

# TOWER NOTES

## Centre Congregational Church (United Church of Christ)

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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

Leah O'Brien, Director of Tower Day School

Susan Spear, Secretary

*We Welcome Everyone: An "Open and Affirming" Church*

**May 13, 2015**

### Seasons of Spring

I was thinking about the season of spring in which we find ourselves when I came across this text:

*Faithfulness springs forth from the earth,  
and righteousness looks down from heaven.*

(Psalm 85:11, NIV)

Given the challenging nature of this past winter, I am especially grateful for spring this year. Life springs forth from God's creation so generously given to us here, in New England. There are also signs of God's continuing gift of life in the form of graduations and celebrations; celebrations of mothers who have given us life, children and grandchildren full of life. People are out jogging, bike riding, pushing their children around places, taking them to the park, golfing, mowing yards, planting flowers, bushes, and trees, and making yards new again.

Yes, it was hard to see it and, sometimes, believe it this past winter. I still have a picture of the banks of snow as high as my van in my driveway.

And yet, there are those among us who are presently going through "winter" in their lives. Our sisters and brothers in Nepal, for example, have literally had their world tumble down upon them, taking thousands of lives, homes, temples, businesses, and causing countless injury. Our brothers and sisters in at least 5 states have and are experiencing losses of life, homes, businesses, also, via the tornadoes, rain, and storms. And, the civil unrest in Baltimore, Maryland, as the result of the death of Freddie Gray, has reigned "winter" upon a city that has been struggling to find a "spring" for some time now.

And, I am aware of some folks who are personally going through their own "winter" challenge, via illness, grief, and anxiety.

**Where do we find comfort, hope, and healing in the midst of these "winters?"**

- From Scriptures, where the Psalmist reminds us:

*"God is our refuge and strength,  
an ever-present help in trouble.*

*Therefore we will not fear,*

*though the earth give way  
and the mountains fall into the heart of the sea,  
though its waters roar and foam and the mountains quake  
with their surging. The LORD Almighty is with us;  
the God of Jacob is our fortress."*

(Psalm 46:2-3, & 11, NIV)

- From our love and care of each other:

We are collecting offerings for aid to Nepal which will be sent to Heifer International in Nepal where they have many Heifer staff, families, and communities who have received Heifer gifts for many years. Heifer has pledged to respond with \$250,000 in aid as a result of the earthquake. Our Outreach Ministries has pledged to match our giving up to \$1,500 toward this response. (Feel free to contribute to this special offering. Please note "Nepal" on your donation)

We walk with and pray with each other in the midst of our own challenges. We pray for our friends who are experiencing destructive weather. Our own United Church of Christ offerings, through Our Church's Wider Mission (OCWM, or Basic Support) responds with emergency assistance.

We pray for our friends in Baltimore, and try to shape our lives so that we are respectful toward every

### In the Sanctuary

May 17, 2015

10:00 A.M. Morning Worship

Sermon by the Rev. Dr. Dennis C. Bailey

10:00 Nursery (up to age 3) –Room 11

Godly Play Class (older children) – Todd Hall

May 24, 2015

10:00 A.M. Morning Worship

10:00 Nursery (age 5 and under) –Room 11

Older children plant flowers.

May 31, 2015

10:00 A.M. Morning Worship

10:00 Nursery (up to age 3) – Room 11

Godly Play Class (older children) – Todd Hall

human life. We pray for justice to come where it has been found wanting. We pray for those officers of the law who are on the front lines of the civil unrest, that they are safe from harm, also. We pray for the family of Freddie Gray, that, as they mourn, they find justice and peace.

Some in our midst have responded by participating in the Annual **Walk for Hunger**, bringing hope and life to those who hunger.

Some participate in the Annual **Reid's Ride**, a 28 mile bicycle ride on July 18, 2015, to help on Boston's North Shore to raise awareness of, and funds for, Adolescent and Young Adult (AYA) Cancers. Inspired by Reid R. Sacco, with proceeds benefiting the Reid R. Sacco AYA Cancer Alliance. <http://reidride.org/>

God's comfort and strength is present to all of us. It is also available to us from within each of us, as we allow it to be shared as God has shared it with us. While God does not wish tragedy and despair upon any of us, God is always there to help us through it with healing, comfort, hope, and servants and saints, like us, who lend a hand, share resources, time, life, and love for the sake of others. Please join me in being an agent of God's Season of Spring, no matter what time of year it is needed.

Yours in Christ, Dennis

### **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.

#### Church School News:

Godly Play is our church school curriculum for children in Pre-school and above. Based on the Montessori Method, Godly Play uses a careful telling of scripture stories, engaging story figures and activities to encourage children to seek and find answers to their faith questions.

Children begin in worship with their families and after Children's Time will be escorted to the Godly Play Worship Center which is located on the stage area in Todd Hall. Parents are asked to pick up children at 11:15 am by coming to the side door of the stage which is located at the bottom of the stairs by the chapel.

Sunday, May 24, Flower Planting Sunday. All children, grades PreK-grade 8, are invited to join us as we plant flowers outside the church. Please bring trowels, watering cans and wear garden-friendly clothes. Children will begin in worship with their families and then leave after Children's Time. Childcare will be available for children 5 and under in Room 11.

### **Youth Group** **End of Year Celebration** **for High School and Middle School Youth**

RSVP for a fun trip to Canobie Lake Park on Sunday, May 17. We will meet at the church at 2 pm and return around 7 pm. The cost is \$30.00 per person. Adult drivers/chaperones are needed. Please contact Barbara Langill if you are available.

### **Celebrating Barbara Langill**

As you probably know, Barbara Langill, Director of Christian Education, is retiring, effective the beginning of this coming July. We plan a celebration of Barbara's Ministry on Sunday, June 14th, immediately following the Children's Sunday Worship Service. The Education Ministries Team will provide a luncheon.

We want to celebrate her twelve years of ministry to the children, youth, and adults of Centre Church. We also want to celebrate her ministry to the work of Christian Education in the Massachusetts Conference of the United Church of Christ as she has served to strengthen others for this ministry through the Certification of Christian Educators. Barbara has also led the Mission Trip Ministry of Centre Church to places and people who are recovering from tragedy. And, we celebrate, with her husband, Jeff, who has participated fully in the joy of this ministry, being a blessing to children, youth, and people within and outside the church.

#### **You can help plan for this by:**

Contributing toward a gift: Sending checks to "Centre Church," Memo, "Barbara Langill"  
Offering to help with the luncheon, by contacting: Jill DiGiorgio, [jilldigiorgio@yahoo.com](mailto:jilldigiorgio@yahoo.com) or Kathi Martin, [mkm9291@gmail.com](mailto:mkm9291@gmail.com)  
or by calling the church office, 781-334-3050.

### **Real Good Church – Book Review**

Please join us on Wed., June 10<sup>th</sup> as we review the book Real Good Church. This book highlights the struggles of a church and what they did to resurrect themselves into a thriving organization. This discussion will be another opportunity to explore how we can attract new members and also present fresh ideas that would benefit everyone. To join in on this event you need to do a couple things. First, obtain a copy of the book. Real Good Church by Molly Phinney Baskette. The book is available from Amazon either in electronic form or hard copy. The price is under \$20. (There are some used copies for under \$10.) Second, read the book and then join us at the church on June 10<sup>th</sup> at 7 pm. We hope to see you there!

- Parish Council

**Lynnfield Town Day**  
**Saturday, May 16 - 8 am – 2 pm**

Join in the Celebration:  
(Activities inside the church, if rain)

- Donate articles for the flea market. They may be brought to the Chapel by Friday, May 15 to be included in the Centre Church portion of the sale.
- Bake goodies for the Bake Sale. (All items must be individually wrapped or totally wrapped.) Please call Laurel Caputo if you have questions. 781-245-3874.
- Come, shop, and enjoy the day. There will be many craft tables on the common in addition to the flea market and bake sale on the lawn. Other attractions on the common will include the Library Book Sale and the Art Guild Show and Sale

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**Congregational Meeting**  
**Sunday, June 7 after Worship**

Items to be considered:

- **Proposed Budget for the 2015-2016 Fiscal Year**
- **Ratify extending the term of the Officers and Ministry Team Chairs until the Annual Meeting in September.**

**Bruce Weaver, Moderator**

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**Shareholder's Dinner**

Many thanks to all who helped make the shareholders dinner a success. We enjoyed our own goat cheese on crackers, homemade pizza, and strawberries on angel food cake for dessert. The participants of the April mission trip shared their experience at the Heifer Ranch in Arkansas. We are all grateful for the generous support of the congregation and Missions Ministries who helped make this trip possible.  
–Barbara Langill

**News From Around the Parish**

We extend our love and sympathy to the Patterson family upon the recent death of Bill's father in Hudson, NH.

Our love and prayers are with Annmarie Pendola and her family upon the death of her mother, Anna DeGiovanni of Lynnfield.

Our prayers are with the family and friends of Marion Barnes who died on May 2. Her funeral was held at Centre Church on May 7. She is survived by her daughter, Carol Ann McIntire of North Reading.

**Church Office Hours 9am – 3pm**

**Lobster Rolls**

Summer time is coming and so are the lobster rolls! The best lobster rolls in town! Still only \$10.00!! They will be freshly made and ready for pickup on Sunday, May 31 after service.

Must be pre-ordered and pre-paid! Yum! Signup after service or contact the church office!

-Dotty Whittier



Tower Day will continue to collect Box Tops for Education throughout the summer. There is a collection basket on the table in the narthex. Each box top turned in is worth 10 cents to Tower Day School. With everyone collecting, they add up fast!

**Graduation News?** May is the month for graduations. Let us hear from you and your graduate so we can share the news. (office@centre-church.org)

**Preachers Needed**

We welcome volunteers who are willing to share a message on one of the following Sundays in the Chapel, when Rev. Bailey is away either for Continuing Education or vacation.

If you are willing to consider sharing a message, please talk with either Rev. Bailey ([pastor@centre-church.org](mailto:pastor@centre-church.org) or 781-334-3050) or Margaret Waugh, Chair of Deacons ([mcwaugh@aol.com](mailto:mcwaugh@aol.com)).

June 28<sup>th</sup>, July 5<sup>th</sup>, August 9<sup>th</sup>, August 16<sup>th</sup>, August 23<sup>rd</sup>.

**Engraved Brick Patio**

Many people have asked me if there is still an opportunity to purchase an engraved brick for the patio at the rear of the church. I am taking orders now through May 31st. The small bricks are \$50 and the large bricks are \$100. The small bricks hold up to 3 lines of 20 characters each (including spaces and punctuation). The large bricks hold up to 6 lines. Checks should be made payable to Centre Congregational Church and can be mailed to the church office. This is a great way to memorialize someone you know or a family member. Or you can use the brick to thank someone special or record an important date. You may have a favorite Bible verse or inspirational quote. Or you may just want to put your name on the brick. Anything works! If you have any questions you can get in touch with me at [pcjohnson@meei.harvard.edu](mailto:pcjohnson@meei.harvard.edu) or at 781-598-5678.  
- Phil Johnson

**Next Tower Notes is the week of June 1.**

### From The Moderator

I'd like to give you an update on our 2015 finances and what we should expect as we prepare to close our fiscal year on June 30.

As you may remember, the congregation approved a final operating budget that left us with a deficit exceeding \$66,000.00. Parish Council asked the Stewardship Team to once again hold a supplemental pledge drive to balance the budget and also increase the capital maintenance reserve so the building exterior could be painted. To date we have raised \$33,780 toward this effort. We are very grateful to everyone who has contributed, yet we still find ourselves short of our goal.

Also included in the 2015 budget was projected income that the church would receive from the Verizon Wireless agreement that was signed last fall. We had assumed that we would begin receiving payment from Verizon Wireless in January of this year. We based this on conversation with Verizon Wireless and their eagerness to get this agreement finalized. Unfortunately, due to other business requirements, Verizon Wireless have not begun any installation construction which is the driving component related to when their payments begin. Though we are confident that this agreement will eventually produce income for Centre Church, we do not expect any payments (\$12,000.00) to be realized in fiscal year 2015.

In January the flakes began to fall and two months later we had endured the snowiest winter on record. As you would expect, we exceeded the plowing and sanding budget which has increased our projected expenses.

With all these events considered and if everything remained static for the remainder of the year, we will have a closing operating deficit of almost \$54,000.00 with nothing added to the painting fund. This is not what we had hoped for, therefore with less than 2 months remaining in this fiscal year, Parish Council asks all parishioners be sure your yearly pledge is on track and up to date. Also, please consider a donation to the supplemental pledge drive, as it would be much appreciated.

- Sincerely, Bruce C. Weaver

### Our Opportunities

Sun. May 17	10:00 am 10:00 am 10:20 am 2:00 pm	Morning Worship - Sanctuary Nursery (to age 3) – Room 11 Godly Play – Todd Hall Stage Youth to Canobie Lake Park
Mon, May 18	7:00 pm 7:30 pm	Boy Scout Troop 48 – Todd Hall Alanon – Fireside Room
Wed. May 20	7:00 pm	Women's 12 Step Mtg – Fireside
Thur. May 21	6:30 pm 7:30 pm	Weight Watchers – Fireside Rm. Senior Choir- Choir Room
Fri. May 22	10:30 am	Bible Study – 2 <sup>nd</sup> Floor Office
Sun. May 24	10:00 am 10:00 am 10:20 am	Morning Worship - Sanctuary Nursery (age 5 & under) – Rm 11 Older Children Plant Flowers
Mon. May 25	----- 7:30 pm	Memorial Day – Office Closed Alanon and Alateen – FR & Libr
Wed. May 27	7:00 pm 7:00 pm	Parish Council – Pastor's Office Women's 12 Step Mtg – Fireside
Thurs. May 28	6:30 pm 7:30 pm	Weight Watchers – Fireside Rm Senior Choir – Choir Room
Fri. May 29	10:30 am	Bible Study – 2 <sup>nd</sup> Floor Office

Our prayers are with Bob Shorey at Aviv Center for Living, 240 Lynnfield St., Peabody 01960; Annabel Aldrich, Helen Butcher, Marguerite Burns, Harvey Card, Marge Cole, Marion Edkins, Parker Holloway, Edie Richard and Barbara Warburg.

We remember in our prayers Jamie Stone in Kuwait, Michael Bruce in Bahrain and Johnathan McCarthy who is in training with the US Marines