

TOWER NOTES

Centre Congregational Church (United Church of Christ)

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We Welcome Everyone: An "Open and Affirming" Church

November 3, 2010

Because...

I was attending a funeral this past week for a friend who was a mother, grandmother, and great grandmother. As I sat there in the service reflecting, listening to the priest conduct the mass and share a homily, and listening to the beautiful music, the word "because" came to mind.

I thought about how **because** of this woman I have been richly blessed by some wonderful friendships, her family and many others who were also attending her funeral. Some of her family provided for me a safe haven when I experienced challenging times in my life. They sheltered me with their love, not **because** they had to, but **because** they saw something in me that I, at the time, could not see in myself. I did not feel worthy of their friendship, their love, and their support. And yet, they claimed me as a friend worthy of their trust.

I tell you this **because** through this woman, her family and friends, I am reminded how, in my life, certain individuals have played key rolls in making it possible for me to find fulfillment, success, peace and healing. These things have not been accomplished solely by means of my own efforts, but **because** of the generous compassion of others who have, for reasons I do not always understand, befriended me.

Because..., as the prophet Isaiah said, "But now, this is what the LORD says - he who created you, he who formed you...: 'Fear not, for I have redeemed you; I have summoned you by name; you are mine. When you pass through the waters, I will be with you; and when you pass through the rivers, they will not sweep over you. When you walk through the fire, you will not be burned; the flames will not set you ablaze. For I am the Lord, your God, the Holy One of Israel, your Saviour.... Since you

are precious and honored in my sight, ...**because** I love you....'" (Isaiah 43)

Because God loves us, we do not walk through the challenges of our lives alone. **Because** God loves us, we do not need to be afraid. **Because** God loves us, we find joy in doing for others what the Lord has done and continues to do for us. **Because** God loves us, he has given himself for us.

Because of the presence of Jesus Christ in the hearts, minds, souls, and actions of others, I live, I am redeemed, and I discovered that I have a future in the work of God, and in the lives of others.

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In the Sanctuary

November 7, 2010

10:00 A.M. Holy Communion

Cantata: "Creation"

Presented by Youth and Senior Choirs
accompanied by piano, bass, drums, guitar.

Nursery will be open in Rm. 14
for children 5 and under.

November 14, 2010

10:00 A.M. Morning Worship

Guest Preacher: Rev. Wendy Vander Hart
Associate Conference Minister
Nursery will be open in Rm. 14.

November 21, 2010

10:00 A.M. Morning Worship

Bring a Friend to Church Sunday

Because God loves you, you are precious and honored in the sight of God. God sees in you things that you do not see in yourself, which is why he sent his Son for your sake.

I invite you to recognize how you have been blessed **because** of others, **because** of God's presence in the lives of others, and **because** they counted you worthy of their friendship. I invite you to recognize them and be thankful, especially as we approach the season of Thanksgiving.

I invite you to recognize **because** in doing so you recognize God.

Yours in Christ, Dennis

Rotation Sensation

On Sunday, November 7, the Youth and Senior Choirs will present "Creation: A Rock Cantata" by David Bobrowitz and Steven Porter. For the past several weeks, Rotation Sensation workshops have focused on the Creation Story from the book of Genesis.

We would like to encourage all children and youth to attend with their families. The nursery will be open for children 5 and under.

On Sunday, November 14, Rotation Sensation will begin a new unit which will focus on Heifer International. Each class will learn more about Heifer and how each of the animals helps families around the globe end hunger and poverty. We will end with The Heifer Marketplace on Sunday December 5. Here you will be able to give a gift of hope in honor of your friends and family by purchasing a share or an animal. This will be a lively event in the Narthex following the worship service where you will be able to visit different booths to learn more about the animals Heifer provides.

Turn your clock back one hour before bed on

Saturday, November 6.

Youth Group News

The Middle School Youth Group will be heading out to Heifer's Overlook Farm in Rutland, MA on Sunday, November 7. We plan to leave the church parking lot at 11:30 am so please be sure to bring a lunch to eat on the way out. We will return around 6:30 p.m. There will be no evening meeting.

The High School Youth Group will be meeting at the food court of the Liberty Tree Mall at 5:30 pm on Sunday November 7. Please bring money to purchase dinner. We will break into teams and work together to find the best bargains in purchasing pants for Cradles to Crayons.

Both Youth Groups (5th-12th grades) will be meeting on Sunday, November 14 at the regular time, 6-7:30 pm. Sandi Watson will present highlights of her trip to Peru with Heifer International. This event is open to all who are interested.

Potluck Supper and BINGO! **Saturday, November 13, 2010 at 6:00 p.m.**

Bring your favorite Appetizer, Salad, Bread, Entrée or Dessert. If you don't cook – sign up to Serve/Clean Up, or bring paper goods.
Bingo hosted by Chris and Sue Lambe –
\$1.00 per card –Great Prizes!

Sign up after church on November 7 or contact Susan Spear in the Church Office
Office@centre-church.org or 781-334-3050
or Chuck Cotting at 781-593-3120 or
charles.cotting@us.ngrid.com

This will be a great time to catch up with friends, eat some great food and play Bingo!

Advent Workshop: Greens Needed

Part of the Advent Workshop will include making wreaths, swags, etc. Rev. Bailey will bring wreath rings, ribbon for bows, and florist wire and help you make wreaths. (A fee for these will be asked to cover costs). If you can offer some greens from the trees and bushes on your property, it would be greatly appreciated! You and/or Rev. Bailey can cut them the week of November 28th to bring to the Advent Workshop. Please contact him: 781-334-3050 or pastor@centre-church.org. Thanks!

“Bring a Friend Sunday” at Centre Church

Save the Date: Sunday, November 21, 2010

Bring a friend or friends to our church for the Sunday Morning Worship Service and a special fellowship time afterward.

Choir Forming for Lynnfield’s Ecumenical Thanksgiving Service

which will take place on Sunday, November 21, 7:30 pm, at St. Paul's Episcopal Church. Preacher: Fr. Jack Farrell. A choir with participants from all the churches is being formed. There is an optional rehearsal on Nov. 18 at 7:00 p.m. Another rehearsal (required) will be held on Nov. 21 at 5:00 p.m., followed by a light collation for all choristers at 6:00 p.m. between the rehearsal and the worship service. Please contact Doug Hodgkins or the church office to let us know of your interest.

Opportunities to Help Those in Need

Turkey Drive: We will be collecting frozen turkeys for Haven from Hunger on Sunday morning, November 21 beginning at 9:30 a.m. We will have youth on hand to help carry your turkey to the Haven from Hunger truck in the parking lot behind the building.

The High School Youth Group will be putting together “Spread the Joy” bags for City Mission Society to distribute to people who are homeless in the Greater Boston area. Each bag contains gloves, a hat, scarf, small size toiletries and healthy snacks. We also need clear gallon Ziploc bags to pack the items in. Please drop off your donation by Sunday, Nov 28. There will be a box in the narthex to collect these items. Many of these people do not receive Christmas gifts, so these bags containing necessary items are always well received.

From the Mailbox

Dear Friends,

Thank you so much for the beautiful bouquet of fall flowers you sent to me recently. Laurel Caputo delivered them to me and I enjoyed visiting with her. My knee is healing well and I look forward to being back in church soon. Thanks for thinking of me!

In Christian Love, Sara J. Perkins

News From Around the Parish

We extend our love and sympathy to Heather Lowe and her family upon the death of her grandmother, Josephine Ciampa, age 93, of Billerica. Her funeral was held on October 30 in Revere.

Our love and prayers go out to Carrie Pericola and her family upon the death of her aunt, Rita Embleton.

Time to turn back your clocks!

Saturday, November 6

Pumpkins for Pants

Thank you to everyone who carved pumpkins to raise money for purchasing pants to donate to Cradles to Crayons in Quincy. Voting took place on Halloween Sunday and we raised \$161.00 thanks to the generous donations. This year’s winner of the carving contest is Rebecca Sievers with her watermelon entry “Imposter!” Thanks to everyone for participating in this fun event.

Thanks to Our Volunteers

November 7: Head Usher: Bill Seelig. Greeters: Gage & Dotty Whittier. Altar Flowers Provided by Edith Wendt. Altar Flowers Delivered by Barbara Becker & Chuck Cotting. Coffee Hour: Donna Marino & Barbara Barke. Lights Out beginning Nov. 5: Scott DeSantis.

November 14: Head Usher: Bruce Weaver. Coffee Hour: The Weaver Family. Lights Out beginning Nov. 12: Dwight Decker.

Bits ‘n Pieces

Would you like to provide altar flowers in memory of someone or to mark a special occasion? November 14 and November 28 are both open. If you are interested, please contact the church office. 781-334-3050 or office@centre-church.org

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).

Time to turn back your clocks!

Saturday, November 6

Lobster Rolls are Back!

Stumped about what to have for lunch after church on Sundays? Good news! On 3 Sundays, November 21st, December 19th and January 16th you will be able to order and purchase delicious lobster rolls prepared by our own Bob and Myrna Shorey and their expert crew. Simply fill out the form below and drop it off at the church office by the Tuesday before each date. You have the option to purchase a roll for \$10 or add a bag of chips and a cookie for just \$12 total. All proceeds go towards closing the gap in the 2010-2011 Church Budget. So order many – and often!
- With thanks from your Stewardship Team

Lobster Roll Order Form

Bob and Myrna's Famous Lobster Rolls. Pre-order lobster rolls by noon on
Tuesday November 16 –
check to Centre Congregational Church with form.
(Return reservation to the church office during the week)

LOBSTER ROLL ORDER: (\$10 each). With chips & cookie (\$12 each)
Pick up on Sunday, November 21 after church.

Name _____ How Many? _____

Our Opportunities

Sun. Nov. 7	10:00 am 10:00 am 10:00 am 11:30 am 11:30 am 5:30 pm	Holy Communion/Cantata – Sanct. Children in Church Nursery – Room 14 Confirmation Class Middle Sch. Youth to Overlook High School Youth to Liberty Tree
Mon. Nov. 8	7:30 pm	Alanon & Alateen – FR & Library
Tues. Nov. 9	10:00 am 7:00 pm 7:30 pm	Caregivers – Fireside Room Membership – Fireside Room Diaconate – Pastor’s Office
Wed Nov. 10	7:00 pm	Women’s 12-Step Mtg. – Fireside
Thurs Nov. 11	----- 7:30 pm	Office Closed – Veterans’ Day Sr. Choir – Choir Room
Fri., Nov. 12	10:30 am	Bible Study – 2 nd Floor Office
Sat., Nov. 13	6:00 pm	Potluck Supper and Bingo
Sun., Nov. 14	10:00 am 10:00 am 11:30 am 6:00 pm	Morning Worship – Sanctuary Rotations /Nursery Confirmation/Youth Choir Youth Groups (Gr. 5-12) Basement
Mon. Nov. 15	7:30 pm	Alanon/Alateen – FR & Library
Wed. Nov. 17	7:00 pm	Women’s 12-Step Mtg. – Fireside
Thur. Nov. 18	-----	No Choir This Week
Fri., Nov. 19	10:30 am	Bible Study – 2 nd Floor Office
Sat., Nov. 20	1-3 pm	Middle School Youth to Cradles to Crayons

Our love and prayers are with Ed Vancor in hospice care at home; Elva Batchelder at Rosewood, Peabody; Barbara Bean at Woodbriar, Wilmington; Abbott Cofran; at Meadowview, N. Reading; Priscilla Kress at Renaissance Gardens, Peabody; Elaine Levis (Linda Ladd’s mother) at Mt. Auburn Hospital, Cambridge; Carl Johnson, Phil’s Dad; Joey Waitekus (Doug Hodgkins’ nephew) and Joey’s parents, Marcia and Joe of Walpole; Sue Lambe, Mary McCarthy, Art Pyburn, at home; Louise Allen, Marion Barnes, Glady Davis, Carolyn Furey, Hal Holappa, and Helen Miller. We also remember in our prayers Allan Marshall who is serving in Afghanistan.

**The next Tower Notes is the week of November 15.
The Church Office is open 9am-3pm Monday-Friday.**