

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

Jill Couillard & Barbara Langill, Co-Directors of Christian Ed & Youth, ChristianEd@Centre-Church.org

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Sally MacDonald, Director of Tower Day School

Susan Spear, Secretary

We Welcome Everyone: An "Open and Affirming" Church

July 29, 2009

Transitions Signs of Grace

This past week has been full of grief as well as full of grace.

The deaths of Donna Hansen Bailey, my former wife, Phyllis Elizabeth Bosworth, fifty year parishioner at Centre Church and John Peter "Pete" Orrall parishioner, left many of us wondering when the grief would end. As a pastor, it takes a toll when one parishioner dies. When someone from a person's life dies, even when that relationship ends in divorce, there is still a burden of grief to bear. In my case, that relationship in marriage lasted over 33 years and took place in the prime of our lives.

How do we (and how do I) find our way through it?

First, we trust God, the giver of life, to be with us. Those with a deep and abiding faith are able to move through the time and process of grief more easily and find their way to acceptance. That said, there is no specific amount of time for the grieving process. Each person finds their way through it in their own time.

It was a great comfort to all of us that each of these three people we grieved and continue to grieve, Donna, Phyllis, and Pete, all had a deep faith in God. Each displayed their faith in a variety of ways. Each shared that faith with family, friends, and strangers. Each not only talked about it, but lived it in their relationships. Were they perfect people? No. They were vulnerable, fallible human beings. They understood that despite our flaws, God calls us to be disciples, anyhow, extending to us the grace of forgiveness.

The second way we that we find our way through grief is to trust the people of God to walk with us, to not leave us alone. I have been a witness, on many an occasion, to the blessing of having a community of faith that cares for the grieving family and friends, in times of death and sorrow. People from the grieving family's network of friends provide support through phone calls, gifts of food, prayer, and continued interaction. When people from that network have had a long-standing relationship of trust and love with the grieving person(s), continue that relationship, it assures the grieving that they

have not lost all of those who care for them. Life goes on, and so do those who love us remain faith-filled and faithful.

Someone was heard to ask "I don't know how to support you." I responded, "Yes you do. Just be the same, loving, caring, and supportive family that you have always been. Don't change a thing. I have seen you do it before."

In my case, this past week, I have been surrounded and blessed by a loving and caring community here at Centre Church, many of whom attended Donna's Memorial Service. The fact that you didn't know Donna and still attended made it perfectly clear that you were there for me. And, many of you supported me in kind words and special notes. Further, my former parish, First Congregational Church in Billerica, was also a blessing to me and my family. The people and the pastor, Rev. Katherine Adams, knew how to speak, pray, and act to lend their support. We are not left to be alone in the burden of grief. Trusted people with whom we have long-standing relationships, people with whom we have walked in the past, came forward to walk, now, with us.

Even those with whom I no longer serve, were there to remind me that I am still in their hearts, minds, love and prayers. They remembered me and my family, and I am grateful. *(continued on page 2)*

In the Chapel – 9:00 A.M.

August 2

Sermon by the Rev. Dr. Dennis C. Bailey
Guest Musician – Noel Smith

August 9

Sermon by E. Seavey Bowdoin

August 16

Service Prepared by the Mission Trip Group

August 23

Sermon by Dr. Philip Triffletti

August 30

Sermon by the Rev. Dr. Dennis C. Bailey

Many of these people have walked through grief themselves. They are especially valuable because given that I know they have walked through grief themselves, that they have been there, they know the pain that my family and I feel.

The Memorial Services are also very important. The way that the Memorial/Funeral Services are crafted and conducted can be very helpful to the grieving people. When the service gives way to remembering the special and loving qualities of the deceased, allowing us not only to grieve, but to celebrate and give thanks, it can give us a great deal of satisfaction. This is especially so when we can also reflect, spiritually, on how God was present in the person's life.

We celebrate the Gospel of Jesus Christ, which tells us that God turns our endings into new beginnings. It tells us that death is not the end of the believer's journey. We have been promised a new chapter, a new life, in Christ, in God's heavenly care. The resurrection also means that those of us left behind will also have new life here, through trusting God to show us the way and through the network of friends who will continue to love us.

Those of us who grieve with faith in God and with faithful friends and family to help us through, find that the grace of God is real, is active, is very much alive. Personally, I have been left to feel safe by those who continue to "look out for me," friends from my past of many years, and friends of my present. I know that when I do accept your help, ask for your help, you will be there just as God is always there for me and you, also.

Our journeys are secure through the love, life, death and resurrection of our Lord, Jesus Christ, with a lot of help from his band of disciples, many of whom I am pleased to know.

God bless us all as we walk together. Thanks to God and to you, I am secure in God's love.

Yours in Christ, Dennis

Work Day at Church

Your church really needs your help on Saturday August 8th. We will be having a property clean-up day which will involve cleaning of the garden beds, some trimming, sweeping and general pick-up. We will also be renting a dumpster so that we can clean out a few rooms in the basement in preparation for the T-Mobile construction work and heating system overhaul. In order to get all of this done I need to have at least 30 volunteers. I know it is summer and it is hard to commit to this kind of manual labor. But, we want our property to always look its best. Please plan on spending part of the morning with us at Centre Church starting at 8 AM Saturday August 8th.

For questions please contact Phil Johnson at 781-598-5678 or pcjohnson@meei.harvard.edu.

Mission Trip

Nineteen youth and five adults will be traveling to New Orleans on Sunday, Aug 2 for a week long mission trip. Please keep them in your thoughts and prayers.

Chaperones: Jeff & Barbara Langill, Mary McCarthy, Gage Whittier & Bob Miller.

Tim Alteri
Rhett Batchelder
Ross Batchelder
Brittany DeSantis
David Ernest
Lisa Gerbick
Julia Goldstein
Dan Johnson
Stephen Lambe
James Langill
Johnathan McCarthy
Kerry Morrissey
Matthew O'Brien
Allie Parker
John Potter Furey
Roger Potter Furey
Wil Russell
Chris Scott
Samantha White

Note to Mission Trip Participants

Please plan to meet in the church parking lot on Sunday, Aug 2 at 6:15 a.m. to leave for the Mission Trip. The bus will be leaving at 6:30 a.m. sharp, so please be prompt! You are allowed one suitcase (a soft sided duffle bag is best) and your carry on items, such as a back pack, purse, etc. You may bring your sleeping bag as a carry on, as long as your other item fits under the seat.

Rotation Sensation Leaders and Shepherds

A Leader and Shepherd meeting is scheduled for Tuesday, August 25th at 7 p.m. This meeting will be for all the volunteers for the 2009-2010 Rotation Sensation season. We will be going over the workshops planned for the year and setting up schedules. Please bring your calendars.

We are still looking for a few more volunteers to help out. We are in need of one more volunteer for the cooking rotation and also the movie room. We also are in need of one more shepherd for the PreK-1st Grade Class and also the 2nd-4th Grade Class. If you are able to volunteer your time and enthusiasm to the children of the church, please call the church office.

<p>The next <i>Tower Notes</i> will be the week of August 24. The Church Office is open 9-12:00 during the summer.</p>

Holiday Festival Planned

SAVE THE DATE!

November 14th will be our Holiday Festival here at Centre Church (the revised Holiday Fair). There will be many ways for you to participate in the fun. We are looking for people to help plan and/or be in charge of the following:

- Food
- White Elephant
- Crafter's Table
- Bake Sale
- Plant Sale
- Jewelry Table
- Book Sale
- Gift Baskets
- Children's Room (crafts, face painting, games as well as a nursery room)

We will be looking for donations for the various parts listed above, so please start saving your items! We will also be renting space to crafters for \$25 a table, if you or someone you know is interested in renting a table, please have them contact us.

If you would like to help in the planning of it, please contact any member of the Planning Committee: Donna Marino 781-581-2022, Kathy Martin 781-245-2409, Nancy Miller 978-536-4488 or Carrie Pericola 781-231-0954.

Annual Golf Tournament

Save the date of Friday, September 25 for the 7th Annual Centre Church golf tournament. The net proceeds go to support our Missions Ministries program. This will be a best ball tournament with a tee time of 1 PM at Thomson Country Club in North Reading. The cost is \$125 per player and that includes a cookout following the tournament at the Johnson's. 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. Sign up with Phil Johnson (pcjohnson@meei.harvard.edu or 781-598-5678) no later than Monday September 21st. Checks should be made payable to Centre Congregational Church.

Special Needs Yard Sale

The 22nd annual Yard Sale to raise funds for special needs activities for young adults will be held on the Lynnfield Common on Saturday, August 22. Items are still welcome and be sure to come rain or shine, for some great bargains!!
Fran Soderberg 781-334-3437

From the Mailbox

We wish to thank everyone for the cards, inquiries and prayers concerning Carl's surgery and recovery. We especially appreciate Rev. Bailey's many visits to the hospital and to our home. Again, many thanks for all of your thoughtfulness. Sincerely, Olive and Carl Wood

Thank you to all my friends at Centre Church for the outpouring of prayers, cards, phone calls, visits and food during my recent accident, surgery and rehabilitation. The visits by Dennis were especially appreciated and enjoyed. It is real rewarding to be a member of a Church with such great members. - Gini Laing

News From Around the Parish

Our best wishes to Dan Johnson (son of Phil and Sue Johnson) and Kerilyn Fields upon their marriage on July 11 in Lake George, NY. Dan and Kerilyn will make their home in Manhattan.

We rejoice with Jared and Shana (Cintolo) Petit upon the birth of Clara Ann Petit on July 13. The Petit family lives in Enfield, CT.

We extend our love and sympathy to the family and friends of former member, Mary Derderian Brown upon her death on June 23 in Tinton Falls, NJ.

We extend our love and prayers to Joanne Paul and her family upon the sudden death of her brother, John Paul on July 10 in Valparaiso, Indiana.

Our love and prayers are with Rev. Dr. Dennis C. Bailey and his family upon the death of his ex-wife, Donna Hansen Bailey. A Memorial Service was held in Billerica on July 23.

Our love and prayers are with the family and friends of Phyllis Bosworth who died on July 15 in Kennebunk, ME. A Memorial Service was held at Centre Church on July 24.

We extend our love and sympathy to the family and friends of Peter Orrall who died on July 18. A Memorial Service was held at Centre Church on July 25.

We extend our love and prayers to Nancy Miller whose uncle died last week.

Our love and prayers are with Barbara Langill whose uncle, Loren Densmore of Chicopee, MA died.

Our love and prayers are with Jane Vancor and her family upon the death of her cousin, Laurie Meisner.

Our Opportunities

<i>Sun. Aug. 2</i>	<i>9:00 am</i>	<i>Holy Communion– Chapel</i>
Aug 2 – Aug 7		Mission Trip to New Orleans
Wed., Aug. 5	8:30 am	Bread & Roses Meal Preparation
Fri., Aug. 7	10:30 am	Scripture Study – Pastor’s Office
Sat., Aug. 8	8am-noon	Clean-Up Day
<i>Sun., Aug. 9</i>	<i>9:00 am</i>	<i>Morning Worship - Chapel</i>
Thurs., Aug 13	6:00 am	Golf Group – Reedy Meadow
Fri., Aug. 14	10:30 am	Scripture Study – Pastor’s Office
<i>Sun., Aug. 16</i>	<i>9:00 am</i>	<i>Morning Worship – Chapel</i>
Fri., Aug. 21	10:30 am	Scripture Study – Pastor’s Office
<i>Sun., Aug. 23</i>	<i>9:00 am</i>	<i>Morning Worship – Chapel</i>
Tues., Aug. 25	7:00 pm	Leaders & Shepherds Meeting-FR
Thurs., Aug. 27	6:00 am	Golf Group – Reedy Meadow
Fri., Aug. 28	10:30 am	Scripture Study – Pastor’s Office
<i>Sun., Aug. 30</i>	<i>9:00 am</i> <i>4-6:30pm</i>	<i>Morning Worship – Chapel</i> <i>Lobster Fest/Cook Out</i>

Thank You To Our Volunteers

August 2: Ushers: Karen and Paul Harrington. Lights Out beginning July 31: Phil Johnson

August 9: Head Usher: Michelle Hagerty. Flowers: Dorsey Holappa. Punch: Michelle Hagerty. Lights Out beginning August 7: Dave Clough.

August 16: Punch: Edie and Earl Richard. Lights Out beginning August 14: George Laing

August 23: Head Usher: Linda Ladd. Lights Out beginning August 21: Roger Batchelder.

August 30: Head Usher: Carrie Pericola. Lights Out beginning August 28: Jeff Langill.

Our love and prayers are with Priscilla Hahn expected home soon; Arnold Carlson (Marcia Imbrescia’s father); Helen Fitts (Barbara Nickerson’s mother); Louise Allen at Beaumont Nursing Home, Westborough, MA; Muriel Badger at Nashoba Valley Life Care Center, Littleton; Marion Barnes, Harborside: Cedar Glen, Danvers; Gladys Davis, Haven Health Care, Derry NH; Carolyn Furey, Overlook Masonic Health Ctr., Charlton, MA; Hal Holappa, Veterans’ Hospital, 200 Spring Rd., 01730; Helen Miller, at the Meadows, Edgewood; June Rose, 37 Spring St., Lunenburg, MA 01462.

Our prayers are with George Robinson, III serving in Iraq.

End of Summer Lobster Fest and Cook Out

At

Centre Congregational Church

Sunday August 30, 2009

From: 4:00 PM to 6:30 PM

Rain or Shine!

Grilled dinner: \$15 per person, market price for lobster!

At today's lobster prices, we estimate the cost of the lobster dinner would be \$25.

* Lobster cost will be at Market Price

Planned Bill of Fare:

- **Steamed Lobsters [Special Order, Additional Cost*]**
- **Burgers**
- **Hot Dogs**
- **Corn on the cob**
- **Salads**
- **Chips**
- **Beverages**
- **Desserts [Please bring your best to share!]**

Please sign up so that we have enough food for all who want to come.

Please contact Susan Spear at the Church Office 781-334-3050
or Chuck Cotting [charles.cotting@us.ngrid.com] or 781-593-3120.

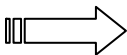
Thanks to all of you who bring desserts!!!!

End of Summer Lobster Fest and Cook Out

Name _____

Grilled Food Dinner [\$15] How Many? _____

Lobster Dinner [\$25 estimate] How Many? _____



We would like the order forms by Friday August 21st @ Noon with a check to Centre Congregational Church – Thank you!
