

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

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

Douglas W. Hodgkins, Organist/Choir Director

Sally MacDonald, Director of Tower Day School

Susan Spear, Secretary

We Welcome Everyone: An "Open and Affirming" Church

January 27, 2010

Traveling Home

I traveled "home" this past week. Well, it's not my home anymore, but it's a figure of speech. I traveled to visit my mother, brother, sister-in-law, and one of my nephews and his family.

Given that I have lived in Massachusetts since 1971, this is my home. Obviously, it's the place where I want to live and be. It is the place that makes me feel safe.

That said, where I grew up and the people with whom I grew up are the places and people who gave me life, taught me my basic lessons of life and yes, faith. They are still near and dear to my heart, mind, body, and soul.

My true home, though, is in the heart of God. I have tried to follow God's direction when making decisions and choices with regard to where I live and work. These choices have not always been pleasing to those who love me. Of course, my family would like me to live closer than I do. And yet, our parents' greatest wish is for us to be fulfilled in life, whether that means living nearby or far away. The faith that my parents gave to me, the faith that the church I grew up in nurtured in me, has stood the test. I do not live out that faith as some would wish, but, in my walk with God I live it as I feel God is calling me to live it.

Scripture records stories of how the people of faith move about as per the guidance and direction of God's Spirit. Some stay close to home while others travel to places previously unknown to them for service to God's call.

Why did God call me to travel away from home? I can tell you that my travels in the work of God have been very rewarding for me. I have experienced a lot of growth in my travels and met some wonderful companions in the journey of faith. Yes, my work in the church has been very rewarding even while, at times, very challenging. I

accept the challenges as opportunities for me to grow, to see things differently, and to realize how the challenges have often brought to me greater wisdom as well as greater respect for others.

I think it is very important for us to give thought to where we live because it makes a big difference in the quality of our lives. I'm not talking about monetary rewards, although having a good job that provides security for us and our family is very important. Stability is important to the growth and well-being of children and adults.

I always felt well-cared for by my parents, even though I now realize that we were not well off financially. The farming life, though, provided well for our needs. We grew a lot of what we ate.

In the Sanctuary

Sunday, January 31, 2010

Jeremiah 1:4-10 Luke 4:21-30

10:00 A.M. Morning Worship

Sermon by the Rev. Dr. Dennis C. Bailey

"How Not to Start Out Your Career"

Children's Message: "The Holy Spirit"

Children may worship with their families before going to Rotation Workshops.

The Nursery will be open in Room 14

Sunday, February 7, 2010

Isaiah 6:1-13

10:00 A.M. Holy Communion

Sermon by the Rev. Dr. Dennis C. Bailey

"Scripture and Our Response"

Children's Message: "Welcome Lent"

by Jill Couillard and Barbara Langill

Children may worship with their families for the entire service. Nursery will be open in Room 14.

I lived in a violence-free environment. Actions and words were peaceful and loving. I knew that I was safe in my home, church, and community. Most everyone I was with knew my name.

This gift of a loving home and family, as well as a community that mirrored the same, gives me now more courage to follow the call of God even when it's difficult. I know that there will always be a place where I can find security, love, and safety, should I need it. And, I do need it. You need it. Everyone needs it.

Yes, God is that place, but, we also need people who will and do act as God's heart and soul around us. I know that my mother will always accept me just the way I am. My brother says to me when I visit, "You can stay as long as you want." I have some other friends who say the same to me. It is my hope that I never need to take them up on that offer, and yet, knowing it is there adds to my spiritual confidence. Truth is, though, at least one time in my recent past I did need to accept that offer from one of my close friends. That was a heavenly gift!

While I was away this past week one of my neighbors cleared my driveway without being asked! Home is where a path has been prepared for me.

God is preparing a place for us now for whatever comes next, be it in this life and/or the next.

While I have only ever lived in Maryland and Massachusetts, I had an opportunity to travel across the country on a bicycle and receive hospitality in many homes. On that trip I found many kindred spirits of faith and service, people who, like you and me, are trying to faithfully serve the Lord, Jesus Christ.

I am thankful for the people of God who care for my mother. I am thankful for a place to lay my head when I travel to visit her. I am thankful for the great medical care that my mother receives. I am thankful to still be able to visit her, talk with her, and to see her.

I am thankful for my extended family.

I am thankful for those of you who read this who are part of what I call my home now. Hearing welcoming words, seeing welcoming faces, and having a welcoming place to serve through my work is such a great blessing!

I give thanks to God that I continue to find Home. May it also be with you.

In Christ's Service, Dennis

Sunday Morning With the Children

Nursery Care: Nursery Care is provided each week in Room 14 for infants and toddlers through age 3. Join our Nursery staff for stories and fun each week. Pagers are available for all parents.

Rotation Sensation: On January 31 we will continue our workshops on the Prodigal Son. PreK-8th Grade children and youth are invited to join us in the chapel following a brief worship time with families in the sanctuary. On Sunday, February 7, all are invited to stay in the sanctuary and worship as a family throughout the service.

Youth Group News

January 31

Middle School and High School: Sunday, January 31 we will meet in the church parking lot promptly at 4:45 to travel together to Nashoba Valley for a fun night of snow tubing. Return time will be 9:00 p.m. Hot chocolate and brownies will be provided. Bring extra money if you want something from the snack bar.

February 7

Middle School: Sunday, Feb. 7 you are asked to meet Jill Couillard in the narthex at 9:40 a.m. for the Souper Bowl of Caring. We will be collecting \$1.00 from each parishioner as a way to raise money for local soup kitchens. Many churches across the nation will be participating in this event. There will be no regular youth group meeting on this night.

High School: On Sunday, Feb. 7, we will sell subs and salads after worship to raise money for this year's mission trip. High School youth are asked to meet in the kitchen at 9:30 a.m. to start putting together the orders. Please call or e-mail Mrs. Langill and let her know that you plan to attend.

ZIP LINE ADVENTURE – DATE CHANGE:

The new date is **Saturday, May 15**. The cost is \$85.00. Anyone wishing to go must fill out paperwork and return payment to the church office on or **BEFORE** Sunday, January 31. If you need new paperwork, it is available on the church web site and also on the bulletin board outside of the library.

Mission Trip Update

We are currently working on plans to head to New Orleans the last week in July. Information will be sent home shortly when we have more information on the flights, accommodations, etc.

Deacons' Pancake Breakfast

Sunday, January 31

Back by popular demand – made-to-order pancakes for YOU! Mark your calendars for another morning get together meal to benefit the repair and maintenance of our church organ. What better way to start your Sunday than eggs, bacon, coffee, juice, fruit and...made-to-order pancakes!?! The Diaconate will be cooking this up for you starting at 8 a.m. and serving until 9:15 a.m. Food will be found in the downstairs kitchen, and dining tables in Richards Hall. All are welcomed! Suggested donation is: \$10/person, \$25/family. Pancake plans are: plain, blueberry, banana, chocolate chip and buckwheat! If you have other favorites, please let us know. (Deacons wear red name tags). We're looking forward to seeing you there.

--Your Faithful Diaconate

Trivia Night – Friday, February 5

Join us at 6:30 p.m. for pizza, salad, wine, beer and soft drinks and lots of trivia (brought to you by Jason Cotting). There will be prizes for the best two teams. (team limit is 6 people – plan ahead.) Fun for all ages. Rides will be available and donations of hors-d'oeuvres and desserts are very welcome. Over 50 people have already signed up. Don't miss it!

Please contact Susan Spear at the church office (781-334-3050) or Chuck Cotting at 781-593-3120. There will also be a sign-up sheet in the narthex. We are asking those who have already signed up or plan to come to send payments to the church office. (\$15/person).

Souper Bowl of Caring:

The Middle School Youth Group will be in the Narthex on Sunday, February 7 collecting for the Souper Bowl of Caring. All money raised will be sent to My Brother's Table.

More than 20 years ago, the Souper Bowl of Caring began with a simple prayer from a single youth group: "Lord, as we enjoy the Super Bowl football game, help us to be mindful of those without even a bowl of soup to eat." Because of this, we ask each parishioner to donate \$1.00 on Feb. 7.

Lenten Groups Planned

The Educational Ministry Team is offering a small group study during Lent called "Living Rooms for Lent". Each group will consist of at least 6 – 10 people who will meet once a week during Lent in someone's home. It is the hope to have at least four groups offered on different days and times. Hopefully there will be a group that will be meeting at a time that is convenient for you.

Several different studies are being considered and the Educational Ministry Team will be making a decision in a week or two. To do this event at least 3 more people are needed to volunteer to lead and host this study in their home.

More information will be coming in the next few weeks. If you are interested in becoming a leader or joining a small group please contact Kathi Martin at 781-245-2409 or by email at mkm9291@verizon.net.

Join Us for Ash Wednesday Worship

On February 17, you are invited to join us for a Renewal of Baptism Service at 7:30 p.m. in the Chapel as we begin the 40 days of Lent. This service recalls the meaning of our baptism and gives an opportunity to confess our sin and renew our relationship with Christ. Let us together seek to be changed by the transforming love of Christ through the renewal of our baptisms.

Outreach Updates

Our Food of the Month for February is anything associated with the color red (as in Valentine's Day) – canned ham, corned beef, or salmon, beets, applesauce, tomato sauce, etc.

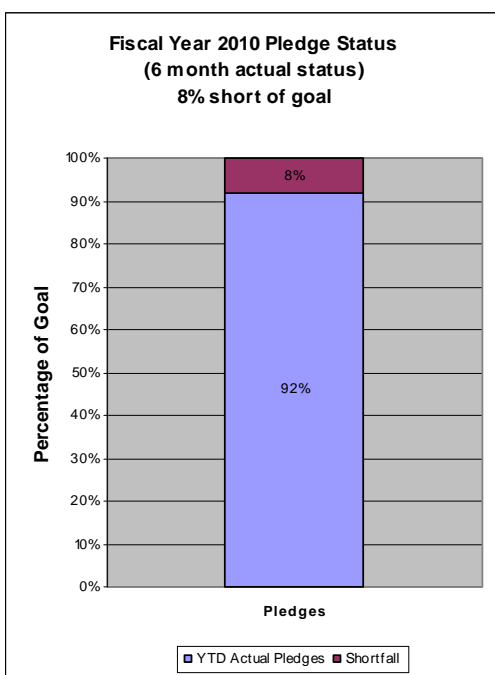
Our ongoing collections in the Missions Pantry include:

- Aluminum Can Pull Tabs
- Used Eyeglasses
- Non-Perishable Food
- Travel Size Toiletries
- and Used Cell Phones (numbers erased with charger).

Update on Pledges

We are half-way through our fiscal year now (as of December 31). Normally, at this point in our fiscal year, we would have received half or more of our total pledge income for the year. However, the church has received only 92% of the expected amount – or 8% short of what we would expect.

Parish Council asks all of our members to look at their current pledge status to see how much they have given so far versus their annual pledge. If you would like an individual pledge statement, you can request one from our Financial Secretary (Jim Marshall) via the church office. Thank you !!



News From Around the Parish

We extend our love and sympathy to the family and friends of Richard “Bud” Doremus who died on January 16. A Memorial Service will be held on Saturday, Jan. 30 at 12:00 p.m. in the Chapel

Our love and sympathy go to the Pericola family upon the recent death of Steven’s grandfather Bresci Dibicarri of Chelsea.

Our congratulations and best wishes to Seavey Bowdoin who celebrated his 90th Birthday on January 22.

Our congratulations and best wishes to Marge Cole who celebrated her 98th Birthday on January 26.

Cable Coverage of Worship Services

In Peabody

Comcast - Thursday 7 pm CH10

In North Reading

Comcast - Saturday & Sunday 9am CH10

Verizon - Sunday 9 am & 3 pm CH 26

In Lynnfield

Comcast -Thursday 7 pm CH10

Verizon - Thursday 7 pm CH28

Thanks to Our Volunteers

Sunday, January 31: Greeter: Pinky Warnock. Lay Reader: Chris Parker. Coffee Hour: Gage and Dotty Whittier. Lights Out beginning January 29: John Walsh.

Sunday, February 7: Greeters: The Parker Family. Provide Altar Flowers: Irene Allyn. Deliver Altar Flowers: Marjorie Potter and Doreen DiFillippo. Coffee Hour: Meg and Barkey Gulezian. Lights Out beginning February 5: Dwight Decker.

From the Mailbox

Dear Church Family and Friends,

Phil and I want to thank everyone for all of the love and support you have shown us these past weeks. The cards, flowers, prayers and visits have been very appreciated. The choir members who traveled to Plymouth for my mother-in-law’s memorial service to sing brought extra comfort during such a difficult time. The prayers and well wishes for a speedy recovery from my surgery are working. I am progressing nicely.

An extra thank you to Dennis for all of his support, visits, and prayers during this difficult time. Your graveside service for Barbara was beautiful and something Phil and I will always be grateful for. We feel truly blessed to be part of such a wonderful church family.

God Bless, Debby and Phil Triffletti

Our Opportunities

Sunday - January 31	8-9:15am 10:00 am 10:00 am 11:30 am 11:30 am 4:45 pm	Deacons' Breakfast - Richards Morning Worship - Sanctuary Rotations/Nursery Youth Choir – Choir Room Confirmation Class – Kitchen Youth go Snow Tubing
Wednesday - February 3	8am-2pm	Bread & Roses Meal Prep-Kitchen
Thursday - February 4	7:30 pm	Senior Choir – Choir Room
Friday - February 5	10:30 am 6:30 pm	Bible Study – 2 nd Floor Office Trivia Night – Richards Hall
Sunday - February 7	10:00 am 10:00 am 10:00 am 11:30 am 11:30 am 11:30 am	Holy Communion – Sanctuary Children in Church Nursery Open Youth Group Sub Sale Youth Choir – Choir Room Confirmation Class - Kitchen
Tuesday - February 9	10:00 am 7:30 pm	Caregivers – Fireside Room Diaconate – Pastor's Office
Thursday - February 11	7:30 pm	Senior Choir – Choir Room
Friday - February 12	10:30 am	Bible Study – 2 nd Floor Office

Our love and prayers are with Betty Conn recuperating at home; Muriel Badger at RiverCourt Residences, West Groton; Louise Allen at Beaumont Nursing Home, Westborough; Marion Barnes, Harborside; Cedar Glen, Danvers; Glady Davis, Haven Health Care, Derry NH; Carolyn Furey, Overlook Masonic Health Ctr., Charlton; Hal Holappa, Veterans' Hospital, Bedford; Helen Miller, at the Meadows, Edgewood, North Andover; June Rose, 37 Spring St., Lunenburg, MA 01462. Our prayers are with James Papagni serving in Afghanistan.

The Church Office is open 9am-3pm Monday-Friday.

The next *Tower Notes* will be the week of February 8.

Need a quick lunch for Super Bowl Sunday? Youth Group members will be taking orders for subs or salads which will be available for pick up after church on Sunday, February 7. Please fill out this order form and return it to church on Sunday January 31 or send to the church office by Thursday, February 4. The money raised will be used for this year's mission trip to New Orleans.

Subs and Salads - February 7

Please check off the type of sub and/or salad requested and circle what you would like on it. Chips and soda will be available for \$1.00 each.

Submarine Sandwiches

<input type="checkbox"/>	Roast Beef	Cheese	Lettuce	Tomato	Onion	Pickle
<input type="checkbox"/>	Ham	Cheese	Lettuce	Tomato	Onion	Pickle
<input type="checkbox"/>	Turkey	Cheese	Lettuce	Tomato	Onion	Pickle

Chef Salad (Turkey, Ham and Cheese)

Name _____

_____ Subs at \$5.00 each= _____

_____ Salads at \$5.00 each= _____ Total enclosed _____