

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

Nancy Miller, Church School Superintendent, nmiller145@gmail.com

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

October 7, 2015

For Everything

For everything there is a season, and a time for every matter under heaven: a time to be born, and a time to die; a time to plant, and a time to pluck up what is planted; a time to kill, and a time to heal; a time to break down, and a time to build up; a time to weep, and a time to laugh; a time to mourn, and a time to dance; a time to throw away stones, and a time to gather stones together; a time to embrace, and a time to refrain from embracing; a time to seek, and a time to lose; a time to keep, and a time to throw away; a time to tear, and a time to sew; a time to keep silence, and a time to speak; a time to love, and a time to hate; a time for war, and a time for peace. (Ecclesiastes 3:1-8, NRSV)

What is changing in your life?

There are things that change over which we have no control: Our parents, where we were born, our age, the price of fuel, the weather...

There are things that we can change: our lifestyle, the food we eat, the speed at which we drive, how much sleep we get, what we say, the decisions we make, where we shop, how much we serve the Lord.

Growing up I went through some of the seasons mentioned in the above scripture verse, birth, death, planting, harvesting, weeping, laughing, mourning. I tried to dance, from time to time. We threw stones away from the fields so that they didn't break the farm equipment. I learned the importance of hugging my family. I cherish those hugs now that most of those family members are gone.

Watching my mother, I learned how to do simple sewing of some of my clothing. I tried to learn

when to keep silent. Knowing when to speak, especially on behalf of another, is something I still struggle with.

Some of the hardest changes that parents face are the changing seasons of their children. Early on it may seem easy to see the changes our children go through: the first step, the first tooth, the first word. Early on we pay attention to every change they go through. But, before we know it, they are starting to go off on their own, changing in ways and places we are not always first to see, sometimes not even aware of.

In the Sanctuary

October 11, 2015

10:00 a.m. Morning Worship
Sermon by Rev. Dr. Dennis C. Bailey
Nursery (up to age 3) - Room 11
Older Children and Youth in Church

October 18, 2015

10:00 a.m. Morning Worship
Sacrament of Baptism
Sermon by Rev. Dr. Dennis C. Bailey
Nursery (up to age 3) - Room 11
Godly Play (age 3 – Gr. 4) – Todd Hall Stage
Breakfast Club (Gr. 5-12) – Kitchen

October 25, 2015

10:00 a.m. Morning Worship
Sermon by Rev. Dr. Dennis C. Bailey
Nursery (up to age 3) - Room 11
Godly Play (age 3 – Gr. 4) – Todd Hall Stage
Breakfast Club (Gr. 5-12) – Kitchen

One of the hardest changes that we go through is the loss of a parent, a spouse, or even worse, a child. Such a season is one we would like to avoid. After the death of my father when I was 16, I felt like I had no control over the changes in my life. I felt like I was free-falling through space, unable to grab hold of anything close to stability. It was not a comfortable feeling. I felt fear because I did not know where I was going or how I was going to get there.

Some of the nicest changes of seasons in our lives can include marriage, children, graduations, new jobs, new home, new friends.

What helps us through these changes? The most helpful things for me have been my faith, my family, my best friend, and friends, friends who believed in me even when I had doubts about myself.

The most important thing for us to remember that is that God is our constant companion through all of the seasons of our lives. God is the source of our being, the author of our lives. God breathes the Spirit into us at the time of our birth, and is always there to help us maintain that Spirit in and through us throughout our lives, even into the last change of season in this life. As Jesus said, *"I am with you always, even unto to the end of the world."* (Matthew 28:20).

I fear that we often fail to turn to God during the changes in our lives, especially the good changes. Turning to God to give thanks in the good times is especially important so that we give ourselves the opportunity to ask God's guidance in the use of the blessings we have, instead of taking them for granted. God is always there for us when the changes are difficult and we find it easier to seek God out in these times.

I pray that for every season we are in touch with God's desires, comfort, wisdom, and presence. God may be seeking us out in order to help bring changes in us, in others, in our communities, and in our world that will bring a new season of blessing: peace, healing, justice, and respect. God may also be seeking us out to bring a season of change that will be hard for people to accept, but one that, in God's eyes, is needed for the benefit of all, but especially for the least of these, where Jesus has often been known to be found.

Yours in Christ,

Dennis

News From Around the Parish

Our congratulations to Steven and Christine Schedin on the birth of a daughter, Kenzie Kathleen Schedin on August 5. Her proud grandmother is Cheryl Schedin.

Our best wishes to Johanna Holt and Bill Welch who were married at Centre Church on September 26, 2015. They will make their home in Bradford, MA.

There will be Memorial Service for Anne Millett on Saturday, October 17 at 11:00 a.m. It will be followed by a collation in Richards Hall.

Dear Friends,

My heartfelt thanks to all my friends who have been so very thoughtful and friendly with all their cards, calls and flowers during the lengthy recuperation from my fracture. Dennis' surprise visits always give me a boost. He is good medicine!

I am doing well, and hope to be back soon.

Blessings to you all, Ginny Daniels

Church School News

Nursery

Our Church Nursery is fully staffed and ready to receive infants and children up to age 3 on Sunday mornings during worship time. The Nursery will be open every Sunday in October. Alicia Dwyer will be in the Nursery each Sunday and will be assisted by experienced High School caregivers.

Godly Play

We are excited to offer Godly Play as our education program for children ages 3 - Gr. 4. Lisa Gerbick is our lead Storyteller and she is assisted by Michael DiGiorgio, Dotty Whittier and Linda Ladd.

There will be no Godly Play class on October 11. On October 18 the regular schedule will resume. Children will worship with their families in the sanctuary before going to Todd Hall for the Godly Play Class.

Breakfast Club for Youth Grade 5 and Up

The Breakfast Club for Middle School and High School Youth will not meet on October 11. On October 18, the regular class will resume. Youth will worship briefly with their parents and then go to the kitchen.

We Appreciate Our Volunteers

Lights Out beginning Oct. 9 – Charlie Wills
Lights Out beginning Oct. 16 – Scott DeSantis
Lights Out beginning Oct. 23 – Roger Batchelder

Sunday, October 11:

Ushers-Margaret Waugh, Al Johnson, Karen & Paul Harrington. Lay Reader-Carol Carter
Deliver Altar Flowers- Scott & Liz DeSantis and Chuck Cotting. Coffee Hour-Nina Emery, Raden Sorli Hawk, and Roy Sorli

We Are “Rolling” Again

Get Together Wheel met recently for our salad luncheon. It was great to see everyone after a long summer. We had 14 members present along with 3 guests. Everything as delicious and we enjoyed catching up on the latest happenings.

Our next meeting will be on Oct. 27 in the Fireside Room. We meet at 12:30 for goodies and then at 1:00 we will be having one of our favorite guest speakers – Alan Foulds. Alan is such a great guest and is so entertaining. He will be speaking on “Over the River and Through the Woods.”

The Wheel is open to all women in the church. It is really a fun group of ladies and at every meeting there is a different form of entertainment. If you would like more information, please give me a call.

Hope to see you. Donna Marino 781-581-2022

Altar Flowers

Each Sunday we have flowers donated for the altar in memory of someone, in celebration of a special event or in thanks for a special blessing. Often, the bouquet is divided after the worship service and delivered to shut-ins or those in the hospital or nursing facilities. No one has spoken for the following Sundays this fall: October 11, November 22 and November 29. Please call the church office (781-334-3050) or email office@centre-church.org if you are interested in donating flowers on one of those Sundays.

Tower Notes Newsletter

Our newsletter, *Tower Notes*, goes out every-other week. If you currently get a copy in the mail and would like to change to an email copy (which will ensure more timely delivery), please send your email address to Susan Spear in the church office at office@centre-church.org.

On-Line Giving is Here !!

Many people in our congregation have asked about the ability to give on-line (through credit cards, or through automatic deductions from their checking accounts). We are pleased to say that On-Line giving is up-and-running for Centre Church.

For those of you who want to use this option, simply go to the Church's website (www.centre-church.org), then look for the "Online Giving" link on the bottom-left side of the homepage (under "Useful Links"). Click on this button and you will be taken to the Online Giving page for Centre Church hosted by Vanco Payment Solutions (a registered ISO/TPP of Wells Fargo Bank, N.A.) that serves over 11,000 churches and non-profits. Once there, you will be able to donate one-time or set-up an account for recurring donations.

Please note: you will be credited with the gross amount of your donation. But be mindful that Centre Church does incur processing fees for online giving through Vanco. Donations by direct debit to your checking account incur minimal (ACH) fees, but credit card transactions incur higher ("merchant") fees through the credit card companies. But please do take advantage of this new capability.

We hope that you find it beneficial and convenient for your giving to Centre Church !!

Jeff Law, Treasurer
Jim Marshall, Financial Sec.

The People Book & Annual Reports

Our updated directory of members and friends, *The People Book*, is now available in the church office or on the table in the narthex after worship. Please pick yours up soon so you will be up to date on the latest address changes, etc.

There are also copies available of the latest Annual Report which was presented at our Annual Meeting in September. It contains reports from the staff, our ministry teams and the budget for the fiscal year 2015-16.

Our Opportunities

Sun. Oct. 11	10:00 am	Morning Worship - Sanctuary Nursery (up to age 3) – Room 11 Older Children & Youth in Church
Mon, Oct. 12	7:00 pm	Alanon and Alateen Anniversary Celebration – Richards Hall
Wed. Oct. 14	7:00 pm	Women’s 12 Step Mtg – Fireside
Thurs. Oct. 15	7:30 pm	Choir Rehearsal – Choir Room
Fri. Oct. 16	10:30 am	Bible Study – 2 nd Floor Office
Sun. Oct. 18	10:00 am	Morning Worship - Sanctuary Nursery (up to age 3) – Room 11 Godly Play (age 3 –Gr. 4)- Stage Breakfast Club (Gr. 5-12) - Kitchen
Mon. Oct. 19	7:00 pm 7:30 pm	Boy Scout Troop #48 – Todd Hall Alanon – Lower Level
Wed. Oct. 21	7:00 pm	Women’s 12 Step Mtg – Fireside
Thurs Oct. 22	7:30 pm	Choir Rehearsal – Choir Room
Fri. Oct. 23	10:30 am	Bible Study – 2 nd Floor Office
Sun. Oct. 25	10:00 am	Morning Worship - Sanctuary Nursery (up to age 3) – Room 11 Godly Play (age 3 –Gr. 4)- Stage Breakfast Club (Gr. 5-12) - Kitchen

Office Hours are 9 am–3 pm Mon-Fri.
The Office will be closed on Mon., October 12.
Next *Tower Notes* is the week of October 19

Our prayers are with Barkey Gulezian, and Ed Potter, at home; Martha Emerson at Masconomet Healthcare Center, Rm. 238, 123 High St., Topsfield, 01983; Bob Shorey at Brightview Sr. Living, 50 Endicott St., Danvers 01923; Elva Batchelder in Hospice Care at Sunrise; Bob Hanson and Andrew Warburg at Peabody Glen, 199 Andover St., Peabody 01960; Annabel Aldrich, Helen Butcher, Marguerite Burns, Marge Cole, Marion Edkins, Parker Holloway, and Edie Richard.

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