

# 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 26, 2012

## Where Does God Want You?

Each day I ask myself that question,  
"Where Does God Want Me Today?"  
Should I work on my upcoming sermon?  
Should I visit parishioners?  
Who among my congregation would benefit  
from me giving them a call?  
Who would most welcome a prayer?  
Should I pray for the well-being  
of our ministry together today?  
Is there someone in despair?

Sometimes, just when I am uncertain, when I am working in my office late, when everyone else is gone, I receive a phone call from someone that has an important question for me. "I am glad," I say to God in prayer, "that I was there, working late."

I know God wants me in this ministry, as a pastor, serving, leading, and ready at a moment's notice. I know because I have purposely given it up to God in prayer several times throughout my career, welcoming God to give me another direction for my life. Each time, God's guidance comes back to me to stay the course, "Dennis, I need you here, right where you are."

I feel that it is important for me, though, to ask that question every day. There are some days when God's word to me is "to slow down, take a break, care for yourself, let others share the load." You are not in this work alone."

Most days God reassures me that my presence is important and needed, but often not in the way that I think. Every day God affirms that my relationship with the staff and leadership of the church is important, that each and every person's presence is needed.

I remember how when my late wife and I were in the early stages of our relationship with our foster-daughter, Carmen, the Social Worker reassured us that it was the right thing for us to be together even when the relationship was sorely tested by doubts and struggles. The Social Worker said that we do not get to choose our

natural born children. God makes the choice and we are grateful for who God chooses for us. Even though there were struggles the first two years of our relationship, Carmen becoming our daughter when she was age 14, was the right decision and I have been grateful every day of my life since, that she is my daughter.

Most of the time, I am grateful for the places God takes me. I am most grateful for the people I am with each and every day, meeting so many on a Sunday morning, the ushers so ready and willing to help each person in attendance, the amazing choir, the blessed children, the teachers and leaders of Rotation Sensation. I

### In the Sanctuary

**September 30, 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.

**October 7, 2012**

**10:00 A.M. Morning Worship**

Sermon by the Rev. Dr. Dennis C. Bailey  
All children may worship with their families.

**October 14, 2012**

**10:00 A.M. Morning Worship**

*Dedication of Confirmation Class*

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.

find it hard when God brings me to places of difficulty and challenge in the lives of others, but grateful that God feels that my presence can be a blessing, even when I find it hard to see.

I am grateful that the staff keeps me on track with my responsibilities, proofing my writing, my thoughts, my ideas and how they are always ready to kindly help everyone who is a part of our congregation or who might become part of our congregation.

I am grateful for the one-to-one encounters and conversations I have with people where they live, over the phone, and/or in chance encounters. I recognize that ministry often happens via the interruptions and seemingly chance encounters.

Today, as I write this, I'm going to take the remaining few days of my vacation while the contractor finishes up his work on my new kitchen. I am so excited that I am able to afford to finally remove the 50 year old kitchen in my house and replace it with a new one! I have been blessed by a great contractor, a great designer, and other professionals whose ideas and work will make my life better.

It is a beautiful day, today. I am happy to be alive, to be serving the Lord with all of you who read this, and, I look forward to God directing me to serve, laugh, pray, sing, work, play, decide, give, and walk with you in the days ahead.

In the meantime, let us be faithful to our calling, giving generously of ourselves, of our resources, and looking for God who is looking for us. Let us ask, each day, "God, where do you want me today?" The answer does come. Just be patient and keep asking, remain open, and be ready for surprises.

God loves us and has special plans for us who offer to be available in his service.

Yours in Christ, Dennis

## **Sunday Morning With the Children**

### **Nursery**

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**

Our theme for the year is "Faith Heroes". Our focus in September is the story of David. Children in grades 1-8 will worship briefly with their families before leaving for a movie workshop on Sunday, Oct. 30. There are no workshops on Sunday, Oct. 7.

### **3- 5 Year Old Class**

Children ages 3-5 years will go directly to room 11 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. There is no class scheduled on Sunday, Oct. 7.

## **Youth Groups**

Both the Middle School and the High School Youth Group will meet on Sunday, Sept. 30 from 6-7:30 pm. The Middle School will meet in Todd Hall and the High School in the kitchen. Be sure to join us for food, fellowship and fun!

There is no meeting on Sunday, Oct 7.

### **College Freshman Addresses needed**

The High School Youth Group will be sending care packages out to our college freshmen this fall. Please call or e-mail the church office with their current address so that they will be sure to get a surprise package from their friends at youth group.



## **Pumpkin Patch Craft Fair** **Sat., October 20, 2012 from 9am-3pm**

On Saturday, October 20, the church will host its 2<sup>nd</sup> annual Pumpkin Patch. We will be selling pumpkins of all sizes. We will have a Pumpkin Moon Bounce for the kids along with many other activities. Adult and High School volunteers are needed to help make this event a success. Please contact Barbara Langill to sign up. ([christianed@centre-church.org](mailto:christianed@centre-church.org))

In addition, we will host a **Holiday Craft Fair** featuring a wide variety of hand-crafted and vendor items (i.e. Tastefully Simple, Pampered Chef, etc., etc.) 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).

## **News Notes**

The family of Dot Holden invites you to come to Richards Hall on Sunday, September 30 at 12:00 p.m. for a Birthday Open House/Luncheon to help her celebrate her 90<sup>th</sup> Birthday!

Help Wanted: Recording our worship services for release to the local access cable channels is an important outreach opportunity. The team needs more help on Sunday mornings, running a camera, etc. Please contact Ryan Batchelder or Rev. Bailey if you would like to know more about how you can help.

Annual Reports are available on the literature table in the narthex. In addition, the newest update of our directory of members and friends, *The People Book*, is also available.

**Yankee Candle Fundraiser**

Our Yankee Candle fundraiser begins September 23<sup>rd</sup> and runs until October 14<sup>th</sup>. Catalogues and order forms will be available in the Narthex on Sunday mornings. Treat yourself to some of the Yankee Candle fall scents like Apple Cider or Pumpkin Pie. Stock up on holiday scents like Red Apple Wreath or White Christmas. The Yankee Candle catalogue contains some great gift ideas as well as a lovely selection of gift wrap. Please support Centre Church by placing an order and be sure to share the catalogue with family and friends. We will receive all orders before Thanksgiving. Proceeds from this fundraiser will support our youth groups and the church operating budget. For more information, call Debbie Cotting at 781-593-3120.

**PSST! You don't want to miss this....**

**“Double Indemnity”** – Sunday, October 21<sup>st</sup>, Stoneham Theatre for the 2:00 p.m. matinee. Come enjoy a great “who dunnit” by this outstanding local theatre troupe. We will have dinner afterwards at one of the great eateries nearby. Matinee tickets are \$25. Book soon as there are a limited number of tickets for this price!

See Laurel and Peter Caputo.

**Pie Making** - November 17: Sign up to make or buy a pie for the holidays! Apple, apple crumb, and Dennis’ famous carrot cakes! Pie making will begin on Thursday and Friday, with assembly on Saturday. Watch for details to see how you can participate and order!

See Sue Lambe.

**Trivia Night!!!**  
**Friday, October 12, 2012**  
**6:30p.m.**

*Fun, fellowship, food, wine or beer*  
*Featuring Trivia Volunteer Jason Cotting*

*Get your team of up to 6 people together!*  
*Only \$15.00 per person*

**PRIZES!!!**

Contact Dotty Whittier, Membership  
Committee, @781-635-6225 or  
Susan Spear @781-334-3050

Name \_\_\_\_\_

# of people \_\_\_\_\_

Donation of Appetizer \_\_\_\_\_  
or Dessert \_\_\_\_\_

Team \_\_\_\_\_

Need Ride (yes/no) \_\_\_\_\_

Paid (\$15.00/person) \_\_\_\_\_

**Save the Date!**

On Friday, November 3, at 7:00 p.m. at the Windham High School, a benefit concert “Perfectly Frank” will be presented to raise money to provide mental health services for veterans and their families. The New England Pastoral Institute in Salem, NH is sponsoring this fundraising concert so that no veteran or family member of a veteran will ever be without psychotherapeutic services because of a lack of funds.

“Perfectly Frank” is the highly successful tribute to the great Frank Sinatra. This performance will star vocalist Steve Marvin with the 16-piece Boston Big Band. Tickets are \$20 for adults, \$12 for children and students. There is no charge for veterans and military personnel in uniform. Speak with Rev. Bailey if you would like to carpool.

**We Appreciate Our Volunteers**

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

October 7: Head Usher-Linda Ladd. Greeter-Betty Hayter. Provide Altar Flowers-Schedin family. Deliver Altar Flowers-Laurel Caputo. Lights Out beginning October 5-Steve Furey.

**Missions Pantry**

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

Don't forget to bring newspapers, magazines, catalogs, etc. to the paper recycle bin in the parking lot. No phone books or cardboard, please.

## **Our Opportunities**

<b>Sun. Sept. 30</b>	<b>10:00 am</b> 10:00 am 10:00 am 10:00 am 11:00 am 11:30 am 6:00 pm	<b>Worship Service – Sanctuary</b> Nursery – Room 11 3-5 Year Olds – Room 14 Gr. 1-8 Rotation Sensation Annual Meeting – Sanctuary Youth Choir – Choir Room Youth Groups - Basement
Mon. Oct. 1	7:00 pm 7:30 pm	Boy Scout Troop #48 – Todd Hall Alanon/Alateen – Fireside & Libr.
Tues. Oct. 2	7:00 pm	Education Ministries - Library
Wed. Oct. 3	8:30 am 7:00 pm	Bread & Roses - Kitchen Women’s 12 Step Mtg. – FR
Thurs. Oct. 4	7:30 pm	Senior Choir – Choir Room
Fri. Oct. 5	10:30 am	Bible Study – 2 <sup>nd</sup> Floor Office
<b>Sun. Oct. 7</b>	<b>10:00 am</b> 10:00 am	<b>Holy Communion - Sanctuary</b> All Children in Church
Mon. Oct. 8	----- 7:30 pm	Office Closed – Columbus Day Alanon/Alateen – Anniversary Mtg
Tues. Oct. 9	7:30 pm	Diaconate – Pastor’s Office
Wed. Oct. 10	7:00 pm	Women’s 12 Step Mtg. – FR
Thurs. Oct. 11	7:30 pm	Senior Choir – Choir Room
Fri. Oct. 12	10:30 am 6:30 pm	Bible Study – 2 <sup>nd</sup> Floor Office Trivia Night – Richards Hall

**Church Office Hours 9 a.m. – 3 p.m. Monday-Friday**  
**The next *Tower Notes* will be the week of October 8.**

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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