



The Tidings

A Publication of Tabernacle
Congregational Church, UCC
January 2008



*This is the day that God has made
Rejoice and be glad....*

When the holidays are over and the Christmas tree is ready to go outside, we seem to breathe differently. Our rhythm is calmer and our movements are steadier.

Maybe, it's because we ate too much luscious food during the last month and all the chocolate candy from our stockings has enriched our waistlines. Or maybe, it's because we are exhausted. Or maybe it's because it feels great to be able to begin again.

January is a perfect opportunity to reclaim our balance. To look at ourselves with eyes of compassion and say "Hello to Me." **I invite you to be gentle with yourselves this month.** Come home to the birth of Christ in you. Come home to the joy of being alive in your own skin. Come home to loving yourself again.

During these first days of 2008, I hope you will worship God with us at Tabernacle Church. This is the season of Epiphany; when people travel to meet Jesus again for the first time. Epiphany is a time to reclaim Christ in your life; and to begin another new journey to God.

Epiphany at Tabernacle will be exciting! On January 13, we will join the Clark family for the baptism of their children. On January 20th, we will celebrate Martin Luther King's life and ministry with music and poetry. And on January 27, we will thank the people who have given so much of their time, talents and treasures to Tabernacle this past year.

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Worship Schedule January 2008

January 6, 08 Communion
Sermon: *Upon Entering, They Knelt Down*
Scripture Lessons:
Isaiah 60:1-6
Matthew 2:1-12

January 13, 08 Baptism
Sermon: *The Symbol of a Dove*
Scripture Lessons:
Isaiah 42:1-9
Matthew 3:13-17

January 20, 08
Sermon: *An Extraordinary Epiphany*
Scripture Lessons:
Isaiah 49:1-3
John 1:29-42

January 27, 08 Annual Meeting Day
Presentation to Bill Abernethy
Sermon: *A Great Light on the Horizon*
Scripture Lessons:
Isaiah 9:1-4
Matthew 4: 12-23

Annual Meeting Sunday, January 27, 2008 11:30am

Our Annual Meeting will be held on **Sunday, January 27**. The agenda will include reports from committees, election of officers and committee members and adoption of the budget for 2008. All church members are encouraged to attend this important meeting!



And then, the big event!!! Our **Annual Meeting and Luncheon will follow worship on January 27**. If you are a long-term member of Tabernacle, come and see how vibrant we still are. If you are new to the church, come and share this annual meal and learn about the people who help lead us all year long. Your input is the most important part of this annual meeting. I hope this year's meeting is the largest turnout ever!

With love to all of you as you begin this new year,

Rev. Laura



The Missions Committee invites everyone to: the Second Annual Friendship Potluck

**Dinner and Silent Auction
Friday, March 7th 6:00 p.m.
Tabernacle Church Dining Room**

Mark you calendars now for a wonderful evening of social activity, music and fundraising for the mission work at our church. Invite a friend!

Please start thinking about something you would like to donate to the auction. Here are some suggestions:

- that great Christmas gift that wasn't quite right for you or your home
- pet care services
- homemade anything – a craft, sweater, jam/ jelly, a painting – let your talents guide you!
- hosting a dinner at your own home or offering to provide one (be specific on location, numbers, and possible dates)
- tickets to local theaters or sporting events
- a basket of theme related items

Donation forms will be in the February Tidings and church bulletins. Contact Pam Burch at 781-631-1428 or pamburch@comcast.net with any questions or to volunteer to help set up on March 7th.



Electronic Funds Transfer

Electronic Fund Giving

The Stewardship Committee has investigated the opportunity for our congregation to participate in Electronic Funds Transfer (EFT)! This is a secure electronic transfer of an authorized donation from your checking or savings account into Tabernacle's bank account. So instead of giving to the church through weekly or monthly envelopes, you could have your donation be transferred each week or month through an automated system. The advantages of this program are tremendous. The church would have greater financial stability because giving amounts would be consistent throughout the year. For donors, giving would become convenient and you would be able to contribute even when you are away. Donors would also be assured that their pledge was being met. Fulfillment rates for pledges made by EFTs average 98%- 50% higher than with mail- based monthly donor programs. Some of you probably have bills paid through a electronic funds transfer already. This is the same type of program! The company that we would be working with is called Vanco Services. This company is supported by the UCC of Massachusetts. Interested donors would simply have to sign an authorization form and our financial secretary would make the one time entry to Vanco's Online Service Center. The rest is completely automated.

The Stewardship Committee is interested in finding out how many people would enjoy contributing to Tabernacle through an EFT. Please email Shelly Sweeney at msweeney@salemstate.edu or call 978-594-0940. We would like to begin this program as soon as possible! If you would like to learn more about the program, it is explained in length on the UCC Massachusetts website. Thank you!



From The Christian Education Director

FROM THE YOUTH DIRECTOR Epiphany! See the light!

The star leads us to the stable where we find the baby Jesus. We are called to share our gifts with him. What gifts do you have to share? Would you like to learn more about the Bible? Do you like to work with children or with youth? We are still looking for committed adults to work in our programs for children and youth. Email or speak with Betsey about what opportunities are available.

This month of January the children will focus on giving. They will be creating stars in their classrooms on Epiphany, January 6, 2008. These stars will be hung up throughout the church building as reminders that God calls each of us to share our gifts of talent, time, and treasure with others.

The Confirmation class will share their gift of worship with the younger children at the Children's Chapel on January 27 in Emerson Hall. During the service they will be teaching songs and acting out the story of Jesus Feeding the 5000. What a gift to all of us. The children are still collecting funds for Heifer International. During Lent they will choose the animal(s) they would like to share with others.

The 6 and 7 grades are still studying Neighboring Faiths. They have learned about the Wiccan religion. Now they will turn their studies to Jewish faith and the Muslim faith, both descended from Abraham, whose story can be found in the Genesis, chapters 12 – 25.

Grades 4 and 5 continue with their study of the Bible. Tina Scott has the children learning Bible memory verses. They are having fun with the verses and the games that she invents for them as learning tools.

The Godly Play classes will be hearing and wondering about Epiphany, the visit of the three Magi, and stars.

They will then hear the stories about Jesus as a boy in the temple, and Jesus being baptized by John the Baptist. I wonder what Jesus felt when he entered the temple as a boy of twelve. I wonder what it feels like to be baptized by being immersed in a river.

This month of January we will also learn about Martin Luther King Jr. and his commitment to non-violence as a means of impacting the world for change. What a gift MLK was to our world at a time when there was much conflict and hate being exhibited. I wonder if the 21st century will bring someone who can bring the people together as MLK did in the 1960's.

Keep wondering and believing

Shalom, *Betsey*

betseyben@aol.com or 978-744-3164 office

Family Swim and Fun!

The CE committee is sponsoring an afternoon of family fun at the Coco-Key indoor water park at Sheraton Ferncroft in Danvers on **Sunday, January 27,**

2008. We have 20 tickets for sale at \$17.00 each. There are 4 water slides, a Lazy river, shallow water and water cannons. What fun! Email or speak with Betsey Bennett about tickets and questions.



TEACHERS' MEETINGS are Sunday, January 6, 2008 at 11:30 AM for grades 6 – 9, and Sunday, January 13, 2008, at 9:15 AM for grades Pre-K – 5. Both meetings are in Betsey's office.

CE COMMITTEE MEETS Thursday, January 3, 2008 at 7:15 PM in Betsey's office.

Faith and Families Seminar



Join Betsey Bennett and other UCC churches on **Saturday, February 23, 2008**, for a seminar focused on the topic **Faith and Families: Bringing the Church into the Home** as The Pastoral Excellence Program of the MACUCC welcomes Dr. Elizabeth (Lib) Caldwell.

Lib Caldwell is the Harold Blake Walker Professor of Pastoral Theology at McCormick Theological Seminary in Chicago. She is a member of the Association of Professors and Researchers in Religious Education, the Association of Presbyterian Church Educators and the American Academy of Religion. In 2004, APCE selected Lib Caldwell as its Educator of the Year.

Dr. Caldwell is the author of many articles and books on topics of religious education including: **Leaving Home with Faith: Nurturing the Spiritual Life of our Youth**, United Church Press, 2003; **Making a Home for Faith: Nurturing the Spiritual Life of Your Children**, United Church Press, 2000; **Come Unto Me, Rethinking the Sacraments for Children**, United Church Press, 1996.

This event will be held on **Saturday, February 23, 2008** at the Congregational Church of Needham, UCC
(1154 Great Plain Avenue Needham, MA)
Registration and continental breakfast will open at 9AM, Worship & Program will begin at 9:30AM, our day will conclude at 3:00 PM.

The registration fee includes your continental breakfast, lunch, and all materials. To register for this event, give Betsey Bennett your name by Sunday, January 20, 2008. We are trying very hard to get a group of 5 of us to go together. If you have questions or want more information email Betsey at betseyben@aol.com or call her at the church office, 978-744-3164.

Notes from the Music Director

HAPPY NEW YEAR!

As we start a new year I want to invite and encourage each and every one of you to come and "try the choir". We are a core group of 19 dedicated singers who do love to have fun! We meet every Thursday night from 7:30 – 9:00 in the Bigelow Room and Sunday morning at 9:00. We are always looking for new members. Even if you can only commit to a few Sundays a month we would love to have you.

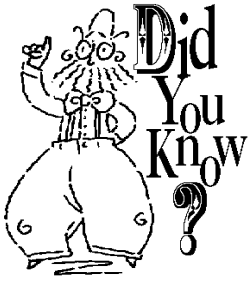
Since I took this job in September I have been constantly reminded of the wealth of talents within our church family. The variety of musicians that come forward to play Offertories adds tremendously to the worship service. The Brass Ensemble, String Ensemble, vocal soloists and instrumental soloists have woven their talents into the worship services.

During this past Advent and Christmas Season the choir was blessed with many new and many returning members. It was a joy to have 32 voices for the Christmas Sunday service, all dressed in the new robes. What a beautiful sight and sound it was. Christmas Eve was another highlight with Kurt Piemonte's string quartet, a 30 member choir, the men's a cappella version of O Holy Night offered by Dexter and Drew Anderson, Alex and Owen Grover, David Karam, Will Maier, Ross Peterson and Dana Strom, the music of Bach, Handel and Rutter and Dave Cabral's solo, A Strange Way To Save The World.

Integral to all of our worship services is our organist Raeleen George. She continues to enhance all aspects of the music ministry here at Tabernacle Church.

Valerie Peterson, Music Director





Did You Know?

This newspaper article was found among other papers in our collection and should make our members aware of the close connection between Tabernacle and South Church.

Reprinted from a Salem paper, probably the Salem Gazette, published in 1871, according to the age of Dr. Brown Emerson. South Church reunited with Tabernacle Church in 1924. Our third floor auditorium is called Emerson Hall in honor of Rev. Brown Emerson and a beautiful portrait of him hangs in our Historical Room.
Kay Piemonte

South Church, Salem

Previous to 1735, the church and society now known as the Third Church and South Society, had no separate existence but was incorporated with the First Church. In 1735, owing to some difficulties, which arose, a majority of the church, including the pastor, Rev. Samuel Fiske, withdrew, and formed what was afterwards styled the "Third Congregational Church of Christ, in Salem," leaving the minority to constitute the First Church. This body continued in existence until 1774, when another difficulty arose, on a question of church government, during which controversy, their house of worship was burnt and the church was rent asunder, a majority with Rev. Dr. Whitaker becoming Presbyterians, the minority forming the nucleus of the church and society now worshipping in the South Church.

Their first place of worship was a building known as the "Assembly Building," which occupied the land where the South Chapel now stands. This building was purchased and first occupied for worship Dec. 18, 1774. When altered for religious uses, it contained 28 wall pews, and 28 floor pews. By the schedule of valuation adopted in February 1775, the highest price of a pew was £15 s.6 d.8, the lowest £7 s.6 d.8, the valuation of the whole amounting to about £650. Some of these old pews afterwards did service in the new church and still later in the gallery of the First Baptist Church, previous to its recent alteration.

The society continued in the occupancy of this building for about thirty years.

At a proprietors' meeting held in February 1802, the building of a new church was decided upon, and articles of agreement signed. On its completion the old building was to be sold and the committee chosen for that purpose in 1804, reported Feb. 12, 1805, that "Agreeable to Public Notice by an advertisement in the *Salem Gazette*, and by crying the sale through the town, the proprietary land, under and adjoining the Old South Meeting House was put up for sale at auction and was bid off at thirty-eight dollars per pole by Mr. Nathaniel Pierce for the committee of the New South Meeting House, amounting to six hundred and forty seven dollars twelve cents and four mills, also the old meeting house was bid off by Mr. George Smith, Eliphalet Jewett and Mr. Prime for one hundred and thirty-seven dollars, who complied with the conditions of the sale, and settled with the Treasurer, accordingly."

The present structure was dedicated Jan. 1, 1805. The building is 66 by 80 feet, with a spire, 166 feet high, which is much admired for its architectural excellence. The cost of the building and land was \$23,819.78. The valuation of pews on the lower floor amounted the year it was built, to \$21, 325. The choice of pews was sold at auction Feb. 7, 1805, by William Lang, at prices ranging from sixty dollars, which was the highest bid, to fifty cents which was the lowest, the whole sale netting from fourteen to fifteen thousand dollars.

Stay tuned next month for more from.....*South Church, Salem*

ADVENT 2007

ADVENT 2007



Advent

This Advent season I had the opportunity to do something I have wanted to do for some time now...attend all of the Christmas services at Taber-

nacle. That meant four services in two days and four different experiences of the Advent story. Sunday December 23 was Christmas Sunday followed by the Blue Christmas service in the evening. The next day was Christmas Eve with the Family Christmas service at 4:00 and the Christmas Eve service at 7:00.

Probably the most common question about attending four services in two days would be, "How did you find the time?" The answer is that things just fell into place this year in such a way that I could do it. But, what you need to know is that I'll do anything I can next year to *make* the time, and I really think you should try to do the same.

The Christmas season is so complicated for most of us that even the most festive moments can become sources of stress, confusion and anxiety. In the face of all of the negatives that enter our lives at this time of year there is no better place to get into the true spirit of the season than at Tabernacle.

December 23, Christmas Sunday at 10:00. Given the snow storm of the previous Sunday, the Pageant was moved to Christmas Sunday, and our church was filled with excited children, parents, grandparents and Pageant fans of all ages; the choir grew to 30 strong; and together we welcomed the baby Jesus.

December 23, Blue Christmas at 7:00. This was a new experience for me and I really had little idea what to expect. This is a less formal service that focuses on healing for those of us who feel a loss at this time of year. But here's what I learned. The feeling of loss need not come from a death, or a relationship ending or any specific event.

The stress of the season is itself a loss, and this service is just the right way to start dealing with that loss in a positive way. Yes, there were some tears, but mostly we sang and shed the anxiety and stress together in the Tabernacle way. The Blue Christmas service gave me a new appreciation of the Christmas Eve service, and it will do the same for you.

December 24, Family Service at 4:00. This is the candle light service made accessible for children of all ages. Instead of a choir and a string quartet, this service features Rev. Laura on guitar and her wonderful troupe of puppets. And it does include a candle light ending. So bring your young children or children who just can't sit still or be quiet for an hour, because at the Family Service vocalizing and moving are encouraged. This is an entirely guilt-free service for parents and caregivers so come and enjoy this special time for children whether you have children of your own or not.

December 24, Christmas Eve at 7:00. This is the service that prepares us for Christ's arrival Christmas morning and with our largest choir ever, the boys of Tabernacle *a cappella* group, a string quartet, lessons and carols, Silent Night sung by candle light, and the Hallelujah Chorus as the grand finale this year was really special.

The four Christmas services provide different points of view on the Christmas story and each of them is special. I realize that I need all of these to keep the meaning of Christmas. We are all assaulted by the secular/commercial side of the season daily. Let Tabernacle provide the balance that we all need at this time of year. I know it will brighten your Christmas.

Rob Maier

January Memorial Flowers



January 6: In loving memory of **Mary C. Parthum** by Charles Parthum and Family.

January 13: In loving memory of **Our Parents,**

Thomas V.; Alfreda C. and Katherine DeLoffi and William G. Young by Tom & Audrey DeLoffi.

January 20: **In celebration of my wonderful family** by Barbara Bowman.

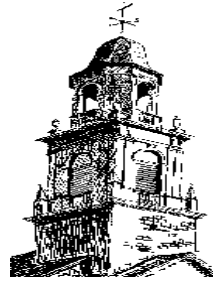
January 27: In loving memory of **Helen T. Bourget** by the Carter Family.



January Birthdays

The following members and friends are celebrating birthdays this month:

- 4 Joe Bennett
- 7 Holbrook Phelan
- 8 Andrew Lutts
- 8 Natalie Binder
- 9 Abigail Clark
- 14 Jean-Paul Dionne
- 14 Evelyn Borish-Wayson
- 16 Julia McInnes
- 17 Teagan Wilson
- 19 Philippa Haven
- 21 Jack MacLean
- 25 Jonathan Chesbro
- 26 Cindy Burnham
- 27 Carlton "Brud" Lutts
- 31 John Dionne



Steeple Lighting

The church steeple is lighted for the month of January in loving memory of **Mary Howe DeWolf Fulton Shepherd, Holly Fulton's mother** by Holly Fulton and Bill Peebles.

T.W.A.

The T.W.A. will be meeting at the church on **Tuesday, January 15** at 10:30am. The hostess will be Connie Hollis. Please join us in fellowship.

GEMS

The Gems (Gourmet Eating Men's Society) will meet on **Wednesday, January 16** at 12:00pm at the Lyceum.

With Many Thanks



We would like to thank all of the members and friends of Tabernacle Church for their many cards, calls, food and get well wishes that **Steve** received during his recent open heart surgery. Your

love and prayers were felt and helped his recovery! We also want to thank everyone for their prayers as we take the second step of this journey with our son, **Andrew**, as he prepares for open heart surgery this month. With deep appreciation,
Liz & Steve Nelson

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