

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

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Leah O'Brien, Director of Tower Day School

Susan Spear, Secretary

We Welcome Everyone: An "Open and Affirming" Church

February 11, 2015

Observations in Winter

And Jesus said, *"And even the very hairs of your head are all numbered. So don't be afraid; you are worth more than many sparrows. Whoever acknowledges me before others, I will also acknowledge before my Father in heaven."* (Matthew 10:30-32, NIV)

Hello to all of you who are enduring the challenges of this winter's onslaught of snow storm after snow storm. It is too much!

And yet, I look for hopeful signs as I, along with you, struggle to see the day when snow blowers, snow plows, and shovels will, again, be stored away.

The place I look today is to the gift of the birds who come to our feeders each day for the gift of the food we put out.

Blue jays, Tufted Titmice, Dark Eyed Juncos, Cardinals, and even the occasional Eastern Blue Birds make their way to the feeder outside the kitchen window. I wonder, *"How do they survive in this winter of severe cold and snow? Where do they stay? And what of the squirrels, who are normally also scampering to the bird feeder to spill its contents all over the ground? Where are they? Is the snow too deep for them? Do they just sleep it out?"*

I am grateful for these beautiful creatures! They make me laugh and smile. They give me joy. I take pictures and send to relatives.

God is present to us in these gifts of creation who, somehow, find a way of surviving. While the birds come in groups, each one is also on its own to

find for itself, to eat and take shelter. I adored one Dark Eyed Junco who, yesterday during the storm, found shelter in an overhanging fold of the grill cover on the deck, less than 3 feet from the window.

God is present in the way each of these has been created to find a way through the storm. Each finds a way of waiting its turn at the feeder. Some find food on the feeder while others find it by gleaning the food that drops from the feeder to the snow pile below. Some eat at the feeder while others take off and fly to a nearby tree.

God is present to me because I feel, in part, it is God's way of telling me that I, too, will survive through this severe season if I take proper

In the Sanctuary

February 15, 2015

10:00 a.m. Morning Worship

Sermon by the Rev. Dr. Dennis C. Bailey

Nursery (up to age 5) in Room 11

Older Children and Youth in Worship

February 18, 2015 Ash Wednesday

7:30 p.m. Worship Service in the Chapel

Renewal of Baptism

February 22, 2015 – First Sunday in Lent

10:00 a.m. Morning Worship

Sermon by the Rev. Dr. Dennis C. Bailey

Nursery (up to age 3) in Room 11

ARK and SPARK Classes

March 1, 2015 – Second Sunday in Lent

10:00 a.m. Holy Communion

nourishment where I can find it. It is God's way of telling me that I, too, should not be picky about where I find the nourishment, just find a way through the storm, in cooperation with others around me. Wait my turn, give way to others, and God will be present to us all together.

God is present to me, also, by the way these winged creatures remind me that others put out nourishment for me, lift my spirits, give me encouragement, and help me through this winter. There are neighbors and friends who help me move my overbearing load of snow. Thanks be to God! We, at the church, find ways of adapting to make it through.

Worship becomes more important as we sing our way through the winter season to beat back the darkened days of storms. We are reminded to preach the gospel of Jesus Christ so as to give hope while in the midst of the struggles of this life. We find strength in our fellowship together, sharing our burdens, lifting each other's spirits, and, on occasion, making merry together in "trivia pursuits."

I give thanks for each of you, today, for the many ways you help each other through this season. We do not give up hope. There will be a spring! We will see the grass grow again, hear the sound of lawnmowers, and weed whackers.

In the meantime, let us be of encouragement to one another. And, let us remember that the God who watches over every Sparrow, every Blue Jay and Dark Eyed Junco, is the God who also watches over each of us, knows each of our names, and desires the best and most fulfilling life for us.

I pray you see and feel God's presence in this season of severe weather. May we give to ourselves and each other patience, kindness, endurance, rest, nourishment, and co-operation.

Yours in Christ, Dennis

Souper Bowl of Caring

Thank you to everyone who donated funds and soup on Sunday, Feb. 1. We were able to collect \$236.00 to donate to James Chittick Elementary School in Mattapan which is setting up a food pantry for the families at their school.

Youth Group

Sunday, Feb. 15 No Youth Group meeting- enjoy vacation week

Sunday, Feb. 22 Middle School & High School Youth Group will meet 6-7:30pm for Pancake Night.

Sunday Morning With the Children

Nursery

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. Pagers are available for all parents.

ARK - All Remarkable Kids

Children ages 3-6 are invited to join us in Room 14. The class begins most Sundays at 10 a.m. and consists of play time, a Bible story lesson, and an activity.

There is no ARK class on Sunday, February 15, the start of school vacation week. Children 5 years old and younger are invited to go to the nursery for playtime, or may attend worship with their families.

On Sunday, February 22 the class will meet at 10 am.

SPARK - For children and youth ages 7 and up.

Sunday, Feb 15, there are no classes scheduled. Please plan to attend worship with your family.

On Sunday, February 22, the children will begin in worship and then leave for class after Children's Time

All Church Workshop on Church Growth Sunday, March 8, 2015

The Diaconate is sponsoring a workshop for all ages on Sunday, March 8 following our regular worship service. A light lunch of pizza, salad, drinks and dessert will be provided. Babysitting will be available for younger children.

Rev. Marie Lucca will present a program entitled: "From Generation to Generation: Honoring Tradition and Embracing Change." It is designed for a larger audience with many age groups represented. It will highlight the historical events that have impacted the beliefs and spiritual practices of each generation. We'll explore changing worship preferences, communication styles, and volunteer inclinations. Marie will offer suggestions on how Centre Congregational Church can be more welcoming to younger demographics. Marie is an engaging speaker. Come and hear her suggestions on how Centre Church can grow!

A sign-up sheet is in the Narthex.

- Margaret Waugh for the Diaconate

Climate Change

Are you interested in being involved in working to improve our environment? Do you work in a field that relates to the environment? Are you interested in climate justice issues?

The Massachusetts Conference of the United Church of Christ has just hired a Climate Justice Intern, Patrick Cage, to work with our churches on these issues. Patrick is interested in connecting with people along these issues and would love to talk with anyone who values the well-being of our environment.

Please let us know if you are interested and we will pass your name along to Patrick, or, you can contact him directly at: cagep@macucc.org

Thanks, Rev. Dr. Dennis C. Bailey

From the Mailbox

To all our friends at Centre Church

Thank you to Dennis for his very supportive and uplifting visits to Tony during his ongoing battle with serious back issues. These visits really energized Tony. Our beautiful flower arrangement really brought smiles to us and we appreciate all of your prayers and concern.

Sincerely, Judi and Tony Lucia

Address Changes

Annabel Aldrich – Newbridge on the Charles
7000 Great Meadow Rd. Rm 7218 2N
Dedham, MA 02026 617-234-7218

Richard and Carol Carter, 754 Lowell St.
Peabody, MA 01960 978-717-5563

Angela Fell, 44 English Cmns, Topsfield, MA
01983-2236 978-561-3153

Janice Flight, Colonial Village at Market Street,
7211 Heather Dr., Lynnfield

Nancy Loyd, 701 Essex Village, Lynnfield

Kim Morrissey, 1 North Hill Dr., Lynnfield



Cradles to Crayons provides children from birth through age 12 living in homeless or low-income situations with the essential items they need to thrive - at home, at school and at play. The youth groups of Centre Church will be collecting donations which are distributed to more than 250 local social agencies, nonprofit organizations, and shelters. Last year, Cradles to Crayons served 50,000 children. They are in need of new and gently-used goods that are appropriate for use by children ages newborn to 12.

- Clothing and coats (kids' sizes 0–20 and adult sizes Small & Medium)
- Shoes, boots, sneakers, and sandals (infant/child sizes 0–13 and youth/adult sizes 1–10)
- New socks and underwear
- Books, especially baby board books
- Toys (new toys are used for birthday gifts)

Their most needed items include:

- Girls tops size 3T-7/8
- Waterproof winter boots
- New body wash, shampoo, lotion, and conditioner 0-12 years
- Boys sneakers sizes 5-9 youth/adult

Please leave your donations in the box located in the Narthex. Let's see if we can fill it to the top. Youth will be volunteering and bringing in donations on Sat. March 14.

THINK SRING!

Save the Date: Saturday, May 16th

Centre Church will host Crafters on the Town Common and a Flea Market at the church on May 16th, the occasion of the Town's Geraniumfest. There will be other events at the Lynnfield Middle School. In addition, The Friends of the Lynnfield Public Library will have their book sale on the Common and the Lynnfield Art Guild will have their art show and sale in the Meeting House.

It will be a day with something for everyone!

Contact Rev. Bailey if you would like to help.

Bradford F. Holt remembered, Sunday, February 15, 2015, 10 AM

You are invited to attend the regular worship service at Centre Congregational Church on Sunday, February 15th, 10 am, to hear a remembrance prayer said on his behalf, to meet Dr. Brad Holt's family, and enjoy conversation and refreshments following the service.

On the occasion of the tenth anniversary of his death, the Family of the late **Dr. Bradford F. Holt** will join us in the worship service out of respect and gratitude for his life, celebrating his memory.

Brad was born in Andover, MA, (11th Generation) to the late Herbert and Mildred Holt. All eleven generations were born in the family home there, known as "The Red House."

Brad attended Andover public schools and sang in the male chorus, graduating from Andover High in 1940.

Dr. Holt attended Northeast University and eventually went on to graduation with his Doctor of Optometry Degree from Pennsylvania State College of Optometry, Class of 1948.

He began his practice in Lynn, MA and soon moved it into Lynnfield, practicing for 51 years, gaining a very large clientele and a great deal of respect.

Dr. Holt was a pilot in the Naval Air Corps during World War II.

All of Lynnfield experienced Dr. Holt as a very generous and outgoing person. He loved being involved in Lynnfield through the Lynnfield Rotary Club, the Historical Society, and Townscape.

Brad loved helping out at the Annual Country Store in the Meeting House in December and Geraniumfest.

In the year 1990, Dr. and Mrs. Holt were voted **Citizens of the Year by the Lynnfield Rotary Club** as a result of their many contributions to the community.

Marriage: Brad met his future wife, Harriet, while he was working as a car hop at a Drive-In Restaurant. He saw Harriet there and loved her at first sight.

Dr. and Mrs. Holt married August 31, 1946. They gave life and love to their children, Marc, David, Phillip, Gretchen, and Johanna. They have three grandchildren and three great grandchildren. Dr. Holt is survived by his wife, Harriet.

He is remembered as a loving father, a very generous man.

He taught his children about life through their many experiences of travel throughout the world.

His granddaughter, Alyse, remembers her grandfather:

"He was a jack of all trades. He had the solution to every problem and the answer to every question. Although he needed my grandmother's assistance sometimes when it came to spelling for his cross word puzzles. His smile was quick and from ear to ear. It was that 'you know I love you' smile. The best thing about this family is that we all have a little bit of him. His looks, personality, humor, something to keep his memory living in us."

Brad had a dry sense of humor, the patience of a saint.

While working in his workshop he would often experience what he called "the revolt of the inanimate objects." That is how Dr. Holt explained how Murphy's Law and inanimate objects made it sometimes difficult for his projects to come as he had hoped.

Dr. Bradford F. Holt was a good man! Thanks be to God.



Our Opportunities

Sun. Feb. 15	10:00 am 10:00 am 10:00 am	Morning Worship - Sanctuary Nursery (up to age 5) – Rm. 11 Older Children & Youth in Church
Mon. Feb. 16	----- 7:30 pm	Office Closed – President’s Day Alanon – Fireside & Libr.
Wed. Feb.18 <i>Ash Wednesday</i>	7:00 pm 7:30 pm	Women’s 12 Step Mtg – Fireside Ash Wednesday Worship - Chapel
Fri. Feb. 20	10:30 am	Bible Study – 2 nd Floor Office
Sun. Feb. 22 <i>First Sunday In Lent</i>	10:00 am 10:00 am 10:00 am 6:00 pm	Morning Worship - Chapel Nursery (up to age 3) – Rm 11 ARK & SPARK Classes Youth Group – Basement
Mon. Feb. 23	7:00 pm 7:30 pm	Boy Scout Troop 48 – Richards Alanon/Alateen – Fireside & Libr.
Tues. Feb. 24	12:30 pm	Get-Together Wheel - Fireside
Wed. Feb. 25	7:00 pm	Women’s 12 Step Mtg – Fireside
Thurs. Feb. 26	7:30 pm	Senior Choir – Choir Room
Fri. Feb. 27	10:30 am	Bible Study – 2 nd Floor Office
Sun. March 1 <i>Second Sunday In Lent</i>	10:00 am	Holy Communion - Sanctuary Nursery (up to age 5) Older Children & Youth in Church

Office Hours 9-12 Tuesday – Friday, Feb. 17-20

Office Hours of 9-3 resume on Monday, Feb. 23

Our prayers are with Dayl Hufford in rehab at Edgewood, 575 Osgood St., N. Andover, MA 01845, Tony Lucia, Tony Ardagna, Roger Lauzon, Annabel Aldrich, Marion Barnes, Helen Butcher, Harvey Card, Marge Cole, Marion Edkins, Parker Holloway, Edie Richard and Barbara Warburg.

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