

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

May 16, 2012

Joined Together

Yesterday, Sunday, May 13th, was Confirmation Sunday, a Milestone Sunday. It was in that service that we celebrated *a milestone* in the life of seven people in our church: their Confirmation of Faith.

Actually, it is *a milestone* for all of us who are part of the ministry of Centre Congregational Church, United Church of Christ. It is a milestone if you have helped to make hospitable our spiritual community. It is a milestone if you have made a direct and positive impact upon any or all of the seven confirmands and their families. It is a milestone if you are a parent, a grandparent, a relative, and/or a mentor because you have helped to bring one of God's children to a decision to follow Jesus Christ, and have been a model/example of discipleship.

Confirmation is a milestone for you if you are a church leader because you give of yourself as a leader, serving to help the gospel become a part of the lives of others through the ministry of our church. It is a milestone because when God called you to service, you said "yes" to that call and made it possible for others to say "yes," also.

Confirmation is a milestone for you if you helped to lead, organize, and teach the Confirmation Classes. You shared your faith, your words of witness and testimony, and your zeal for how important it is for us and others to follow Jesus so that we might bring faith, food, housing, hope, and the message of God's unconditional and saving love to the world.

Confirmation is a milestone for you if you support the ministry of Centre Church financially. Every act of giving and generosity is blessed by God for the sake of the ministry to which we have been called. Every gift is used by God to be a blessing in the life of someone.

I thank all of you for what you do to make such milestones possible! I thank you for your service, for your teaching, leading, your hospitality, your generous giving, your attendance so that our confirmands see and know that we stand and walk with them in their journeys of faith.

It is a sacred calling, what we do here, in

community, for the sake of God's will and work. It is not my will or your will, but God's will that we follow here. When Jesus says "Follow me" he is calling us to a change of direction, a greater meaning, a more important way of doing. It may include what we are already doing, but it will mean doing it for a different purpose that only God can see clearly.

The apostle Paul wrote to the Christians in Ephesus: *"In him (Jesus Christ) the whole building is joined together and rises to become a holy temple in the Lord. And in him you too are being built together to become a dwelling in which God lives by his Spirit."* (New International Version)

Our Confirmands now live by his Spirit because you have lived and served "joined together" as God's holy temple. **Mission accomplished! And, new Missions just getting underway!**

Now, what even greater things God has in store for us to do through him who has already given us so much.

Yours in Christ,

Dennis

In the Sanctuary

Sunday, May 20, 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.

Nursery open in Room 11.

Sunday, May 27, 2012

10:00 A.M. Morning Worship

Sermon by Jeff Langill

Children may worship with families before going outside to plant flowers on the lawn.

Sunday, June 3, 2012

10:00 A.M. Holy Communion

Children may worship with families before going to Rotation Workshops.

Nursery open in Room 11.

Sunday Morning With the Children

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

Rotation Sensation

May 20: All classes will be meeting to work on a special project.

May 27: Flower Planting Sunday. All children, grades PreK-grade 8, are invited to join us as we plant flowers. Please bring trowels, watering cans and wear garden-friendly clothes.

Special Events on Saturday, May 19

In conjunction with the Geranium Fest on May 19, Centre Church will be hosting a Flea Market on the front lawn and a Bouncy House for the children from 9-3. (In case of rain, the Flea Market will be held in Richards Hall.)

In the narthex, the Lynnfield Art Guild will have its annual spring show and sale. Come and spend part of your Saturday with us! There will be something for everyone.

Volunteers Needed: Adults and High School youth are needed to help staff the Bouncy House and supervise children on May 19. Please sign up for just an hour or two from 9-3. Contact the church office and let us know when you are available.

Mission Trip Meeting

There will be a meeting for all those going on the Mission Trip on Thursday, May 17 at 7 pm in the Fireside Room. All those under 18 should be accompanied by a parent or guardian

Mission Money

Please remember to bring back your M & M mini tubes filled with quarters. The donations received will go toward supporting the church wide Mission trip to Joplin, Missouri. There is a basket in the Narthex for your filled tubes.

“Surviving The Teen Years”

Parent Lecture, Support and Discussion

On Wednesday, May 30 at 6:30 pm, Centre Church will be hosting an evening for parents of teens led by Leslie Miller, LICSW of Lynnfield Family Center. Ms Miller has been working with adolescents and families for 14 years in schools, residential facilities and in private practice. There is limited seating, so please RSVP by contacting info@lynnfieldfamilycenter.org or calling 781 484 6209.

A Reminder

from Your Stewardship Ministries Committee

Pledge cards are due now. Please mail them in or place in offering plates at Sunday Service. Thank you!!

Thank you to John Sievers, Sandi Watson, Brittany DeSantis, Johnathan McCarthy, Caitlin Timmons, Hayley Timmons, Debbie Cotting, Dotty Whittier, Diana Gerbick, David Bjorkman, Mary McCarthy, and Jill DiGiorgio for sharing their stories with us for our Stewardship Campaign.

Thank you to Kathi Martin and Debbie Newman for cooking the lunch for Stewardship Sunday and to Jill DiGiorgio and her mother-in-law for the beautiful cake. Thank you to Cindy Trayers for her help with the graphics of our campaign.

Thank you to Mary McCarthy, Jill DiGiorgio, Perry Hayden, Mike Timmons for serving on the Stewardship Ministries Committee and to Rev. Dr. Dennis C. Bailey for all of his help with our campaign!

- Carrie Pericola, Chair

Congratulations to Our Confirmands

The following young people were confirmed on Sunday, May 13:

Eric Carey, Patrick Davis, Jake Forgione, Cory Johnson, Michael Look, Claire Planton and Daniel Schedin.

Our thanks to their mentors:

Frank Mucci, Bob Priestley, Jeff Langill, David Bjorkman, Cheryl Schedin Caron, Linda Ladd and Jessica Look.

Special thanks to Kathi Martin and Barbara Langill for teaching the classes and coordinating the activities.

- Rev. Bailey

Youth Group News

Regular Youth Group meetings have concluded for the year. There are no youth group meetings on Sunday, May 20. Thank you to everyone who helped make this year great! We look forward to resuming meetings again in September.

June 8-9: Middle School Overnight and Zip Line Adventure

Vacation Bible School

We will be offering Vacation Bible School for children ages 4-10 the week of June 25-29. Our VBS coordinator this year is Emily Couillard. Volunteers are needed to fill lots of different positions in areas such as Games, Science and Storytelling. High School Youth who enjoy working with kids can earn community service hours and have fun too. 7th and 8th grade Middle School youth can also volunteer as helpers. Please contact the church office to volunteer your time and talents.

News of Your Graduate?

This is the time for graduations! Please share the news of your favorite graduate with us by phone (781-334-3050) or email (office@centre-church.)

Your Support is Needed

As part of Centre Church's covenant with the Metropolitan Boston Association (MBA) of the United Church of Christ, we agree to support the MBA in its outreach and administrative activities on behalf of all churches in the Association. This support includes annual dues of \$19.70 per member (adults or children who are confirmed and are members of the church). Centre Church pays these dues on behalf of our members, and in our annual budget we count on members "covering" their dues through a separate contribution to the church. Those of you who receive envelope packets would have seen an envelope with an orange border in your most recent envelope packet. If you have not already done so, please return that envelope with a contribution of \$19.70 per church member in your family. Checks should be payable to Centre Congregational Church. For anyone who does not receive envelopes, please make a contribution to the church to cover your dues, and note "MBA dues" in the memo line so we will know what the contribution is for. Thank you. - Jeffery C. Law, Treasurer

Write On! Secret Pen Pal Program!

Do you like getting mail? Have you always wanted a pen pal? We are looking for adults and youth interested in being secret pen pals over the summer. Here's all you need to do:

- 1.) Pick a secret code name for your letters
- 2.) Send and receive at least 4 letters or post cards from June-September
- 3.) Meet your secret pen pal at an ice cream social in the fall.

Want to sign up? Call or e-mail Barbara Langill at 781 334-3050 or christianed@centre-church.org with your name, summer address, phone number and a secret code name that you want to use.

Thanks to Our Volunteers

May 20: Head Usher-Jeff Law. Provide Altar Flowers-Lucias. Deliver Altar Flowers-Barb Ericson and Margaret Waugh. Coffee Hour-Marian Orfeo. Lights Out beginning May 18-Steve Furey.

May 27: Head Usher-Linda Ladd. Provide Altar Flowers-Conns. Deliver Altar Flowers-Marjorie Potter and Laurel Caputo. Lights Out beginning May 25-Steven Richard.



Annual Golf Outing and Dinner

Save the date of **Friday, June 8th** for the 9th Annual Centre Church golf tournament. The net proceeds go to reduce our Operating Budget deficit. This will be a best ball tournament with a tee time of **12:30 PM** at Thomson Country Club in North Reading. The cost is \$125 per player. This covers the cost of greens fees, cart and dinner.

There will also be a grilled dinner following the tournament at the Centre Church. Burgers, hot dogs, sausages, beverages and all of the fixings! For those who want to come to the dinner only, the cost is \$25 for an adult and \$10 for children.

All sorts of prizes and the chance to have your winning team's names engraved on "*The Unholy Grail*" are but a few of the benefits of playing in this tournament. Players of all skill levels welcomed. Please invite your friends to play, too. Sign up with: Phil Johnson, (pcjohnson@meei.harvard.edu), Bruce Weaver (bruce@newenglandlab.com) or Chuck Cotting (chuck@thecottings.com or 781-593-3120) no later than **Friday June 1st**.

Checks should be made payable to Centre Church at 5 Summer Street Lynnfield, MA 01940.

News From Around the Parish

Our love and sympathy are extended to the Reed family upon the death of Edith Reed on May 9. She died peacefully at home. The family wishes to express their gratitude to the members and friends of Centre Church for their love and care of Edith and her late husband. Bill.

Our love and sympathy are extended to Stan and Marilyn Rossier and their family upon the recent death of their son, Jay. Their address is 80 Mountain View Terrace, Lee MA 01238.

We extend our prayers and sympathy to the Riester family upon the recent death of Marylee's father, Clifford Piper.

We congratulate Carlton and Laura Cherwek of North Reading upon the birth of a daughter, Alayna Ann Cherwek on April 25.

Our congratulations and best wishes to Aaron and Emilie Spear of Boulder, CO upon the birth of their daughters, Cora Chapman Spear and Sonja Sutherland Spear on April 25. Proud grandparents are Susan and Shep Spear.

Our Opportunities

Sun. May 20	10:00 am 10:00 am	Morning Worship - Sanctuary Nursery/Rotations
Mon. May 21	7:00 pm 7:30 pm	Boy Scouts – Todd Hall Alanon/Alateen – Fireside & Libr.
Wed. May 23	7:00 pm	Women’s 12 Step Mtg. – FR
Thur May24	7:30 pm	Senior Choir – Choir Room
Fri. May 25	10:30 am	Bible Study – 2 nd Floor Office
Sun. May 27	10:00 am 10:00 am	Morning Worship - Sanctuary Children plant flowers on lawn
Mon. May 28	----- 7:30 pm	Office Closed – Memorial Day Alanon/Alateen – Fireside & Libr.
Wed. May 30	6:30 pm 7:00 pm	Parents of Teens – Todd Hall Women’s 12 Step Mtg. – FR
Thur. May 31	7:30 pm	Senior Choir – Choir Room
Fri. June 1	10:30 am	Bible Study – 2 nd Floor Office
Sat. June 2	a.m.	Tower Day Yard Sale- Lawn
Sun. June 3	10:00 am 10:00 am	Holy Communion – Sanctuary Rotations/Nursery

Our prayers are with Norma Holloway at Shaughnessy-Kaplan Rehab., Dove Ave., Salem, 01970; Bob Shorey recuperating at home; Priscilla Hahn, Sunrise Assisted Living, Rm. 221, 55 Salem Street, Lynnfield; Jeffrey Brigham (son of the late Barbara Brigham); Rose Giunta at Sutton Hill Rehab Center, 1801 Turnpike St., No. Andover 01845; Muriel “Mickey” Nasson at home; Helen Butcher, Marion Edkins, Denis Edkins, and Priscilla Kress at Renaissance Gardens, Peabody; Louise Allen, Marion Barnes and Carolyn Furey.

We remember in our prayers Mark Holden (Dot Holden’s grandson), Allan Marshall (Jim and Sheila Marshall’s son) and Dan Neary (Jo Ann Neary’s son) in Afghanistan, and Sam Schnare (Dick and Carol Carter’s grandson) in Germany.

The next *Tower Notes* will be the week of May 28.