

TOWER NOTES

Centre Congregational Church (United Church of Christ)

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The Rev. Estelle Margarones, Interim Pastor, 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

September 21, 2016

Q: "Pete and Repeat were in a boat. Pete fell out. Who's left?" A: "Repeat!". Q: "Pete and Repeat were in a boat. Pete fell out. Who's left?"

Did you ever play this game as a child? It's a silly play on words that keeps you trapped in a cycle of repeating the same words, usually to the mounting frustration of the person giving the answers (and unknowingly inviting the same behavior over and over again). It exemplifies a pattern that keeps us attached to others.

In life, some people (and often the ones closest to us) know just how to push our buttons. They know exactly what to say to get a particular response from us. But the game only works as long as you play along. Once your anticipated response doesn't occur, the game ends. For example: Q: "Pete and Repeat were in a boat. Pete fell out. Who's left?" A: "The other person."

When the response changes, the interaction changes and the game is over. Could it be that easy to stop negative attachment?

If we reflect back in our own lives to times that we've been angry or frustrated, we can often see that those emotions stem from feelings of pain. We've been overlooked or unappreciated or feel as though someone has taken advantage of us. Hurt and anger are two sides of the same coin.

When we're in pain and we let anger build, we're building a connection to our perpetrators and we're giving them control over us, thereby compounding their interest and our

pain. By holding on to that anger or frustration, we are essentially saying "repeat" because we're carrying something from the past into the present. We can choose whether to react from a place of anger or from a place of love.

We can choose to let Love be our guiding star. First John chapter 4, tells us that God is love. Whoever doesn't know love doesn't know God. And when we love one another, God lives in us. We can choose to let God live in us and have God's goodness influence our behavior. We can choose to employ compassion, sympathy, patience, and ultimately forgiveness. And we can rid ourselves of negative attachments, transforming ourselves and others in the process.

Blessings, Rev. Estelle

In the Sanctuary

September 25, 2016

10:00 A.M. Morning Worship

Sermon by Rev. Estelle Margarones

October 2, 2016

10:00 A.M. Holy Communion

Sermon by Rev. Estelle Margarones

October 9, 2016

10:00 A.M. Morning Worship

Sermon by Rev. Estelle Margarones

Sacrament of Baptism

Sunday Mornings with the Children

Godly Play: We are excited to offer Godly Play, which is based on the Montessori Method, as our Christian Education program for children ages 4 years through 2nd grade.



Building Faith Brick by Brick,

3rd-5th Grade: This year we will be offering a special class for children in Grades 3 through 5 using the curriculum, “Building Faith Brick by Brick”, an imaginative way to explore the Bible with children using LEGO® building bricks.



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.

September 25: Godly Play and Brick by Brick classes will be held. The Nursery will be open for those up to age 3.

October 2: All children age 4 – Grade 5 will go to Todd Hall for an activity before returning to the sanctuary to share in Communion with their families. The Nursery will be open.

Tower Notes Newsletter

Beginning with the November newsletter, *Tower Notes* will become a monthly publication year-round, just as it is in the summertime. It will continue to be packed with news of the congregation, church events, ministry team updates, local happenings, pictures, and more. In addition to the newsletter, you’ll still find timely event information in the church bulletin, church announcements, our website, and the church Facebook page.

Building and disseminating Tower Notes is an enormous undertaking and there is redundancy with the other communication methods we employ. If you have any questions, comments, or concerns about *Tower Notes* becoming a monthly publication, please contact Rev. Estelle at 781-334-3050 or RevEstelle@Centre-Church.org.

Shareholders Dinner Thank You

Thanks to everyone who came to the Shareholder’s Dinner on Sunday, Sept 18 to enjoy a delicious dinner and to hear the presentation about this year’s mission trip to Project HOME in Orland, ME. The generous support of the congregation in making the trip possible is very much appreciated.

News From Around the Parish

It is with great sadness that we report to you the death of Margaret Markham on September 9th. Her funeral was held at Centre Church on September 14th.

From the Mailbox: With deep appreciation: the family of Margaret Markham wishes to thank the many people who offered condolences, sent cards and flowers, and attended her wake and funeral. Special thanks to Tony Ramirez for his work; Donna Marino and Marjorie Potter for the lovely collation; and especially Rev. Estelle for her spiritual care and beautiful funeral service.

2016 Annual Golf Tournament at Sagamore Spring Golf Club

Save the date of **Friday, October 7th** for the 13th Annual Centre Church golf tournament. The net proceeds go to our operating budget. This will be a **best ball** tournament with a tee time of **12:00 Noon Sharp** at Sagamore Spring Golf, 1287 Main Street, Lynnfield.

Please plan to arrive by 11:30 AM.

The cost is \$110 per player. This covers the cost of prizes, greens fees, cart and goody bags. Golf ball prizes and the chance to have your winning team’s names engraved on “*The Unholy Grail*” are but a few of the benefits of playing in this tournament.

Players of all skill levels welcomed. **Please invite your friends to play, too and let us know as soon as possible that you can join us!**— Sign up with Chuck Cotting (chuck@thecottings.com) or 781-593-3120) or Bruce Weaver (bruce@newenglandlab.com) - no later than **Friday September 30th!**

Giv² Kick Off

Giv² is a program for middle and high school youth who want to explore their faith through service and fellowship. Our group includes youth from our church, St. Paul's Episcopal, Wakefield/Lynnfield Methodist, and the Catholic Collaborative. We plan to meet once a month to participate in community service such as Boston Area Gleaners, caroling at Sunrise, and learning more about homelessness with an overnight in Boston.

Our kick-off meeting will be held on Sunday, Oct. 2 at 6 pm at the Lynnfield-Wakefield Methodist Church. All middle and high school youth are welcome to attend.

Get-Together Wheel Luncheon

Reminder: All women of the church are welcome to our salad potluck lunch on Tuesday, September 27 at Noon in the Fireside Room.

Donna Marino, 781-581-2022

Ministry Moment: Church Office

There is a lot going on in the church office. If you like the idea of getting to know more about your church while helping out for an hour or so, there are a few things that you may be interested in helping with.....

There is a team of people who help get our *Tower Notes* newsletter ready for the mail. In addition to *Tower Notes*, we have occasional all-church mailings that need to go out, and from time to time I need someone to come in and cover the phone, etc. if I am not able to be in the office.

Years ago, we had someone who clipped local newspaper articles that mentioned any of our members. Maybe you would be interested in taking up that task again.

There are more things that we could use extra help with, including phone calling and delivery scheduling of the altar flowers, help when we update our *People Book* (our Church Directory) etc. etc. If you'd like to know more about any of these projects, please just let me know! Susan Spear, Church Secretary

781-334-3050, office@centre-church.org



Donation of the Month is:

Pasta, Rice and Cereal

*Collected in the Missions Pantry
(closet in Summer Street entryway)*

Candle Fundraiser

It's time for our annual Yankee Candle fundraiser. As you know by now, fundraisers have become an important line item in our operating budget. We've come to rely on these fundraisers to support all of our ministries at Centre Church; **we will earn 40% of all Yankee Candle sales.**

You can pick up a Yankee Candle catalog in the narthex after church or in the church office during the week. When you look through it, you'll see that it contains some wonderful candles, great gift ideas, and a lovely selection of wrapping paper. There is something for everyone....whether you are a candle lover or not. If you have a fireplace or wood stove, you'll want to check out the Kindle Candles. They are a safe and neat way to start a fire – no more messy newspaper! So please pick up your catalog after church and be sure to share it with family and friends. You and your friends can view the catalog and order on line by going to www.yankeecandlefundraising.com and entering our group number: **990016890**. The last day to place an order is Sunday, October 9. We will receive the orders before Thanksgiving. For more information, call Debbie Cotting at 781-593-3120.

Thanks to Our Lights Out Volunteers

Sept. 23-29 – Jeff Langill

Sept. 30-Oct. 6 – Dwight Decker

Oct. 7 – 13 – Roger Batchelder

Ministry Moment – Care Team

Care Team is a dedicated group of individuals who provide comfort and support to parishioners facing difficult times. Illness, bereavement, loss of employment, death of a beloved pet, even loss of a driver's license can cause sadness. There are many ways to show someone you care and are thinking of them. A phone call, a card or visit are just some of the ways that the Care Team reaches out to others. If you enjoy sharing your time to brighten someone else's day, we are looking for you. We meet monthly to discuss how best to assist parishioners in need of support. Our meetings are confidential and our support comes from the heart.

We never know the path our lives will take. I guess that's a good thing. We aren't deprived of the joy of good fortune nor are we burdened with anticipating the struggles. As much as we all wish for a smooth ride, few of us are spared from challenges or bumps along the way. That's the richness of life. I've grown into the person I am today because of the tremendous love and support I received during times of greatest challenge. A small gesture can make a big difference in the life of someone struggling. I believe that is our basic purpose in life, to serve others just as Jesus so selflessly taught us by example.

Please consider joining us.

Thank you. Debby Triffletti

Ministry Moment - Outreach

When you fill out your annual pledge card, you have the opportunity to allot some portion of your pledge to "Missions Outreach". This portion of the church's income is the budget that the Outreach Team is tasked with wisely distributing to charitable organizations each year. We consistently support Our Church's Wider Mission, the charitable arm of the United Church of Christ ministering to those in need around the globe. Then, on a case by case basis, we donate to other local and global charities.

But it's not all about money! We help others in our community and around the world with our time and talents as well as our funds. It's also not all about the Outreach Team, as we support the charitable efforts of many other church teams.

For instance, the supplies for our monthly Bread and Roses meal are funded by your Missions money, but the meal is prepared by a small church team who devote themselves to this hands-on ministry. Our Youth Groups organize many giving opportunities for us, such as the Souper Bowl of Caring, the Heifer Marketplace, the Thanksgiving turkey drive, clothes drives and mission trips. The whole congregation is welcome to drop off redeemable bottles and cans as well as food, in the Missions Pantry. These collections as well as the turkey drive, benefit Haven From Hunger. And of course, every week the goat tube is available in the Narthex. Each time this tube is filled with quarters, our congregation can donate another goat through Heifer International.

Recently, our Team has been looking for hands-on ways to help our local community. In June, a number of us supported The Food Project by working on one of their farms in Lynn. During the upcoming year we plan to serve meals and volunteer hours in other local service. Would YOU like to be involved? The Outreach Team meets about once a month after church. If you have ideas on ways to help people in our own community, please contact me or attend a meeting. Please watch for Outreach Opportunities in Tower Notes and join us for any or ALL of them!

Linda Ladd, Chair of Outreach Ministries

Our Opportunities

Sun. Sept. 25	10:00 am	Morning Worship - Sanctuary Nursery – Room 11 Godly Play – Todd Hall Brick by Brick – Room 22
	11:00 am	Annual Meeting - Sanctuary
Tues. Sept. 27	12:00 pm	Get-Together Wheel Lunch - Fireside
Thurs. Sept. 29	7:30 pm	Choir Rehearsal – Choir Room
Fri. Sept. 30	10:30 am	Bible Study – 2 nd Floor Office
Sun. Oct. 2	10:00 am	Holy Communion - Sanctuary Nursery – Room 11 Children age 4 – gr. 5 – Todd Hall
	6:00 pm	Giv ² - Lynnfield/Wakefield Methodist
Wed. Oct. 5	8:30 am	Bread and Roses - Kitchen
Thurs. Oct. 6	7:30 pm	Choir – Choir Room
Fri. Oct. 7	10:30 am	Bible Study – 2 nd Floor Office
	12:00 pm	Golf Tournament – Sagamore
Sun. Oct. 9	10:00 am	Morning Worship - Sanctuary Nursery (up to age 5) – Room 11
Mon. Oct. 10	-----	Office Closed for Columbus Day
Thurs. Oct. 13	7:30 pm	Choir Rehearsal – Choir Room
Fri. Oct. 14	10:30 am	Bible Study – 2 nd Floor Office

In addition to our 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 Janice Miller Dance Company, 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 or groups. (781-334-3050 or office@centre-church.org)

Church Office Hours are 9-3 Monday – Friday.

The next *Tower Notes* will be the week of October 3.
