

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

October 24, 2012

Shedding Leaves

The Fall is a beautiful time of year with the colorful leaves. Someone was telling me that while I was conducting a funeral in the sanctuary recently, she sat there observing, through the sanctuary windows, the beautiful leaves falling and whirling around outside. One wonders if this was God's way of celebrating the life of the beautiful and generous person we were mourning?

One of the most unusual funeral services I ever organized was at Walden Pond, Concord, MA. It was for Amy, a high school senior who died as the result of an auto accident. She was a beautiful person in every way and had her sights set on attending North Adams State College after her high school graduation. In her application essay she had written that she hoped that North Adams State would be for her like Walden Pond had been for Thoreau. She frequented Walden Pond for hours of walking and reflecting.

Upon her tragic death, her parents told me that they would like to have her funeral service on the shores of Walden Pond. With the help of many people who made this possible, we gathered there on a sunny school day morning to grieve Amy and celebrate who she was, a rich blessing to so many people, her parents, sister, fellow students, and neighbors. I was told that while I was speaking, my back turned to the pond, there were birds floating on the middle of the pond. At a particular moment during my reflection the birds took flight. It seemed, to those who were listening and watching, that the moment the birds took flight was poignant because it seemed synchronized with my words. Was this God's spirit upon the waters, in the air?

Of course, I recognize that on such occasions we look for such things, eternal things,

spiritual things, through which we find meaning and affirmation of God's loving and abiding presence. Such things give us comfort and hope. We ask, "Are such things simply coincidence or God's Spirit at work?" Some of us say, "Yes, they are simply coincidence." Some of us say "There are no coincidences." Some say that "You read too much meaning into things that happen all the time, everyday."

My experience and faith tell me to be open to any and everything. We live in God's creation. We are God's people, created by God. I believe that

In the Sanctuary

October 28, 2012

10:00 A.M. Morning Worship

Bible Presentations

Sermon by the Rev. Dr. Dennis C. Bailey

The Nursery and 3-5 Yr Old Classroom

will be open at 10:00 a.m.

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

Set clocks back 1 hour before bed on Nov. 3.

November 4, 2012

10:00 A.M. Holy Communion

Sermon by the Rev. Dr. Dennis C. Bailey

The Nursery and 3-5 Yr Old Classroom

will be open at 10:00 a.m.

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

November 11, 2012

10:00 A.M. Morning Worship

Sermon by the Rev. Dr. Dennis C. Bailey

All Children in Church.

in God, all things are possible. Too many blessed occurrences have come my way for them to all be coincidence! Too many friends have been made for me to write it off as “luck.” Friends don’t become friends because of luck, but because of walking through adversity and joy together. Friends become friends by sharing deep, personal experiences and thoughts.

I find that when I am being faithful to God, following in the way that he has set out for me, doing what I feel he wants me to do, being with those who I feel he wants me to be with, that these synchronized things seem to occur. Yes, they always catch me by surprise and often, if not usually, it is someone else, not me, who sees them.

So, today, while I am raking leaves and pine needles in my yard, I will ponder how God might synchronize this work. Tonight, while I sleep, I know God blesses my rest. Tomorrow, I wonder how God will use me to serve the needs of another. And, I wonder how God might be felt and experienced by you, in your life, in your comings and goings. I am always excited to hear how God is moving and working in the lives of others because I know he is, yesterday, today, tomorrow, and forever!

Keep the Faith, and leave the synchronizing to God!

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. Pagets are available for all parents.

Rotation Sensation

Our theme for the year is “Faith Heroes”. On Sunday, Oct. 28 we will continue learning about King Solomon, focusing on the building of the Temple. Children in grades 1-8 will worship briefly with their families before leaving for their workshops.

3- 5 Year Old Class

On Sunday, Oct. 28, the children in the 3-5 year old class will each be presented with their own copy of the Spark Story Bible. Parents and children should plan to begin the morning in Worship, when they will be called up front to receive their Bibles. Children will then leave to go to their class in Room 14 after the Bible Presentation.

On Sunday, Nov. 4, the 3-5 year old class will meet at the usual time (10 a.m.) in room 14.



Deacons Boo Breakfast on Oct 28th

Please join us for our Halloween breakfast on Sunday morning at 8:30 am! We will be serving all types of pancakes including pumpkin, of course. Proceeds will benefit the Organ Fund. Suggested donation is \$10/person or \$25/family. There will be a spooky but fun theme, making this breakfast a great way to start off an exciting Halloween week with your church family. We hope to see you and all your little goblins there! We will be “goblin” up pancakes, eggs, bacon, fruit and other fine fixins!

--Your Faithful Diaconate

Youth Activities

Pumpkin Carving

All youth group members, grades 5-12 are invited to bring a **hollowed out** pumpkin to carve for our annual competition. We will meet in the downstairs kitchen on Saturday, Oct 27, from 2-4 pm. On Sunday, Oct 28, the pumpkins will be on display in the Narthex and the congregation will be voting (with their dollar bills) as to which is their favorite pumpkin.

High School Youth Group

On Sat. Nov. 3, the High School Youth Group will be meeting at the church at 1:30 pm to car pool to Salem to participate in a service project in the afternoon. We will have dinner together and then plan to attend the U2Charist at Salem Tabernacle Church at 7:30 p.m. There will be no evening youth group meeting on Sunday, Nov. 4.

UCC Heritage Tour

The Confirmation Class will be meeting after worship on the 28th to carpool into Boston for the UCC Heritage Tour. Please plan to bring a bag lunch with you to eat when we get into Boston.



**Fall Back One Hour
On Sat., Nov. 3
before you go to bed**

Vote For Your Favorite Pumpkin

On Sunday, Oct 28, please be sure to bring a dollar bill or two to church in order to vote for your favorite carved pumpkin. Both the High School and Middle School youth group members will be displaying their finely carved pumpkins and asking you to vote by putting a dollar in the cup in front of your favorite pumpkin.

Pumpkin Patch and Craft Fair

Thank you to everyone who supported this year's Pumpkin Patch which was held Sat. Oct 20. Many hands were needed to make this event a success. We especially appreciate Carrie Pericola's efforts in organizing the crafters/vendors - a huge undertaking.



**Saturday Night
November 3**

From the Mailbox

Dear Friends at Centre Church,
Thanks so very much for your warm get well wishes and prayers said for me during my recent illness. Truly, I believe that my recovery was quickened because of you. How blessed I am to belong to such a loving community!

Many thanks again, Denise Weaver

Dear Church Family,

Thank you very much for all of your cards, notes and hugs since my father died. My mother, the rest of my family and I are all comforted by being in your thoughts and prayers. My father lived a long and productive life. Reflections, as we plan his memorial service, have made me realize how proud I am of him! I'm also proud of this church family for being so loving and supportive.

My whole extended family appreciates it.

Fondly, Linda Levis Ladd and family

Big Band Concert

On Saturday, 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.

Rev. Bailey has 4 tickets to share with the first 4 people to contact him. Tickets are also available in the church office, online at www.nepastoral.org or at the door.

Note: – this concert is on Saturday, Nov. 3 not Friday as previously published in Tower Notes.

Apple Pie Sale – Carrot Cake Sale

Sunday November 18, 2012

A team of Centre Church bakers will be baking 3 varieties of Apple Pies for your Thanksgiving feast. In addition, Rev. Dr. Dennis Bailey will also be making his famous Carrot Cakes in 2 sizes! Pies, including Apple, Apple Crumb and Apple Cranberry are \$15.00. Large carrot cake (serves 14-16) is \$12.00; small (serves 8) is \$8.00. Pies may be ordered baked or unbaked and ready for your freezer so you can bake them fresh on Thanksgiving. Carrot cake also freezes perfectly! Please send your orders and your checks to Susan Spear at the Church Office! [781-334-3050]

If you would like to help with assembling pies on either Friday, Nov. 16 or Saturday, Nov. 17, please call Sue Lambe at 781-334-2876.

Thanks to Our Volunteers

October 28: Head Usher-Deacon. Reader-David Bjorkman. Provide Altar Flowers-Annabel Aldrich. Deliver Altar Flowers-Barbara Becker and Margaret Waugh. Lights Out beginning October 26-Sтивен Richard.

November 4: Head Usher- Deacon. Provide Altar Flowers-Edith Wendt. Deliver Altar Flowers-George and Perry Hayden. Lights Out beginning November 2-Bruce Weaver.



Appliances & Electronics Recycling Day
Sat., November 10

Start gathering your old TVs, DVD Players, AC Units and larger appliances and get rid of them here in the church parking lot on Sat., November 10 from 9 am to 1 pm.

The following prices are lower than the town waste program and proceeds from this recycling drive will benefit the church. Some pickup will be available if necessary. Please call Barbara Langill at 781-334-3050 or email www.christianed@centre-church.org if you have questions. Microwave Ovens, Garbage Disposals, Trash Compactors, Printers, DVD Players, Hard Drives – all are welcome here!

Computer Monitor, CPU, Laptop:	\$15.00
Television:	\$20.00 to \$35.00
Air Conditioner:	\$15.00
Stove/Washer/Dryer/Refrigerator:	\$20.00
Cell Phones & Small Items	\$5.00
Other Miscellaneous Items:	\$10.00 each

From Bruce Weaver – Parish Council Moderator

At our recent annual meeting on September 30th, several financial issues were reviewed regarding our year end closing on June 30th and our new operating budget for 2012 – 2013. Of most importance was the fact that our most recent year end closing on 6/30 resulted in a net loss of about \$ 15,000, and our new operating budget was projecting about another \$10,000 loss for this year. It's obvious that in order to support the long term health of our church, losses of this size cannot continue. Therefore, as discussed and announced to the voting congregation, two important campaigns need to happen.

First, in order to offset the combined loss of \$25,000, (fiscal year end 6/30/12 and projected 6/30/13) we are asking our Stewardship Committee to begin a supplemental pledge drive to begin this fall and end by January 15th. The theme of this drive is "To go the extra mile" and raise \$25,000 to offset the losses mentioned above. This works out to about \$200 additional per pledging unit. More details are soon to follow but for now I ask that you please consider the importance of this issue.

Also, each year the Church receives a fellowship dues statement from the Metropolitan Boston Association of the UCC for each parishioner on our active member list. As church members we are individually responsible for this association fee. The cost is \$19.70 per member. The only notification that members receive is found within the pledge envelopes distributed at the beginning of each calendar year. Many of us overlook this payment, not on purpose but more that it doesn't seem that important and easily forgotten. But, what has happened is that each year the fee collection shrinks leaving nothing to offset the payment. Going forward, we need to collect the dues that the church pays out. Therefore, for calendar year 2012 we will be mailing a second reminder. If you have not paid for this year I hope you will do so upon receipt of the dues statement.

I appreciate your consideration on these issues. If you have any concerns or suggestions please ask myself or any other member of your Parish Council.

Bruce Weaver, Moderator

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

Sun. Oct. 28	8:30 am 10:00 am 10:00 am 10:00 am 10:00 am 11:30 am 11:15 am 3:00 pm	Halloween Breakfast - Richards Morning Worship – Sanctuary Nursery – Room 11 3-5 Year Olds – Room 14 Gr. 1-8 Rotation Sensation Youth Choir – Choir Room Confirmands/ UCC Heritage Tour Young Families Gathering
Mon. Oct. 29	7:00 pm 7:30 pm	Boy Scout Troop #48 – Todd Hall Alanon/Alateen – Fireside & Libr.
Tues. Oct. 30	7:00 pm	Council – Pastor's Office
Wed. Oct. 31	7:00 pm	Women's 12 Step Mtg. – FR
Thurs. Nov. 1	7:30 pm	Senior Choir – Choir Room
Fri. Nov. 2	10:30 am	Bible Study – 2 nd Floor Office
Sat. Nov. 3	1:30 pm	High School Service Project-Salem
Sun. Nov. 4 <u>Turn Clocks Back 1 Hour</u> <u>Sat. Night</u>	10:00 am 10:00 am 10:00 am	Holy Communion - Sanctuary Nursery / 3-5 Yr Old Class Gr. 1-8 Rotation Sensation
Mon. Nov. 5	7:00 pm 7:30 pm	Boy Scout Troop #48 – Todd Hall Alanon/Alateen – Fireside & Libr.
Wed. Nov. 7	8:30 am 7:00 pm	Bread & Roses - Kitchen Women's 12 Step Mtg. – FR
Thurs. Nov. 8	7:30 pm	Senior Choir – Choir Room
Fri. Nov. 9	10:30 am	Bible Study – 2 nd Floor Office
Sat. Nov. 10	9am-1pm	Electronics/Appliance Recycling

Church Office Hours 9 a.m. – 3 p.m. Monday-Friday **The next *Tower Notes* will be the week of November 5**

Our prayers are with George Laing at home; Priscilla Hahn and Ginny Daniels at Sunrise, Lynnfield; Charlotte Kilgore, Helen Butcher, Marion Edkins, Denis Edkins, and Priscilla Kress at Renaissance Gardens, Brooksby; Marion Barnes in Danvers, Ginny Davis in Amesbury 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.