



The Tidings

A Publication of Tabernacle
Congregational Church, UCC
September 2011



Extending Hands, Expecting Miracles

The theme for this year, launched on the tenth anniversary of 9/11, is significant. As a spiritually vibrant community, we have a renewed responsibility to trust in God's amazing PRESENCE in this world. There are people, many people, who feel abandoned by God: their homes have been foreclosed, their jobs have been eliminated, their children are unable to secure employment and have been forced to move home, they are homeless, hungry, scared. When they look at the tornado of despair in their lives, they cannot see God's extended hand reaching out to touch and heal and offer hope.

God relies on us to be those extended hands.

Miracles are beyond our comprehension. We can hold onto hope that God's miraculous touch still lives in our universe, but we cannot necessarily guide that touch.....

OR CAN WE?

I'd like to believe that our journey during these last seven years has given us the faith and the courage to *risk believing* that we can guide the miraculous healing touch of God's presence. With our energy focused on Forgiveness and Peace, God joins our powerful flow of intentions and deepening faith. No matter what our circumstances, whether we are healthy or sick, happy or sad, rich or poor, employed or unemployed, single or partnered.... we are a powerful community at Tabernacle, because we are not alone.

As one body, one Spirit, one community we can be the eyes, ears, voice and most importantly, miraculous hands of God's healing presence.

So let's begin this year, trusting in the power of the Holy Spirit, alive in our midst. We have Miracles to Expect with our Extended Hands.

In faith and hope,

Rev. Laura Biddle

September Worship Themes

Sept 18, 2011 **Baptism**

Sermon:

The Mysterious Energy of PRESENCE

Scripture:

Psalm 145:1-8;

Matthew 20:1-16

Sept. 25, 2011 **RALLY SUNDAY!**

Communion in the Round during children's time.

Sermon: *Conversations with Jesus*

Scripture:

Psalm 25:1-9;

Matt 21: 23-32



"Extending Hands"
"Expecting Miracles"

Rally Sunday is September 25th 10:00am!!!

Join us as we begin our new church year together. Come and meet and greet new people, catch up with old friends and sign up for many volunteer opportunities throughout the year. We will also have our ever popular raffle!

Some Examples of volunteer opportunities:

- Scripture Reading
- Providing Offertory music
- Serving dinner at Lifebridge
- Coffee Pourer
- Greeters
- Providing Flowers for Sunday
- October Halloween Parking
- Sunday School Teachers
- Youth Group Leaders
- Trustee Work Days
- Serving on an Action Group
- These are just a few examples...

there are many more ways to **Extend Your Hands and Expect Miracles** at Tabernacle Church this year!

Dear Tabernacle Church Families,

On Rally Sunday, September 25, we will celebrate our theme Extending Hands, Expecting Miracles, in many different ways together.

At the staff meeting in June the staff suggested that we work on a project which would show our church and visitors that we are one large family. In working out that plan we have come up with a large quilt, on which there is a great tree with many overhanging branches. But something is missing—where are the leaves of this tree?

Those leaves are going to be added during the year, starting on Rally Day, September 25 and will signify that Tabernacle Church is one large family spread, as on a giant tree, into many families! We will give each family a leaf on which to write their names and it will be added to the tree and we will and we will see our tree come to life! Our theme for the year will be shown as we extend our hands to families and miraculously produce a tree, signifying our growth and vitality.

We hope that you will make a special effort to attend church and enjoy the many thing which will take place on Rally Day, and then continue to come to church as part of our large family. When one member of the family is absent from the table, he is missed, and so too are you when you do not come to church. We hope that we will have many leaves on the tree to signify that we are a large and growing family who love to do things together! Your leaf will join all the others on the tree as it spreads its branches over our two little people underneath, Sunbonnet Sue and Overall Sam!

See you at church
Kay Piemonte



Do You Know??????

Last week someone dropped off a brown envelope at Tabernacle with some great material in it, and did not leave a name. I would like to know where the items came from and who dropped it off! It included a beautiful picture of one of our well known church members and a long hand written letter about the Salem fire of 1914, written four days after the fire! The families who were mentioned in the material were the Woodbury and Hale families and if there are any descendants I would like to find them and thank them for the material!

Kay Piemonte



October Parking

Volunteers are needed to help with Our Annual October Parking fundraiser. Joel Richardson will again be organizing this

project. There will be a sign up sheet in the Bigelow Room. This is a great way for people to help and it is always a lot of fun!



Tabernacle Choir Update

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

The choir has started it's regular Thursday night rehearsal schedule from 7:30 - 9:00pm. All are

welcome to join this energetic, fun filled group of dynamic music makers! Please contact any choir member or speak with Valerie Peterson, Music Director at 978.745.3899 or peterse_09@yahoo.com.

Valerie

Note from Minister: ***"Seriously, this is a great way to participate in the spiritual and spirited life of our community!"***

Rev. Laura

Thank You....

Thank you to the Missions Action Group for coordinating the lunch during the 9/11 program and to everyone who donated sandwiches, beverages, chips & cookies. We raised over \$200 for a 9/11 missions project.



Dear Amy and Brenda, **Thank You!**

During my sabbatical you each served in amazing ways.

Amy-you gathered people from the broader community to participate in the 9/11 event. Our church was filled with the energy of creativity that praised God and promoted peace and healing for the world.

Brenda-you gave so much of your precious time to help in the office and maintain communication with the church and our broader community.

Thank you my fellow leaders,
With love and appreciation

Rev. Laura



SEPTEMBER 11 *Recap*

Recap of our 9/11 Worship Service and Art Exhibit

During our first visit to Tabernacle Church less than a year ago, we recognized a community that welcomed all so openly and warmly. We also recognized what dedicated, creative, and motivated members were part of the congregation. Therefore, I was not surprised Saturday and Sunday to see

that a few resourceful women in our congregation with their vision, resourcefulness and energy could organize a memorable 9/11 worship service and visual & performing arts exhibition. Speaking with the visual artists about their inspirations for their works on Saturday as they set up was the beginning of an emotional and heartwarming journey. Feelings that had become submerged for so many years surfaced again when seeing and feeling the artists emotions on paper, cardboard, canvas, in glass, 4,452 toy soldiers' helmets used to create a controversial portrait, wooden sculptures, pottery, quilts, photography, and a memorial from a family for the husband and father now deployed in Afghanistan.

Welcoming our renewed and refreshed Rev. Laura back on Sunday morning set the momentum for the day as we joined together to help heal open wounds of the mind and heart. Our new theme for the year "Extending Hands, Expecting Miracles" became real to me on Sunday as we tied ribbons on the prayer tree, prayed together, and heard how forgiveness no matter how difficult helps to bring peace to each us and to the world. It takes so little effort to extend ourselves to others and can make such a difference at home, at work, in our community and in the world. Thanks as well to all the people who assembled brown bag lunches and provided coffee and drinks and snacks throughout the event.

The afternoon performing artists were amazing talents who challenged us to open our minds and hearts in a different way hearing Antonin Dvorak performed by a talented tenor and soprano, Bach performed by a chamber group, oboe and bassoon solos and duet pieces that were hauntingly beautiful, poetry that touched our thoughts and hearts. Our Summer pianist, Michael Zaitchik, played several pieces including a very touching "Bring Him Home" from Le Mis. Probably the performance with the most impact was an interview of a Salem State student with Beverly Eckert whose husband lost his life in one of the towers on 9/11. She recalled her conversation with him as horror surrounded him and they both realized that these would be the last words they spoke to one another..chilling and heartbreaking. During the interview a couple performed a modern dance depicting the emotions of that interview. Our community choir was wonderful with many people from the community joining in under Val's direction to perform three beautiful works. It was with a sense of peace and renewal that the day ended on 09/11/11.

Thanks to all who made it such a memorable meaningful day that will forever have an impact on everyone who attended and supported this event.

Linda Davis

What a joy it is to have Tabernacle Church as my spiritual home. September 11 is a special day for me for two reasons. On September 11, 2001, my mother began hospice care. That beautiful fall morning I walked the short distance from our home to her condominium to welcome a care giver. I started walking at about 8:45 and arrived at 9:00. The care giver immediately asked me if I had seen the news. She had it on the television. My Mom never knew about the attack. The next evening I received an email from my cousin's husband recounting their son's experience in the North Tower on the previous morning. He was on the 63rd floor for a sales presentation when the first plane hit. Everyone started down the stairs not really knowing what had happened. Firefighters were going up the stairs. John got out and made his way home to Connecticut. I carry his father's email account with me as a reminder of just how precious this life is.

Our commemoration last Sunday provided so many opportunities to reflect on 9/11 with our Tabernacle community! Rev. Laura's sermon, art work, poetry, song, music, readings. Thank you to all who made the day so special from one who really appreciates the time we have together.

Rob Maier

Welcome Back!



Welcome back everyone! Hope that you had opportunities this summer to relax, renew your spirit, recharge your batteries and have some fun. It was certainly quite an exciting time dodging earthquakes, tornadoes, hurricanes, tropical storms, and 90+ plus degree temperatures. The new year has started at full speed.

We started our new year with a memorable day on 9/11 with an Interfaith service about "Forgiveness" in the morning followed by the creative arts displays and performances honoring the sacrifices of 9/11. I do not have the words to describe the impact that the artwork displayed in the Bigelow Room had on me and the others that viewed it. It included paintings, photographs, sculpture, poetry, quilts, and collages. The afternoon presentation, consisting of instrumental and vocal pieces, readings and dance, was equally as impressive. Our personal and collective emotional response to the events of 9/11 was a physical presence in our church building. The closing service was a blend of music and meditation. The day was an amazing representation of "**Extending Hands, Expecting Miracles**" and our ability to rise from the rubble and survive.

On September 18 the journey to the 200th celebration of the 1812 commissioning of the missionaries will start. Some of us will be sailing out in Salem Harbor on the "Fame" , a ship similar to the ship used in 1812. . Those brave missionaries were certainly "expecting miracles" when they left Salem. We should use them as models as we start this year of "expecting miracles, extending hands". Please remember to mark Feb. 5,2012 on your calendars - it's going to be an amazing day.

Rally Day will be September 25. We will be asking people to sign up for various activities (ushering, coffee hour, scripture reading, Halloween parking to name a few) and for the Action Groups. Please take the time in the next 2 weeks to decide where you can share your energy & enthusiasm.

We will be starting our Stewardship program on Oct. 16th. If you are interested in serving with this group, please contact Brenda or Amy. We are looking forward to an exciting, joyful, faith-filled year. PLEASE join us in this great journey.

Peace, Brenda Lewis/Amy Everitt ,
Co-Moderators



Paper copies are available on the children's table in the sanctuary.

Come be a part of the children and youth programming at Tabernacle!
Love, Betsey

Your teachers, your youth leaders and I are planning an exciting and active year of "Extending Hands" to create small "miracles" here at Tabernacle Church, UCC, with the community of Salem, and even beyond the city borders. All ages will be participating in different mission and service projects to benefit folks in need.

This fall we will be trying a new curriculum, Feasting on the Word, that reflects and correlates with the worship experience each week. Rev. Laura and I hope that families will take the opportunity to talk about the sermon and the class work together thus expanding on their understanding of scripture and how "God is still speaking" to us.

The older youth group for grades 6 – 9 will meet twice a month, usually on Sundays after church. The meetings will include lunch, (cooking), games, and deeper understanding of Biblical stories as they relate to the wider outside world. Sometimes we will meet on a different day to go out into the community, either Salem or beyond, to serve others.

The younger youth group for grades 3 – 5 will meet one times a month to do a service or mission project to benefit the needy or home bound of the church. The day is yet to be determined, as is the co-leaders.

As always parents are encouraged to join the children and youth by teaching Sunday school or by providing meals or driving for the youth groups.

Due to the many activities early in September, Rally Day will be Sept. 25. You can find the Registration Form on www.tabernaclechurch.org under children activities. Please return these by September 25th so we can be prepared for you children's attendance.

CE Work Day

Teachers, and parents who want to be teachers in the future, are invited to a morning coffee and work day in the classrooms on Saturday, September 17, 9 – 11:30 AM. And on Saturday, September 24, 9 – 10:30 AM. Come for all or part of the morning. Please RSVP to Betsey.

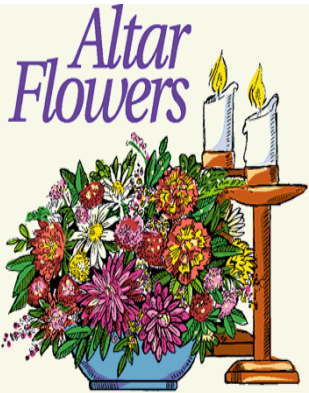
During September We Will Be Holding One Room School House Events

11th: we will meet in Emerson Hall, the room with the stage, to make our leaves out of hands for our bulletin board in the hallway and for our trees in our classrooms. We will practice our song One True God for the 25th.

18th: we will meet in Emerson Hall again for a Communion Education program. A deacon, Tina Walker- Morin will introduce us to the silver communion service and how and why we take communion as a sacrament at Tabernacle church. There is also a baptism scheduled during worship. So the children will learn about the two protestant sacraments. We will practice our song One True God for the 25th.

25th: We will sing the Introit for the church, "One True God" and bless our blankets that we made at VBS before we send them off to Church World Vision. We have "communion in the round" as our Time with Children during worship. Then we will depart and meet in Emerson Hall for a mission project for the Lifebridge shelter.

We will start Sunday school in our classes the first Sunday in October.



Altar Flowers for September

September 18 - In loving memory of Mr. & Mrs. Robert E. Carter by Annette & Bob Carter.

September 25 - In loving memory of our parents and our daughter Debbie by Sue and Wayne Earley.



Steeple Lighting

The church steeple is lighted for the month of **September in Loving memory of Our Parents and our Daughter Deborah A. Earley** by Wayne, Sue and Brian Earley.

Church Steeple Lighting Openings...

I have many months open for lighting our famous church steeple. You may light the steeple in memory, honor or in celebration of any person or event. Please contact Liz in the church office.

September Birthdays

The following members and friends are celebrating birthdays this month.



- 1 Amy Grover
- 1 Jennifer Santo
- 3 Tania Skeffington
- 3 Will Parr
- 11 Rebecca Bennett
- 14 Erin van de Stadt
- 15 Joel Richardson
- 16 Cindy Phelan
- 17 Raeleen George
- 17 Asia Biddle
- 19 Brianna Bennett
- 20 Marlayna Schmidt
- 23 David Ives
- 23 Grace E. Tanch
- 26 Charles Parthum
- 28 Noreen Nelson

TWA

The Tabernacle Women's Association will be meeting again on September 20th, Tuesday, at 10:30 in the Bigelow Room. Join us while we catch up on what our friends did over the summer vacation. Bring a sandwich; dessert and coffee will be provided.

Thank you...

Thank you to all of my friends from Tabernacle for their prayers, love and support during my mom's sudden illness and her passing. Your prayers were felt. With much Love
Liz Nelson, Don Harvey and Family.

New Address

Denise Turner
13 Meadow Drive #2
Colchester, CT 06415
Email: dturner@snet.net



New Address



INTRODUCING OUR NEW NURSERY CARE PERSON....

Jannell Viel

Jannell's sons Austin and Braydon attend Vacation Bible School. Her husband Matt generously donates fresh fruits to the VBS program. Jannell works during the week at Danvers Town Hall. Stop by the Nursery and introduce your self to her and welcome her to the Tabernacle family!