



# The Tidings

A Publication of Tabernacle  
Congregational Church, UCC  
October 2010



OCTOBER

## THE SINGER, NOT THE SONG

*"Even if you can't sing well, sing. Sing to yourself.  
Sing in the privacy of your own home. But sing."*  
Rebbe Nachman

Why does the spiritual teacher encourage us to sing?

Singing is an expression of God's voice in our midst. Singing opens our vocal chords, and our hearts. Singing is a spiritual practice. The Bible encourages us to sing. Every psalm is sung. Every lament is sung. Every passionate prayer is sung. The singer is in relationship with God just through the act of singing.

Many people say that they come to Tabernacle for the music. Between the brilliant direction of Valerie Peterson and the exquisite accompaniment of Raeleen George, we are blessed with incredible leadership. Our choir is joyful, serious and talented. Singing is their passion. With two rehearsals each week, these dedicated singers commune with God while leading us in worship, so that we too can commune.

Sometimes when I am feeling insecure or out-of-sync, when my world seems unbalanced, I walk with the birds. What I mean is that I take a walk and listen to them sing. Singing birds have a way of re-centering my soul.

I find a similar result when I pull out my guitar and just sing for the joy of singing. Singing always helps me feel closer to God.

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## October Worship Themes

**Oct. 3, 2010 World Communion Sunday**

SERMON: **To My Beloved Parishioners**

SCRIPTURE LESSONS:

Psalm 137: 1-6 and 2 Timothy 1:1-14

*Do you take time to say thank you to the people who have served you? The grocery store clerk, the auto repair person, the meter maid, the hotel maids, the garage cashier, the library volunteer, the Walmart greeter, the police officer, the playground monitor... Jesus has us noticing our connection with everyone on the planet, especially those who serve.*

**Oct. 10, 2010 Rob Maier preaches**

**I Believe In This Church Testimonies**

SCRIPTURE LESSONS:

Jeremiah 29:1, 4-7 and Luke 17:11-19

*Ten lepers are healed, but only one turns back to Jesus to praise God. Your faith has made you well, he says. The one who returned with gratitude was a Samaritan, an enemy of the Jewish people. But Jesus sees everyone in the light of God; and everyone can be healed by faith.*

**Oct. 17, 2010**

SERMON Persistence

SCRIPTURE LESSONS:

Psalm 119:97-104 and Luke 18:1-8

**I Believe In This Church Testimonies**

*Being persistent in prayer and faith when it comes to **Stewardship (asking for generosity from each other)**, can be exhausting and discouraging. How can I keep on asking? But Jesus says to us very clearly: **do not lose heart. God will grant justice to those who cry to him day and night.** The stewardship campaign this year will be dependent on our mutual willingness to be persistent. We have every reason to ask God for help as we offer our very best and our very most to the work of our faith community.*

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As we enter this month of Haunted Happenings where Salem becomes the center of so much energy and tourism, let's keep God's voice in the spirit of Salem. Let's keep singing our songs of faith and joy and love. Sing out loud; sing in the streets; sing because it feels good; sing because singing brings you closer to God.

Let's keep the light of Christ in our voices and in the air, while we remember the darkness of a time in history that was tragic for so many women and men alike. October is a month for singing.

With love, your singing minister,  
Rev. Laura



## Silent Auction and Potluck Dinner

Saturday  
November 13  
At 6:30pm

This is hoped to be one of the major Missions fund-raising events of the year, since the holiday church fair is no longer on the calendar.

### How can you help:

\*By **joining** the planning committee (Is Missions your passion, but you couldn't commit to membership on the Missions Action Group? Well, you can join us for just this one event!)

\* By **offering** donations to the auction... services, tickets, gift certificates, gift baskets, or articles of interest.

\*By **cooking** for the potluck

\*By **attending** the event and bringing a friend or relative with you.

Bring your wallet/checkbook and your generous heart. Your financial support will be put to good use via the UCC Church's Wider Mission.

Contact Marcia Olsson or any other member of the Missions Action Group with questions. (Bob Peterson, Jack McLean, Martha Bagby, Beverly Strauss, Allison Kilcoyne, Joe Bennett, Jane Kelly)



### October Worship Themes Continued.....

Oct. 24, 2010 **New Members Join**

SERMON: **Enough about you, let's talk about me**

**I Believe In This Church Testimonies**

SCRIPTURE LESSONS:

2 Timothy 4:6-8, 16-18

Luke 18:9-14

*Two men come to the temple to pray. One is righteous and regards others with contempt. His prayers are self-absorbed and ego-driven. The other was a man who felt guilty about the way he had lived his life, and his prayers were humble. Jesus is clear: All who humble themselves will be exalted and all who exalt themselves, will be humbled.*

Oct 31, 2010 **Halloween/Costumes Baptism**

**I Believe In This Church Testimonies**

SERMON: **Ghosts and God**

SCRIPTURE LESSONS:

2 Thess 1:1-4, 11-12

Luke 19:1-10

*He climbed a tree, because he couldn't see. Zacchaeus the tax collector was rich; but small in stature. "Come down from that tree and take me to dinner." Says Jesus. Trick-or-treat? Who is having dinner with you tonight?*



## From Our CE Director

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Salutations!

This has been a week for interesting news items concerning religions and the Bible. I have posted to my Facebook page two news articles. Both which I found via communications from UCC.org. The first is an article written by a former Salemite, Rachel Zoll (her dad is our infamous Judge Same Zoll) about the latest Pew Forum On Religion and Public Life research. According to their research, "Atheists and agnostics, Jews and Mormons are among the highest-scoring groups on a new Pew Forum survey of religious knowledge, outperforming evangelical Protestants, mainline Protestants and Catholics on questions about the core teachings, history and leading figures of major world religions." To take a quiz on Religious Knowledge go to <http://features.pewforum.org/quiz/us-religious-knowledge/>. I have taken the quiz and am 15/15, as was my oldest daughter. It is fun and educational. I plan to use it over the coming year with our youth and our teachers. We want our kids to know about themselves and their religious views as much as we want them to know about other religions.

The second article was about a science study being conducted by Carl Drews, a software engineer with the National Center for Atmospheric Research. Drews has parted the waters again — this time with a computer. He has used a 63-mile an hour wind on a piece of real estate known at the "Reed Sea" in the northern part of the Suez Canal. In the book of Exodus the term *Yam Suf*, is a biblical term meaning a marshy area filled with reeds. Drews also reports that in 1882 a British General, Alexander Tulloch witnessed an event called a wind set-down on a marshy area. "He observed a strong east wind blow all night long, and in the morning the water had completely disappeared," says Drews. "The lake was blown seven kilometers to the west."

To read more about this go to the *NPR website* and find *All Things Considered*. Study: *Wind May Have Helped Moses Part the Red Sea*. We have known for a while now that the Red Sea translation from the King James Version of the bible is incorrect, and that the term YAM SUF translates better into Reed Sea. But now, science says that the seas may have parted for Moses and the Exodus people to make their escape. I find this "truth" to be fascinating. It makes the story all the more real to me; although, I am reminded that the "truth" is not always on the outside. From a book by Laura Alary entitled IS THAT STORY TRUE?, the little girl in the book tells her Mommy, "I think that some stories are true on the inside, even if they are not true on the outside."

I wonder where you might find some truth in the Bible as you read it today? I wonder if the Pharaoh in the Exodus story was Ramses II or a composite of several pharaohs? I wonder if the star that led the Magi to the baby's side was a natural phenomenon? I wonder.....

Shalom and Wondering,  
Betsey



**YOUTH GROUP MEETS**

October 3, 8 AM, to hike Mt. Monadnock in NH. Rain date is October 10. October 16, attend the U2charist with your church friends.



**PILGRIM YOUTH FELLOWSHIP**

Meets the first Wed. of each month  
October 6 make a scarecrow for display in the church side lawn.



**TEACHER AND YOUTH LEADER BIBLE STUDY**

*Teacher and Youth Leader Bible Study* Sunday, October 24, 9 – 9:25AM with Rev. Laura

**Christian Education Action Group** meets Thursday, Oct. 14 at 7:30 PM in the church office.

**Training Opportunities**

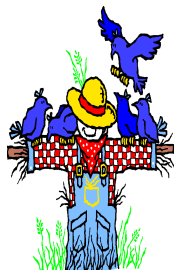
**Boundary Awareness Training** designed for Sunday school Teachers and Youth Leaders  
Friday, October 22, 9:30 – 12 NOON  
West Parish Church, 129 Reservation Road, Andover, 978-475-3528  
Speak with Betsey for more info or to register

**Godly Play CORE Training**

November 18 – 20, 2010  
St. John's Episcopal Church  
705 Hale St.  
Beverly Farms, MA 01915  
978-927-0229  
Speak with Betsey for more info or to register

**Scarecrow Contest and Display**

October 11, 10:30 AM  
Churches from Salem have been invited to participate



**Join the Choir...**  
**You'll Be Glad You Did!**

**Calling All Singers!  
(Experienced or Not!)**

Tabernacle Choir has many openings for joyful music makers no matter what your ability! Come because you love to sing. We rehearse Thursday nights from 7:30-9:00pm in the Bigelow Room and Sunday mornings from 9:00-9:45am for a 10:00am service.

If you would like to just come and see what it's all about feel free to stop by at any rehearsal.

You do not need to make a long term commitment to the choir. We enjoy seasonal, monthly or whatever works for you. We do rehearse music 3-4 weeks ahead so you can miss a rehearsal and still know the piece!

Feel free to contact any choir member or Valerie Peterson, Music Director at 978-985-7987.

We look forward to you joining this very lively group!



**Fall's Splendor**

# Tabernacle Church's Second Annual



**An evening of music, community and worship. Featuring live performances of songs from the band U2.**

**FREE ADMISSION**

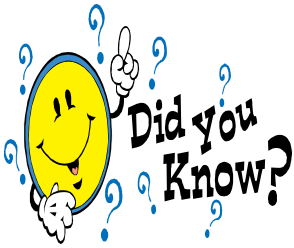
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**SATURDAY OCTOBER 16, 2010**

**7:30 P.M.**

**Tabernacle Congregational Church  
50 Washington Street  
Salem, Massachusetts**

**please bring non-perishable  
food item to be donated  
to local food pantry**



## Did You Know???

### Tabernacle Baptisms

Working with baptisms at Tabernacle has been interesting for many reasons, particularly finding the children of the many pastors who have served Tabernacle, as well as the children of some famous people who lived in Salem. In July of 1745, Timothy Pickering, of Revolutionary fame, was baptized at Tabernacle. He was the son of Timothy and Mary Wingate Pickering, and had an older brother John. Timothy was born on July 17, 1745 and was baptized soon after, but no precise day is listed in our records. A few years later, on November 15, 1747, Lucy, daughter of Timothy and Mary Pickering, was baptized.

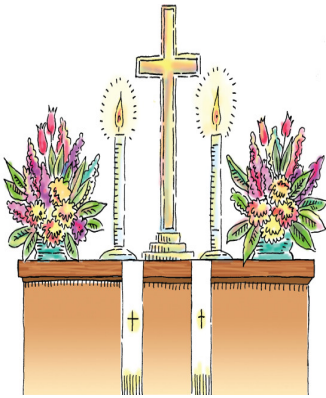
The Pickering family had been members of First Church, established in 1629, but when the break came in 1735, they must have been part of the majority of members who left the First Church and established a new group, eventually to become Tabernacle Church. And then in 1774, "fourteen aggrieved men," left Tabernacle Church because they were unhappy with the Presbyterian form of government being used at that time by Rev. Nathaniel Whitaker, and Timothy Pickering was among those men. They established what would become South Church.

A close connection, with the Pickering family, was made when Rev. Dudley Leavitt, minister at Tabernacle 1745-1762, came from Exeter, NH. In October, 1745 he was ordained in Salem and in 1751 married Mary Pickering, a sister of Timothy Pickering. On October 1, 1752, a son Dudley Leavitt was baptized and the parents were Dudley and Mary Leavitt. On February 9, 1755, their daughter Mary Leavitt was baptized, then Sarah Leavitt on October 9, 1757 and Elizabeth Leavitt on September 16, 1759. We have a portrait of Rev. Leavitt which was given to us by the Pickering family, and is a copy of one which still hangs in the Pickering House on Broad St. Salem, MA. Leavitt Street in Salem was named for this pastor.

On Jul 1, 1770, William Smith Whitaker was baptized, the son of Rev. Nathaniel and Sarah Whitaker, the minister of Tabernacle from 1769-1784. On February 2, 1772 Jonathan Whitaker was baptized. The last years of Whitaker's ministry were very stressful and filled with tension, due to the Presbyterian governing that Whitaker used, and eventually he was dismissed from the church and Rev. Joshua Spaulding was called. He was the minister from 1785-1802 and during those years the records show no children of the Spauldings being baptized.

Rev. Samuel Worcester became the next minister and his daughter Zervia Fidelia Worcester was baptized November 11, 1804. Jonathan Fox Worcester, baptized on August 17, 1806, Lydia Lucretius, October 9, 1808; John Norris, December 30, 1810; Elizabeth Lydia, December 25, 1814; and Abigail Amelia Carlton Worcester, November 9, 1817. Dr Worcester and Zervia Fox of Dracut, MA had been married in 1797 and he had served as minister to a church in Fitchburg and his older children were probably baptized there, including his son Samuel M. Worcester who served as minister at Tabernacle several years after his father.

Stay tuned next month for more about **Tabernacle Baptisms.....**



## Altar Flowers

Sunday, October 3: **In honor of her parents, Bud and Shirley Agnew** by Shelly Sweeney.

Sunday, October 10: **In loving memory of Eleanor and Walter Rogalski** by Angel and John Rogalski.

Sunday, October 17: **Congratulations Robin and Jared**, Love Grammy

Sunday, October 24: **In loving memory of Dick and June Anderson** by Amy Anderson Grover and Family.

Sunday, October 31: **Happy Birthday, Betsey, with love** from Mom and Dad.



## October Birthdays

The following members and friends are celebrating birthdays this month:

- 3 Gary Santo
- 4 John Hauber
- 11 Susan Earley
- 15 James Bailey
- 16 Carl Wathne
- 16 Peter Lutts
- 19 Cyndy Collins
- 25 Georgia Smith
- 26 Pat Morrow
- 29 Jane Kelly
- 30 Griffin Phelan
- 30 Liz Duda

## Steeple Lighting



The church steeple is lighted for the month of **October in loving memory of Jane Harrison, loving wife** by Ron Harrison.

## TWA

The Tabernacle Women's Association will be meeting on **Tuesday, October 19 at 10:30** in the Bigelow Room. We hope to have Betsey Bennett join us with a Godly Play message and discussion. Please bring a bag lunch and Betty Lutts, our October Hostess, will provide dessert.

On the third Thursday of each month Rev. Laura leads a Protestant Service at the Jewish Rehabilitation Center in Swampscott where our own Iris Kamon is a resident. This is an uplifting time for the ladies at the JRC and for those of us who have been accompanying Rev. Laura. Members of the TWA who are interested in joining us are asked to meet at the Church on **October 21 at 9:50am**. We will be return to the church before noon. There will be time to visit with Iris; lots of hymn singing and there is always a wonderful message. We hope to see you on Thursday, October 21. Transportation will be provided to the JRC and back to the church.

## Prayer Shawls

We have quite a few shawls on hand so there is no pressure but if you want to keep your hands busy during the autumn see Jane Dionne for yarn and directions. If you have started a shawl please take time to finish it so Rev. Laura can bless your work and take it to someone in need. Thanks for your help in this very important mission work of Tabernacle Congregational Church.