

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

April 21, 2010

Life Changing Gift: Music

It must have been Christmas 1963 when I received my first record player. It played 45's, 78's, and 33 1/3rds. The first three 45 records that I received with the record player were:

- * "Gotta Travel On," by Billy Grammer, 1958.
- * "The Christmas Song," by Alvin and the Chipmunks, created by Ross Bagdasarian, Sr., 1958, and,
- * "Wipe Out," by The Surfaris, 1963

These gifts changed my life! On another Christmas, my parents gave me a drum set, on which I learned to play "Wipe Out." As any drummer knows, if you can learn to play "Wipe Out," you get your drumming career off to a good start.

I write about this to remind all of us that the gifts we give make a difference and sometimes, sometimes, they change a person's life.

As I have written before, my family didn't have a lot of money to spend on fancy gifts. So, my parents gave a lot of thought and love to their decisions about what to give my brother and me for Christmas each year. The two Christmases I remember the most are the two on which I was given the record player and the drum set.

How did they know that those two gifts would change my life? They didn't. They knew that I enjoyed music and the drums. So, they acted on a hunch that I would appreciate these gifts.

I was very shy as a child and teenager. The drums allowed me to be in front of people and do something that I was comfortable doing. Eventually, I connected with three classmates who played guitar and we had our group: "The Khedives." This name was given to us by your World History Teacher who said it meant "Egyptian ruler or king." It is similar to a viceroy, a ruler of a government or country.

Through the music, the ability to play "Wipe Out," our group, "The Khedives," and my participation in the School Band, my self-confidence grew and grew. I realized that people liked me, that I was a likeable guy, something that I had held in doubt for most of my childhood.

It was through my experiences as a drummer that I became a leader in the High School Band, given charge of things by the High School Band Teacher. He would get me excused from classes in order to set up things for our band concerts for school assemblies, to prepare for concerts and such. I was seen by the members of our High School Band as a good leader and good drummer.

Pair these experiences together with all of the positive leadership experiences I was having in my church, I slowly but surely grew in confidence.

And now, over forty years later, I still believe without a doubt, the gifts that my parents gave to me on those two Christmases concretely, emotionally, mentally, and spiritually changed my life. It told me the following:

They loved me very much and wanted the best for me.

They had a dream for me, that I would believe in myself, have confidence in myself, and grow to be happy.

In the Sanctuary

April 25, 2010

10:00 A.M. Morning Worship

Luke 24:36-48

Sermon by the Rev. Dr. Dennis C. Bailey

"Believing Through Disbelief"

Children's Message: "I Doubt It" by Rev. Dr. Kool

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

The Nursery will be open in Room 14.

May 2, 2010

10:00 A.M. Holy Communion

Messages by Barbara Langill & Jill Couillard

"Easter Time through Pentecost"

and Sandi Watson "Heifer Peru Tour Report"

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

They wanted to give what I needed to be successful in life.

While my parents didn't know the results their gifts would make in my life, they gave it their best and, through love and the influence of God and many others, they succeeded. Thanks be to God.

I invite you to follow my parent's example: Give in ways that can make a difference in a person's life, your child's, your church's, your community's, and the world's.

Centre Church's Stewardship Campaign for our coming fiscal year, 2010-2011, is soon coming your way. In it I ask you to do Something Great! And to do something great we must follow the example of my parents - give in ways that are not token, but serious, loving, risk-taking, and significant.

Centre Church's ministry changes lives, if we give with love, give with hope, and give sacrificially.

Think about this BEFORE you decide what to give: What gifts given to you have changed your life? What decisions by others have changed your life?

Now, make a choice that will potentially make a difference for Jesus Christ!

Yours in thanks for the love and giving of my parents,

Dennis

Rotation Sensation

Nursery Care: Infants and toddlers through age 3 are invited to join our trained staff for fun and stories in room 14. Pagers are available for all parents. Stop by and say hello.

Workshop Rotations:

April 25: We will continue to learn about "Fruit of the Spirit" in our workshops. Workshops are for children and youth PreK-Grade 8. All are invited to participate.

May 2: There will be no workshops on this day. All are invited to attend worship. A special lesson is being planned for this day. Please join us.

Youth Group Meetings

Middle School Youth Group: *Wednesday, April 21* from 7-9 we will enjoy a movie night! Snacks and drinks will be provided. Meet in the movie room. There will be NO meeting on Sunday, April 25. Our next Sunday meeting will be May 2nd from 6:00-7:30 in the church library.

High School Youth Group: Regular meetings are scheduled for Sunday, April 25th and May 2nd. We will meet from 6:00-7:30 in the Fireside Room.

Special Youth Group Activities

The High School Youth Group will be holding a Car Wash on Saturday May 8 from 10am -1pm. All proceeds will go toward the New Orleans Mission Trip.

High School Youth are needed to volunteer at the May Day Celebration, Sat. May 1.

We will be manning the coffee and donut sales in the morning. Any time you could give during the day would be appreciated. Youth are especially needed for clean up at 3 p.m. Please contact Mrs. Langill if you can help.

Mission Money

Please remember to bring back your M & M mini tubes filled with quarters. The donations received will go toward supporting the Young Adult and High School Youth Group Mission trips to New Orleans. There is a basket in the Narthex for your filled tubes.

Raffle to Support High School Youth Group

Mission Trip

Friends of the High School Youth Group have donated two \$25 shopping cards for the 99 Restaurant, to offer as raffle prizes in support of the mission trip to New Orleans. You could be one of the winners!

At the May Day Celebration, and again at church on May 2 and May 9, we will be selling raffle tickets:

1 ticket = \$1.00 - 6 tickets = \$5.00

No shopping card order is necessary. The winner will be selected following the worship service on Mother's Day. All money raised will be given to the Youth Group for their trip. Thank you for joining us in supporting them!

Shopping Card Coordinators:

Debbie Cotting, Phil Triffletti, and Sandi Watson

Deacons Breakfast – May 2nd

The Diaconate will be hosting our last breakfast of the church year on May 2nd starting at 8 a.m. All are welcomed! This will be the fifth in this year's series of Diaconate fund-raising events to benefit the repair and maintenance of our church organ. To date, we have raised \$1,920 in this effort but that is only a part of the total needed! We hope you will come to enjoy a breakfast out, and to support the music portion of our worship services. Suggested donation is: \$10/person, \$25/family.

If you'd like to help, or have any suggestions about these breakfasts, please let us know. (Deacons wear red name tags). We're looking forward to seeing you there.

- Your Faithful Diaconate

MBA Dues

"Many of you will have noticed a "different" envelope which you received in your most recent packet of pledge envelopes. The envelope has an orange border and references MBA Dues.

The MBA is "the Metropolitan Boston Association" of the United Church of Christ. This is a regional association of the UCC to which Centre Church and 75 other churches in the metro Boston area belong. The Metropolitan Boston Association, plus 10 other regional associations in Massachusetts comprise the Mass Conference of the UCC

The MBA and the Mass Conference provide churches and ministers with vital information, resources, and fellowship. These include: Christian Education, Leadership Development, Youth Ministry, Young Adult Ministry, Pastoral Excellence, Interfaith Relations, Pastoral Placement, and mission opportunities.

An important part of our covenant with the MBA and the UCC includes our financial support of their activities and ministry. Accordingly, Centre Church pays annual dues to the MBA of \$19.30 for every adult member (or confirmed child member) of the congregation. As part of Centre Church's annual budget, we rely on members to "cover" the cost of their MBA dues through an annual contribution to Centre Church.

Now you know why there is an orange envelope in your packet. Please help us to cover this important financial commitment.

If you are a member and you did not receive an orange envelope, you may still contribute. Please send your check to the church, or place it in the collection plate on Sunday, and note "MBA Dues" in the memo line of the check.

Thank you ! Jeff Law, Treasurer

Shopping Card News

If you're a Land's End shopper, now would be a great time to purchase a Land's End shopping card. If you order by Sunday 5/16, the church will earn 18% instead of the usual 16%.

Great Lakes Scrip Center is no longer offering prepaid Visa cards. If you have a Visa card, it is still valid. Great Lakes Scrip will continue to offer prepaid American Express cards.

You can support the church when you purchase groceries, put gas in your car, buy gifts for Mothers' Day, Fathers' Day, birthdays, or graduations. All you need to do is plan ahead! Visit our table on Sunday mornings for more information.

Sandi Watson, Phil Triffletti, Debbie Cotting
Shopping Card Coordinators

25th Anniversary Luncheon

Save the date – May 16 – for our luncheon in honor of Susan Spear. Join us to celebrate Susan's 25 years of service to Centre Church. Please see Grayce Kushmerek or Jane Vancor to sign up for the luncheon and/or if you can help by bringing a dessert. If you miss us in church, contact Grayce at 334-2545, gmkushmerek@comcast.net or Jane at 334-4777, edjvan@comcast.net

News From Around the Parish

Congratulations to Rhett C. Batchelder who was honored for achieving Eagle Rank, the highest honor in boy scouting, on April 11 in the Chapel at Centre Church. Rhett is the 90th scout to achieve the Eagle Award through Troop 48, Boy Scouts of America, sponsored by Centre Church.

Bits 'n Pieces

Each Sunday we have altar flowers donated in memory of a loved one or in celebration of a special occasion. If you would like to provide the flowers on May 9, May 30 or June 2, please call the church office 781-334-3050.

Our worship services are broadcast on local cable channels each week. The schedule is:

- Peabody
Comcast Thursday 7pm Ch. 10
- North Reading
Comcast Saturday and Sunday 9am Ch. 10
Verizon Sunday 9am and 3pm Ch. 26
- Lynnfield
Comcast Thursday 7pm Ch.10
Verizon Thursday 7pm Ch. 28

Thanks to our Volunteers

Sunday, April 25, 2010: Head Usher –Carrie Pericola. Greeters – Paul and Sue Gustavsen. Provide Altar Flowers – Harriet Holt. Lights Out Beginning April 23 – Steve Furey.

Sunday, May 2, 2010: Head Usher – Linda Ladd. Greeter – Marcia Stevens. Provide Altar Flowers – Cheryl and Jim Wersackas. Deliver Altar Flowers – Michelle Hagerty. Lights Out Beginning April 30 – Dwight Decker.

Our Opportunities

Sun., April 25	10:00 am 10:00 am 11:30 am 6:00 pm	Morning Worship - Sanctuary Rotations/Nursery Youth Choir & Confirmation Class Sr. High Youth Group – Fireside Rm.
Mon., April 26	7:30 pm	Alanon & Alateen – Fireside & Libr.
Tues., April 27	12:30 pm 7:00 pm	Get-Together Wheel - Fireside Parish Council – Pastor’s Office
Wed., April 28	7:00 pm 7:00 pm	Membership – Pastor’s Office Women’s AA – Fireside Room
Thurs., April 29	7:30 pm	Senior Choir – Choir Room
Fri., April 30	10:30 am	Bible Study – 2 nd Floor Office
Sat., May 1	9am-3pm	May Day Celebration – Front Lawn
Sun., May 2	8:00 am 10:00 am 10:00 am 10:00 am 11:30 am 6:00 pm	Deacons’ Breakfast – Richards Hall Holy Communion – Sanctuary Children in Church Nursery – Room 14 Confirmation Class & Youth Choir Youth Grps. (Gr.5-12) – FR & Libr.
Mon., May 3	7:30 pm	Alanon/Alateen – Fireside & Libr.
Wed., May 5	8:30 am 7:00 pm 7:00 pm	Bread & Roses Meal Preparation Women’s AA – Fireside Room Pastor’s Review Committee
Thurs., May 6	7:30 pm	Senior Choir – Choir Room
Fri., May 7	10:30 am	Bible Study – 2 nd Floor Office
Sat., May 8	10-1:00 10:00 am	Car Wash Fundraiser Confirmation Rehearsal – Sanct.

Our love and prayers are with David DiFillippo recuperating at home; Rev. Bailey’s mother, Betty Whitcraft, Manor Care South, 200 Pauline Dr., York, PA 17402; Abbott Cofran (Annabel Aldrich’s brother), Meadow View, North Reading; Barbara Bean, Emeritus at Cherry Hill, 220 Conant St., Danvers 01923; Muriel Badger, RiverCourt Residences, West Groton; Louise Allen, Beaumont Nursing Home, Westborough; Marion Barnes, Harborside; Cedar Glen, Danvers; Gladys Davis, Haven Health Care, Derry NH; Carolyn Furey, Overlook Masonic Health Ctr., Charlton; Hal Holappa, Veterans’ Hospital, Bedford; Helen Miller, the Meadows, Edgewood, North Andover; June Rose, in Lunenburg. Our prayers are with James Papagni serving in Afghanistan.

The church office is open 9-3 Monday through Friday.

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

May Day Celebration at Centre Church

May 1st 9am-3pm

See flyer on next page

May Day Celebration at Centre Church

Saturday, May 1st – 9 a.m. – 3 p.m. on the church lawn.
We will move inside in case of rain.

“Holy Soakings Dunk Tank”

Rev. Bailey and Friends

Flea Market Tables

You may either rent a table for \$25 (or \$20 if you provide your own table,) or contribute flea market items for the Centre Church tables (small items only, no TVs or monitors, etc.)
Contact Donna Marino (781-581-2022)

***If you have items to donate to the Flea Market, you may drop them off in the rear of the sanctuary beginning after worship on April 25. Donations will be taken thru Friday morning, April 30.

Raffle

Two Red Sox tickets for the Friday, June 18th game.
(This is a “Big” game. Manny returns to Fenway Park for the 1st time.)

Baked Goods & Food Table

Call Meg Gulezian (781-334-4504) or Cheryl Wersackas (781-334-5711)

Morning Coffee:

muffins, donuts, (Barbara Langill and the Youth Group)

Lunch

Bob and Myrna’s Famous Lobster Rolls, Steamed Hot Dogs, Chips.
Pre-order lobster rolls by noon on April 23 - check to Centre Congregational Church with form.
(Return reservation to the church office during the week or Chuck Cotting on Sundays)

LOBSTER ROLL ORDER: (\$10 each)

Name _____

How Many? _____