

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

Barbara Langill, Director 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

August 4, 2010

URGENT:

Our Christian Education Ministry

Dear friends and faithful members of Centre Church:

It has become increasingly clear that it is important for us to be financially responsible and pass a balanced budget given that we have very few remaining reserves. If we are to do this we will need to increase our pledges or make some serious budget cuts. At the last Parish Council meeting, discussion revolved around drastically cutting one of our important ministries, Christian Education. And yet, our Christian Education Ministry is very important to us. It has been the source of much blessing to our children, families, adults, and to others beyond our local church and community.

Now, the need for our support of this ministry is URGENT! I need you to read, pray, and respond by September 1, 2010.

Centre Church has had the services of two Christian Education Directors, Jill Couillard and Barbara Langill, each working 20 hours a week for a total of 40 hours a week over the last 8 years. Jill Couillard resigned recently to take a full-time job elsewhere. Parish Council voted (on July 28th) to offer Barbara Langill the Christian Education Director's job at 30 hours a week for six months beginning August 1, 2010 instead of 40 hours a week for a full year because of an anticipated budget deficit of about \$11,700.

Parish Council will prepare an updated budget recommendation for our Annual Meeting on Sunday, September 26, 2010. It is my hope and prayer that with everyone's help through pledges and/or contributions, Parish Council will be able to recommend a budget that includes a 40 hour a week, full-time position, of Christian Education Director for the coming year.

If we are not able to fund the Christian Education Director on a full-time basis, Parish Council may need to choose between Rotation Sensation and our Youth Group (Middle School and High School) ministries.

In order to prevent this, I need you to be faithful in prayer and giving. I need those who think that they can do more, to go the second mile and respond with an increased pledge and/or contribution by September 1st. I need those who have not yet pledged to respond as best as you are able by September 1st.

I am pleased to say that since July's Parish Council meeting I have learned of \$4,000 in new pledges and/or contributions:

Two contributions of \$500 each

Three pledges/contributions of \$1,000 each

This is a great start in less than a week! We need at least \$7,700 more. I believe that we can achieve this by September 1st! But, I need your help, everyone's help, to do it.

Our Christian Education Ministry

blesses us in many ways:

* Rotation Sensation (our Sunday morning program for Pre K- Grade 8) welcomes our children and families into the congregation through Bible based learning, exploring and growing. Teams of volunteers use a variety of creative approaches to

August Worship Services In the Chapel – 9:00 a.m.

August 8, 15, 22, 29, 2010

Sermons by the Rev. Dr. Dennis C. Bailey

These brief, informal services are followed by punch and fellowship in the Fireside Room.

scripture stories that help our children learn and remember how God has been and continues to be present in our lives. Our families benefit because they know that their children are being welcomed, cared for, and taught in the ways of God and God's people.

* Our Youth Group Ministries (Middle School and High School) provide additional opportunities for learning and growing in faith and fellowship. The youth are given many opportunities to learn and bond together by doing God's work through service projects, programs and Mission Trips.

* The youth in our youth group ministries have their lives transformed through the many opportunities to serve others and relate to each other in positive ways. They have learned about and connected with other people in other places and in other cultures. They have had the opportunity to grow more deeply in their faith and expressions of faith, maturing as Christians.

Where else will they receive these experiences except for the opportunity we provide them at Centre Church?

For many generations Centre Church has been that exceptional place in Lynnfield where this has happened for our children, our youth, ourselves. We need to have this continue at the level we have had previously so that our current children and youth and generations to come will know Jesus Christ and the service of discipleship to which we are called.

As the song says, "They will know we are Christians by our love." We are not born as disciples. We learn it through a loving and caring Christian community, through Christian Education.

Please pray and act with me.

You can help by making a pledge, increasing your pledge, and/or by making a contribution as you are able by September 1, 2010 to Centre Church by:
Notifying Jim Marshall, Financial Secretary at:
Centre Congregational Church
5 Summer Street, Lynnfield, MA 01940
Call him at: 978-532-3185
Email him at: northput49@comcast.net

You can contact me: Rev. Dr. Dennis Bailey,
5 Summer Street, Lynnfield, MA 01940
781-334-3050 or Pastor@centre-church.org

Going the second mile: We need your help and we need it now. I know that many of us have already pledged and pledged as much as we can and I thank

you for that. I am asking the rest of us to consider what a difference we can make by doing more.
Thanks for your prayers, support, and love,

Dennis

Opportunities to Serve: **Christian Education and Youth Ministry**

*"God works mightily through those
who answer His call to serve."*

Do you have gifts to share with the children and youth at Centre Church? Please consider serving in one of the following positions:

- Middle School Youth Group Leader/Assistant
- High School Youth Group Leader/Assistant
- Shepherd for Rotation Sensation
- Workshop Leader for Rotation Sensation
- Nursery Caregiver

It is said that service is essential for spiritual growth. You may have never looked at it this way, but a *growing* Christian is also a *servicing* Christian. Jesus was known for putting others first. When you serve you are walking in his example.

Due to budget constraints, the position of Dir. of Christian Education and Youth Ministry is to be reduced to 30 hours per week. This means we will be unable to maintain the high quality of youth programs and Christian Education without the help of many hands. Please contact Barbara Langill in the church office at 334-3050 or e-mail christianed@centre-church.org to learn more about these opportunities to serve. YOUR help is needed.

Mission Trip Report

We're back! 14 youth and 4 adults traveled to New Orleans to volunteer in the rebuilding efforts there. Despite an average heat index of 105 degrees, we were able to get much accomplished. We worked on 4 different homes where we painted, laid flooring, did demo work, installed insulation, put up wall board, replaced a door, and much more. We also had a chance to visit with some of the residents and hear about their journeys since Katrina. Please plan to attend the Shareholders Dinner in the fall where the youth will give a presentation of their experience. Many thanks to the congregation, Missions Ministry, family and friends for their generous support. A special thank you to our chaperones Jeff Langill, Gage Whittier and Susan Spear.

Barbara Langill

Summer Sunday Adventure:

Essex River Cruise - Sunday August 15, 2010

Back by popular demand: The Essex River Cruise-Woodman's-*Peking and the Mystics* adventure. The Essex River Cruise is a narrated 1¼ Hour Cruise from 35 Dodge St., Essex - the Essex Marina - down the Essex River to the ocean on a large safe and comfortable vessel with a restroom and bar aboard. The Cruise leaves at 4:00 PM and runs to 5:15 PM.

Please call to sign up now! **The Deadline for signup and payment is Friday August 6th by Noon!** Call Chuck Cotting, 781-593-3120, or Susan Spear, 781-334-3050, to make your reservations! The cost is \$18 each for the Essex River Queen I.

Then: Join up at Woodman's [just around the corner on Rt. 133] for dinner. Chris Parker's A Capella Group, *Peking and the Mystics*, will perform. Dinner will be on your own, so you can pick the food you want. If you need a ride, please let Chuck or Susan know!

**Hosted By
Your Membership Ministries Committee**

Work Day at Church – August 21 - 8-12

There is still work to do post-flood. The projects include painting the lower kitchen cabinets, sorting through the contents of the kitchen cabinets, some minor repair projects, removing more trash from the basement, etc. Come for an hour or all 4. All help will be appreciated. For information contact me at pcjohnson@meei.harvard.edu or 781-598-5678.

Phil Johnson

News From Around the Parish

We extend our love and sympathy to Marge Robins upon the death of her sister, Virginia Knutson of Brattleboro, VT.

We extend our love and sympathy to the family and friends of Barbara O'Connell who died on July 29. Her funeral was held on August 3 in Lynn. Memorial gifts may be made to Centre Church.

Our prayers and sympathy are extended to the family and friends of Dian Hutchins of Lynnfield who died on July 31. Her funeral was held at Centre Church on August 4. Memorial gifts may be made to Sawtelle Family Hospice House in Reading.

Thanks to Our Volunteers

Sunday, Aug. 8: Ushers-Linda Ladd & Carrie Pericola. Flowers-Dorsey Holappa. Punch-Langills. Lights Out beginning Aug. 6-Dwight Decker.

Sunday, Aug. 15: Head Usher-Linda Ladd. Punch-Sievers. Lights Out beginning Aug. 13-Steven Richard.

Sunday, Aug. 22: Head Usher-Jeff Law. Punch-Ginny Daniels & Barbara Becker.

Sunday, Aug. 29: Head Usher-Linda Ladd. Punch-Ruth Hyer and Caroline Walsh. Lights Out beginning Aug. 27-Roger Batchelder.

Annual Golf Tournament September 24

Save the date of Friday, September 24 for the 8th 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 12:30 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, 781-598-5678 or (pcjohnson@meei.harvard.edu) no later than Monday September 20th. Checks should be made payable to Centre Congregational Church.

Special Needs Yard Sale – August 28

Meeting House on the Common

Gettting Organized?..Moving?..Cleaning House?

Your items are needed for this yard sale on August 28 – 9-2 - rain or shine. This is to benefit special needs activities for young adults...all help appreciated. Come on down for some great bargains. Questions – call Fran Soderberg 781-334-3437

Our Opportunities

Sun., Aug. 1	9:00 am	Morning Worship – Chapel
Mon., Aug. 2	7:30 pm	Alanon & Alateen – Richards Hall
Wed., Aug. 4	8:30 am 7:00 pm	Bread & Roses Meal Preparation Women’s 12-Step Mtg. – Richards
Fri., Aug. 6	10:30 am	Bible Study – 2 nd Floor Office
Sun., Aug. 8	9:00 am	Morning Worship – Chapel
Mon., Aug. 9	7:30 pm	Alanon/Alateen – Richards Hall
Wed. Aug. 11	7:00 pm	Women’s 12-Step Mtg. – Richards
Fri., Aug. 13	10:30 am	Bible Study – 2 nd Floor Office
Sun., Aug. 15	9:00 am 4:00 pm	Morning Worship – Chapel Essex River Cruise
Mon. Aug. 16	7:30 pm	Alanon/Alateen – Richards Hall
Wed. Aug. 18	7:00 pm	Women’s 12-Step Mtg. - Richards
Fri., Aug. 20	10:30 am	Bible Study – 2 nd Floor Office
Sun., Aug. 22	9:00 am	Morning Worship - Chapel
Mon. Aug. 23	7:30 pm	Alanon/Alateen – Richards Hall
Wed, Aug. 25	7:00 pm	Women’s 12-Step Mtg. – Richards
Fri., Aug 27	10:30 am	Bible Study – 2 nd Floor Office
Sun. Aug. 29	9:00 am	Morning Worship - Chapel

Our love and prayers are Olive Wood at Wingate at Reading, 1364 Main St., Reading 01867; Rev. Bailey’s mother, Betty Whitcraft, Lancaster General Hospital, 555 North Duke St., Room 7613, Lancaster, PA 17604-3555; Barbara McCormick at Rosewood, 22 Johnson St., W. Peabody 01960; Ginny Davis 111 Ferry Road, Newburyport, MA 01950 (978-462-1714); Marion Barnes, Harborside; Cedar Glen, Danvers; Barbara Bean, Emeritus at Cherry Hill, Danvers; Abbott Cofran (Annabel Aldrich’s brother), Meadow View, North Reading; Glady Davis, Derry Health Care, Derry NH; Carolyn Furey, Overlook Masonic Health Ctr., Charlton; Hal Holappa, Veterans’ Hospital, Bedford; Helen Miller, Edgewood, North Andover; Arthur Pyburn at home.

We also remember in our prayers Allan Marshall who is serving in Afghanistan.

Next Tower Notes - week of August 23
Summer Office Hours are 9:00 a.m. – 12:00 Noon.

Welcome Back – See Our Renovated Basement
Catered Cook Out
At
Centre Congregational Church

Sunday September 12, 2010

Right after Church Services: 11:30 AM to 1:30 PM
Rain or Shine!

Catered by Country Side Deli

Grilled dinner: \$18 per person!

Planned Bill of Fare:

- Hamburgers or Cheeseburgers,
- Hot Dogs,
- Sausages w/Peppers and Onions,
- Corn on the cob,
- Potato Salad
- Chips,
- Mini pastry and Cookies,
- Beverages

We really need to have people 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
office@centre-church.org.

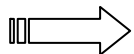
Or contact Chuck Cotting charles.cotting@us.ngrid.com or 781-593-3120.

This will be a great time to catch up with friends after the Summer and get a chance to see our newly renovated basement with its new color scheme!!!!

Welcome Back – See Our Renovated Basement – Catered Cook Out

Name _____ Need a ride? YES

Grilled Food Dinner [\$18] How Many? _____



We would like the order forms by Friday September 3rd @ Noon with a check to Centre Congregational Church – Thank you!!!