

# TOWER NOTES

Centre Congregational Church (United Church of Christ)

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The Rev. Estelle Margarones, Interim Pastor, [RevEstelle@centre-church.org](mailto:RevEstelle@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*

**July 27, 2016**

Dear friends,

I moved into my condo in February, not knowing what the landscape would look like in the spring. It was a joy to realize that I've been blessed with a perpetual garden where I continually have new growth. As one plant matures and goes to seed, another plant blooms. Some are things I've seen before, while others are entirely new to me. Some remain only a short time but offer a spectacular addition while they're present. I take delight in every single one.

I'm spending the day writing from home. Because my kitchen table is my desk for the day, I'm looking out at the garden right now and I'm thinking about the many others in our church that are also working from home today.

How different the workplace is from what it was even 10 years ago! With our laptops, cell phones, cloud storage, and wifi; our offices are wherever we are, 24 hours a day, seven days a week. This is a big change from the days when we went into an office, had a desk phone, and used the typewriter or computer supplied by our employers.

Part of my call to Centre Church as your Interim Pastor is to help discern the changing needs of the congregation. It's apparent that since the last Pastoral Search almost a decade ago, the make-up of the congregation and the environments in which we live and work have changed. Our

ministry teams are working to address the needs of the congregation and community.

You've been hearing team leaders and committee chairs share "Ministry Moments" and I'm hopeful that you've gained insight into the many ways this church makes a difference in the world. I urge you to get involved! Whatever your interest and availability, there is a place for you to share your gifts and talents.

In my garden, I'm grateful that all of the plants didn't come up at once. I'm glad that as one 'retires' for the season, another bud begins to unfurl. I'm happy that not all the flowers in the garden are exactly the same and that I was introduced to new varieties.

You are the flowers that make up the perpetual garden of Centre Church. How will you help this community to continue to blossom? How will you help others grow deeper in faith? How will you commit to helping sow the seeds of love? Please email me at [RevEstelle@Centre-Church.org](mailto:RevEstelle@Centre-Church.org) and let me know!

Blessings,

Rev. Estelle

### **In the Chapel**

July 31, 2016

Morning Worship – 10:00 a.m.  
Sermon by Rev. Estelle Margarones  
Commissioning of Mission Trip Group  
Nursery and Kids Camp

August 7, 2016

Holy Communion – 10:00 a.m.  
Sermon by Rev. Estelle Margarones  
Sacrament of Baptism  
Nursery and Kids Camp

August 14 and 21, 2016

Morning Worship – 10:00 a.m.  
Sermon by Rev. Estelle Margarones  
Nursery and Kids Camp

August 28, 2016

Morning Worship - 10:00 a.m.  
Guest Preacher – Rev. Jamie Howard  
Nursery and Kids Camp

### **Maine Mission Trip: Girl Power!**

On Sunday, July 31, 7 youth and 3 adults (all female) will be heading to Orland, ME to volunteer at Project Home for the week. Please keep us in your prayers, as we spend a week in service and mission.

### **Volunteers needed, Thursday August 18 Mather Elementary School in Dorchester**

In an effort to improve educational opportunities for elementary aged children, City Mission Society in Boston has partnered with Boston Public Schools. Public Education is one of the best ways to prevent homelessness and to lift people out of poverty

On Thursday, August 18 from 10am - 2pm, volunteers of all ages and abilities are needed to help at the Mather Elementary School in Dorchester. This is the oldest tax supported school in the United States. We will spend our volunteer time learning about the school and helping to prepare the school for the next school year. Lunch will be provided. Children ages 6 and up are welcome to attend with a parent.

We have reserved spots for 6-8 volunteers and will plan to meet at the church and carpool into Boston together. Please call or e-mail Barbara Langill in the church office to sign up by Monday August 8 !

### **Summer Childcare**

This summer we will be offering childcare during our Sunday worship service in Room 11 for infants and children 3 and under. Experienced staff and volunteers are on hand to welcome children for story time and play.

Also this summer, we are excited to be offering a Summer Sunday Kids Camp. Each Sunday during worship, children ages 4 and up are invited to join us in the Library for Bible stories, crafts, games and snack. We hope your family will join in the faith filled fun.

### **From the Mailbox**

Dear Council, and all the wonderful people at Centre Church,

Thank you for the delicious Edible Arrangement you sent after my surgery. It was very thoughtful and very much appreciated.

Love and Blessings,  
Rev. Estelle

### **A continuation of our Ministry Moments from various groups in the church.**

#### **Ministry Moment – Bible Study**

We are a group of eight well-read, well-traveled Christians whose commonality is an abiding love of Jesus Christ. We start our sessions by reading scriptures and reflections provided by our wonderful Reverend Estelle. Where the conversation goes from there we never know. It could be politics, science, medicine, education, civil rights or the history of Christianity. The discussions are always enlightening and never boring. We have our disagreements and we have our share of laughs and fun. It's an exchange of ideas and perceptions -looking at problems from many different perspectives and trying to find an answer for that problem.

To me it's the shortest hour of the week. (we meet on Fridays from 10:30 – 11:30 a.m.) I enjoy myself so much I wish it would go on for an hour or two more. When I leave I feel I'm a better, richer person. I'm exhilarated. To anyone who wishes to join us, all I can say is if you need an hour to brighten your life, this is the place to be. I guarantee you won't be sorry you joined us.

Jim Livingstone

## **Membership Ministries**

As you may know, Membership Ministries has several areas of focus. First, Membership welcomes visitors and tries to follow-up to insure people feel welcome when attending.

Hosting coffee hour and providing name tags are also part of our focus. We thank all those who have volunteered to help with these special ways we can connect with each other before and after the service. A special thank you to Kamden Mauser who has been supplying our coffee.

Though our purpose in the church is to worship the Lord together, He also said, "Let us be glad and rejoice" and have fun together, which is the fellowship part of our committee. Some of our events raise money to help support the church and some focus on fellowship, and we have fun working together for a purpose.

Almost everyone here has attended, volunteered or enjoyed one or more of the following events we have organized: Trivia Night/Silent Auction, Night in Bethlehem, various excursions, and of course, feasting on apple pies and lobster rolls.

This time of transition is a time for fresh ideas. It is the perfect opportunity to make your voice heard. We are looking for new members to build our Membership team. Maybe signing on to a committee isn't for you, but taking charge of an activity/project you've wanted to try also works. This is the time. And by the way, would anyone want to provide punch this summer?

Dotty Whittier, Chair, Membership Ministries

## **Finance – Ministry Moment**

Finance Ministries is responsible for 4 main items: Property, Investments, Memorials, and Planned Giving.

**Property:** Finance Ministries oversees the entire church property, including the building, its contents, and the church grounds. It oversees the use of the building and makes suitable rules for its use by the church and outside groups. We are also responsible for all maintenance and repairs of the building. Another responsibility is the Lights Out Program which ensures that the building is secured every evening. New volunteers are always welcome.

**Investments:** Finance Ministry works with the Treasurer, Financial Secretary, and Moderator to

review and maintain the portfolio of all church investments.

**Memorials:** Finance Ministries, is also responsible for the church's memorial funds – donations made in memory of people who have passed away.

**Planned Giving:** We are also responsible for the church's Planned Giving and Endowment Funds. The Planned Giving Program encourages people to include the church in their wills, trusts, charitable gift annuities, life insurance, and other assets. Donations received through Planned Giving are placed in the 1720 Founders' Fund to build up our endowment funds for the church's future needs.

## **Our Current Projects**

**Building Painting:** As you know, we began painting the building in 2015. The Raise the Roof campaign raised more money than was needed to complete the roof project so Parish Council voted to use the excess, along with some very generous donations, to begin painting the church. While most of the building has been painted, there is still more to do. We need to complete painting the area from the parking lot entrance to the chapel entrance and the steeple base.

**Restoration of the Sanctuary Windows:** We also need to complete the painting and restoration of the 9 large Sanctuary windows. Donations to complete this project are much appreciated. We are soliciting donations specifically for the Sanctuary windows – the full cost of each window is \$1,250. If you would like to sponsor a window, please let me know. We plan to install commemorative plaques with donors' names near the sponsored windows.

**Work on the Steeple:** Verizon Wireless has begun working on the installation of their cell tower in our steeple. On early in July, Verizon Wireless' team of steeplejacks removed the steeple – Scott Desantis and our custodian, Tony Ramirez, took some great pictures. The steeple will be gone for about a month. When it returns, it will be fully restored, encased in resin, and it will contain the cell transmitters. Verizon Wireless is constructing an equipment room in the rear corner of Richards Hall. Because Verizon Wireless maintains the 911 service for this area, they need to install a back-up generator in our parking lot, near the storage shed. When the installation is complete, Verizon Wireless customers should enjoy better reception in this part of town. The church will receive monthly rental income from Verizon Wireless - \$2000/month the first year, and increasing slightly every year thereafter.

Chuck Cotting, Chair, Finance Ministries

**Godly Play at Centre Church**

Godly Play, a Montessori-based, faith education program, has been warmly received at Centre Church. Our church school enrollment has grown and we hope to be able to offer two classes in the fall. This means more volunteers are needed on Sunday mornings. We have openings for both Doorkeeper and Storytellers. Education Ministries will be hosting a 3 day CORE Godly Play Training at Centre Church September 9-11. If you are interested in learning more, please contact Barbara Langill in the church office.

We will also be looking to purchase additional Godly Play materials for the second classroom. Godly Play materials are the physical representations of the parable, sacred story or liturgical action. They are used by the storyteller to present the lesson and by the children to wonder about it and to explore with during the response time. Materials are handcrafted products using eco-friendly materials that are safe, durable and child-friendly.

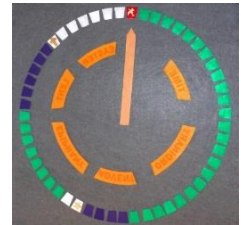
Do you have a favorite Bible Story that you might like to help purchase? See samples of materials and costs below.

Parable of the Good Samaritan \$68.95



The Good Shepherd & Lord's Supper \$135.50

Abram and Sarai \$42.50



How the Church Tells Time: Small Felt Calendar \$51.25

Please call Barbara Langill at the church for information.

**Our Opportunities**

Sun. July 31	10:00 am	<b>Morning Worship – Chapel with Nursery – Room 11, Kids Camp-Library</b>
Wed. Aug. 3	8:30 am	Bread & Roses Group - Kitchen
Thurs. Aug. 4	7:00 am	Golfing with God – Reedy Meadow
Fri. Aug. 5	10:30 am	Bible Study – 2 <sup>nd</sup> Floor Office
<b>Sun. Aug. 7</b>	<b>10:00 am</b>	<b>Holy Communion – Chapel with Sacrament of Baptism</b> Nursery - Room 11, Summer Sunday Kids Camp-Library
Thurs. Aug. 11	7:00 am	Golfing with God – Reedy Meadow
Fri. Aug. 12	10:30 am	Bible Study – 2 <sup>nd</sup> Floor Office
<b>Sun. Aug. 14</b>	<b>10:00 am</b>	<b>Morning Worship – Chapel with Nursery – Room 11, Kids Camp-Library</b>
Thurs. Aug. 18	7:00 am 10am-2pm	Golfing with God – Reedy Meadow Mather School Trip
Fri. Aug. 19	10:30 am	Bible Study – 2nd Floor Office
<b>Sun. Aug. 21</b>	<b>10:00 am</b>	<b>Morning Worship – Chapel with Nursery - Room 11, Kids Camp-Library</b>
Thurs. Aug. 25	7:00 am	Golfing with God – Reedy Meadow
Fri. Aug. 26	10:30 am	Bible Study – 2nd Floor Office
Sun. Aug. 28	10:00 am	<b>Morning Worship – Chapel with Nursery – Room 11, Kids Camp-Library</b>

In addition to our regularly scheduled church activities, Centre Church hosts Boy Scout Troop #48, Cub Pack #48, Girl Scouts, Alanon, Alateen, Women's AA, BKP Book Packing Group, Essex Society of Genealogists and the New England Pastoral Institute Counseling Services. Please feel free to contact the church office if you would like more information about any of these activities. (781-334-3050 or [office@centre-church.org](mailto:office@centre-church.org)).

We hold in prayer the following members and friends: Charlotte Orrall who is having a minor procedure on her leg, Harriet Holt, Bruce Gist, Barkey Gulezian, Bob Hanson, Edie Richard, and Bob Shorey.