

# 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*

**April 27, 2011**

## Easter Notes

I give thanks to God for all who helped make our Holy Week services and special events possible and meaningful.

Susan Spear, Barbara Langill, Douglas Hodgkins, the choirs, Tony Ramirez, the Deacons, the ushers, all who volunteered to read, and help out in some way: THANKS!

I rejoice in the deep meaning experienced in our Maundy Thursday Service. I am grateful that the rain stopped for our Easter Sunrise Service at Suntaug Lake in Newhall Park. The Deacon's Easter Breakfast was a very nice respite in between services, and, they sold out of food!!! The Sanctuary was packed for our Easter Sunday service, the choir was great, and, we had at least one newcomer, known only to Ken and Phyllis Robinson who just happened to be visiting from Florida!

The Gulezian fellowship hour after worship was fabulous!!! Lots of people enjoyed staying around, hanging out, enjoying the homemade refreshments, and God-made fellowship!

I especially rejoice in the joyful atmosphere.

I also rejoice in the support of the efforts by our youth group for the upcoming **30-Hour Famine**, that begins after breakfast this coming Friday, April 29th through noon, Saturday, April 30th. Enthusiasm is building for this year's efforts and many people have already made a difference toward hunger relief through their giving.

The young adults, preparing for their May Mission Trip to Portland, ME with Habitat for Humanity (May 22-27) had a wonderful tea in the Meeting House this past Saturday. I am so proud of them!! It was great and fun!

And, thanks to you, our congregation who supports our work, our joy, and our service to Jesus

Christ. The benefits of your support are so evident everywhere you turn.

Please remember to make your pledge of support for the coming year's budget, if you haven't done so already. The Stewardship Committee has asked each of us to try to increase our pledges by at least 5% in order to keep up with the increased costs of our wonderful ministry together.

## In the Sanctuary

**May 1, 2011**

10:00 A.M. Holy Communion

*John 20:19-31*

30 Hour Famine Update from Youth Group  
Sermon by the Rev. Dr. Dennis C. Bailey  
"The Savior Who Forgives"

Children may worship with families  
before going to a Faith in Action Activity.

Nursery open in Room 14.

**May 8, 2011**

**Confirmation Sunday**

10:00 A.M. Morning Worship

*Luke 24:13-35*

Sermon by the Rev. Dr. Dennis C. Bailey  
"If Easter Is True...."

Children may worship with their families  
for the entire service.

Nursery open in Room 14.

**Chapel & Tower Day Heating:** In addition, Parish Council is currently working on a plan to repair the Air Conditioning and Heating system in the Chapel, and the heating system for Tower Day. We are currently reviewing proposals from contractors. Thus far, the estimates for this work are in the range of \$30,000, plus or minus. If you would like to contribute toward this in total and/or in part please call me (781-334-3050) or Bruce Weaver, Moderator, (781-334-4341).

**Memorial Gifts:** I am grateful to the family of the late Arthur Foulds, who designated the Building Fund of Centre Congregational Church, for memorial gifts in lieu of flowers. It is their hope to make a positive difference toward the needed repairs of our church building in memory of Arthur. It is their hope and mine that others will follow their example and remember Centre Church on such occasions. It makes a world of difference in our work and ministry, and what better way to remember and honor a loved one?

It is now time for us to live out the meaning and power of the resurrection of Jesus Christ who died and rose again, for you and for me and for what we do every day in our ministry together here and in the world.

Thanks for your prayers, your encouragement, and your positive support toward the staff, leaders, and me.

Happy Easter!  
Yours in the Risen Christ, Dennis

### **Sunday Morning With the Children**

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.

On Sunday, May 1, Children will stay in worship for Communion and then leave to attend a group lesson on Faith in Action. Children and youth will remain in worship on Confirmation Sunday, May 8.

### **Pennies for Peace**

Our Penny Jar is filling up fast. If you still have pennies at home, please bring them in on Sunday, May 1. We will be counting up all the pennies and sending them to CAI (Central Asia Institute) to help build schools in Afghanistan and Pakistan.

### **30 Hour Famine**

On April 29-30, the High School Youth Group will participate in the 30 Hour Famine to raise money for World Vision and support their efforts to end hunger around the world. It's not too late to make a donation to this worthy cause.

Please send in your contribution to the church office or you may go online to make a donation by visiting: [http://twv.convio.net/site/TR/30HourFamine/30HourFamine?team\\_id=11747&pg=team&fr\\_id=1310](http://twv.convio.net/site/TR/30HourFamine/30HourFamine?team_id=11747&pg=team&fr_id=1310)

### **Spring Afternoon Tea**

Despite the rainy weather, more than 50 people came and enjoyed a lovely afternoon with excellent food and a nice variety of piping hot tea. Many thanks to all who helped support the fundraising efforts of the Young Adult Group's Mission Trip in May.

### **Middle School White Water Rafting**

On Friday, May 6, we will meet in the church parking lot at 4:30 pm to head out to Charlemont for our White Water Rafting Adventure.

### **Shopping Card Countdown**

As you may know, the shopping card program goes on hiatus over the summer. We encourage you to think ahead about events for which you could use shopping cards, as well as your ongoing basic needs like groceries, gas, and iced coffee from Dunkin' Donuts.

You can give shopping cards as gifts or use them to purchase great gifts for:

- Graduations
- Mother's Day (May 8)
- Father's Day (June 19)
- Weddings
- Baby Showers
- Birthdays

And college-bound students could use Barnes and Noble College Bookstores cards.

Please contact us if you have any questions --

*Debbie Cotting and Sandi Watson,  
Shopping Card Coordinators*



### **Write On! Secret Pen Pal Program!**

We are looking for adults and kids interested in being secret pen pals over the summer. Here's all you need to do:

- 1.) Pick a secret code name for your letters
- 2.) Send and receive at least 4 letters or postcards from June-September
- 3.) Meet your secret pen pal at an ice cream social in the fall.

Want to sign up? Call or e-mail Barbara Langill at 781 334-3050 or [christianed@centre-church.org](mailto:christianed@centre-church.org) with your name, summer address, phone number and a secret code name that you want to use.

### **Easter Thank You**

The Flower Committee would like to thank all who helped make our sanctuary look so beautiful for Easter Sunday. We thank Plantscape Designs and Joe Gallo for supplying the colorful Easter plants. Many thanks to those who donated the plants and to the committee who set up the display on Good Friday. A special thank you to our team of volunteers who delivered the plants to our shut-ins and the bereaved. We greatly appreciate all of your hard work and generosity.

Laurel Caputo for the Flower Committee

### **Engraved Brick Patio**

Many people have asked me if there is still an opportunity to purchase an engraved brick for the patio at the rear of the church. I am taking orders now through May 15th. The small bricks are \$50 and the large bricks are \$100. The small bricks hold up to 3 lines of 20 characters each (including spaces and punctuation). The large bricks hold up to 6 lines. Checks should be made payable to Centre Congregational Church and can be mailed to the church office. This is a great way to memorialize someone you know or a family member. Or you can use the brick to thank someone special or record an important date. You may have a favorite Bible verse or inspirational quote. Or you may just want to put your name on the brick. Anything works! If you have any questions you can get in touch with me at [pcjohnson@meei.harvard.edu](mailto:pcjohnson@meei.harvard.edu) or 781-598-5678.

### **News From Around the Parish**

Our love and sympathy are with the Foulds family upon the death of Arthur on April 15. His Memorial Service was held at Centre Church on April 20.

We extend our love and prayers to Janice Flight and her family upon the death of Jack Flight on April 19. His Funeral was held at Centre Church on April 23.

### **From the Mailbox**

Our thanks to Mary McCarthy who visits Ollie regularly. Thank you for the flowers as well as the many cards sent to her by the people of the church.

Carl Wood

### **Thank You from Heifer Boston-North!**

Heartfelt thanks to all who supported Heifer International by attending the Overboard benefit concert on April 7. Shout outs to Kathy Delaney, Madeleine Law, Monique Law, Allie Parker, Allison Watson, Laura Langill, and Jeff Langill for their help. We had fun connecting with long-time supporters, meeting folks new to Heifer, and listening to some great music. We also raised money -- thanks to generous contributions and a matching gift opportunity, our donation to Heifer was \$1,960.

To see where Overboard is performing or download free tunes, see [www.overboardvocals.com](http://www.overboardvocals.com).

To stay in touch with local Heifer volunteers, see our blog: <http://boston-north.heiferblog.org> or our facebook page:

[www.facebook.com/HeiferinBostonNorth](http://www.facebook.com/HeiferinBostonNorth).

The Eight O'Clock Wheel plans to hold their annual luncheon on Monday, May 9 at the Hillview in North Reading.

### **Thanks to Our Volunteers!**

May 1, 2011: Head Usher-Jeff Law. Greeter-Shirley Orr. Provide Altar Flowers-Jim & Cheryl Wersackas. Deliver Altar Flowers-Barbara Becker & Chuck Cotting. Lights Out beginning April 29: Bill Seelig.

May 8, 2011: Head Usher-Linda Ladd. Greeters-Dave & Diane Bjorkman. Provide Altar Flowers-Marjorie Potter. Deliver Altar Flowers-Barbara Ericson & Margaret Waugh. Coffee Hour-Frank Scott & Marian Orfeo. Lights Out beginning May 6: Bruce Weaver.

**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. May 1	10:00 am 10:00 am 10:00 am 11:30 pm 6:00 pm	Morning Worship - Sanctuary Nursery – Room 14 Faith in Action Activity Confirmation/Youth Choir Youth Groups - Basement
Mon. May 2	7:30 pm	Alanon & Alateen – FR & Library
Tues. May 3	7:00 pm 7:30 pm	Membership – Pastor’s Office Educational Ministries - Library
Wed May 4	8:00 am 7:00 pm	Bread & Roses Meal Preparation Women’s 12 Step Mtg. - FR
Thurs. May 5	5:45 am 7:30 pm	Weight Watchers – Fireside Room Choir Rehearsal – Choir Room
Fri. May 6	10:30 am 4:30 pm	Bible Study – 2 <sup>nd</sup> Floor Office Middle School Rafting Trip
Sat., May 7	10:30 am	Confirmation Rehearsal- Sanctuary
Sun., May 8	10:00 am 10:00 am	Worship Service - Sanctuary Nursery/Rotations
Mon. May 9	7:30 pm	Alanon/Alateen – FR & Library
Tues. May 10	7:30 pm	Deacons – Pastor’s Office
Wed. May 11	7:00 pm	Women’s 12 Step Mtg. - FR
Thur. May 12	5:45 pm 7:30 pm	Weight Watchers – Fireside Room Senior Choir – Choir Room
Fri., May 13	10:30 am 4:30 pm	Bible Study – 2 <sup>nd</sup> Floor Office Women’s Retreat - Adelynrood

Our prayers are with Dorsey Holappa at Lahey Clinic, Burlington; Andy Gehret who is recuperating at Bethesda Naval Hospital, Bethesda, MD; Tracey Marino; Amy Allen; Olive Wood at Woodbriar, Room 204B, 90 West St., Wilmington 01887 – 978-658-5393; Barbara Bean at Daniels House, 59 Middlesex Avenue, Reading, 01867; Marion Edkins, Denis Edkins and 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 Bob Trayers and David Tuttle who are in Afghanistan.

**Office Open 9am-3pm Monday through Friday.**

**The next *Tower Notes* is the week of May 9.**