

# TOWER NOTES

Centre Congregational Church (United Church of Christ)

5 Summer Street, Lynnfield, Massachusetts 01940 Phone: 781-334-3050 Fax: 781-334-6463

Email: Office@Centre-Church.org Web Site: www.Centre-Church.org

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*

## August 29, 2012

This time of year is a time of transition. Our college students are or are on their way back to school. Our primary and secondary schools are opening up this week for a head start on school before the Labor Day break. Summer vacations for families with children are over. Now, students are opening up their new books, notebooks, backpacks, and trying out their new school clothing. Oh, the nice smell of new things! Or, at least that was what I enjoyed as a student on the first day of school, the smell of my new things for the new year.

The prophet Jeremiah wrote, "The LORD has created a new thing on earth" (Jeremiah 3:22). Things are always changing. We are always changing - our bodies, hearts, minds, and spirits. Even when we think that we will not change, we are already changing.

In my experience, I have met people who I thought were stubborn, whose position on things I thought could not be changed. Often my assumptions were correct, but, there often comes a time in people's lives, perhaps a moment of "weakness," or a crisis, or an emotional encounter, or an act of the Spirit influencing a person or persons, and their position and outlook changes.

Once, I assumed that the "older people" in the church where I grew up would never change, that they were set in their ways. Surely, much of the time that assumption was correct, but, there always came a time, it seems now, when they did change their point of view. Perhaps it wasn't those "older people" who changed. Perhaps it was me that changed, seeing things differently, understanding people more fully, and seeing that people were capable of changing, even when it seemed to come hard.

After all, the people who were adults to me when I was a child held strong beliefs, often based

upon our religious teachings and their years of experience. If they did change their mind about something, it would come after careful and thorough consideration. Now, I feel, that is the proper way, especially when it comes to something important.

One thing that I feel strongly about and shall never change is that when people anywhere go through difficult times, unwelcome times, natural disasters, sudden losses, illness, disease, and death, we are to be there for them, with them, and help them grieve, mourn, evaluate, and rebuild. We are not to sit by, doing nothing, when others are experiencing injustice, oppression, and/or abuse, but respond in whatever way we can, perhaps with everything we have.

### **In the Chapel – 9:00 a.m.**

September 2, 2012

Morning Worship

Sermon by the Rev. Dr. Dennis C. Bailey

### **In the Sanctuary – 10:00 a.m.**

September 9, 2012

Holy Communion

Sermon by the Rev. Dr. Dennis C. Bailey

Children Gr. 1-8 may worship with their families before going to Rotation Sensation.

Nursery will be open in Room 11 at 10:00.

Room 14 will be open for ages 3-5 at 10:00.

September 16, 2012

Morning Worship

Sermon by the Rev. Dr. Dennis C. Bailey

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

Nursery will be open in Room 11 at 10:00.

Room 14 will be open for ages 3-5 at 10:00.

I believe that the greatest and most rewarding changes come in our lives when we allow ourselves to walk in another person's shoes, and/or when we walk with them through their tragedy, disaster, and sorrow.

God has spoken time and time again to our fears of change:

On one occasion, through the prophet Isaiah: "Do not fear, for I have redeemed you; I have called you by name, you are mine. When you pass through the waters, I will be with you; and through the rivers, they shall not overwhelm you; when you walk through fire you shall not be burned, and the flame shall not consume you. For I am the Lord your God, the Holy One of Israel, your Savior. (Isaiah 43:1-3)

The Lord desires to change us so that we are more fully God's. Let us allow God to sort out from us those things that need to be let go in us so that the new things that God has to give us will have room to enter and reshape us for the work of building God's kingdom here on earth.

Yours in Christ, Dennis

### **Rotation Sensation begins Sunday, Sept 9**

Join us Sunday, Sept 9 as we kick off the year with our first Rotation. After briefly worshiping with their families, children in grades 1 - 8 will head out to participate in fun-filled activities to learn about the Bible story.

This year we will be offering a special class for children ages 3-5 in Room 14. Children will go directly to their classroom before worship.

### **Nursery**

Our Church Nursery is fully staffed and ready to receive infants and children up to age 3 on Sunday mornings during worship time. Pagets are available to ensure Nursery Caregivers can easily communicate with parents. The Nursery opens Sunday, Sept. 9 and will be staffed every Sunday through June 9 (excepting long weekends when there are no Church School Classes). This year we again welcome Lisa Gerbick, a senior at Salem State University, as our head Nursery Care provider. Lisa will be in the Nursery each Sunday and will be assisted by experienced High School caregivers.

### **Essex River Cruise**

**Sunday, September 9 – 4:00-5:15 p.m.**

Last chance for a seat on the chartered Essex River Queen II for a cruise down the Essex River. We will board at 4:00 p.m. for the cruise followed by dinner at Woodman's where Chris Parker's A Cappella Group, *Peking and the Mystics*, will be performing. The cost is \$18 per person. Please call Dotty Whittier 781-635-6225 or Susan Spear 781-334-3040 to make a reservation.

Deadline for making a reservation is Thursday, September 6 while seats last.

### **Do You Enjoy Working with Preschoolers?**

Education Ministries is looking for volunteers to help teach our 3-5 year old class. Please contact Barbara Langill in the church office if you are interested or would like additional information.



### **Senior Choir Resumes**

The Senior Choir will resume rehearsals on Wed., Sept. 5 from 7:30-9 p.m. After that week, rehearsals will be held each Thursday from 7:30-9 p.m. Come, lend your voice and enjoy a great evening of singing and fun!

### **Rev. Bailey has tickets for the upcoming Annual Lynnfield Rotary Club Barbecue**

Tuesday, September 11, 2012  
4:30 p.m. to 7:00 p.m.

Entertainment and Car Show  
\$12.00 for Chicken Dinner  
\$6.00 Hot Dog Dinner

At 5:30 p.m. Rev. Bailey will invite everyone to a Brief Remembrance of those who died on 9/11.

All funds raised are contributed to the local charities of the Lynnfield Rotary.

### **Fall Golf Outing**

**Save the Date: Friday, September 28**

Centre Church's Fall Golf Tournament will be a best ball tournament with a tee time of 12:30 p.m. at Sagamore Springs Golf Course in Lynnfield. The cost is \$110 per player. Since this is a best ball format, players of any ability should consider this event!

Sign up with:

Phil Johnson ([phillip\\_c\\_johnson@meei.harvard.edu](mailto:phillip_c_johnson@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, September 21.



### **Experience the Mission Trip Through the Eyes of the Participants**

Twenty volunteers traveled to Joplin, MO the week of August 12-18 to help in the continuing rebuilding efforts there. We worked on roofing, insulation, framing, playground prep, and much more. Many thanks to the congregation, Missions Ministry, and family and friends for their generous support.

**Please save the date of Sunday,  
September 16 at 6 p.m.**

to attend the Shareholders Dinner where we will give a presentation of our mission trip experiences. Dinner and dessert will be served. Everyone is welcome to attend.

### **Secret Pen Pal Program**

Lots of letters and postcards have been exchanged this summer. Remember, you need to send at least 4 letters before meeting your Secret Pen Pal at our Ice Cream Social on September 23. You can leave your letters in the mailbox at the bottom of the office stairs, just put up the flag so I know to take a look. You can also mail the letters to the church office and I will forward them on to your secret pen pal. Or just e-mail your pen pal letter to me at [Christianed@centre-church.org](mailto:Christianed@centre-church.org) and I will print it out and mail it.

Barbara Langill

### **Youth Group**

All youth in grades 5-12 and their parents are invited to attend our opening meeting on Sunday, September 23 at 6 pm in Richards Hall. We will all enjoy Pizza together and learn about the exciting year ahead. Youth will head off to participate in games, while parents attend an informational session. Parents should bring along their calendars, as we will be asking you to sign up to chaperone and provide a meal or two throughout the year.

### **News From Around the Parish**

Our congratulations to Dr. Jessica Anna Cintolo and Mr. Johnny Gonzalez who were married on August 18. They will make their home in Philadelphia, PA.

We report with sadness the death of Christine Kimball who was an active participant in our Friday Bible Study group. There will be a private memorial service and interment.

### **Thanks To Our Volunteers**

September 2, 2012: Head Usher-Margaret Waugh. Lights Out beginning August 31- Phil Johnson/Roger Batchelder.

September 9, 2012: Head Usher-Linda Ladd. Lights Out beginning September 7- John Walsh.

### **Missions Pantry**

The Missions Pantry is located in the entry way from Summer Street into the narthex.

Our ongoing collections include Redeemable Bottles & Cans for Haven from Hunger, Aluminum Can Pull Tabs for Shriners, Used Eyeglasses, Non-Perishable Food for Haven from Hunger, Travel Size Toiletries for Lynn Shelter, and Used Cell Phones (numbers erased with charger) for HAWC.

Don't forget to bring newspapers, magazines, catalogs, junk mail, etc. to the paper recycle bin in the parking lot.

No phone books or cardboard, please.

## *Our Opportunities*

<b>Sun. Sept. 2</b>	<b>9:00 am</b> 9:45 am	<b>Morning Worship – Chapel</b> Punch & Fellowship – Fireside
Mon. Sept. 3	----- 7:30 pm	Office Closed – Labor Day Alanon/Alateen – Basement
Wed. Sept. 5	8:30 am 7:00 pm 7:30 pm	Bread & Roses Group Women’s 12 Step Mtg. – FR Senior Choir – Choir Room
Fri. Sept. 7	10:30 am	Bible Study – 2 <sup>nd</sup> Floor Office
<b>Sun. Sept. 9</b>	<b>10:00 am</b> 10:00 am 4:00 pm	<b>Holy Communion - Sanctuary</b> Nursery/Rotation Sensation Essex River Cruise
Mon. Sept. 10	7:00 pm 7:30 pm	Boy Scout Troop #48 – Todd Hall Alanon/Alateen – FR & Library
Wed. Sept. 12	7:00 pm	Women’s 12 Step Mtg. – FR
Fri. Sept. 14	10:30 am	Bible Study – 2 <sup>nd</sup> Floor Office
<b>Sun. Sept. 16</b>	<b>10:00 am</b> 10:00 am 6:00 pm	<b>Worship Service – Sanctuary</b> Nursery/Rotations Mission Trip Dinner - Richards

On Tuesday, September 4 the Church Office will resume  
Office Hours of 9 a.m. – 3 p.m.

### **The next *Tower Notes* will be the week of September 10.**

Our prayers are with Ginny Daniels at Sunrise Assisted Living, Room 109, 55 Salem Street, Lynnfield; Ginny Davis at Elizabeth Calsey House, 15 Elizabeth St., Amesbury, 01913; Priscilla Hahn at Sunrise, Lynnfield; Helen Butcher, Marion Edkins, Denis Edkins, and Priscilla Kress at Renaissance Gardens, Brooksby Village; Marion Barnes and Carolyn Furey.

We remember in our prayers Dan Neary (Jo Ann Neary’s son) in Afghanistan, and Sam Schnare (Dick and Carol Carter’s grandson) in Germany.

---