

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

Barbara Langill, Director of Christian Ed & Youth Ministry, ChristianEd@Centre-Church.org

Douglas W. Hodgkins, Organist/Choir Director

Sally MacDonald, Director of Tower Day School

Susan Spear, Secretary

We Welcome Everyone: An "Open and Affirming" Church

January 18, 2012

It Snowed Today

I woke to snow this morning, no more than three inches. As I look out at it, I am thinking about what I will have to do to get out today. I am also remembering a much different scenario when, as a child living on a farm, we had a "lane," not a driveway. It was about 300 yards long, about the length of three football fields. It went up hill, making it even more challenging to drive on it in slippery conditions. I especially remember the last winter that we lived on the farm when my father was no longer with us. It was then up to me, with my mother's help and advice, to try to get our cars out of the garage and up the lane.

Our neighbor, Charlie, had a 4 wheel drive Dodge power wagon with a V-shaped snow plow on the front. He would plow us out, but the lane was still very slick. I had to back my big 1959 two toned (blue and white) Dodge up to the barn in order to get a 100 feet running start before negotiating the slight turn, the steepest part of the lane, a bump, and then up the longest part to the main road, Gunpowder Road. The hardest part to get past was the first part, where the slight turn, steep grade, and bump made it challenging. I can remember my mother standing there watching her son trying, spinning the tires, and, sometimes, getting very frustrated. There were times when there was no quick fix. I had to shovel, sand, and try again, and again.

What a sense of accomplishment when I did finally get the car(s) up the lane! Then we could park our cars at my grandfather's farm which had a level driveway, not a lane. Of course, it was a long walk through the snow, to get to my grandfather's farm, but, we did what we had to do.

After the last winter we moved to our new home, with a nice, wide, flat driveway, our cars in a heated garage, and the appropriate equipment to remove the snow. Just a few miles down the road from the farm, but a whole new world!

I think of that this morning and think about the darkness that we sometimes find ourselves in, how very, very difficult it can seem to get our motivation going to

navigate our way over the twists and turns, over bumps, and up hills of despair, to a level place. I know that we all face these times in our lives and, no doubt some who are reading this are in such a place at the present.

I know that God does not cause these challenging times in our lives, but God can help us, and use them for good. God helped me realize that no matter how strong I thought I was, I still and always needed God to help me through the challenging times in my life. God helped me realize that I can't go through my challenges alone, that I need the help of others God sends my way to walk with me. What is even more important, though, is that through my own challenges I realize how much others need us to help them through their challenges, how we are needed to help others up their hills, over their bumps, to a level place.

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In the Sanctuary

January 22, 2012

10:00 A.M. Morning Worship

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 29, 2012

10:00 A.M. Morning Worship

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.

God is calling us now, through the work of the gospel, through the people of faith in spiritual communities, through Christian Education, through studies of scripture, to notice when others have fallen and need our help.

That is why we are here, as people of faith, in and through our churches.

Yours in Christ, Dennis

▲ I give thanks for the life and faith of Olive Glenna Morrison Wood. Olive was born in Everett, MA on December 7, 1920 and died January 12, 2012. We will celebrate her life on Saturday, January 21st, 1 pm in the Sanctuary of Centre Church.

▲ Happy 100th birthday to Marjorie Cole, turning 100 on January 26!

▲ Congratulations to Fr. John "Jack" Farrell, Pastor, Our Lady of Assumption, Lynnfield, MA, celebrating his 50th Anniversary as a Priest.

NOTICE OF SPECIAL CONGREGATIONAL MEETING

A Special Meeting of the Church will be held on Sunday, January 22, 2012 at 11:00 a.m. to receive the report of the Nominating Commission to fill the following open positions:

Sandi Watson – Outreach
Carrie Pericola – Stewardship
Doreen DiFillippo - Diaconate
- Bruce Weaver, Moderator

Youth Groups

Both the Middle School and High School Youth Groups will be meeting on Sunday, Jan 22. The Middle School meets from 5-6:30 and the High School from 6:30-8 pm.

On Sunday, Jan. 29, both the High School and Middle School youth groups will be headed to Nashoba Valley for an evening of snow tubing. 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. If you plan to attend, please return your permission slip, signed Release of Liability form, and \$25.00 payment on or before Sun., Jan 22.

On Sunday, Feb 5, 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, text or e-mail Mrs. Langill and let her know if you will be there to help.

Sunday Morning With the Children

Our Nursery, located in Room 11, is open each week for infants through age 3. Experienced staff and volunteers are on hand to welcome children for story time and play.

Rotation Sensation

This week we will begin learning the story of "The Disciples are Called" through Cooking, Art and Storytelling Workshops.

Book Drive for Prison Book

The Prison Book Program gives books to individual prisoners in the United States. Prisoners have limited access to educational materials, and this program provides them with free books for personal development during incarceration. They believe education is a powerful tool that reduces the likelihood that a prisoner will return to the prison system.

The High School Youth Group will be volunteering at the Prison Book Program on Sat. Feb 18 (note date change from original schedule). **We will be holding a book drive from Sunday, Jan 22-Feb 12. Please check your home for paperback books in good condition that you would like to donate.** Both fiction and non-fiction books in good condition are accepted.

The following are subjects in constant demand: (paperbacks only, please) - Mysteries, Westerns, Spanish/English Dictionaries, Spirituality & Religion - especially Bible concordances & dictionaries, The Autobiography of Malcolm X and works about or by Martin Luther King, Jr., History, Psychology and Philosophy.

To find out more, please check out their website at <http://www.prisonbookprogram.org>.

Your City Mission Society Donations

Big thanks to all who donated clothing, toys, or books to City Mission Society during December. Because of your generosity, we were able to make Christmas a brighter day for many struggling families in the greater Boston area.

Thanks, too, to everyone who donated money to City Mission Society in lieu of mailing out Christmas cards. It was great to see the many "to all my friends at Centre Church" cards on the little tree in the Narthex and to see the \$600 total for our contributions. This money will support vital City Mission Society programs that prevent homelessness and promote peace.

- Sandi Watson, Outreach Team

Confirmation Update

On Sunday, Jan 22, the confirmation class will be meeting with Rev. Bailey 11:30-1 pm. Lunch will be provided by the Carey Family. Both the confirmand and his/her mentor should plan to attend. Reminder: you are expected to attend worship on Jan. 22. Please be sure to fill out your worship forms. If you are unable to attend any of the scheduled classes, be sure to call or e-mail the church office so arrangements can be made for you to make up the missed class.

Get-Together Wheel

Wheel members will meet in the Fireside Room and Library on Tuesday, January 24 at 1:00 p.m. to do a craft project led by Lillian Foulds.

Walk, Sister, Walk:

Young Women Peace Builders

You are invited to a special presentation at 4:00 p.m. on Sunday January 22, 2012 at First Congregational Church in Reading. You will meet four women peace builders from Chile, Paraguay, and the United States as they share their message of hope and resilience through drama, story, and music.

Walk, Sister, Walk is comprised of:

- **Elena Huegel**, Global Ministries missionary – Elena is a teacher, a storyteller, a poet, and an artist. She is program director of a peace and environmental education camp in central Chile.
- **Carolina Fernández**, Community development consultant – Through her passion for the history, customs, dreams, rights, and social and natural environment of rural communities, Carolina has found a way to build peace in her native country of Paraguay.
- **Carrie Prestwood-Taylor**, Civil and Environmental Engineer – Carrie is a recent engineering school graduate with a love of environment. As an engineer, Carrie hopes to use her education to provide clean water for those in need.
- **Débora Martínez**, Musical Director and Chef – Débora is studying international cuisine and oversees the food services at the Shalom Center. Débora is helping to build a better world with good food, beautiful music, and a spirit of service.

- *Sandi Watson, Outreach Team*

News From Around the Parish

We extend our love and sympathy to the family and friends of Olive Wood who died on January 12. Her Memorial Service will be held at Centre Church on Saturday, January 21.

Our best wishes to Marge Cole who celebrates her 100th birthday on January 26.

Our congratulations and best wishes to Victoria Elizabeth Spence and Sean Patrick Dowling who were married at Centre Church on January 14.

From the Mailbox

To My Centre Church Family,

I thank everyone so very much for all the kind expressions of care; the warmth of your well wishes; all the cards, phone calls visits, flowers, and food I have received. It's too much. Also, a special thanks to Dennis for being there when I was loaded into the ambulance. It was such a welcome sight to see him. Fortunately, it was a very small stroke and I am fine now and pretty much back to normal. I realize more than ever how very special Centre Church is and all the folks there really are.

With loving best wishes to all for a healthy and happy new year!

-Betty Hayter

Shopping Card Update

Since September, your shopping card purchases have earned over \$1350 for Centre Church. Our sales volume is highest in December when people do their holiday shopping, but there are plenty of reasons to buy shopping cards anytime during the year. You can order cards for all your favorite retailers and restaurants so please visit our shopping card table after church to place your order.

- Sandi Watson and Debbie Cotting,
Shopping Card Coordinators

We Thank Our Volunteers

January 22: Head Usher: Linda Ladd. Coffee: Nancy Lauzon and Gage and Dotty Whittier. Provide Altar Flowers: Barbara and Jeff Langill. Deliver Flowers: Marjorie Potter and Laurel Caputo. Lights Out beginning Jan 20: Bruce Weaver.

January 29: Ushers: Linda Ladd, Margaret Waugh, Gage Whittier, Bill Seelig. Lights Out beginning January 27: Bill Seelig.

Need a quick lunch for Super Bowl Sunday? Youth Group members will be taking orders for subs or salads which will be available for pick up after church on Sunday, February 5. Please fill out the order form and return it to the church office by Wednesday, February 1. The money raised will be used for this year's mission trip.



Subs and Salads - February 5



Please check off the type of sub and/or salad requested and circle what you would like on it.

Submarine Sandwiches

<input type="checkbox"/>	Roast Beef	<input type="checkbox"/>	Cheese	<input type="checkbox"/>	Lettuce	<input type="checkbox"/>	Tomato	<input type="checkbox"/>	Onion	<input type="checkbox"/>	Pickle
<input type="checkbox"/>	Ham	<input type="checkbox"/>	Cheese	<input type="checkbox"/>	Lettuce	<input type="checkbox"/>	Tomato	<input type="checkbox"/>	Onion	<input type="checkbox"/>	Pickle
<input type="checkbox"/>	Turkey	<input type="checkbox"/>	Cheese	<input type="checkbox"/>	Lettuce	<input type="checkbox"/>	Tomato	<input type="checkbox"/>	Onion	<input type="checkbox"/>	Pickle

Chef Salad (Turkey, Ham and Cheese)

Name _____

Subs at \$5.00 each= _____

Salads at \$5.00 each= _____ Total enclosed _____

Trivia Night & Silent Auction *Friday, February 3, 2012 - 6:30 p.m.*

Featuring Trivia Expert Jason Cotting - Silent Auction during the Evening

Hors d'oeuvres, Beverages, Pizza, Desserts and Coffee

\$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

Our Opportunities

Sun. Jan. 22	10:00 am 10:00 am 11:00 am 11:30 am 5-8:00 pm	Morning Worship – Sanctuary Rotations/Nursery Congregational Meeting-Sanctuary Confirmation Class Youth Groups – Lower Level
Mon. Jan. 23	7:00 pm 7:30 pm	Boy Scout Troop #48 – Todd Hall Alanon/Alateen – Fireside & Libr.
Tues., Jan. 24	1:00 pm	Get-Together Wheel – FR & Libr.
Wed. Jan. 25	7:00 pm	Women’s 12 Step Mtg. – FR
Thurs., Jan 26	7:30 pm	Sr. Choir – Choir Room
Fri. Jan. 27	10:30 am	Bible Study – 2 nd Floor Office
Sat. Jan 28	9-3	Cub Scout Pinewood Derby - RH
Sun. Jan 29	10:00 am 10:00 am 4:45 pm	Morning Worship – Sanctuary Rotations/Nursery Youth Groups go Tubing
Mon. Jan 30	7:00 pm 7:00 pm 7:30 pm	Membership Comm. – Pastors Ofc Boy Scout Troop #48 – Todd Hall Alanon/Alateen – Fireside & Libr.
Tues. Jan 31	7:00 pm	Council – Pastor’s Office
Wed. Feb 1	8:30 am 7:30 pm	Bread and Roses Group - Kitchen Women’s 12 Step Mtg. – FR
Thurs. Feb. 2	7:30 pm	Senior Choir – Choir Room
Fri. Feb. 3	10:30 am 6:30 pm	Bible Study – 2 nd Floor Office Trivia Night – Richards Hall

Our prayers are with David DiFillippo recuperating at home; Muriel “Mickey” Nasson at Kindred Hospital, Peabody; David Bean; Kristen Byrne at Maine Medical Center; 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, and Carolyn Furey. We also remember in our prayers John Clarke (Lee Clarke’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 Jan.30.