

TOWER NOTES

Centre Congregational Church (United Church of Christ)

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The Rev. Dr. Dennis C. Bailey, Pastor, Pastor@Centre-Church.org

The Rev. Mark Freeman Strickland, Pastor Emeritus

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Douglas W. Hodgkins, Organist/Choir Director

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Susan Spear, Secretary

We Welcome Everyone: An "Open and Affirming" Church

October 9, 2013

Devon Abt Benin, West Africa

This past week, on the occasion of World Communion Sunday, parishioner, Joanne Popoloski, brought to my attention the journey of another parishioner, Devon Abt, who is serving in the Peace Corp as a volunteer healthcare aid in the village of Bassassi Bokko Benin, West Africa.

Devon graduated from Lynnfield High School in 2008, growing up as a member of Centre Church where she was confirmed. Devon then attended and graduated from Colorado State University in 2012 with a BS in Pre-Med. She plans for a career in medicine.

In August, 2012, Devon started serving a 2 year commitment in the Peace Corp, serving in Benin, West Africa. As Joanne writes, *"Devon lives in a dirt floor hut, has minimal food, no electricity, and has to walk for over a mile with a large container on her head to collect clean water from a well. Over the last year, she has landed in the hospital several times battling typhoid fever, malaria twice and many other parasitic infections. She takes it all in stride. She loves her work and is happy to have this opportunity to help the village by teaching them about good nutrition, the need for immunizations and trying to reduce the infant and AIDS mortality rates. She is a wonderful person and I am so proud to call her my friend."*

We are all proud of Devon and pray for

her well-being, safety, and ask God to continue to make her an instrument of peace and blessing with the people of Benin.

She can be found posting photos on Facebook. When she goes to the village of Contonou, which has electricity and internet access, she will post an update to let us know how

she is doing. You can find photos of Devon on her Facebook page.

You can help Joanne send Devon items for the holidays for her and the children in her village. Devon loves peanut butter, double stuff Oreos, and Luna bars. Benin is predominantly a Muslim country and they speak French so gifts for the children are a challenge, but Joanne is sending small puzzles, stickers and teaching aids in the care package.

In the Sanctuary

October 13, 2013

10:00 A.M. Morning Worship
Sermon by the Rev. Dr. Dennis C. Bailey
Childcare for children up to age 5.
Older children in church.

October 20, 2013

10:00 A.M. Morning Worship
Sermon by the Rev. Dr. Dennis C. Bailey
Nursery open in Room 11.
Ages 3-5 meet in Room 14 at 10:00 a.m.
Gr. 1-8 Rotation Workshops after brief worship.

Please let Joanne know if you are interested in helping to send items to Devon and the children, putting a package together yourself to send. It is costly to send packages and so, Joanne also welcomes contributions to pay for the cost of shipping.

You can contact Joanne at 781-334-5120, jopop713@gmail.com, or by finding her at Centre Church on Sundays. As Joanne writes, *“When we are so bombarded with violence and bad news all the time on television and the internet, it is refreshing to hear a story about a local woman doing such a good deed in the world.”*

Let us pray:

Dear Lord, we are grateful for the ministry of our sister, Devon Abt, in Benin, West Africa. We ask you to watch over her, protecting her health, giving her strength to serve the people, especially the children, of Benin. We pray that you bring food, water, medicine, and safety to all the people of Benin. Bless Devon's heart and hands to serve you and your people there. And, help us, and others around the world, to end the suffering that comes from diseases like AIDS, malaria, and typhoid. We also pray that Devon's ministry in Benin will prepare her well to continue to serve in a career of medical care. We pray, in Jesus' name, Amen.

Thanks be to God for Devon Abt, disciple and servant of Jesus Christ!

Yours in Christ, Dennis

Confirmation Class News: **Boston UCC Heritage Tour**

The Confirmation Class will be heading into Boston on Saturday, Oct 19. We will meet in the church parking lot at 9 am to carpool into Boston. We will be volunteering at Pilgrim Church in Dorchester preparing and serving a meal. After cleaning up, we will head into Boston for a tour of historic churches in Boston to see how they relate to the UCC and our church today. Parents and mentors are welcome to attend. We will be carpooling into Boston, so please let us know if you are willing to drive.

Sunday Morning with the Children

Rotation Sensation (Grades 1-8)

There are no church school classes on Sunday Oct. 13. Please plan to remain in worship with your family.

Our theme for the year is “The Best of Rotation.” Our focus this fall will be the story of Moses. On Sunday, October 20, children in grades 1-8 will worship briefly with their families before leaving for their workshops.

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.

PreK-Kindergarten class

There is no church school class scheduled for Sunday, Oct. 13. Children up to age 5 are welcome in the nursery.

On Sunday, Oct. 20, the children will go directly to Room 14 at 10 am to join friends for story time, playtime, and an activity. This class will be using the Spark Story Bible and will be learning about Moses for the next several weeks.

Youth Group

There are no youth group meetings on Sunday, October 13.

Both the Middle School & High School Youth Group will meet on Sunday, October 20 from 6-7:30 pm. Please plan to join us for a night of food, games, fellowship and fun.

The High School Youth Group will be sending care packages out to our college freshmen this fall. Please call or e-mail the church office with the current address of your college freshman so that they will be sure to get a surprise package from their friends at youth group.

News From Around the Parish

Congratulations to Michael and Jill (Gonnam) DiGiorgio upon the birth of a son, William Jayce DiGiorgio on September 25. His proud big brother is Cameron. His proud grandmother is Marcy Gonnam.

The Boston Red Sox Made It To The Playoffs

**Donate socks to show support
and help provide socks for the homeless.**



Why Socks?

Access to clean, dry socks is often limited for the homeless men and women living in shelters and on the streets. Rain-soaked feet, ill-fitting shoes, constant standing and diseases like diabetes take their toll on the feet of homeless people. The best way to prevent conditions such as trench foot, skin infections, nail diseases and even frostbite is to keep feet clean and dry – very difficult if you spend your days outside.

The Youth Groups at Centre Church will be collecting new white socks to be distributed by Ecclesia Ministries in Boston. Please plan to bring your sock donation to church during the month of October. There will be a big Red Sox in the narthex to collect your donations.

Knit for Homeless People

Ecclesia Ministries is beginning a project for those who would like to help homeless people be warmer during the cold winter months. Items you knit will be either given in the Christmas packs given out on Christmas Eve or on the street during the cold days following. In observing the colors chosen by homeless friends when we put out clothing, it is clear they prefer dark subdued colors such as navy, dark green, or black.

Hats, scarves, mittens, and vests are most welcome. If you have favorite patterns feel free to use them, or you can use the pattern found on their web site at <http://ecclesia-ministries.org/howto/pattern.html>. We will also have a copy of the pattern in the church office. Please contact Barbara Langill for more information.



Appliances & Electronics Recycling Day Sat., November 2

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., Nov. 2 from 9am 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 christianed@centre-church.org if you have questions. Microwave Ovens, Garbage Disposals, Trash Compactors, Printers, DVD Players, Hard Drives – all are welcome here!

Computer Monitors	\$15.00
TVs: <27" (27-35"/36"+)	\$20 (\$25/\$40)
Air Conditioners/Gas Grill (no tanks)	\$15.00
Stove/Washer/Dryer/Fridge/Water Tank:	\$20.00
Phones & Misc. (by size):	\$5-\$10

*****Directories Available*****

Our recently updated directory of members and friends of Centre Church, *The People Book*, is now available in the church office or on the table in the narthex. Please pick one up so you will be up-to-date on address changes, etc.

Thanks to Our Volunteers

Sunday, October 13: Ushers-Doreen DiFillippo, Mary McCarthy, Margaret Waugh, Karen Harrington, Paul Harrington. Lights Out beginning October 11-Charlie Wills.

Sunday, October 20: Ushers-Jeff Law, Judith Doe, Randy Russell, Gage Whittier. Lay Reader-Sue Gustavsen. Altar Flowers-Marge Cole. Flower Delivery-Judith Doe and Randy Russell.

Lights out beginning October 18- Al Johnson.

Our Opportunities

Sun. Oct. 13	10:00 am 10:00 am 10:00 am	Morning Worship – Sanctuary Nursery (up to age 5) – Rm. 11 Older Children in Church
Mon. Oct. 14	----- 7:30 pm	Church Office Closed Alanon/Alateen – FR & Library
Wed. Oct. 16	7:00 pm	Women’s 12 Step Mtg. - Fireside
Thur. Oct. 17	7:00 pm 7:30 pm	Night in Bethlehem Committee Senior Choir – Choir Room
Fri. Oct. 18	10:30 am	Bible Study – 2 nd Floor Office
Sat. Oct. 19	9:00 am	Confirmation Class to Boston
Sun. Oct. 20	10:00 am 10:00 am 10:00 am 11:30 am 6:00 pm	Morning Worship - Sanctuary Nursery and Preschool Class Rotations (Grades 1-8) Youth Choir – Choir Room Youth Group - Basement
Mon. Oct. 21	7:00 pm 7:30 pm	Boy Scout Troop #48 – Todd Hall Alanon/Alateen – Basement
Tues. Oct. 22	12:30 pm 7:00 pm	Get-Together Wheel – Fireside Council – Pastor’s Office
Wed. Oct. 23	7:00 pm	Women’s 12 Step Meeting - FR
Thur. Oct. 24	7:30 pm	Senior Choir – Choir Room
Fri. Oct. 25	10:30 am	Bible Study – 2 nd Floor Office

Our prayers are with Al White, Stephen Mitchell, Roger Lauzon and Norma Holloway; Ginny Davis at Elizabeth Calsey House, 15 Elizabeth Street, Amesbury, 01913; Rose Giunta at Brightview Senior Living, 50 Endicott St., Danvers, 01923; Wendell “Red” Hollett; Marion Barnes; Marge Cole, Ray and Arlene Thorn, Helen Butcher, Marion Edkins and Priscilla Kress.

We remember in our prayers Cody Ryan, Dan Neary and Bruce Bennard who are serving in Afghanistan.

**The next *Tower Notes* will be the week of October 21.
Deadline is noon on October 21.**

**Church Office Hours are 9am – 3 pm
Monday through Friday.**
