

# TOWER NOTES

Centre Congregational Church (United Church of Christ)

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Susan Spear, Secretary

*We Welcome Everyone: An "Open and Affirming" Church*

**April 29, 2015**

## "BY FAITH"

Monday, April 20, 2015

The 119<sup>th</sup> Running of the Boston Marathon

It was the biggest field of runners ever, they said on TV as I watched from the comfort of the living room. The conditions were less than ideal, given the forecast included rain, although temperatures at the start of the race were good for running, cool, not hot. The rain had started at 8 am, and there was wind.

This was the 33<sup>rd</sup> running of the Boston Marathon for Team Hoyt. Father, Dick was not running in this year's marathon, now at age 74, but son, Rick was in the race, pushed by runner Bryon Lyons from Methuen with, as he said, "a fresher pair of legs." Father Dick and son, Rick will continue to run in shorter races.

In honor of father, Dick Hoyt, he was named the Grand Marshall of this year's Marathon. Together, Dick and Rick Hoyt completed over 1,000 races, including marathons, duathlons and triathlons (6 of them being Ironman competitions). Also adding to their list of achievements, Dick and Rick biked and ran across the U.S. in 1992, completing a full 3,735 miles in 45 days.

This is an amazing team! I cannot begin to comprehend what this remarkable father and son team have accomplished. Massachusetts should name a whole year after them, "*Massachusetts The Year of Team Hoyt*," giving them free tolls across the state, free admission to every attraction and event across the state, public and private, finding restaurants where they can eat free, making them an honorary State Representative for the year, even Mayor for a Day at our local cities and towns, keys to the cities and towns, and all that!

"*Yes You Can*," their theme and mission, is about educating people about how those living with disabilities can become active members of our communities.

I know firsthand what it takes to run a marathon. I ran three Boston Marathons (1998, 1999, and 2000) and I know how hard it can be, but, the hardest part is the training required to get ready. **On the other hand, I know nothing**

of what Dick and Rick Hoyt have accomplished except as a mere spectator and admirer. How have they done it???

*"For we live by faith, not by sight."*

(2 Corinthians 5:7)

The eleventh chapter of Hebrews is a great testimony about those who have been ordinary people who have lived not by sight, but by faith. As a result, like Dick and Rick Hoyt, they have accomplished what others said was impossible.

Abraham and Sarah, for example, never dreamed that they would leave their homeland, venture out, under God's direction, to an unknown place to start a new people, to give birth while in advanced age, beyond normal child-bearing years. But, by faith, not by sight, they did.

God even called upon Rahab, a prostitute, to welcome the spies, to help them fulfill God's plans. By faith, she obeyed and was not killed.

Scripture reports so many others: "*...Gideon, Barak, Samson and Jephthah, David and Samuel and the prophets, who through faith conquered kingdoms, administered justice, and gained what was promised; who shut the mouths of lions, quenched*

## In the Sanctuary

May 3, 2015

10:00 A.M. Holy Communion

10:00 Nursery Open (up to age 3) – Room 11  
Godly Play Class (older Children) – Todd Hall

May 10, 2015

10:00 A.M. Morning Worship

Nursery Open (up to age 3) – Room 11  
Godly Play Class (older children) – Todd Hall

May 17, 2015

10:00 A.M. Morning Worship

Nursery Open (up to age 3) – Room 11  
Godly Play Class (older children) – Todd Hall

*the fury of the flames, and escaped the edge of the sword; whose weakness was turned to strength; and who became powerful in battle and routed foreign armies. Women received back their dead, raised to life again. There were others who were tortured, refusing to be released so that they might gain an even better resurrection.” (Hebrews 11:32-25, NIV)*

What shall we do by faith, and not by sight? Do we pray, believing that God is listening and will respond? Do we plant a seed believing that it will die and give birth to new life, a vegetable, a flower, a tree? By faith, not by sight, yes, we do.

I have experienced firsthand how living by faith, not by sight, can work. I have believed that the Holy Spirit is working in our church communities and congregations. I do not know how, but occasionally I see it.

A family member dies and others in the family decide that it is time for them, in gratitude for the church's ministry, to return and contribute, taking on positions of leadership, contributing financially, and living by faith.

A woman who has experienced divorce, and gone from one vocational experience to another, never satisfied or fulfilled, discovers God's calling into ministry. She continues to serve and find reward beyond all expectations, living by faith, not by sight! And further, she remarried a man who was a life-long Roman Catholic, who never dreamed he would be married to a protestant minister. He, too, has learned to live by faith, not by sight. His now late mother, also a life-long Roman Catholic, even shared a message at her daughter-in-law's ordination about faith.

Life has so much to offer. But life as a disciple of Jesus Christ, living by faith in what God desires for us, has so much more to offer, so much more. As we continue to celebrate Easter we prepare for Pentecost, May 24<sup>th</sup>, when the Spirit of God is released, engaging and setting afire all willing souls who wish to live by faith.

Are the doors of your heart, mind, body and soul open to welcoming the Spirit's desires and gifts? Are you willing to live by faith, and not by sight? I pray that you are open and welcoming to that spirit every day and even as you sleep. Perhaps a sleepless night, a dream, a chance encounter, something out of the ordinary in the course of a normal day, will bring you to an awareness that God has something more for you.

Yours in Christ, Dennis

### **Shareholder's Dinner, Friday, May 8**

Everyone is invited to join the participants of the Heifer Ranch Mission Trip for dinner, dessert and a presentation of our April trip. It was a wonderful experience and we can't wait to share it with you.

### **Mother's Day Flowers Sale**

On Sunday, May 10, the youth will be selling hanging flowering plants for Mother's Day. There will be a variety of flowers to choose from. They will be \$20.00 each.

### **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 play time. Pagers are available for all parents.

#### **Godly Play**

Children ages 3 and up are invited to join us for Godly Play each Sunday. Children begin in worship with their families and after Children's Time, will be escorted to the Godly Play Worship Center which is located on the stage area in Todd Hall. Parents are asked to pick up children at 11:15am by coming to the side door of the stage.

### **Youth Group End of Year Celebration**

The Middle School and High School Youth will wrap up our year with a trip to Canobie Lake Park on Sunday, May 17. We will meet at the church at 2pm and return around 7pm. Adult drivers/chaperones are needed. Please contact Barbara Langill if you are available.

### **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 May 31st. 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](mailto:pcjohnson@meei.harvard.edu) or at 781-598-5678.

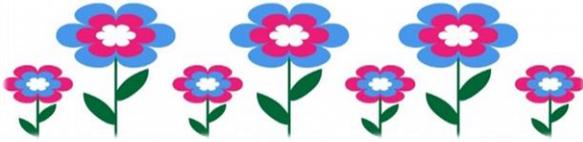
- Phil Johnson

### **Preachers Needed**

We welcome volunteers who are willing to share a message on one of the following Sundays, 9 am, in the Chapel, when Rev. Bailey is away either for Continuing Education or vacation.

If you are willing to consider sharing a message, please talk with either Rev. Bailey ([pastor@centre-church.org](mailto:pastor@centre-church.org) or 781-334-3050) or Margaret Waugh, Chair of Deacons ([mcwaugh@aol.com](mailto:mcwaugh@aol.com)). Just as we have experienced in the Stewardship testimonies, this is often a great opportunity for others to reflect on their own spiritual journey and/or spiritual themes and experiences in their own lives. These reflections inspire and encourage others in their own journeys of faith. Thanks!!!

June 28<sup>th</sup>, July 5<sup>th</sup>, August 9<sup>th</sup>, August 16<sup>th</sup>, August 23<sup>rd</sup>:



## Town Day Celebration Saturday, May 16, 2015

### Flea Market

There are 2 ways to participate:

- Be in touch with Barbara Langill or Dotty Whittier if you would like to rent a 10' x 10' space to sell your items at the Flea Market. (\$35)
- Or you are welcome to donate your items to the church so they can be sold in the Centre Church section. You may bring items in and leave them in the Chapel beginning May 1.

**Bake Sale** As part of the Town Day Flea Market, we will be having a bake sale. People will be hungry and will need to eat while they shop!

We will also be serving coffee, water and soda. It's the perfect time to share that great new recipe! All items must be individually wrapped or totally wrapped. Contact the church office or Laurel Caputo at (781)245-3874.

In addition, there will be:

[Crafters on the Common](#)  
[Lynnfield Library Book Sale on the Common](#)  
[Lynnfield Art Guild Show & Sale in the meeting house](#)  
[Activities for Children at the Middle School](#) and more!

Don't miss a fun day for all!

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### News From Around the Parish

Congratulations to the following families whose children were baptized on Sunday, May 19:

Sage Sara Gaskins, born October 19, 2014. Daughter of Joseph Harth and Elizabeth Gaskins.

Vanessa Brooke Riley, born June 21, 2008. Daughter of Stephen Riley and Michelle Wasak.

### From the Mailbox

Dear Church Friends,  
Thank you so much for all your prayers for my husband. He is better but never to be the same. The flowers at Easter were so beautiful and soon to be planted in our yard and so much appreciated. Thank you so much again.

Nancy Lauzon and Roger too!

### Appliances and Electronics Recycling

On Saturday, May 9 the Lynnfield Destination Imagination group will be hosting a Recycling Day in the Centre Church Parking lot from 10am – 4 pm. People will be on hand to help you unload your items. For more details, see the bulletin board in the church or email [dcalvani1@verizon.net](mailto:dcalvani1@verizon.net).

### Lobster Rolls

Summer time is coming and so are the lobster rolls! The best lobster rolls in town! Still only \$10.00!! They will be freshly made and ready for pickup on Sunday, May 31 after service.

Must be pre-ordered and pre-paid! Yum! Signup after service or contact the church office!

-Dotty Whittier



Tower Day School is now enrolled in the Box Tops for Education program. Look for and clip the bright pink box tops from many popular food, apparel, food storage, and paper products packages. Put your collected box tops in a plastic bag and bring them to the collection basket on the table in the narthex. Each box top turned in is worth 10 cents to Tower Day School. With everyone collecting, they add up fast!

Check out the website [www.BTFE.com](http://www.BTFE.com) for a list of Participating Products or you will find the information on a poster on the bulletin board outside the Library.

### Opportunities at Bread and Roses

Spring is here and Bread and Roses is excited to be in partnership with Groundwork Lawrence's Green Team. As in years past, the Green Team will plant, maintain, and harvest fresh vegetables at the Community Garden at Costello Park.

This season, they are anticipating a more specialized selection of fresh produce that will be perfect for the Bread & Roses meals.

Volunteers are needed to help with planting at the garden on Saturdays beginning in late May/early June. Join in the fun and watch your efforts bear fruit!

If you are interested, please:  
call Bread & Roses at 978-681-8768 and ask for Lauryn  
or email [breadandroses2@gmail.com](mailto:breadandroses2@gmail.com).

## *Our Opportunities*

Sun. May 3	10:00 am 10:00 am 10:00 am 4-6 pm 6-7:30 pm	Holy Communion - Sanctuary Nursery (to age 3) – Room 11 Godly Play – Todd Hall Stage Lego Party – Richards Hall Youth Group - Basement
Mon, May 4	7:00 pm 7:30 pm	Boy Scout Troop 48 – Todd Hall Alanon – Fireside Room
Wed. May 6	8am-2pm 7:00 pm	Bread & Roses - Kitchen Women’s 12 Step Mtg – Fireside
Thur. May 7	6:30 pm 7:30 pm	Weight Watchers – Fireside Rm. Senior Choir- Choir Room
Fri. May 8	10:30 am 6:00 pm	Bible Study – 2 <sup>nd</sup> Floor Office Shareholders’ Dinner - Richards
Sun. May 10	10:00 am 10:00 am 10:00 am	Morning Worship - Sanctuary Nursery (up to age 3) – Rm 11 Godly Play – Todd Hall Stage
Mon. May 11	7:00 pm 7:30 pm	Boy Scout Troop 48 – Todd Hall Alanon and Alateen – FR & Libr
Tues. May 12	7:30 pm	Deacon’s Mtg – Pastor’s Office
Wed. May 13	7:00 pm	Women’s 12 Step Mtg – Fireside
Thurs. May 14	6:30 pm 7:30 pm	Weight Watchers – Fireside Rm Senior Choir – Choir Room
Fri. May 15	10:30 am	Bible Study – 2 <sup>nd</sup> Floor Office
Sat. May 16	8am-2pm	<b>Lynnfield Town Day</b> Craft Fair – Common Flea Market – Centre Church Lawn

### **Church Office Hours 9am – 3pm**

### **Next Tower Notes is the week of May 11.**

Our prayers are with Bob Shorey at Salem Hospital; Annabel Aldrich, Marion Barnes, Helen Butcher, Marguerite Burns, Harvey Card, Marge Cole, Marion Edkins, Parker Holloway, Edie Richard and Barbara Warburg.

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

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