

TOWER NOTES

Centre Congregational Church (United Church of Christ)

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The Rev. Estelle Margarones, Interim Pastor, RevEstelle@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

June 29, 2016

Dear friends,

I've been asked about the Search process, so I thought I'd outline it here. We've begun to answer the 3 Questions: Who are we? Who is our neighbor? In light of the first two questions, what is God calling us to do and be at this time and place?

What does a Search Committee do? Based on the answers to the 3 Questions, they write a local church profile that describes the church and is the basis of decisions about what type of leader is desired. Conducting a congregational survey may be part of this process. The search committee selects a chairperson, meets with the Associate Conference Minister, sets a cut-off date for receiving ministerial profiles, and keeps the congregation informed about its progress. Each member reads every profile and, together, the committee eliminates as many as possible by unanimous decision. The search team contacts those no longer under consideration and sends the full church profile to the candidates with whom they'd like to speak. Then, they conduct interviews, select the top candidate, recommend the candidate to the congregation, and work with the Conference to set up a neutral pulpit where the candidate will preach. If the congregation votes to call the candidate and the candidate accepts, the committee lets other candidates know that a pastor has been called.

What is required of Search Committee members?

Those best suited to this sacred responsibility have open minds, a commitment to Centre Church, some visionary skills, some organizational skills, the ability to keep confidentiality, and some time. Once the church profile is written, the process typically takes 3-6 months.

What can you expect if you serve on the Search Committee? You will learn about community needs and become closer to the town, church, and other members. Your heart will expand as you are Spirit-led through the process. Candidates will ask questions that will cause you to see things in new light. You will receive training and help through the process from the Conference and Rev. Estelle (who knows the process from both sides). You will feel blessed for having had the experience of helping to select your next settled pastor.

For more information about the Centre Church Search Process, please email Search@Centre-Church.org.

Blessings,

Rev. Estelle

In the Chapel

July 3, 2016

Morning Worship – 10:00 a.m.
Sermon by Rev. Estelle Margarones
No Nursery or Kid's Camp this week.

July 10, 2016

Holy Communion – 10:00 a.m.
Sermon by Rev. Estelle Margarones
Nursery & Kids Camp

July 17, 2016

Morning Worship – 10:00 a.m.
Sermon by Guest Preacher, Steven Aucella
Nursery & Kids Camp

July 24, 2016

Morning Worship – 10:00 a.m.
Sermon by Rev. Estelle Margarones
Nursery & Kids Camp

July 31, 2016

Morning Worship – 10:00 a.m.
Sermon by Rev. Estelle Margarones
Commissioning of Mission Trip Group
Nursery & Kids Camp

Summer Childcare

This summer we will be offering childcare for infants and children 3 and under in Room 11 during our Sunday worship service. Experienced staff and volunteers are on hand to welcome children for story time and play.

Also this summer, we are excited to be offering a Summer Sunday Kids Camp. Each Sunday during worship, children ages 4 and up are invited to join us in the Library for Bible stories, crafts, games and a snack. We hope your family will join in the faith filled fun.

Please note that on Sunday, July 3
there will not be nursery or Kid's Camp.

Summer Office Hours are 9-12 Monday-Friday.
The next *Tower Notes* will be published during
the last week of July.

C.C.Cyclers doing Reid's Ride on July 17

The 12th annual Reid's Ride Bikeathon will take place on Sunday, July 17th. We are once again gathering church members and friends to raise funds for this powerful organization which "Fights the Cancers Striking Adolescents and Young Adults", and honors Lynnfield resident Reid R. Sacco who died of sarcoma at the young age of 20. To join our team of cyclers, go to <http://www.firstgiving.com/team/326366> and click "Join Team". You'll be prompted to register and make your own fund-raising page under our CCCyclers team page.

Donations to our team can be made by following the same link, and clicking through to a particular team member's page to place your donation. Each rider pays \$75 to register, and makes a commitment to raise at least \$150. If you can help any of us, we'll appreciate it! More importantly, it will help young people diagnosed with cancer.

More information about the foundation can be found at:

<http://www.cancerinyoungadults.org>.

Please contact Judie Potter or Linda Ladd about joining us on this year's Reid's Ride!

Concerts on the Common

Centre Church will be on site for Concerts on the Common each Wednesday in July. We'll have church information and some type of giveaway items. This is a wonderful opportunity to be where the people are, to put a 'face' on Centre Church, and to share information about our fantastic faith community!

Volunteers are needed to help staff our table from approximately 5-7 PM on the following Wednesdays: July 6, July 13, July 20 and July 27. We need just two volunteers per week. Rev. Estelle will also be there.

If you can help out on one of these Wednesdays, please let Susan in the office know: Office@Centre-Church.org or 781-334-3050.

Care Team

Centre Church's Care Team is being established to assist Rev. Estelle with pastoral care, particularly in visitation. The hope is that as the Care Team grows, so too, will the range of possibilities including calls, cards, setting up meals during times of illness or crisis, etc.

A simple commitment of one hour per month is all that is necessary. Do you drive? *You could visit someone.* Social media savvy? Perhaps *you can set up Meal Trains.* Homebound? *You can make calls and send cards to others?* Have room in your car? *You could bring someone to church.* Your presence will make a difference and you will find that you get back significantly more than you give.

The next Care Team meeting is

Thursday, July 7 at 3:15 pm

in the Pastor's outer office.

Come and see what the possibilities are!

Ministry Moments

During the worship services over the next few months, various groups and committees at Centre Church will be sharing what they do. Below is a summary of what we've heard so far.

Ministry Moments – Diaconate

The Diaconate is responsible for the overall spiritual life of the church. In consultation with the Senior Pastor, the Diaconate is responsible for: Public Worship, the Music Program, Sacrament of Communion, Ushers, Flowers, Weddings, Funerals and collations. There are subcommittees that assist in performing some of these duties.

We have Ushering Teams of parishioners who help Deacons usher on Sundays. If you would be interested in ushering we would love to have you join our Ushering Team.

There are 9 Deacons and 1 Chairperson. We wear red nametags and are available to assist you or answer any questions or concerns you may have concerning the spiritual life of the church or the worship service.

If you would be interested in being part of this important ministry, please contact Margaret Waugh, Chair of Diaconate.

Ministry Moments – Education Ministries

The main responsibilities of Education Ministries include but are not limited to the design and implementation of the weekly educational program for children; oversight of the nursery; oversight of the youth groups; confirmation class (in conjunction with the senior pastor); adult education; and the church library.

As a team, we are committed to ensuring that children and youth are provided with a warm, safe and inclusive environment where they will feel loved and respected. This is the first full year that our children in Pre-K through 4th grade have been participating in weekly sessions of Godly Play, a Montessori-based program.

We have added new programming for youth 5th through 12th grade by providing a "Breakfast Club" which met on Sunday mornings and the Giv2 Program which teams our youth with youth from other churches to participate in service activities.

We have begun brainstorming about new ideas for adult faith formation as well as Intergenerational opportunities. The church currently offers an adult Bible study every Friday morning. In addition, Rev. Estelle has begun holding mini sessions with hands-on learning activities.

- Jill DiGiorgio, Chair

Ministry Moments – Shopping Cards

Almost anything you can think of that you need or want to buy can be bought with a Shopping Card. The gift card/ shopping card program is a great opportunity to shop or eat like you would normally do, but simultaneously help out the church. We have a relationship with GLScripts to receive cards at a discount and have a percentage of the expense go toward the church. If you want to see the complete list of retailers, you can go to shopwithscript.com and click on "Retailer List" at the bottom of the page.

Since it is the start of summer, the shopping card program is winding down for the year, but if there is interest, we can do a special order for a big purchase. In general we like to limit orders over the summer because we have to pay an \$8.50 shipping charge for any size order, therefore it needs to be a big order for it to be worth the expense. Also we are considering keeping a few of the most popular cards in the church office for the summer. Only cash or check is accepted, so bring your money or your checkbook if you would like to make a purchase!

- John Sievers, Coordinator



SCHOOL SERVICE DAYS with City Mission Society in Boston

City Mission has partnered with inner city Boston Public Schools in an effort to improve educational opportunities for elementary aged children. Education is one of the best ways to prevent homelessness and to lift people out of poverty. Join us this summer on Thursday, August 18 from 10:00am - 2pm when we will volunteer at the Mather Elementary School in Dorchester. This is the oldest tax supported school in the United States. We will spend our volunteer time learning about the school and helping to prepare the school for the next school year. There will be tasks for people of all abilities. Lunch will be provided. There is a \$25.00 per person participation fee which will be covered by Outreach Ministry here at Centre Church.

We have reserved spots for 6-8 volunteers (all ages welcomed) and will plan to meet at the church and carpool into Boston together. Please contact Barbara Langill in the church office to sign up!

Reminder: Youth Mission Trip to Project HOME in Orland, ME – July 31 – August 6

It's not too late to help support the upcoming Mission Trip to Maine by buying a share. Each share costs \$20.00 and helps greatly in lowering the cost of the trip for the participants and the church budget.

It's easy to help out in this way by contacting Barbara Langill and telling her you want to "take stock in the 2016 Youth Mission Trip!"



Sun. July 3	10:00 am	Morning Worship – Chapel No Nursery or Kids Camp this Week
Thurs. July 7	7:00 am 3:15 pm	Golfing with God – Reedy Meadow Care Team – Pastor's Office
Fri. July 8	10:30 am	Bible Study – 2 nd Floor Office
Sun. July 10	10:00 am	Holy Communion - Chapel Nursery - Room 11, Summer Sunday Kids Camp-Library
Thurs. July 14	7:00 am	Golfing with God – Reedy Meadow
Fri. July 15	10:30 am	Bible Study – 2 nd Floor Office
Sun. July 17	10:00 am	Morning Worship – Chapel Nursery – Room 11, Summer Sunday Kids Camp-Library
Thurs. July 21	7:00 am	Golfing with God – Reedy Meadow
Fri. July 22	10:30 am	Bible Study – 2nd Floor Office
Sun. July 24	10:00 am	Morning Worship - Chapel Nursery - Room 11, Summer Sunday Kids Camp-Library
Thurs. July 28	7:00 am	Golfing with God – Reedy Meadow
Fri. July 29	10:30 am	Bible Study – 2nd Floor Office
Sun. July 31	10:00 am	Morning Worship – Chapel Nursery – Room 11, Summer Sunday Kids Camp-Library

Please be in touch with the church office if you would like more information about any of these activities. (781-334-3050 or office@centre-church.org)

We hold in prayer the following members and friends: Harriet Holt, Bruce Gist, Barkey Gulezian, Bob Hanson, Edie Richard, and Bob Shorey,

Ginny Daniels has a new address: Bertram House of Swampscott, 565 Humphrey St., Rm. 222, Swampscott 01907.