

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

February 2, 2011

The Greatest Commandment

Rotation Sensation activities for the children this month revolve around story of The Greatest Commandment. Jesus was asked by a Pharisee, "Teacher, which commandment in the law is the greatest?" He (Jesus) said to him, "You shall love the Lord your God with all your heart, and with all your soul, and with all your mind. This is the greatest and first commandment. And a second is like it, 'You shall love your neighbor as yourself.' On these two commandments hang all the law and the prophets." (Matthew 22:36-40)

In his answer to the Pharisees, Jesus used words that weren't his own; they were from the Old Testament. The first segment was a quotation from Deuteronomy 6:5 – "Love the LORD your God with all your heart and with all your soul and with all your strength." The second portion was from Leviticus 19:18b – "Love your neighbor as yourself."

Jesus often quoted what we know as the Old Testament. It shows that he really knew the Hebrew Bible! This connection to the Old Testament makes our Art workshop pertinent – taking an ancient art form and filling it with fuller meaning. The project will be to fashion a clay mezuzah (muh-ZOO-zuh). A mezuzah is a small, decorated container which is attached to the doorframe of a Jewish home. This was a practice begun by ancient Jews and continued today. Inside this container is placed a copy of what is called "the Shema." The Shema includes Deuteronomy 6:5 – "Love the LORD your God with all your heart and with all your soul and with all your strength." The purpose of having a mezuzah is to remind everyone as they pass through the

doorway, that they are to love God and spread God's love to friends and family.

In addition to art, we will also explore this commandment by gathering together to hear the story from the Bible and playing games in Upper Room and by baking heart shaped cookies to share in Cooking

A summary: The Ten Commandments that God gave the Israelites long ago still apply to us today but we also have them summarized by Jesus into a command to love. Being loved first by God and loving back in all the ways that are possible, with all we've got – our heart, soul, and mind. We are commanded to love our neighbor as we love ourselves.

In the Sanctuary

Sunday, February 6, 2011

1 Corinthians 12:1-11

10:00 A.M. Boy Scout Sunday Worship

Sermon by Eagle Scouts:

Cory Johnson, Roger Potter-Furey,

Ryan Batchelder and John Walsh

Children may worship with their families before leaving to go to the kitchen for Faith in Action.

Nursery will be open in Room 14.

Sunday, February 13, 2011

10:00 A.M. Holy Communion

Sermon by the Rev. Dr. Dennis C. Bailey

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

The Nursery will be open in Room 14.

How simple: Two commandments, but really one:

Love.

Love God first.

By loving God first,

one is empowered to love one's neighbor.

One cannot love one's neighbor, without loving God first and one cannot love God without seeking to share that love with others.

Director of Christian Education,
Barbara Langill

*(excerpted from "The Greatest Commandment"
Bible background written by Carol Hulbert from
First United Methodist Church, 120 S. State Street,
Ann Arbor, MI 48104)*

Sunday Mornings with the Children

This Sunday, Feb. 6, children will attend worship briefly with their families and then head downstairs where we will be making soup. We are asking each child to bring in a can of vegetables to add to the soup. Suggestions: potatoes, tomatoes, carrots, corn, green beans.

On Sunday, Feb 13, we will continue our Rotation Workshops and learning about the Greatest Commandment. Many thanks to our Workshop leaders, Cheryl Caron-Cooking, Sue Tomich-Art, and Ann Decker-Upper Room.

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

Souper Bowl of Caring

The Middle School Youth Group will be in the Narthex on Sunday, February 6th collecting for the Souper Bowl of Caring. More than 20 years ago, the Souper Bowl of Caring began with a simple prayer from a single youth group: "Lord, as we enjoy the Super Bowl football game, help us to be mindful of those without even a bowl of soup to eat." Since that day, more than \$71 million has been raised for local charities across the country. Be part of this movement that is sharing God's love with those in need. Please give generously on Super Bowl Sunday. Every dollar donated will go to My Brother's Table in Lynn.

Sub and Salad Sales

Looking for a quick lunch for Super Bowl Sunday? The High School youth group will be preparing subs or salads which will be available for pick up after church on Sunday, Feb 6. Please call Barbara Langill (781-334-3050) to place your order over the phone by Friday, Feb. 4. Choices include roast beef, ham or turkey with choice of fixins'. The salad is a chef salad with turkey, ham and cheese. Each sub or salad is \$5.00. The money raised will be used for this year's mission trip

High School Youth Needed

On Sunday, Feb 6, the High School Youth Group will be selling subs and salads after worship to raise money for this year's mission trip. High School youth are asked to meet in the kitchen at 9:30 am to start putting together the orders. Please call or e-mail Carrie Perricola and let us know that you can help.

There will be no evening youth group meetings on Sunday, Feb 6. Enjoy the Super Bowl.

Both youth groups will be meeting from 6-7:30 pm on Sunday, Feb 13. The High School Youth group will be meeting in the kitchen and the Middle School in Todd Hall.

Entertainment Opportunity!

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

Pizza, salad, dessert and beverages \$15
Donations of desserts are very Welcome!

Trivia brought to you by Jason Cotting.

Come on down to a nice evening
of great fun and fellowship.

There will be prizes for the best two teams!

Team limit six people – get your team together now!

Please contact Susan Spear at the Church Office [781-334-3050] or Chuck Cotting [781-593-3120]. Make out your check to Centre Church, return it to the church office or Chuck Cotting and include your name, how many on your team and your team name.

Valentine's Day Raffle

Just in time for Valentine's Day -- you could win two \$25 shopping cards for Legal Sea Foods! To enter this drawing, just place a shopping card order by 11:30 a.m. on Sunday, February 13th. For each card that you order, you will get one raffle ticket. Order early, order often! The winner will be announced following the worship service on the 13th.

Debbie Cotting and Sandi Watson,
Shopping card program coordinators

Local Heifer Community

Centre Congregational Church is part of a larger community of Heifer International supporters in this area, including schools, civic clubs, and other churches. If you would like to learn more about what is going on in our local Heifer community, please visit our blog: <http://boston-north.heiferblog.org/>

Sandi Watson,
Area volunteer coordinator Heifer Boston-North

News From Around the Parish

We extend our love and sympathy to Annabel Aldrich and her family upon the death of her brother, Edward Abbott Cofran on January 22.

Congratulations to Earl Richard who will celebrate his 90th birthday on February 8.

We congratulate Allie Hagerty who was recently awarded the Gold Key by Scholastics. This is the highest regional honor given high school students for their artwork. Her art will now go on to be judged at the national level, and could possibly be on display in New York this summer.

Thanks to Our Volunteers

Sunday, February 6: Head Usher-Linda Ladd. Lay Reader-Sue Lambe. Provide Altar Flowers-Irene Allyn. Deliver Altar Flowers-Barbara Ericson and Margaret Waugh. Coffee Hour: Pinky Warnock and Marcia Stevens. Lights Out beginning February 4-Steve Furey.

Sunday, February 13: Head Usher-Deacon. Greeter-Barbara Becker. Lay Reader-Dwight Decker. Coffee Hour-Batty Hayter. Lights Out beginning February 11-Scott DeSantis.

From the Mailbox

Dear Friends,

I look at my beautiful flowers delivered by Judith Doe and realize how fortunate I am to belong to such a caring church. It certainly lifted my spirits. Thank you so much. I look forward to returning on Sunday mornings. Hopefully it won't be too long.

Fondly, Betty Conn

Dear Friends,

My sincere thanks for the encouragement and expressions of warmth from you as well as the flowers delivered by Steve Furey. My broken leg continues to heal and I hope to be back in the congregation soon!

Frank Scott

To my Centre Church Family,

Many, many thanks for all your expressions of sympathy – cards, phone calls, and most of all your prayers over the last ten months. I am grateful that I had my “baby” brother for more than 85 years. I have wonderful memories of our times together. Now he is at peace, and I thank God for that.

God bless you all, Love Annabel Aldrich

Cable Coverage of Worship Services

Our worship services are widely broadcast on local access cable channels. Below is the schedule. Thanks to Ryan Batchelder and his crew for making these broadcasts possible.

Peabody –

Comcast - Thursday 7pm CH10

N. Reading –

Comcast Saturday and Sunday 9am CH10.

Verizon Sunday 9am and 3pm CH 26

Lynnfield –

Comcast Thursday 7pm CH10.

Verizon Thursday 7pm CH28,

Friday 11:45 am and 7 pm

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. Feb. 6	10:00 am 10:00 am 11:30 am 11:30 am 11:30 am	Boy Scout Sunday - Sanctuary Nursery/Faith in Action Activity Confirmation/Youth Choir Youth Group Sub and Salad Sale Souper Bowl of Caring - Narthex
Mon. Feb. 7	7:30 pm	Alanon & Alateen – FR & Library
Tues., Feb. 8	7:30 pm 7:30 pm	Diaconate – Pastor’s Office Educational Ministries - Library
Wed. Feb. 9	7:00 pm	Women’s 12-Step Mtg. – Fireside
Thus. Feb. 10	10:00 am 7:30 pm	Caregivers – Fireside Room Senior Choir – Choir Room
Fri., Feb. 11	10:30 am 6:30 pm	Bible Study – 2 nd Floor Office Trivia Night & Pizza Dinner - RH
Sun., Feb. 13	10:00 am 10:00 am 11:30 am 6:00 pm	Holy Communion - Sanctuary Nursery/Rotations Confirmation/Youth Choir Youth Groups (Gr.5-12)-Basement
Mon. Feb. 14	7:30 pm	Alanon/Alateen – FR & Library
Wed. Feb. 16	7:00 pm	Women’s 12-Step Mtg. – Fireside
Thur. Feb. 17	7:30 pm	Senior Choir – Choir Room
Fri., Feb 18	10:30 am	Bible Study – 2 nd Floor Office

Our prayers are with George Hayden at Mass General; Olive Wood at Holy Family Hospital, Methuen; George Bailey (Rev. Bailey’s uncle) in the hospital in CA; Barbara Bean at Meadowview, North Reading; Marion Edkins, Denis Edkins and Priscilla Kress at Renaissance Gardens, Peabody; Al Farnsworth, Fred Boling (knee surgery), Betty Conn, and Art Pyburn at home; Louise Allen, Marion Barnes, Glady Davis, Carolyn Furey, and Hal Holappa.

We also remember in our prayers Andy Gehret who is in Afghanistan and Allan Marshall who has returned to the United States after serving in Afghanistan.

The next *Tower Notes* is the week of February 14.

The Church Office will be open 9-3 Monday-Friday.
