

TOWER NOTES

Centre Congregational Church (United Church of Christ)
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We Welcome Everyone: An "Open and Affirming" Church

May 29, 2013

Graduation: Finding Meaning

Every year this time I think of my High School Graduation Ceremony from Hereford High School, Parkton, Maryland. The one person that I focus on in this memory is Dr. Tracy, Member of the Board of Education, a Veterinarian and Dairy Farmer. It was Dr. Tracy's job to hand out the High School Diplomas to all of the High School Graduates and congratulate us with a handshake. I can still see him shaking everyone's hand as they came across the stage to receive their diploma. And, my best friend, Harry and I still laugh about how *it was easy to tell that Doc Tracy was a dairy farmer by the way he shook everyone's hand!*

Doc Tracy had found meaning in his life, as a local farmer, veterinarian, and member of the School Board. He was proud, humble, and cherished the opportunity to serve his community, beyond the confines of his farm and practice. He loved what he did and you could tell that he felt blessed.

The Doctor was also a very dependable man, a man of integrity, in his medical practice. He treated his patients and their owners with respect and care and, in return, we all respected him. When one of our farm animals was sick, we all felt better when Doc Tracy showed up!

The prophet Jeremiah reports on behalf of God, "For I know the plans I have for you," declares the LORD, "plans to prosper you and not to harm you, plans to give you hope and a future." Jeremiah 29:11

It seems to me that Doc Tracy had discovered the plans that God had for him and fulfilled them. It is my hope that each of us, especially our graduates, also discover the plans that God has for us, and fulfill them. Of course, this does not always come easy. Many of our graduates will be taking jobs other than that reflected in

their course of study, at least to begin with. It takes a great deal of patience to find our way.

I am reminded of how long a mother duck must sit on her eggs. It takes about 26-28 days before they hatch, after the hen lays one egg per day for about nine days. And then, it takes about 50 days before the young ducks can fly. Yes, there is a plan for the eggs, that God has set out, but it takes time, patience, and a watchful and protective mother for it to be fulfilled.

Human beings are much more complicated, it seems. We are not so on automatic pilot as are the ducklings. We have choices to make and often, due to our

In the Sanctuary

June 2, 2013 - 10:00 a.m. Holy Communion

Sermon by the Rev. Dr. Dennis C. Bailey
Nursery open at 9 a.m. 3-5 Class at 10 a.m.
Older children will rehearse for June 9 Service.
Worship followed by Congregational Meeting
and Cook Out on the Lawn.

June 9, 2013 - 10:00 a.m. Children's Sunday

Message by the Children of the Church
Nursery open at 9:00 a.m.
Worship followed by Ice Cream Social.

June 16, 2013 - 10:00 a.m. Morning Worship

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

June 23 and 30, 2013

9:00 a.m. Morning Worship in the Chapel

These summer services are brief and informal.
Followed by punch and fellowship.

uncertainty, lack of confidence, inexperience or lack of opportunity, have a hard time finding our way to that place of service, vocation, work, and meaning in our lives.

As human beings, we also have the choice as to what we put our trust in. If we put our trust in the things that are human made, we may be sorely disappointed. I offer as evidence the recent "Facebook" fiasco, people putting their trust and security into the hands of those things which fade away! If we put our trust in Jesus then we will find that he will give us those things that give us the greatest meaning. He gives us security when we tend to the needs of others and live according to God's ways. Jesus knows what we need. Listening to him will give us our path.

Whatever careers our graduates end up in, may they remember these words of Jesus, "*Do not store up treasures for yourselves on earth, where moth and woodworm destroy them and thieves break in and steal. For wherever your treasure is, there will your heart be too*" (Matt. 6:19-21, NJB).

I also offer the value of putting our trust into those relationships with family and friends where we have found caring, giving, and loving hearts; people who do not try to control us, but, like the mother duck, help us to fly to set us free to be what God intends.

CONGRATULATIONS to all of our graduates, their parents, and families who have invested so much of themselves into the well-being and success of their children.

It is my wish that each and every one of you has had a meaningful educational and community experience during your school years, whether High School or College. And it is my wish and prayer, that you discover and live out the plan that God has for your life.

Yours in Christ, Dennis

P.S. Thanks to Dorsey Holappa for sharing the New York Times with me that sparked this *Tower Notes* article.

Congregational Meeting – June 2, 2013

Immediately following Worship to:

- Vote on Proposed Budget for the 2013-2014 Fiscal Year
- Ratify extending the term of the Officers and Ministry Team Chairs until the Annual Meeting in September.

Bruce Weaver, Moderator

Reminder:

Don't forget to return your pledge card if you have not done so already.

Cook Out after Church on June 2

On Sunday, June 2, the Joplin Mission Trip participants are planning to hold a cook out on the front lawn of the church to raise funds for our August Mission Trip. We will have hot dogs, hamburgers and side dishes as well as dessert. The cost will be just \$10.00 for adults and \$5.00 for children under 10. Please plan to support the Mission Trip as well as enjoy a fun time with your church family.

Red Sox Ticket Raffle

The Red Sox ticket raffle will be held Sunday, June 2. The prize includes two tickets to the Boston Red Sox vs. Los Angeles Angels on Saturday, June 8, 2013 at 7:15 pm. Also included in the Raffle is an adorable Red Sox Build-a-Bear along with \$50.00 in cash for parking. Tickets are 1 ticket for \$5.00, 3 for \$10.00 or 9 for \$20.00. All proceeds will go toward the Joplin Mission Trip.

Golf Tournament at The Thomson Club

Save the date of **Friday, June 7th** for the 10th Annual Centre Church golf tournament. The net proceeds go to our Operating Budget. This will be a best ball tournament with a tee time of **12:30 PM** at The Thomson Country Club in North Reading.

The cost is \$110 per player. This covers the cost of greens fees, cart, goody bags and prizes.

All sorts of prizes and the chance to have your winning team's names engraved on "*The Unholy Grail*" are but a few of the benefits of playing in this tournament. Players of all skill levels welcomed.

Please invite your friends to play, too.

Sign up with Chuck Cotting (chuck@thecottings.com or 781-593-3120),

Phil Johnson (pcjohnson@meei.harvard.edu)

or Bruce Weaver (bruce@newenglandlab.com)

no later than **Friday May 31st**.

Checks should be made payable to Centre Congregational Church at 5 Summer Street Lynnfield, MA 01940.

Write On! Secret Pen Pal Program!

Do you like getting mail? Have you always wanted a pen pal? We are looking for adults and youth interested in being secret pen pals over the summer. Here's all you need to do:

1.) Pick a secret code name for your letters
- 2.) Send and receive at least 4 letters or post cards from June-September
- 3.) Meet your secret pen pal at an ice cream social in the fall.

Want to sign up? Call or e-mail Barbara Langill at 781 334-3050 or christianed@centre-church.org with your name, summer address, phone number and a secret code name that you want to use.

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. On Sunday, June 9, children will be participating in a special Children's Sunday program.

Rotation Sensation

June 2: All children and youth (grades PreK-8th), are encouraged to attend this Sunday. We will be practicing for Children's Sunday. Please make every effort to be with us as we prepare for our special program. If you will not be at church on June 2, but wish to have a part on Children's Sunday, please let Mrs. Langill know.

June 9: ALL children and youth, leaders, shepherds and nursery care givers are invited to join us for a special Children's Sunday! Our children and youth will be participating in the service. There will be a recognition of all volunteers. A very special Ice-Cream social will be held on the front lawn following the service.

Stock Sales

We invite you to "share" in our mission trip experience by purchasing stock. For just \$20.00 per share, you will be helping our youth and adult volunteers give those faced with disaster in Joplin, MO and Atlantic City, NJ hope for a better future. All shareholders will receive a stock certificate and an invitation to a shareholder dinner in the fall where mission trip participants will give a presentation of their experiences. Shares will be on sale this Sunday after worship or you may send in your order to the church office on the [order form](#) enclosed.

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.

Mission Money

Please remember to bring back your M & M mini tubes filled with quarters. The donations received will go toward supporting our two Mission Trips. There is a basket in the Narthex for your filled tubes.

News From Around the Parish

Our congratulations to Natalie Zervas and Alan Miles who were married on May 18 in Tyngsboro, NH. Natalie is the daughter of Arthur and Lynne Zervas and Alan is the son of Robert and May Miles.

Our love and sympathy are extended to Stephen and Lola Leggett upon the recent death of Stephen's father, Fred L. Leggett.

Our love and sympathy are extended to Peter and Nancy Brown upon the recent death of Peter's mother, Mary Elizabeth Richardson Brown.

We are sad to report that long-time member Barbara Hoffman died at the home of her daughter in Georgia on May 20.

Our love and sympathy are extended to Barbara Nickerson and her family upon the death of her mother, Helen Fitts on May 24.

A Memorial Service will be held for Carl Wood on June 7 at 7:00 p.m. in the sanctuary.

Our prayers are with [Anne Gist](#) at home with hospice care; [Red Hollett](#) at Meadowview in North Reading; [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 Village.

We remember in our prayers [Dan Neary](#) and [Bruce Bennard](#) in Afghanistan.

We rejoice that [Michael Bruce](#) has returned to the United States and is temporarily assigned to Camp Pendleton in CA.

Thanks to Our Volunteers

June 2: Head Usher: Linda Ladd. Lights Out beginning May 31: Jeff Langill.

June 9: Head Usher: Margaret Waugh. Lights Out beginning June 7: John Walsh.

June 16: Head Usher: Jeff Law. Lights Out beginning June 14: Al Johnson.

June 23: 9:00 a.m. Chapel. Head Usher: Linda Ladd. Lights Out beginning June 21: Bill Seelig

Lights Out beginning June 28: Dave Bjorkman.



Congratulations Graduates!

- Jeffrey Lambe: BA in International Relations from Boston University
 Roger Potter Furey: BA with a double major in Criminology and Sociology, and a Minor in Jewish/Christian/Muslim Relations from Merimack College
 Katie Morrissey: BS in Nursing summa cum laude from Northeastern University. She has been accepted in the nursing graduate program at Vanderbilt University Medical Center in Nashville, TN.
 Sean Morrissey: BS in Civil and Environmental Engineering from The Citadel, Military College of South Carolina
 Nick Forgione: Isenberg School/UMass. Amherst. Continuing on to get his Masters in Accounting at the Isenberg School of Management
 Wil Russell: BA in Criminal Justice from Curry College
 Lisa Gerbick: BS in Business Administration with a concentration in Hospitality Management and a Minor in Economics from Salem State

Our High School Graduates Will be Recognized in Church on June 9

Our Opportunities

Sun. June 2	9:00 am 10:00 am 11:30 am 2:00 pm	Nursery – Room 11 Morning Worship – Sanctuary, then Special Congregational Meeting Cook-Out on Front Lawn Trip to Peabody Essex Museum
Mon. June 3	7:00 pm 7:30 pm	Boy Scout Troop #48 – Todd Hall Alanon/Alateen – Fireside & Libr.
Tues. June 4	7:00 pm	Education Ministries - Library
Wed. June 5	8:30 am 7:00 pm	Bread & Roses - Kitchen Women’s 12 Step Mtg. - Fireside
Thurs June 6	6:00 pm	Tower Kindergarten Graduation
Fri. June 7	10:30 am 12:30 pm	Bible Study – 2 nd Floor Office Golf Tournament – Thomson Club
Sun. June 9	9:00 am 10:00 am	Nursery – Room 11 Children’s Sunday – Sanctuary, then Ice Cream Social – Front Lawn
Mon. June 10	7:00 pm 7:30 pm	Boy Scout Troop #48 – Todd Hall Alanon/Alateen – FR & Libr.
Wed. June 12	7:00 pm	Women’s 12 Step Meeting - FR
Fri. June 14	10:30 am	Bible Study – 2 nd Floor Office
Sun. June 16	10:00 am	Morning Worship - Sanctuary
Mon. June 17	7:00 pm 7:30 pm	Boy Scout Troop #48 – Todd Hall Alanon/Alateen – Fireside & Libr.
Wed. June 19	7:00 pm	Women’s 12 Step Mtg. - Fireside
Fri. June 21	10:30 am	Bible Study – 2nd Floor Office
Sun. June 23	9:00 am	Morning Worship - Chapel
Mon. June 24	7:30 pm	Alanon/Alateen – FR & Libr.
Wed. June 26	7:00 pm	Women’s 12 Step Meeting - FR
Fri. June 28	10:30 am	Bible Study – 2nd Floor Office
Sun. June 30	9:00 am	Morning Worship - Chapel

**The next *Tower Notes* will be the week of June 24 and will cover the month of July.
 Church Office Hours will be 9-12 beginning June 10.
 Chapel Worship Services at 9 a.m. will begin on June 23.**