

TOWER NOTES

Centre Congregational Church (United Church of Christ)

5 Summer Street, Lynnfield, Massachusetts 01940 Phone: 781-334-3050 Fax: 781-334-6463

Email: Office@Centre-Church.org Web Site: www.Centre-Church.org

The Rev. Dr. Dennis C. Bailey, Pastor, Pastor@Centre-Church.org

The Rev. Mark Freeman Strickland, Pastor Emeritus

Barbara Langill, Interim Director of Faith Formation

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

January 6, 2016

Tongue in Cheek

Refrigerators, phone lines, and the internet, all down December 23rd! How do we cope?

Three days before Christmas I discovered my refrigerator is not cooling, holding at a "cool" 55 degrees. Well, if it gets too cold, and my heat doesn't work, I know where I can keep from freezing! Parts ordered and repair to occur January 7th! Glad I'm not hosting Christmas dinner. Is this Sears' way of getting me to buy a cheap backup that doesn't break down as often as my beautiful, stainless steel Samsung, one that actually works for more than 6 months at a time? Remember the days when that fridge worked for years without breaking???

Then, two days before Christmas the Verizon phone and internet goes down at the church! People cannot call or email us and get through. If they know our cell phone numbers they work. Chuck "Charlie" Cotting, our Properties Person, spends more time talking, holding, waiting, talking with Verizon than he does with everyone in his life combined. Verizon ought to be paying him! Verizon might get here sometime today. Me thinks that the same people that made my fridge are running our phone company!

And then, I tried to come to the office today from my home in Lynn, via Salem Street, to get lunch at my favorite deli, but, traffic at Salem and Walnut Streets was such a mess. And everyone thought Market Street was going to be such a blessing! Usually, it is, but not today. The intersection at Salem and Walnut was completely blocked with cars "cheating" the lights in the hopes of getting somewhere. Not happening! What they got was honking horns,

cursing drivers, and dropped off the "friends list" on Facebook. Why do people think that by blocking the intersection they are going to get anywhere? I know, these are the same people who built my fridge and run our phone company, blocking progress is all they know how to do. Well, they are very good at it. I couldn't get to the deli. Took a detour, arrived at the office.

Of course, we all have frustrating days! My blessings far outweigh my frustrations.

In the Sanctuary

January 10, 2016 – 10:00 a.m.

Morning Worship

Sermon by the Rev. Dr. Dennis C. Bailey

Sacrament of Baptism

Nursery (up to age 3) in Room 11

Godly Play (ages 4-grade 4)

Breakfast Club (grades 5-12)

January 17, 2016 – 10:00 a.m.

Morning Worship

Sermon by the Rev. Dr. Dennis C. Bailey

Nursery (up to age 5) – Room 11

Older Children and Youth in Church

January 24, 2016 – 10:00 a.m.

Morning Worship – Confirmation Sunday

Nursery and Godly Play

Older Children and Youth in Church

January 31, 2016 – 10:00 a.m.

Morning Worship

Rev. Bailey's last Sunday at Centre Church

Luncheon Reception following Worship

Blessing #1, the fridge repair man is the same very nice, talented, and skilled person who has been to work on my appliance three times before. A friendly face, a person who knows what he is doing and is very efficient. He tells me how this brand of refrigerator, Samsung, has lots of problems. TVs and such, Samsung is great. Appliances, not so great.

Thank goodness I have the service agreement! (Blessing #2).

It's not snowing! Blessing #3.

My Christmas shopping is done, #4.

I got a nice sandwich at my other favorite sandwich shop. #5

Due to phones being down, it's quiet at the office. #6

I have plenty of coolers at home, plenty of ice via my freezer's ice machine. #7

Actually, I have an old "ice box," you know, the one with cork. Just need a big block of ice! #8

I could bring all of my stuff to the church, use the fridge there, sleep and cook there till January 7th! #8.5

Well, in fact, I have so many blessings I can't count them, but, on Christmas Day I'll be thankful for being with family that loves me and makes me feel special. I pray to God that I do the same for them, make them feel special, because they are!

God is with us yesterday, today, and tomorrow, even when refrigerators, phone and internet lines, and traffic are not!

Happy New Year! Dennis

Thank You!

Many thanks to Linda Ladd and all our Paper Bag Pagent participants! It was a memorable morning – who could have predicted Rev. Bailey as the Star or Jeff Langill as baby Jesus?

The Joyful Noise Choir did a wonderful job with their song "In Bethlehem". They will meet on Sunday, January 10 and January 24 to work on a special song to present on January 31.

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 story time and play. Pagers are available for all parents.

Sunday, January 10

Children in preschool through 4th grade will be going to Godly Play after Children's Time.

Breakfast Club for youth in grades 5 -12 will meet in the kitchen after Children's Time..

Sunday, January 17

There are no classes scheduled. Children and youth are invited to attend worship with their families. Children 5years old and younger are welcome to go to the nursery for story and playtime.

Youth Group

Both Middle School and High School Youth Groups will be meeting on Sunday, January 10 from 6:00-7:30. We will be having an "Epiphany Party". Please bring a \$10 gift for Yankee Swap.

Save the Dates:

Monday, January 18 – Serve at My Brother's Table
Sunday, January 24 – Snow Tubing

Your Donations Made a Difference!

Thank you to all who supported the Heifer Marketplace by purchasing ornaments or living gifts. We raised just over \$2,000.00.

Thank you to all who sent a donation "In Lieu of Christmas Cards." Our final Christmas Greeting from Arno and Marilyn Bommer put our total for Boston City Mission Society's ongoing programs at \$300.00.

Your donations of clothes and gifts for the CMS Christmas Shops were much appreciated by City Mission's clients who had a reasonable place to shop for their families.

Our thanks to Roger and Peggy Batchelder for delivering the items to the distribution center.

Looking Ahead to February

February 9 - Pancake Supper

Join us Tuesday, February 9 at 5:30 for a church-wide Pancake Supper. In addition to a delicious Pancake Supper, we will be playing Bingo with caller Chris Lambe. There will be awesome prizes! Come join in the fun. All proceeds will go toward this year's trip to the UCC National Youth Event.

February 27 - Trivia/Silent Auction

We are revving up for our fourth annual Trivia/Silent Auction on Saturday, February 27 at 6:30 pm. Get your team together! Jason Cotting will be our trivia master. We will be serving hors d'oeuvres, sandwiches, desserts, and beverages.

There will be great items to bid on!

In fact, we are looking for items/services to bid on!
Questions? Call Dotty Whittier at 781-635-6225 or the church office @ 781-334-3050.

News From Around the Parish

Our love and sympathy are extended to Marjorie Potter and her family upon the recent death of her husband, Ed. A Memorial Service will be held on Saturday, January 16 at 11:00 a.m.

It is with sadness that we report the recent death of former member, Helen Huffaker of Exeter, NH. She and her family were long-time active members of Centre Church when they lived in Lynnfield.

Bits 'n Pieces

Rev. Bailey has available a full 12-volume set of the Interpreter's Bible Commentary in excellent condition for the first person to contact him. It's yours for the taking! (our church library already has a set.)

If you would like to donate flowers for the altar on a Sunday in January or February, please contact Susan in the church office. (office@centre-church.org or 781-334-3050.)

It's easy to set up online giving for the coming year. Just go to the website www.centre-church.org and look for the "Online Giving" button on the bottom-left of the homepage (under "Useful Links.")

We Welcome the Following New Members To Centre Church

Deborah (Shafner) Biggar,
25 Bishops Lane, Lynnfield

Sam and Sarah Crosbie,
35 Stillman Road, Lynnfield

Patricia Hanson,
49 Grant Road, Lynn

Kamden and Sara Mauser,
12 Bishops Lane, Lynnfield

Elmer and Paula Maxwell,
21a Sweetser Street, Wakefield

Leslie and Shannon Rigali,
23 Essex Street, Middleton

Sean Tainsh
86 Bradstreet Avenue, Danvers

Poinsettias

We greatly appreciate the poinsettias that were ordered to decorate the sanctuary for Christmas. Many thanks to Joe Gallo of Plantscape Designs for supplying the beautiful plants. Thank you also to those who donated their plants. We greatly appreciate the willingness of our group of volunteers who delivered them to our shut-ins and those recently bereaved. The church was so alive with the colors and spirit of Christmas! Thank you!

Laurel Caputo and Kathi Martin
for the Flower Committee

Thank You to Our Volunteers

January 10, 2016

Ushers: Gage Whittier, Al Johnson, Karen Harrington, Paul Harrington

Lay Reader: Marina McMahon

Coffee Hour Hosts: The Rigali Family

Lights Out beginning January 8: Dwight Decker

January 17, 2016

Ushers: George Hayden, Marion Orfeo, Phil Fisher, Jeff Law

Lay Reader: Madeleine Law

Lights Out beginning January 15: Scott DeSantis

Our Opportunities

Sun. Jan. 10	10:00 am	Morning Worship - Sanctuary Nursery (up to age 3) Godly Play (age 4 – grade 4) Breakfast Club – Grades 5-12 Youth Epiphany Party - Kitchen
	6:00 pm	
Mon. Jan. 11	7:30 pm	Boy Scout Troop 48 – Todd Hall
	7:30 pm	Alanon/Alateen– Fireside & Libr.
Tues. Jan. 12	7:30 pm	Diaconate – Pastor’s Office
Wed. Jan. 13	7:00 pm	Women’s 12 Step Mtg. – Fireside
Thurs. Jan. 14	7:30 pm	Choir Rehearsal – Choir Room
Fri. Jan. 15	10:30 pm	Bible Study – 2 nd Floor Office
Sun. Jan. 17	10:00 am	Morning Worship - Sanctuary Nursery (up to age 5) Older children & youth in Church
Mon. Jan. 18	-----	Office Closed Martin Luther King Jr. Day
	7:30 pm	Alanon/Alateen– Fireside & Libr.
Wed. Jan. 20	7:00 pm	Women’s 12 Step Mtg. – Fireside
Thurs. Jan. 21	7:30 pm	Choir Rehearsal – Choir Room
Fri. Jan. 22	10:30 pm	Bible Study – 2nd Floor Office
Sun. Jan. 24	10:00 am	Morning Worship - Sanctuary Confirmation Sunday Nursery (up to age 3) Godly Play – (age 4 – grade 4)

Our thoughts and prayers are with George Hayden, David DiFillippo, Dick Evans, Elaine Pyburn, Charlotte Orrall, Annabel Aldrich, Helen Butcher, Marguerite Burns, Marge Cole, Marion Edkins, Bob Hanson, Parker Holloway, Edie Richard, and Bob Shorey

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