



# The Tidings

A Publication of Tabernacle  
Congregational Church, UCC  
September/October 2009

## *Creating an Extravagant Welcome*

### **WHY DO YOU COME TO CHURCH?**

Some people come looking for hope; some come looking for community; some come looking for a glimmer of God in the faces of fellow Christians; some come looking for safety and sanctuary.

### **WHY DO YOU COME TO CHURCH?**

Some people come because they are hungry; some come to share their abundance; some come to bask in God's light; some come to hear God's Word and be challenged by God's wisdom and guidance.

### **WHY DO YOU COME TO CHURCH?**

This year, we welcome you to **come home to Tabernacle Church** in your own unique ways, with your unique needs. And in fellowship with you, we want to **create an extravagant welcome** to all people who enter this place. We want to seek out people who are coming to church for the first time, or looking for a church after a long hiatus away, and welcome them to join us just as they are. We want our sanctuary to be a sacred place for deepening relationships with God and each other.

So come to church to help Create an Extravagant Welcome! Come be welcomed and come welcome others.

On **Tuesday September 1, 2009 at 6:30**, Action Groups will gather to prepare for the congregation to come home to Tabernacle on **Rally Day, September 13.**

***COME HELP US CREATE AN  
EXTRAVAGANT WELCOME!***

God bless you with peace and hope,  
Rev. Laura Biddle

## **10:00am Worship Service Resumes**

We will go back to our **10:00am** worship service on Sunday, **September 6.** See you then!!!



**COME BACK,  
COME BACK,  
WHEREVER  
YOU ARE!**

**Rally Sunday is  
Sunday,  
September 13  
at 10:00am.**

Join us as we begin our new church year together. Come and meet and greet new people, catch up with old friends, sign up for Sunday School, sign up for serving the monthly mission meal or check out all the new volunteer opportunities available at Tabernacle Church this year!

## Worship Themes for September and October 2009

**Sept. 6, 09** *Labor Day/Communion*

**Mark 7:24-37**

Two healing stories are linked in today's reading in two ways: Jesus expresses a desire for privacy and there is a third party request for healing. Jesus is asked by a mother to heal her child and he is asked by the community to heal a deaf man with a speech impediment. In both cases, Jesus asks for privacy and focuses all his attention on the one needing to be healed.

**Sept. 13, 09** *Rally Day*

*Creating an Extravagant Welcome*

**Scripture: Genesis 18:1-14**

**Mark 8:27-38**

This passage from Mark's Gospel sets a new tone for Jesus. His healing ministry has been effective and powerful. Now it is time to prepare for leaving. He turns his attention to his relationship with the disciples and his journey to Jerusalem. "*Who do you say that I am? YOU ARE THE MESSIAH. Then he began to teach them.*"

**Sept. 20, 09** *Teachers are commissioned.*

He was Teaching Them and Welcoming Children

**Psalms 1 and Mark 9:30-37**

Teaching the disciples, with an eye towards his death, creates a new kind of urgency for Jesus. And when they seem perplexed about the simple message of extravagant welcome for everyone, he stops walking and talking and **he sits down**. Eye to eye with children, Jesus says, "*Whoever welcomes a child in my name, welcomes me. And whoever welcomes me welcomes the one who sent me.*"

**Sept. 27, 09** *Who Are We to Judge?*

**Psalms 124 and Mark 9:38-50**

Christians are called to express their faith in all kinds of ways. What might be an acceptable expression for one may be odd or uncomfortable for another. Jesus encourages faithful expressions without judgment. He uses the metaphor of the human body to emphasize the *power of people* who express their faith and maintain a connection to one another through God. If your hand, foot or eye cause you to stumble away from God and if you are prone to judging others, better to be rid of the cause of your stumbling than to be judgmental and disconnected from God.

**October 4, 09** *World Communion Sunday*

Families Around the World

**Psalms 26 and Mark 10:2-16**

Jesus wants to talk about the spiritual realm; but his critics want him to talk about the laws as they relate to divorce. He responds by talking about the importance of maintaining faithful loving relationships. And then he turns to the children, welcoming them into his circle – and says that relationships in the spiritual realm are similar to those between trusting children who see the world with hope and possibility.

**October 11, 09**

What does Jesus say About Possessions?

**Psalms 90:12-17 and Mark 10:17-31**

"Go and sell what you own and give the money to the poor; then come follow me. For the first will be last and the last will be first."

**October 18, 09** *Launch of Stewardship Campaign*

Not mine to grant.

**Psalms 104:1-9 and Mark 10:35-45**

Who is the most important disciple in the eyes of Jesus? A couple of the men who have left their possessions and families behind to follow him, want to know that their efforts make them most important to him. But for Jesus, no one is more worthy or more important; everyone is a child of God and a servant of God at once. The best anyone can do to be close to Jesus, is to be fully and holy themselves, and to serve one another for God's sake.

**October 25, 09**

To See the Spiritual Flow

**Psalms 34:1-8 and Mark 10:46-52**

Another healing miracle brings us closer to the life and ministry of Jesus. Bartimaeus, a blind beggar, is one of the few people made well, who is **named** in Mark's Gospel. The use of his name makes this story worthy of close attention. "Have mercy on me." He cries out loudly, while asking to see again. Jesus responds, "*Your faith has made you well.*" **IMMEDIATELY**, Bartimaeus regained his sight and followed.



# Family Worship Service

*Third Tuesday of every month*

**October 20**

**November 17**

**December 15**

**January 19, 2010**

**February 16**

**March 16**

**April 20**

**6:45pm -7:30pm**

This service will be held in  
Emerson Hall and is designed  
for families with children  
and will include communion

*Tabernacle Congregational Church  
50 Washington Street Salem, MA  
978-744-3164 ~ Handicapped Accessible*



## Women's Night Out!

Join Rev. Laura Biddle and other women from Tabernacle Church in this lively evening of spiritual discernment and laughter!!!

Join us **Monday, September 21 at 6:30pm** at *Capt's* in Pickering Wharf. Please RSVP to Liz in the church

Womens'  
Night out

## Men's Night Out!

Join Rev. Laura Biddle and the men's community of Tabernacle Church at *Capt's* in Pickering Wharf for a discussion over food, drink discussion and laughter! We will meet on **Monday, September 28 at 6:30pm**. Please RSVP to Liz in the church office.



## Blessing of the Animals! October 4, 12:30pm!

Honoring the tradition of St. Francis, who preached to the birds and spoke to the animals. Tabernacle Church will host a **Blessing of the Animals on Sunday, October 4 at 12:30pm**. After our worship service have your lunch at home and pick up your animals. Bring your dogs, (on leashes) cats, gerbils, hamsters, ferrets, (in carriers) goldfish (in water containers) birds (in cages) Alpacas, horses and any other animals are welcome to receive a personal blessing and be gathered in prayer on the front steps of Tabernacle!

## Searching for Tabernacle Cookbooks



Over the years Tabernacle has published four different cookbooks and unfortunately I do not have a copy of any of them to put into the Archives! The earliest cookbook that we know of is owned by Nancy Lutts, who has a copy that belonged to Brud's mother, Grace Lutts. It was printed by the Cassino Press in Salem, and written by the Daughters of the Covenant but has no cover and no date on the title page. It is a 5" x 8" format and has about 94 pages.

The second book was done by the Couples Club and has no date, but was printed in the early 1960's because Jackie Kennedy sent a recipe for Fish Chowder! That one has an orange spiral binding, a yellow and orange cover and is also 5" x 8" and 94 pages.

The third one has a picture on the cover and was about the same size but opened on the side like a regular book rather than having the spiral at the top. I do not have a copy of this one, but I suspect it was printed in the 80s.

The last one was printed for the Friendship Fair in 1993 and is an 8" x 11" format with a blue spiral binding. If you have copies of any of these books and would be willing to give them to me for the archives that would be great. I suspect there have been copies of these books left by earlier members of the church so please keep your eyes open and see if we can get them back into the church. Thanks for your help. Kay Piemonte



## From Our Christian Education Director

Greetings and Salutations!

**Vacation Bible School** was a huge success despite the heat and humidity. We had 24

campers grades Pre –K through 5, along with 8 middle high kids who led the groups from activity to activity. In the activities we had 6 high school kids who helped the 10 adults. We Experienced and Discovered God in music, in science, in games, in crafts and in stories, and even in snack! We also learned rules of fire safety, so important for campers, and we built an edible fire. Yum! Yum! To complete the week a group of kids joined the Sunday morning worship to share some of the music they learned through the week.

With summer complete, (we finally had a heat wave to complain about!) we have moved into September and back to full schedules of school, sports, scouts and lessons. We are welcoming all the kids to join Sunday school classes, to join our youth group programs, and to bring their friends with them. **Rally Day on September 13**, will be full of opportunities to sign up for activities like youth group, singing, helping in the younger classes. Tours of the classrooms will be available. Registration for Sunday school will take place during the month of September. We need the registration forms so we can place your child appropriately. Thank you.



**ADULTS!** Are you interested in deepening your faith while sharing it with the younger generation? Helping lead youth group or teach in a Sunday school class is great way for you to grow your faith. Even doing a one-day activity with the kids, such as joining them on the Crop Walk or at the Advent Workshop can make a difference in a young person's faith journey. You will be amazed how your own journey of faith will deepen and expand. As the children's song says: "Deep and Wide, our faith is like a fountain flowing deep and wide."

Come join Tabernacle for an extravagant welcome as we experience and discover God everywhere. Not just within our four walls, not just on Sunday mornings, but also teaching Sunday school, serving meals at the Salem Mission, walking at the Crop Walk, creating crafts at Advent Workshop, worshipping with children.

We will hold a **retreat for teachers on Sunday, September 13 from 12:30 – 3 PM**. We will have a light lunch to start and then we will discuss curriculum, classroom management and scheduling. **Note the date change:** originally scheduled for a Saturday, but Betsey has a conflict.

The **Junior Youth Fellowship** for middle school kids will hold their first formal meeting on **Sunday, Sept. 20**, right after church. Gather in the youth room. We will choose a day and time to meet for the year, and talk about our fall and early winter plans.

**Senior high youth** are invited to meet on that **same day, September 20**, to talk about their meeting times and plans for the fall and winter. Confirmation begins for 8<sup>th</sup> and 9<sup>th</sup> graders the following **Sunday, Sept. 27 12:30pm**.

Please read the weekly additions of "This Week..." sent out on email from Liz. I will be putting date changes and additional items of interest in these to keep you up to date and informed.

Shalom, **Betsey**



# YOUTH GROUP

★ News ★

## JYF and SYF News

**Junior Youth Fellowship for all middle school students begins Sunday, Sept. 20.**

Our first big event the 2<sup>nd</sup> Annual Crop Walk in Danvers on Saturday, October 24. We will be joining other UCC church youth fellowships from the Essex Association in a 3.5 mile walk through Danvers to raise awareness of hunger and poverty and to raise funds for both international and local relief. On Friday, October 23 we are invited to join these youth groups at Maple Street Congregational church in Danvers for a time of games and pizza. Details will go home in a flyer from our first meeting.

**Senior high youth** are encouraged to attend the ***U2charist on Saturday, October 17.*** Marie and her group from West Parish in Andover will be joining us for dinner and the concert. Details will be given at the first meeting on **September 20.**

**Christian Education Action Group Meets Thursday, September 3, At 7 Pm,** and Thursday, October 1, At 7 Pm For Regular Scheduled Meetings.

### GODLY PLAY

Betsey will be attending the training in Exeter, NH on October 1 – 3 to be re-certified as a Godly Play teacher. She will also be taking a shortened version of UCC Polity being offered through the MACUCC office in Framingham.



*Thank You*

## With Our Thanks.....

Thank you to **Jessica Karlsson** for making our beautiful floral arrangement for the Altar, which we use during the summer. The colors look spectacular in the sanctuary. **Thank you Jessica!!!!**

## Thank you...

Thank you for your prayers and messages of sympathy for the loss of our **Golden Retriever, Bradford.** He was very special to us and we miss him greatly. Audrey and Tom DeLoffi.

## U2charist

On Saturday October 17, 2009 Tabernacle Church will celebrate a U2charist, a service using the music of the popular group U2 in order to bring awareness to extreme world poverty and in support of the United Nation's Millennium Development Goals, a set of 8 goals to reduce human suffering by 2015. These goals include a plan for ending extreme poverty by feeding the hungry, clean water for all, healing the sick, reducing child mortality, improving maternal health, school for every child and empowering women. All proceeds from the ***U2charist*** will support Heifer International. Please join us for a wonderful night of community, prayer and music. *See the enclosed flyer on page 7.*



## Midweek Pause



We will continue with our very popular Midweek Pause on **Tuesday, October 6 at 5:45pm** in the Towne Room. This half hour each week will be devoted to a time of reflection, scripture readings by those present, meditation followed by communion served by Rev. Laura. For those who care to meditate in silence beforehand, soft chants will be played from 5:30 to 5:45.



*"I found grace inside a sound, I found grace and that's all I found."* Breathe, U2

## *U2charist*

*Saturday, October 17, 2009 at 7 p.m.*

Join us in music, community and worship  
to bring awareness to extreme world poverty.

### ***TABERNACLE CONGREGATIONAL CHURCH, UCC***

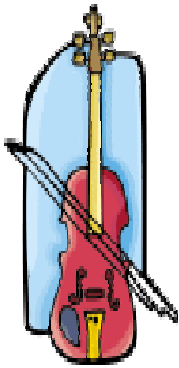
50 Washington Street  
Salem Massachusetts 01970  
978-744-3164

**Handicapped Accessible**

[www.tabernaclechurch.org](http://www.tabernaclechurch.org) for directions

All proceeds will benefit *Heifer International*.  
Please bring non-perishable food items for donation  
to local food pantries.

*The Savoy String Trio  
presents.....*



*Musique Macabre!*

*An evening of bewitching  
classical music*

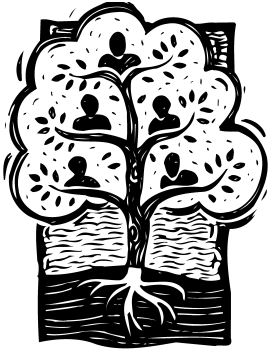
*With special guests:  
Alice Wathne and Brian Raiche.*

*Saturday, October 24<sup>th</sup>, 2009  
7:30 pm at Tabernacle Church*

*A benefit concert for the  
Tabernacle Congregational Church*

*The Savoy String Trio would like to thank the Tabernacle  
Church for the use of this beautiful and historic building.  
This building provides us with an exceptional rehearsal space  
and we are extremely grateful.*

*Help us keep this building an inspiration and a safe haven  
for all who walk through it's doors.*



## Introduction to Genealogy

Are you interested in learning about your family history? How about the maiden name of your third great grandmother, or if your great great uncle

actually fought at Gettysburg?

If so, you might be interested in attending sessions on how to find out the answers to these questions, and many more. To qualify you only need to be interested in your own family history, willing to do some research and have a lot of curiosity!

Classes will be held in the Bigelow Room at Tabernacle Church on **October 7, 14, 21 and 28 from 9:30 – 11:30 AM**. You will need to bring along an **8 x 11 three ring binder** to keep your work organized. I will give you lots of forms to make your search easier, tell you where you will find the information you are seeking, and show you some of the things that you can accomplish if you are willing to do some research. One session will be on computer researching, but that is not where you should begin!

You can sign up for the class on Rally Day in the Bigelow Room and I look forward to seeing you there! Kay Piemonte



## Water Color Class

**Ron Harrison** will be teaching his **watercolor class** again beginning **Thursday, October 8** and continuing each Thursday from 9:30 to 11:30 a.m. The cost is \$20.00 per class and the class is limited to 12 folks. Representative watercolor will be taught and the class is open

to all skill levels. Contact Liz Nelson in the church office for more information and to register.

## GEMS

Join the men of GEMS (*Gourmet Eating Mens Society*) on **Wednesday, September 16** for a Salem Ferry Boat Trip to Boston for lunch. We will meet at the Hawthorne Marina located on Blaney Street at 9:30am. The boat leaves at 10:00am. We will decide on the trip into Boston where to have lunch. We will plan to take the 2:00pm ferry back to Salem. If you have any questions, please speak to Wayne Earley. Everyone is invited!!!!



## Calling All Musicians

### Adult Choir..

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

Adult Choir will begin rehearsing on **Thursday September 3**. We will meet in the Bigelow Room starting at 6:30 pm for light refreshments and fellowship and we will start our rehearsal at 7:30 pm. Choir meets every Thursday from 7:30 - 9:00pm in the Bigelow Room.

Please come and meet us. We would love new voices to join this joyous and caring group of singers. Sing with us for a month, or a season or the whole year. Whatever works for you!

### Instrumentalists..

If you would like to share your music during the Offertory any Sunday please speak with Valerie Peterson, the Music Director.

### Also..

I am looking for small instrumental ensembles to also add music to the service so again speak to Valerie Peterson.

I look forward to seeing everyone on September 3rd!

Valerie Peterson, Music Director

During the summer, I watched a couple of movies about immigration that were thought provoking and challenging. Immigration is an issue that Christians are grappling with in this post-911 world. In both Hebrew Scriptures and in some of the Letters from Paul, there are passages that encourage people to submit to human authority and to follow the laws of the land *for the purpose of maintaining peace and harmony*. In ancient Judea, anyone who was from another land or not of the twelve tribes of Israel, was thought to be an outsider/stranger/immigrant.

But there are also mandates in both the Old Testament and New Testament *to love the stranger and to do unto the least of our brothers and sisters as we would do unto Jesus*. Jesus encourages his followers to adhere to God's law rather than human law. Remembering their history as exiles dwelling in Egypt, the children of Israel were to show love and compassion for anyone considered to be in exile. Immigrants/exiles, who were considered to be strangers, outsiders, and the least among the people, were also God's children and the focus of Jesus' attention.

These two movies are worthy of our attention, I think.

***Crossing Over*** directed by Wayne Kramer with Harrison Ford and Ashley Judd

The stories in this movie tackle some of the difficult issues regarding immigration in post-911 America. As viewers, we empathize with each character, even if we don't agree with their position or their status.

***Frozen River*** written and directed by Courtney Hunt with Melissa Leo and Misty Upham

This movie deals with illegal immigration in pre-911 America. But the focus is on the relationship between two women who smuggle people across the St. Laurence River from Canada. Both women live in quiet desperation due to poverty and winter loneliness.

Through the film, we grow to care deeply for the two protagonists who find camaraderie and economic viability in this world of illegal immigration.

What is a *Christian response to the current issues of immigration*? I believe that we are **encouraged to reach out in love** to all people regardless of their immigration status; To **help** people deal with the process of integration while caring for their families; To **counsel and assist** people in our congregations and communities to come into compliance with laws regarding legal status; and to support educational endeavors such as college entrance and English as a Second Language for people of all ages and from all backgrounds.

God bless all people who are immigrants and descendants of immigrants.

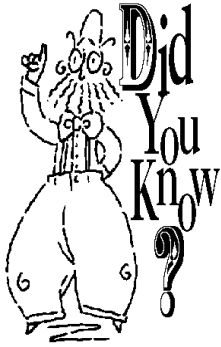
***Rev. Laura***

## **Conversation with the Minister**

**September 27,  
11:30-12:30pm  
Bigelow Room**

Please join the Pastoral Relations Group for this second *Open Conversation* with members of the congregation and church leaders.





## Did You Know???

**A Letter written to Iris Kamon by Ernest R. Belleau, Jr about Tabernacle Church, Salem, MA, in 1990.**

During the summer of 1925, President Calvin Coolidge was staying at White Court, Swampscott, Massachusetts. He was to attend services at the Tabernacle church in Salem, Massachusetts on Sundays.

I, Ernest R. Belleau, Jr. and Harold Pyburn, a friend, were walking down Loring Avenue in Salem. A car stopped and there was another car that also stopped quite a distance ahead. The driver of this car was a chauffeur. The back window rolled down by hand and a man stuck his head out the window. He said to us, "Do you know who I am?" I looked at him and thought, and I finally said "No," and turned around and said, "Harold do you know who that is?" Harold said, "No, I don't." The man looked up and smiled and said "I am Calvin Coolidge, President of the United States." As I remember there was no one around protecting him. There were no police anywhere that I could see. Some people ahead were directing him to the Tabernacle Church, Washington Street, in Salem. There were three people in his car, the President, his wife and the chauffeur.

I was ten years old and Harold Pyburn was thirteen and neither one of us knew our President. We later saw headlines in the paper that he was attending services at Tabernacle Church.

The President and Mrs. Coolidge were regular attendants at the Tabernacle Church until they returned to Washington, with the exception of two Sundays, when they were visiting the President's father, Colonel John Coolidge of Plymouth, VT. During these weeks some of the official family were of the party, including Herbert Hoover, Secretary of Commerce; Frank B. Kellogg, Secretary of State; Senator George W. Pepper of Pennsylvania

and Mrs. Pepper. Mr. Frank W. Stearns, a personal friend of the President, who was summering at Red Gables,

Swampscott, was usually in attendance. The church was filled to capacity, even extra chairs being used, and hundreds were turned away from every service. The pastor was Rev. William H. Spence.

Enclosed are clippings from the Salem Evening News, this paper is still published daily in Salem, Massachusetts.

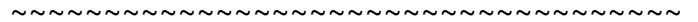
Things stayed in my mind because of his son. This will always be with me, reading headlines in the newspaper, Calvin Coolidge's son dies. He stepped on a rusty nail, gangrene set in and that was what killed him. They had no antibiotics to fight the terrible infection. This was a very sad thing, it was his only son.

Before leaving for Washington the President and Mrs. Coolidge showed great courtesy to the church, by entertaining on the afternoon of September 9, Mr. and Mrs. Spence and the members of the vested choir, at tea, on board the President's yacht, the *Mayflower*, which was anchored in Marblehead Harbor.

The church register contains the signatures of the President, Mrs. Coolidge, John Coolidge and Mr. and Mrs. Stearns.

This experience is something I will never forget.

Ernest R. Belleau, Jr.



## With Sympathy

Our Condolences are with church member **Bonnie Childs** upon the death of her sister *Barbara* who passed away recently. Bonnie has resided in Agawam, MA for many years.

## October Parking Volunteers Needed



Saturday and Sunday's during the month of October, Tabernacle Church sells its parking spaces for the thousands who visit Salem each year. This is a great fundraiser for the church. Joel Richardson,

church member, will be organizing this profitable fundraiser this year. Joel is looking for volunteers to **work one shift each day, two people each shift from 11am-3pm.** Volunteers are expected to work the full shift. A sign up sheet will be located in the Bigelow Room shortly with the dates and times and other information. Or you may contact Joel Richardson at [joelrichardson@verizon.net](mailto:joelrichardson@verizon.net) for more information!

## With Sympathy



Our thoughts and prayers are with Amy (Anderson) Grover and family upon the death of her Dad, long time Tabernacle church member **Richard D. Anderson** who died

on August 22.

## Get Well

Get Well Wishes to **Alice Bonney** as she recovers from a fall during the summer.

## 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
- 18 Anna Richburg
- 19 Cyndy Collins
- 20 Barbara Penman

## Fall Birthdays



## Prayer Shawl Ministry

The hot weather is coming to an end and it is time to think about replenishing our prayer shawl supply.



This summer one of the shawls was given to a mutual friend of Betsey Bennett and Ellen White. She wrote notes to both thanking them for the shawl which made her "feel hugged and prayed for" each time she wrapped it around her shoulders.

This is the feeling people always have when one of Tabernacle's prayer shawls is wrapped around them in their time of need. Please help us to continue this mission by calling Jane Dionne for yarn and directions for knitting or crocheting a shawl. If you have already begun a shawl this is the time to finish it. Thanks for your help

## September Birthdays

The following members and friends are celebrating birthdays this month:



- |                      |                      |
|----------------------|----------------------|
| 1 Amy Grover         | 1 Jennifer Santo     |
| 2 Sara Patch         | 3 Tania Skeffington  |
| 3 Will Parr          | 5 Brad Harrison      |
| 6 Ellen White        | 11 Rebecca Bennett   |
| 11 Peter Holtz       | 11 Dakota DeRoin     |
| 14 Erin van de Stadt | 15 Joel Richardson   |
| 16 Cindy Phelan      | 17 Norman Richburg   |
| 17 Raeleen George    | 17 Asia Mehlenbacher |
| 19 Brianna Bennett   | 22 Brian Taubeneck   |
| 23 Allison Kilcoyne  | 23 David Ives        |
| 23 Grace E. Tanch    |                      |
| 26 Charles Parthum   |                      |
| 28 Bradley McAlpine  |                      |
| 28 Noreen Nelson     |                      |