

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

March 2017

Dear friends,

The Book of Ecclesiastes says there is a time and a season for everything. We hear about sets of opposites: birth and death, weeping and laughter, speaking and silence, planting and uprooting. I want to stay with the gardening metaphor for a moment. I will soon uproot myself, my home and my things to go be transplanted elsewhere. If you've ever planted bulbs, you know that, deep underground, they expand over the season. If you uproot them to replant them in another place, you'll *see* that they've grown. Please trust that you've enriched me over our time together and that I have grown tremendously as a result.

It hardly seems possible that this is my last message to you through the *Tower Notes* newsletter! Can it be that almost fourteen months have passed since my first article? There is a time for coming and going and it is now my time to depart from you, beloved.

When Reverend Bailey left in early 2016, you wondered what would happen next. And, in my estimation, you kept your hearts and your minds open to possibility. Together we planted and watered seeds of new events and ministries here at Centre Church. I'm sure it wasn't always easy, especially at the very beginning. But look what we've accomplished! You rolled up your sleeves to get to work...and to embrace me, and for that, I will always be grateful.

I hope that I have inspired you in some way, shape, or form. I know that you have inspired me! As I told our youth in a recent worship service, even when I move away, I'll carry you in my heart.

I pray that you stay open and excited about the work the Holy Spirit is doing among you. I wish you a wonderful time with Rev. Jamie Howard and beyond that with your next settled pastor.

My last Sunday with you will be March 12th.

With gratitude and blessings,

Rev. Estelle

Everything Has Its Time

There is a time for everything, and a season for every activity under the heavens:

- ² a time to be born and a time to die,
a time to plant and a time to uproot,
- ³ a time to kill and a time to heal,
a time to tear down and a time to build,
- ⁴ a time to weep and a time to laugh,
a time to mourn and a time to dance,
- ⁵ a time to scatter stones and a time
to gather them,
a time to embrace and a time to
refrain from embracing,
- ⁶ a time to search and a time to give up,
a time to keep and a time to throw away,
- ⁷ a time to tear and a time to mend,
a time to be silent and a time to speak,
- ⁸ a time to love and a time to hate,
a time for war and a time for peace.

Rev. Estelle Margarones
Interim Pastor

From Rev. Jamie R. Howard

To the congregation gathered as Centre Congregational Church in Lynnfield, United Church of Christ, grace and peace:

Well, that's similar to how the apostle Paul opened a letter...

I am very glad to return for a short while, to serve as Bridge Interim Minister with this congregation. When I filled the pulpit for Rev. Estelle on January 22 it felt like a mini-homecoming. You greeted me so warmly; I talked with folks I had come to know during the summer of 2014 when I filled in while Rev. Bailey was on Sabbatical and met several people for the first time as well.

You are indeed on a bridge, moving toward a new relationship as you search for a settled pastor. Bridges provide some interesting views. Sometimes when you enter a bridge you cannot quite see the other end. It is a step of faith. As you proceed, first carefully watching your steps, you gradually begin to look over the sides. The terrain below is new, sometimes lovely, sometimes a little daunting. If there is peaceful water in spots, you may pause to ponder your reflection. If the water reveals rapids, you may freeze for a moment, wondering what's next.

If you are traveling with trusted companions, you may then find comfort in a reassuring hand or uplift in a good-humored voice. Some who have traveled bridges before may give their encouragement. You may find renewed courage as you yourself seek to support others. And as you attend to the crossing of the bridge, you begin more clearly to see your goal and readily to anticipate the new adventures that will unfold.

I am honored to share this bridge with you.

Yours in Christ,
Rev. Jamie R. Howard

Brief Meeting of the Congregation
Sunday, February 26 Following Worship

At this meeting, the Search Team will share information about our Local Church Profile/Job Listing for the Settled Pastor position at Centre Church.



Ministry Teams Celebration

You're invited to our all-church potluck supper on **Saturday, March 4th at 4:00 PM.** Bring your favorite dish and enjoy some heavenly food and fellowship. Drivers are available to anyone who would like a ride. Looking forward to seeing everyone. Call the church office to let us know you can attend.

Heifer Muffins

Each Sunday during Lent, we will be selling muffins after worship to help raise funds for Heifer International. On Sunday, March 5, the church school children (PreK-8th grade) will be doing the baking. Please plan to go directly to the kitchen at 10 am.

On Sunday, March 19, the High School Youth Group will be baking. Please plan to report to the kitchen at 10 am to begin baking.

Sunday Morning with the Children

Nursery

Our Nursery is open each week for infants through age 3. Experienced staff and volunteers are on hand to welcome children for story time and play. Paggers are available for all parents.

Education Ministry is excited to report that our new Nursery, which will be sharing space with the Library, is reaching completion. This will be a safe, welcoming area for infants, toddlers, and children 3 and under. We hope to have everything in place by Sunday, March 5 for a grand opening. Many thanks to Michael DiGiorgio and Scott DeSantis for their hours of hard work.

Children PreK – 8th Grade

Sunday, March 5

Children in preschool though 8th grade should plan to meet in the kitchen at 10am to help bake muffins to sell after worship to raise funds for Heifer International.

Sundays, March 12, March 19 and March 26

Children in grades PreK-5th will begin in worship with their families. After children's time, grades PreK-3rd will head downstairs to Godly Play and 4th-5th graders will head upstairs for Brick by Brick.

Opportunities for Sunday Mornings

You can spread joy to the whole congregation in just one hour by lending a hand after the service. We are looking for people who would like to help out with Coffee and Fellowship. You need not be a member of the church to lend a hand. If interested, just ask for an information sheet with the details to be sent to you. You can sign up directly at:

<http://www.signupgenius.com/go/30e0f4da5ad29a2fc1-coffee1>, or talk to John Sievers after the service about signing up.

For those who are interested in donating Altar Flowers, March 19 is available. Please email Margaret Waugh at mcwaugh@aol.com or phone her at 781-334-4031. We will post available dates each month in the Sunday bulletin and in *Tower Notes*.

News From Around the Parish

Our love and sympathy are with the family and friends of Helen Butcher who died on February 3. A Memorial Service will be held at a later date. Memorial gifts may be made to Centre Church in Helen's name.

We offer our support and prayers to Linda Ladd and her family upon the death of her mother, Elaine Levis on February 14. A Celebration of Life service was held on February 18 in Belmont.

Dear Church Family,

Thank you for all your calls, cards, dinners, flowers, and expressions of concern during my illness. We have felt very lifted up and surrounded in His love. In addition, am beginning to feel better as the treatments take effect. Blessings to you all,

Dotty and Gage Whittier



Saturday Night – March 11

Painting Project Update

We are nearing the half-way point toward the \$60,000 we need to complete the painting of the church. So far, we have raised over \$28,000! Thank you to the many folks who have already given to support this effort. If you haven't had a chance to donate, please do so soon. We would like to complete the painting project in the spring.

People Books Now Available

Our updated church directories (People Books) are here. Special thanks to photographers Steven Richard and Kathi Martin and to the Membership Team, and Susan Spear and Marcia Stevens for help assembling it. If anyone can't make it to church and would like one, they may be in touch with the church office.

Go and Do the Same

Our stewardship theme this year, "Go and do the same" is a call to discipleship so that our faith may be recognized by our actions toward others. The stewardship campaign runs from March 5 to March 26. During that time, let's think about all the good work we do at Centre Church – all the ways we "Go and do the same." Your pledge dollars support everything that happens at Centre Church!

As you contemplate your giving for the next fiscal year which begins on July 1, please remember that Centre Church matters, not only to us but also to the local, national, and international communities. Our work reaches far beyond the walls of the church. Can we do more to support the work of the church? If the answer is yes, then let's try to increase our pledging. If we do that, we could avoid deficits and, when the time comes, welcome our newly settled pastor with a fully-funded budget.

Stewardship packets can be picked up at church on March 5. Packets that are not picked up will be mailed. Included in the packet is a pledge card which we ask you to complete and return by March 26. Returning our pledges promptly is vital to having the financial data needed to develop the budget for the next fiscal year. Thank you for your generous support of Centre Church.

Debbie Cotting, Stewardship

Our Outreach Activities

Bring your redeemable bottles and cans and nonperishable food to the Missions Pantry to be taken to Haven from Hunger in Peabody.

Giv2 City Reach

Thank you to everyone who donated socks, underwear and other items for City Reach. Fifteen youth and 4 adults from Lynnfield/Wakefield churches took part in this Giv2” ecumenical youth group event. We first met at Our Lady of the Assumption church for dinner together and to sort donations from all the different churches. We then went by school bus to St. Paul’s Cathedral in Boston where we spent 24 hours learning about homelessness from City Reach staff who are, or have been homeless. They told us their own stories, and then walked us around Boston in small groups.

There were more than 50 youth and mentors from across the state attending this event. We slept on the church floor and on Saturday morning, unpacked the donated items to display. People coming to City Reach for supplies were allotted one of each article and then, thanks to the volume of donated items, were allowed a second pass as well. We also donated 6 completed sleeping mats that were made from recycled plastic bags. Thank you to everyone who helped by bringing in their bags, cutting the bags into strips, rolling the strips into “Plarn” and crocheting the mats.

Donations from our Missions Pantry

Last month I delivered a huge bag of toiletries to Washington Street Baptist Church in Lynn. On Martin Luther King Day the city was holding a day of volunteering in honor of him. They were making up small kits for each guest that they have at the Lynn Shelter and My Brother's Table. They wanted to make a thousand of them and I know that our toiletries helped very much. They were very grateful to receive all of them.

I also filled up a huge bag of reading glasses that I donated to the Lions group from our church. They will help so many people. Thank you very much for these gifts for others. Blessings, Donna Marino

Souper Bowl of Caring

Thank you for your generous contributions to the Souper Bowl of Caring which was held on Feb. 5. We were able to collect \$166.00 which has been forwarded to Haven from Hunger in Peabody.

2017 Trivia Night and Silent Auction

Thank you very much for your generous donations of food, prizes, and items for the Silent Auction. We had a very successful evening with about 125 people enjoying Trivia and bidding on the Silent Auction Items. Centre Church would not have had such a terrific fundraiser without such a wonderful congregation!

- With Gratitude, Chuck Cotting

We also want to thank the Business Donors shown below.

Please visit these donors and show your appreciation.

Bertucci’s Reading

Christine’s Café and Confections - Lynnfield

Countryside Deli & Pizza – Lynnfield

Davio’s Northern Italian Restaurant – Lynnfield

DeSantis Painting - Lynnfield

Elizabeth Grady – multiple locations near you!

Finz Seafood & Grill - Pickering Wharf, Salem

Gregory’s Flower Shop and Garden Center - Wakefield

Les Zygomates Bistro and Wine Bar - Boston

Middleton Golf Course

Osteria Nino Restaurant – Burlington

Parker Florist - Wakefield

Peabody-Essex Museum – Salem

Play Yoga at The Mansion – Peabody

Polka Dog Bakery –Lynnfield

Sagamore Springs Golf Club - Lynnfield

Salem Country Club – Peabody

Spalenza – Beauty● Family● Wellness – Peabody

Stoneham Theatre - Stoneham

The Farmland – Wakefield

The Gingerbread Construction Company - Wakefield

The Happy Sunflower –Pickering Wharf, Salem

TJ Maxx, Marshalls, HomeGoods – Everywhere near Lynnfield

Town of Lynnfield Golf – King Rail or Reedy Meadow

Trenoi Salon, Wakefield

Centre Church Fundraiser! Monday March 13, 2017 – All Day!



READING

48 Walkers Brook Dr. | (781) 944-8454

*Anthony's Coal Fired Pizza, 48 Walkers Brook Drive, Reading will donate 20% of all food and beverages eaten in or taken out on Monday March 13, 2017 – All Day!
Join us at Anthony's and tell all of your friends!*

Our Opportunities

Wed. Mar. 1	8:30 am	Bread & Roses – Kitchen
Thurs. Mar. 2	7:30 pm	Choir Rehearsal – Choir Room
Fri. Mar. 3	10:30 am	Bible Study – 2 nd Floor Office
Sat. Mar. 4	4-6 pm	All-Church Potluck Supper - RH
Sun. Mar. 5	10:00 am	Holy Communion - Sanctuary Nursery (up to age 3) PreK-8 th Gr – Bake Heifer Muffins
	11:15 am	Deacons Meeting – Pastor's Office
	6:00 pm	Youth Group Pancake Night
Thurs. Mar. 9	7:30 pm	Choir Rehearsal – Choir Room
Fri. Mar. 10	10:30 am	Bible Study – 2 nd Floor Office
Sun. Mar. 12  <i>Spring Forward</i>	10:00 am	Morning Worship - Sanctuary <i>Rev. Estelle's Last Sunday With Us</i> Nursery & Faith Formation
	6:00 pm	Youth Group – Basement
Mon. Mar. 13	All Day	Anthony's Coal Fired Pizza Fundraiser
Tues. Mar. 14	4:00 pm	Care Team – Pastor's Office
Thurs. Mar. 16	7:30 pm	Choir Rehearsal – Choir Room
Fri. Mar. 17	10:30 am	Bible Study – 2 nd Floor Office
Sun. Mar. 19	10:00 am	Morning Worship - Sanctuary Nursery & Faith Formation
	6:00 pm	Youth Group - Basement
Fri. Mar. 24	10:30 am	Bible Study – 2 nd Floor Office
Sun. Mar. 26	10:00 am	Morning Worship – Sanctuary Nursery & Faith Formation

Our thoughts and prayers are with Carol MacKendrick and Gary Muise both recuperating from knee surgery; Charlotte Orrall for healing from radiation treatments on her leg and a respiratory infection; Roger Lauzon as he continues to have tests; and with Barbara Becker's grandson, Michael Bruce who is serving in Iraq.

Church Office Hours are 9-3 Monday – Friday
The next *Tower Notes* will be the week of April 1.

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, 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.