

TOWER NOTES

Centre Congregational Church (United Church of Christ)

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We Welcome Everyone: An "Open and Affirming" Church

February 6, 2013

Sweeping Floors

What is it about sweeping a floor that brings my attention to God?

Dirt. Dirt, yes, dirt. I make dirt that falls on my floor and I have to clean it up. No one else is going to do it for me. I have to look down and see the facts; that I have made a mess that has fallen on my floor. "Where did all of this dirt come from?" I ask myself. Well, from me. Yes, just me. I cannot point my finger at anyone else. I don't know about you, but, I don't like knowing that I make a mess.

Spiritually, I don't like knowing that I hurt another person's feelings or that I let another person down. It is what we talk about when we talk about sin; hurting, harming, disobeying God, breaking promises that we have made, insulting another, stealing, lying, killing, breaking a relationship, like marriage, speaking of God and/or another person disrespectfully.

So, sweeping my floors helps me understand that I need to ask God for forgiveness and, when I hurt others, ask them for forgiveness, also. It helps knowing that we all make dirt, and that we all sin. I am no different from anyone else. Just look at your floors.

When others clean up after us, we can grow accustomed to not paying attention to the dirt we create, the dishes we leave, and the way we leave rooms where we meet, work, and live. We can also grow accustomed to not paying attention to the people who do the work of

cleaning up after us. So, when I use a space I try to think about it before I leave, wondering if I need to clean up after myself, out of respect for the space, for those who may be using it next, but also out of respect for the person who cleans up after me so as not take advantage of that person.

Now, we have this space, this earth upon which we live. Who is going to clean up after

Worship Services

February 10, 2013

10:00 a.m. Morning Worship

Sermon by the Rev. Dr. Dennis C. Bailey

Nursery at 9:00 & 3-5 Year Olds at 10:00

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



Ash Wednesday

February 13, 2013

7:30 p.m. in the Chapel

Renewal of Baptism and
Disposition of Ashes

February 17, 2013

10:00 a.m. Morning Worship

1st Sunday in Lent

Nursery open at 9:00 for those up to age 5.

Older Children may worship with their families.

us? God has given us the care of it and we are the stewards of it. The way we leave it and care for it directly affects others, those present and those yet to be born. We make a mess, we should clean it up. It is important that we think about that from time to time and give consideration to how we affect the care of our earth by the way we live. Some of us consider recycling a nuisance and unnecessary expense, but, I know that it is responsible stewardship of our earth and that recycling pays dividends in cost savings. There is one trash collection company in New Hampshire, H2O Waste Disposal, that doesn't charge to recycle because they sell their recyclables, saving the consumer money and being responsible stewards. We all make trash and it needs to be cleaned up responsibly.

As we approach Ash Wednesday and Lent, let us take time to think about our "dirt." What is it in our lives that needs to be cleaned up? Our stewardship of our earth, the way we care for the people God has given to us, our family and friends? Is there someone we need to call and/or need to visit that we have neglected and promised to stay in touch. I know that it hurts when friends make promises to us and then fail to keep them. Perhaps this is a good time for us to reconnect, ask for forgiveness, and start anew.

We can also think about our relationship with God. Have we grown distant from God? Have we neglected to give thanks to God, to spend time in worship, to fulfill the promises we have made to God? When we fall away from the relationships that have nourished us, given us life and hope, we leave a mess, dirt. Let's try to clean it up in this upcoming season of Lent. No one will do it for us, but, the Lord, our God, and perhaps some of our friends, will help us, and forgive us.

Yours in Christ, Dennis

Our Nursery, located in Room 11, is open each Sunday for infants through age 3. Experienced staff and volunteers are on hand to welcome children for story time and play. The nursery is now open at 9 am.

Sunday Morning With the Children

3-5 Year Old Class

Children ages 3 to 5 are invited to join us each Sunday at 10 am in Room 14 for a class just for this age group. There is time for free play, a Bible Story and a craft and/or activity to help reinforce the story.

Rotation Sensation

On Sunday, Feb. 10 we will be learning about Jesus and the miracle of Feeding the 5,000 through our art workshop. Please plan to join us.

There are no rotation classes scheduled for Sunday, Feb 17, the beginning of February vacation. The nursery will be open for children ages 5 and under on that day.

Youth Groups

On Sunday February 10, both youth groups will be meeting from 6-7:30 pm. The Middle School Group will be meeting in Todd Hall and the High School Group will meet in the kitchen. There are no youth group meetings scheduled for Sunday, Feb. 17, the start of February school vacation.

New Members Welcome

There are some people who would like to join the church. If you would like to join them and become a member of Centre Congregational Church, United Church of Christ, then please contact Rev. Bailey via phone, 781-334-3050 and/or by email, pastor@centre-church.org.

You're Invited to a Reading Group

hosted by Educational Ministries on Wednesdays during Lent (February 20, 27, March 6, 13, 20, 27) 7:00 – 9:00 p.m. in Richards Hall.

We will be discussing *Dinner with a Perfect Stranger* by David Gregory. Please R.S.V.P. to Kathi Martin at 781-245-2409 or mkm9291@verizon.net, or the Church Office 781-334-3050.

(cost of the book is \$5.00)

Confirmation Update

On Sunday, Feb 10, the Confirmation Class will meet with Rev. Bailey 11:30-1 pm. Lunch will be provided by the Sievers Family. Both the confirmand and his/her mentor should plan to attend. Reminder: you are expected to attend worship on Feb. 10. Please be sure to fill out your worship forms. If you are unable to attend any of the scheduled classes, be sure to call or e-mail the church office so arrangements can be made for you to make up the missed class.

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.

Food of the Month for Haven from Hunger is Pasta and Sauce.



Prince Pizza
Take N Bake Fundraiser
Now through March, 2013

Sign up on Sundays for a box of three frozen large-sized cheese pizzas from Prince for \$20 – regular price \$22.

Additional toppings may be purchased at Prince!

Pay on Sunday and we'll have the Prince voucher ready for you next week!

You are helping Centre Church meet our fundraising goal and getting great tasting pizza!!

Your Support is Appreciated

Many thanks to everyone who supported the Souper Bowl of Caring this past Sunday. Thanks to your generous donations, the Middle School Youth Group collected \$115.00 to be used to help Bread and Roses.

30 Hour Famine Report

Twelve members of the High School youth group, along with leaders Barbara and Jeff Langill, went 30 hours without food to help raise funds for World Vision. On Saturday morning we made 20 February centerpieces to be put on the tables at My Brother's Table in Lynn. We also made 200 peanut butter and jelly sandwiches for My Brother's Table.

We are excited to report that we were able to collect \$2,227.00 in donations. This amount will help to feed 6 children for a year. We would like to thank the congregation, our family and friends for their generous contributions.

News From Around the Parish

Our love and prayers are extended to Marion Edkins upon the death of her husband, Denis on February 2. His funeral will be at MacDonald Funeral Home in Wakefield on Friday, February 8 at 11 a.m. Calling hours will be on Thursday 4-8 pm at the funeral home.

Our congratulations and best wishes to Nathan and Eva Spear of Framingham, MA upon the birth of a daughter, Lorna Riley Spear on January 26. Proud grandparents are Shep and Susan Spear.

We Appreciate Our Volunteers

February 10: Ushers: Bill Seelig, Al Johnson, Paul Harrington, Gage Whittier. Readers: Kelly Look and Judie Potter. Provide Altar Flowers: Bjorkman family. Deliver Altar Flowers: Haydens. Coffee Hour: Gulezians. Lights Out beginning Feb. 8: Phil Johnson

February 17: Head Usher: Jeff Law. Lights Out beginning Feb. 15: Scott DeSantis

Our Opportunities

Sun. Feb. 10	9:00 am 10:00 am 10 :00 am 11:30 am 11:30 am 6:00 pm	Nursery – Room 11 Morning Worship – Sanctuary Rotations / 3-5 Year Old Class Confirmation - Kitchen Youth Choir – Choir Room Youth Groups - Basement
Mon. Feb. 11	7:00 pm 7:30 pm	Boy Scout Troop #48 – Todd Hall Alanon/Alateen – Fireside & Libr.
Tues. Feb. 12	6:30 pm 7:30 pm	Stewardship – Library Diaconate – Pastor’s Office
Wed., Feb. 13 <i>Ash Wednesday</i>	7:00 pm 7:30 pm	Women’s 12 Step Mtg. – FR Ash Wednesday Service - Chapel
Thurs Feb. 14	7:30 pm	Senior Choir – Choir Room
Fri. Feb. 15	10:30 am	Bible Study – 2 nd Floor Office
Sun. Feb 17	9:00 am 10:00 am 10:00 am	Child care for Children up to age 5 Morning Worship - Sanctuary Older Children in Church
Mon. Feb. 18	----- 7:30 pm	Church Office Closed Alanon/Alateen – FR & Libr.
Wed., Feb. 20	7-9 pm 7:00 pm	Lenten Reading Group - Richards Women’s 12 Step Meeting - FR
Thurs Feb. 21	7:30 pm	No Choir This Week
Fri. Feb. 22	10:30 am	Bible Study – 2 nd Floor Office

Deadline for the next *Tower Notes* is February 18.

The Church Office is open from 9am – 3pm.

Our prayers are with Art Pyburn at Hunt Center, 75 Lindall St., Danvers, 01923; Ginny Daniels at Union Hospital; John Wishart at Sunrise, Braintree; Ray and Arliene Thorn, Charlotte Kilgore, Helen Butcher, Marion Edkins and Priscilla Kress in Continuing Care at Brooksby Village; Marion Barnes in Danvers, Ginny Davis in Amesbury and Carolyn Furey in Charlton and Jim Findlay, Peter Brown, Norma Holloway, Tom Vancor, Rev. Judy Hjorth and Al Merritt.

We remember in our prayers Michael Bruce in the Far East, Dan Neary in Afghanistan, and we rejoice that Sam Schnare (Carol and Dick Carter’s grandson) is home.
