

# 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](mailto:Office@Centre-Church.org) Web Site: [www.Centre-Church.org](http://www.Centre-Church.org)

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, Interim Director of Faith Formation

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*

November 18, 2015

## God Desires Only Good For Us

Everything must change. Everyone reading this has been through and is going through change. Most days we don't think about it, but it is happening nonetheless.

As we sit at a High School Graduation the graduates celebrate the change saying, "Finally, I graduated!" The parents, also happy, but with a tinge of grief, wonder, "Where did the time go? Our daughter/son was just born, it seems, and already has graduated from high school."

I remember some days of my childhood with such clarity that it is as if I can reach out and touch them, again, and yet, they are long, long gone.

Some of us attend our High School Reunions where the change is all too obvious! We say to each other out of courtesy, "Wow, don't you look good," (for your age). Some of us actually do age well. What is hard, very hard, is when we attend those reunions realizing that some of our classmates are no longer with us.

Change also brings exciting new things. It is exciting to see families growing with the birth and arrival of children! As families grow, they often need to move to larger homes, which means new neighbors and friends. I am grateful when those families choose to make our church a part of their lives. My heart soars when I meet someone who becomes a new friend, a new partner in the journey of life and faith.

It is exciting to see people decide to take up the call of Christ to become leaders in the faith community because it means new ideas, new energy, and changes that enable us to see the possibilities in new ways.

Yes, as change occurs we are often heard to say, "Things will never be the same again." Yes, they

will not be the same. Sometimes that is sad, and yet, sometimes things get better with change. I hated to give up my old car, but my new one is so much better! Thanks be to God!

In the midst of all of the changes we experience, God wants only good for us. Perhaps God wants us to take a new road, a new direction, make a new friend, a new job so that we will discover something new in another person, in another place, and, within ourselves that will bring back the twinkle in our eye, and a bounce in our step. Perhaps God wants to challenge us to grow in our faith and leadership for the sake of others. As we change and grow in our faith and discipleship, it directly impacts and blesses those around us.

As we experience changes, let us pray to God that God will help us through it, and through it we will grow in faith, love for one another, and in our willingness to take risks into new directions for the sake of Jesus Christ and his church.

Yours in Christ, Dennis

### In the Sanctuary

**November 22, 2015**

Morning Worship – 10:00 a.m.

Sermon by the Rev. Dr. Dennis C. Bailey

Nursery, Godly Play & Breakfast Club

**November 29, 2015**

**1<sup>st</sup> Sunday of Advent – Sacrament of Baptism**

Morning Worship – 10:00 a.m.

Sermon by the Rev. Dr. Dennis C. Bailey

Nursery – Room 11

**December 6, 2015**

**2<sup>nd</sup> Sunday of Advent**

Holy Communion – 10:00 a.m.

Nursery and Godly Play

**Turkey Drive:** We will be collecting **frozen turkeys** for Haven from Hunger on Sunday morning, November 22 beginning at 9:30 a.m. We will have youth on hand to help carry your turkey to the Haven from Hunger truck. Please consider donating a turkey to help provide a Thanksgiving Dinner for those who might otherwise go without.

### **Ecumenical Thanksgiving Service**

Join us on Sunday, November 22, 2015, 7 pm at St. Paul's Episcopal Church, 127 Summer Street, Lynnfield, MA as we gather to give thanks to God for our many blessings, for the spirit of cooperation in our community, and to remind ourselves of the importance of working together as churches and citizens.

There will be an Ecumenical Choir Rehearsal at 5:30 pm at St. Paul's. Anyone from the community or other churches who likes to sing may be part of the choir by attending the rehearsal. Please call St. Paul's to let them know how many to expect: 781-334-4594.

Rev. Bailey, Pastor of Centre Congregational Church, will be offering the message. For more information please call Rev. Bailey: 781-334-3050.

### **Church School News**

#### **Nursery**

Our Church Nursery is fully staffed and ready for infants and children up to age 3 during worship time every Sunday. Pagers are available for easy communication with parents.

#### **Godly Play**

Children 3 and up are invited to attend Godly Play, using 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 then leave as a group after Children's Time. There are no classes scheduled on Sunday, November 29. Families are encouraged to attend the Advent Workshop at 5 pm.

#### **Breakfast Club**

Middle and High School youth meet on most Sunday mornings and will be using the Spark re:form curriculum. On the first Sunday of the month, youth will be encouraged to attend worship with their families. There is no Breakfast Club scheduled on Sunday, Nov. 29 but please plan to attend the Advent Workshop with your family.

### **Tower Day School Open House**

**Saturday, November 21**

**10 am – 12 pm**

Tower's Preschool and Kindergarten will be open on Saturday, November 21. Walk through the warm and inviting classrooms to see what we have to offer. Find out about our various class schedules and meet our experienced teachers.

[www.towerdayschool.org](http://www.towerdayschool.org)

Email: [towerdayschool@gmail.com](mailto:towerdayschool@gmail.com)

781-334-5576

### **Interim Director of Faith Formation**

We are happy to announce that Barbara Langill has accepted the 20-hr-a-week position of Interim Director of Faith Development here at Centre Congregational Church. Barbara will be overseeing, coordinating and collaborating with our current Christian Education staff and volunteers to continue implementing our enriching curriculums for our infants through high schoolers. The Education Ministry Team will also be working with Barbara to assure that both the children and youth of our congregation have access to a variety of enriching opportunities and events. Barbara will be working creatively to expand and improve the programming available to our youth age group (grades 5 – 12), increasing the diversity and quality of opportunities for this age group.

Barbara is highly skilled in serving the young population of Centre Church. She will surely provide a nurturing and supportive environment in which their faith development needs can be met. She is a familiar face to the Centre Church youngsters as well as their families, and has been a consistent, trustworthy, positive presence in the church's Christian Education program for the past 12 years. These aspects will prove to be priceless in the coming weeks as the congregation moves through the pastoral transition period. Barbara will play a pivotal role in supporting our children and youth during this time, encouraging and supporting them as they mourn the loss of Rev. Dennis Bailey and then helping them embrace the arrival of our new Pastor.

Please join us in welcoming Barbara back to Centre Church's Christian Education Department. We are certainly blessed as a community to have her playing the role of Interim Director of Faith Formation.

Jill DiGiorgio, Educational Ministries

**Advent Workshop/  
Potluck Dinner – Nov. 29 - 5 pm**

Educational Ministries invites you to start the season of Advent by coming to the Advent Workshop on Sunday, Nov 29 beginning at 5 pm. There will be activities for all ages. Rev. Bailey will be leading wreath making with fresh greens. There will be hands on activities, making ornaments, crafts, and more. We will also be asking for your help to make 100 holiday cards for City Mission Society to distribute.

Dinner will be potluck, please bring a dish or dessert to share. If you would like transportation to the church for this event, please call the church office.

**Night in Bethlehem  
A Hands-On Holy Land Experience**



Join us for Night in Bethlehem on Saturday, December 5 from 3-6 pm. The event consists of a walk through Live Nativity and a marketplace of crafts for kids so they can experience a bit of what life was like on the first Christmas.

Help us share the true meaning of Christmas while bringing the Christmas Story to life. If you would be able to help in some way, please contact Dotty Whittier 978-635-6225 or call the church office.

**Heifer Marketplace**

On Sunday, December 6, we will be holding the Heifer Marketplace after worship. Here you will be able to give a gift of hope in honor of your friends and family by purchasing a share or an animal. Honor cards will be provided. Your gift will be part of making a positive difference in the world.

You will also have the opportunity to purchase handmade ornaments to go along with your gift. There will be tin cow, goat and chicken ornaments as well as wooden sheep, hand painted by the youth at Breakfast Club.

**Our Prayers are With:**

Reilly Bayer and his family upon the death of his mother, Sally Bayer of La Verne, California.

Our members and friends:

Martha Emerson who is at home; Bob Shorey at Brightview Sr. Living, Danvers; Bob Hanson at Peabody Glen, Peabody; Annabel Aldrich, Helen Butcher, Marguerite Burns, Marge Cole, Marion Edkins, Parker Holloway, Edie Richard, Jamie Stone in Kuwait and Johnathan McCarthy deployed with the Marines.

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**Shopping Cards**

It's time to order shopping cards for all your holiday shopping. You can give them as gifts or use them for your own purchases. There are cards available for hundreds of retailers and restaurants; check out the entire list at [www.glscip.com](http://www.glscip.com). Buying shopping cards makes your holiday shopping easier and raises money for Centre Church.

For more information, see John Sievers in the narthex after church on Sunday morning.

**Supplemental Stewardship Campaign**

By now, you should have received a letter regarding our Supplemental Stewardship Campaign. This Supplemental Drive is needed to erase the \$34,158.79 deficit in the budget approved by the congregation at our Annual Meeting in September. Our Operating Budget is tight and carefully managed, and we are holding more fundraisers than ever before. Yet, we continue to experience deficits which, given our modest endowment, we cannot sustain. Please prayerfully consider what you can give to help Centre Church continue to be the vibrant, healthy church we all love.

*With your help, we can meet this challenge!*

Debbie Cotting, on behalf of Stewardship

**FOUND:** A key ring. It was found in the Fireside Room on Monday, Nov. 16. Call the office if it might be yours. 781-334-3050.

## You Are Cordially Invited to Participate in: **City Mission Society's 2015 Christmas Shop**

**City Mission Society's Christmas Shop** once again celebrates its partnership with local churches, businesses and individuals who give gifts of the heart to honor the birth of Jesus Christ and to help families and children in need. The CMS Christmas Shop brings the joys of giving and receiving to many people in the Greater Boston Metropolitan area annually. In 2014 over 3,600 adults and children benefited, thanks to the generosity of hundreds of members of more than 40 local churches, groups and organizations. **In 2015 we expect the need to be even greater.**

**Gift Suggestions:** We accept only **NEW** items. These are listed by priority.

- ❖ **Winter coats, sweaters and sweatshirts (large sizes especially)**
- ❖ **Hats, mittens, gloves and scarves**
- ❖ **Socks and underwear**
- ❖ **Blankets and backpacks**
- ❖ **Toys, games, and books for all ages**
- ❖ **Gift cards from Target, Marshalls, Walgreens, CVS, Kohls, Walmart, Stop and Shop,**
- ❖ **Shaw's and other merchants**

**Why not make shopping for at least one of these items part of your family's Christmas Giving?**

**.CMS Identifies Families in Need:** Throughout the fall, CMS staff identifies children and families in need within CMS programs and partnerships. Together we assess the needs of the Boston community and identify persons in need of holiday assistance.

**Partner Churches Donate Needed Items:** **NEW** clothing, toys and other items including store gift cards come from over 40 churches, groups and organizations. They are purchased or hand-made by individuals and families who believe that Christmas is an important time to share hope, joy and love with others.

**Volunteers Sort and Pack Gifts for Their Neighbors:** More than 10,000 items are delivered to **First Church in Winchester**. They are sorted and repacked for distribution by volunteers from church youth groups, women's fellowships and other groups, including families who want to help.

**You may bring your donations for the Christmas Shop to church on Sundays Nov. 29, Dec. 6 or Dec. 13. A Christmas Tree will be set up in the narthex. Centre Church's donations will be delivered to First Church in Winchester.**



***In Lieu of Christmas Cards.*** Instead of sending out dozens of paper Christmas Cards to your church friends, why not send one card to the church (5 Summer Street) along with a donation that will go the Boston's City Mission Society for their continuing work to help families avoid homelessness, bring meals to the elderly and work with at-risk teens. The cards will be displayed on the Christmas tree in the narthex and your greeting will be passed along through *Tower Notes*.



### **POINSETTIA ORDER**

I would like to order for \$8.75 each: \_\_\_\_ red poinsettia  
Enclosed is my check for \$\_\_\_\_\_ made payable to Centre Congregational Church.  
These flowers have been given by \_\_\_\_\_

in memory of \_\_\_\_\_

in honor of \_\_\_\_\_

PLEASE CHECK ONE OF THE FOLLOWING:

\_\_\_ I will take my plant(s) home after one of the services on Christmas Eve. (5 pm or 11 pm)

\_\_\_ I wish to donate my plant(s) to the hospitalized, bereaved or shut-in.

***Plants will be displayed in the sanctuary on Sunday, December 20.***

***A list of donors will be printed in the bulletin on that day.***

***Thursday, December 11 is the deadline for placing orders.***

## *Our Opportunities*

<b>Sun. Nov. 22</b>  <i>Turkey Drive For Haven from Hunger</i>	10:00 am  7:00 pm	<b>Morning Worship - Sanctuary</b> Nursery (up to age 3) – Room 11 Godly Play (age 3–Gr. 4)- Stage Breakfast Club (Gr. 5-12) - Kit. Ecumenical Thanksgiving Service At St. Paul’s Episcopal Church
Mon, Nov. 23	7:00 pm 7:30 pm	Boy Scout Troop 48 – Todd Hall Alanon/Alateen – Fireside & Libr.
Wed. Nov. 25	7:00 pm	Women’s 12 Step Mtg – Fireside
Thurs. Nov. 26		<i>Happy Thanksgiving</i>
Fri. Nov. 27	9am-12pm 10:30 am	Church Office Open Morning Only Bible Study - Fireside Room
<b>Sun. Nov. 29</b>  <i>1<sup>st</sup> Advent</i>	10:00 am  5:00 pm	<b>Morning Worship - Sanctuary</b> Nursery (up to age 3) – Room 11 Older Children & Youth in Church Advent Workshop/Potluck Dinner
Mon. Nov. 30	7:00 pm 7:30 pm	Boy Scout Troop #48 – Todd Hall Alanon – Fireside Room
Tues. Dec. 1	7:00 pm	Council – Pastor’s Office
Wed. Dec. 2	8:30 am 6:00 pm 7:00 pm	Bread & Roses - Kitchen Trolley Tour - Salem Women’s 12 Step Mtg – Fireside
Thurs Dec. 3	7:30 pm	Choir Rehearsal – Choir Room
Fri. Dec. 4	10:30 am	Bible Study – 2 <sup>nd</sup> Floor Office
Sat. Dec. 5	3-6 pm	Night in Bethlehem
<b>Sun. Dec. 6</b>  <i>2<sup>nd</sup> Advent</i>	10:00 am  11:00 am	<b>Holy Communion – Sanctuary</b> Nursery (up to age 3) - Room 11 Godly Play (age 3-Gr. 4) - Stage Grades 5-12 in Church Heifer Marketplace – Narthex

**Next Tower Notes is the week of November 30.**

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