

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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Douglas W. Hodgkins, Organist/Choir Director

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Susan Spear, Secretary

We Welcome Everyone: An "Open and Affirming" Church

October 6, 2010

"Be Still, and Know That I Am God"

Psalm 46

Violence. Over a week ago we learned about violence that had occurred on the campuses of Boston College, Chestnut Hill, and at Regis College, Weston, MA. Then, within a few days we heard about the murders of four people in Mattapan: *Eyanna Flonory and her baby Amani, Simba Martin, and Levaughn Washum-Garrison. Marcus Hurd was seriously injured, fighting for his life in a Boston Hospital.*

These events shake the ground that we stand on, ground that we once thought was solid and unshakable. Earthquakes make us panic. Ocean tidal waves make us flee for higher ground. Floods can wash away people, property, hope, and confidence. Wild fires also destroy our security and make us feel unsafe to sleep at night. Terrorists threaten destruction the world over.

Where can we find a safe place? Where can one find refuge?

God says, "Be still, and know that I am God!" (Psalm 46:10)

Many of us have been through the storms of challenge in our lives. We can find strength in God who is the eye of the storm, as mentioned in Psalm 46.

The people of God have, throughout history, clung to the image of God as their "mighty fortress" in times of natural disaster, times of violence, locally, nationally, and internationally.

God is a refuge, a place of safety and comfort when all others collapse. God is strength when arms, legs, and hearts grow weak and weary.

Be still: when we stand in the midst of the gale and ask, "Is God here?", the answer is "God is here!"

...know that I am God: God's loving-kindness remains solid and firm. Centuries after these words of Psalm 46 were written, Jesus' disciples asked the same question in the midst of a storm at sea: "Is God here?" Jesus -- god with us -- rises to calm the storm. *(continued on page 2)*

In the Sanctuary

October 10, 2010

10:00 A.M. Morning Worship

Sacrament of Baptism – Eva Lucille Hixon

Luke 17:11-19

Sermon by the Rev. Dr. Dennis C. Bailey

"More Than A Healer"

Children may worship with their families for the entire service.

The nursery will be open in Rm. 14.

October 17, 2010

10:00 A.M. Morning Worship

Sacrament of Baptism – Kylie Anne Lowe

Jeremiah 31:27-34 and Luke 18:1-8

Sermon by the Rev. Dr. Dennis C. Bailey

"Heartfelt"

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

The nursery will be open in Room 14.

To the natural, national, emotional, and personal storms and the frightened people caught within them, God says, "Be Still, and Know that I am God!"

I invite you to pray for God's help through A Pledge to Pray. City Mission Society of Boston is inviting us to participate in *A Pledge to Pray*. Each week City Mission Society will post prayers on their website <http://www.cmsboston.org>. for us to use to pray and show our commitment to peace in the city. Our prayers are needed to show solidarity with the people who are grieving and suffering.

May the Lord be merciful and look kindly upon all who grieve.

Yours in Christ, Dennis

P.S. Here is a sample prayer: *Loving God, our hearts weep with our sisters and brothers in Mattapan. Be with them in their shock and grief. Comfort them with your love. Give us the courage to work together to stop the senseless violence that destroys the lives of so many people around the world. Help us build bridges of love across the chasms of anger and fear that separate us. May we ever seek to walk in the footsteps of your son, the Prince of Peace. In his name we pray, Amen*

-Written by Rev. Dr. Fran Bogle,
CMS Board Member)

Rotation Sensation

There will be no Rotation Sensation workshops this Sunday, October 10 due to the Columbus Day weekend. We welcome you to join together as a family and worship in the sanctuary. Workshops will resume on Sunday, October 17th when we will continue our unit on Creation.

Pajama Donations

Thanks to everyone's generosity, 41 pairs of pajamas and more than 30 books were collected for children in need. The Church School children and High School volunteers sorted the books and pajamas and packed them up to be delivered to Cradles to Crayons in Quincy.

Youth Group

There will be no youth group meetings on Sunday, October 10th due to the long weekend. Both groups will resume their meetings on Sunday, October 17th from 6:00-7:30 p.m. Join us for games, fellowship and fun. The High School will be in Richards Hall and Middle School will be in Todd Hall.

News From Around the Parish

We extend our love and sympathy to the Whittier family upon the death of Gage's mother, Margaret "Peg" Whittier. Her funeral was held at Centre Church on October 2, 2010.

2010-2011 Confirmation Class

The next Confirmation Class will begin Sunday, November 7, 2010, 11:30 am. Persons in 9th grade and higher are invited to join (exceptions can be made if 8th graders are interested in attending).

The purpose of Confirmation is to help young people learn about their faith, what they believe, and to give them the opportunity to profess their own faith and join the church, should they so desire.

Each Confirmand needs to have an adult mentor, age 21 or older. It needs to be someone other than the Confirmand's parent, although a parent can mentor another member of the class. Classes usually meet every week for about 1.5 hours, often including lunch. There will be a fee of \$25.00 for each participant, to cover the cost of materials.

Confirmation Sunday will be sometime in April or May, 2011. If you are interested in being a Confirmand or Mentor, please let us know by calling the church office (781-334-3050) or emailing Rev. Bailey (pastor@centre-church.org).

From the Mailbox

Dear Church Family and Friends,

My family and I are very thankful for the love and support you have given us these past few weeks. The cards, flowers, prayers, and expressions of sympathy are very much appreciated. I am especially grateful to those who traveled to Chicopee for the visiting hours and funeral service for my mother, Lorena McKinstry. I feel truly blessed to be part of such a loving and caring church family.

- Barbara Langill

Dear Church Family,

The family of Peg Whittier deeply appreciates and gratefully acknowledges your kind expressions of sympathy. Special thanks to Rev. Bailey for the beautiful service, and to Carrie Pericola, Chuck Cotting, Sue Lambe, Mary McCarthy and Johnathan McCarthy for help at the collation.

- Gage and Bob Whittier

Shopping Cards

You can help raise money for the church just by doing your usual shopping. Stop by the Shopping Card table on Sunday mornings to get a list of participating retailers or view the Retailers List at www.glscrip.com. There's sure to be a card that suits your needs.

You can help expand our customer base if you pass along order forms and the list of retailers to family members and friends. Let's spread the news about this great fundraiser!

Sandi Watson, Phil Triffletti, Debbie Cotting
Shopping Card Coordinators

8 O'Clock Wheel Members

Save the date: Thursday, October 28th
in the Fireside Room at 1:00 p.m.

Our guest speaker: Kay Piemonte
"The History of Quilting"

with examples from her own collection.

Thanks to Our Volunteers

Sunday, October 10: Head Usher-Carrie Pericola. Lay Reader-Sue Johnson. Greeter-Marcia Stevens. Provide Altar Flowers-Cheryl Caron. Deliver Altar Flowers-Barbara Ericson and Margaret Waugh. Lights Out beginning October 8-Rick Carey.

Sunday, October 17: Head Usher-Jeff Law. Provide Altar Flowers-Marge Cole. Deliver Altar Flowers-Marjorie Potter and Laurel Caputo. Coffee Hour-Betty Hayter. Lights Out beginning October 15: Bill Seelig.

Get-Together Wheel

The Get Together Wheel will meet on Tuesday, October 26 in the Fireside Room. Our program will begin at 1:00 p.m. Mr. Henry Hall from Wild Birds Unlimited will speak about fall and winter birds. All women in the church are invited to join us.

Snow Plowing

Believe it or not winter will arrive just around the corner and many of you may be in need of someone to plow your driveway. We have been using a new snow plowing company at the church and they did an excellent job for us last winter. We have offered to refer his name to you if anyone is interested in hiring a company for their business or residence for this coming winter to plow snow. The contact is Tim LeBlanc at Mystic Landscaping and he can be reached at 978-702-6327.

- Phil Johnson

Missions Pantry

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

Our Opportunities

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| Sun. Oct. 10 | 10:00 am 10:00 am 10:00 am | Morning Worship – Sanctuary Children in Church Nursery – Room 14 |
| Mon. Oct. 11 | ----- 7:30 pm | Church Office Closed Alanon & Alateen – Richards Hall |
| Tues. Oct. 12 | 10:00 am 7:30 pm | Caregivers – Fireside Room Diaconate – Pastor’s Office |
| Wed Oct. 13 | 7:00 pm | Women’s 12-Step Mtg. – Todd |
| Thurs Oct. 14 | 7:30 pm | Sr. Choir – Choir Room |
| Fri., Oct. 15 | 10:30 am | Bible Study – 2 nd Floor Office |
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| Sun., Oct. 17 | 10:00 am 10:00 am 11:30 am 6-7:30 pm | Morning Worship – Sanctuary Rotations /Nursery Youth Choir – Choir Room Youth Groups (Gr. 5-12) Basement |
| Mon., Oct. 18 | 7:30 pm | Alanon/Alateen – FR & Library |
| Wed., Oct. 20 | 7:00 pm | Women’s 12-Step Mtg. – Todd |
| Thurs. Oct. 21 | 7:30 pm | Sr. Choir – Choir Room |
| Fri., Oct. 22 | 10:30 am | Bible Study – 2 nd Floor Office |

Our love and prayers are with Greta Helmer and Abbott Cofran at Meadow View Nursing & Rehab, 134 North St., North Reading 01864; Sara Perkins, Barbara Bean, Art Pyburn, and Ed Vancor at home; Marion Barnes, Harborside: Cedar Glen, Danvers; Glady Davis, Derry Health Care, Derry NH; Carolyn Furey, Overlook Masonic Health Cr., Charlton; Hal Holappa, Veterans’ Hospital, Bedford; and Helen Miller, Edgewood, North Andover.

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

Next Tower Notes - week of October 18

Church Office Hours: 9-3 Monday - Friday
