

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

September 14, 2011

Dear Friends,

September 18 begins an exciting new year of programming for the children and youth at Centre Church. I know fall is a very busy time, but I invite you to take time to consider just how Sunday mornings will be spent as part of your lives. Christianity, like all faiths, is caught and it is taught. None of us can grow in faith if we do not devote time to fostering that growth. Parents often ask, "Should I make my child attend Church School or leave the decision to them?" I feel that children need to feel some control and to grow into making good decisions with practice. But as parents, we need to decide *what* should be in their control: the clothes they wear? the time they go to bed? whether or not to go to school? do they not take calculus because it is hard? should they wear braces because their teeth need them? So where on this continuum does Church School fall? A question parents might ask is "What difference will this decision make when they are 16 or 60?" Will it matter that they played soccer or dyed their hair? Will it matter that they have a relationship with God and values that sustain them? As parents it is ultimately your decision and I hope that you and your children and youth will decide to join us on Sunday mornings for worship and Rotation Sensation. Please consider the benefits of bringing your child to Rotation Sensation. Here are 10 reasons to make it a priority in your family.

1. Multiple Learning Styles Targeted: Where else can your kids get Biblical instruction that's focused toward their learning styles? Some students learn better by doing or saying, moving or sitting still, viewing or hearing, touching or tasting, discussing or pondering. The more multisensory the learning, the more broadly & deeply it is stored and retained.

2. Friends: During Rotation Sensation, your child will build positive friendships with their peers while learning about God together.

3. It's Fun: Rotation Sensation is not Disney Land, but we work hard to teach the Bible in ways that are relevant and fun for kids.

4. Spiritual Mentors: A dedicated leader or shepherd can be a Christian role model who supports you and helps inspire the faith of your child.

5. Bible Literacy: Repetition is the cornerstone to remembering. In Rotation Sensation, students learn the same story for several weeks, but through a different workshop. This results in children learning more and retaining more about the Bible.

6. Faith Formation: Coming to Rotation Sensation provides opportunities to help your child's faith and spirituality grow.

7. Big Reward For a Small Investment: If your child attends Rotation Sensation, they will be offered over 800 hours of Christian teaching before your child graduates.

8. Send the Right Message: Making Rotation Sensation a priority shows your children that God, the church and being a Christian really does matter.

9. Sunday Worship: You will worship briefly as a family and then while the children enjoy Rotation Sensation, you can worship and grow in your own faith and spirituality.

In the Sanctuary

September 18, 2011 – 10:00 a.m.

Sermon by the Rev. Dr. Dennis C. Bailey

September 25, 2011 – 10:00 a.m.

Sermon by the Rev. Dr. Dennis C. Bailey

On both Sundays, children may worship with their families before going to Rotation Workshops.

The Nursery will be open in Room 11 for children up to the age of 4.

10. You'll Be On Time: Families who come to worship always get to Rotation Sensation on time. It's the easiest way to avoid being late.
(adapted from Elsa Marshall, in The Newsletter of Maple Street Congregational Church, UCC 9/2011)

Yours in Faith,
Barbara Langill
Director of Christian Education & Youth Ministry

Rotation Sensation begins Sunday, Sept 18

Join us Sunday, Sept 18 as we kick off the year with our first Rotation, Adam and Eve. After briefly worshipping with their families, children in grades Pre-K through 8th, will head out to participate in fun-filled activities to learn about the Bible story through Art, Storytelling/Games and Mission.

Confirmation Informational Meeting

There will be a meeting on Wednesday, Sept. 21 at 7 p.m. for all parents and 9th grade students interested in participating in the upcoming Confirmation Class. Please RSVP to the church office or e-mail Christianed@centre-church.org to let us know you will be attending.

Sunday Morning Nursery Care

Pages are available to ensure Nursery Caregivers can easily communicate with parents. The Nursery will now be located in Room 11 and will be staffed from 9:45-11:15 every Sunday through June 3 (excepting long weekends when there are no Church School Classes.) Lisa Gerbick, a college student at Salem State University, will be in the nursery each Sunday. Lisa has served in the church nursery for the past 6 years and is loving, kind and gentle with children. She will be assisted by experienced High School caregivers.

CENTRE CONGREGATIONAL CHURCH

Notice of Annual Meeting

The Annual Meeting of the church will be held on Sunday, September 25, 2011 at 11:00 a.m. to discuss the following items:

- Reports of Officers and Ministry Teams
- Presentation and Approval of the 2011-2012 Budget
- Election of Officers, Ministry Team Chairs and Other Positions
- Remembrance of Deceased Members
- Recognition of 50 year Members

Bruce Weaver, Moderator

Shopping Cards Return September 18

Again this year, we'll be offering shopping cards for all the things you buy anyway -- groceries, books, clothing, gas, and more. You order on Sunday, then the cards are here the following Sunday. Easy! You spend money you'll spend anyway and a percentage of each card goes to support Centre Church. In the first two years of this program, your shopping card orders raised more than \$4,600 for the church. Your participation makes a difference!

You're sure to recognize lots of the companies, too, including: Stop and Shop, iTunes, Amazon, Barnes & Noble, Exxon/Mobil, Starbucks, CVS, LL Bean, American Eagle Outfitters, Kohls, Talbots, Macys, Chilis, and Panera.

At our table in the Narthex, we'll have a full list of companies. We'll also have cards that you can buy right at our table, for the 99 Restaurant and Dunkin Donuts.

Please contact Debbie Cotting or Sandi Watson if you have any questions.

Secret Pen Pal Program

For all participants of the Write On Pen Pal Program: Join us Sunday, Sept 18 after Worship for an Ice Cream Social downstairs in the kitchen where you will meet your Pen Pal. Be sure to bring your sticker! Families are welcome to attend.

College Freshman Addresses Needed

The High School Youth Group will be sending care packages out to our college freshmen this fall. Please call or e-mail the church office with their college address so that they will be sure to get a surprise package from their friends at youth group.

Tower Day Fall Mum Sale

Please support our students at Tower Day School! We have mums for sale (8", 10", 12" and in yellow, purple, white, orange and red. If interested please contact Aimee Radulski at araduski@verizon.net or call 617-851-5843. Profits will be used for enrichment activities provided by the Parents Forum. Please have orders in by Friday, Sept. 23. Thanks so much for your support.!

Join the Weight Watchers Group at Centre Church

Learn how you can lose weight and feel great!

Information/Registration Meeting

Thursday, September 22, 5:45-6:30 p.m.

Fireside Room, Centre Church

Contact Denise Weaver at dweav57@verizon.net

for information about the fall promotion running through September 30.

Youth Group Kick Off

On Sunday, Sept 25 we will have our Kick Off Youth Group Meetings featuring a giant cardboard maze we make ourselves. If you have a spare roll of duct tape, bring it along. Cardboard boxes will be provided, but if you have a large box available, more are welcome. Friends are welcome to attend.

The Middle School Youth Group will meet from 5-6:30 pm. Pizza will be served. Parents are asked to come at 5 for a brief overview of the year, sign up to bring meals for the group and to complete necessary paperwork. Please be sure to bring your calendar and child's medical information.

The High School Group will meet at 6:30-8 pm. Pizza will be served. Parents are asked to come at 6:30 for an overview of the year, complete permission & medical forms and to sign up to provide a meal for the group. Please be sure to bring your calendar and child's medical information.

News From Around the Parish

Congratulations to Roger and Jessica Waugh of Exeter, NH upon the birth of their first child, Harrison William Waugh on August 3. His very proud grandmother is Marcia Waugh.

Our love and sympathy are extended to Dorsey Holappa and her family upon the death of her husband, Hal on September 10. Arrangements are pending.

Our sympathy and love are extended to the family and friends of Barbara Bean who died on September 7. Her funeral was held at Centre Church on September 10.

Our love and sympathy are with Norma Holloway upon the recent death of her brother, Bruce Kenerson.

Special Needs Yard Sale

Come shop at the Special Needs Yard Sale at the Meeting House on Saturday, September 17. Call Fran Soderberg for details 781-334-3437. Items to be donated can be dropped off at the Meeting House on Friday afternoon. We appreciate your donations.

Lights Out Volunteers

Beginning Sept. 16 – Drew Taylor
Beginning Sept.. 23 – Steve Furey

Wanted: Bearers of the Light

All youth in 4th 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 Barbara Langill to sign up.

Caregivers Support Group – North Reading

This 7-week, facilitated group offers caregivers of elders a set-aside time to tell their stories and experience support, care and strength for the journey through complex feelings.

Join us on Thursday evenings, Sept. 29-Nov. 10 6:30-8 p.m. at Union Congregational Church, North Reading. There is no cost to attend the group, however you MUST pre-register. Contact Diane Christopherson, D. Min. at 857-294-0052 or

diane.christopherson@beaconhospice.com

Pot Luck LUNCHEON! **Sunday September 25, 2011** After Church Services

- **Bring your favorite Appetizer, Salad, Luncheon Item or Dessert**
- **If you don't want to cook – sign up to Serve / Clean Up, bring Beverages, Utensils, Tablecloths, Paper Plates, Cups**

Sign up sheets are in the Narthex on Sundays!

Please contact Susan Spear at the Church Office 781-334-3050 or contact Chuck Cotting [charles.cotting@us.ngrid.com] or 781-593-3120.

This will be a great time to catch up with friends after Church and eat some great food!

Our Opportunities

Sunday - September 18	10:00 am 10:00 am 11:00 am	Morning Worship – Sanctuary Rotations/Nursery Pen Pal Ice Cream Social
Monday - September 19	7:00 pm 7:30 pm	Boy Scout Troop #48 – Todd Hall Alanon/Alateen – Fireside & Libr.
Wednesday - September 21	7:00 pm 7:00 pm	Confirmation Orientation Women’s 12 Step Mtg. – FR
Thursday - September 22	7:00 pm 7:30 pm	Council – Pastor’s Office Senior Choir – Choir Room
Friday - September 23	10:30 am	Bible Study – 2 nd Floor Office
Sunday - September 25	10:00 am 10:00 am 11:00 am 11:30 am 5-6:30 pm 6:30-8 pm	Morning Worship– Sanctuary Rotations/Nursery Annual Meeting – Sanctuary Potluck Luncheon – Downstairs Middle School Youth Group High School Youth Group
Monday - September 26	7:00 pm 7:30 pm	Boy Scout Troop #48 - Todd Alanon/Alateen – Fireside & Libr.
Tuesday - September 27	12:00 pm	Get-Together Wheel - Library
Wednesday - September 28	7:00 pm	Women’s 12 Step Mtg. – FR
Thursday - September 29	7:30 pm	Senior Choir – Choir Room
Friday - September 30	10:30 am	Bible Study – 2 nd Floor Office

Our prayers are with Caroline Walsh at Mass General; Elouise Bjorkman in hospice care at home; Esther McGrath at Spaulding Rehab in Salem; Al Frarnsworth and Irene Allyn recuperating at home; Olive Wood at Woodbriar, 90 West St., Wilmington 01887; Marion Edkins, Denis Edkins, Harold Kress and Priscilla Kress at Renaissance Gardens, Peabody; Louise Allen, Marion Barnes, Carolyn Furey, and Art Pyburn.
We also remember in our prayers Bob Trayers and David Tuttle who are in Afghanistan.

The Church Office is open Monday-Friday 9am-3pm
The next *Tower Notes* will be the week of September 26.
