

TOWER NOTES

Centre Congregational Church (United Church of Christ)

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We Welcome Everyone: An "Open and Affirming" Church

May 1, 2013

The LORD ... Goes Before You...

Have you ever had the feeling that the Lord, our God, has gone before you to prepare the way; to prepare the way for a friendship, a relationship, an opportunity, or to prepare for you a blessing to fulfill a need?

As many of you know, I was away to officiate at my granddaughter, Krystal's wedding. It was an honor to be asked and a joy to perform the ceremony, pronounce Matthew and Krystal married and to sign their marriage license.

I enjoyed getting to know the members of the wedding party, especially Janelle, Krystal's Maid of Honor, and Janelle's fiancé, Eli, from Watertown, MA. I was struck by their maturity and, of course, we discussed the recent events in Watertown, MA involving the search for the marathon bomber. Janelle and Eli's home was evacuated and searched. They were worried about their safety, the safety of their neighbors, wondering if they would be allowed to attend the wedding. Fortunately, the danger passed and we were all grateful to be able to fly out of Boston to attend the wedding in Florida.

It wasn't until the wedding reception, though, that I realized how important and enduring Janelle's friendship with my granddaughter has been.

At the reception Janelle stood to make some remarks and a toast to Krystal and Matt. She had prepared a written text. As she read it she explained that she and Krystal had met in elementary school and had remained best friends ever since.

"What?" I said to myself. "Krystal has been friends with Janelle all of this time and I didn't know it?" You see, in 1990 I moved to Billerica, MA, to become the pastor of First Congregational Church, Billerica. At the time, Krystal was less than 2 years old, living with her parents in Beverly, MA. Eventually, Krystal and her mother, Carmen, my daughter, moved to Billerica in order to be close to my wife and me. It was great because we got to see them and spend a lot of time together. As Krystal grew we attended things she was involved in at school and such. I was pleased to be available to come to

the rescue when she needed rides, errands, and, oh yes, "Grampy, I forgot to ask Mom for money (for something at school)."

Krystal graduated from High School and, with her mother, they moved to Florida. So, you see, I was a witness to Krystal's growing up, attending school, and such, and never realized she had this close friend, Janelle, who has been, and continues to be a blessing, till this past weekend.

And so, today, I remind myself that I went to Billerica because I was called by God to serve where he would lead. I went to Billerica because I was invited by the congregation there to be their pastor. God not only prepared the way for me, but also for my family; relationships that would be great blessings for many years to come! I am so grateful to God that Krystal and Janelle are such great friends. They are so good for each other! Eli, Janelle's fiancé, is such a good man.

In the Sanctuary

May 5, 2012

**10:00 a.m. Holy Communion
Sacrament of Baptism**

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.

May 12, 2013

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

Sermon by the Rev. Dr. Dennis C. Bailey
Nursery at 9:00 a.m. & 3-5 year Olds at 10:00
Older Children in Church

I know that I cannot count the ways that God has gone before me to prepare the way, to help me, bless me, especially with friendships that have been and continue to be great blessings. I know that God has done the same for you, too! Scripture gives accounts of how characteristic this is of God:

Deuteronomy 1:30 "The LORD your God, who is going before you...."

Deuteronomy 31:9: "The LORD himself goes before you and will be with you; he will never leave you nor forsake you. Do not be afraid; do not be discouraged."

Isaiah 45:1-13 also gives an account of the same.

We all have journeys ahead of us. Let us not be afraid, because, God continues to go before us to prepare the way for whatever endeavor we are called to.

I pray that God goes before our first responders to prepare the way for their safety, for nurses and doctors to be able to save lives, for all of our children and their safety, and for all of us. But let us remember that no matter what happens, God has prepared the way for us and will never forsake. I pray for Matt and Krystal, Javon and Aria, that God has prepared a great and happy life for them, many friends, and much success, surrounded by God's love. I pray for Janelle and Eli, that God blesses them with much happiness as they prepare for their wedding day this coming August. Thanks be to God!

Yours in Christ, Dennis

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 9 am.

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 May 5 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 Ruth.

Sunday, May 12 Children and Youth ages 6 and up are invited to join their families in Worship for Confirmation Sunday. Worship will be led by the Confirmation Class.

Confirmation

Sunday, May 5 11:30 Confirmands and Mentors will meet with Rev. Bailey for a luncheon meeting and to present their Confirmation projects.

Saturday, May 11 Confirmation Rehearsal

Sunday, May 12 Confirmation Sunday

Many Hands Make Light Work!!

Thank you to the following people who helped make this year's stewardship campaign a success: Rayden Sorli Hawk, Dom and Lauren Donadio, Caitlin Timmons, Abbie Weaver, Mia Sievers, Jeff Langill, Elizabeth Walsh, Mike Timmons, and Ray Sorli. Thank you also to the members of the Stewardship Ministries Team: Katherine Decker, Jill DiGiorgio, Mary McCarthy, Annmarie Pendola, and John Sievers. Without all of your wonderful gifts we would not have had such a wonderful campaign! - Carrie Pericola

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. 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

There will be a Reception Fri., May 17th 7 – 9 p.m.

Raffles, Prizes and Silent Auction

All Welcome - Free Admission

Youth Groups

Sunday, May 5 The Middle School Youth Group will be having their end of year celebration with a trip to Sky Zone in Everett. We will meet at the church and carpool to Sky Zone. Please RSVP by May 1. The cost is \$13.00 per person. Additional drivers/chaperones are needed. Please contact Barbara Langill if you can help. There will be no High School Youth Group on May 5.

Sunday, May 12 No Youth Groups, Happy Mother's Day

Sunday, May 19 The High School Youth Group will end their year with a trip to Canobie Lake Park in Salem, NH. We will meet at the church at 1 pm and carpool to the park. The cost is \$28.00 per person. Parents are needed to help drive and chaperone. Please call Barbara Langill if you can help.

Great Ways to Support the Mission Trip to Joplin!



Red Sox Ticket Raffle

Attention Red Sox Fans: Want to head to Fenway and catch a game, but find ticket prices too high? Here's your chance to win two tickets to the Boston Red Sox vs. Los Angeles Angels on Saturday, June 8, 2013 at 7:15 pm. Tickets will be on sale after worship Sunday, May 5, 12, 19 and 26. The drawing will be held June 2. Tickets are 1 ticket for \$5.00, 3 for \$10.00 or 9 for \$20.00. Also included in the Raffle is an adorable Red Sox Build-a-Bear along with \$50.00 in cash for parking. Please call Barbara Langill in the church office for more information. All proceeds will go toward the Joplin Mission Trip.



Mother's Day Flower Sale

On Sunday, May 12, participants for this year's mission trip will be selling hanging plants after church. We will have a variety of flowers to choose from. Please remember your mother and help us to raise money for this summer's Mission Trip to Joplin.



Mission Money

Save your quarters! Next Sunday, youth group members will be handing out tubes of M&M mini candy. Go ahead and enjoy the candy, then refill the tube with quarters and bring it back to the church. There will be a basket in the Narthex to collect your filled tubes. All proceeds will go toward this year's Mission Trip.

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

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.

News From Around the Parish

We extend our love and sympathy to Barkey Gulezian and his family upon the recent death of his brother.

Our sympathy is with the family and friends of Scott Zarella who died on April 18.

Our sympathy to the family and friends of Roger Laing who died on April 21. He was the son of the late George Laing and step-son of Gini Laing of Florida.

Our prayers and sympathy are with Elaine Pyburn and her family upon the death of her husband, Arthur Pyburn. His funeral was held on April 24.

Our prayers and love are extended to the family and friends of Carl Wold who died on April 20. A graveside service will be held on May 2.

We extend our love and sympathy to the family and friends of Carl Wood who died on April 24. A Memorial Service will be held at Centre Church on June 8.

A Memorial Service will be held at Centre Church on May 4 at 11:00 a.m. for Deborah Marchand-Goodale, daughter of Elva Batchelder.

From the Mailbox

To my Friends at Centre Church,

I'd like to thank the Congregation for donating so generously to the MassGeneral Marathon Team Fighting Kids' Cancer One Step at a Time. With your help I have met and exceeded my goal to raise \$5,000! Marathon Monday quickly turned tragic; thankfully my family and my running team all were safe. My family and I are so grateful for your expressions of concern, and are thankful to be part of the Centre Church Community and Boston Strong!

-Kim Waugh

Our Opportunities

Sun. May 5	9:00 am 10:00 am 10:00 am 11:30 am 6-8 pm	Nursery – Room 11 Holy Communion – Sanctuary Rotations & 3-5 Year Old Class Confirmation Class - Kitchen Middle School to Sky Zone
Mon. May 6	7:00 pm 7:00 pm 7:30 pm	Golf Committee – Pastor’s Office Boy Scout Troop #48 – Todd Hall Alanon/Alateen – Fireside & Libr.
Tues. May 7	7:00 pm	Education Ministries - Library
Wed. May 8	7:00 pm	Women’s 12 Step Mtg. - Fireside
Thurs. May 9	7:30 pm	Senior Choir – Choir Room
Fri. May 10	10:30 am	Bible Study – 2 nd Floor Office
Sat. May 11	10:00 am	Confirmation Rehearsal – Sanct.
Sun. May 12	9:00 am 10:00 am 10:00 am	Nursery – Room 11 3/5 Year Old Class – room 14 Morning Worship - Sanctuary
Mon. May 13	7:00 pm 7:30 pm	Boy Scout Troop #48 – Todd Hall Alanon/Alateen – FR & Libr.
Tues. May 14	7:00 pm 7:30 pm	Membership – Library Deacons –Pastor’s Office
Wed. May 15	7:00 pm	Women’s 12 Step Meeting - FR
Thur. May 16	6:30 pm 7:30 pm	Bethlehem Comm. - Library Senior Choir – Choir Room
Fri. May 17	10:30 am	Bible Study – 2 nd Floor Office
Sat. May 18	8:30-2 pm	<u>Lynnfield Town Day</u> Flea Market and Art Guild Show and Sale

The next *Tower Notes* will be the week of May 13.

Our prayers are with Tom Vancor recuperating at home; Red Hollett at Brockton Veterans’ Administration Hospital; Esther McGrath at Abbott House-Swampscott Wing, 28 Essex St., Lynn 01902; Carolyn Furey at Overlook in Charlton; Marion Barnes at Hawthorn Hill in Danvers; Marge Cole, Ray and Arlene Thorn, Helen Butcher, Marion Edkins and Priscilla Kress at Continuing Care at Brooksby Village.

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