

TOWER NOTES

Centre Congregational Church (United Church of Christ)

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Susan Spear, Secretary

We Welcome Everyone: An "Open and Affirming" Church

October 1, 2014

Back Home

I am very grateful to the congregation for the warm welcome back after my Sabbatical. I appreciate all of the notes and the cards given to me my first Sunday, September 21st, celebrating my 40th anniversary of Ordination into Christian Ministry, September 15, 1974. I also appreciate the wonderful reception provided to me by Joan and Steve Press following the service on Sept. 21st, welcoming me back and celebrating my 40th. Wonderful food, delicious cake, an abundance of posters, and such beautiful flowers, 2 dozen white roses, three huge mums! Wow! I continue to enjoy the flowers at home and at the office.

I am also very grateful to the Rev. Jamie Howard for filling in for me while I was away. She is the best and everyone loved her warm and caring spirit, her worship and pastoral leadership, as well as her sense of humor. Everyone I have visited with so far greatly appreciated her presence. Rev. Howard also appreciated the warmth and welcome of the congregation and had a great experience serving at Centre Church.

I appreciate the opportunity that Centre Church gave to me to be away on Sabbatical. Here are some of the things I enjoyed while on Sabbatical:

▲ The purchase of a new van, early June.
Spending time with my friend, Rev. Linda Hey, and her family, in Milford, NH and Wells, ME. We celebrated her youngest son's graduation from college and later, in September, helped him move into an apartment in Boston as he started his new job.

- ▲ Visiting my brother and family in Lancaster, PA. We visited the farm in Maryland that we grew up on and our Grandparents' farm, next to it.
- ▲ Visiting Washington, D.C., having a personal tour of the White House given to us by the most gracious Massachusetts Congressman Stephen Lynch, and later in the day, of the U.S. Capital, by one of his staff interns, Jake Sheehy, who is now a senior in college.
- ▲ Visiting Bristol and Block Island, R.I.
- ▲ Relaxing and enjoying time with Linda Hey's family.

I am grateful for all who supported the effort to replace the church's roof, contributing generously so it could be fully completed this summer. I am especially grateful to Chuck "Charlie" Cotting for the work he did, soliciting bids, talking with contractors, helping organize and see the project through on behalf of the church.

In the Sanctuary

October 5, 2014

10:00 A.M. Holy Communion
"Fill the Ark"

Nursery (up to age 3) – Room 11
ARK Class (Pre-K-1st) – Room 14
Older children participating in worship service

October 12, 2014

10:00 A.M. Morning Worship
Nursery (up to age 3) – Room 11
Older children in church

I also give a great deal of gratitude to Roofing Contractor Mike Robins of Robins Roofing. Mike donated to us his professional expertise by being present to supervise the Contractor we hired to do this massive project. Mike made sure that Centre Church got the best possible roof! If you ever need a good roofing contractor, I can highly recommend Mike.

One of the Sabbatical projects I decided to work on this summer was scanning the hundreds of slides from my hiking of the Appalachian Trail, Springer Mountain, Georgia, to Mt. Katahdin, Maine. I hiked the southern half, 1,100 miles, in the summer of 1982, with friend and colleague, Rev. James Livingston. Then, from 1983 to 1987, we hiked sections of the trail, often with friends who we invited to join us on the journey. At some point, I hope to share with you some of the slides and stories of this wonderful and sometimes challenging experience.

I am presently catching up with everyone, visiting people, and enjoying the beginning of a new season of faithful discipleship in the ministry of Centre Church. We are planning some baptisms in the near future, one in October and one in November.

Feel free to contact me if there is any way I can be of assistance.

And, most of all, thanks to Susan Spear, Barbara Langill, Deacon Margaret Waugh, and Moderator Bruce Weaver with other church leaders for lending support and care for all of you while I was away.

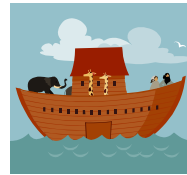
Yours in Christ, Dennis

Sunday Morning With the Children

Nursery - Our Church Nursery is fully staffed and ready to receive infants and children up to age 3 on Sunday mornings during worship time. Pagors are available to ensure Nursery Caregivers can easily communicate with parents.

ARK All Remarkable Kids - Children ages 3-6 are invited to join us in Room 14. The class will begin each Sunday at 10 a.m. and will consist of play time (both indoor and weather permitting outdoor), a Bible story lesson and an activity.

SPARK - For children and youth ages 7 and up. Children and youth will begin in worship with their families and then leave for a gathering time in the chapel before heading off to their workshop. The model for this age group will be "Learning and Serving". Some weeks this group will be exploring Bible stories, while other weeks they will participate in a mission project or help in worship.



Let's Fill the Ark

This Sunday, Oct 5 the congregation at Centre Church will "embark" on a mission to raise funds to fill an ark for Heifer International. During worship, the younger children will present a Noah's Ark skit and the older children and youth will help deliver the message. We will be handing out Heifer ark banks and calendars. We ask that everyone bring a bank home and collect change over the next 4 weeks. On Sunday, Nov. 2, we will collect the arks during worship.

Heifer Farm Global Harvest Festival

Although we did not have enough people sign up to make a group trip out to Heifer Farm on Sunday, Oct. 5 possible, we encourage you to travel on your own to attend the Harvest Festival which will be held Oct 4 and 5th from 10am-4pm. You can tour the Global Village, visit with the animals, take a hay ride to the pumpkin patch, and enjoy hands on activities like coffee roasting, making beeswax candles and more. Check out their website at:

heifer.farm@heifer.org

Youth Group News: There are no scheduled youth group meetings on Sunday, Oct. 5 or Sunday, Oct 12, the Columbus Day Weekend. Our next meeting is Sunday, Oct. 19 from 6-7:30pm

Yankee Candle Fundraiser

It's time for our annual Yankee Candle fundraiser. As you know by now, fundraisers have become an important line item in our operating budget. We've come to rely on these fundraisers to support all of our ministries at Centre Church. We will earn 40% of all Yankee Candle sales.

You can pick up a Yankee Candle catalogue in the narthex after church. When you look through it, you'll see that it contains some wonderful candles, great gift ideas, and a lovely selection of wrapping paper. There is something for everyone So please pick up your catalog after church and be sure to share it with family and friends. If you prefer, you can order on line by visiting

www.yankeecandlefundraising.com and entering our group number: 990016890. The last day to place an order is Sunday, October 5. We will receive the orders before Thanksgiving. For more information, contact Debbie Cotting at 781-593-3120.

College Freshman Addresses Needed

The High School Youth Group will be sending care packages out to our college freshmen this fall. Please call or e-mail the church office with your child's college address so that they will be sure to get a surprise package from their friends at youth group.

Northshore Theater Ticket Winners

Thank you to everyone who supported the fundraising raffle for the North Shore Theater tickets. The two winners were Steve Furey for "Chicago" and Marjorie Potter for "Les Miserables". Enjoy the shows!

News From Around the Parish

Our congratulations to Laurel Whittier and Jon Holland who were married on September 6 in Richland, Washington.

We extend our heartfelt sympathy to Sue and Phil Johnson upon the death of Sue's father, Joseph Sasso of Fort Lauderdale, FL. A memorial reception was held on September 27.

We rejoice with Keena (Christina) Brown Boling and her husband Todd Boling upon the birth of a daughter, Margaux on September 2. Proud grandparents are Gerry and Betsy Brown and Fred and Paulette Boling.

We extend our sympathy to Fred Boling and his family upon the death of his mother, Lorene Boling on September 15 in Georgia.

Our love and prayers are with the family and friends of Karen Soderberg who passed away peacefully in her sleep on September 19. A private remembrance service was held.

A Memorial Service for Rose Giunta will be held on October 25 at 11 a.m. at the First Baptist Church in Wakefield, MA.



Wine Tasting

Saturday, 11/1/2014, 6-9 pm

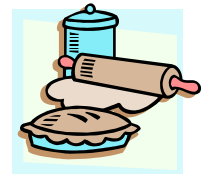
Been waiting for that perfect night out? This is your opportunity! Food, fun and

fellowship.

The Reading Wine Shop will lead us in a wine tasting of 6-8 wines from different regions of the world. This will be paired with cheeses, breads, and donated appetizers and desserts. There will also be soda and water. So come, savor, and socialize! \$15.00 per person.

Pies, Pies, Pies! and Carrot Cakes!

This year we will begin the creating process on Thurs, 11/20, Fri, 11/21 and Sat. 11/22. Pies must be preordered. You can't believe how much fun this is and how delicious! Watch for the sign!



People Book and Annual Reports Available

The new *People Book* (directory of members and friends) is now available. Be sure to pick up your copy after church or in the church office during the week. You will want to know the address changes since last September.

The Annual Reports for 2013-14 are also available in the narthex or in the church office. Catch up on the activities of our Ministry Teams, the list of new members, and the budget for the 2014-2015 fiscal year.

We Thank Our Volunteers

October 5, 2014: Ushers-Margaret Waugh, Doreen DiFillippio, Gage Whittier and Bill Seelig. Donate Altar Flowers-Cheryl Schedin. Deliver Altar Flowers-Judith Doe and Randy Russell. Lights Out beginning October 3-Charlie Wills.

October 12, 2014: Ushers-Margaret Waugh, Al Johnson, Karen Harrington, Paul Harrington. Lights Out beginning October 10-Steve Furey.

Centre Church Shopping Card Program

Spending with Spirit

What is it?

This shopping card program offers you a chance to donate to Centre Church simply by doing your usual shopping. You buy prepaid shopping cards at face value. Great Lakes Scrip Center (GLSC), the organization that administers the program, buys these cards in bulk. Because of their volume buying, merchants offer the cards to GLSC at a discount. The difference between the card's face value and the discounted price goes to the church.

For example: You pay \$25.00 for a card. GLSC charges us a discounted price of \$23.75. The church gets the \$1.25 difference.

You can use the cards for your own shopping or give them as gifts. Note that you don't have to be a member or even affiliated with the church to participate. You can consolidate orders for your friends and the church will still receive the discounted difference.

How can I participate?

There are several ways to participate. The first is to visit our table in the Narthex after worship. Check through the list of participating retailers, place your order and pay with a check made out to Centre Church. That's it! On the following Sunday, we will have your shopping cards for you.

Secondly, you can purchase Cash and Carry Cards. A few of the most popular cards have been pre-ordered by the church, so you can stop by the table and pay for one on the spot.

Finally, if you really want to streamline the operation, you can link your bank account to the program and directly order everything online, although the cards still get sent to the church to be picked up by you the following Sunday.

Which companies provide shopping cards through this program?

All kinds of merchants and restaurants participate in this program, including Barnes & Noble, Home Depot, L.L. Bean, Whole Foods, Stop and Shop, Yard House Restaurants, TJ Maxx, Marshalls, Home Goods, Macy's, and Talbots. Even Dunkin Donuts has a card! We have a list of the participating companies, or you can view the list by visiting the Great Lakes Scrip Center web site:

<http://www.glscrip.com>

The percentage of each purchase that goes to Centre Church varies by merchant, with 5% as the average.

Who can I contact if I have questions?

Please contact John Sievers, Shopping Card Coordinator.

Our Opportunities

Sun. Oct. 5	10:00 am 10:00 am 10:00 am 10:00 am	Holy Communion - Sanctuary Nursery (up to age 3) - Room 11 ARK Class (age 3-6) – Room 14 Older Children in Church
Mon. Oct. 6	7:00 pm 7:30 pm	Boy Scout Troop #48 – Todd Hall Alanon/Alateen – Fireside & Libr.
Wed. Oct. 8	7:00 pm	Women’s 12 Step Mtg. – Fireside
Thur. Oct. 9	7:30 pm	Sr. Choir – Choir Room
Fri. Oct. 10	10:30 am	Bible Study – 2 nd Floor Office
Sun. Oct. 12	10:00 am 10:00 am 10:00 am	Morning Worship - Sanctuary Nursery (up to age 3) – Room 11 Older Children in Church
Mon. Oct. 13	----- 7:00 pm	Office Closed for Columbus Day Alanon/Alateen Anniversary-Todd
Tues. Oct. 14	7:30 pm	Deacons – Pastor’s office
Wed. Oct. 15	7:00 pm	Women’s 12 Step Mtg – Fireside
Thur. Oct. 16	7:30 pm	Sr. Choir – Choir Room
Fri. Oct. 17	10:30 am	Bible Study – 2 nd Floor Office

The next *Tower Notes* will be the week of October 6.

Church Office Hours are 9 am – 3 pm Monday-Friday.

Our prayers are with Elaine Pyburn at home; Jean Card and Barbara Warburg at Rosewood; Shep Spear at Lahey Clinic; Annabel Aldrich, Roger Lauzon, Marion Barnes, Helen Butcher, Harvey Card, Marge Cole, Ginny Davis, Marion Edkins, Parker Holloway, Edie Richard and Arliene Thorn.

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