

# TOWER NOTES

Centre Congregational Church (United Church of Christ)  
5 Summer Street, Lynnfield, Massachusetts 01940 Phone: 781-334-3050 Fax: 781-334-6463  
Email: Office@Centre-Church.org Web Site: www.Centre-Church.org

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*

## March 26, 2014

### God's Rich Blessings

I am pondering my financial stewardship to our ministry at Centre Congregational Church for the coming fiscal year as I prepare to fill out my pledge card for Stewardship Sunday, April 6<sup>th</sup>.

The first thing I do is turn to the scriptures to remind me of God's blessings in my life. Today's morning Psalm helps me in this regard, as the **Psalmist (119:73-80)** recounts and rejoices to God, saying:

- ▲ Your hands have made and fashioned me;...
- ▲ Your steadfast love has become my comfort...
- ▲ ...your law is my delight.

I think of our bodies, minds, hearts and souls - how complex, how enduring, how amazing they are. I am grateful that God's hands have created my body, enabling me to do and experience amazing things in my life. How can I repay God for these gifts? I can use them to serve the Lord, to help other people, to speak truth and love. I can do my best to take care of my body and mind, and in so doing, honor God for his generosity to me.

I can always turn to **Psalm 104** which serves to remind me of how God has created such a wonderful creation for us to enjoy, a creation which serves our needs for food and water, for recreation, for inspiration, and for security. I think of how much I have enjoyed hiking, biking, and traveling through some of God's handiwork and I wonder, how can I contribute so that others will have the same benefits that I have had, and do have?

I always turn to these words of Jesus, to help me evaluate and ponder where my priorities have been and where they need to be: *"Do not put away riches*

*for yourselves on earth. Moths and rust can destroy them. Thieves can break in and steal them. Instead, put away riches for yourselves in heaven. There, moths and rust do not destroy them. There, thieves do not break in and steal them. Your heart will be where your riches are."* (**Matthew 6:19-21**, NIRV)

The ways that I use my money, my time, my thoughts, and my energy reveal what I value in life. If I spend all of my free time going alone to the movies, it leaves no time for me to spend with my family and close friends. Yet, it is good for me to have some time alone, for personal organization and reflection. So, I believe, God wants me to be

### In the Sanctuary

**March 30, 2014**

**Fourth Sunday in Lent**

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

Sermon by the Rev. Dr. Dennis C. Bailey

Nursery in Room 11

3-5 Year Old Class in Room 14

Grades 1-8 Bake Muffins for Heifer

**April 6, 2014**

**Stewardship Sunday**

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

Message by Rev. Bailey and Barbara Langill

Nursery in Room 11

3-5 Year Old Class in Room 14

Older Children in Church

**April 13, 2014 – Palm Sunday**

**10:00 A.M. Choir Cantata**

**April 20, 2014 – Easter**

**Sunrise Service – Newhall Park**

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

efficient in personal matters so that I can serve the people and relationships that God has given to me that have and continue to bless me, supporting me in difficult times, given me laughter and companionship in joyful times.

Second, I turn to my own life's choices. Out of all that God has given to me, every choice I make reflects my dedication to serve the Lord with my whole heart, mind, body, and soul. The ministry of the church of Jesus Christ has saved my life when I have experienced despair and grief. It has shown me great and grand purposes through which I have found meaning in this life, and, I believe, in the life to come. Our ministry together helps me see way beyond myself to how God connects us in wonderful ways to bless each other, our children, and future generations.

The more I give, the more I receive, a truth I have experienced countless times in my life. When I give, and let it go, asking God to use it, I am amazed at what happens. Faith is more than an idea, a word, or a concept. Faith is an act on our part to trust God to use us and the gifts we give, to do amazing things in the lives of family, friends, strangers, all over the world. When I am a generous giver it seems to me, that while others do not know what I give, others are mysteriously inspired to give in a generous fashion. Even those who are not normally inclined to be generous, are occasionally moved by some form of God's spirit.

I don't know exactly how it works, but, it does.

When we planted seeds into the earth on the family farm, it always amazed me that from those tiny seeds and a little bit of effort on our part, grew an abundant harvest that supplied all the needs of our family of four, plus countless others to whom we sold what we harvested. Yes, the harvesting was very hard work. But I remain in awe of the mystery of how God took our meager efforts and faith, in those seeds and soil, and made possible amazing growth, food, hay, and straw. So much did we always have, that we could not fit it all into our barn. We always had to sell some.

So now, I again sow my seeds through the offerings I will pledge and give for the important work of our Centre Congregational Church and the work of our Mission giving. I will again make this the most significant part of my charitable giving, a full 10% of my income, because I know that in God's hands, the harvest will again, overflow all my expectations.

Yours in Christ, Dennis

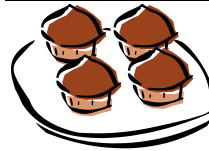
### **Sunday Morning With the Children**

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 open at 9:45am.

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

Children ages 3 to 5 are invited to join us each Sunday for a class in Room 14 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**



On Sunday, March 30, children in grades 1-8 will head to the kitchen at 10 am to bake muffins to sell after worship.

All donations will benefit Heifer International.

Please help support this worthwhile cause while enjoying freshly baked muffins.

### **Stewardship Sunday**

During the service on Sunday, April 6, the pledge cards will be collected. Please bring yours to church that day.

Immediately following the service, all are invited to the Stewardship Luncheon in Richards Hall.

### **Youth Group News**

March 30: Both youth groups will meet in the church kitchen from 6-7:30 pm.

April 4-5: The Middle School Lock In will be held. Please plan to arrive at the church at 7:30 pm. We will watch a movie, play games, have a snack and sleep overnight at the church. Pick up will be Saturday at 8 am.

April 6: There are no youth group meetings.

### **Confirmation**

On Sunday, March 30, the class will meet downstairs at 9:00 am with Mrs. Martin.

There will be a luncheon meeting on Sunday, April 6 at 11:30 am with Rev. Bailey and mentors. Lunch will be provided by the stewardship committee

## News From Around the Parish

We offer our love and prayers to Al and Judy Johnson and their family upon the death of Al's father, Albert E Johnson, Sr. of Beverly. His funeral was held on March 22.

We offer our love and prayers to Joanne Popoloski upon the recent death of her grandmother, Ethel Thornton. Funeral arrangements are pending.

Our love and sympathy are extended to Arliene Thorn and her family upon the death of her husband, Raymond E. Thorn. A Memorial Service was held at Brooksby Village on March 25.

Our congratulations to Allan and Natale Marshall on the birth of a daughter, Avery Noelle on March 21. Proud grandparents are James and Sheila Marshall and proud great-grandmother is Louise Marshall.

“Run, Kathy, Run!”

Kathy Delaney has been training hard to run the “Marathon de Paris” on April 6<sup>th</sup>. We wish Kathy well, safe travels, a great run, and a safe trip back home. We will pray for Kathy this week, this coming Sunday, March 30, and by the time we finish worship on Sunday, April 6<sup>th</sup>, Kathy may have come across the finish line in Paris.

We are proud of you, Kathy. May it go well and may you run on the wings of the wind. (*Psalms 104:3*)

Your Friends at Centre Church

Join us on Sunday, March 30 as we say good-bye to Annabel Aldrich who will be moving to Brighton. (Providence House, 180 Corey Rd., Apt. 301, Brighton, MA 02135).



## Flea Market

As part of Lynnfield's Town Day, Centre Church will be hosting a flea market on **Saturday, May 17** out on the lawn (inside if raining.) It is a great way to pass on un-needed treasures as well as being part of a whole town celebration.

Get your table quickly for only \$30 if you bring your own or \$40 if you rent a table from us.

You may download a table reservation form from our website, [www.centre-church.org](http://www.centre-church.org) or call the church office at 781-334-3050 and one will be mailed to you.

Feel free to call Dotty Whittier, chairperson, if you have questions. 781-635-6225.

## Lynnfield's Tricentennial Greeting Cards

Lynnfield's commemorative Tricentennial Greeting Cards (\$3.00 each) are on sale. These cards, designed by Carol MacKendrick, show a pictorial history of the 1714 Meeting House on the front and give a historical update of the building on the back. The inside is blank. Cards may be purchased in the church office during the week or after church on Sundays in the narthex.

## Save the Date – Tuesday, May 6

Fundraiser: Paint Party at Border Café, Saugus from 7-9 pm. Cost per person is \$45 with a limit of 30 people.

Sign up in the narthex after church. Contact Carrie Pericola 781-231-0954 with any questions.

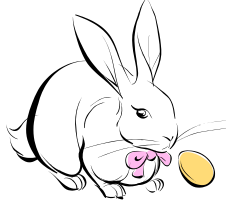
## Thanks to Our Volunteers

Sunday, March 30: Ushers-Jeff Law, Gage Whittier, Mary McCarthy, Doreen DiFillippo. Provide Altar Flowers-Gladys Carter. Deliver Altar Flowers-George and Perry Hayden. Lights Out beginning March 28: Roger Batchelder.

Sunday, April 6: Head Usher-Margaret Waugh. Lights Out beginning April 4: Scott DeSantis.

If you would like to provide altar flowers on April 6, please call the church office 781-334-3050.

# Picture with Easter Bunny!



What could be more fun for your child than having their picture taken with the Easter Bunny? Nothing this side of a jelly bean!

Come to: Centre Congregational Church  
5 Summer Street, Lynnfield, MA 01940  
Date: Saturday, March 29, 2014 - 11:30a.m. - 1:30p.m.  
Cost: First picture - \$10.00. Additional packages available  
Taken by: Priestley Photography Studios, Lynnfield, MA 01940

Appointments available or walk in that morning.  
Call: (781) 635-6225 for more information



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## EASTER PLANT ORDER



I would like to order for \$7.50 each:

\_\_\_ lilies      \_\_\_ red tulips      \_\_\_ yellow tulips      \_\_\_ kalanchoe

Enclosed is my check for \$\_\_\_\_\_ made payable to Centre Congregational Church.

These flowers have been given by \_\_\_\_\_  
in memory of \_\_\_\_\_

PLEASE CHECK ONE OF THE FOLLOWING:

- I will take my plant(s) home after the 10 a.m. Easter Service on April 20.  
 I wish to donate my plant(s) to the hospitalized, bereaved or shut-in.

*Plants will be displayed in the sanctuary on Easter, April 20.  
A list of donors will be printed in the bulletin on that day.*

**Friday, April 11 is the deadline for placing orders.**

# Lynnfield "Town Day" Flea Market

Saturday, May 17, 2014

We are joining the Lynnfield "Town Day" community event by sponsoring a Flea Market. The event will take place from **9:00a.m.-2p.m. on the front lawn**. If it rains, the event will be held inside.

If you are interested in having a space at our Flea Market, please fill out the form below and mail it along with your personal check for \$30.00 if you will providing your own table or \$40.00 if you are renting a table. Upon receipt of your check and form, we will send you an e-mail confirmation. **Set up will begin at 8:00a.m. Please no earlier.** You are guaranteed your space. Sellers must take home all unsold items. Nothing can be left at the church.

If you have questions, please contact **Flea Market Rental Chairperson, Dotty Whittier at 781-635-6225**.

**Detach and mail along with your personal check payable to Centre Congregational Church. Please mail to Centre Congregational Church, 5 Summer Street, Lynnfield, MA 01940. Call (781) 334-3050 with questions.**

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

Address: \_\_\_\_\_

Do you want to rent a table?            \$40.00 if yes\_\_\_\_            \$30.00 if no\_\_\_\_

Tent\_\_\_\_\_            Other\_\_\_\_\_ (please explain)

In consideration of Centre Congregational Church agreeing to provide space, and providing such space, the undersigned does agree to fully indemnify, release and hold harmless Centre Congregational Church of Lynnfield of the United Church of Christ; its agents, employees, servants, members and representatives from all liability or loss, directly or indirectly related to \_\_\_\_\_

Using, or being present upon church premises or premises deemed to be directly or indirectly under its control. Notwithstanding any issues of fault or negligence which may arise, in connection with any personal injury or property damage during such period of occupation or presence.

Signature\_\_\_\_\_

Date\_\_\_\_\_

**Due by May 14, 2014**

## **Our Opportunities**

Sun. March 30	10:00 am 10:00 am 10:00 am 6:00 pm	Morning Worship – Sanctuary Nursery & 3-5 Yr. Old Class Gr 1-8 in Kitchen Baking Muffins Youth Group - Basement
Mon. Mar 31	7:00 pm 7:30 pm	Boy Scout Troop #48 – Todd Hall Alanon/Alateen – Fireside & Libr.
Tues. Apr 1	7:30 pm	Education Ministries - Library
Wed. Apr 2	8:30 am 7:00 pm	Bread and Roses - Kitchen Women’s 12 Step Mtg. – Fireside
Thur. Apr 3	7:30 pm	Senior Choir – Choir Room
Fri. Apr 4	10:30 am	Bible Study – 2 <sup>nd</sup> Floor Office
Fr-Sat Apr4-5	overnight	Middle School Lock-In
Sun. Apr 6	10:00 am 10:00 am 10:00 am 11:30 am 11:30 am	Holy Communion - Sanctuary Nursery & 3-5 Yr. Old Class Gr 1-8 in Church Confirmation Class Stewardship Lunch – Richards Hall
Mon. Apr 7	7:00 pm 7:30 pm	Boy Scout Troop #48 - Todd Alanon/Alateen – FR & Library
Tues Apr 8	7:00 pm 7:30 pm	Membership Ministries – Fireside Diaconate – Pastor’s Office
Wed. Apr 9	7:00 pm 7:30 pm	Women’s 12 Step Mtg – Fireside Senior Choir – Choir Room
Fri. Apr 11	10:30 am	Bible Study – 2 <sup>nd</sup> Floor Office

Our prayers are with Al Farnsworth and Jean Card at Rosewood; Charlotte Orrall recuperating at her daughter’s home; Marion Barnes, Helen Butcher, Marge Cole, Ginny Davis, Marion Edkins, Rose Giunta, Parker Holloway, and Arlene Thorn.

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

**The Church Office is Open 9-3 Mon-Fri**

**The next *Tower Notes* will be the week of April 7**