

TOWER NOTES

Centre Congregational Church (United Church of Christ)

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We Welcome Everyone: An "Open and Affirming" Church

April 17, 2013

What Is Stewardship?

This year our Stewardship Ministries Team has been discussing and thinking about what stewardship is and why we give. Several questions came up and with some research on-line, we found a few answers. We wanted to share a bit of what we have learned with you here in hopes that you will also give it some thought and pray about the amount you can pledge. Stewardship by definition (according to dictionary.com) means *the position and duties of a steward, a person who acts as the surrogate of another or others, especially by managing property, financial affairs, an estate, etc. or the responsible overseeing and protection of something considered worth caring for and preserving.*

What is the difference between stewardship and fundraising?

Throughout the New Testament, Jesus specifically talks about how God wants us to live our lives to help build God's Kingdom. Scripture talks about what we should be doing with the gifts that God has given us. Stewardship is based on Jesus' challenge to us to live as God has planned, not on the monetary needs of our parish. *Stewardship is based on our need to give out of gratitude to our most generous God, not on the church's (or any other charity's) need to receive.*

Parishes and charities will always have needs. Fundraising efforts are built around institutional or charitable needs (a new roof, a new boiler, renovated buildings, etc.). Good stewards respond to the needs that fundraising efforts address, but they always focus on the primary fact that, as disciples of Jesus who have been gifted by a most generous God, we need to give!

"Happiness lies more in giving than in receiving."

-Acts 20:35

What difference will Stewardship make in my life?

The difference is the motivation for giving. It is so easy to put life on hold and, with it, all of our good intentions, saying: "Someday when I have more time" or "When I've reached my goals" or "I'll give my share of time, talent and treasure, but not right now." What will we tell those in need of prayer, a kind ear or many other acts of Stewardship? If we all act like this, gifts the Lord has given us will go unshared. *Stewardship acknowledges that God is the source of all of our gifts and talents, while we are the caretakers of these gifts.*

Where Stewardship has been implemented, both givers' and receivers' lives have been changed. True conversion has taken place in the hearts and minds of many who embrace Stewardship as a way of life.

In the Sanctuary

April 21, 2013

10:00 a.m. Morning Worship

Sermon by the Rev. Dr. Dennis C. Bailey
Nursery at 9:00 a.m. & 3-5 Year Olds at 10:00
Children Gr. 1-8 may worship briefly with their families
before going to Rotation Workshops.

April 28, 2013

10:00 a.m. Morning Worship

Sermon by Guest Preacher, Elizabeth Walsh
Nursery at 9:00 a.m. & 3-5 Year Olds at 10:00
Children Gr. 1-8 may worship briefly with their families
before going to Rotation Workshops.

What's the difference between Stewardship and tithing?

Good stewards reflect upon their current level of giving, and consider increasing their giving, if possible. The ultimate goal is to achieve the biblical tithe. Giving might be more or less, depending upon what a person or family has concluded through prayer and reflection. The important thing is to take the first step of faith by putting God first.

Our theme this year for our Stewardship Campaign is Joining HIM in Giving. We wanted to focus on how God gives to us. Each of our four weeks we will focus on different aspects of gifts from God (Life, Time, Talents and Treasure). This week we are reminded that we are stewards of the gift of Life. As Paul reminds us in 1 Corinthians 6:19-20:

"Or do you not know that your body is a temple of the Holy Spirit within you, which you have from God, and that you are not your own? For you were bought with a price, therefore glorify God in your body."

We will be running our campaign the same as last year. We hope everyone has received the kick-off letter spelling out the campaign and inviting you to our Stewardship Day Luncheon on April 28th after the service. If not, please contact the church office so we can send you one. On Stewardship Day, April 28th we will be passing out and collecting the pledge cards during the service. We hope you will take time to reflect, pray and have discussions (if applicable) about the amount you will give prior to the 28th.

"Like good stewards of the manifest grace of God, serve one another with whatever gift each of you has received." - I Peter 4:1

- Stewardship Ministries Team

Youth Groups

Sunday, April 21 Both Youth Groups will meet from 6-7:30pm. The Middle School will meet in Todd Hall and the High School will meet in the kitchen.

Sunday, April 28 Both Youth Groups will meet from 6-7:30pm. The Middle School will meet in Todd Hall and the High School will meet in the kitchen.

Can and Bottle Fundraiser for Joni & Friends

Please continue to drop off your cans and bottles to help raise funds for Joni and Friends, a nonprofit Christian organization focused on helping persons with disabilities. The bottle drive will end on Apr. 28.

Sunday Morning With the Children

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. The nursery is now open at 9am.

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

Sunday April 24 Rotation Workshops. After worshipping briefly with their families, children and youth in grades 1 through 8 will leave after Children's Time and meet in the chapel. We are beginning on a new unit on the Good Samaritan.

Sunday, April 28 Rotation Workshops We will continue learning the story of The Good Samaritan.

Movie Night – April 26

During April, the Sunday School classes will be studying The Good Samaritan. To go along with this story, Christian Education will be hosting a movie night on Friday, April 26 at 7:00 p.m. We will be watching "Pay It Forward" and discussing how it is related to The Good Samaritan story. If you would like to join us, please sign up at a service or contact Carrie Pericola. (We need an idea of the number coming.) Popcorn will be served!

Carrie Pericola, 781-231-0954

cpericola@comcast.net

Confirmation

Sunday, April 21 11:30 Confirmands and Mentors will meet with Rev. Bailey for a luncheon meeting.

Sunday, April 28 10 am Confirmands will meet with Kathi Martin in the pastor's outer office.

Vacation Bible School:

Vacation Bible School for children ages 4 and up, will be held here at Centre Church on July 15-19. This year our theme is: *Everywhere Fun Fair; Where God's World Comes Together*. We are excited to welcome Mia Sievers as our VBS Coordinator. A successful VBS requires many volunteers; please consider joining us for a wonderful week working with children. High School youth are needed as well as adults to lead stations. Contact Barbara Langill in the church office for more information.

Lynnfield "Town Day"

Centre Congregational Church in Lynnfield is part of the Lynnfield Town Day on **Saturday, May 18, 2013, 8:30 a.m. - 2:00p.m.** Our celebration will be held rain or shine.

Centre Church Flea Market **On the Front Lawn**

You can have an 8' table and two chairs for \$35.00 or bring your own table for \$30.00. We will be advertising extensively and have the best location in town! Reserve early, we have limited space left. In case of rain, event will be held indoors.

Call **Dotty Whittier**

to reserve **your flea market space @781-635-6225.**

(Reservation forms for reserving a table are available in the church office.)

Lynnfield Art Guild Show & Sale

48th Annual Judged Spring Art & Crafts Show
Centre Church on May 18 from 9-3
Includes Lynnfield High and Middle School
Students' Art Exhibit

There will be a Reception
Friday, May 17th 7 – 9 p.m.
Raffles, Prizes and Silent Auction
All Welcome
Free Admission

Easter Flowers

We extend our thanks to the Caputo family for setting up the beautiful display of flowers on Easter. Our thanks also to Plantscape Designs for providing the flowers and also the palm plants for Palm Sunday.

Donated flowers were delivered to the bereaved and shut-ins. Our heartfelt thanks to the team of delivery people who deliver altar flowers on Sundays throughout the year.

Barbara Ericson, Margaret Waugh, Barbara Becker, Chuck Cotting, Judith Doe and Randy Russell, George and Perry Hayden, Ray and Julie Aslanian, Laurel Caputo and Marian Orfeo.

News From Around the Parish

Our love and sympathy are extended to the family and friends of Muriel "Mickey" Nasson who died on April 13. She is survived by her husband, Joseph. Three of her children are David Nasson, Jessica Look and Jody Crowther of our congregation. Her funeral will be at Centre Church on April 18 at 11:30 a.m. The service will be preceded by visiting hours at McDonald Funeral Home in Wakefield.

Our congratulations and best wishes to Meg and Barkey Gulezian who celebrate their 65th Wedding Anniversary on April 25.

We rejoice with the following young people who were baptized on March 10:

Rachelle Votano, Rhea Votano, and Shae Votano, children of Salvatore and Risa Votano and Hayley Timmons and Caitlin Timmons, daughters of Michael and Laurie Timmons.

We rejoice with the following children who were baptized on March 17:

Colin Barrete, son of Anthony Barrette and Denise Brennan and Gioacchino Curiale, son of Gioacchino and Krystle Curiale.

Excursions Planned

We will be sponsoring a visit to the Peabody Essex Museum in Salem, MA, on Sunday, 6/2/13 afternoon with our own Ann Decker as our guide! We will be having a "highlights tour" including the special exhibit "In Conversation: Modern African American Art". After our tour, we will be heading to one of the great eateries in Salem. More details to follow. Sign up in the narthex after service.

Membership Ministries will also be sponsoring a trip to the Museum of Fine Arts on a Thursday, to take advantage of the "free day". There will also be a special meal as part of this day out in Boston! Please see Joan Press or Dotty Whittier for details.

Dotty Whittier, Membership Ministries
(781)635-6225

Lights out Volunteers

Week beginning April 19: Bruce Weavaer
Week beginning April 26: Charlie Wills
Week beginning May 3: Roger Batchelder

Our Opportunities

Sun. Apr 21	9:00 am 10:00 am 10 :00 am 11:30 am 6-7:30 pm	Nursery – Room 11 Morning Worship – Sanctuary Rotations & 3-5 Year Old Class Confirmation Class - Kitchen Both Youth Groups - Basement
Mon. Apr 22	7:00 pm 7:30 pm	Boy Scout Troop #48 – Todd Hall Alanon/Alateen – Fireside & Libr.
Tues. Apr. 23	12:30 pm 7:00 pm	Get-Together Wheel - Fireside Council – Pastor’s Office
Wed. Apr 24	6:30 pm 7:00 pm 7:30 pm	Stewardship Committee - Library Women’s 12 Step Mtg. – Fireside Senior Choir – Choir Room
Fri. Apr. 26	10:30 am 7:00 pm	Bible Study – 2 nd Floor Office Movie Night “Pay it Forward”
Sun Apr. 28	9:00 am 10:00 am 10:00 am 10:00 am 11:30 am 6-7:30 pm	Nursery – Room 11 Morning Worship – Sanctuary Rotations & 3-5 Year Old Class Confirmation Class – Pastor’s Ofc Stewardship Celebration Lunch Both Youth Groups - Basement
Mon. April 29	7:00 pm 7:30 pm	Boy Scout Troop #48 – Todd Hall Alanon/Alateen – FR & Libr.
Wed. May 1	8:30 am 7:00 pm	Bread & Roses - Kitchen Women’s 12 Step Meeting - FR
Thur. May 2	7:30 pm	Senior Choir – Choir Room
Fri. May 3	10:30 am	Bible Study – 2 nd Floor Office

The next *Tower Notes* will be the week of April 29.

Our prayers are with Carl Wood at Lawrence General Hospital, Lawrence; Red Hollett at Brockton Veterans’ Administration Hospital; Esther McGrath at Abbott House-Swampscott Wing, 28 Essex St., Lynn 01902; Arthur Pyburn at Hunt Center, Danvers; Carolyn Furey at Overlook in Charlton; Marion Barnes at Hawthorn Hill in Danvers; Marge Cole, Ray and Arliene Thorn, Helen Butcher, Marion Edkins and Priscilla Kress at Continuing Care at Brooksby; and Tom Vancor, David Bruce, Eddie Beatrice,

We remember in our prayers Michael Bruce in the Far East and Dan Neary and Bruce Bennard in Afghanistan.
