

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

Barbara Langill, Director of Christian Ed & Youth Ministry, 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

May 8, 2014

My Upcoming Sabbatical

As many of you know, I will be taking a Sabbatical from my work as Pastor of Centre Congregational Church beginning June 1 to about September 16, 2014.

The purpose of my Sabbatical will be for rest, renewal, and reflection on my call to ministry in general, and my ministry at Centre Congregational Church in particular, in order that, when I return, I will continue to work to provide you with the spiritual and pastoral leadership that is needed for our ministry together.

Sabbatical is a biblical concept. As God rested on the last day of Creation (Genesis 2:3), we are reminded to rest through the commandment, "Remember the Sabbath and keep it holy" (Exodus 20:8-11). This is not just a commandment, but a life-restoring gift given to us by God. Sabbath creates time and space for us to stop and listen. My parents were very good about this when I was growing up. Work on the farm stopped on Sundays, except for collecting the eggs and feeding the cattle, pigs, and chickens. Together, we went to church to gather with our faith community to hear and reflect upon God's word. This was how I received and learned my faith in God.

A Sabbatical is a longer period of rest and reflection for a pastor. In some cases in the Bible, fields were to lay fallow on the seventh year and agricultural work was to cease.

Pastors and ministers have increasingly been encouraged to take Sabbaticals in order to keep them fresh and joyful, and to avoid burn-out, releasing them from the physical, spiritual, emotional, and intellectual demands of ministry.

In the past, my sabbaticals have taken the

form of hiking the Appalachian Trail, bicycling across the country, and overseeing the construction of a new house. This time it will take the form of spending time with someone special in my life, visiting some of my family, focusing on my physical well-being, and reading.

I love my work as a pastor, as your pastor, and I look forward to returning and continuing it here at Centre Church with all of you. In my absence, Rev. Jamie Howard will be serving as Pastor of Centre Church. Rev. Howard will be leading the services of worship and preaching, and providing pastoral care. Rev. Howard will visit people, perform funerals and such as needed.

In the Sanctuary

May 11, 2014

10:00 A.M. Morning Worship

Sermon by the Rev. Dr. Dennis C. Bailey

Sacrament of Baptism

10:00 a.m. Nursery & Pre-K-K Class

Gr. 1-8 Rotation Workshops

May 18, 2014

10:00 A.M. Morning Worship

Cantata: "It's Cool in the Furnace"

10:00 a.m. Nursery & Pre-K-K Class

Gr. 1-8 in Church

Followed by Reception for Sally MacDonald

May 25, 2014

10:00 A.M. Morning Worship

Sermon by the Rev. Dr. Dennis C. Bailey

10:00 a.m. Nursery & Pre-K-K Class

Gr. 1-8 Plant Flowers on the Lawn

Rev. Jamie Howard is an ordained minister in the United Church of Christ. She lives in Billerica, MA. She was the pastor of The First Church of Christ, Congregational, in Bedford, MA, UCC, from 1980 to 2010. She has also served as an Associate Pastor and an Interim Minister.

Her educational background includes:

Bridgewater-Raynham Regional High School, diploma (honors) 1966

Brown University, A.B. 1970

Andover Newton Theological School, M.Div. 1977

Safe Havens Domestic Violence Prevention Course, Boston 2003

Spiritual Leadership Coaching 2004-2005

Shalem Institute Spiritual Leadership Development, 2004-2005

Rev. Howard is a Certified Equine Massage Therapist. She enjoys riding, writing, books, gardening, films, theater, and acting (she met her husband, Craig, while acting in a community theater).

It is my hope that you will welcome Rev. Howard during my absence. In the event of a pastoral emergency and/or need, contact information for Rev. Jamie Howard will be available on the Church Office answering machine.

It is customary practice that when a Minister is on Sabbatical, he/she not be contacted by parishioners with pastoral concerns. All pastoral concerns shall be brought to the attention of Rev. Howard while I am on Sabbatical.

Feel free to ask me any questions about my Sabbatical during this month of May.

I am extremely grateful for this gift of Sabbatical made possible for me by the leaders and members of Centre Congregational Church. The Staff, Deacons and the Members of Parish Council are a fine group of leaders ready to assist you and Rev. Howard while I am away.

Yours in Christ,

Dennis



Mother's Day Flower Sale

On Sunday, May 11, participants for this year's mission trips will be selling hanging plants after church. We will have a variety of flowers to choose from. Please remember your mother and help us to raise money for this summer's Mission Trips.

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 in PreK-K 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. Classes will be held on May 11 and May 18.

Rotation Sensation

Sunday May 11 - Rotation Workshops. After worshipping briefly with their families, children and youth in grades 1 through 8 will leave after Children's Time and meet in the library for a special Mother's Day project.

There are no workshops scheduled for Sunday, May 18. Children in grades 1-8 are invited to remain in worship for a musical presentation of "It's Cool in the Furnace" presented by the Youth and Adult Choirs.

Youth Group

On April 23, youth from the middle school youth group volunteered at Cradles to Crayon in Boston. Many thanks to the DiGiorgio family for their generous donations. We were also to use money collected from our Pumpkin Carving contest to buy much needed items which are always in short supply, girl's and boy's underwear and socks.

End of Year Celebration

RSVP for a fun trip to Canobie Lake Park on Sunday, May 18. We will meet at the church at 2 pm and return around 7pm. The cost is \$30.00 per person. Adult drivers/chaperones are needed. Please contact Barbara Langill if you are available.

Yard Sale

May 17 - Town Day Yard Sale on the front lawn of the church. Donations are needed for our church yard sale which will be held on Saturday, May 17 from 9 am-2 pm. Your good-as-new items, may be dropped off at the church and stored in the front coat closet. Volunteers are also needed to help with set up, sales and clean up. Please contact Barbara Langill if you are available to help. Proceeds will be divided between the mission trip and the church budget

Prayers for Douglas Hodgkins

This summer Doug is planning to have two surgeries for the replacement of both of his hips. He plans to have the first surgery on June 10th and the second on August 19th.

We ask you to please keep Doug in your prayers for successful surgery, recovery and rehabilitation. We pray that these surgeries will eventually give Doug greater mobility and relieve him of the pain and difficulties he has getting around.

“God bless you, Doug, and may all go well for your surgeries, recovery and rehab.”

Fortunately, Noel Smith is available to provide the music for our worship services while Doug is out. If you have any questions, please call the church office, and/or speak with Bruce Weaver, Moderator.

Cards may be sent to Doug at:
14 School Street, Melrose, MA 02176

Farewell Reception for Sally MacDonald **Sunday, May 18 – 11 am – 2 pm**

Join us after church on May 18 for a reception to honor Sally MacDonald who will be leaving Tower Day School at the conclusion of this school year. 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.

Two Mission Trip Opportunities

July 13-18 Orland, ME Project Home for High School Youth and chaperones. There is still space for youth. Please let Mrs. Langill know if you want to join the trip.

August 18-22 We will try something new this year, a local “sleep at home” Mission trip. We will meet at the church each morning and take a van to our work site. We are very excited to be working with Habitat for Humanity in Lowell. They are converting a former convent into 10 condominiums for deserving homeowners. They are in need of skilled and semi-skilled volunteers. This opportunity is open for anyone 16 years or older. Please consider providing much needed labor to help hardworking families who couldn't otherwise afford to own a home.

News From Around the Parish

Our love and sympathy are extended to the Milne family upon the recent death of Barbara Milne. Her funeral was held at Centre Church on April 25.

Our prayers and sympathy are extended to Janine Hawk and her family upon the death of her step-brother, Dr. Jerry Umanos, a pediatrician who was working in Afghanistan.

Jean Fiscus and her family are in our thoughts and prayers following the death of her son David of Ashland, MA. His funeral was held on April 28.

It's graduation time! We'd love to share news of your favorite graduate. Please contact the church office.

From the Mail Box

Thank you Centre Church family for the many cards, phone calls, and Dennis' visits to Barkey. He has improved a bit since coming home. We can only hope it continues. It means so much to us that our church rallies around us. Thank you Again!

Sincerely, Meg Gulezian

Many notes of appreciation were received from those who received plants after the service on Easter.

Mission Money

Save your quarters! Next Sunday, youth group members will be handing out tubes of M&M mini candy. Go ahead and enjoy the candy, then refill the tube with quarters and bring it back to the church. There will be a basket in the Narthex to collect your filled tubes. All proceeds will go toward this year's Mission Trips.

Easter Thanks!

The Sanctuary was beautiful this Easter Sunday. A big thank you to Joe Gallo of Plantscape Designs for providing the colorful Spring bulbs. Thanks also to those who donated their plants and to the volunteers who delivered them to our shut-ins after the service. All of this would not be possible without the team effort of Laurel Caputo and Susan Spear.

Appliances and Electronics Recycling Day

When: Saturday, May 10, 2014 10:00 - 4:00

**Where: Centre Congregational Church (parking lot)
5 Summer Street, Lynnfield, MA**

Sponsored by : **Lynnfield Destination Imagination**

This is an excellent opportunity to recycle the items listed below at a minimal cost. Have an office or business that wants to donate? Please email us and we can make the appropriate arrangements. CRT Recycling will be at the Centre Congregational Church parking lot to collect your items. People will be on hand to help unload your items to the recycling truck. Please bring cash or check made out to Lynnfield Destination Imagination.

Computer monitors, CPU's and Laptops \$15.00

Cell Phones \$5.00

Televisions \$20.00 to \$40.00

Air Conditioners \$15.00

Stove/Washer/Dryer/Refrigerators \$20.00

Small Miscellaneous Items \$10.00 each

Miscellaneous items include microwaves, garbage disposals, printers, DVD players, all computer parts and accessories, speakers, video games, camera equipment, fax/copy machines, wires, toasters, hair dryers, irons, bbq grills, metal desks and metal items under 8' long

Proceeds from this event will help Destination Imagination teams attend the global competition in May. We thank you for your support!

Questions? Please email d.calvani@verizon.net

Our Opportunities

Sun. May 11 <i>Baptism</i>	10:00 am 10:00 am 10:00 am	Morning Worship – Sanctuary Nursery & Pre-K, K Class Rotation Sensation Workshops
Mon. May 12	7:00 pm 7:30 pm	Boy Scout Troop #48 – Todd Hall Alanon/Alateen – Fireside & Libr.
Tues. May 13	7:00 pm 7:30 pm	Membership Ministries – Fireside Diaconate – Pastor’s Office
Wed. May 14	7:00 pm	Women’s 12 Step Mtg. – Library
Thur. May 15	7:30 pm	Senior Choir – Choir Room
Fri. May 16	10:30 am	Bible Study – 2 nd Floor Office
Sat. May 17	9am-2pm	Flea Market – Front Lawn Art Guild Show & Sale - Narthex
Sun. May 18 <i>Choir Cantata</i>	10:00 am 10:00 am 10:00 am 11:00 am 2-7:00 pm	Morning Worship - Sanctuary Nursery & Pre-K, K Class Older Children in Church Reception for Sally MacDonald Youth to Canobie Lake Park
Mon. May 19	7:00 pm 7:30 pm	Boy Scout Troop #48 – Todd Hall Alanon/Alateen – FR & Library
Wed. May 21	7:00 pm	Women’s 12 Step Mtg – Library
Thur. May 22	7:30 pm	Senior Choir – Choir Room
Fri. May 23	10:30 am	Bible Study – 2 nd Floor Office
Sat. May 24	2:00 pm	Musical Hysterics Concert-Sanct. (fundraiser for roof project)

The next *Tower Notes* will be the week of May 19.

Our prayers are with Dayl Hufford in rehab at The Meadows, Edgewood, North Andover; Barkey Gulezian, Jean Card, Marion Barnes, Helen Butcher, Marge Cole, Ginny Davis, Marion Edkins, Rose Giunta, Parker Holloway, and Arliene Thorn.

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