

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

Leah O'Brien, Director of Tower Day School

Susan Spear, Secretary

We Welcome Everyone: An "Open and Affirming" Church

June 30, 2015

Blessing One, Blessing All

As we celebrated the ministry and blessings of Barbara and Jeffrey Langill yesterday, I was mindful of how the church is at its best when we call and bring forth the gifts of others into the service of the Lord.

As a child growing up in the church, I was very shy, not very inclined toward public speaking. And yet, there was something within me expressing a desire for release.

It was the Christian Education Ministry of the church that gave me those first opportunities to see my gifts. Whether it was acting out the stories of the Bible and the parables of Jesus in class, taking part in the annual Children's Sunday and Christmas pageant, reading scripture in church and then, as a teen, being asked by the pastor to share a message, slowly and effectively the Spirit of God worked its magic in my life to help me see the light of God within.

Once I discovered the light of God within I could not hide it anymore. I knew it had to shine in some way(s). I give thanks to those early Sunday School Teachers and people of faith who helped me see that light and affirmed me as I fumbled with it, sometimes for better and sometimes for worse. But, the people of God loved me no matter how well I did. They often saw the possibilities within me that I did not.

That, in my opinion, is one of the most important missions of the church, to help all of God's children discover their spiritual gifts and help them to find ways of using them and expressing them.

Through the ministry of Barbara Langill I have seen that this has happened time and time again. She has seen in others the possibilities that God has

placed within and encouraged people of all ages to see, also.

Yesterday I witnessed it in the children's singing of the "Arky, Arky" and "Heavenly Aeroplane" songs and participation in Children's Sunday. I witnessed it in the celebration of Heifer International's Ministry. I witnessed it in the singing of the Doxology by 4 ½ year old Cameron DiGiorgio as he sang it for us without accompaniment. I witnessed in the singing of The Blessing by Jill DiGiorgio and Lauren Donadio while Elizabeth Miller and Rachele Votano danced to the song. I witnessed it in the testimonies of other Christian Educators who came to celebrate the many ways that Barbara's ministry has blessed and encouraged others who have successfully trained and become Certified Christian Educators.

Most especially, I witnessed it in the testimonies of our college graduates who powerfully testified to how the ministries of Barbara Langill, Jill Couillard, and Jeff Langill called forth from them the gifts of service that have forever blessed and changed their lives.



*Rev. Bailey blessing
Jeff & Barbara Langill.*

And now, we ask God's blessing upon Barbara and Jeff Langill, that they will continue to allow God to lead them as blessings to each other, their family, and into their future.

I also wish to celebrate the accomplishment of another in our church, in training, graduation, and service to others. On Thursday, June 4th, Roger Potter Furey graduated for the Massachusetts Call/Volunteer Fire Academy. Roger continues the family tradition of Firefighter as his father, Steve has

long served as a Lynnfield Firefighter. We are very proud of Roger and wish him well in his service to others through his work in the Lynnfield Fire Department. As they say in Firefighting, "Stay Safe, Roger."

As each person is blessed to discover his/her gifts of service, that person comes alive with purpose and meaning, and therefore, the whole community of faith sees more clearly its continuing purpose and mission.

What we have done has been cause for thanksgiving before the Lord. What we are still doing is cause for thanksgiving and support. And, what we will yet be called to, is cause for prayer, support, and hope.

I ask you to discover your gifts in the Lord, let them shine, share them, ask God's blessing upon them, and proceed with courage, strength, and faith.

Yours in Christ, Dennis

In the Chapel - 10:00 A.M.

Sunday, July 5, 2015

Morning Worship
Patriotic Hymn Sing
Led by Douglas Hodgkins
There will be no child care this week.

Sunday, July 12, 2015

Holy Communion
Sermon by the Dr. Rev. Dennis C. Bailey
Nursery (up to age 3) – Rm. 14
Kid's Camp (age 4 & up) - Library

Sunday July 19, 2015

Morning Worship
Sermon by the Rev. Dr. Dennis C. Bailey
Nursery (up to age 3) – Rm. 14
Kid's Camp (age 4 & up) - Library

Sunday, July 26, 2015

Morning Worship
Sermon by the Rev. Dr. Dennis C. Bailey
Nursery (up to age 3) – Rm. 14
Kid's Camp (age 4 & up) – Library

All services are followed by punch and fellowship in the Fireside Room.

Sunday Morning With the Children

This summer we will be offering Childcare for infants and children under 3 in Room 14 during our Sunday worship services. Experienced staff and volunteers are on hand to welcome children for story time and play.

Kids Summer Sunday Camp

We invite children ages 4 and up to join us in the Library each Sunday for **2015 Ark Avenue, God's Great Get Together**. Children will visit the Ark and explore what it means to be part of God's family through Bible stories, crafts, games and other fun activities. We hope your family will join in the faith-filled fun.

C.C.Cyclers doing Reid's Ride



It's time to dust off bikes and pump up tires! The 11th Reid's Ride will be taking place on Sunday, July 19.

We are once again gathering church members and friends to raise funds for this powerful organization which "Fights the Cancers Striking Adolescents and Young Adults", and honors Lynnfield resident Reid R. Sacco who died of sarcoma at the young age of 20. To join our team of cyclers, go to:

<http://www.firstgiving.com/team/296261> and click "Join Team". You'll be prompted to register and make your own fund-raising page under our CCCyclers team page.

Donations can be made by following the same link, and clicking through to a particular team member's page to place your donation. Each rider pays \$75 to register, and makes a commitment to raise at least another \$150. If you can help any of us, we'll appreciate it! More importantly, it will help young people diagnosed with cancer.

More information about the foundation can be found at <http://www.cancerinyoungadults.org>. Please contact Judie Potter or Linda Ladd about joining us on this year's Reid's Ride!

Thank You! Thank You!

Dear Centre Church Family,

Words cannot express my deep appreciation for the wonderful celebration of my ministry here at Centre Church on June 14th during the worship service and reception. I was deeply touched by the speeches that were given by colleagues, church members and youth. The Diet Coke toast, Jenga block notes, personalized photo book, cards and the very generous gift from the congregation all made me feel so blessed.

Thank you for the support and trust you have bestowed on me for the past 12 years in my work with Christian Education and Youth Ministry. I have enjoyed being part of such a dedicated team and working with amazing church staff, Parish Council and Education Ministry. While I will miss being employed at Centre Church, I look forward to attending worship and actually sitting in the pew to enjoy the entire service!

With heartfelt gratitude and love,

Barbara Langill

News From Around the Parish

Our love and sympathy are extended to the family and friends of Clayton Conn who died on June 29. A Memorial Service will be held at Centre Church on July 15. The time of that service has not been determined.

Our love and sympathy are extended to the family and friends of Harvey Card who died on June 12. His funeral was held at Centre Church on June 17.

Our congratulations and best wishes to James Alexander and Nancy Piotrowski who were married at Centre Church on June 20.

Congratulations Graduates!!

Our congratulations to the following young people who recently graduated from High School.

Lynnfield High

Eric Carey, Jake Forgione, Cory Johnson,
Michael Look, Claire Planton

The Governor's Academy

Patrick Davis

St. John's Prep

Daniel Schedin

Wakefield High School

Luke Martin

Lights Out Program

We have about a dozen faithful souls who volunteer to make sure the doors are locked, the heat is set, the windows are closed and all the lights are turned out every evening at Centre Church. These same volunteers have been doing this for a long time and we could use some new able bodied church members to come aboard! Please consider volunteering some of your time to assist in this way. Generally it takes no more than 20 minutes per evening and the sign-up is for a week at a time. More volunteers makes for light work. Please contact Phil Johnson (pcjohnson@meei.harvard.edu or 781-598-5678) if you can sign up or have any questions.

From the Mailbox

Captain Michael Bruce, USMC has returned to the United States following 11 months in the Middle East. His immediate and extended family wish to thank everyone who so faithfully prayed for his safety. Michael and his wife Vallerie, will be living in Virginia for 9 months while he is stationed at Quantico. A special thanks to Dennis who was so caring during a stressful time.

With love, Barbara Becker

Thanks to Our Volunteers

July 5: Ushers: Dwight Decker and Annmarie Pendola. Lights Out beginning July 3: Phil Johnson.

July 12: Ushers: Margaret Waugh and Doreen DiFillippo. Lights out beginning July 10: Jeff Langill.

July 19: Ushers: Jeff Law and Bill Seelig. Lights Out beginning July 17: Phil Johnson.

July 26: Ushers: Gage Whittier and Bill Seelig. Lights Out beginning July 24: Scott DeSantis.



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!

Our Opportunities

Sun. July 5	10:00 am	Patriotic Hymn Sing - Chapel All children are invited to stay in the Chapel and enjoy the singing
Mon. July 6	7:30 pm	Alanon – Lower Level
Wed. July 8	7:00 pm	Women’s 12 Step Mtg – Fireside
Fri. July 10	10:30 am	Bible Study – 2 nd Floor Office
Sun. July 12	10:00 am 10:00 am 10:00 am	Holy Communion - Chapel Nursery (to age 3) – Room 14 Kid’s Camp - Library
Mon. July 13	7:30 pm	Alanon/Alateen – Lower Level
Tues. July 14	7:30 pm	Diaconate - Pastor’s Office
Wed. July 15	7:00 pm	Women’s 12 Step Mtg – Fireside
Fri. July 17	10:30 am	Bible Study – 2 nd Floor Office
Sun. July 19	10:00 am 10:00 am 10:00 am	Morning Worship - Chapel Nursery (up to age 3) – Room 14 Kid’s Camp –Library
Mon. July 20	7:30 pm	Alanon – Lower Level
Wed. July 22	7:00 pm	Women’s 12 Step Mtg – Fireside
Fri. July 24	10:30 am	Bible Study – 2 nd Floor Office
Sun. July 26	10:00 am 10:00 am 10:00 am	Morning Worship - Chapel Nursery – (up to age 3) – Room 14 Kid’s Camp – Library

Summer Office Hours 9am–12pm Mon-Fri

Next Tower Notes is the week of July 27

Our prayers are with the family and friends of Clayton Conn who died on June 29, Bob Shorey at Brightview Senior Living, 50 Endicott Street, Danvers 01923, Diana Triffletti, Sally Mucica, Ginny Daniels, Annabel Aldrich, Helen Butcher, Marguerite Burns, Marge Cole, Marion Edkins, Parker Holloway, Edie Richard and Barbara Warburg.

We remember in our prayers Jamie Stone in Kuwait and Johnathan McCarthy deployed with the Marines. We rejoice that Michael Bruce has returned to the United States.
