

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

January 4, 2012

Resolutions

Happy New Year in this the year of the Lord, 2012! What is new for me this year, 2012? Following the Christmas Services I visited some of my family in Pennsylvania. It was a fine time to see how much some of the younger members of the family have grown, to hear their beautiful voices, and to sit, run, laugh, and play. I appreciated the opportunity to be refreshed through family love and ties. There were lots of homemade cookies, morning and afternoon walks, some visits with friends, and the opportunity to visit with those with whom I have become acquainted as a result of my life and work in Lynnfield. I love how God works in our lives to bring us together, to form ties that give our lives meaning and purpose, and add depth and breadth to our faith journeys.

I also appreciated the opportunity to enjoy some of my favorite foods! These included: A homemade, broiled Maryland crab cake, with lots of tartar sauce; a large serving of Scrapple, a local Pennsylvania "delicacy" usually served at breakfast – (an acquired taste that I don't recommend having too often, given that you will never find it listed in the "heart healthy" section of any restaurant menu); and the recommended Pennsylvania New Year's Meal, if you wish to have good luck in the New Year - pork and sauerkraut. Add to that, some southern New Year's good luck food: collard greens and black-eyed peas. We added to this mashed potatoes and gravy .

I'm back home, now, pondering the new year, pondering what God has in store for me, for us, and what God desires of us in this, His year, 2012. I am always open to the leading of the Holy Spirit in my life, and work, and hope that I will know the desires of the Spirit for the coming year. I wish to be of support and care to the members of my faith community, Centre Church. I want to be of spiritual and pastoral care of the members and families of the Lynnfield Fire Department, as well as members of other departments, when I am called upon. I also want to be in prayerful support of my colleagues in ministry. Many of my colleagues in ministry experience challenging times and

In the Sanctuary

January 8, 2012

10:00 a.m. Morning Worship

Sacrament of Baptism

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 11.

January 15, 2012

10:00 a.m. Morning Worship

Sermon by the Rev. Dr. Dennis C. Bailey

All children may worship with their families for the entire service.

situations in their work. God has called them, as God has called me, and part of our calling is to be lovingly supportive of one another.

I want us all to be mindful of the blessings we have as a result of our ministry together: meaning in worship of God together; meaning in the various ministries of our church; meaning in the ways we are, through our church, connected so that we help bear each other's burdens; meaning through music; meaning through reading, preaching, and acting on the Word of God; meaning through the mutual care and companionship we share; and meaning found through realizing that we are a part of God's greater work, a work that we see only in part, but occasionally catch glimpses of how it connects and impacts God's people all over the world.

When I visit my family and friends I am reminded of how my earlier years in other places prepared me for what I have been given by God to do. My best friend and I always discuss this when we get together, reflecting on the people, circumstances, and the important choices made by others and ourselves that became important to our development. I want us all to be aware of these things as we begin a new year together. What we do and what we choose makes a difference today and tomorrow. Generous actions beget generous behavior in others, and gratitude in the hearts and mind of others. Selfless behavior has its source in Christ's selfless life and actions. Those who have been selfless toward us have changed our lives in positive ways. Even when we are selfless toward others and it is not recognized and appreciated, God sees, values, remembers, and assures us that such behavior is not done in vain. God blesses it and uses it to bring new life, hope, and love to others.

May we continue in the work of the Lord, in this new year of the Lord, 2012, knowing that God has called us, and assures us of the blessings we need to do his amazing work.

Yours in Christ, Dennis

Nursery News

Our dedicated Nursery Caregiver, Lisa Gerbick, will be leaving for a semester abroad in Australia. We all wish her the best on this exciting, new adventure. We welcome Victoria Martin, an experienced baby sitter and senior at Wakefield High School, as the lead Nursery Caregiver. She will be in the nursery each Sunday to welcome infants and children up to age 4.

Rotation Sensation

On Sunday, Jan. 8, Rotation Sensation will focus on Epiphany and the visit of the Magi. There are no Rotation Workshops on Sunday, Jan. 15 due to the long weekend. Rotation Sensation resumes on Sunday, Jan. 22 and will begin a new unit which will focus on the call of the Disciples

Youth Group Activities

Both youth groups will meet on Sunday, Jan. 8 - Middle School (5-6:30), High School (6:30-8). No youth group meetings on Sunday, Jan. 15.

On Sat., Jan 14, the High School Youth Group will join with more than 200 other volunteers for a day of service in honor of 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, Jan. 8. Additional information and forms can be found on the church website.

All youth groups 5th-12th grade, are invited to join us for an evening of **snow tubing at Nashoba Valley** on Sunday, Jan. 29. We will meet in the parking lot at 4:45 p.m. The bus will be leaving 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 18.

HAPPY NEW YEAR

From Your Friends at Centre Church

*Marilyn and Arno Bommer
Lola and Stephen Leggett
Jack and Donna Marino*

These additional donations to City Mission Society in Boston are much appreciated for their ongoing work with families in need, youth at risk, the elderly and those who are shut-in. We thank all of you who made a donation through the Christmas Card project.

News From Around the Parish

We rejoice with Reilly and Jennifer (Waugh) Bayer as they welcome Hayden Mae Bayer into the family. She was born on December 29. Her proud big brother is Rowan and her proud grandparents are Harvey and Margaret Waugh.

From the Mailbox

To all my friends at Centre Congregational Church, I wish you a Happy Holiday Season and I want to thank you for your kind wishes and prayers during my recent illness.

Esther McGrath

To my friends at Centre Church,
I so appreciate your phone calls, flowers and well-wishes. I miss being among you and wanted you to know how much I cherish your kindnesses.

Priscilla Hahn

Dear Friends,
Thank you so very much for the lovely flowers that were delivered to us. Your thoughtfulness at the time of my mother's passing and your support now is of great comfort to us. I especially want to thank Reverend Bailey who was so very thoughtful and caring to make my mother's funeral service exactly as we wanted it to be. Merry Christmas to all!

Fondly, Bob and Suzi Sweezy
(the family of Doris Landry)

Heifer Contributions

I would like to thank everyone for their Heifer contributions throughout this year. We have raised a total of \$5,000 and we could not have done it without everyone's help. Thanks for all of you hard work. Happy New Year!

Allie Parker Heifer Coordinator

Trivia Night & Silent Auction

Friday, February 3, 2012

6:30 p.m.

Hors d'oeuvres and Beverages
Pizza, Desserts and Coffee

Featuring Trivia Expert Jason Cotting

Silent Auction during the Evening

\$15.00 per person
Contact Dotty Whittier
Membership Committee,
781-635-6225

Silent Auction Item Sign Up

Item: _____

Description: _____

Will you be providing pictures/object, etc:
Yes _____ No _____

Suggested starting bid: _____

Name of Donor _____

Address _____

Phone: _____

Due to Church by Sunday, Jan. 29, 2012

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).

Don't forget to bring newspapers, magazines, catalogs, etc. to the paper recycle bin in the parking lot. No phone books or cardboard, please.

Our Opportunities

Sun. Jan. 8	10:00 am 10:00 am 10:00 am 5-8:00 pm	Morning Worship – Sanctuary Rotations/Nursery Confirmation Class Youth Groups – Lower Level
Mon. Jan. 9	7:00 pm 7:30 pm	Boy Scout Troop #48 – Todd Hall Alanon/Alateen – Fireside & Libr.
Tues., Jan 10	7:30 pm	Diaconate – Pastor's Office
Wed. Jan. 11	7:00 pm	Women's 12 Step Mtg. – FR
Thurs., Jan 12	7:30 pm	Sr. Choir – Choir Room
Fri. Jan. 13	10:30 am	Bible Study – 2 nd Floor Office
Sat. Jan 14	8:30 am	Hi School Day of Service - Boston
Sun. Jan 15	10:00 am 10:00 am	Morning Worship – Sanctuary All Children in Church
Mon. Jan 16	----- 7:30 pm	Church Office Closed Alanon/Alateen – Fireside & Libr.
Wed. Jan. 18	7:30 pm	Women's 12 Step Mtg. – FR
Thur. Jan. 19	7:30 pm	Senior Choir – Choir Room
Fri. Jan.20	10:30 am 6:30 pm	Bible Study – 2 nd Floor Office Cub Pack #48 – Richards Hall

Our prayers are with Phyllis Ciampa, Betty Hayter, Jean Card, and Al Farnsworth recuperating at home; Muriel Nasson at Winchester Hospital; Caroline Walsh at Essex Park Rehab Center, 265 Essex Street, Beverly, 01915 (978-927-3260); Helen Butcher, Marion Edkins, Denis Edkins, Harold Kress and Priscilla Kress at Renaissance Gardens, Peabody; Louise Allen, Marion Barnes, Carolyn Furey, and Olive Wood.

We also remember in our prayers John Clarke (Lee Clark's nephew), Allan Marshall (Jim and Sheila Marshall's son), Sam Schnare (Dick and Carol Carter's grandson,)Bob Trayers (Cindy Trayers' son), and David Tuttle (Kathy Delaney's cousin), in Afghanistan.

Church Office Hours are 9am-3pm Mon. – Fri.

The next *Tower Notes* will be the week of January 16.
