

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

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

Leah O'Brien, Director of Tower Day School

Susan Spear, Secretary

We Welcome Everyone: An "Open and Affirming" Church

July 30, 2014

Dear Friends,

In a recent sermon I lifted up two film examples of revival-style evangelists: Steve Martin as Jonas Nightengale (yes, that's how he spelled it!) in "Leap of Faith," and Robert Duvall as Sonny/The Apostle E.F. in "The Apostle." Each had a style very different from that shared by most "mainline" Protestants, and each was deeply flawed in his personal life, but in both lives the Good News itself shone through in spite of the false fronts and failings.

Each of us has the capacity to reveal whatever part of God's Good News of love, challenge, comfort, disturbance, judgment, and grace has been and is active in us. Each of us has the capacity for witness, for testimony, from our own stories.

Before you dismiss this letter as "really going off the rails for a mainline liberal New England preacher," let me say that testimony, witness, is simply telling part of your story. Yours and no one else's. The story, experience, reflection unique to you.

In a conversation after worship that Sunday there was offered the lovely phrase: "the God of your heart." Instead of worrying about "proper" or "orthodox" phrasing and sufficiently intellectual content, how about asking yourself: Who is the God of my heart?

This is not a sentimental question nor does it dismiss the need to engage questions of faith and experience with one's mind as well as with one's heart. It is a kind of personal inventory: in what relationship or experience have I encountered God? To whom (beyond my partner, spouse, best friend, mentor) have I at some time given my ultimate trust, entrusted my hopes, doubts, dilemmas?

At its best, church – a congregation – is a community in which the sharing of personal faith stories, experiences of God, affirmations, doubts, questions is not merely allowed or tolerated but welcomed – from any age person. Testimony from one's personal journey is not used to coerce others into one's own beliefs – nor is it a target for judgment by others. It is simply offered as "here is a light that illuminates part of my journey; you may find it helpful as well – or at least come to know me better."

In the Chapel

August 3, 2014

9:00 A.M. – Holy Communion

August 10, 17, 24 and 31, 2014

9:00 A.M. Morning Worship

Commissioning for August Mission Trip
on August 17

Sermon by the Rev. Jamie R. Howard

Childcare for Children 3 & Under – Room 11
Summer Sunday Kids Camp
for Children 4 & Up – Todd Hall

No childcare on August 31.

Our summer services in the air-conditioned Chapel
are brief and informal.

They are followed by a time for
punch and fellowship.

A congregation infused with enthusiasm – in its purest sense “*en theos*,” “in God” – will be a congregation to whom others are drawn. Others will see that enthusiasm shared in many ways because each person has a unique experience, a unique life with God. Evident will be the Spirit’s gifts of love, joy, peace, patience, kindness, goodness, faithfulness, gentleness, and self-control. People will see that there is something real, something alive, something varied, something welcoming of new possibilities. People will long to hear who is the God of your heart, and they will rejoice to know that in the breadth of stories told there is room for their stories, too.

Yours in Christ, Jamie Howard

P.S. For a start, try thinking about and perhaps writing down your thoughts and feelings about one thing in your life – past or present – for which you are most thankful to God. What it is, how it came to be, what you experienced/felt/thought/did as a result, what ongoing meaning it has for you...

Summer Childcare

This summer we are offering childcare during our Sunday worship service in Room 11 for infants and children 3 and under. Experienced staff and volunteers are on hand to welcome children for story time and play.

Also this summer, we are excited to be offering a Summer Sunday Kids Camp. Each Sunday during worship, children ages 4 and up are invited to join us downstairs in Todd Hall for Bible stories, crafts, games and snack. We hope your family will join in the faith-filled fun.

Please note there will not be nursery or Kid’s Camp on Sunday, August 31

Fall Church Fair

Volunteers are needed in the planning and organizing for a **Fall Church Fair on Saturday, October 18, 2014**. Fundraisers are an important part of helping to contribute to our church budget. The more successful, the fair, the more it will help. Please consider volunteering your time and talents to the Fair Planning Committee. Contact Barbara Langill in the church office and say “Yes! I can help”

From the Mailbox

Heartfelt thanks to everyone for your cards and phone calls during my surgery and recuperation. Special thanks to Rev. Jamie Howard for her visits.

Edith Wendt

It is hard to quantify what my church family means to me, but during my convalescence the outpouring of cards and well wishes from everyone has expanded my view of family to include all of you. Those thoughts and prayers lifted me from my bed and hurried me on my way to again be a part of this community. I would just like to thank you all. I felt every prayer, enjoyed every card and relished every visit. I am the stronger and the better off for each of them. You are in my prayers as well - to keep up the great work of this church.

Warmest Regards, Jeffrey Langill

Mission Trips

Nine High School Youth and 4 leaders traveled to Orland, Maine the week of July 13-18 to volunteer at Project HOME. They cleaned, painted, put in new balusters, worked in the day care center and much more. On the way home, the group enjoyed a cook out and a fun time at the lake home of the Weaver Family. Thank you, the congregation and missions, for your support in making mission trips possible.

Our second mission trip of the summer will begin on August 18. The group will be traveling by van from the church each day to work with the Merrimack Valley Habitat for Humanity team.

Thanks to Our Volunteers

August 3: Deacons - Margaret Waugh and Dave Clough. Hosting Refreshments - Don and Ruth Hyer

Lights out beginning August 1 – Bruce Weaver.

August 10: Deacons – Doreen DiFillippo and Gage Whittier. Hosting Refreshments – Sara Perkins

Lights out beginning August 8 – Dave Bjorkman

August 17: Deacons - Jeff Law and Bill Seelig. Hosting Refreshments – Joan and Steve Press.

Lights out beginning August 15 – Phil Johnson

August 24: Deacons – Jeff Law and Bill Seelig. Hosting Refreshments – Annmarie Pendola.

Lights Out beginning August 22 – Steven Richard

August 31: Deacon – Margaret Waugh.

Lights Out beginning August 29: Scott DeSantis.

News From Around the Parish

CONGRATULATIONS TO.....
Henry and Sally Flickinger
who are celebrating *60 YEARS*
of marriage on July 31st.

Congratulations to Courtney Murgia and Adam Kushmerek who were married in Key West, Florida on July 18.

Our love and sympathy are extended to the family and friends of Norman Newhall who died on July 1. His funeral was held at Centre Church on July 9.

We express our sympathy to Louise Owens upon the death of her husband, Rolf on July 7. His funeral was in Danvers.

Our prayers are extended to the Crowther family upon the death of Andrew Crowther's father, Andrew of Melrose. His funeral was on July 14.

Looking Ahead

September 7, 2014

Worship Services resume
in the Sanctuary at 10:00 a.m.
Message by Education Ministries Team

September 14, 2014

Morning Worship 10:00 a.m.
Rev. Jamie Howard's last Sunday

September 21, 2014

Morning Worship 10:00 a.m.
Rev Bailey returns from Sabbatical

For Sale: 1996 Cadillac in mint condition. 72,000 miles. Contact Seavey Bowdoin if interested: 781-334-7181.

Wanted: Apartment size refrigerator for the church office.

Our Opportunities

Sun. Aug. 3	9:00 am	Holy Communion – Chapel, Nursery & Kids Camp
Mon. Aug. 4	7:30 pm	Alanon/Alateen – Basement
Wed. Aug. 6	----- 7:00 pm	No Bread & Roses this month Women's 12 Step Mtg. – Fireside
Fri. Aug. 8	10:30 am	Bible Study – 2 nd Floor Office
Sun. Aug. 10	9:00 am	Morning Worship – Chapel, Nursery & Kids Camp
Mon. Aug. 11	7:30 pm	Alanon/Alateen – Basement
Wed. Aug. 13	7:00 pm	Women's 12 Step Mtg – Fireside
Fri. Aug. 15	10:30 am	Bible Study – 2 nd Floor Office
Sun. Aug. 17	9:00 am	Morning Worship – Chapel, Nursery & Kids Camp
Mon. Aug 18	7:30 pm	Alanon/Alateen – Basement
Wed. Aug 20	7:00 pm	Women's 12 Step Mtg. – Fireside
Fri. Aug 22	10:30 am	Bible Study – 2nd Floor Office
Sun. Aug 24	9:00 am	Morning Worship - Chapel, Nursery & Kids Camp
Mon. Aug 25	7:30 pm	Alanon/Alateen – Basement
Tues. Aug 26	7:00 pm	Council – Pastor's Office
Wed. Aug 27	7:00 pm	Women's 12 Step Mtg. – Fireside
Fri. Aug 29	10:30 am	Bible Study – 2nd Floor Office

The next *Tower Notes* will be the week of August 25.

Summer Office Hours: 9 am – 12 noon Monday-Friday

Our prayers are with Roger Lauzon and Denise Guarino; Edith Wendt recuperating at home; Dayl Hufford in rehab at Edgewood, North Andover; Edie Richard at Hunt Nursing & Rehab Center, Danvers; Marion Barnes, Helen Butcher, Jean Card, Harvey Card, Marge Cole, Ginny Davis, Marion Edkins, Rose Giunta, Parker Holloway, and Arlene Thorn.

We remember in our prayers Michael Bruce in Bahrain and Johnathan McCarthy who is in training with the US Marines.
