

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

Nancy Miller, Church School Superintendent, 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

September 9, 2015

Estuary

"God called the dry land Earth, and the waters that were gathered together he called Seas. And God saw that it was good." (Genesis 1:10. NRSV)

Many of us are drawn to the shore where the ocean meets the land. Artists sit and paint beautiful and countless scenes of such places.

The ocean is a dynamic place to be. It is always actively interacting with us, as if playing with us. Its waves push us, carry us, speak to us, and retreat to come again and again. While all of the earth is constantly changing, it's a lot easier to see the changing nature of the ocean given its churning waves. You can walk a beach every day and each day see a different scene because the oceans are always changing it, re-forming it.

The ocean is also a place where fresh water meets the salt water, creating unique places of life called estuaries, the nursery grounds for crustaceans, mollusks, and fish. The influx of seawater and the outflow of fresh water once or twice a day, determine the types of organisms that live there. These organisms have developed specialized ways of adapting to their changing environments. It is a fragile balance.

As we know, the place where the ocean meets the earth is an exciting place, but it can also be a dangerous place, when powerful storms make for ferocious waves, winds, and currents.

As I think of this, I also think about life in the church. The community of the church is also a place where there is constant change, a place where people from different backgrounds, experiences, and places are coming together. Some of us are early in our lives, some of us are in mid-life, and others of us are

late in life. Some of us have grown up in town or the community of the church, but most of us come from other places. We come to the church with different needs, agendas, desires, ideas, and expectations.

Like where the ocean meets the land, the church can be a type of "estuary," where the influx of differences make for a beautiful place where a new community is created as we adapt to each other. It can also be a fragile place as we wonder if our differences will provide for our spiritual nurture and growth. In fact, church communities can be dangerous places if our differences are allowed to divide us, and if our egos prevent us from adapting.

As I ponder the above text from Genesis, I feel that it is God's way to "gather" us together from our different places and through our different personalities and to create something that is good, and unique. Like you, I struggle when the important things to which I have grown accustomed change and challenge me in new ways. And yet, that is the nature of all of life.

In the Sanctuary

September 13, 2015 – 10:00 a.m.

Welcome Back Sunday with Holy Communion

Sermon by the Rev. Dr. Dennis C. Bailey

Nursery (up to age 3) – Room 11

9:50 a.m. Godly Play Orientation (age 3 – Gr 4)–

Todd Hall Stage

September 20, 2015 – 10:00 a.m.

Morning Worship

Sermon by the Rev. Dr. Dennis C. Bailey

Nursery (up to age 3) – Room 11

Godly Play (age 3 – Gr 4) – Todd Hall Stage

Breakfast Club (Gr 5-12) - Kitchen

I/we had grown accustomed to Barbara Langill's outstanding leadership in Christian Education and Mission. Now that she has retired, we must learn to adapt to new ways, with fresh ideas, new leadership via our Education Ministries Team. We had hoped to have a new leader in the form of a Director of Faith Formation. Thus far, we have not found the right person for that position. So, like life in an estuary, we adapt.

Jill DiGiorgio is the new Chair of Education Ministries and she has put together an excellent team to work with her. Nancy Miller has accepted the new role of Church School Superintendent until we can find a Director of Faith Formation. Lisa Gerbick has taken the Core training in Godly Play and will be our primary Storyteller in Godly Play. Other members of our church will be serving in the role of Doorkeeper. These changes will give all of us new opportunities to learn and grow.

I am excited about these new opportunities, but I am also aware of how fragile, challenging and uncomfortable these new roles can be. I believe, though, that God has gathered us together for our ministry. I know that in Jesus Christ we see someone who also had to adapt as he faced new challenges. In Jesus I see someone who turned no one away, and welcomed everyone who wanted to walk with him.

I ask you to pray with me that we will find joy, excitement and rewards in our new ways of ministry this year. I ask that we be patient with one another and that we encourage one another. I ask that we remind ourselves that as God brings the ocean to meet the land, God has also brought us together to meet and know each other, and that God calls it good.

Yours in Christ, Dennis

9/11 Never Forget
Announcing A Remembrance

On the Occasion of the fourteenth anniversary
of the terrorist attacks
on the United States of America
on September 11, 2001

Friday, September 11, 2015
8:30 AM

In front of Lynnfield
Fire and Police Stations
59 Summer Street, Lynnfield
Public is welcome

Church School News

Nursery

Our Church Nursery is fully staffed and ready to receive infants and children up to age 3 on Sunday mornings during worship time. Pagers are available to ensure Nursery Caregivers can easily communicate with parents. The Nursery opens Sunday, Sept. 13 and will be staffed every Sunday through June. We welcome back Alicia Dwyer, as our Nursery Care provider. Alicia will be in the Nursery each Sunday and will be assisted by experienced High School caregivers.



Godly Play

We are excited to offer Godly Play as our Christian Education program for children ages 3 through Grade 4. Based on the Montessori method, Godly Play uses a careful telling of scripture stories, engaging story figures, and activities to encourage children to seek and find answers to their faith questions. We welcome Lisa Gerbick as our lead Storyteller.

On Sunday, Sept. 13, children and their parents are asked to meet downstairs in Todd Hall at **9:50 am**. We will be holding orientation sessions to the Godly Play program. Parents are welcome to stay during this time if that is most comfortable for you or your child. We will also be asking that registration forms be filled out at this time.

Breakfast Club for Youth Grade 5 and up

This year we will be offering a special class for youth in Middle School and High School. The class will meet on Sunday mornings during worship and will be using the Spark re:form curriculum. On the first Sunday of the month, youth will be encouraged to attend worship with their families. More information on youth programming will be sent home shortly.

This Sunday, Sept 13, youth should plan to remain in worship for Welcome Back Sunday and Communion.

Family Outing to Red Sox Game



A great way to spend time with family on a Friday night! On Friday, September 25th, a block of bleacher tickets have been reserved for Centre Church. The Red Sox will be playing the Baltimore Orioles at 7:00 p.m. and we need to be there to cheer them on! Cost: Only \$27.00 per ticket!

For more info and to reserve a ticket, call Dotty Whittier @781-635-6225 or call Susan Spear at church at 781-334-3050.

Yankee Candle Fundraiser

Our annual Yankee Candle Fundraiser begins September 13th and runs until October 4th. This is a great fundraiser for our church because we earn 40% of all orders. Catalogues and order forms will be available on Sunday mornings and in the church office during the week. You can browse the catalogue and place orders on line by going to www.yankeecandlefundraising.com and entering our group number: **990016890**.

In addition to a variety of candles, the catalogue contains some great gift ideas as well as a lovely selection of gift wrap. If you have a wood-burning fireplace or stove, be sure to check out the Kindle Candles – a clean, easy way to start the fire.

For more information, contact Debbie Cotting at 781-593-3120.

News From Around the Parish

Our love and sympathy are with the Warburg family upon the death of Barbara Warburg on August 28. A Memorial Service will be held on Saturday, September 19 at 10:30 a.m. in the Sanctuary.

We extend our sympathy to Kathy Delaney upon the death of her uncle, Robert Delaney of New York State. He was a volunteer firefighter for 45 years.

CENTRE CONGREGATIONAL CHURCH **NOTICE OF ANNUAL MEETING**

The Annual Meeting of the church will be held on Sunday, September 20, 2015 at 11:30 a.m. to discuss the following items:

1. Reports of Officers and Ministry Teams
2. Presentation and Approval of the 2015 to 2016 Budget
3. Election of Officers, Ministry Team Chairs and Other Positions
4. Remembrance of Deceased Members
5. Recognition of 50 Year Members

Bruce Weaver, Moderator

Thanks to Our Volunteers

September 13, 2015

Ushers: Gage Whittier, Doreen DiFillippo, Jeff Law, Bill Seelig.

Lay Reader: Randy Russell

Provide Alter Flowers: Edith Wendt

Lights Out beginning Sept. 11 – David Bjorkman

Lights Out beginning Sept. 18 – Steven Richard

Lights Out beginning Sept. 25 – Dwight Decker

BKP Book Packing Group

BKP, the group that meets at the church at least once a month to process books to be shipped to the Philippines is in need of more elementary books, especially for the early readers. If you have any to donate, feel free to bring them to the church and leave them in Todd Hall in front of the closet in the corner. Be sure to mark the box or bag BKP.

Your help is much appreciated.

Our Opportunities

Sun. Sept 13	10:00 am 9:50 am	Holy Communion - Sanctuary Nursery (up to age 3) – Room 11 Godly Play (age 3 -4 th Gr) - Orientation on Todd Hall Stage
Mon, Sept 14	7:00 pm 7:30 pm	Boy Scout Troop #48 – Todd Hall Alanon/Alateen – Fireside & Libr.
Wed. Sept 16	7:00 pm	Women’s 12 Step Mtg – Fireside
Thurs. Sept 17	7:30 pm	Choir Rehearsal – Choir Room
Fri. Sept 18	10:30 am	Bible Study – 2 nd Floor Office
Sun. Sept 20	10:00 am	Morning Worship - Sanctuary Nursery (up to age 3) – Room 11 Godly Play (age 3 -4 th Gr)- Stage Breakfast Club (Gr 5-12) - Kitchen
Mon. Sept. 21	7:00 pm 7:30 pm	Boy Scout Troop #48 – Todd Hall Alanon – Lower Level
Tues Sept 22		Get-Together Wheel Lunch - FR
Wed. Sept 23	7:00 pm	Women’s 12 Step Mtg – Fireside
Thurs Sept 24	7:30 pm	Choir Rehearsal – Choir Room
Fri. Sept 25	10:30 am	Bible Study – 2 nd Floor Office Family Outing to Red Sox Game
Sun. Sept 27	10:00 am	Morning Worship - Sanctuary Nursery (up to age 3) – Room 11 Godly Play (age 3 -4 th Gr) – Stage Breakfast Club (Gr 5-12) - Kitchen

Office Hours are 9 am–3 pm Mon-Fri.
Next *Tower Notes* is the week of Sept. 21

Our prayers are with Seavey Bowdoin at Union Hospital; Bob Shorey at Brightview Sr. Living, 50 Endicott St., Danvers 01923; Martha Emerson in rehab at Hathorne Hill, 15 Kirkbride Dr., Danvers 01923; Elva Batchelder and Anne Millett in Hospice Care; Bob Hanson, Annabel Aldrich, Helen Butcher, Marguerite Burns, Marge Cole, Marion Edkins, Parker Holloway, Ed Potter, Edie Richard and Regina Engel who is recuperating at home.

We remember in our prayers Jamie Stone in Kuwait and Johnathan McCarthy deployed with the Marines.
