

# TOWER NOTES

Centre Congregational Church (United Church of Christ)

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

**March 14, 2012**

## **You are Invited to Meet my Friends**

### **The O'Donnell Family**

**This Sunday, March 18<sup>th</sup>, 10 am**

*As we journey through Lent*, we think about how our lives are blessed through all of the ties that bind us together as a result of our walk with Christ. We think about how in spite of evil, suffering, death, and sin in our world, the power of God's love does and can prevail. As testimony and living witness to this, I have invited some of my friends to visit with us during the worship service and provide *very special music*.

On occasion, when I was pastor in Billerica, I had the pleasure of working with the O'Donnell family. We worked on an ecumenical early morning Palm Sunday service on the Town Common, a Relay for Life Sunrise Service, and Christmas Caroling in a local Coffee Shop in December.

**The O'Donnell family** includes: Terry, wife/mother; Pat, husband/father; and daughters Kelly(17) and Tracy(15). Their family also includes 3 large dogs, *Fuzzle, Fluffer, and Yoshi*, 1 Sun Conure parrot *Piper*, 1 minilop rabbit *Cloudtail*, 40 gallons of assorted fish and 1 Beta fish.

The O'Donnell family has grown a contemporary music ministry at St. Theresa's Parish, Billerica, that includes vocalists, keyboard, guitars, clarinet, harp, viola, cello, flute, and bongos/drums/tambourine. They provide the music for Sunday's, 5 pm Mass. Terry, Director, plays keyboard and directs. Husband, Pat, a Cantor, sings baritone. Tracy plays keyboard. Kelly sings and plays tambourine.

But, there is more. There are, among the O'Donnells: 2 cancer survivors, 2 belly dancers, a Colonel, actors, academic stars, a recording artist, engineer, a member of the North Regional Theater Workshop, a sharpshooter, and they are all national and international travelers.

**The Story that brought us together:** Years ago, I received a request to pray for a Billerica child, Kelly O'Donnell, who had cancer. I put Kelly on our

church's prayer list and we prayed for her. I did not know Kelly or any member of the family. About ten years later, I had agreed to do a Sunday Relay for Life Sunrise Service in Billerica. By this time I knew that Terry O'Donnell played keyboard and called her to help me with the music for the early morning service. She agreed. When I arrived that morning to lead the outdoor service I met Terry, husband Pat, and daughters Tracy and, Kelly. When I thanked them for helping me their response was as follows: *"Well of course we would help you, Rev. Bailey, because you prayed for our daughter, Kelly, when she had cancer! She is now a survivor and goes to Cancer Survivor's camp every year!"*

It took my breath away because it wasn't until that moment that I realized the Kelly O'Donnell we had prayed for was the one standing before me healthy, happy, and now helping others find life and hope! And now, this

## **In the Sanctuary**

### **March 18, 2012 – 4<sup>th</sup> Sunday in Lent**

10:00 a.m. Morning Worship

Sermon by the Rev. Dr. Dennis C. Bailey

"When You Are Not a Winner"

Special Music by the "Petals" Music Ensemble  
Children may worship with their families before going to  
Rotation Workshops.

The Nursery will be open in Room 11.

### **March 25, 2012- 5<sup>th</sup> Sunday in Lent**

10:00 a.m. Morning Worship

"A Walk through Holy Week"

The Nursery will be open in Room 11.

### **March 25, 2012**

7:00 p.m. Musical Cantata

*Resurrection*

followed by refreshments

whole family offers themselves to God and others so as to give hope and blessing! And now, they come to share the same offering to us! I hope and pray you will make an effort to come this Sunday to witness a miracle!

In lieu of an honorarium for this Sunday, the O'Donnell Family is asking us to make donations to Kelly's Team: "Roses for Hope" American Cancer Society Billerica Relay for Life Team, to be held June 2, 2012: The link to the team is at:

[http://main.acsevents.org/site/TR?pg=team&fr\\_id=39614&team\\_id=1075540](http://main.acsevents.org/site/TR?pg=team&fr_id=39614&team_id=1075540)

Bless be all the Ties that bind us together as we walk with Christ!

Dennis

### **Sunday Morning With the Children**

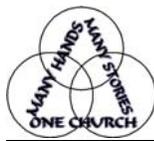
Our Nursery, located in Room 11, is open each week for infants through age 3. Experienced staff and volunteers are on hand to welcome children for story time and play. Pagers are available for all parents.

#### **Rotation Sensation**

The children will continue working on a dramatization of the events of Holy Week which will be presented to the congregation on Sunday, March 25. All students are needed to attend on Sunday, March 18 to finalize the "Walk Through Holy Week".

#### **Heifer Muffins**

This week the 7<sup>th</sup>/8<sup>th</sup> grade class will be baking and selling muffins to benefit Heifer. Students are asked to arrive at 9:45 am and go directly to the kitchen to begin baking. Once the muffins are in the oven, all those with parts in the "Walk through Holy Week" should head up to the chapel for rehearsal.



### **From Stewardship Ministry**

In the next few weeks you will be hearing and reading the many stories of what Centre Church means to so many of us. Members of Stewardship hope you will join us in this celebration of giving, sharing and caring. Giving to what God has called us to do, sharing our gifts and talents and caring for each other.

Please join us on March 18th which will be our kick-off day for our stewardship campaign and most important April 29th, Stewardship Sunday. This year we will be passing out and collecting the pledge cards on Stewardship Sunday and there will be a special thank you lunch that follows the worship. We hope you can join us for that special service and hold the stories you have heard within your heart. Giving, sharing and caring, that's who we all are here at Centre Church.

## **I Give Thanks For**

**100 Years of Girl Scouting:** I give thanks to the *Girl Scouts* who helped us celebrate the 100<sup>th</sup> birthday of Girl Scouting this past Sunday, March 11<sup>th</sup>. Special thanks for the girls who told the story of the beginning of Girl Scouting through the life and work of Juliette "Daisy" Gordon Low. We celebrate how one girl can make a difference and how girls together can change the world!

And, all who attended will never forget how *Becca Sievers* led us all in the singing of the choreographed "Great Big Moose," Girl Scout Camp Song! Wow! What fun!

**The Remembrance Service:** We held our first Service of Remembrance this past Sunday afternoon, March 11<sup>th</sup>, at 2 pm in the Chapel. I give thanks to Mary McCarthy who introduced this idea to Centre Church. The service was blessed with music by Caitlin, Laurie, and Hayley Timmons!

We welcomed loved ones and family members of those we remembered, including members of the Peabody Fire Department, who honored recently fallen firefighters. Candles were lighted for each person remembered. Memories were shared and reflections offered. Special music was played.

Thanks to Linda Ladd who also helped with the service. Refreshments were provided by Mary McCarthy and Linda Ladd. Families and friends were extremely appreciative while we honored the lives of those who have loved us. ***Remembered and Never Forgotten!***

- Rev. Bailey

### **Resurrection on March 25<sup>th</sup>**

Mark your calendars for this moving musical performance to be held here at Centre Church on Sun. March 25<sup>th</sup> at 7pm. This cantata by Bryan Jefferey Leech, is performed by the St. Patrick Family Players throughout New England during Lent. This will be the second time we've been blessed to host it here. Cast members range in age from 5 to 70?, and number about 80! This is a production you don't want to miss, as it's beautiful and inspiring and will enhance your understanding of the Holy Week events which lead to Maundy Thursday and .... Easter! Please invite your family & friends, and let me know if you can help with refreshments. We are all invited to the cast party! Well, to the social reception immediately following the production. More information and the tour schedule can be found on the church bulletin board.

--Linda Ladd



***Pasta and Sauce***

**Food of the Month for Haven from Hunger**

## Youth Group News

**Laser Quest:** Both youth groups will be heading to Laser Quest in Danvers on Sunday, March 18 from 5-7:30 for a night of non-stop laser tag. Pick up and drop off will be at Laser Quest. Please arrive promptly at 5 pm so players can register their codenames and be ready for the first game. No meal will be provided, so plan to eat dinner before you come. Please let Mrs. Langill know by Thursday, March 15 if you plan to attend.

**30 Hour Famine:** The High School Youth Group will be participating in World Vision's 30 Hour Famine on March 23-24. Youth will begin fasting after a hearty breakfast here at the church on Friday and then head off to school. We will meet back at the church at 6 p.m. and continue the fast until 12:30 p.m. on Saturday. The youth will be looking for sponsors after church on March 18. All funds will go to World Vision to help end hunger around the world. To participate in the Famine, youth must turn in their parental consent form by March 16.

There will be no youth group meetings on Sunday, March 25. Please plan to attend "Resurrection" presented by the St. Patrick Family Players at 7pm in the Sanctuary.

## News From Around the Parish

We extend our sympathy to Jill DiGiorgio and her family upon the recent death of her grandmother.

**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. Come join our group and find strength through sharing our grief with others in a safe and confidential setting. The group will meet on Tuesday evenings, March 20<sup>th</sup> to May 8<sup>th</sup>, 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.

## Thanks to Our Volunteers

**March 18:** Head Usher-Jeff Law. Greeters-The Timmons Family. Reader-Patrick Davis. Coffee Hour-Stewardship Ministries. Provide Altar Flowers-Dotty Holden. Deliver Altar Flowers-Chuck Cotting. Heifer Muffins-7<sup>th</sup>/8<sup>th</sup> Grade. Lights Out beginning March 16: Scott Desantis.

**March 25:** Head Usher-Linda Ladd. Greeters-Dan and Cheryl Schedin and Claire and Martha Planton. Reader: Claire Planton. Provide Altar Flowers-Kathi Martin and Priscilla Power. Heifer Muffins-Hi School Group. Lights Out beginning March 23: Roger Batchelder.



## Honey Baked Ham Fundraiser

Easter is just around the corner, and the perfect time to pick up a delicious spiral sliced, hickory smoked, glazed ham or any of the other great items (turkey, Angus beef, side dishes) at Honey Baked Ham for your Easter Dinner. You will enjoy some great food while helping raise funds for Centre Church.

On Sunday, March 25 and on Sunday, April 1, representatives from Honey Baked Ham will be selling \$25.00 gift cards after worship. The gift cards can be used any time of the year and at any Honey Baked Ham nationwide. There is no expiration date. Centre Church will receive 50% of all gift card sales to help close the budgeting gap. You may pay with cash, credit card or **checks made payable to THE HONEYBAKED HAM COMPANY**. Visit their website at: <http://www.honeybaked.com/> for products and pricing information.

## Raffle for Bruins Tickets

Stewardship is selling raffle tickets for the Bruins game on March 27<sup>th</sup>. These are 2 tickets 17 rows from the ice in the center section! We will be selling the tickets before and after services through March 25<sup>th</sup>. A winner will be drawn after the service on March 25<sup>th</sup>. The tickets are 1 for \$5, 3 for \$10, and 9 for \$20. All the money will go to helping with the church budget.

## From the Mailbox

To all at Centre Church,  
It is with my sincerest appreciation that I write this letter on behalf of A Different Christian Voice, the new UCC church in Middleton, MA. When I preached at Centre Church last week, the warmth, kindness and missional spirit of your congregation was truly evident. I felt incredibly welcomed and immediately embraced. Then, when you presented me with your generous check and the projector at the end of the service, I shed tears of joy. May our Lord shower your congregation with grace upon grace for your generosity and willingness to help spread His Word to those who have not yet heard it.

Appreciatively, Rev. Marie J. Lucca, Pastor  
A Different Christian Voice

Dear Centre Church Family,

Thank you so much for your caring during my recent illness. Your cards, phone calls, surprise dinners have been such a source of strength for me. Dennis' visits and the beautiful bouquet Marge Potter brought added to my getting better. Thank you all for your kindnesses. Hope to be back "doing" once again.

Sincerely, Meg Gulezian

### Looking Ahead to Easter

- April 1: 10:00 a.m. Palm Sunday Cantata
- April 5: 7:30 p.m. Maundy Thursday Tenebrae Service
- April 7: 10:00 a.m. Easter Fun Day  
2:00 p.m. Spring Tea – Meeting House
- April 8: 5:45 a.m. Sunrise Service – Newhall Park  
7:00 a.m. Easter Breakfast  
10:00 a.m. Easter Sunday Service

### Picture with the Easter Bunny!

What could be more fun for your child than having their picture taken with the Easter Bunny? Nothing this side of a jelly bean!



Come to: The Fireside Room  
Date: Saturday, March 24, 2012  
Time: 8:30 a.m. - 12:00 noon  
Cost: First Picture - \$10.00.  
Additional packages available  
Taken by :Priestley Photography Studios  
Lynnfield, MA 01940

By the way, jelly beans will be served!  
Appointments available or walk in that morning.  
Call: (78)334-0001 for more information

### Donations Needed for Animal Shelter

The Middle School Youth Group will be visiting the MSPCA at Nevins Farm in Methuen, MA, on Wed. April 18. We will be holding a drive to collect much needed items to bring with us on our visit. There will be a box in the narthex for your donations. Some of the items they are looking for include: towels, sheets, canned dog or cat food, catnip, cat treats, (please no dry food, choke or chain collars, or treats with artificial dye in them) For a full list of items please visit:

<http://www.mspca.org/assets/documents/wish-list-general-2011-1.pdf>

### Easter Breakfast

Please join us for breakfast on Easter! The Deacons will be serving breakfast in Richards Hall between the Easter Sunrise service at Newhall Park and the 10am service in the sanctuary. Please come directly from the early service or stop in by 9:30am. We serve an all-you-can-eat breakfast buffet. Enjoy eggs, bacon, sausage, all kinds of pancakes, fresh fruit salad and your favorite breakfast beverages.

Hop on down for a delicious and sociable start to Easter Sunday with your Centre Church friends! We expect one of those friends may be the EASTER BUNNY!! Suggested donation is \$10/person or \$25/family. Please sign up in the Narthex after church. All proceeds benefit the repair and maintenance of our church organ.  
--Your Faithful Diaconate

### 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

**Place Your Order**

**by March 21**

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.***

## *Our Opportunities*

Sun. Mar. 18 <i>4<sup>th</sup> Sunday in Lent</i>	10:00 am 10:00 am 11:30 am 5-7 pm	Morning Worship – Sanctuary Rotations/Nursery Confirmation Class – Pastor’s Ofc. Youth Groups to Laser Quest
Mon. Mar 19	7:00 pm 7:00 pm 7:30 pm	Women’s Bible Study – 2 <sup>nd</sup> Floor Boy Scout Troop 48 - Todd Alanon/Alateen – Fireside & Libr.
Tues Mar 20	7:00 pm	Membership – Pastor’s Office
Wed. Mar 21	7:00 pm	Women’s 12 Step Mtg. – FR
Thurs Mar 22	7:30 pm	Senior Choir - Choir Room
Fri. Mar 23	10:30 am	Bible Study – 2 <sup>nd</sup> Floor Office Sr. Hi 30-Hour Famine Overnight
Sat. Mar 24	8:30am- Noon	Pictures with the Easter Bunny – Fireside Room
Sun. Mar 25 <i>5<sup>th</sup> Sunday in Lent</i>	10:00 am 10:00 am 11:30 am 7:00 pm	Morning Worship – Sanctuary Rotations/Nursery Walk Through Holy Week Confirmation Class – Library <i>Resurrection</i> - Sanctuary
Mon. Mar 26	7:00 pm 7:00 pm 7:30 pm	Women’s Bible Study – 2 <sup>nd</sup> Floor Boy Scout Troop 48 – Todd Hall Alanon/Alateen – Fireside & Libr.
Tues. Mar 27	7:00 pm	Council – Pastor’s Office
Wed. Mar 28	7:00 pm	Women’s 12 Step Mtg. – FR
Thurs. Mar 29	7:30 pm	Senior Choir – Choir Room
Fri. Mar 30	10:30 am overnight	Bible Study – 2 <sup>nd</sup> Floor Office Middle School Overnight

Our prayers are with George Hayden at Mass General; Barbara Becker and 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 Sam Schnare (Dick and Carol Carter’s grandson) in Germany; and John Clarke (Lee Clarke’s nephew), Allan Marshall (Jim and Sheila Marshall’s son), and David Tuttle (Kathy Delaney’s cousin), in Afghanistan

**The next *Tower Notes* will be the week of March 26.**

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