

# TOWER NOTES

Centre Congregational Church (United Church of Christ)

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Susan Spear, Secretary

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

**September 12, 2012**

## The Land

I grew up as a person of the land. Our 80-acre farm in northern Baltimore County, Maryland, was groomed to produce oats, wheat, barley, corn, hay, and straw. The straw was baled after the grain was harvested. The wheat, called "winter wheat," was planted in the fall, so that come spring it would grow and produce an early harvest in late spring. Winter wheat would be sown to sprout before the winter frost. Then, it became dormant during the winter, producing grain ready for harvest by late spring. Some farmers would harvest the wheat late spring and plant a second crop, allowing two crops from the same land in one year.

I remember my father planting the corn in early spring, like the first week of May. There were times when it was still quite cool in early May when Dad was planting the corn. Given that the corn needs the whole growing season to grow, the earlier it was planted, the earlier in the fall we could harvest it. This was not sweet corn, but corn grown to provide feed for the cattle, chickens, and pigs that we raised on our farm.

We would use all of the grains and corn to make feed for the livestock we raised for market. Any excess grain was sold for income, as were unused bails of hay and straw.

Farming the land took a great deal of planning. For example, crops were rotated so that the same crops were grown on different parts of our land each year, so as not to overuse and exhaust the nutrients of the soil for one crop. We would also take care to fertilize the land, as needed, in order to return nutrients to the soil so that it would continue to produce good crops.

We would also care for the soil in other ways: picking up and discarding rocks and stones to prevent them from damaging farm equipment, and

pulling weeds, like "mustard" weed that spread across the fields, compromising the quality of the harvest. These two activities were very labor intensive, requiring us to walk across acres and acres picking up rocks and stones, placing them onto the bed of a farm wagon, then dumping it in places not used for farming.

In addition to all of the hard work that farming requires, it depends upon the blessings of the weather, and the hope that insects will be kind, factors beyond the control of the farmer.

Farming gave me a deep awareness of our

## In The Sanctuary

**September 16, 2012**

**10:00 a.m. Morning Worship**

Sermon by the Rev. Dr. Dennis C. Bailey  
Children Gr. 1-8 may worship with their families  
before going to Rotation Sensation.

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

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

**September 23, 2012**

**10:00 a.m. Morning Worship**

Sermon by the Rev. Dr. Dennis C. Bailey  
Children Gr. 1-8 may worship with their families  
before going to Rotation Sensation.

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

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

**September 30,**

**10:00 a.m. Morning Worship**

Sermon by the Rev. Dr. Dennis C. Bailey  
Children Gr. 1-8 may worship with their families  
before going to Rotation Sensation.

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

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

dependence upon God. God gave us the land, the abilities to plan, work, and use our experience and instincts to grow and care for the crops and land. Despite our hard work, we prayed that God would provide for us what we could not provide for ourselves, the weather, our strength and rest.

We need proper nourishment just like the land, in order to do what is needed to provide for our families. And part of that nourishment is spiritual, turning to God for wisdom, gaining us respect for the land, but also, respect for each other, for other farmers, for those who purchased our crops and cattle so that we could provide for our families.

In times of crisis, we had to put our trust in God to see us through, to help us when we felt helpless, to provide for us when we had difficulty providing for ourselves, despite our hard work. There were times when we could do everything right, being faithful to our responsibilities, faithful in prayer and worship and still find the result of our labors less than we had hoped for. In such cases, we would lean on one another, and help those families who needed assistance. I remember, for example, the fall of 1964, after my father died, that it was our church friends who came to harvest our last crop of corn before we sold our family farm.

This was the moment, the most challenging in our lives, when my mother, my brother and I had to use everything we learned through farming and faith, to trust God to provide for us what we could not provide for ourselves. It was God, our church community of family and friends, and our own belief in ourselves, that saw us through sorrow, loss, uncertainty, doubt, and to the hope that we would find a new life for ourselves.

God gave us the wisdom to be patient, to never give up. I had to learn to work harder than I had ever worked, in a new way, in an academic way in college. My father was no longer there to pick me up when I fell. I had to use what he and my mother gave and taught me, through our faith, through our farming, in order to find a productive life of my own. Was farming the land ever easy? No, never. Those farmers who tried to take the easy way, never had good crops.

Is our spiritual life easy? No, never. We need to be giving it, like we gave the land, our constant attention, acknowledging our dependence upon God, and the need of a spiritual community with whom we can share our burdens and blessings.

The harder we toil and care for our spiritual land, the greater the harvest is likely to be in the Kingdom that God intends for us here on earth. But also, remember to trust in the Lord who gives us

the land. From Psalm 37:3-4:

*“Trust in the LORD and do good;  
dwell in the land and enjoy safe pasture.  
Delight yourself in the LORD  
and he will give you the desires of your heart.”*

Yours in Christ, Dennis

### **Sunday Morning with the Children**

**Rotation Sensation Sept. 16 and 23.** Children in Grades 1-8 will worship briefly with their families before leaving for class. Our theme for the year is “Faith Heroes”. We will start out with a unit on David. Come hear how David was anointed King, even though he was the youngest of his brothers.

**3- 5 Year Old Class.** Children ages 3-5 years will go directly to Room 14 at 10 am to join friends for story time, playtime, and an activity. This class will be using the Spark Story Bible. A copy of this special Bible will be given to each child who registers for the class.

**Nursery.** The nursery will be open in Room 11 for children up to the age of 3. Our head Nursery Care Provider, Lisa Gerbick will be here each Sunday assisted by experienced high school caregivers.

### **Joplin Mission Trip Report**

The Shareholder’s Dinner will be held, Sunday, Sept. 16 at 6 p.m. in Richards Hall. Come enjoy a delicious dinner (with McKinstry’s Sweet Corn) and hear about our Mission Trip to Joplin, MO this summer. The 20 participants of the trip will be your hosts. All are invited to attend.

### **Secret Pen Pal Program**

Secret Pen Pal participants are invited to an Ice Cream Social downstairs in the kitchen after worship on Sunday, Sept. 23 where you will meet your Pen Pal. Be sure to bring your sticker! Families are welcome to attend.

Lots of letters and postcards have been exchanged this summer. Remember, you need to send at least 4 letters before 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

### **Confirmation Class**

There will be an Informational Meeting on Wednesday, Sept. 18 at 7 pm in the Fireside Room for parents and youth interested in participating in this year's confirmation class. Students in grade 9 and above are warmly invited to embark on this spiritual journey of discovery.

Rev. Bailey, Barbara Langill and Kathi Martin

### **Youth Group Kick Off**

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.



### **Fall Golf Outing**

**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 no later than Friday, Sept. 21 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

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

Congratulations to Robert W. Trayers, Jr. who was promoted to Bird Colonel in the U.S. Air Force and Best Wishes on his marriage to Mary Anne Parker in San Antonio, Texas on August 11, 2012.

Congratulations to Ryann Dubiel and Jonathan Nickerson who were married on September 1. They will make their home in Denver, Colorado.

Thanks to my many friends at Centre Church for the lovely altar flowers delivered recently and for all your kind remembrances of me. I appreciate all of you!  
-Priscilla Hahn

### **CENTRE CONGREGATIONAL CHURCH** **NOTICE OF ANNUAL MEETING**

The Annual Meeting of the church will be held on Sunday, September 30, 2012 at 11:30 a.m. to discuss the following items:

1. Reports of Officers and Ministry Teams
2. Presentation and Approval of the 2012 to 2013 Budget
3. Election of Officers, Ministry Team Chairs, and Other Positions
4. Remembrance of Deceased Members
5. Recognition of 50 Year Members

Bruce Weaver, Moderator



### **Pumpkin Patch Craft Fair**

**Sat., October 20, 2012 from 9am-3pm**

At our Annual Pumpkin Patch, in addition to selling pumpkins and hosting fun activities for the children, we will feature a craft fair with handmade craft items and vendor items (i.e. Tastefully Simple, Pampered Chef, etc., etc.) Weather permitting, all activities will be outside. *This date coincides with the Lynnfield Library Annual Book Sale.*

If you would like to rent a table, the cost is \$35.00. If you can bring your own table, the cost is \$30.00. Please contact Carrie Pericola for more information and to reserve a table or space. 781-231-0954 or [cpericola@comcast.net](mailto:cpericola@comcast.net).

### **Thanks to Our Volunteers**

September 16: Head Usher-Gage Whittier. Provide Altar Flowers-Anne and Bruce Gist. Deliver Altar Flowers-Judith Doe and Randy Russell. Lights Out beginning Sept. 14-Scott DeSantis.

September 23: Ushers-Bill Seelig, Jeff Law, Gage Whittier, Al Johnson. Provide Altar Flowers-Priscilla Hahn. Deliver Altar Flowers-Barbara Becker and Chuck Cotting. Lights Out beginning Sept. 21-Rick Carey.

September 30: Head Usher-Margaret Waugh. Provide Altar Flowers-Gage and Dotty Whittier. Lights Out beginning Sept. 28-Jeff Langill.

## *Our Opportunities*

<b>Sun. Sept. 16</b>	<b>10:00 am</b> 10:00 am 10:00 am 10:00 am 6:00 pm	<b>Worship Service – Sanctuary</b> Nursery – Room 11 3-5 Year Olds – Room 14 Gr. 1-8 Rotation Sensation Mission Trip Dinner - Richards
Mon. Sept. 17	7:00 pm 7:30 pm	Boy Scout Troop #48 – Todd Hall Alanon/Alateen – Fireside & Libr.
Tues. Sept. 18	7:00 pm	Confirmation Orientation - Fireside
Wed. Sept. 19	7:00 pm	Women’s 12 Step Mtg. – FR
Thur. Sept. 20	7:30 pm	Senior Choir – Choir Room
Fri. Sept. 21	10:30 am	Bible Study – 2 <sup>nd</sup> Floor Office
<b>Sun. Sept. 23</b>	<b>10:00 am</b> 10:00 am 10:00 am 10:00 am 11:00 am 6:00 pm	<b>Morning Worship - Sanctuary</b> Nursery – Room 11 3-5 Year Olds – Room 14 Gr. 1-8 Rotation Sensation Pen Pals Ice Cream Social – Kit. Youth Groups (Gr.5-12)
Mon. Sept. 24	7:00 pm 7:30 pm	Boy Scout Troop #48 – Todd Hall Alanon/Alateen – FR & Library
Tues. Sept. 25	7:00 pm	Council – Pastor’s Office
Wed. Sept. 26	7:00 pm	Women’s 12 Step Mtg. – FR
Thur. Sept. 27	7:30 pm	Senior Choir – Choir Room
Fri. Sept. 28	10:30 am 12:30 pm	Bible Study – 2 <sup>nd</sup> Floor Office Golf Tournament - Sagamore
<b>Sun., Sept. 30</b>	<b>10:00 am</b> 10:00 am 11:00 am	<b>Morning Worship – Sanctuary</b> Nursery/3-5 Yr Olds/Rotation Annual Meeting - Sanctuary

Church Office Hours 9 a.m. – 3 p.m. Monday-Friday  
The next *Tower Notes* will be the week of September 24

Our prayers are with Ginny Daniels at Sunrise Assisted Living, Room 109, 55 Salem Street, Lynnfield; Priscilla Hahn at Sunrise, Lynnfield, Room 221; Ginny Davis in Amesbury; Helen Butcher, Marion Edkins, Denis Edkins, and Priscilla Kress at Renaissance Gardens, Brooksby; Marion Barnes in Danvers and Carolyn Furey in Charlton. 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.

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