



# The Tidings

A Publication of Tabernacle  
Congregational Church, UCC  
February 2008



Dear Members and Friends,

Many people turn to God during difficult times in their lives, hoping that God will restore feelings of trust. Because, when times get hard, it is very hard to TRUST God. It's hard to trust God when we are walking on egg shells, and wondering what **new** bad news is around the corner. So we become tentative in our relationship with God.

You may recognize the feeling of waiting:

- \* for the next bad thing to happen;
- \* for the next "bomb" to drop;
- \* for the next tragedy to hit;
- \* for the next reason to be afraid.

**What if this year, we looked at Lent as an opportunity to trust again.** What if we *walked* with Jesus through the last forty days of his life, and *allowed* his trust in God to seep into our minds and our hearts. What if, we *listened* for a message about trusting God in each scripture passage and each prayer. **What if we spent this Lent being deliberate in our desire to trust again.**

We already know that there is joy on the other side of Lent. We know that around the corner from Lent there is new life, new hope and miraculous possibilities.

So, why not walk through the forty days of Lent learning how to trust again. **Learning how to Fall back** into the *net of love* that Jesus uses to catch people. **Learning how to Leap forward** across whatever chasm is before you, knowing that you will land in the arms of God.

## February Worship Themes

### February 3, 08

Communion

Sermon: *Fear and Faith*

Scripture Lessons:

Exodus 24:12-18

Matthew 17:1-9

### February 10, 08 - *First Sunday in Lent* *Artists in Worship*

#### Men's Sunday ~ Rob Maier Preaching

Scripture Lessons:

Genesis 2:15-17, 3:1-7

Matthew 4:1-11

### February 17, 08 - *Second Sunday in Lent* *Artists in Worship*

Sermon: *Why Would You Come to Jesus by Night?*

Scripture Lessons:

Psalms 121

John 3:1-17

### February 24, 08 - *Third Sunday in Lent* *Artists in Worship*

Sermon: *Learning from an Experience*

Scripture Lesson:

John 4:5-42

Spend time during Lent learning how to trust again:

***“O God, I want to trust You. I want to remember what it feels like to trust all that is good. I surrender my resistance and open myself to You. Walk with me through these forty days. Help me trust again. AMEN.”***

Please find a way to join your friends and neighbors at Tabernacle at one of our Lenten Offerings. Also, look for the *daily “Lenten Spiritual Reflections”* prepared for this season.

In the Spirit of renewed trust,  
*Rev. Laura Biddle*

## **Prayer Shawl Ministry**

We joined several other churches to support the church in Dennis MA as they send a group to New Orleans Ninth Ward to work during February School Vacation. They will be bringing 25 prayer shawls with them to distribute to people who feel that they have been forgotten. Our shawl has a tag, suggested by Betty Lutts, which tells the recipient about our prayer shawl ministry and the fact that the shawl they have received was knit and then dedicated with prayers and love from Tabernacle Congregation Church in Salem MA.



In January our ministry wrapped over five shawls around people in need of love and prayers. We also gave two Baptismal Blankets to children from our congregation who were baptized.

These shawls need to be replaced so that we can continue this very important ministry. If you have a shawl nearly finished, please finish it before we dedicate shawls in February. This is the mission that has no end and we need you. Contact Jane Dionne for directions and yarn if you want to join us.



## **The Missions Committee invites everyone to: the Second Annual Friendship Potluck Dinner and Silent Auction** **Friday, March 7<sup>th</sup> 6:00 p.m.** **Tabernacle Church Dining Room**

The Second Annual Friendship Potluck Dinner and Silent Auction is fast approaching.

We hope that you will be able to attend the event on Friday, March 7<sup>th</sup> at 6:00 p.m. in the dining room. Please feel free to bring a friend!

All of the money raised will go to local missions.

Please help out by:

1. Attending the event! Sign up sheets will be in the Bigelow Room in late February/early March.
2. Volunteer to help with setup during the day on March 7<sup>th</sup>. (Contact Pam Burch)
3. Contribute an item or service to the Silent Auction – donation forms are included in this issue of the Tidings and will be in the church bulletins during the month of February.

We are looking forward to this fun evening of fellowship and fund-raising.

If you have any questions, please contact Pam Burch at 781-631-1428 or [pamburch@comcast.net](mailto:pamburch@comcast.net)

## Choir Notes!!!



The choir is always open for new members.. Please talk to any of the choir members if you have any questions. We rehearse weekly from 7:30 - 9:00pm and Sunday mornings from 9:00-9:45 before the service.

**EASTER WILL BE HERE VERY SOON!!! IF YOU WOULD LIKE TO JOIN THE CHOIR FOR THE EASTER SEASON PLEASE SPEAK WITH VALERIE PETERSON OR LEAVE A MESSAGE FOR HER WITH LIZ IN THE CHURCH OFFICE.**

Calling all instrumentalists.....singers... the Congregation would love to hear you during the Offertory time in the worship service. See the sign-up clip board in the Bigelow Room and pick out a date that works for you.

DO you have a favorite song or anthem you haven't heard in a while????? PLease let Valerie know.....we will try to add it to the worship service.

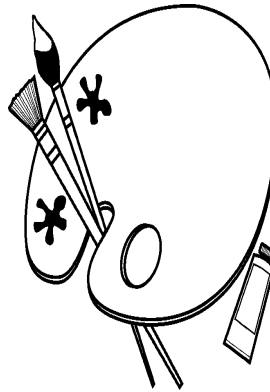
Thank you!!!!  
Valerie Peterson, Music Director

## Shamrock for *HAWC* Concert



Join us for the **Second Annual Shamrock for HAWC Concert**, an evening of Celtic Music to Benefit HAWC (Help for Abused Women and Children) on **Saturday, February 16 at 7:30pm** in the sanctuary of Tabernacle Church. Featured musicians will be Bob & Jen Strom w/ Rob Huffman, Michael O'Leary, Jack MacLean & David de La Barre, Shanty Singers, O' Caroly etcetera. Suggested donation will be \$15.00; Seniors/Students: \$10.00

## Artists in Worship



For the third year we will be offering our *Artists in Worship* Lenten project sponsored by the Deacons. During the six Sundays of Lent, worshipers will be invited to choose an art medium such as water colors, clay, acrylics, pencils and charcoal and spend the hour of worship expressing themselves through art. The art stations will be located in the balcony and everyone is welcome to participate. There will be an art show on Easter Sunday to display the various works.

- Children under 16 must be accompanied by their parent.
- Parents are asked to please clean up after their children.
- All children will leave for Sunday School with their classes.

## Vacation Bible School Coming In August!



Come to a **Beach Party**. Wear your sunglasses and your beach hat. Come *Surfin' Through the*

*Scriptures*. We will go beachcombing for hidden treasures that represent a different Beach Be-Attitude. We will sing and groove to songs, new and familiar. We will visit the Surf 'n Sand Science Lab. We will fill bottles with messages and build sand castles. We will meet Gideon, King David, Jesus and Thomas. Come join the fun! Bring your friends! More information will be in the March Tidings.

## From Our Christian Education Director

Greetings and Salutations:

We are moving into the season of Lent; a six week period symbolizing the wilderness, a forty days and nights time for reflection and prayer about where God might be calling you. The Lenten season is based on the three Temptation of Jesus stories found in the Gospels of Mark, Matthew and Luke. In these stories, the Holy Spirit leads Jesus into the wilderness for forty days and nights so he might reflect, meditate, pray and fast. "Where is God calling me to follow?" He is challenged by "Satan", "devil", "tempter", not just once but three times. The first time he refuses to change stones into bread to abate his hunger. The second time he finds himself upon the pinnacle of the Jerusalem temple refusing to throw himself down to be saved by angels. The third temptation takes place upon a mountain top where Jesus refuses the offer of all the Kingdoms seen from the mountain top. With each refusal Jesus quotes "It is said, 'Do not put the Lord your God to the test.'" (*Deuteronomy 6:16*) The "evil one" departs and angels come to wait upon Jesus.

What is tempting you to put your God to the test? The Lenten season begins on Wednesday, February 6 with a traditional donning of ashes from the burned palms from last year's Palm Sunday service. The ashes are an outward symbol of repentance for doubting the presence of God in our lives. Just as Jesus was tempted, so we are faced with challenges and choices daily. Sometimes it is easier satisfying our hunger with "bread made from stones." Sometimes we choose to accept "all the Kingdoms in our sight." What is your "stone bread?" What is your "Kingdom?"

Enter into wilderness season with the knowledge that we gather together as a community of faith to worship, to learn, to serve. Come to worship and Sunday school knowing that God will feed your soul, that there are angels sitting next to you in the pews just waiting to serve you and their God of mercy and love.

Shalom, Betsey



### Heifer International

During Lent, the Sunday school classes will be taking turns baking muffins to sell at coffee hour. All proceeds will go to our collection for Heifer International. During the April school vacation, the younger grades, Kindergarten through grade 5 will take a day trip to Overlook Farm. The farm is located in Rutland, MA and features animals and villages that Heifer International supports. They also have huge garden which we will visit on our tractor hay ride. Sign up for this trip with Betsey. Drivers are needed.

The first weekend in May, 2,3,4, grades 6 & 7 will be staying overnight at Overlook Farm doing various farm chores as well as living and eating in a Heifer "village." We will be attending this trip with our friends from West Parish in Andover. Sign up with Betsey by February 17, before you go on vacation in February.

That really was a “cheesy” way to get your attention but please read on. As many of you know I (Bill Peebles) am new to Tabernacle Church and come with a lot of “church time”. I have been actively involved in church almost my entire life. I was a Presbyterian minister of about 15 years and a licensed mental health counselor for about the same amount of time. Over the years I’ve come to realize that some people are looking for a safe, private place to talk about how God is active in their lives.

Many times people, who feel God slipping more deeply into their lives, as I did after leaving the ministry as a pastor, seek out their pastor for council. Sometimes people want a separate relationship with an individual who specializes in what is called Spiritual Direction.

Spiritual Direction is an ancient practice dating back to the Desert Abbas and Ammas and beyond. A Spiritual Director might more accurately today be called a Spiritual Listener or Spiritual Companion. It is someone who is dedicated to assisting the Traveler in the ancient act of discernment or, in other words, “Where is God calling me to go, what is God calling me to do with my life?” The fact is there are more lay people who seek a companion than clergy so it is not something that only pastors seek.

I have begun a two year training program in Spiritual Direction and need at least two directees. If you would be willing to commit to meeting once a month for about an hour for at least six months with the sole purpose of discerning the movement of God in your life I think it would be a positive experience for both of us.

If you are interested or want to ask questions please call me at 978-587-2422 or email me at [wmpeeb@comcast.net](mailto:wmpeeb@comcast.net) (please note this is my correct address not the one in the directory). Thank you. Bill Peebles



## A Gathering of Men.....

Let's start with two seemingly unrelated sentences that will immediately show how related they really are:

- Some years ago John Gray wrote the book, *Men are from Mars, Women are from Venus: A Practical Guide for Improving Communication and Getting What You Want in your Relationships*. The short understanding of his work is that men and women do relationship differently.
- One of the greatest differences between Christianity and many other (not all) of the major world religions is that Christians are invited into a deep and loving relationship with their God, into covenant.

If both of these are true, then how men relate to God is a unique thing. It is not a better way or a lesser way, it is just a different way. In October, 1998 the Consultation on Men's Ministry of the United Church of Christ outlined a form for men to look at their relationship with God. It included Spiritual Formation (helping men discover the movement of God in their lives through prayer, bible study, and spiritual friendship), Community (finding places where men can support each other in their unique relationship with God), and Service (supporting men to be in service to the church in ways beyond traditional male roles).

If there is even a small seed of curiosity in you that you would want to devote some time to looking at your relationship with God then you are invited to join Carl Wathne and Bill Peebles after worship for about an hour beginning on March 30<sup>th</sup> through April 20<sup>th</sup>.



## From Our Christian Education

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Greetings and Salutations: The children of Godly Play and The Introduction to the Bible class will be studying several stories from the Old Testament during Lent. Stories based on the Ten Commandments will bring their attention to the learning to live as God's people. They will learn the basis of the Ten Commandments that is three fold. That they are required to Love God, to Love People and most importantly the God Loves Them.

Read over the Ten Commandments, found in Exodus 19 & 20 and in Deuteronomy 6: 4 – 6. Discover that God' laws are plain and simple. All they require is your love and your respect for yourself and each other. But most importantly, "You shall love the Lord your God with all your heart, with all your soul, and with all your might. Keep these words in your heart and recite them to your children. Talk about them when you are home and when you are away." (*Deuteronomy 6:4 -7*)

How do we talk about God and our faith in God at home with our children or with each other? The CE Committee has committed themselves to helping us. Each Sunday morning you will find an insert in your bulletin titled **TAKING FAITH HOME**. Read the insert over and discover ways to have conversations with your children about Sunday services, ways to do simple devotions, ways to serve the community and ways to carry out rituals with intention.

The suggested activities are the four keys: caring conversations, devotions, service, and rituals and traditions, that deliberately and thoughtfully bring the Word and the Spirit of God into our homes. If you miss a Sunday service, Betsey will be glad to send out an insert via email or snail mail. The committee and Betsey are looking for feedback about the insert. How are you using it?

Is it helpful? What have you noticed different about your conversations with your children or with each other when you focus on suggestions from the insert? Have fun with the insert suggestions. Experiment and Enjoy!

In addition to the TFY inserts, a group of us are attending a seminar presented by The Pastoral Excellence Program of the MACUCC, (Massachusetts Conference of the United Church of Christ) on Saturday, February 23, 2008. The topic **Faith and Families: Bringing the Church into the Home** features Dr. Elizabeth (Lib) Caldwell.

Dr. Caldwell is the author of many articles and books on topics of religious education including: **Leaving Home with Faith: Nurturing the Spiritual Life of our Youth**, United Church Press, 2003; **Making a Home for Faith: Nurturing the Spiritual Life of Your Children**, United Church Press, 2000; **Come Unto Me, Rethinking the Sacraments for Children**, United Church Press, 1996.

We are excited about this opportunity to feed our spirits and we anticipate sharing what we learn with congregation.

Shalom, *Betsey*

### Two Fish and Five loaves of Bread

On the last Sunday in January the children of Tabernacle worshiped together in Emerson Hall under the leadership of the grade 8 & 9 class, taught by Anne Bogan and Karen Murray. We were mesmerized as the class play acted Jesus feeding 5000 people with only two fish and five loaves of bread. We were the 5000 while they played the parts of the sick, the lowly, the disciples and Jesus. We sang favorite songs. Then we wondered how Jesus could be a baby just several weeks ago and now he is a man feeding 5000 people! We wondered who were the 5000! We wondered how could Jesus feed so many with so little! We collected money for our on going Heifer International collection.

# Our Lenten Journey 2008

## A Bible Study for Women "Remembering the Women who followed Jesus"

Women of Tabernacle, pray with me. Join Rev. Biddle on Monday mornings, **February 11, 25, March 3 and 10** at 7:30am to learn about the women who followed Jesus. There is no better way to begin your week!

### Thursday Night Bible Study

Let's talk and pray together about "Who Is Jesus" during this one hour Bible Study. We will meet on Thursday evenings beginning **February 14, 21, 28 and March 6 at 6:30pm.**



## Holy Week Worship Services



### Palm Sunday March 16 at 10:00am

Children will process into the sanctuary waving their palms. Tabernacle Choir will offer special music.

### Maundy Thursday Tenebrae Service

March 20 ~

Soup ~ 6:00pm

Sanctuary ~ 7:00pm

We will begin with soup made by the youth of the church then the Deacons will lead a dramatic re-telling of the events leading to Good Friday.

### Good Friday ~ March 21

12:00pm Ecumenical Service for all Salem churches. Stay Tuned for more info.

## A Spirit-Filled Writing Workshop



Explore your personal connection to the spirit through a writing workshop. This 3 session writing workshop is being offered during the Season of Lent for adult

members of the congregation. The workshop will be held in the Bigelow Room from **7:00pm-8:30pm** on the **following Tuesday, February 12, February 26 and March 11.** If you are interested in participating, a sign up sheet is located in the Bigelow Room. For questions, please contact Natalie Binder at 201-486-7268 (cell) or natblue0108@yahoo.com

## Easter Sunrise Service March 23

We will meet at Barbara Bowman's home 8 Dearborn Lane. **Sunrise is at 6:40am.** Stay tuned for more details!



## The Promise of Easter

### Easter Worship Service March 23 at 10:00am

Come celebrate Christ's resurrection at Tabernacle Church for a traditional Easter Service featuring a Brass Trio, inspiring Easter music, decorating the cross with colorful flowers and a spirit filled time of worship.

## Did You Know?



We continue with an article *Reprinted from a Salem paper, probably the Salem Gazette, published in 1871, according to the age of Dr. Brown Emerson. South Church reunited with Tabernacle Church in 1924. Our third floor auditorium is called*

*Emerson Hall in honor of Rev. Brown Emerson and a beautiful portrait of him hangs in our Historical Room.*

*Kay Piemonte*

The church at its first erection, was sadly destitute of modern elegancies and conveniences. The proprietors found it necessary to pass a vote that "No pews should be painted but in conformity to the whole, and the approbation of the standing committee," and that "No blinds to the windows be put up without the approbation of the committee so as to be alike." There is no record of any heating apparatus until 1812, when a brick Russian stove was used. Looking at the prices now paid by churches for musical services, it is interesting to note the record that for "promoting psalmody" the Treasurer is authorized to disburse sixty-five dollars a year.

In 1860 the interior of the church was remodeled and various repair made at a cost of nearly seven thousand dollars.

Since the separation of the Tabernacle Church, the South Parish has had only four settled pastors.

The Rev. Daniel Hopkins, D.D., was ordained pastor Nov. 18, 1778. He was born in Waterbury, Conn., Oct. 16, 1734, graduated at Yale College with the highest honors of his class, and studied theology with his distinguished brother Rev. Samuel Hopkins. He held his office as pastor until his death in 1814.

Rev. Brown Emerson, D.D., was settled as Colleague Pastor in 1805. He was a son-in-law of Dr. Hopkins, and still retains the office of Senior Pastor, at the advanced age of ninety-three. He was born in Ashby, Mass., Jan. 8, 1778, and graduated at Dartmouth College in 1802.

He was licensed to preach by the Essex North Association in 1804, and was ordained Pastor of the church the following year, and for 66 years has been the faithful and beloved minister of one parish, and is to-day the oldest settled pastor in the State.

Rev. Israel E. Dwinell, D.D., was ordained colleague pastor Nov. 22, 1849, and held his office until 1863, when on account of ill health he was dismissed to a new field of labor, in the more genial climate of California. He was born in East Calais, Vt., Oct 24, 1820, graduating at University of Vermont in 1843, and at Union Theological Seminary, New York, in 1848. His labors in connection with the church were very acceptable, and his memory is still cherished with very tender and affectionate respect by his former people.

Rev. Edward. S. Atwood, the present acting pastor at the church, was settled as colleague Oct. 23, 1864. He was born in Taunton, Mass., June 4, 1833, graduated at Brown University, Providence, R.I., in 1852 and at Andover Theol. Seminary in 1856. He was ordained Pastor of the church in Grantville, Mass., Oct. 24, 1856, which office he held until his removal to Salem.

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## Thank You.....

**THANKS**  
FOR YOUR HELP!

Thank you to Mary Jo Bennett, Natalie Blue, Joshua Cabral, and Jane Kelly for cooking the Mission Dinner for the month of January. Also thank you to all the folks who took time out of their busy holiday schedule to cooked the December dinner at the mission on Christmas Eve.



## February Memorial Flowers

February 3:  
In loving memory of **Grace A. & Carlton G. Lutts, Sr.**  
from their family.

February 10:  
In loving memory of the **Willey and MacDougall Families** from Len & Penny Willey.

February 17: In loving memory of **Loved Ones in the MacLean and O'Regan Families** from Maire MacLean and family.



February 24:  
In loving memory of **Heather M. Bennett** from her Family.

### TWA

The TWA will be meeting at the church on February 19th , Tuesday at 10:30. The hostess will be Julia McInnes. Please join us in fellowship.

### Penny Fund For Blankets

If you have been collecting coins for the Church World Service Blanket Fund please give them to any member of the TWA. Palm Sunday is coming up fast and that will be the day of our annual collection. We know that money is tight for everyone but imagine how a blanket will help someone who has lost everything to natural disaster or to war. Thanks so much.

### Your Support is Needed

Marcia Olsson is going to Biloxi, MS on March 9th to work on a Mission Trip for a week. Anyone who could sponsor me would be greatly appreciated. This money goes to the renewal of Biloxi, MS. For more information please feel free to contact me at 978-741-5292

## Steeple Lighting



The church steeple is lighted for the month of **February in loving memory of Heather Marie Bennett** by her grandparents, Dick and Betty Lutts.

## February Birthdays

The following members and friends are celebrating birthdays this month.

- 2 John Phelan
- 2 Margaret Fitzgerald
- 2 Michael Kuras
- 2 Ben Chevoor
- 4 Annette Carter
- 4 Madeleine Holtz
- 4 Eliza Jane Holtz
- 5 Virginia McArthur
- 5 Betty Tobin
- 6 Rob Maier
- 7 Thomas DeLoffi
- 11 Ronald Harrison
- 11 Hannah van de Stadt
- 12 Christiaan van de Stadt
- 12 Norma James
- 12 Barbara Maier
- 12 Kristin Wilson
- 13 Ruth Kapnis
- 14 Kyle Burnham
- 16 Grace Bennett
- 17 Emily Karam
- 17 Paul Duda
- 21 Constance Hollis
- 23 Steve Chevoor
- 24 Michelle Parr
- 26 Lisa Coates
- 26 Ron Leslie
- 28 Phoebe Burnham



## GEMS

The next luncheon of Gems (*Gourmet Eating Men's Society*) will be held on Wednesday, February 20 at 12:00pm at the Lyceum in Salem!!!