



THE TIDINGS

A Publication from Tabernacle
Congregational Church
United Church of Christ

May 2011



Easter is the beginning of something new. No longer does our fear of death or our fear of loss occupy our minds. Now, our lives are dominated by HOPE. Easter is the Season of HOPE. On Easter Sunday, the front page article in the Boston Globe featured a friend of mine. We were ministers during a time when both of us were seeking the support of other women clergy. As open and inclusive as the UCC is, there are still unique challenges for women pastors. Finding a support group was really helpful. Molly was a role model for me; always bright, intense, compassionate and spiritual. When our group got together, we fed each other with love and understanding. And laughter, oh yes we women clergy love to laugh!!!

When Molly started her job at the church in Somerville, I started my job here at Tabernacle. In many ways, I considered us to have parallel journeys, though she and her family are much younger. During the last few years, we lost touch. I assumed it was because of work and family obligations. I certainly have been hyper focused in those areas and have allowed some friendships to fade.

I had no idea that Molly has been fighting for her life for the last year. She was diagnosed with a rare form of lung cancer and has been undergoing intensive and debilitating treatment. Her two young children, her husband, her friends and her congregation have walked with her through this difficult time. And on Easter, Molly preached for the first time in a year.

I felt as sad as I've ever felt when I read the article on Monday morning. I felt guilty that I didn't know. That I didn't pray. That I didn't connect. I felt helpless. Dear, sweet, optimistic Molly, looking death in the face with such poise and grace.

And I never knew. It's really hard to feel the HOPE of Easter when guilt, sadness and helplessness have a grip. But Molly needs people to move from those shadow emotions that belong to Lent, into HOPE. Hope is life-giving and life-transforming. Easter is the Season of Hope!

I will be sending Molly a card, full of prayers and thoughts of HOPE. I don't know for sure what I will say. But I do believe that Easter is the beginning of something new; for all of us; for Molly. And God would have us learn about resurrection from my friend Molly. She knows about living life NOT afraid of death or loss, but rather living life **dominated by HOPE.**

The month of May marks an ending of my first seven years at Tabernacle. In my contract, we agreed that after seven years, I would be blessed with the gift of time and Sabbath. I am grateful that my Easter-time will be spent seeing God in new and wonderful ways. On May 15th, I will begin a three month sabbatical to re-new my soul and center myself in God's Spirit. This time of rest and rejuvenation comes at a perfect juncture in my life. And Molly's journey reminds me that Love of God, love of family, love of friends and love of community is all that is important. Thank you for supporting me during this sabbatical time.

I wish you a hopeful Eastertide.

God bless you.

Rev. Laura

Lenten and Easter Recap

These words from the Bible, "Surely, the Spirit of God was in this place," best describe my feelings about the Lenten and Easter services. It was an emotional roller coaster ride, from the solemn soul touching Tenebrae, to the amazing performance of Hayden's "The Seven Last Words" followed by the most joyous Easter Service I have attended at Tabernacle.

Apparent also were the many new faces among those attending and, especially, those participating in the services. Attendance was the highest I had seen at Tabernacle with the church full on Easter Sunday. The church exists for us to worship God and to seek His and Jesus' presence in our lives. The ministry and spiritual leadership of Rev. Laura have taken us a long way on this journey.

In Christ,
Carl Wathne



2011/2012 All Church Planning Meeting

We ask that **ALL** Chairs of Action Groups (or a representative) attend the May Council Meeting on Tuesday, May 10 from 7:00pm-8:00pm for the 2011/2012 All Action Group Planning Meeting, with Liz Nelson in the Bigelow Room. Please bring with you your Action Group dates of monthly meetings, dates of special events, dates of fund raisers and holiday happenings. We want to make sure these dates get put on the "official church calendar!" Please plan to attend this very important meeting. If you have any questions, please contact Liz in the office.



CALLING ALL ARTISTS & ASPIRING ARTISTS!!

Rev. Laura has given the members of our congregation a "Sabbatical Challenge"! During the Summer months while she is on sabbatical, she would like us to be creative by preparing some type of art or artistic expression which will be presented at an art show on Rally Day, Sunday September 11th in the Sanctuary. This day will be her first Sunday back at Tabernacle after her exciting and, hopefully, relaxing Summer.

Any form of art will be welcome: painting, pottery, poetry, photographs, shell collections, flower arranging, woodworking, knitting, crocheting, quilting, baking, jewelry, papermaking, etc. etc. The sky is the limit! The items should be brought to the Church on Saturday afternoon September 10th at a time to be announced later. This should be a wonderful opportunity for us to express ourselves through art and show Laura and our fellow church community members how artistic we are! Please contact me, Linda Davis, if you have any suggestions or questions at pldavis@yahoo.com or 978-594-1564. This challenge is sponsored by The Sacred Arts Action Group.



From Our Missions Action Group

Happy Habitat News

On April 3rd Habitat North Shore dedicated the house at 5 Park Street in Peabody where two families will live in three bedroom townhouse units. The Carmargos family with the mother and three sons and the Burgess family with the parents, one son, and two daughters will settle into their homes this month. Smiles could not stop appearing on the faces of both families. Not to waste time nor energy for all those eager volunteers, the houses at 12 and 14 Park Street are ready for work crews to continue this wonderful community project. Let us see about another Tabernacle team to volunteer at these projects soon. Please contact Martha Bagby, 978-741-0913 if you are interested.

The more the merrier was the theme at the Habitat fundraiser on April 9th where the Tabernacle table had to make room for more of us. The turn out was fabulous and the event raised a total of \$18,500.

One Great Hour of Sharing

Sunday, May 15th our church will be collecting money for One Great Hour of Sharing which over the past 60 years has brought the basics of life: water, food, shelter, jobs, and peace to those around the world where natural and human disasters have caused poverty, illness, and hunger. It is with the aide of OGHS and its education and training that communities can have self sufficiency toward pride in building and sustaining communities with dignity. Please join us in contributing to this much needed resource for those in all parts of the world.

The Missions Action Group has had a busy start to the year and plan to keep up the action!

By the time you read this we will have had our Pipes for Peace concert and HAWC Walk to raise funds for HAWC (Healing Abuse Working for Change). Hope you joined us for those and supported a very worthy cause.

Food Collection

The food collection for St. Joseph's Food Pantry has been going well, thanks to generous donations each week. We would like to keep that going all year, with monthly suggestions of non-perishable food items to add to your grocery list. **Food Donation for May is Tuna and Noodles.** Please consider the need as it continues through the summer, when generally church attendance declines.

Shelter Dinner

We are also present every 4th Monday preparing and serving dinner at the Lifebridge Shelter. We thank our cooks and helpers who have worked the shifts so far this year. We will need volunteers for July and August, so please sign up in the Bigelow Room or see Jane Kelly, Joe Bennett or Nancy Savy to let us know of your interest. We have recipes to share to help with your planning, shopping and cooking. It's a good time. Come join us!

Fall Happenings

We are working on upcoming fall events, too. Events in the planning stages include Silent Auction/Potluck, U2charist and Missions Sunday with a Heifer speaker.

We are also currently exploring a future mission idea called Family Promise which is a program to support homeless families.....we'll have more to share at a later date.

Remember you don't have to be a Missions Action Group member to get involved in one or more of our missions. The more hands and hearts the better!



From Our Christian Education Director

Easter Greetings!

This year with Easter just last week, our Easter season is during May and into June. We are now into the six Sundays of Easter. Easter is the oldest and most important season of celebration in the Christian year. Remember it takes us six weeks of Lent to get ready for the Mystery that is Easter. Then because that Mystery is so great, we can't keep it in just one Sunday, we need six more Sundays to celebrate the joyfulness and new life that is Easter. The joyful celebration lasts all the way until Pentecost, when we celebrate the birthday of the Christian church. After Children's Sunday on June 12, which is also Pentecost Sunday, we will be experiencing the great green growing Sundays that go all the way through to Advent, which begins a new year for the Christian church calendar.

During May the children will be hearing many stories of how Jesus' followers, inspired by hope and new life through his resurrection, continue to live and grow as community. They will be invited to live out the spirit of hope and joy of the great Easter season by beginning some special Easter rituals that will continue through May and into June. The completion will come on the festival of Pentecost, June 12, with the children and youth leading us in worship.

This lively worship will be followed by a cookout and picnic for the whole church at Betsey's house, 90 Orne St., Cabot Farm. (*see the separate announcement for details.)

Shalom, Betsey



TABERNACLE CONGREGATIONAL CHURCH UCC

INVITES KIDS (AGES 4 – 12) TO EGYPT: JOSEPH'S JOURNEY FROM PRISON TO PALACE

A **summer VBS** event called Egypt will be hosted at Tabernacle Congregational Church UCC from **August 22 to August 26**. Kids step back in time at Egypt, exploring the life of Joseph. Kids and adults participate in a memorable Bible-times marketplace, sing catchy songs, play teamwork-building games, dig into Egyptian eats, visit Joseph in prison and then in his palace home, and collect Bible Memory Makers to remind them of God's Word. Plus, everyone learns to look for evidence of God all around them through something called God Sightings. Each day concludes at Celebration—a time of upbeat worship that gets everyone involved.

Egypt will run from **9:00 AM to 12:15 PM** each day. The cost is \$30.00 per child, and includes a T-shirt, a CD of music, all crafts and snacks. For more information, call 978-744-3164.

*Save The Date!!
Children's Day
June 12, 2011!*



All Church Picnic 12 Noon-Sunday, June 12

Come celebrate the "birthday" of the Christian church with all your friends! We will be making kites to fly, pinwheels to spin, and

relay games to play. The CE Action Group provides the hamburgers and hot dogs. Everyone brings a salad or dessert to share. Remember your lawn chairs or blankets. We will even have "birthday" cake!

CEAG Meeting

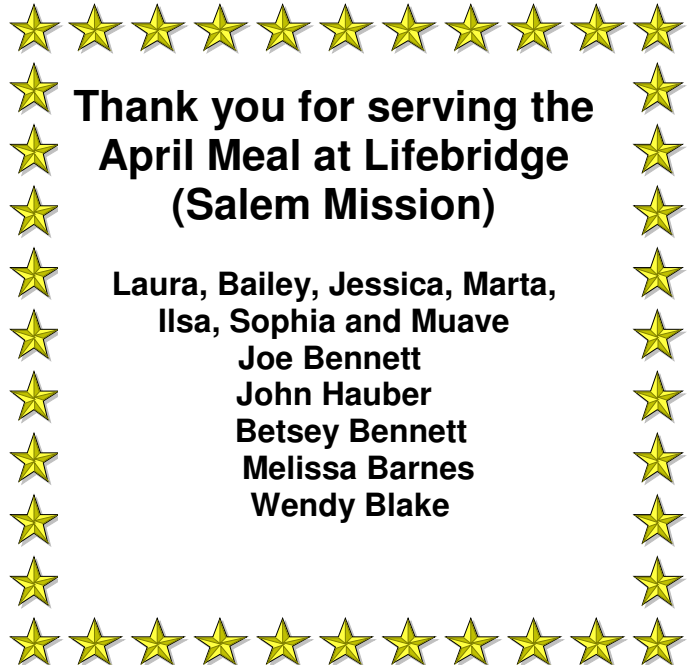
CEAG meeting is Thursday, May 5, 7 PM. Goals and objectives sub-committee meets before hand at 6:30 PM.

Youth Group Meetings

- May 1: Walk for HAWC
- May 15: something out doors if the weather cooperates
- June: possible local camping trip
- July 30 – 31: Overnight to Overlook Farm, Rutland, MA (*see special notice)
- August ? : serving with Pilgrim Church, Dorchester, on Boston Common and Luncheon at Pilgrim
- August 22 – 26: Help with VBS
- August 28: help with worship after VBS and serving

July 30-31 Overnight to Overlook Farm, Rutland Ma

Reservations are required for this trip. We have 16 spaces, which are filling fast. Cost will be \$30.00 per person. There will be a detailed meeting for youth (grades 6 and up) attending this trip and their parents on Sunday, May 15, in the Youth Room following worship. I must have a final count by that day and a \$10.00 deposit. Paper work will be given out that day. We will meet again in late July to finalize travel and packing for the trip.



The Steps are Under Repair!

Since the latest Annual Meeting the Trustees Action Group has been hard at work getting the Front and Federal Street Step project under way. Ed Burge and Chuck Partham revisited the original quotes for the job and found Roger Trembly to be the best fit for the job. The job will include re-pitching as well as re-pointing the steps. Work will be under way in the next couple of weeks. Please excuse the mess and be assured the job will work around any weddings or other planned events at Tabernacle. Weather permitting the project should be complete by the end of May!

From Our Deacons.....

April showers bring May flowers, but what do May flowers bring? Pilgrims.

Bad joke? It's a good thing I represent Deacons and not comedians then, huh? In addition to the pilgrims, however, May flowers also bring an exciting beginning to summer worship at Tabernacle. On behalf of your Deacons, I invite you to spend time with us at Sunday morning service this summer.

It's an exciting time at Tabernacle Church. As Rev. Laura prepares for her sabbatical, we are preparing for a busy summer filled with music (yes, music ALL summer!), fellowship, and a few months of Sunday sermons you won't want to miss.

Join me on Sunday, May 15th to wish Rev. Laura well as she begins her summer journey of spiritual growth, reflection, and energy renewal. We hope to demonstrate our belief in Rev. Laura's ministry and her commitment to our congregation as we serve you, the people of our church, this summer. In just a few short months, we will welcome back an energized, focused, and grounded spiritual leader to continue the journey we will embark on together this summer.

Mark your calendars for these upcoming Sunday services which highlight different members of our congregation, our music, and our children:

- May 22** Women's Sunday with Raeleen George preaching
- May 29** Memorial Day Weekend with Hymn Sing and storytelling
- June 5** Music Sunday
- June 12** Children's Sunday

On June 19th, we will come together for our first worship service with our summer supply minister, Rev. Rona Tyndall. She will spend several Sundays with us this summer. Stay tuned for the complete summer schedule in next month's tidings. It's going to be a great one! With enthusiasm,
Tracy Morin, on behalf of the Deacons

MARK YOUR CALENDAR FOR MAY 7TH! SEE DR. JONATHAN SHAY RECEIVE THE SALEM AWARD

Saturday, May 7th
Salem High School, Salem, MA
Dinner with Dr. Shay 5:30 (\$50)
Award Presentation 7:30
(Adults \$10, College Students
& Veterans \$5, K-12 Students \$3)

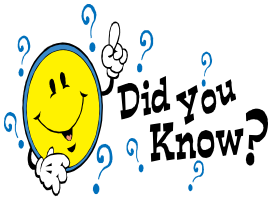
REGISTER TO ATTEND NOW!

Dr. Shay was instrumental in getting the military to understand post-traumatic stress disorder (PTSD), and in bringing to public attention the specific causes, effects, and complex realities of war-induced psychological injury. Because of Shay's work and the work of others, the more than six million troops who have served in combat since the beginning of the Vietnam War can now seek treatment for PTSD, though many continue to fear that the stigma will affect their careers. **Learn more or register at www.SalemAward.org**

**We Need The
Following:**

A piece of plywood 6 feet by 2.5 feet that CEAG can use to make a sign saying:

Godly Play...Spoken Here
Please speak to Betsey Bennett



Did You Know???

Commissioning February 6, 1812

Since our plans for the 200th anniversary of the 1812 Commissioning are moving along, I thought it would be a good idea to let you read an article which was printed in the Salem evening news, February 7, 1912. At that time our church was celebrating the 100th Anniversary and Dr. DeWitt S. Clark was the minister.

The 1812 service was unique and created a great interest among the people in Salem and the whole area and the account in the News gives a flavor of what occurred that day. CKP

"...The day was intensely cold. That did not chill the ardor of multitudes from the surrounding region, who flocked to the Tabernacle church to share in and witness the novel exercise – sympathizers and curiosity seekers alike. A large delegation from the Andover seminary and Phillips academy walked the 16 miles and returned after the service, as the record runs – 'much refreshed.' Not all, however, were such vigorous athletes, for one of the young academics came nigh to perishing on the journey over the ice and snow and rough roads; had it not been that the sturdier theologues, overtaking the half paralyzed traveler, put under him their arms and bore him to his home, almost unconscious. Thus was preserved for distinguished service for '40 years in the Turkish empire,' William Goodell* – a name familiar to all who love to sing of the 'cause and the man,' – our modern Aeneid.

There was also (it must be said) a peculiarly frigid character in the spiritual climate hereabouts. Of the two local papers only one alluded in any way to the meeting, stating in a few lines that 'the audience was crowded,' the performance solemn and impressive, and the contribution in aid of the mission munificent.' In the next column of the same issue was an article commenting upon the failure of modern – as contrasted with apostolic – mission effort. These preachers and teachers were thought to be easy dupes of the tricky natives who professed conversion for very material reasons. "while generally crediting these propagandists with the harmlessness of the dove, their critics deplored their evident lack of the wisdom of the serpent. So Prudence sat by its fireplace, that day, congratulating itself upon its sanity and comfort and ease, concerning its brother it had never seen, while theological zealots were inciting men and women to self-destruction in his behalf.

Into that great congregation, tense with expectation – as the gladiators marching into arena, for their death struggle, were beheld – so came Judson, Newell, Hall, Nott and Rice, to openly voice their 'morituri' – were it his will, who had bidden them. 'Go into all the world and preach the Gospel to every creature.'

A singular spectacle to Christian people and in a Christian church – but it was three churches – the North, Newburyport; Congregational, Charlestown; the Tabernacle, Salem with their pastors, Drs. Spring, Morse and Worcester,

And their delegates with Dr. Griffin of Park Street, Boston, and Professor Woods of Andover seminary constituted the council.

The introductory prayer was offered by Dr. Griffin. The sermon was preached by Dr. Woods from the 67th Psalm, 'God be merciful unto us and bless us and all the ends of the earth shall fear Him.'

...Dr Morse led in the prayer of consecration; Dr. Spring delivered the charge; Dr. Worcester extended the 'right hand of fellowship,' and Dr. Spring offered the concluding prayer.

There was enthusiastic singing by the young men and maidens, but of the hymns and tunes then rendered we have no knowledge. Only the bass-viol (or cello) of Dr. Muzzy the leader of the Tabernacle choir,, is left to tell us aught of words or melody which its sturdy tones augmented, as it does ours today.

....If any should read carefully the admirable sermon and charge, and associate in mind the duplications and songs, with the eyes of the whole multitude of old and young, and the irrepressible sighing and weeping aloud of many, they might somewhat imagine the scene, when those young men knelt forward for their consecration by the laying on of the hands of that presbytery of the churches and when each of them was taken by the hand of one of the fathers, while a single voice spoke for all, the united right hand of fellowship.

Then and there was lifted high the banner of the cross which had long been committed to the church to be displayed for the sake of the truth.

...That same evening Nott, Hall and Rice hastily departed for Philadelphia to reach the ship *Harmony*, on which they were to embark. Mr. Nott halting on the way thither for the important business of taking a wife, the others being less successful, if indeed they had made the attempt. Miss Ann Hasseltine of Bradford, a young woman of rare grace of person, mind and character, who had the sense and courage in answer to that crucial orthodox question of the time – 'if she was willing to be lost for the glory of 'god,' to say in true filial trust...had offered her heart and hand to Adoniram Judson, agreeing to share his fortune, and they had been married on February 5 and she was present at the ordination service.

Harriet Atwood, also a graduate of Bradford academy, a person of intense religious conviction...had accepted Samuel Newell as her lover and life companion in the mysterious orderings of the future. She, too, married a few days later, shared in the consecration made by her husband in this place.

These four missionaries sailed from this port on the brig *Caravan* the same day as which the *Harmony* cleared from Philadelphia – both vessels bound for Calcutta, the former arriving June 17, the latter August 8."

*William Goodell, 1792-1867, became a missionary and served in Turkey and Syria.



May Steeple Lighting

The church steeple is lighted for the month of **May in Celebration of the Choir!**

May Altar Flowers

May 1: **In loving memory of Our Mothers, Katherine Ring and Margaret Curtin** by Carol and Ed Curtin

May 8: **In loving memory of Our Mothers,** from Barbara Burgess Maier and Robert Maier.

May 15: **In Celebration of Jack and Kate Duda on their 7th and 5th birthdays,** Love from Mommy and Daddy

May 22: **In Celebration of Our Families Birthdays and Anniversaries** from the Peterson Family.

May 29: **In loving memory of Arthur and Bertha Doyle,** by the Dionne Family.



May Birthdays

The following members and friends are celebrating birthdays this month:

- 2 Thomas Oberlander
- 4 Jessica Reardon
- 8 Jennifer Strom
- 8 Doug Karam
- 8 Becky Young
- 13 Michael Parr
- 13 William Kilcoyne
- 14 Stephen Bogan
- 15 Rachel Lutts
- 15 Jean Karam
- 15 James Patch
- 15 Bridget Sullivan
- 18 Alex Grover
- 19 Robert Peterson
- 20 June DeRoin
- 21 Owen Grover
- 22 James Oberlander
- 23 Kate Duda
- 26 Valerie Peterson

TWA

Kay Piemonte will be the hostess for our April meeting at 10:30 on May 17 in the Bigelow Room. Last month we put bookmarks into the hymnals for your use every Sunday. We have a wonderful time ; especially when Betsey Bennett involves us in "Godly Play". New members are always welcome. Bring a sandwich; dessert will be provided by the

Heifer Project International

We want to thank you for your generous donations to the TWA Heifer Project collection on Palm Sunday. \$299.30 was donated; that is wonderful. We also have collected \$69 from the TWA ladies' pennies and your coin donations for a total of \$368 which is \$120 more than our total last year. Thank you all so much; if you have coins for us be sure to bring them to church any Sunday or leave them with Liz in the office during the week. All the money we collect will be merged with the money the Sunday School raises and sent to Heifer International to buy animal(s) for families who will use them to provide for their family and for others in the future.

Memorial Fund

Gifts have been received in memory of Miriam Bresnahan from Mr. & Mrs. John Cronin; David & Linda Hatch; The Juniper Community Club; Patrick Walter; Gifford & Ann Scott; McBrie LLL Structural Design & Sales; Barry and Andea High; Pat Grieco and Donald Perham, Jr.