

# TOWER NOTES

Centre Congregational Church (United Church of Christ)

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*We Welcome Everyone: An "Open and Affirming" Church*

**July 27, 2011**

## Lessons from Away

As I write this article I am away on vacation near the Mason-Dixon Line where I was born, raised, given faith, educated and taught the most important lessons of my life. Once upon a time I would have said that it is my "home." But, it is not my home anymore because the family farm was sold in 1965 and the family home to which we moved after that time has been sold out of the family. Furthermore, I have lived in Massachusetts since 1971. So, Massachusetts is my home now.

I am away from my home at present for rest, family time, and refreshment. Such time away is important for me because being near the places where I grew up reminds me of the important lessons of my life.

The first lesson is the importance of my family. While both my parents are gone, my family has grown. And the ties with my family now are just as important as they always have been. As my family grows, my joy increases and I know that my parents would be very happy, and very proud of who we are and how our family has grown.

The second lesson I am reminded of while I am away is the importance of hard work, very hard work. Witnessing how hard the farming community works in these parts brings back the memories of how hard my parents and

grandparents worked. And yes, it reminds me of how hard my brother and I also worked while growing up on a farm. Hard work produced in me determination and perseverance. Yes, there are times when it seems that what we are working so hard at doing may be producing little or no results. It taught me that some things are not in our hands, but in the hands of God. We keep working hard, trusting that God will bring a just reward for our labors. It is also important to learn that hard work produces its own reward because people and potential employers have a great deal of respect for people who work hard and are dependable. A person who works hard and is dependable has already learned the most important job skills to be successful in life. Most of the rest of what is needed can be taught and learned.

The third lesson I am reminded of is my faith. While the church and congregation that gave me my faith have changed a great deal, the faith in God they taught me remains the same. God does

**Join us for Worship  
in the Chapel at 9:00 a.m.**

**August 7, 14, 21, 28**

Sermon by the Rev. Dr. Dennis C. Bailey

These informal services are followed by punch and fellowship in the Fireside Room.

not change. Jesus Christ's love remains unconditional. The way the people of my childhood church loved me is the way I believe God wants me to love everyone I meet, inclusively. Some of the things I also learned about my faith were not intentionally given to me by those in my childhood church. That was God's doing, and the work of other spiritual and important influences in my life.

And the fourth lesson I am reminded of, via my best friend, Harry, is that often luck has very little to do with our success in life. Rather, if we work hard and are prepared for whatever comes our way, whatever God brings our way, making as many friends as we can along the path of our journey, treating all others with the utmost of respect regardless of who they are, it is all the more likely that we will find happiness, know joy, and have a fruitful and rewarding life. It is important, the Lord has taught me, to see the face of Jesus in every person I meet and to treat them accordingly.

These things I have learned, whether at home or away.

Yours in Christ, Dennis

### **P.S.: 911 Never Forget**

Please see Lynnfield 911:  
<http://sites.google.com/site/lynnfield911/>  
or Google: Lynnfield911 (no spaces)

I need your help to read the nearly 3,000 names of the victims of 911 on Sunday, September 11, beginning at 2:00 pm.

Please sign up:

- a) via the website.
- b) email me: [pastor@centre-church.org](mailto:pastor@centre-church.org)
- c) call me: 978-375-0176

Next Lynnfield 911 Committee meeting: Monday, August 1, 2011, 6:30 pm, Lynnfield Fire Headquarters. You are invited to attend and help us remember.

### **Vacation Bible School Volunteers Needed** **August 8-12 from 9:30 am- 12 noon**

The theme is the “*Shake it Up Café, Where Kids Carry Out God’s Recipe!*” We need leaders for Storytelling, Crafts, Discovery Time (science), and Recreation (games). Please contact Barbara Langill in the church office, or Samantha White, this year’s VBS coordinator to volunteer.

### **Confirmation Class**

Details of this year’s Confirmation Class for 9<sup>th</sup> Graders will be sent home in the fall. The format will be different from years past. Thanks to all for their input on this.

- Educational Ministries



### **Middle School Beach Trek**

Members of the Middle School youth group are invited to a special Beach Day on Thursday, August 4. We will be guests of the Miller family. We will plan on meeting at the church at 9:30 am and carpool up to New Hampshire. Please bring a bag lunch, towel, sunscreen, and permission slip. Call the church office at 781 334-3050 to RSVP.

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

Our love and sympathy are extended to Steven Richard and Karen Nascembeni upon the death of her mother, Eva. A funeral was held July 12 in Feeding Hills, MA.

Our congratulations to David and Marylee Riester upon the birth of a son, Henry David, on July 15. His proud big brother is Benjamin and his proud grandmother is Janet Riester.

### **Thanks to Our Volunteers**

**August 7:** Head Usher-Jeff Law. Donate Flowers-Dorsey Holappa. Punch-Ginny Daniels and Gini Laing. Lights Out beginning August 5-Scott DeSantis.

**August 14:** Head Usher-Carrie Pericola. Punch-Betty Hayter. Lights Out beginning August 12-Bruce Weaver.

**August 21:** Head Usher-Leslie Carey. Punch-Edie and Earl Richard. Lights Out beginning August 19-Bill Seelig.

**August 28:** Head Usher-Carrie Pericola. Lights Out beginning August 16-Rick Carey.

### **Help for the Vinci Family**

As many of you know, the Vinci family, of Lynnfield, tragically lost their youngest member, Sydney, age 4, on July 4th, to a drowning accident.

Many have been asking how they can help. A Vinci family fund has been established to help the family through this difficult time

If you would like to make a monetary donation to the Vinci family please make checks payable to "Vinci Family Fund" and mail to John or Robyn Yannone, 15 Village Row, Lynnfield Ma 01940, or you may stop at any one of the eight branches of The Savings Bank (TSA) and make a deposit.

### **Secret Pen Pals**

I hope all the participants in the Secret Pen Pal program are having fun. Lots of letters and postcards have been exchanged. Remember, you need to send at least 4 letters before the end of September. You can leave your letters in the mailbox at the bottom of the office stairs, just put up the flag so I know to take a look. You can also mail the letters to the church office and I will forward them on to your secret pen pal.

- Barbara Langill

### **Getting Organized-Moving-Cleaning House?**

Items needed for the 24<sup>th</sup> Yard Sale Saturday, September 17 – Meeting House to benefit special needs activities for young adults... all help appreciated.

Questions? Call Fran Soderberg 781-334-3437

### **Keep Recycling**



Don't forget to bring your newspapers, magazines, catalogs and junk mail to the Paper Recycling Dumpster in the parking lot. (no cardboard or phone books please)

In the Missions Pantry we collect:  
non-perishable food for Haven from Hunger

pull tabs from cans for Shriners

travel-size toiletries for Lynn Shelter Assn.

used eyeglasses for Lions Club

used cell phones for HAWC

BKP which is a group that collects books to be sent to the Philippines meets here twice a month to pack boxes of books. They gladly accept math, science and English textbooks (published after 1990) and also children's books. In addition, they will accept National Geographic magazines if they are in good condition and were published after 1990.

These donations help BKP set up libraries and reading programs. Donations may be left in Todd Hall.

### *Our Opportunities*

|                       |                                  |   |
|-----------------------|----------------------------------|---|
| <u>Sun. July 31</u>   | <u>9:00 am</u>                   | <u>Morning Worship - Chapel</u>   |
| <u>Mon. Aug. 1</u>    | <u>7:30 pm</u>                   | <u>Alanon/Alateen - Basement</u>  |
| <u>Tues., Aug 2</u>   | <u>10:30 am</u>                  | <u>VBS Volunteers Meeting - FR</u>  |
| <u>Wed Aug. 3</u>     | <u>9:00 am</u><br><u>7:00 pm</u> | <u>Bread &amp; Roses Meal Preparation</u><br><u>Women's 12 Step Mtg. - FR</u> |
| <u>Thurs., Aug. 4</u> | <u>9:30 am</u>                   | <u>Middle School Group - Beach Day</u>  |
| <u>Fri. Aug. 5</u>    | <u>10:30 am</u>                  | <u>Bible Study - 2<sup>nd</sup> Floor Office</u>                              |
|                       |                                  |   |
| <u>Sun., Aug. 7</u>   | <u>9:00 am</u>                   | <u>Morning Worship - Chapel</u>   |
| <u>Mon. Aug. 8</u>    | <u>9:30 am</u><br><u>7:30 pm</u> | <u>Vacation Bible School - Mon-Fri.</u><br><u>Alanon/Alateen - Basement</u>   |
| <u>Wed. Aug. 10</u>   | <u>7:00 pm</u>                   | <u>Women's 12 Step Mtg. - FR</u>  |
| <u>Fri., Aug. 12</u>  | <u>10:30 am</u>                  | <u>Bible Study - 2<sup>nd</sup> Floor Office</u>                              |
|                       |                                  |   |
| <u>Sun., Aug. 14</u>  | <u>9:00 am</u>                   | <u>Morning Worship - Chapel</u>   |
| <u>Mon. Aug. 15</u>   | <u>7:30 pm</u>                   | <u>Alanon/Alateen - Basement</u>  |
| <u>Tues, Aug. 16</u>  | <u>7:00 pm</u>                   | <u>Membership - Pastor's Office</u>   |
| <u>Wed. Aug. 17</u>   | <u>7:00 pm</u>                   | <u>Women's 12 Step Mtg. - FR</u>  |
| <u>Fri., Aug. 19</u>  | <u>10:30 am</u>                  | <u>Bible Study - 2<sup>nd</sup> Floor Office</u>                              |
|                       |                                  |   |
| <u>Sun., Aug. 21</u>  | <u>9:00 am</u>                   | <u>Morning Worship - Chapel</u>   |
| <u>Mon. Aug. 22</u>   | <u>7:30 pm</u>                   | <u>Alanon/Alateen - Basement</u>  |
| <u>Wed. Aug. 24</u>   | <u>7:00 pm</u>                   | <u>Women's 12 Step Mtg. - FR</u>  |
| <u>Fri., Aug. 26</u>  | <u>10:30 am</u>                  | <u>Bible Study - 2<sup>nd</sup> Floor Office</u>                              |
|                       |                                  |   |
| <u>Sun., Aug. 28</u>  | <u>9:00 am</u>                   | <u>Morning Worship - Chapel</u>   |
| <u>Tues., Aug 30</u>  | <u>7:30 pm</u>                   | <u>Educational Ministries - Library</u>                                       |
| <u>Wed., Aug 31</u>   | <u>7:00 pm</u>                   | <u>Council - Pastor's Office</u>  |

Our prayers are with Pinky Warnock recuperating at home; Irene Allyn and Olive Wood at Woodbriar, 90 West St., Wilmington 01887; Barbara Bean at Daniels House, 59 Middlesex Avenue, Reading, 01867; Marion Edkins, Denis Edkins, Harold Kress and Priscilla Kress at Renaissance Gardens, Peabody; Louise Allen, Marion Barnes, Glady Davis, Carolyn Furey, Hal Holappa and Art Pyburn. We also remember in our prayers Bob Trayers and David Tuttle who are in Afghanistan.

**Summer Office Hours are 9 a.m. - 12 p.m.**  
**The next *Tower Notes* is the week of August 29.**

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