

# TOWER NOTES

Centre Congregational Church (United Church of Christ)

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Susan Spear, Secretary

*We Welcome Everyone: An "Open and Affirming" Church*

## January 29, 2014

### The Wisdom of Proverbs

Many years ago I had a parishioner who had been a highly respected and regarded teacher in the town of Billerica. She was loving and kind. On the occasion of her funeral, I decided to turn to the Book of Proverbs and found appropriate scriptural remembrances of what she represented.

I share some of the treasures from this precious, but, also, very interesting book of the Bible. If you dare to read it, I caution you, some of what you read may shock you while other verses will be like these that I share below.

For me, I treasure these verses of scripture because they remind me of how to find true wealth in life. I know that we spend a lot of time and energy focusing on making money, putting away enough to live on when we can hopefully afford to retire. But, I have learned time and time again, and through some particularly close friends, that the more we give, the more we receive.

I believe that it is important to focus on getting things, getting the right things. The most valuable things that I have received cannot be put in my wallet or my bank account. I treasure most my friendships where I find the wealth noted in these verses of scripture.

*For the LORD gives wisdom; from his mouth come knowledge and understanding. (Proverbs 2:6)*

*Let love and faithfulness never leave you; bind them around your neck, write them on the tablet of your heart. (Proverbs 3:3)*

*Blessed are those who find wisdom, those who gain understanding, for she is more profitable than*

*silver and yields better returns than gold. She is more precious than rubies; nothing you desire can compare with her. (Proverbs 3:13-15)*

*The fear of the LORD is the beginning of wisdom, and knowledge of the Holy One is understanding. (Proverbs 9:10)*

*A gentle answer turns away wrath but a harsh word stirs up anger. (Proverbs 15:1)*

*Commit to the LORD whatever you do, and he will establish your plans. (Proverbs 16:3)*

*How much better to get wisdom than gold, to get insight rather than silver! (Proverbs 16:16)  
(my favorite)*

### In the Sanctuary

**February 2, 2014**

**10:00 a.m. Holy Communion**

Nursery (up to age 3) in Room 11

3-5 Yr. Old Class in Room 14

Older Children in Church

**February 9, 2014 – Boy Scout Sunday**

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

Nursery (up to age 3) in Room 11

3-5 Yr. Old Class in Room 14

Grades 1-8 Rotation Sensation

**February 16, 2014**

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

Nursery (up to age 5) in Room 11

Older Children in Church

*Better a patient person than a warrior, one with self-control than one who takes a city. (Proverbs 16:32)*

*A friend loves at all times, and a brother is born for a time of adversity. (Proverbs 17:17)*

*A good name is more desirable than great riches; to be esteemed is better than silver or gold. (Proverbs 22:1)*

*By wisdom a house is built, and through understanding it is established; through knowledge its rooms are filled with rare and beautiful treasures. (Proverbs 24:3-4)*

And, to these, I add one from Jesus:

*“Do not store up for yourselves treasures on earth, where moths and vermin destroy, and where thieves break in and steal. But store up for yourselves treasures in heaven, where moths and vermin do not destroy, and where thieves do not break in and steal. For where your treasure is, there your heart will be also.” (Matthew 6:19-21)*

Yours in Christ, Dennis  
(scripture quotes from New International Version)

### **Sunday Morning With the Children**

Our Nursery, located in Room 11, is open each week for infants through age 3.

#### 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

There are no workshops on Sunday, February 2. Children in grades 1-8<sup>th</sup> are invited to remain in worship for a family friendly service on the first Sunday of every month.

On Sunday, Feb 9, children in grades 1-8 will worship briefly with their parents before heading to the chapel and Rotation Workshops.



### **Souper Bowl of Caring**

We ask you to drop \$1 (or more) in the soup pot as you leave worship on February 2. We will also be collecting cans of soup for the Haven from Hunger Food Pantry. Please support the efforts of our youth as they join other young people around the country to help those in need of a warm, nutritious meal.

### **Youth Group News**

There will be no youth group meeting on Sunday, Feb 2. Enjoy the Super Bowl!

#### Snow Tubing

Both the High School and Middle School youth groups will be headed to Nashoba Valley on Sunday, February 9 for an evening of snow tubing. We will meet in the parking lot at 4:45 p.m. The bus will be leaving promptly at 5 p.m. Please eat beforehand as we will not be having dinner at Youth Group. There is a snack bar at the lodge where food may be purchased. We will provide hot chocolate, water, and brownies.

### **Deacon's Breakfast – Feb. 9**

Bring your favorite sweetheart to the Deacon's Breakfast on Sunday, Feb. 9 from 8:30-9:30 am. Crispy grilled bacon, fluffy scrambled eggs and your choice of blueberry, banana, chocolate chip or plain pancakes, served with our famous fresh fruit salad. Coffee, tea and juice round out the bill of fare. Suggested donation is \$10.00 per person or \$25.00 per family. Proceeds of all our breakfasts go to the Organ Maintenance Fund.

Margaret Waugh for the Deacons

### **Haven From Hunger**

On Monday, Jan 20, members of the Middle School Youth Group made Martin Luther King Jr Day not a day off, but a day of service. We helped prepare and serve the evening meal at Haven from Hunger in Peabody. Visit their website at <http://www.havenfromhunger.org/> and check out the photo of our group. Special thanks to Jeannine Hawk for volunteering to help chaperone and drive. While we were there, we learned that they are really in need of macaroni and cheese.

Barbara Langill

### **News From Around the Parish**

We extend our prayers and sympathy to Bob and Carol MacKendrick upon the recent death of Bob's mother, Edith MacKendrick of Washington, NC.

Our love and sympathy are extended to the family and friends of Harriet Brown who died on January 26. Her funeral will be held in Belmont on January 29.

**TODAY 46 - TOMORROW 19**  
**Together We Can Make a Difference**

As I write this article it is a balmy 46 degrees outside. When we get a day like this, I tend to think that the worst of the weather is behind us. Silly me. On the TV just now the forecast for tomorrow and next few days will be 19-26 degrees, Okay back to reality. The cold, freezing temperatures make me so grateful to have all that is needed to stay warm and comfortable inside. I believe all of you are just as blessed as I am in this regard.

Unfortunately, there are so many people who are homeless, hungry and in shelters. There are two local organizations that are offering services to these people in need.

*My Brother's Table* is a wonderful place in Lynn that has been serving free meals to our hungry neighbors 365 days a year for over three decades now. The Table is completely privately funded in order to serve the greatest number of guests. They do not use or seek any funding from the government. They welcome all.

*The Emergency Shelter* which is part of the Lynn Shelter Association is another caring and much needed organization in Lynn. Over 50 people are housed there nightly and in the winter, the numbers swell to 70-80 a night. The past couple of months have been so frigid that they have even put up chairs so that more people can have a warm and safe place to stay for the night.

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**My Brothers Table and the Emergency Shelter in Lynn are in immediate need of specific items.**

Your support and compassion would be gratefully appreciated. Even if each person brought only one item, we would still be able to help so many people. Thank you very much. -Donna Marino

**Lynn Shelter – Linens Needed**

Gently used or new twin size sheets and blankets. Towels are also needed to meet the increased demand of the winter months.

**My Brother's Table – Staples Needed**

Coffee - Regular – ground - in cans  
White Sugar - 5/10 pound bags  
Artificial Sweeteners - individual packets  
Tuna, Ketchup, Mustard and Jelly

You will find a green cart in the narthex to receive your donations.

**Confirmation**

On Sunday, Feb 2, there will be a luncheon meeting with Rev. Bailey at 11:30 am for confirmands and their mentors. Parents are asked to attend the beginning of the meeting as Kathi Martin will be going over the expectations for the remainder of the year. The meal will be provided by the Carey Family.

On Sunday, Feb 9, the confirmation class will be meeting with Mrs. Martin at 9 am in Todd Hall.

The Confirmation Retreat will be March 7-8 at Grotonwood. Please return your completed forms and payment by Sunday, Feb. 2.

**From the Mailbox**

We would like to express our thanks to Dennis for his visits and prayers and for the cards, expressions of sympathy and visits we received from our friends at Centre Church after Paul's loss. We are grateful for the love and support of our church family.

Sincerely, Barbara, Paul Jr. and Kristin Jensen

**Trivia Night and Silent Auction**

**Friday February 28, 2014 @ 6:30 PM \$15 each**

**Hors d'oeuvres, Sandwiches, Desserts, Beverages  
Prizes!!!**

**Trivia brought to you by Jason Cotting**

**Team limit 6 people –  
get your team together now**

**Please contact Dotty Whittier @ 781-635-6225  
Donations of Hors d'oeuvres, Sandwiches,  
Desserts are very Welcome!**

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***Trivia Night –Silent Auction Order Form***  
**Friday February 28, 2014 - \$15.00 per player**  
Check to Centre Congregational Church with form.  
*(Return reservation to the church office  
during the week)*

Name(s) \_\_\_\_\_

How many on team? \_\_\_\_\_

Team Name: \_\_\_\_\_

## *Our Opportunities*

Sun. Feb. 2	10:00 am 10:00 am 10:00 am 11:30 pm	Holy Communion – Sanctuary Nursery & 3-5 Yr Old Class Older Children in Church Confirmation - Kitchen
Mon. Feb. 3	7:00 pm 7:30 pm	Boy Scout Troop #48 – Todd Hall Alanon/Alateen – Fireside & Libr.
Wed. Feb. 5	8:30 am 7:00 pm	Bread & Roses Group - Kitchen Women’s 12 Step Mtg. - Fireside
Thurs. Feb. 6	6:30 pm 7:30 pm	Stewardship Comm - Library Senior Choir – Choir Room
Fri. Feb. 7	10:30 am	Bible Study – 2 <sup>nd</sup> Floor Office
Sun. Feb. 9	8:30 am 9:00 am 10:00 am 10:00 am 10:00 am 5-9 pm	Deacons Breakfast – Richards Hall Confirmation Class – Todd Hall Morning Worship - Sanctuary Nursery & 3/5 Yr Old Class Rotation Sensation Youth Group Snow Tubing
Mon. Feb. 10	7:00 pm 7:30 pm	Boy Scout Troop #48 - Todd Alanon/Alateen – FR & Library
Tues. Feb. 11	7:00 pm 7:30 pm	Membership – Pastor’s Office Diaconate – Pastor’s Office
Wed. Feb. 12	7:00 pm	Women’s 12 Step Mtg - Fireside
Thurs. Feb. 13	7:30 pm	Senior Choir – Choir Room
Fri. Feb. 14	10:30 am	Bible Study – 2 <sup>nd</sup> Floor Office

Our prayers are with Doris Nelson at Aviv Living Centers, 240 Lynnfield St., Peabody, 01960; Lee Clarke and Roger Lauzon recuperating at home; Jean Card at Rosewood Nursing and Rehab Center, 22 Johnson St., W. Peabody, 01960; Rose Giunta, Parker Holloway, Ginny Davis, Marion Barnes, Marge Cole, Ray and Arlene Thorn, Helen Butcher and Marion Edkins.

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

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**The next *Tower Notes* will be the week of February 10.**

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