

TOWER NOTES

Centre Congregational Church (United Church of Christ)

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We Welcome Everyone: An "Open and Affirming" Church

August 26, 2015

Connections, Travels & Tides

Summer is often a time for travel and vacation. Before I left for vacation, I wanted to visit with our church member Annabel Aldrich, who now lives at the beautiful Hebrew Senior Life, Newbridge on the Charles, Dedham, MA. Scott DeSantis and I had the pleasure of visiting with Annabel (see picture of Annabel and Scott). We had a lovely visit and Annabel sends her regards to everyone at Centre Church, along with requests for us to sing her two favorite hymns, "*Amazing Grace*," and "*Savior God Above*." We sang her requests at the August 2nd service. Annabel is really enjoying living at Hebrew Senior Life because the food is great, and, she gets to participate in their acting program in which they select a famous musical or play every few months and the residents rehearse and participate. She can't wait for the next opportunity to share her dramatic skills!



July 31, 2015

Life in the church is where God connects us with people we would otherwise have never met, who, like us, are finding meaning and purpose through serving in the mission of God's work. Together, we share life as the tides in our lives change.

One of my favorite places to vacation is along the ocean waters in Maine. This has also been the case this summer. My friend, Linda and I spend a lot of time in Wells, ME. We also spent a couple of days on Mount Desert Island, Maine, in Acadia National Park and in Bar Harbor where we witnessed a beautiful sunrise on August 18th.



We often check the tide table in the morning to determine our plans for the day. At low tide, there is always plenty of beach to walk and to sit and enjoy, even when there are large crowds. At high tide beach going is apt to be a lot more crowded but with a little luck, you can still find a place to park and sit on the beach. We are amused at how some people draw a circle in the sand around their spot as if to tell the ocean tide, "you cannot encroach upon this area of the beach where I am sitting." In reality, we cannot stop the tides from rising and falling twice a day. As I think of the ocean tides I also think about the changing tides in our lives. Like high

tide, we have times when our lives are full and exciting. Like low tide, we have times when we seem to be stuck, like a boat on a sand bar, unable to go anywhere.

Like the tides are always changing, so are things in our lives. Even when we think things will not change, they are and will. We must be patient and wait. God made the oceans, through the power of the moon's gravity, to be constantly changing, constantly rising and falling.

These changes have purpose in our lives. As the tides change they bring us new things, but, they also take things away. I see how people rake the seaweed at the beach and take it down to water's edge at low tide in the hopes that high tide will take it away. This usually works. But sometimes the tides take things away that we love. The forces of life, like the forces of the tides, are powerful. There are some things that we cannot change.

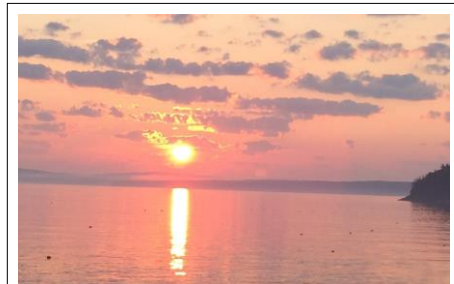
Even when the waters are calm and it seems as if there is no movement, the invisible movements of the oceans are ebbing and flowing. It is just the same with God who is always present and always at work in our lives. God loves us and has created this most amazing world in which we live as a great and beautiful blessing to us. Without the moon's gravity at play, the ocean could not rise and fall, cleanse itself, and give off oxygen.

Let us remember, that even if the tides do not seem to be in our favor, God is always at work in our lives to bring us new life. Sometimes the new life cannot come until other things have been removed. Just as God has created our world to serve us, God's love endures forever. May we serve that love by loving and protecting the world God has given us for the sake of generations yet to come.

I share with you one more picture, of sunrise at Bar Harbor, symbolic of the new day, of the new opportunities, of the new life that God gives to us. May we receive it and be grateful!

May the tides of God's love bless you always,

Dennis



Sunrise at Bar Harbor, ME

Our Worship Services

August 30, 2015 – 10:00 a.m. - Chapel

Morning Worship

Sermon by the Rev. Dr. Dennis C. Bailey

Nursery (up to age 3) – Room 11

Kids Camp (ages 4 and up) – Library

September 6, 2015 – 10:00 a.m. - Chapel

Morning Worship

Sermon by the Rev. Dr. Dennis C. Bailey

No Child Care or Kids Camp

September 13, 2015 – 10:00 a.m. - Sanctuary

Holy Communion

Sermon by the Rev. Dr. Dennis C. Bailey

Nursery (up to age 3) – Room 11

Godly Play (age 3 & older) – Todd Hall Stage



Church School News

We are excited to offer Godly Play as our church school curriculum here at Centre Church. 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. We welcome Lisa Gerbick as our lead Storyteller.

The first Godly Play class will be on Sunday, September 13 and we hope your child will be with us! All children ages 3 and up are welcome to attend. Families should expect to receive a letter in the coming weeks with information on Godly Play and an invitation to attend a very important orientation session.

Education Ministries Team

Nursery

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

The Nursery opens Sunday, Sept. 13 and will be staffed every Sunday through June. We welcome back Alicia Dwyer, as our Nursery Care provider. Alicia will be in the Nursery each Sunday and will be assisted by experienced High School caregivers.

Kids Sunday Summer Camp

This year we offered a faith filled, Sunday Summer Camp, 2015 Ark Avenue, for children ages 4 and up during summer worship. We would like to thank the many families who volunteered to lead a class and to our High School volunteers who served as helpers. Check out the bulletin board outside the Fireside Room where you will see the rainbow that was added to each session. The rainbow serves as a reminder of the promises God has made to us as members of God's family.

From the Mailbox

I wish to express my appreciation to all who have extended sympathy to me and my family. The warmth of human caring extends a comfort nothing else can do. The church family and Rev. Dennis is a blessing and seems to enclose one in Times of Trouble.

Thank you, Gladys M Carter

Thanks to all who sent me birthday greetings via mail, emails, and texts. A special thanks for the musical "Celebration" greeting signed by so many from the congregation. It means a lot to be blessed by so many friends.

Rev. Dennis Bailey

News from Around the Parish

Our love and sympathy go out to Linda Ladd and her family upon the death of her Aunt, Judy Levis of Sanbornville, NH on August 19.

Family Outing to Red Sox Game



A great way to spend time with family on a Friday night! On Friday, September 25th, 60 bleacher tickets have been reserved for Centre

Church. The Red Sox will be playing the Baltimore Orioles at 7:00 p.m. and we need to be there to cheer them on! Cost: Only \$27.00 per ticket!

For more info and to reserve a ticket, call Dotty Whittier @781-635-6225 or call Susan Spear at church at 781-334-3050.

Bits 'n Pieces

Office Hours of 9-3 will resume after Labor Day. *Tower Notes* will resume an every-other-week schedule beginning with this issue. If you live outside of Lynnfield, you probably don't receive *Tower Notes* in a timely manner. For a cost of \$10.00 per year, we will gladly mail your copy first class OR you can sign up to receive your *Tower Notes* by email. Let us know if you would like to try either of these options.

From time to time, we need someone to do calligraphy. If you have this skill, please let us know if you would be willing to help.

An updated version of *The People Book* (our directory of members and friends of the church) will be available in late September. Please notify the office if there are any changes in your address, phone number or email address.

Lights Out Volunteers

Steve Furey beginning August 28

Bruce Weaver beginning September 4

David Bjorkman beginning September 11

Our Opportunities

Sun. Aug 30	10:00 am	Morning Worship - Chapel Nursery (to age 3) – Room 11 Kid's Camp - Library
Mon, Aug 31	7:30 pm	Alanon – Lower Level
Wed. Sept 2	8:30 am 7:00 pm 7:00 pm	Bread & Roses - Kitchen Council – Pastor's Office Women's 12 Step Mtg – Fireside
Fri. Sept 4	10:30 am	Bible Study – 2 nd Floor Office
Sun. Sept 6	10:00 am	Morning Worship - Chapel No Nursery or Kid's Camp
Mon. Sept. 7	----- 7:30 pm	Office Closed for Labor Day Alanon – Lower Level
Tues Sept 8	7:30 pm	Diaconate – Pastor's Office
Wed. Sept 9	7:00 pm	Women's 12 Step Mtg – Fireside
Thurs Sept 10	7:30 pm	Choir Rehearsal – Choir Room
Fri. Sept 11	10:30 am	Bible Study – 2 nd Floor Office
Sun. Sept 13	10:00 am	Morning Worship - Sanctuary Nursery (up to age 3) – Room 11 Godly Play (age 3 & up)–Todd Hall

**Office Hours of 9 am–3 pm Mon-Fri
will resume on September 8.**

Next *Tower Notes* is the week of Sept. 7

Our prayers are with Ed Erickson, Regina Engle, Bob Shorey, Annabel Aldrich, Elva Batchelder, Helen Butcher, Marguerite Burns, Marge Cole, Marion Edkins, Parker Holloway, Edie Richard and Barbara Warburg.

We remember in our prayers Jamie Stone in Kuwait and Johnathan McCarthy deployed with the Marines.