



The Tidings

A Publication of Tabernacle
Congregational Church, UCC
November 2007



Pass the Passion!

During the month of November at Tabernacle we have an opportunity to build new friendships, learn something new about our church, and have a real-good conversation with God.

Stewardship Is The Way....Hopefully, you and your small group have a date for fellowship and discernment. Hopefully, you are praying a lot and asking God "What percentage of my income would You like me to share with my faith community?" Hopefully, you are re-discovering your passion for Mission and Christian Education and looking for ways to pass your passion.

Come to worship on November 18th to Pass the Passion and feel God's presence among us!

Then again, on November 25th, come to Tabernacle to say thank you. Thank you God for my home, family, church, neighbors, education, job, animals, friends, partners, spouse....Thank you God for the abundance of life that is at the heart of all that I am and all that I do. Thank you God, for this day, this minute, this second, this breath....

In the Spirit of gratitude,
Rev. Laura

November Worship Themes

Nov. 4, 2007 **All Saints Day/Communion**

Scripture: Daniel 7:1-3, 15-18
Luke 6:20-31

Sermon: *Visions of Reconciliation*

Nov. 11, 2007 **Veterans Day**

Scripture : 2 Thessalonians 1:1-4, 11-12
Luke 19:1-10

Sermon: *Abundant Faith*

Nov. 18, 2007

Thanksgiving/Stewardship Sunday

Scripture: Isaiah 12

Sermon: *Stewardship Teams*

Nov. 25, 2007 **Thanksgiving Again**

Scripture: Psalm 100

John 6:25-35

Sermon: *Filled to the Brim*



Thanksgiving

Special Pull Out Page for Advent and Christmas Happenings!

Historical Drama Presentation *"3 Innocents and a Spirit"*

November 2, 2007 at 7:00pm
Tabernacle Church
Emerson Hall

New Tabernacle members Bill Peebles and Holly Fulton recently traveled with a group to Haiti. While they were there they met a Haitian man, Harry Nicolas, who is part of a performing trio. He and another Haitian man and an American woman will give a performance of *"3 Innocents and a Spirit"* in Emerson Hall on **Friday, November 2, 2007 at 7 pm.**

"3 Innocents and a Spirit" is a drama about the history of slavery involving the Native American, European and African peoples and the present need for global healing. Most of the colonial depiction in the show is taken from a Haitian historical perspective rather than a broader U.S. based perspective, but embraces the same spirit of revolt against domination felt everywhere. These three performers toured with their drama around the U.S. last year and, due to its success, they have returned to perform again. Last year they performed in 13 different states 24 times. They also spoke in university classrooms and on various radio programs such as NPR Chicago as well as Radio Haiti Philadelphia. The performance will be followed by discussion, creating an open forum for responses, ideas, and solutions that can help towards the healing of our societies.

Refreshments will be served after the performance. A freewill basket will be passed for fundraising for the group's foundation *"N a Sonje"* (in Creole: "We will remember") which is dedicated to initiating and assisting in healing processes. With this performance and the efforts and visions of their foundation, this trio has a desire: "that through mime, music and limited resources a moment of deep reflection about our collective histories can be used to dream of a future of peace."

***Sponsored by the Missions Committee
and the Christian Education Committee***

Saturday Family Worship Service Change of Plans

With everyone's busy schedules we have decided not to hold the Family Worship Services. Please plan to join us for ***A Children's Christmas Eve Family Worship Service*** on December 24 at 4:00pm...

Heart & Soul Ministry Update!

The Heart & Soul Ministry is taking form. After a great discussion at the first pot luck dinner, we decided the official kick-off will be an April 26-27 retreat up in Deering, New Hampshire. All adults are invited to this wonderful spiritual retreat to launch the Heart & Soul Ministry. The cost of the overnight stay is still to be determined depending on the number of individuals participating. (We are anticipating approx. \$80-100/pp).

In light of this exciting retreat, the Heart & Soul Ministry will not meet until the spring. The foundation of the ministry remains the same, to "Love God with all your heart, soul, strength, and mind; and love your neighbor as yourself." (Luke 10:27) The main focus of Heart & Soul continues to be adult fellowship!

Come join us for a wonderful weekend of fellowship and worship! Mark the date April 26-27 on your calendars and if you have any questions feel free to contact: Tracy Morin & Tina Walker @ 978-594-1144 or Joshua & David Cabral @ 781-595-0698.

Advent Offerings

Early Morning Bible Reflections

Join Rev. Biddle on Monday mornings, November 26, December 3, 10 and 17 at 7:30am. Start your week in conversation with God and one another.

Thursday Evening Bible Study

If you haven't studied scripture with friends at Tabernacle this is a great opportunity to quench your spirit during the hectic holiday season. We meet on Thursdays evenings during Advent beginning November 30 and will continue on December 6, 13 and 20 at 6:30pm in the Ministers Study.

Annual Festive Christmas Concert at Tabernacle Church!

Thursday, December 13, 2006 at 7:30 pm

St. John's Preparatory School 13th Annual Festive Christmas Concert
Featuring the 75-voice Men's Chorus, Travel Choir, and Chamber Ensemble
Traditional Joyous Music of the Season will perform in the Sanctuary on
Thursday, December 13, 2006 7:30 pm All welcome - Free!



Paul Madore presents *A Concert For Christmas* At Tabernacle Church on **Friday, December 14, 2007 at 8:00pm**

Gabrieli, Charpentier, Pinkham ~ Carols & Carols ~ PDQ Bach with double brass antiphonal choirs. Tickets will be available at Ted Coles's and Sophia's in Salem and Arnould Gallery in Marblehead with special pricing for Tabernacle Church through the church office.

Christmas Sunday Service - December 23 ~ 10:00am

Come join us as we continue preparing for Christ's birth. The sanctuary will be filled with beautiful red and white poinsettias, which are given in memory of or in honor of our loved ones, and there will be special music!

Blue Christmas Service December 23 ~ 7:00pm

Holiday Cheer can be difficult if you've experienced loss. This Worship Service will be an opportunity to light candles, sing songs and remember the ones you love. Expressions of sadness and grief can find a home at this Blue Christmas Worship Service.



Blue Christmas
Service



Christmas Eve Worship Service ~ December 24 ~ 7:00pm

We love Christmas Eve at Tabernacle! Our beautiful sanctuary will be decorated with poinsettias, luminaries, candles and wreaths. But mostly we love to sing Christmas Carols with people, friends! Please join us on this festive evening to sing, to pray, to hear the Christmas Story and to welcome God into the world!



**Preparing for Christmas
with your family
Join us for these Sunday offerings**



Advent Workshop~ December 2, 2007, 1:30 to 4 PM

An Intergenerational Event sponsored by your Christian Education Committee. Crafts for Children: Tree ornaments, Narcissus bulbs
Crafts for Adults: Kissing Ball & Advent Wreath
Please speak with Mary Reardon or Maire MacLean if you have a craft to share. Everyone is invited to come!

**Living Nativity ~ December 9, 2007, 4 PM
(for an hour)**

Invite your friends and family to experience the Birth of Jesus with live people and animals in the yard of Tabernacle Church. The JYF will be selling hot cocoa and cookies to benefit their mission trip to Overlook Farm, the Heifer International learning center in Rutland, MA



Children's Christmas Pageant December 16 ~ 10:00am

Our ever so popular Children's Christmas Pageant will be held on during the worship service in our sanctuary. Don't miss this spectacular presentation put on by all the children of the church!

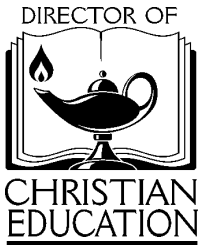
A Children's Christmas Eve ~ December 24 ~ 4:00pm

This Christmas Eve Service is designed especially for young children and their families. It will feature Christmas Carols, Puppets, Story Telling and Candlelighting. Please join us and tell your friends.



***"Tabernacle Welcomes all the little Children every day!"
Handicapped accessible***

For more information ~ www.tabernaclechurch.org



From The Christian Education Director

The Tidings ~ November 2007 page 5

Greetings and Salutations!

We are entering the season of holiday celebrations, a time to spend with family and friends. What a great time to share your stories of faith and family with the younger generations. One might use the holiday gatherings around the dining room table for "caring conversations". For example, decorate your Thanksgiving table with cut out autumn leaves that list a word or phrase to trigger a memory or a story about the biggest gift ever received or a first Thanksgiving day memory, or to recall a favorite story about one not at the table this year. Take turns around the table until all, including the youngest, has had a chance to speak. By doing this each and every year it becomes a "ritual or tradition" that carries on to subsequent generations.

In a recent article from the Boston Globe Rich Barlow in Spiritual Life discusses scientific studies showing that a religious upbringing aids children. (Spiritual Life by Rich Barlow, Boston Globe, Saturday, Oct. 13, 2007) The article quotes Matt Dunne former director of Americorps, the poverty-fighting federal agency, "There are a number of instances where I heard from individuals (who'd grown up disadvantaged) who had gone on to be successful, where the pastor of their church or elders of their church became, at times, a surrogate family" during their childhood. Caring conversations with faith bearing adults make a difference. Add to this a time for devotions in the home, such as saying "grace" before a meal and taking your family together to the Salem Mission to serve a meal or some other service activity and you have impacted your children lives in an extremely positive manner. You are shaping a new generation of stewards of the world.

Another terrific way for adults to begin "caring conversations" with their children is to focus on the lessons being taught in their Sunday school classes. To help with this we will try to print the schedule of lessons for each grade in the monthly Tidings.

Parents will also receive copies of the Parents' Page by Godly Play resources. This page tells the story for the parent, has great conversation starters, and wondering questions.

November 4: **Zacchaeus** (for all grades) find in the book of Luke 19:1-10

November 11: Pre-K & K/1 will hear and respond to the **Mustard Seed Parable** (4/5 will compare the Mustard Seed parables from the Gospels of Mark, Matthew and Luke).

Grades 2/3 will hear and respond to the **Church Clock and Calendar**.

November 18: Pre-K & K/1 will hear and respond to **The Great Family:**

Abraham and Sarah

Grades 2/3 will hear and respond to **The Temple** of Solomon story.

November 25: **Children's Chapel**

The Godly Play schedule for grades Pre-K and the K/1 class is often separate from the 2/3 class. And sometimes the 4/5 Bible class will follow the Godly Play schedule.

In grades 6/7, the kids are enjoying learning about **Neighboring Faiths** with Joe Bennett and Kim Ayers. There is much discussion and the children are teaching the adults as much as the adults are teaching them. This curriculum connects the studies of the grades 6/7 social studies classes with religions of the world, especially the ancient world of the Middle East and Egypt, and everything in between.

Our first Children's Chapel was held on Sunday Oct 25. (As of this writing that is over a week away.) The worship includes songs, readings, stories, prayers and an explanation of and collection for **Heifer International**, a world hunger and poverty program. All children, even visitors are welcome to Children's Chapel.

The 8th and 9th graders have had a very full month in October with their confirmation retreat and meeting with Anne Bogan and Karen Murray for Sunday school. They will be sharing their talents and time with the younger grades during Children's Chapel.

Shalom, Betsey



Junior Choir

The Junior Choir is still looking for members. They meet each Sunday at 11:30 AM in Emerson Hall. In October they were joined by several members of the adult choir. What a lovely

combination of voices so clear and beautiful. They will be singing the Introit again on Sunday, November 18.

Children's Christmas Pageant Rehearsal Dates



Pageant Rehearsals will begin on Sunday December 2, and be held each Sunday during Sunday school for grades 2 – 7. The pageant will be performed on Sunday, December 16, during worship. Be sure to invite your family and friends who do not regularly attend worships services.



Teachers' Meetings:

November 4, 11:30 AM for grades 6 – 9 teachers. We will meet the first Sunday of each month.

November 11, 9 AM for grades Pre-K – 5 teachers. We will meet the second Sunday of each month.

Junior Youth Fellowship



Our schedule for November is : Wednesdays, November 14 and 28, at 6 PM. We hope to see all 6th and 7th graders here. Friends are welcome!

Pilgrim Youth Fellowship

Our schedule for November is: Tuesdays, November 13 and 27, at 4 PM. We hope to see all 4th and 5th graders here.



Tom The Thankful Turkey

Have you ever looked at the bulletin board that is located in the hallway between the minister's office and the administrator's office? Well, this fall it has pictured our theme for the year,

"God raised up a horn for the people; Praise God!" We also have great purple bracelets with the theme imprinted on them. Everyone should have one to wear! Show your friends your faith! There is a basket filled with them located in the sanctuary.

Now that Thanksgiving is around the corner the bulletin board will picture a huge tom turkey; but he will need his tail feathers. Everyone is invited to find a construction paper tail feather in the Bigelow Room, write something you are thankful for and we will hang it with the children's "thankful" feathers. Let's make our turkey the proudest in the land!



Mission Committee News

The Neighbors in Need collection totaled \$586.00. Thank you to the Congregation!

Our Christmas giving tree will be up in the Bigelow room the week after Thanksgiving. This year we decided to invite people to make contributions to one of four local charities which we, as a Congregation, already support. We are in the process of contacting each organization to find out what specific needs they have at this particular time. For example, last year we collected money for the Salem Mission so they could buy a new washing machine. The four organizations are HAWC, the Inn Between, the Salem Mission and Habitat for Humanity.

Anyone wishing to contribute will be able to take an ornament off the tree and leave a contribution in the designated envelope. The ornament will be yours to bring home and put on your own tree as a reminder of Christmas giving.

Watch for more details in the Bigelow room after Thanksgiving. We will provide specific information on what the money will be used for by each organization. Any amount is appreciated.

Please contact any one of the Mission committee members if you have questions.

Your Missions Committee thanks you for supporting our mission projects.

Martha Bagby
Joe Bennett
Kristine Doll

Rachel Lutts
Marcia Olsson



Prayer Shawl Ministry

If you have started a prayer shawl now is the time to finish it. Summer was certainly not the time to have a shawl draping over your lap and making you hotter than you needed to be but the warmth will feel much nicer now. Several people requested and were given yarn and have not knit their shawl as yet; we will

soon have a need for more shawls. If you have the yarn and don't think you can make this commitment right now please contact Jane Dionne at 978.745.1324 and we'll find someone to finish your project. If you would like to knit one of the smaller shawls that we give to babies and children who are baptized there is also a need for these. Again, contact Jane Dionne for yarn and directions. This is one of the church's most important missions. Please help us continue our mission.

Please Join Us....
For a Stella Blu Jewelry Party
 & create your own bracelet,
 necklace or earrings
In the Bigelow Room
Sunday, November 18,
At 1:00pm
 The cost is \$10.00 per person
 (this will be donated to the
 Salem Mission)
 Plus the cost of materials
 (wholesale prices)
 Please sign up in the
 Bigelow Room.



Did You Know???

We continue with the "Bells of Tabernacle".....

..... Enclosed were some papers, which seem to relate to the purchase of the second bell.

Boston May 8th 1838

*The Proprietors of the Tabernacle
Bought of J Baker*

<i>One bell 1793# including tongue</i>		
<i>At 26 ct</i>		<i>\$466.18</i>
<i>Cr by 1261# at 18 ct</i>	<i>\$258.98</i>	
	<u><i>16.00</i></u>	
	<i>\$242.98</i>	

\$242.98
\$223.20

The above bell is warranted one year from date with fair usage and in case should break I do agree to recast the same at my own expense by having notice given in said year and the bell returned to me in Boston.

May 17

*Received of Mr. Oliver Parsons
Of the above bill two hundred sixteen
Dollars*

	<u><i>\$216.00.</i></u>
<i>Rec'd pay & in full</i>	<i>7.20</i>

John Baker Jr.

This one was written to a Mr. J.F. Worcester, Clerk of the Prop. Tabernacle.

*The Proprietors of the Tabernacle,
Since your last meeting, a subscription has been opened with a sum sufficient, within about Ten Dollars, has been subscribed to pay for the bell 1793, now in the Belfrey of the Tabernacle, and the expense of hanging the same. All which is respectfully presented to the proprietors of the Tabernacle for as soon as the subscriptions then proposed are all collected, a list of the names of the subscribers, with the sum subscribed annexed together with cost of the Bell & expenses,*

The Tidings ~ November 2007 page 8
shall be submitted to the committee, that the same may be recorded in the Proprietors Books.

*Your Obedient Servant,
John Punchard*

Salem, May 21, 1838.

From an article in the Salem News in 1938 this is the headline:

Tabernacle Bell Today Not the One Installed in 1838

Present One Was Cast 1878 As Inscribed On Its Surface: No Celebration: Bells Here As Early as 1657

The Tabernacle Church will not observe "a bell centennial" next Monday, May 9, for the reason that the bell which was hung in the church belfry May 9, 1838 is missing, while the bell in the present belfry was cast in 1878 (3), according to the inscription.

Salem records, as presented in the introduction to some Salem directories, set forth that "A new bell was placed in the Tabernacle church May 8, 1838. So the centennial of this bell comes May 9 next.

If this bell of 1838 were in the present belfry it might ring out its centennial on May 9 next. Possibly it could be rung 100 times, or once for each year of its calling Salem folks to church. But the bell in the present belfry is a younger bell and so there's no opportunity for the church to celebrate a bell centennial.

The Tabernacle bell of 1838 was of a weight of 1793 pounds. It replaced the bell of 1806 which was "sold as injured." The 1838 bell was 500 pounds heavier than the 1806 bell according to Felt's Annals....

In attempting to find out what happened to the 1838 bell, this article from the Salem News gave us the answer.

.....Stay Tuned next month to find out what happened to the Bell!...



What Does the Church Personnel Committee Do?

Our Church's Personnel Committee is kept very busy over the course of the year. The members of our Committee are presented

PERSONNEL COMMITTEE

by the Nominating Committee and voted on at the Annual Meeting by the congregation.

This year we have overseen the revision of staff job descriptions—insuring that the written descriptions match the primary job responsibilities for the non-ordained staff, including Music Director, Organist, Christian Education Director, Church Administrator and Sextons. Related to job descriptions, we have also revised the forms used for staff evaluations to make them more specific to job responsibilities and include specific input from the appropriate committee and staff's supervisor. Each church staff is assigned a member of the Personnel Committee who serves as a liaison for personnel evaluations and committee communication. Bob Anthony serves as personnel liaison to the Christian Education Director; June DeRoin serves as personnel liaison to the Church Administrator; Audrey DeLoffi serves as liaison to Music Director, Organist and Sextons. Amy Everitt and Dolores Zielinski serve as liaisons to the Pastor, ensuring that the annual evaluation/affirmation process is conducted. At the conclusion of the annual reviews, the Personnel Committee makes salary recommendations for non-ordained staff to the Faith Financial Committee for inclusion in the church budget.

Two key administrative functions are also completed by Audrey DeLoffi, a member of the Personnel Committee. As part of the Massachusetts law, volunteers working with children must complete a request form allowing Audrey to perform a Criminal Records Information Check (CORI) every 3 years.

This process is confidential and is prescribed by our employee manual. Twice a month, Audrey also collects time sheets from staff and informs the payroll company so staff receives their paychecks!

Finally, our Personnel Committee has reviewed the tri-fold that summarizes our Church's Safe Church Policy. This is an important document found in the Bigelow Room that describes what our church does to ensure that all children, volunteers and staff are safe and feel safe. We have made some revisions and a new brochure will be available soon.

As we approach 2008 the Personnel Committee **needs your help!** New members, with some experience in personnel matters are wanted! Please see Amy Everitt, Nominating Committee if you are interested in serving on this vital committee.

Thanks to Our Salem Mission Volunteers

Thanks for the October Mission meal go to:

- 1) Members of the Confirmation Class
 - A) Holbrook Phelan
 - B) Stephanie Spiecher
 - C) Brianna Bennett
 - D) Kyle Reardon
 - E) Randy Gerrish
 - F) Brad Skeffington
- 2) Confirmation Class Instructors
 - A) Joshua Cabral
 - B) Natalie Blue
- 3) Parents of Confirmands
 - A) Mary Reardon
 - B) Tania Skeffington
 - C) Michael Kuras
 - D) Mary Jo Bennett



November Memorial Flowers

November 11:
In loving memory of Mr. and Mrs. Alvah H. Bigelow by their family

November 19: **Happy Birthday to Dick Lutts on his 84rd Birthday. You are loved!**

November 25: **To honor Betty and Dick Lutts for 60 years of Wedded Bliss!** From Betsey Bennett and family.

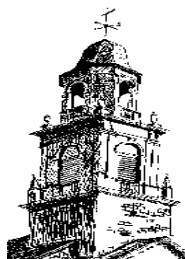


November Birthdays

The following members and friends are celebrating birthdays this month:
November:

- 2 Betsey Bennett
- 5 Scott-Glenn Tanch
- 5 Ninette Dilorio
- 6 Susan A. Dionne
- 7 Teagan Santo
- 8 Sarah Davin
- 9 Ed Curtin
- 10 Brad Skeffington
- 15 Kathy Dougherty
- 15 Philippa Haven
- 15 Judy Burge
- 16 Robert Lutts
- 17 Rosamond Dennis
- 17 Colin Dionne
- 19 Richard Lutts
- 20 Barbara Doron
- 21 Marcia Olsson
- 22 Brad Ayers
- 23 Jane Dionne
- 24 Rev. Laura Biddle
- 24 Steve Schaufler
- 24 Lisa Lutts
- 25 John Rouse
- 26 Clayton McAlpine
- 28 Ann Scott
- 29 Tyler Skeffington
- 30 Joe Piemonte

Church Steeple Lighting



The Church Steeple is lighted for the month of **November in loving memory of Mr. & Mrs. William B. Munroe, Mr. & Mrs. Arthur W. Dorman and Kenneth Dorman** by Marian Dorman, Judith Moulton and Priscilla Kirby.

Tabernacle Women's Association - TWA

TWA will be meeting on November 20 at 10:30 in the Bigelow Room. We will be planning our Christmas party. The November hostess will be Jane Harrison.

With Thanks



Many Thanks

The Staff of Tabernacle would like to thank **Jane Taubeneck** for taking our beautiful Staff Pictures for our Web Site. Jane is a professional photographer and was very patient with all us.

Thank you sooooo much Jane!
Make sure you take a moment to check out our Web Page at www.tabernaclechurch.org

GEMS

The next meeting of GEMS (*Gourmet Eating Men's Society*) will be held on Wednesday, **November 14 at 12:00noon** at the Lyceum.



Tabernacle Church Directory Update.....

The Fall 2007 Tabernacle Telephone Directory is now available in the Bigelow Room. Please plan to pick up a copy. Please note a change: Bob & Beverly Strauss
617-548-3462