard most every day, except on Sundays when we honored the Sabbath, attending church, visiting and relaxing with family and friends, which often included playing hard.

The Lord's work is not easy, and is often found in places of solitude. Like laying patio blocks, it requires determination and perseverance. It requires us to try new things, step back and reflect, ask for advice and input, make further changes, as needed, and keep at it. And yes, there are times when we must start over. Fortunately, I did not need to start over, but did need to lift all of the blocks at one point and make the layout a bit larger, purchase a few additional blocks to make the project look a lot better.

What we accomplish for God will be and is extremely rewarding. We will change the ground we walk on, the lives of others, but, mostly, I believe, ourselves. We will grow stronger and more confident in our abilities to serve the Lord. We will grow more confident that we can do a lot more than we ever imagined, if we keep at.

Forty-eight years ago when I graduated from High School, I had no thoughts of a vocation in Christian ministry. There were many times when I found myself on my knees in prayer, asking God to help me lay out a new design for my life and work. There were some who recommended an easier path but the one the Lord gave to me has proven to be the right one, the most rewarding one, but, surely, not the easiest path.

God is faithful if we labor to do and complete the work God has given to us. Let's humble ourselves in prayer, work hard, persevere, and find great rewards therein.

Yours in Christ, Dennis

Sunday Morning 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. Pagets are available to ensure Nursery Caregivers can easily communicate with parents

ARK All Remarkable Kids

There are no classes scheduled for Sunday, Oct 12. Children ages 6 and under may remain in worship with their families or may go to the nursery for playtime.

Sunday, Oct. 19 Children ages 3-6 are invited to join us in Room 14. The class will begin each Sunday at 10 a.m. and will consist of play time (both indoor and weather permitting outdoor), a Bible story lesson and an activity.

SPARK

For children and youth ages 7 and up. Children and youth will begin in 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.

There are no classes scheduled for Sunday, Oct. 12. Children and youth will worship with their families.



Let's Fill the Ark

On Sunday, Oct 5, Heifer ark banks and calendars were handed out after worship. Please take the time to look at the calendar each day and add coins to your bank. On Sunday, Nov. 2, we will collect the arks during worship. If you did not receive a bank, but would like to participate, we have copies of the calendar available so that you can join in the fun.

Habitat for Humanity Volunteers Needed

This summer, a group from Centre Church volunteered with Habitat for Humanity at 100 Parker Street in Lawrence, where a former convent is being renovated into 10 condominium units. There is still much work to be done. We have the opportunity to send a group of volunteers on Sat. Nov. 1 from 8:30 am -4 pm to help with the build. Please contact Barbara Langill in the church office if you would like to participate. Youth must be 16 years or older.

Youth Group News

No youth groups are scheduled for Sunday, Oct. 12, the Columbus Day Weekend.

On Sunday, Oct. 19 both Middle School and High School youth groups will meet from 6-7:30 pm.

This is a change to the October schedule. The Global Village Gateway has been postponed to the spring. Both youth groups will meet on Saturday, Oct 25 at 2 pm for Pumpkin Carving. Please plan to bring a hollowed out pumpkin, your carving tools and a pattern. We will display the pumpkins on Sunday, Oct 26 and the congregation will vote with their dollars as to which is the best carved pumpkin.

College Freshman Addresses Needed

The High School Youth Group will be sending care packages out to our college freshmen this fall. Please call or e-mail the church office with your child's college address so that they will be sure to get a surprise package from their friends at youth group.

Deacon's Breakfast – Oct. 26

Let's celebrate Halloween with a Spooky Breakfast of pancakes, bacon and eggs, juice and coffee. Choose your pancake style – Booberry, Chocolate Chippers, Bananaramma or just Plain Jane. The Deacons will cook and serve breakfast from 8:30-9:45. Bring your whole family for a \$25 donation or suggested donation of \$10 per person. The proceeds of the breakfast support the Organ Maintenance Fund.

Special Speaker at Get Together Wheel

Our Get Together Wheel is starting up again for the year. This is a women's group that usually meets on the fourth Tuesday of the month at 12:30 in the Fireside Room. We do combine Nov/Dec meetings and pick a date early in December for this meeting. We are always happy to have new members and guests are welcome for any particular program.

We will be meeting October 28 at 12:30 in the Fireside Room. We are looking forward to having Alan Foulds coming to give an informative program titled: "The Christmas Tree with Long Roots." This is the story of Boston's official Christmas tree, and why the Province of Nova Scotia and the city of Halifax donate it to us every year. Alan is a great speaker and this will be a nice treat for all of us.

If you would like more information on our Get Together Wheel or would like to come, please give me a call. The more the merrier.

Donna Marino (781-581-2022)



Beer and Wine Tasting Saturday, November 1, 2014 6-9:00 pm

By popular request, our Wine Tasting event has been expanded to include the popular pumpkin beers. This is in addition to the sampling of 6-8 wines from different regions of the world which will be offered by the Reading Wine Shop. A variety of cheeses, breads, and donated appetizers and desserts, along with soda and water will be served.

So come, savor, and socialize!

\$15.00 per person.

Pies, Pies, Pies! and Carrot Cakes!

This year we will begin the creating process on Thurs, 11/20, Fri, 11/21 and Sat. 11/22.

Order forms will be available so you can pre-order your pies or carrot cakes baked by Rev. Bailey.

You can't believe how much fun this is and how delicious! Watch for the signup!



News From Around the Parish

Our congratulations and best wishes to Steven Schedin and Christine Lane who were married on August 2. They will make their home in Lynnfield.

Congratulations to Kenneth and Eta Kramer on the occasion of their recent 50th Wedding Anniversary!

Congratulations to Steven Press on the occasion of his 40 years of service in the Veteran's Administration.

We express our sympathy to the family of Richard Fereshtian, 92 of Carlisle, father of Claire Hart.

Thanks to Our Volunteers

October 12: Ushers-Margaret Waugh, Al Johnson, Paul and Karen Harrington. Lay Reader-Raden Sorli-Hawk. Lights Out beginning Oct. 10-Steve Furey.

October 19: Head Usher-Jeff Law. Lay Reader-John Sievers. Coffee Hour-Nina Emery, Raden Sorli-Hawk & Roy Sorli. Lights Out beginning Oct. 17-Bruce Weaver.

Our Opportunities

Sun. Oct. 12	10:00 am 10:00 am 10:00 am 10:00 am	Morning Worship - Sanctuary Nursery (up to age 3) - Room 11 ARK (Pre-K-1 st) in Church or Nursery for playtime SPARK(Age 7 & up) in Church
Mon. Oct. 13	----- 7:00 pm	Church Office Closed Alanon/Alateen Anniversary Celebration
Tues. Oct. 14	7:30 pm	Diaconate – Pastor’s Office
Wed. Oct. 15	7:00 pm	Women’s 12 Step Mtg. – Fireside
Thur. Oct. 16	7:30 pm	Sr. Choir – Choir Room
Fri. Oct. 17	10:00 am	Bible Study – 2 nd Floor Office
Sun. Oct. 19	8:30 am 10:00 am 10:00 am 10:00 am 10:00 am 6:00 pm	Deacons’ Breakfast – Richards Hall Morning Worship - Sanctuary Nursery (up to age 3) – Room 11 ARK – Room 14 SPARK – Chapel & Workshop Youth Group - Basement
Mon. Oct. 20	7:00 pm 7:30 pm	Boy Scout Troop 48 – Todd Hall Alanon/Alateen – Fireside & Libr.
Wed. Oct. 22	7:00 pm	Women’s 12 Step Mtg – Fireside
Thur. Oct. 23	7:30 pm	Sr. Choir – Choir Room
Fri. Oct. 24	10:00 am	Bible Study – 2 nd Floor Office

**The next *Tower Notes* will be the week of October 20
The Church Office will be closed on October 12.**

Church Office Hours are 9 am – 3 pm Monday-Friday.

Our prayers are with Elaine Pyburn at home; Jean Card and Barbara Warburg at Rosewood; Shep Spear at Lahey Clinic; Annabel Aldrich, Roger Lauzon, Marion Barnes, Helen Butcher, Harvey Card, Marge Cole, Ginny Davis, Marion Edkins, Parker Holloway, Edie Richard and Arliene Thorn.

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