

# TOWER NOTES

Centre Congregational Church (United Church of Christ)

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

May 30, 2012

## Graduation: Finding Meaning

Every year at this time I think of my high school graduation ceremony from Hereford High School, Parkton, Maryland. The one person that I focus on in this memory is Dr. Tracy, member of the Board of Education, a veterinarian and dairy farmer. It was Dr. Tracy's job to hand out the diplomas to all of the graduates and congratulate us with a handshake. I can still see him shaking everyone's hand as they came across the stage to receive their diploma. And, my best friend, Harry and I still laugh about how *it was easy to tell that Doc Tracy was a dairy farmer by the way he shook everyone's hand!*

Doc Tracy had found meaning in his life, as a local farmer, veterinarian, and member of the School Board. He was proud, humble, and cherished the opportunity to serve his community, beyond the confines of his farm and practice. He loved what he did and you could tell that he felt blessed.

The Doctor was also a very dependable man, a man of integrity, in his medical practice. He treated his patients and their owners with respect and care and, in return, we all respected him. When one of our farm animals was sick, we all felt better when Doc Tracy showed up!

*The prophet Jeremiah reports on behalf of God, "For I know the plans I have for you," declares the LORD, "plans to prosper you and not to harm you, plans to give you hope and a future."* Jeremiah 29:11

It seems to me that Doc Tracy had discovered the plans that God had for him and fulfilled them. It is my hope that each of us, especially our graduates, also discover the plans that God has for us and them, and fulfills them. Of

course, this does not always come easy. Many of our graduates will be taking jobs other than that reflected in their course of study, at least to begin with. It takes a great deal of patience to find our way.

I am reminded of how long a mother duck must sit on her eggs. It takes about 26-28 days before they hatch, after the hen lays one egg per day for about nine days. And then, it takes about 50 days before the young ducks can fly. Yes, there is a plan for the eggs, that God has set out, but it takes time, patience, and a watchful and protective mother for it to be fulfilled.

Human beings are much more complicated, it seems. We are not so on automatic pilot as are the ducklings. We have choices to make and often, due to our uncertainty, lack of confidence, inexperience,

## In the Sanctuary

**June 3, 2012**

10:00 a.m. Holy Communion

Recognition of High School Graduates

Children may worship with families before going to Rotation Workshops. Nursery open in Room 11.

**June 10, 2012**

10:00 a.m. Children's Sunday

Sacrament of Baptism

Followed by Ice Cream Social.

**June 17, 2012**

10:00 a.m. Morning Worship

Sacrament of Baptism

*9 am Chapel Services Begin June 24.*

or lack of opportunity, have a hard time finding our way to that place of service, vocation, work, and meaning in our lives.

As human beings, we also have the choice as to what we put our trust in. If we put our trust in the things that are human made, we may be sorely disappointed. I offer as evidence the recent "Facebook" fiasco, people putting their trust and security into the hands of those things which fade away! If we put our trust in Jesus then we will find that he will give us those things that give us the greatest meaning. He gives us security when we tend to the needs of others and live according to God's ways. Jesus knows what we need. Listening to him will give us our path.

Whatever careers our graduates end up in, may they remember these words of Jesus, "*Do not store up treasures for yourselves on earth, where moth and woodworm destroy them and thieves break in and steal. For wherever your treasure is, there will your heart be too*" (Matt. 6:19-21, NJB).

I also offer the value of putting our trust into those relationships with family and friends where we have found caring, giving, and loving hearts, people who do not try to control us, but, like the mother duck, help us to fly to set us free to be what God intends.

CONGRATULATIONS to all of our graduates, their parents, and families who have invested so much of themselves into the well-being and success of their children.

It is my wish that each and every one of you has had a meaningful educational and community experience during your school years, whether high school or college. And it is my wish and prayer, that you discover and live out the plan that God has for your life.

Yours in Christ, Dennis

### **Rotation Sensation**

**June 3:** EVERYONE, PreK-Grade 8, is encouraged to attend this Sunday, June 3. We will be practicing for Children's Sunday. Please make every effort to be with us as we prepare for our special Sunday.

**June 10:** ALL children and youth, leaders, shepherds and nursery care givers are invited to join us for a special Children's Sunday! Our children and youth will be participating in the service. There will be a recognition of all volunteers. A very special Ice-Cream social will be held on the front lawn following the service.

**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. Pagers are available for all parents.

### **A Reminder**

**from Your Stewardship Ministries Committee:**

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

### **Annual Golf Outing and Dinner**

Save the date of **Friday, June 8th** for the 9<sup>th</sup> 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](mailto:pcjohnson@meei.harvard.edu)),

Bruce Weaver ([bruce@newenglandlab.com](mailto:bruce@newenglandlab.com)) or Chuck Cotting ([chuck@thecottings.com](mailto:chuck@thecottings.com) or 781-593-3120) no later than **Friday June 1<sup>st</sup>**.

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

### **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](mailto:christianed@centre-church.org) with your name, summer address, phone number and a secret code name that you want to use.

## Congratulations Graduates!!



Ryan Batchelder - U Mass Lowell  
B.S. Chemical Engineering

Stephanie Biagioni  
(Barbara Becker's Granddaughter)  
Eckerd College, St. Petersburg, FL - B.A. Spanish

Andrew Decker - Bates College, Lewiston, ME  
B.A. Economics

Jessica DiFillippo - Delaware Valley College,  
Doylestown, PA - B.S. Small Animal Science

Kristen DiFillippo - Endicott College, Beverly  
B.S. Human Services

AJ Johnson - U Mass Lowell - Bachelor of Music  
Sound Recording Technology

Jessica Ladd - Endicott College, Beverly  
Bachelor of Fine Arts - Fine Arts

Alyssa Langill - Muhlenberg College, Allentown PA  
B.S. Biology

Jennifer Tomich - Boston College - B.S. Nursing

Diana Triffletti - U Mass Amherst - B.S. Nursing

Will Vaughan - Tufts University  
B.S. Engineering Psychology

**We will recognize High School Graduates at  
church on June 3.**

### Mission Money

More than 100 tubes of M & M minis were handed out to the congregation on May 6. We have received more than 30 which were returned filled with quarters, cash, or checks. That leaves 70 tubes unaccounted for. If you still have a tube at home, it is not too late. We will be collecting the tubes through the month of June. There is a basket in the Narthex for your filled tubes, or you may leave it at the church office. The donations received will go toward supporting the church wide Mission trip to Joplin, Missouri.

## News From Around the Parish

Our congratulations to Jason Cotting and Karen Billmers who were married on May 27, 2012. They will make their home in Harvard, MA.

### Stock Sales

This August, 20 volunteers from Centre Church will be traveling to Joplin, Missouri to help with the rebuilding efforts after last year's devastating tornados. We invite you to "share" in this experience by purchasing stock in our Mission Trip. For just \$20.00 per share, you will be helping our youth and adult volunteers give Joplin residents hope for a better future. Shares will be on sale this Sunday after worship or you may send in your order to the church office. (see enclosed stock form)

### Vacation Bible School

We will be offering Vacation Bible School for children ages 4-10 the week of June 25-29. This year's theme will be "Sky, Everything is Possible with God". Volunteers are needed to fill many 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. 7<sup>th</sup> and 8<sup>th</sup> grade Middle School youth can also volunteer as helpers. Please contact the church office to volunteer your time and talents.

### Congregational Meeting – June 17, 2012 immediately following the worship service.

Items to be considered:

-proposed budget for 2012-2013

-extend the terms of Officers and Ministry Team Leaders until the conclusion of the Annual Meeting in September

- Bruce Weaver

### Thanks to Our Volunteers

June 3: Ushers: Linda Ladd, Bill Seelig, Jeff Law, Doreen DiFillippo. Lay Reader: Ann Decker. Lights Out beginning June 1: Scott DeSantis.

June 10: Ushers: Bruce Weaver, Karen and Paul Harrington, Al Johnson. Lights Out beginning June 8: Bill Seelig.

# INVEST IN OUR YOUTH: BE A MISSION TRIP SHAREHOLDER



With your help, the youth and adults from Centre Congregational Church will be traveling to Joplin, Missouri for a week this summer to help with the rebuilding efforts there after last May's devastating tornados.

We invite you to "share" in this experience by purchasing "stock" in our Mission Trip. For just \$20 per share, you will be helping our youth and adult volunteers give Joplin families much needed assistance.

All shareholders will receive a stock certificate and an invitation to a shareholder dinner at Centre Church in the fall of 2012 where trip participants will give a presentation of their experiences.

Please consider investing in this worthwhile mission by using the order form below. All donations are tax-deductible. Your support is greatly appreciated!

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## Stock Order Form

I would like to take "stock" in the future of the youth of Centre Church and "share" in their 2012 Summer Mission Trip to Joplin, MO.

Name \_\_\_\_\_

Complete Address \_\_\_\_\_

Number of Shares \_\_\_\_\_ at \$20.00 per share.

Enclosed is my check for \$\_\_\_\_\_ made payable to "Centre Church" with "Mission Trip Stock" noted in the memo.

*Please mail this form and your check to Barbara Langill, Centre Church, 5 Summer Street, Lynnfield, MA 01940 or drop it off at the church office.*

## *Our Opportunities*

Sun. June 3	10:00 am 10:00 am	Holy Communion - Sanctuary Nursery/Rotations
Mon. June 4	7:00 pm 7:30 pm	Boy Scouts – Todd Hall Alanon/Alateen – Fireside & Library.
Tues. June 5	7:00 pm	Council – Pastor’s Office
Wed. June 6	8:30 am 7:00 pm	Bread and Roses - Kitchen Women’s 12 Step Mtg. – FR
Fri. June 8	10:30 am 12:30 pm  overnight	Bible Study – 2 <sup>nd</sup> Floor Office Golf Tournament-Thomson Club followed by dinner at the church Middle School Group. at church
Sat. June 9		Middle School Zip Line Adventure
Sun. June 10	10:00 am 11:00 am	Children’s Sunday - Sanctuary Ice Cream Social – Front Lawn
Mon. June 11	7:00 pm 7:30 pm	Boy Scouts – Todd Hall Alanon/Alateen – Fireside & Library.
Tues. June 12	7:30 pm	Diaconate – Pastor’s Office
Wed. June 13	7:00 pm	Women’s 12 Step Mtg. – FR
Fri. June 15	10:30 am	Bible Study – 2 <sup>nd</sup> Floor Office
Sun. June 17	10:00 am 11:00 am	Morning Worship – Sanctuary Congregational Meeting

Our prayers are with Norma Holloway at Spaulding Rehab., Dove Ave., Salem, 01970; Priscilla Hahn, Bear Hill Nursing Center, 11 North Street, Stoneham, 02180; 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), and Dan Neary (Jo Ann Neary’s son) in Afghanistan, and Sam Schnare (Dick and Carol Carter’s grandson) in Germany.

We rejoice that Allan Marshall is on his way home from Afghanistan.

**The next *Tower Notes* will be the week of June 11.**