

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

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Susan Spear, Secretary

We Welcome Everyone: An "Open and Affirming" Church

May 5, 2010

Learning from Los Abuelos

(Learning from the Grandparents)

Reflections by church member Sandi Watson
on her trip to Peru on a Heifer Study Tour

In April, our Heifer International study tour spent a morning in the tiny village of Cuchuma, Peru. We were there to visit a couple our guide called "los Abuelos" – the Grandparents.

Aurelio and Paulina Sasari greeted us with enormous smiles and warm handshakes. They were happy to show us the results of special training they have completed in three important areas, thanks to Heifer:

- Organic farming – Aurelio showed us how much bigger and healthier his corn is since he began using organic manure as fertilizer instead of chemicals.
- Greenhouses – Aurelio and Paulina grow tomatoes, squash, cabbages, and other vegetables in their little greenhouse. They live at such a high altitude (over 12,000 feet) that without one it would be hard to grow anything other than potatoes. The greenhouse vegetables mean everyone in their family is healthier. They can sell leftovers at a nearby market or barter with neighbors for other things that their family needs.
- House improvements – A Heifer staff worker showed Aurelio and Paulina how to build an improved cook stove. This stove uses less wood and vents to the outside of the kitchen, which is much healthier. Because the top has space for three pots, it is much easier for Paulina to prepare meals.

We asked why Aurelio and Paulina, who are two of the oldest people in their village, are doing all of these things. Aurelio said that they want to be an example for the people of Cuchuma. They serve as

community promoters – teachers without a classroom, really – who pass on the gifts of knowledge and skills to others. Aurelio said that it is important to them that everyone in the village has a chance for the same improvements his family enjoys.

You can see why this community promoter approach is effective:

- Training a local person means that all the people of the community benefit. A stove builder or animal care specialist might not otherwise be

In the Sanctuary

Sunday, May 9, 2010

10:00 A.M. Morning Worship

Confirmation Sunday

Acts 2:1-21

Sermon by the Rev. Dr. Dennis C. Bailey
"When Does It Begin?"

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

Sunday, May 16, 2010

10:00 A.M. Morning Worship

Isaiah 42:1-9 and Matthew 12:15-21

Sermon by the Rev. Dr. Dennis C. Bailey
"Servanthood"

Children may worship with their families before going to Rotation Workshops.
Nursery open in Room 14.

available, or might only come through the area once in a great while for a brief visit. A community promoter is part of the village and available all year long to provide additional training and encouragement.

- The community promoters teach others. As more and more people complete their workshops, the entire community is stronger because they know each other better. And this approach is sustainable over time because the community is not dependent on just one person for important skills and knowledge.

It's because of your generous gifts to Heifer that this network of sharing and caring is possible.

On behalf of Aurelio and Paulina – and all the people who receive your gifts – heartfelt thanks.

Sandi Watson

Rotation Sensation

Nursery: Infants through age 3 are invited to join our nursery staff in Room 14 for stories and fun. Pagers are available for parents.

Rotation Workshops:

May 9: There will be NO workshops on this Sunday. Please join us in the Sanctuary to congratulate our confirmands.

May 16: Workshops will continue. Our theme of the morning will be "Fruit of the Spirit". All children and youth PreK-Grade 8 are invited to join us.

Youth Group Meetings

Regular Youth Group meetings have concluded for the year. Thank you to everyone who helped make this year great! We look forward to resuming meetings again in September.

May 15: **Saturday**. Zip Line Adventure for those who have signed up. Details will be mailed home soon!

Car Wash

The High School Youth Group will be holding a Car Wash in the church parking lot on Saturday, May 8 from 10 a.m. - 1 p.m. All proceeds will go toward the New Orleans Mission Trip in July. The cost is \$5.00.

Invest in our Youth: Be a Mission Trip Shareholder

This July, 14 youth and 4 adults will be traveling to New Orleans to help with the rebuilding efforts after Hurricane Katrina. We invite you to "share" in this experience by purchasing stock in our Mission Trip. For just \$20.00 per share, you will be helping our youth and adult volunteers give a better future to New Orleans residents in need of hope. All shareholders will receive a stock certificate and an invitation to a shareholder dinner in the fall where our youth will give a presentation of their experiences. Shares will be on sale this Sunday (May 9) after worship or you may use the enclosed order form.

Mother's Day Flower Sale

The High School Youth Group will be selling hanging flowers after worship in the narthex on Sunday, May 9. These beautiful flowers will bloom all summer. Flowers will be \$20.00 each. All proceeds will go toward the New Orleans Mission Trip.

Celebrating Susan

The celebration in honor of Susan Spear's 25 years of service to Centre Church is right around the corner: Sunday, May 16, following worship. If you plan to attend the luncheon, we must know by May 9 so that sufficient sandwiches will be available. Desserts would be welcomed, also, if you would like to help by baking.

To sign up for lunch and/or to bake a dessert, contact Jane Vancor at 334-4777, edjvan@comcast.net or Grayce Kushmerek at 334-2545, gmkushmerek@comcast.net.

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!

Tickets will be available at church on May 9: 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

News From Around the Parish

Our love and sympathy are extended to the family and friends of Fran Brown who died on April 28. A memorial service will be held at Church Church on Saturday, May 22 at 11:00 a.m.

Cards may be sent to Richard and Tina Brown, 4 Park Circle, Westford, 01886.

We extend our love and prayers to the family and friends of Muriel Badger who died on May 1. Her funeral was held on Wednesday, May 5 in Littleton.

We extend our love and sympathy to Jo Farnsworth, whose sister, Blanche Kornotowski of Saugus, died on April 28.

News of Graduates Requested

Do you have a graduate in your family? We'd love to share the details!! Please send them to office@centre-church.org or call the office at 781-334-3050 for inclusion in a future issue of *Tower Notes*.

Thanks to Our Volunteers

Sunday, May 9:

Head Usher: Bruce Weaver. Greeter: Pinky Warnock. Lay Reader: Priscilla Power. Lights Out beginning May 7: Steven Richard.

Sunday, May 16:

Head Usher: Jeff Law. Lights Out beginning May 14: Dave Clough.

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.

Shopping Card Coordinators,
Sandi Watson, Phil Triffletti, Debbie Cotting

WANTED

Items for the Missions Pantry

Non-perishable food items
(for Haven From Hunger)

Pull tabs from cans
(for the Shriners)

Travel-size toiletries
(for Lynn Shelter)

Used eyeglasses
(for Lions Club)

Used Cell phones
(for HAWC)

Our Opportunities

Sun., May 9	10:00 am	Morning Worship - Sanctuary
	10:00 am	Nursery – Room 14
	10:00 am	Children in Church
	11:30 am	Youth Choir
Mon., May 10	7:00 pm	Boy Scouts – Richards Hall
	7:30 pm	Alanon & Alateen –FR & Libr.
Tues., May 11	7:30 pm	Diaconate – Pastor’s Office
Wed., May 12	7:00 pm	Women’s 12-Step Mtg. – Fireside
Thurs., May 13	7:30 pm	Senior Choir
Fri., May 14	10:30 am	Bible Study – 2 nd Floor Office
Sat., May 15	9am-6pm	Youth Zip Line Adventure
Sun., May 16	10:00 am	Morning Worship – Sanctuary
	10:00 am	Rotations/Nursery
	11:30 am	Youth Choir
	11:30 am	Reception Lunch for Susan Spear
Mon., May 17	7:00 pm	Boy Scouts – Richards Hall
	7:30 pm	Alanon/Alateen – Fireside & Libr.
Wed., May 19	7:00 pm	Women’s 12-Step Mtg. – Fireside
Thurs., May 20	7:30 pm	Senior Choir
Fri., May 21	10:30 am	Bible Study – 2 nd Floor Office

Our love and prayers are with Louise Allen, Beaumont Nursing Home, Westborough; Marion Barnes, Harborside; Cedar Glen, Danvers; Barbara Bean, Emeritus at Cherry Hill, 220 Conant St., Danvers 01923; Abbott Cofran (Annabel Aldrich’s brother), Meadow View, North Reading; Glady 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; Rev. Bailey’s mother, Betty Whitcraft, Manor Care South, 200 Pauline Dr., York, PA 17402

Our prayers are with James Papagni serving in Afghanistan.

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