

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

Sally MacDonald, Director of Tower Day School

Susan Spear, Secretary

We Welcome Everyone: An "Open and Affirming" Church

January 5, 2011

Happy New Year! Blessed Epiphany!

I am grateful! I am grateful for all of you who support the ministry of Centre Congregational Church. I am grateful for all of you who serve in positions of service and leadership in our ministry together. I am grateful for our wonderful staff, Susan Spear, Barbara Langill, Douglas Hodgkins, Sally MacDonald, all of the outstanding Tower Day Staff, and Anthony Ramirez. I am grateful for the ways that we work well together, give each other support and encouragement, and seek to serve the people of our church, school, and community.

This spirit of mutual support, cooperation, and encouragement is important, I feel, if our ministry together is to be effective. It is also the model of church life that the Apostle Paul campaigned for as he wrote to the Romans. He said:

Do not think of yourself more highly than you ought, but rather think of yourself with sober judgment, in accordance with the faith God has distributed to each of you. For just as each of us has one body with many members, and these members do not all have the same function, so in Christ we, though many, form one body, and each member belongs to all the others. We have different gifts, according to the grace given to each of us. If your gift is prophesying, then prophesy in accordance with your faith; if it is serving, then serve; if it is teaching, then teach; if it is to encourage, then give encouragement; if it is giving, then give generously; if it is to lead, do it diligently; if it is to show mercy, do it cheerfully. (Romans 12:3-8)

Yesterday I attended an Eagle Court of Honor ceremony for three Scouts: Christopher Enos, Sean Enos, and Jon Boone, all members of Boy

Scout Troop #48, a troop that Centre Church has sponsored for well over 50 years. Each boy represents special gifts and talents, and leadership skills. Each boy also represents a tremendous amount of support and cooperation from families, many scout leaders, the organization of Boy Scouts of America, and the hosting organization which is, in this case, Centre Congregational Church.

We know that such organizations like Boy and Girl Scouts train young people to become more

In the Sanctuary

Sunday, January 9, 2011

10:00 A.M. Morning Worship

Isaiah 42:1-9 and Matthew 3:13-17

Sermon by the Rev. Dr. Dennis C. Bailey

"God's Affirmation"

Children's Message—"With You I Am Well Pleased"

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

Nursery Open in Room 14.

Sunday, January 16, 2011

10:00 A.M. Morning Worship

John 1:29-42

Sermon by the Rev. Dr. Dennis C. Bailey

"Two Umbrellas"

Children's Message: "Your Favorites"

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

likely to succeed in their lives and more likely to understand the importance of making a positive difference in the world through service to others. Together, we are called to give our spiritual support to the work of these young people and to Scouting. I was pleased to represent this spirit of cooperation by sitting with Fr. Thomas Powers, Pastor of St. Maria Goretti Roman Catholic Church,

I am very proud of Centre Church for sponsoring such work! I am proud of how we attempt to keep our building up to date so that we can offer safe space for such programs.

Another Scout, Mike Welter, in our Troop #48 is working on an Eagle Scout project that will strive to rebuild our Todd Hall Stage. Through the efforts of Jack Marino, who is using his engineering background to draw up plans for the stage, support of Parish Council and others, we hope to continue to encourage and support Mike's effort to complete this project by the end of April, 2011. It is Mike's desire, in part, to give back to Centre Church through this project what the church has so generously given to Boy Scouts throughout the years.

If you know of suppliers of building materials, like wood, flooring materials and such, who would consider contributing materials to this project, please let us know as soon as possible. You can call or email me directly.

As we start the new year, let us continue to pledge ourselves to the work of God through cooperation in the church, in the community of Lynnfield, and in the world. Whether we are rebuilding homes in New Orleans, supporting Heifer International, giving support to members of our church and greater community, we serve the Lord, Jesus.

At Epiphany we remember the journey of the Magi who followed the star to visit the newborn King, Jesus. We follow the light of God in Jesus Christ, letting our light shine, not hiding it, but generously sharing it. Let us together raise our lights to the glory and service of God into the New Year!

Again, thanks for your generous support. Thanks for attending our beautiful Christmas Eve Services. Thanks to Douglas Hodgkins and our wonderful Choirs who were such a blessing in those services. I, with you, enjoyed them so much and found them to be a rich spiritual blessing.

Yours in Christ,

Dennis



From your Friends at Centre Church!
Arno and Marilyn Bommer, Tom and Jean Cintolo
Martha Emerson, The Imbrescia Family
Marilyn McCarthy, Shirley Orr
Charlotte Orrall, Edith Wendt

These additional donations to City Mission Society in Boston are much appreciated.

Up-Coming Schedule

On Sunday, January 9, **Rotation Sensation** will begin a new unit which will focus on the story of the Widow's Mite. Workshops will include Storytelling/Games and Cooking.

Our **Nursery** is open each Sunday for infants through age 3 in Room 14. Experienced staff and volunteers are on hand to welcome children for story time and play. Pagers are available for parents.

Both **Youth Groups** will meet on Sunday, January 9 from 6-7:30 p.m. for an Epiphany Party. Please bring a gift (less than \$10) suitable for a boy or girl.

Families with Preschoolers

Join Us for the Fun!

Current and prospective Tower Day School Families are invited to an Open House on Saturday, January 8 at 10 a.m. Johnny the K, a children's entertainer and performer with many hats will be performing at 10 a.m. in the Sanctuary. Following the performance the classrooms will be open and staff members will be available to answer questions. Applications for the 2011/2012 academic year are available to download at www.TowerDaySchool.org. Centre Church Members have a priority for enrollment until January 8, 2011.

Birthday Wishes

On Sunday, January 2, the Church School children enjoyed celebrating Epiphany with a party which included a King's Cake, making crowns, and putting together 24 goodie bags to donate to Birthday wishes. Many thanks to those who brought in toys to donate. We need rolls of Birthday paper to wrap the Birthday Boxes in. Please contact Barbara Langill if you can donate a roll or two.

Day of Service

On Saturday, January 15, the High School Youth Group will join with more than 200 other volunteers for a day of service in honor of the Rev. Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. The youth will be seeking pledges to support the service projects of City Mission Society of Boston. Please return your permission slip and City Mission waiver to the church by Sunday, January 9. Additional information and forms can be found on the church website.

Snow Tubing

All youth groups 5th-12th grade, are invited to join us for an evening of snow tubing at Nashoba Valley on Sunday, Jan. 23 (note the date change from original schedule.) We will meet in the parking lot at 4:45 p.m. The bus will leave promptly at 5 p.m. Please eat beforehand as we will not be having dinner at Youth Group. There is a snack bar at the lodge where food may be purchased. We will provide hot chocolate, water, and brownies. The cost is \$25.00. Please let us know if you plan to attend by Wed., Jan 19.

Thank You!

I wish to thank members of the congregation who shared kindnesses with me through the holiday season. You are a loving people! Rev. Bailey

I would like to thank all who were so kind to me over the Christmas season. A special thanks to Barbara Langill who managed the church office while I was out the week between Christmas and New Years. Susan Spear

The Flower Committee would like to thank all who helped to make our sanctuary look so beautiful on Christmas Sunday. Thanks to Joe Gallo of Plantscape Design for supplying the poinsettias.

Thanks also to those who donated their plants and the committee who helped to set up the display. A special thanks to the team of volunteers who delivered the poinsettias to our shut-ins and those recently bereaved.

With much appreciation,
Laurel Caputo

News From Around the Parish

We extend our love and sympathy to the family and friends of Alma Schnurbush who died on December 26. A Memorial Service will be held at Centre Church on Monday, January 10 at 11:00 a.m.

Our best wishes to Louise Allen who celebrated her 95th Birthday on December 30. (Beaumont Nursing Home, 3 Lyman St., Room 203, Westborough MA 01581)

Our love and sympathy are extended to Meg Kerber and her family upon the death of her husband, Wilmer (Bill) on January 1. The Kerbers are former members of Centre Church.

Wanted: Bearers of the Light

All youth in 5th through 8th grades are invited to participate in the Bearers of the Light program at Centre Church. Volunteers are needed for each Sunday to light the altar candles which signals the beginning of the worship service. This is a great opportunity to serve Centre Church and have fun with a friend, classmate or family!

Please contact Kathy Delaney at 781-245-1139 or Barbara Langill to sign up for a Sunday service.

Coffee Hour – Request for No Goodies

Membership Ministries has made a New Year's resolution. We would like to get back to basics for Coffee Hour. In order to reduce your time and the expense of hosting coffee hour, we are asking that no "goodies" be provided. It takes some expense to purchase goodies or labor and expense to bake goodies for the entire congregation.

So when you sign up for Coffee all you need to purchase is the 1/2 and 1/2 – the coffee, tea, and juice are provided by the Church. Thank you.

If you would like to volunteer to host Coffee or be a Greeter, please let Chuck Cotting know [781-593-3120 or charles.cotting@us.ngrid.com]. We need volunteers for most Sundays in January, February, and March!

We Appreciate our Volunteers!

Sunday, January 9: Head Usher-Carrie Pericola. Greeter-Betty Hayter. Altar Flowers-Lola Leggett. Coffee Hour-Doreen DiFillippo. Deliver Altar Flowers-Marjorie Potter and Laurel Caputo. Lights Out beginning January 7-Drew Taylor.

Sunday, January 16: Head Usher-Deacon. Lights Out beginning January 14-Jeff Langill.

Shopping Card Program

To date, our Shopping Card Program has earned \$1380 for Centre Church. We may have finished our holiday shopping, but there are plenty of other reasons to buy shopping cards, so keep those orders coming!

Are you the parent of a college student who buys textbooks through Barnes & Noble? If so, please consider purchasing a **Barnes & Noble College Bookstore** card at our Shopping Card table on Sunday morning. The cards are available in denominations of \$10, \$20, \$25, and \$100. Centre Church will benefit, and your college student will have a convenient way to purchase textbooks.

We've just been notified that Target has joined the Great Lakes Scrip Program. That's great news! Target cards are available in denominations of \$25 and \$100.

Heifer Update

The wonderful news is that we now have over \$7,000.00 in the Heifer International Account. Through a hefty amount raised previously for Heifer and an outstanding Heifer Marketplace at Christmas, we have exceeded the amount we need for our 11th Ark Award. This special plaque is being designed by Carol MacKendrick and Allie Parker. Thank you to all!



Deacons Breakfast - January 9 – 8:30-9:30 am

Join us for a great breakfast prepared by the Deacons. Funds will benefit the repair and maintenance of our sanctuary organ. Suggested donation is \$10/person or \$25/family. These breakfasts are a fun way to start off your Sunday. Leave the cooking to us! We hope to see you there.

Stewardship Update

The winner of the December 19th Boston Bruins Ticket Raffle is.... Pastor Dennis Bailey! Thanks to everyone who bought raffle tickets, the profits from the sale were \$470. Special thanks go to the generous donor of the tickets which allowed us to have fun and to help the programs here at Centre Church.

Thanks are also due to Bob & Myrna Shorey and Chuck Cotting for organizing our 2 successful lobster roll sales, which have raised \$750. Our team of "Lobster Elves" will be taking a winter break in order to avoid any storm related problems, but will be back in the spring. Thanks for all who have provided support by their purchases.



Theater, FUN, and \$\$!

On Jan 30th, we will be holding a fundraiser in conjunction with Quannapowitt Players community theater group in Reading. They will do an extra performance of their upcoming comedy, "Lend Me a Tenor", just for us. We can sell 150 tickets and the more we sell - the more profit goes to Centre Church. We'll have a very fun day of theater and fellowship and help our bottom line!

Many committees are joining in this effort. The Youth Groups will be selling refreshments at intermission, Fellowship is looking into providing a "reasonably priced lunch" between worship and the show and carpooling will be planned. So when you sign up for tickets, please note how many passengers you could take, if you'd appreciate a ride, and if you'd stay for lunch.

The show is on Jan 30th, 2011 at 2pm. Ticket prices are: \$20/adult, \$10/student. Tickets will be available after church services or can be purchased by sending checks to the church office payable to Centre Church, noting "QP play".

All of us are encouraged to invite, or sell tickets to, our friends and neighbors. The more the merrier when watching the wild mishaps this show entails: Can the world's most famous tenor put the Cleveland Opera Company on the operatic map in his greatest role as Othello? Come and see the hilarious series of mishaps with tranquilizers, too many doors and a very reluctant replacement that puts two Othello's on stage - a perfect farce!

For more information contact Linda Ladd, ladd@neb.com, 781-334-6170

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

Sun. Jan. 9	8:30 am 10:00 am 10:00 am 11:30 am 6:00 pm	Deacons Breakfast - Richards Morning Worship - Sanctuary Nursery/Rotations Confirmation Class - Library Youth Groups - Basement
Mon. Jan. 10	7:30 pm	Alanon & Alateen – FR & Library
Tues., Jan. 11	7:00 pm 7:30 pm	Membership – Fireside Room Diaconate – Pastor’s Office
Wed. Jan. 12	7:00 pm	Women’s 12-Step Mtg. – Fireside
Thur. Jan. 13	10:00 am 7:30 pm	Caregivers – Fireside Room Senior Choir – Choir Room
Fri., Jan. 14	10:30 am	Bible Study – 2nd Floor Office
Sat., Jan 15	8:30-3:30	Martin Luther King Day of Service With City Mission Society
Sun., Jan. 16	10:00 am 10:00 am 10:00 am	Morning Worship Service Children in Church Nursery – Room 14
Mon. Jan 17	----- 7:30 pm	Church Office Closed (MLK Day) Alanon/Alateen – FR & Library
Wed. Jan. 19	7:00 pm	Women’s 12-Step Mtg. – Fireside
Thur. Jan 20	7:30 pm	Senior Choir – Choir Room
Fri., Jan. 21	10:30 am	Bible Study – 2nd Floor Office

Our love and prayers are with Douglas Hodgkins recuperating at home (knee surgery); Barbara Bean and Abbott Cofran at Meadowview, North Reading; Denis Edkins at Rosewood, Peabody; Priscilla Kress at Renaissance Gardens, Peabody; Art Pyburn at home; Louise Allen, Marion Barnes, Glady Davis, Carolyn Furey, and Hal Holappa. We also remember in our prayers Allan Marshall who is serving in Afghanistan.

**The next *Tower Notes* is the week of January 17.
The Church Office will be open 9-3 Monday-Friday.**

TRIVIA NIGHT II @ Centre Church
Friday evening February 11, 2011 @ 6:30 PM

Pizza, salad, dessert and beverages \$15 - Trivia brought to you by Jason Cotting

Prizes for the best two teams! Team limit six people – get your team together now - plan ahead

**Please contact Susan Spear at the Church Office [781-334-3050]
or contact Chuck Cotting [781-593-3120]**

Lots of fun, lots of trivia, good pizza. Come on down for a nice evening of great fellowship.

Donations of desserts are Very Welcome!

Trivia Night II Order Form

Friday February 11, 2011 –
(check to Centre Congregational Church with form.)
(Return reservation to the church office during the week)

Name(s) _____

How Many on team? _____

Team Name: _____