



THE TIDINGS

A Publication from Tabernacle
Congregational Church
United Church of Christ
January 2011



Noticing Life with Your Heart.

Epiphany is a good time to notice your life. This is the season in the Christian Calendar when God's light is shining brightly. In Epiphany, we don't testify to darkness; rather we testify to the LIGHT. And a way to testify is to **notice life with your heart.**

A wise man once said: *"When your heart is attentive, your entire being enters your prayer without your having to force it."*

When God joins us as a human child, people notice the Light. Shepherds come down from their fields and notice that a baby has been born in Bethlehem. Wise men notice a star that points towards a little town in Judea. People notice that **something has happened that is worthy of attentiveness.** The attentive heart is in love with life and all its expressions. The attentive heart notices God!

Last week, two of my three children took off into their lives; and my third will be leaving for college in the middle of Epiphany. As an "empty nester" I am more attentive to the gift of companionship, family and friends. Relationships are not to be taken for granted, but treasured and paid attention to; noticed and adored. That phrase, "You don't know what you've got till it's gone" packs a good punch when you have an empty home for the first time.

Leaving home, leaving friends, leaving family and noticing God in the empty spaces is a theme in Epiphany.

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Annual Meeting
Sunday,
January 23, 2011
11:30am

Our Annual Meeting will be held on **Sunday, January 23 at 11:30am.** The agenda will include reports from committees, election of officers and committee members and adoption of the budget for 2011. All church members are encouraged to attend this important meeting! Child care/activities will be available beginning at 10:00am and continue thru the Annual Meeting.

Epiphany begins when the three wise men visit Jesus and his parents, and leave quickly after. Later, an angel of God sends Joseph and Mary off to Egypt to protect Jesus, and they leave Bethlehem eventually weaving their way to Nazareth where Jesus spends his childhood. And John the Baptist leaves life in the Temple and creates new life at the River Jordan.

Epiphany is a time to leave the old and make room in your attentive heart to notice God.

I propose an Epiphany practice: Begin each day making a list of what you hope to notice. For example: I hope to notice details about what I eat today; How many calories, how much fat, how much salt. Or I hope to notice people's expressions today.

Then end your day reflecting on your list. Did you pay attention? Did you notice life with your heart? Did you testify to God's light in your life?

I pray for a deepening of our spiritual journey together during Epiphany.

Rev. Laura

Please join me on January 8th at 7:00 pm for our wonderful "Global Village Jazz Concert" to welcome in the Season of Epiphany.

Children and Parents Learn the Bible Together



Have you ever wanted to know how to find a book of the Bible quickly? Where to find some of the major stories that we read and hear over and over? Did you know there are different versions of the Bible? Join Betsey for two Saturday morning classes January 22 and 29 from 9:30-11:30am. Bring your bible with you. We will begin our journey at the beginning. All ages are welcome.

Committee Meeting

Christian Education Committee meeting, Thursday, January 6, 2011 at 7:30pm in the church office. Sub group on goals meets at 6:45pm

Youth Group Meetings

PYF meets on Wednesday, January 12 from 6:15-7:30pm for a "scavenger hunt"

JYF meets on Sunday after church on January 9th and 23rd.



Come Sing With Us!!!



The choir is always open to new members. You can sing for a season, a month, a few weeks what ever works for you. We are very flexible! We are looking for all voice parts. If you do not know your

voice part, don't worry... we would love to have you sing with us.

If you have any questions or concerns regarding participation in the choir feel free to contact Valerie Peterson, Music Director at peterse_09@yahoo.com or connect with any choir member at the Sunday Service. Looking forward to having you in the choir!
Valerie S. Peterson

Mark Your Calendars.....
Ecclesiastical Council For Lindsey
Levenson (Val & Bob Peterson's
daughter) on Sunday, February 27.
Refreshments at 2:30pm in the
Bigelow Room.
Council beginning at 3:00pm
in the sanctuary.
Please come and show your
support for Lindsey, who grew up in
our church!



From Our Christian Ed. Director

EPIPHANY Epiphany Greetings

Light your candles to guide the Magi to your house. They bring precious gifts for the baby Jesus. "Epiphany is a Greek word that means, "showing forth." The date of its celebration is January 6th. It was originally concerned with the commemoration of the Baptism of Christ, and later became associated with Magi, an emphasis of the Latin Church of the West. Today it is often thought of as the manifestation of Christ to the Gentiles" The Epiphany season is observed from January 6th through Ash Wednesday, which is March 9, 2011, this year.

We celebrate the beginning of Epiphany by remembering that the Magi brought three gifts for a king. The first gift is gold. Gold is for kings, and Jesus is a king, but not the kind of king the people thought would come. This king had no army, no great house, and no riches. This King was a baby who was born in a barn. The Mystery of a King who was coming and is still coming is very large and requires four Sundays to prepare, our Advent season, and two Sundays to celebrate, our Christmas season. Epiphany begins after the Christmas season.

Frankincense, the second gift from the Magi, is a scent that helps one to focus. It is often used in worship and for prayer or meditation. The Magi brought this gift to Jesus as a sign of worship, awesome respect, and reverence. The final gift was myrrh. Myrrh was not a gift for ordinary kings. This is what is burned at funerals. It is also placed with the dead for their burial. This gift shows us how important Jesus' death will be. The children will experience these scents in their classrooms beginning in January. (*Taken from **Godly Play, volume 3**, by Jerome Barrymore*)

The end of January the children will be studying the Lord's Prayer. They will be learning the meanings contained in the prayer. After several weeks the children will be reciting the prayer to church elders and parents. When they are successful they will be given a special award from the Christian Education Committee. We hope if you are asked to participate as an "elder" that you will respond enthusiastically.

And a special wish from me that the Mystery that is Christmas enters your heart and dwells there for all to see.

Happy New Year! And Many blessings
Betsey

MLK Service Day: Monday, January 17, 9:30-12:30

Help move items from Emerson Hall to the basement in preparation for the rental of Emerson Hall to the North Shore Theater Group. We will also try to tackle a clean up of the Nursery and all its contents. Everyone is welcome to join us. Both youth groups will be participating as part of MLK Service Day sponsored by City Mission Society. Drinks and snacks will be provided.

Teachers Training, Tuesday, January 11, 6:00-8:00pm

Come enjoy a hot meal and fellowship with other teachers and youth leaders. We will discuss the curriculum for learning the Lord's Prayer, do some bible Study around it, and dispense curriculum for January 16 - March 6, Mardi Gras Sunday.





Did you know???

Jane Dionne and I have finished typing all the Baptism records that we have found for Tabernacle Church. and they have been indexed for easy access. You will find them in the big blue three ring binder in Liz's office, labeled, Tabernacle Baptisms 1745-2009. Only a few years are missing, within those years, from our treasured books.

This will make it easier for Liz to find answers people call on the phone for this information and I am hoping that church members will find it a valuable resource. You can come in and located the people in your family who were baptized at Tabernacle, or you might be interested in famous people of Salem, or you might want to know if the people who lived in the old house that you now live in, had anything to do with Tabernacle Church!

This type of information is very useful to genealogist and historians, and is a great asset to the archives of your church, and we are hoping that you will come in and learn some things about your family that you might not have known!

I also need to have you check out the name of those you know who were baptized here and make sure they are correct. With that much typing from all those old books, I am sure there are some mistakes and omissions. In fact, I have already corrected some things that were omitted! I have placed a correction sheet in the front of the book for you to make notes on if you feel a date is incorrect, or a name has been left out or you have some other question. Please place the name of the person or persons on the sheet, and the page on which it was found and I will be correcting the book as needed.

Happy Hunting!

Kay Piemonte

200TH ANNIVERSARY CELEBRATION OF THE COMMISSIONING AT TABERNACLE CHURCH, FEBRUARY 6, 1812.

Because 2012 is the 200th anniversary of this important event, which took place in Tabernacle, I suspect that we will have even more visitors here in the next several years to see our Historical Room. We are looking forward to celebrating that anniversary and hope that all the members of our church are interested in, and will attend the various events which are being planned. A committee, co-chaired by Barbara Bowman and me, has been making plans for the past year and we trust that you are looking forward to this event. In February 2012 we plan to have a celebration dinner at the Danversport Yacht Club and a speaker who will be a drawing card for this event. On the Sunday closest to the anniversary, February 5, 2010, we will have a church service based on the Sesquicentennial Anniversary of 1962, which some of us still remember! Rev. Thomas Williams and his wife Alice and their committee were thoroughly versed in the details of the history and planned a service at which there was standing room only! People were hanging over the balcony as the service started and there was not a seat available in the sanctuary.

This event in 1812 was unique, really the first of its kind, and from then to the present day men and women have gone as "missionaries" to "foreign lands." We have changed our idea of trying to proselytize people, but instead, try to deal with their everyday problems such as housing, food, medicine and reconstruction after natural disasters. I hope that you will learn much about our history during the coming months and that you will be enthusiastic about our upcoming celebration! We need your help in planning and carrying out such a large undertaking and Barbara, Laura, the committee and I really looking forward to a commitment at our annual meeting for your help and support for the 200th Anniversary in 2012!

Our historical room is full of memorabilia pertaining to the famous event and I look forward to having you ask for information about the items and pictures. I am available before or after church on most Sundays and would love to show you the artifacts which bring people from hundreds of miles away just to see and take pictures. By this time next year I hope that many of you will be well versed in the history of our church and will be looking forward to our celebration!

Kay Piemonte, Church Historian

Global Village Jazz

Music and Stories to Change
the World

Featuring the Oikos Ensemble

Saturday, January 8th -- 7:00 PM
Tabernacle Congregational Church

An Evening Celebrating
the Dreams and Visions of the Human Family
Applause for Oikos from around the country:

"Transforming" Global Village Jazz,
Philadelphia PA

"Imaginative and inventive" Intersections
International, New York NY

"Inspirational and vital" UCC General Synod,
Hartford CT

"A creative, spiritual adventure" Rocky Mt.
Conference, Boulder, CO

"Like rain during a dry time" Missionworks!,
Cleveland OH

"Spirited, prayerful, engaging" Church World
Service, Dallas TX

"A memorably unique experience" Pilgrim
Place, Claremont CA

"Inspiring sacred jazz" Middle Collegiate
Church, New York NY

**"I salute Cliff Aerie and the Oikos Ensemble
for their inspired music and mission.**

They are serving the world with their song."
- Paul Winter (Paul Winter Consort)

A free-will offering will be received

Advent Reflections

This year I started the Advent journey by doing something that I had not done for a long time – I went to the Advent workshop. It was great to see both children and adults working on various projects. I designed a Christmas wreath for myself (a first for me) and had the opportunity to make a wreath for someone else in the church. It was a wonderful time to "release" some creative ideas in a no pressure – no judgment zone.

Mid-way through Advent the Sunday school presented the Christmas pageant. This year's pageant was filled with angels, the head angel with her clipboard assigning jobs to the other angels, Angel Gabriel whom seemed to be everywhere preparing people for the coming of Jesus, Roman guards, shepherds, wise men, sheep and even a Christmas frog among the sheep. There were soloists playing the piano and singing by everyone. It was a delightful presentation of the Christmas story and a reminder of what the season is really about – the coming of Christ to the world.

The Christmas Eve service of Lessons and Carols took place in the sanctuary bathed in the light of candles and luminaries. The music took us from singing the story from the mountains, herald angels singing a Christmas Gloria, a gentle Christmas Amen to a call to go and adore the newborn king and a meditation of that Holy Night all to prepare us for the birth of an incandescent child. This child, born in a dark stable in the light of a brilliant star, was sent bring light to a world of darkness, to bring the spirits of hope, peace, love and joy to us. I hope that this year that you will be open to these spirits of Christmas and that you will find comfort in the presence of God in your life.

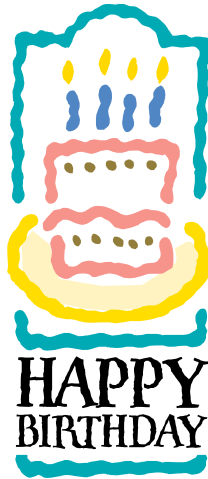
Peace, Brenda Lewis

PS: Please join us for our **Annual Meeting January 23rd**. It is important that everyone be there to celebrate the past year and look forward to the year to come.

January Birthdays

The following members and friends are celebrating birthdays this month:

- 4 Joe Bennett
- 7 Holbrook Phelan
- 9 Abigail Clark
- 14 Jean-Paul Dionne
- 14 Evelyn Borish-Wayson
- 16 Julia McInnes
- 21 Jack MacLean
- 24 Paul Lambe
- 25 Jonathan Chesbro
- 26 Cindy Burnham
- 26 Carlton "Brud" Lutts
- 31 John Dionne



Steeple Lighting

The church steeple is lighted for the month of **January in loving memory of Judy Burge** by Ed & Chloe Burge.

Dates available for Steeple Lighting

I have several dates available during the fall of 2011 and beyond. You may light the steeple in loving memory of, to celebrate a special occasion or to honor someone special. The cost is \$150.00 for the month. Please contact Liz in the church office to book a month.

T.W.A.

TWA will be holding January meeting on Tuesday, January 18th at 10:30. Donna Stone will be the hostess. Bring a sandwich; dessert and coffee will be provided by our hostess.

The TWA members who want to join Rev Laura and go to the Protestant Service at the Jewish Rehabilitation Center with our Iris Kamon should be in the church office at 9:50 on Thursday, January 20th. Transportation will be provided and you can plan to be back at the church shortly after noon.

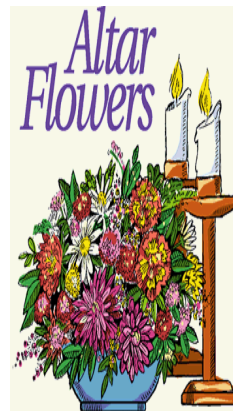
Memorial Fund

A donation to the memorial fund in memory of Alice Bonney was received from William Blevins.

North Shore Children's Theatre

Tabernacle is please to announce it's partnership with North Shore Children's Theatre. NSCT provides young performers professional training and arts education offering classes in musical theater dance, acting and singing as well giving children the opportunity to be a part of a professional theater group. The theater group will meet on Sunday afternoons from 2-6 pm, and Monday and Wednesday evenings from 5:30-8:30pm in Emerson Hall beginning January 19 thru February 13. They will put on a production which will be held over the weekend of February 11-13.

January Altar Flowers



Jan. 2, 2011 **In Celebration of Allison & Jim Kilcoyne's 12th Wedding Anniversary.**

Jan. 9, 2011 **In loving memory of our Parents, Thomas V. Alfreda C. Katherine DeLoffi and William G. Young** by Tom and Audrey DeLoffi.

Jan. 16, 2011 **In loving memory of Judy Burge** by Ed and Chloe Burge.

Jan. 23, 2011 **In loving memory of Helen T. Bourget** by the Carter Family.