

# TOWER NOTES

Centre Congregational Church (United Church of Christ)

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The Rev. Dr. Dennis C. Bailey, Pastor, [Pastor@Centre-Church.org](mailto:Pastor@Centre-Church.org)

The Rev. Mark Freeman Strickland, Pastor Emeritus

Barbara Langill, Director of Christian Ed & Youth Ministry, [ChristianEd@Centre-Church.org](mailto:ChristianEd@Centre-Church.org)

Douglas W. Hodgkins, Organist/Choir Director

Sally MacDonald, Director of Tower Day School

Susan Spear, Secretary

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

**February 12, 2014**

## **I Am Not a Self-Sufficient Individual**

Looking back over my life I am grateful to the many people who have contributed to my well-being, my education, my spiritual growth, and to who I am.

I say this because I fear that in our American culture we are tempted to think we can make it on our own, or, that we owe no one anything because we have worked our way to where we are. I confess, at times, I think maybe I could just walk away from all of my responsibilities and live on my own, depend on no one.

Fact is, though, I owe my life to my late parents who gave me life and the first portions of love as I know it. They, no doubt, taught me more than anyone else about life. I still depend upon them, their wisdom, their unconditional love, their work ethic, their values, and their sense of what is most important in life. They taught me how to respect God's creation, how to ride a bike, drive a car, fly a kite, cook, make carrot cake, and countless other things.

In the Christian life, I learned how to be a disciple through the people of the church I belonged to as a child, till age 26 when I was ordained there as a Minister in the United Church of Christ.

In the Bible, there is no example of a self-sufficient disciple. Even the apostle Paul, after his dramatic conversion and internship in the desert, went to Jerusalem and looked to the other apostles and disciples of Jesus to help him learn and grow in faith and leadership. (see *Acts 9:26-30; 11:25-26*)

When Paul went out to plant and build new church communities he always traveled in the company of others. He had a team - Barnabas, Silas,

and Timothy. As was demonstrated by Jesus, Paul delegated authority and work to others, men and women, in the Christian communities he established. Those early years were turbulent times and much work, perseverance, and faith were needed to get the church up and running.

We best learn how to be disciples through loving communities where we work together, learn together, and give together. We can learn a lot of things through reading books, online websites, by watching TV, and such. But, the best learning, the longest lasting and most effective learning comes through personal contact where we seek to change the world together and make life better for others.

## **In the Sanctuary**

**February 16, 2014**

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

Sermon by The Rev. Dr. Dennis C. Bailey

Nursery (up to age 5) in Room 11

Older Children in Church

**February 23, 2014**

**10:00 A.M. Morning Worship**

Sermon by The Rev. Dr. Dennis C. Bailey

Nursery (up to age 3) in Room 11

3-5 Yr. Old Class in Room 14

Grades 1-8 Rotation Sensation

**March 2, 2014**

**10:00 A.M. Holy Communion**

Message by Rev. Bailey and Barbara Langill

Nursery (up to age 3) in Room 11

3-5 Yr. Old Class in Room 14

Older Children in Church.

There are other communities to which we belong. Some of these include politics, town and/or city boards and committees, our work communities, sports communities, song, dance, and other forms of community service. Hopefully we live out our Christian discipleship in these communities, also. But, at times, these communities are formed to teach us how to use our teamwork to win over another team, to beat the other candidate, even to the point of talking badly about them, and to put our company in a better position to succeed than another.

In our Christian communities, we use our teamwork to show how we can help everyone live a better life, have equal opportunities, be loved instead of hated. We do not yell and scream to beat another. Rather, we kindly and gently give loving support and encouragement to all. If one person fails, we all feel the pain. If one person succeeds, we all rejoice. If there is physical contact, it is a welcoming and affirming handshake, or a loving embrace to bring comfort.

There is a race to be run. It is a race to bring hope and healing, to beat back violence, war, racism, sexism, and homophobia. We fight to replace hatred with love, vengeance with forgiveness. And, if necessary, we are willing to sacrifice in order to achieve our Christ-given goals.

I cannot be a Christian in a closet or in isolation. I need other members of the Body of Christ to be a Christian. Jesus has said, "Wherever two or three are gathered in my name, I am there, among them." (*Matthew 18:20*) He calls us to be the Body of Christ, his body, in community and in the world. You make me better, greater, more loving than I could ever be by myself. Thanks to all of you, from my late parents and grandparents, to my brother and his family, to all of my friends and colleagues, my past church partners to my present partners in ministry, and even to the persons I just met and got to know better this past week.

I pray that our Church, our Christian Community, makes you better, feel less alone and more loved, more courageous in discipleship, greater in faith, and comforted in your grief. I pray that we will be as the light of Christ in your life, to brighten your way, give you hope, and to increase your desire to, with us, serve Christ's call.

Yours in Christ, Dennis

**RAISE THE ROOF UPDATE:** Thank you to everyone who has already made a donation or a pledge!! We have already received over \$50,000 toward replacing the roof. – Stewardship Comm.

## **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 open at 9:45am.

### **3-5 Year Old Class:**

Children ages 3 to 5 are invited to join us most Sundays 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.

- There is no class scheduled for Sunday, Feb. 16 as it is the start of school vacation. Children may attend worship with their family or go to the Nursery in Room 11 for playtime.
- On Sunday, Feb. 23 the children will be learning more about Jesus and his disciples.

### **Rotation Sensation – Grades 1-8**

There are no workshops scheduled for Sunday, Feb. 16. Children are invited to attend worship with their families.

On Sunday, Feb. 23 the children will be learning about Jesus and his disciples.

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## **Share the Love**



Both My Brothers Table and the Emergency Shelter in Lynn are in immediate need of specific items. Your support and compassion would be gratefully appreciated.

### **Lynn Shelter – Linens Needed**

Gently used or new twin size sheets and blankets  
Towels are also appreciated.

### **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 basket in the narthex to receive your donations. Even if each person brought only one item, we would still be able to help so many people.

**We will accept donations  
through Sunday, February 23.**

Thank you very much.

-Donna Marino

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## Youth Group News

There will be no Youth Group meeting on Sunday, Feb. 16. On Sunday, Feb. 23, we will be meeting at 4:45pm for snow tubing.

### Snow Tubing

Both the High School and Middle School youth groups will be headed to Nashoba Valley on Sunday, February 23 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. Please RSVP by Friday, Feb. 14 as we purchase the tickets in advance and want to be sure there is room on the bus.

## 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: \_\_\_\_\_

## Confirmation

There is no confirmation class on Sunday, Feb. 16. On Sunday, Feb. 23, the confirmation class will meet with Kathi Martin at 9 a.m. in Todd Hall

## News From Around the Parish

We extend our love and sympathy to the family and friends of John 'Chad' Chadbourne of Nashua, NH who died on January 28. He is survived by his mother, Nancy Chadbourne, his sister, Jane and his children, Nicholas and Danielle Chadbourne.

We extend our love and prayers to the Vancor family upon the death of Hazel Jane Vancor on February 5. She is survived by her sons, John and Jim and their families. Her funeral was held at Centre Church on February 8.

Thank You for all the well-wishes and support over the past month! We so appreciate it!

Gage and Dotty Whittier

## Souper Bowl of Caring Report

On Sunday, Feb. 2 we collected \$206.00 and 25 cans of soup all of which will be donated to Haven from Hunger in Peabody.

Thank you for your generous support.

## Altar Flowers

If you would like to provide altar flowers on February 23 in memory of someone or in celebration of an event, please call the church office at 781-334-3050 to make arrangements. You may keep the bouquet to enjoy and/or share with someone or have one of our flower delivery teams deliver it to shut-ins.

## Thank You to our Volunteers

Sunday, February 16: Ushers: Jeff Law, Bill Seelig, George Hayden & Marian Orfeo. Provide Altar Flowers: Ginny Daniels. Deliver Altar Flowers: Chuck Cotting. Lights Out Beginning February 14: Phil Johnson/Steven Richard.

Sunday, February 23: Head Usher: Margaret Waugh. Lights Out Beginning February 21: Bruce Weaver.

# Centre Congregational Church

## United Church of Christ

February 10, 2014

Dear Tower Day Parents & Friends of Centre Church,

I am writing to inform you that after 29 years of dedicated service, Sally MacDonald will be leaving Tower Day School at the conclusion of this academic school year. Sally has made this decision after much thought. She plans to embark upon a new journey in her professional career in becoming certified as a Parent Consultant. This is an exciting new opportunity for Sally and I invite you to ask her how this may be of great benefit to you in the future.

We are bidding farewell to someone who will be tremendously missed not only at Tower Day School, but also within our entire Centre Church community. Although Sally's departure is a great loss for us, I have confidence that the recruitment process in hiring a new director will operate smoothly. Sally and her tremendously dedicated staff have built a solid and successful program, making the Tower Day Director position extremely attractive to candidates.

I wish to thank Sally for her years of dedicated service to the many children and parents who have passed through the doors of Tower Day School. We have been very fortunate to have had her as Director of the school for so many years. With the assistance of the Tower Day Board representatives, I look forward to this leadership search as a positive opportunity in finding a professional who, like Sally, will take Tower Day forward with innovative ideas, bringing solid growth to the program in the future.

Sincerely,

Bruce C. Weaver

Moderator – Centre Congregational Church

## *Our Opportunities*

Sun. Feb. 16	10:00 am 10:00 am 10:00 am	Morning Worship – Sanctuary Nursery (up to age 5) Older Children in Church
Mon. Feb. 17	----- 7:30 pm	Church Office Closed Alanon/Alateen – Fireside & Libr.
Wed. Feb. 19	7:00 pm	Women’s 12 Step Mtg. - Fireside
Thur. Feb. 20	6:30 pm	Stewardship Comm - Library No Choir this Week
Fri. Feb. 21	10:30 am	Bible Study – 2 <sup>nd</sup> Floor Office
Sun. Feb. 23	9:00 am 10:00 am 10:00 am 10:00 am 5-9 pm	Confirmation Class – Todd Hall Morning Worship - Sanctuary Nursery & 3/5 Yr Old Class Rotation Sensation Youth Group Snow Tubing
Mon. Feb. 24	7:00 pm 7:30 pm	Boy Scout Troop #48 - Todd Alanon/Alateen – FR & Library
Tues. Feb. 25	12:30 pm 7:00 pm	Get-Together Wheel – Fireside Rm Council – Pastor’s Office
Wed. Feb. 26	7:00 pm	Women’s 12 Step Mtg - Fireside
Thurs. Feb. 27	7:30 pm	Senior Choir – Choir Room
Fri. Feb. 28	10:30 am 6:30 pm	Bible Study – 2 <sup>nd</sup> Floor Office Trivia Night & Silent Auction

Our prayers are with Harvey Card at Union Hospital; Randy Russell, Roger Lauzon, and Lee Clarke recuperating at home; Doris Nelson at Aviv Living Centers, 240 Lynnfield St., Peabody, 01960; 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 and Dan Neary who are serving in Afghanistan. We rejoice that Cody Ryan is back in the United States after serving in Afghanistan.

**The Church Office will be open Feb. 18-21 – 9-Noon.**

**The next *Tower Notes* will be the week of February 24.**