

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

February 29, 2012

The Body of Christ Needs Your Help

We are part of the Body of Christ! Once baptized, we become part of it, and are promised its care, unconditional love, teaching, and prayers whenever we need them. The promise is fulfilled through the able and willing hearts and actions of other members of the Body of Christ. In order to fulfill the promise of this ministry, we need your help.

I invite you to help by being a full and participating member of the Body of Christ, to experience the tremendous joy of service, the blessings of being at worship, savoring the Word of God, experiencing the healing, comforting, and uplifting music, finding strength in prayer, and in the ties that bind us together in fellowship with other believers.

I invite you to help by being a full and participating member of the Body of Christ, becoming a member of Centre Congregational Church. I will be holding a couple of Membership orientation classes for those who wish to join, on Sunday, May 6, and 13th, right after church, with Induction into the Membership of Centre Church on Sunday, May 20th, during the worship service. No matter who you are or where you come from, you are welcome to join!

I invite you to help to being a full and participating member of the Body of Christ by contributing financially. We are running thousands of dollars behind in our giving. We need everyone to do their part in giving to the ministry and mission of the church. I know that many people are giving very generously, but we are running dangerously short on meeting our current budget. We have been running fundraisers to help meet our needs, but we also need members to help by fulfilling pledges, giving additional gifts, so that our ministry will be strong.

I invite you to help by being a full and participating member of the Body of Christ by volunteering to help with the leadership in the church. The Shopping Card program has been a great success in raising additional funds for the church. Debbie Cotting and Sandi Watson have done a marvelous job. They are

interested in training a couple of other people to keep this program running strong. Please speak with them and consider helping with this.

I invite you to help by volunteering in significant ways to help with leadership positions in the church, serving as vice-moderator, a member of a ministry team like Stewardship, Outreach, Diaconate, Rotation Sensation, hosting a Coffee Hour, singing in the Choir, running a fundraiser, volunteering in the office. Please call me if you are interested in any of these and help make the Body of Christ stronger (781-334-3050, or pastor@centre-church.org).

In the Sanctuary

March 4, 2012 – 2nd Sunday in Lent

10:00 a.m. Holy Communion

Outreach Ministries Sunday

Sermon by Guest Preacher

Rev. Marie Lucca

Children may worship with their families before going to Rotation Workshops.

The nursery will be open in Room 11.

March 11, 2012 – 3rd Sunday in Lent

10 a.m. Morning Worship

Girl Scout Sunday

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.

(don't forget the time change)

In the Chapel

March 11, 2012 – 2:00 p.m.

Service of Remembrance

A service in memory of those recently deceased.

I invite you to help by going on the next church Mission Trip in August, to Joplin, Missouri. Barbara Langill still has several spots open. Allow yourself to have a life-changing experience in service to others!

The Lord, Our Savior, Jesus, needs us to be full and participating members with him as he walks to Jerusalem, and to the cross, in this season of Lent if he is to fulfill his mission. He needs us to remain fully his disciples in service, in giving, and in mission. I invite you to help the Body of Christ, to join the journey, and be a disciple who walks with our Lord.

I invite you to a life-changing experience, renewal of your faith, and a deepening connection with those others of us who also offer our able and willing hearts, minds, hands, and bodies to the cause of Christ. You will be abundantly blessed!

Blessed be your Lenten Experience, Dennis

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. Pagers are available for all parents.

In **Rotation Sensation** during the month of March, the church school children will be learning what events took place during the last week of Jesus' life. On March 25, they will present "A Walk through Holy Week" for the congregation. There will be parts for everyone, both speaking and non-speaking. We will also be making scenery and props.

Each Sunday during Lent, we will be baking muffins in our Cooking Rotation which we will be selling after worship. The money raised will be donated to Heifer. We would like children to report directly to the kitchen at 10 am on the week their class is scheduled to bake.

March 4 PreK-4th Grades

March 11 5th-6th Grades

March 18 7th/8th Grades

March 25 High School Youth

Youth Group News

On Sunday, March 4 and on Sunday, March 11, the Middle School Youth Group will meet at 5 pm and the High School Youth Group will be meeting at 6:30 pm. Please text, e-mail, or call Mrs. Langill if you know in advance that you will NOT be attending so that we can have an accurate count for the meal providers.

Laser Quest

On Sunday, March 18, both youth groups will be heading to Laser Quest in Danvers for a fun filled evening of non-stop Laser Tag from 5-6:30. The cost will be \$20.00 for 3 games. Please turn in your permission form and payment by Sunday, March 11.

Cradles to Crayons

Both the Middle School and High School youth groups will be volunteering at Cradles to Crayons on Saturday, March 10. We will meet in the church parking lot at 9 am to car pool into Brighton. We will return by 12:30 pm. Please go to the church website www.centre-church.org and click "Youth Ministry" on the side bar to access the flyer and permission slip for this event. Please RSVP by Sunday, March 4 as Cradles to Crayons needs to know how many volunteers to expect.



The youth groups of Centre Church will be accepting donations to Cradles to Crayons which will be distributed to more than 250 local social agencies, nonprofit organizations, and shelters. Last year, Cradles to Crayons served 50,000 children. They are in need of new and gently-used goods that are appropriate for use by children ages newborn to 12.

The current list of "Most Needed Items" includes:

- * Boys' clothing: Especially sizes 5/6-18/20
- * Girls' clothing: Especially sizes 2T, 5/6, 7/8
- * Winter coats: Especially sizes infant-5/6

Please leave your donations in the box located in the Narthex. Let's see if we can fill it to the top. Youth will be volunteering and bringing in the donations on Sat. March 10.

Thanks!!

Thanks to those who provided the soup for the Simple Soup Supper which was held on February 26: Kathi Martin, Laurel Caputo and Debbie Newman. Everyone enjoyed the meal and the Lenten activities which were part of the evening.

Family Board Games Afternoon **Sunday, March 4**

Are you starting to get those cabin fever blues? Are you tired of having your children or grandchildren stare at the TV or computer screen while they play with their "virtual friends"? BKP, the group that collects and packs books to be sent to the Philippines, is offering a board games afternoon at Centre Church on Sunday, March 4 from 1-5 p.m. With games like Monopoly, Scrabble, mahjong, dominoes, checkers, etc. as well as Candyland, Legos and crayons for the younger kids, there will be something for everyone! Light refreshments will be available. There is no entrance charge, but a freewill donation would be appreciated. Come join the fun!

A Journey of Hope and Healing

An 8-wk grief support group for individuals who are struggling with changes after the death of a loved one is being offered at Centre Church. Come join our group and find strength through sharing your grief with others in a safe and confidential setting. The group will meet on Tuesday evenings, March 20th to May 8th, from 6:00-7:30 p.m. in the Fireside Room. Registration is mandatory. The group is offered as a free service to the community. Please call Lu Bonanno of Beacon Hospice at 978-524-9510 to register and for additional information.

From the Mailbox

Thanks to all for keeping me in your prayers during my recent hospitalization for open heart surgery and mitral valve repair. Everything went well and I am getting my strength and endurance back with the monitored physical rehab 3 times a week at our local hospital. Donna is able to do her own exercising while I do the rehab. Thank goodness for your prayers.

Bob Shockley, Wolfeboro, NH

Thanks to Our Volunteers

Sunday, March 4: Head Usher-Linda Ladd. Provide Altar Flowers-Margaret Waugh. Deliver Altar Flowers-Marjorie Potter and Laurel Caputo. Lights Out beginning March 2- Steve Furey.

Sunday, March 11: Head Usher-Deacon. Provide Altar Flowers- Grayce Kushmerek. Deliver Altar Flowers-Judith Doe and Randy Russell. Lights Out beginning March 9-Steven Richard.

Don't forget the time change on March 10.

Looking Ahead

March 18 –Special Music by Petals during Morning Worship

March 25 – A Walk through Holy Week - an interactive drama by our church youth
7 pm *Resurrection* musical in the Sanctuary

April 1- Palm Sunday
Cantata by the Senior Choir

Prince Pizza - Take N Bake Fundraiser

Sign up on Sundays for a box of three frozen large-sized cheese pizzas from Prince for \$20 – regular price \$22. Pay on Sunday and we'll have the Prince voucher ready for you next week!

You are helping Centre Church meet our fundraising goal!!

Name _____ How Many _____ Amount Paid _____



EASTER PLANT ORDER



I would like to order for \$7.50 each:

___lilies ___red tulips ___yellow tulips ___kalanchoe

Enclosed is my check for \$_____ made payable to Centre Congregational Church.

These flowers have been given by _____

in memory of _____

PLEASE CHECK ONE OF THE FOLLOWING:

___ I will take my plant(s) home after the 10 a.m. Easter Service on April 8.

___ I wish to donate my plant(s) to the hospitalized, bereaved or shut-in.

*Plants will be displayed in the sanctuary on Easter.
A list of donors will be printed in the bulletin on that day.*

Wednesday, March 21 is the deadline for placing orders.

MISSIONS PANTRY: Our ongoing collections include Redeemable Bottles & Cans, 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. Mar 4 <i>2nd Sunday in Lent</i>	10:00 am 10:00 am 5-8 pm	Holy Communion – Sanctuary Rotations/Nursery Youth Groups - Basement
Mon. Mar 5	7:00 pm 7:00 pm 7:30 pm	Women's Bible Study – 2 nd Floor Boy Scout Troop 48 - Todd Alanon/Alateen – Fireside & Libr.
Tues Mar 6	7:00 pm	Educational Ministries - Library
Wed. Mar 7	8:30 am 7:00 pm	Bread and Roses - Kitchen Women's 12 Step Mtg. – FR
Thurs Mar 8	7:30 pm	Senior Choir - Choir Room
Fri. Mar 9	10:30 am	Bible Study – 2 nd Floor Office
Sat Mar 10	9:00 am	Youth go to Cradles to Crayons
Sun. Mar 11 <i>3rd Sunday in Lent</i>	10:00 am 10:00 am 10:00 am 2:00 pm 5-8 pm	Girl Scout Sunday – Sanctuary Rotations/Nursery Confirmation Class – Library Service of Remembrance - Chapel Youth Groups - Basement
Mon. Mar 12	7:00 pm 7:00 pm 7:30 pm	Women's Bible Study – 2 nd Floor Boy Scout Troop 48 – Todd Hall Alanon/Alateen – Fireside & Libr.
Tues. Mar 13	7:30 pm	Diaconate – Pastor's Office
Wed. Mar 14	7:00 pm	Women's 12 Step Mtg. – FR
Thurs. Mar 15	-----	No Choir This Week
Fri. Mar 16	10:30 am	Bible Study – 2 nd Floor Office

Our prayers are with Muriel "Mickey" Nasson at home; 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), and David Tuttle (Kathy Delaney's cousin), in Afghanistan.

The next *Tower Notes* will be the week of March 12.