



The Tidings

*A Publication of Tabernacle
Congregational Church, UCC
January 2009*



After the flurry of activity and holiday gift giving, it feels good to begin again. The Christian year began Dec. 1, 08 – but we like to make January the beginning of our new year. Because after Christmas, we can feel the presence of Christ and we have a sense of God being with us all over again. No matter what occurred in 2008, God arrived into our lives on Christmas Day.

We have an opportunity to begin again.

Each year, God joins us in all our humanity so that we can let go of the past and launch ourselves into this new moment in history.

When I was in the middle of my recovery from foot surgery in March of 2007, I wondered whether I would walk again. My foot was not healing well and my spirits were low. After my second surgery in July 2007, I said a prayer: “O God, I want to dance again. Heal my foot so I can dance.”

I expected a metaphorical kind of dancing to follow my prayer. I knew that the damage to my foot was extensive and the idea of dancing again was silly. (Plus I hadn’t danced in twenty years.)

But God hears our prayers and responds. In December 2008, at the beginning of Advent, Zumba, a Latin rhythm dance class, sparked a renewed excitement for me. **I am dancing again!** And many Tabernacle parishioners are joining me on Monday mornings at 9:00 am at the church.

When God sent Jesus to accompany us in our day-to-day lives, God was answering prayers. SEND US A SAVIOR! SEND US SOME HOPE! SEND US A PROMISE!
God responded.

Let’s pray together, that we can dance again in 2009. Dance with love for the Spirit. Dance with friends. Dance with hope that peace will come to the earth. Dance with commitment to end poverty and homelessness. Dance just because it’s fun!

Dance into the New Year with faith.

Sincerely yours
Rev. Laura

Worship Schedule January 2009

January 4, 2009: Communion

Meditation: Gathering the Scattered
Scripture Lesson:
Jeremiah 31:7-14
John 1:1-9

January 11, 2009: Epiphany

Baptisms/Drama Ministry (Deacons)

Scripture Lessons:
Psalm 29
Acts 19:1-7

January 18, 2009:

Martin Luther King Sunday

Denise Turner preaching

Scripture Lessons:
Psalm 139: 1-6
John 1:43-51

January 25, 2009: Annual Meeting Day

Sermon: *Fishing for People*

Scripture Lesson:
Jonah 3:1-6, 10
Mark 1:14-20

“The Church With The Lighted Steeple”

The history of Tabernacle so wonderfully written and compiled by Kay Piemonte and others has left me with a strong feeling of gratitude to them and to all of those who have preceded us over the past centuries that brought us to where Tabernacle is today. It is also fascinating to see the history of the church intertwined with the history of our country and Salem. I was also impressed with the contribution that so many of the present members have made over the past few decades as well. I especially encourage all new members to read it.

Carl Wathne

Midweek Pause

Midweek Pause will resume weekly meetings on Tuesday, January 6th. Those who have been attending them regularly have described the Midweek Pause as a refuge, the upper room, and a time for peace. Take a break from your weekly stress and join us at 5:45 PM to 6:15PM. For a time to meditate with chants come at 5:30. It's worth the time.



Tabernacle Church Annual Meeting Sunday, January 25, 2009 at 11:30am

Our Annual Meeting will be held on **Sunday, January 25**. The agenda will include reports from committees, election of officers and committee members and adoption of the budget for 2009. All church members are encouraged to attend this important meeting!





From Our Christian Ed. Director

Greetings and Salutations!
A Very Happy and Healthy New Year to all!

January 6 is the day of Epiphany in the church. The word epiphany means "to show". "to make known" or "to reveal." It is linked to the visit of the Magi who brought royal gifts to the Christ child, "revealing" him to the world as Lord and King. Light is a key image or symbol associated with Epiphany. (from Taking Faith Home for Jan. 4, 2009)

We are still in the darkest days of the year, although the sunlight is beginning to come earlier in the morning, and is staying later in the afternoon. Our hearts are heavy with the terrible news of war, job losses, fraud, and deceit. We long for a light to shine upon our souls. We long to glow with a hope filled with joy and love. We long to kneel at the manger and feel the light of God's love shining into our hearts. Take us to Bethlehem with the Magi. Our gifts are not the gold, frankincense, and myrrh of the Magi. We come with humbleness to the manger and offer our greatest gift, our selves, hopeful that Your love will heal us and see us through these dark days. We ask that Your light shine upon us as we turn to share you with others. We celebrate Your life and light amongst us.

What other ways are we celebrating the light? The Christmas lights are coming down, but maybe we are keeping a grow light on some plants. Maybe we are eating our dinner by candlelight once a week. By intentionally adding light to our lives we invite the Christ child to come and live within our hearts.

These nights of darkness and clarity are also the best for star gazing. Take your children or grand children, or just yourself, out some evening and look at the stars.

Try to find the North Star, the Big Dipper and the Little Dipper. The sky is so large, and the stars are so bright. The scene serves to remind us how infinite God is. Each twinkling star serves as a reminder to us that the Magi followed a star to find the greatest gift ever given to mankind. *The Word became a human being. He made his home with us. We have seen his glory. It is the glory of the one and only Son. He came from the Father. And he was full of grace and truth.* John 1:14 (NIRV)

In this season of Epiphany, may your path be lighted from the outside and from within. May Jesus be your guiding star. Shalom, Betsey

The Advent Workshop was a rousing success. Thank you so much to Cyndy Collins for coordinating this event, and thank you to all who volunteered at a table and helped the children and adults with the projects. On that note: If you made an Advent Wreath for your home, please return the base to the church so we can make the wreaths again next year. Thank you so much in advance.

I have heard the Pageant worship was a wonderful day full of joy and hope for the coming of our King, a baby named Jesus. Thank you so much to everyone who helped make this day so special for so many. I am especially grateful to Catherine MacLean and Ross Peterson for playing such active roles in directing the Pageant this year. Both of them grew up and played many parts in the pageant over the years. Their experience was helpful and inspirational to all the children.

On January 11, the kids will be celebrating Epiphany using an ancient tradition. A special cake for each classroom will have three beans hidden in them. The children who get those pieces will be crowned as kings for the day. What fun!

Turn page for more exciting happenings.....





Martin Luther King Jr. Day

MLK Day

On January 19, which is Martin Luther King Day, the CEAG will be hosting a day of service. Families with young children are invited to come to the church that

day at 10:30 AM to make Valentine tray favors for the North Shore Medical Center. At 12:00 noon a group will be going down to the Second Chance Thrift Store for an hour or so to help sort and organize the racks and shelves. There will be sign up clip boards available in the Bigelow Room so we can accurately prepare.

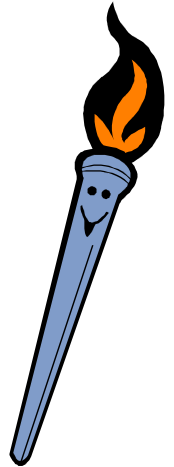
Watercolor Painting Class



A FRESH START

Ron Harrison has offered to teach a class in watercolor painting at the church on Thursday mornings from 9:30 to 11:30 beginning on February 26 and lasting for about six

weeks. There is no charge for the course but it will be initially limited to eight students depending on the degree of interest. The emphasis will be on the various elements and techniques necessary in working with watercolor. Representational painting will be taught, but after learning the fundamentals each student will then know how to pursue his or her own style. A list of inexpensive materials will be given each student after signing up. Contact Liz Nelson if you are interested.



We're Recycling!

The CEAG is recycling HP Inkjet and LaserJet Print Cartridges. Look for the large plastic jar in the Bigelow Room. Proceeds will go

towards a mission trip for middle and senior high school kids. Thank you in advance for your contributions.

MARK YOUR CALENDARS - Christian Education Dates

Christian Education Action Group will be held on Thursday, January 8 at 7:00pm
Teachers Meeting will be held on Sunday, January 11 at 9:00am



Music With A Mission

Concert

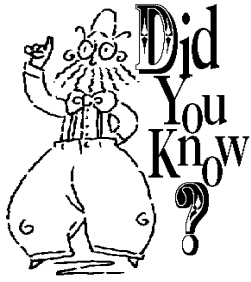
Saturday, January 10th

@ 7:00pm

At Tabernacle Church!

Suggested Donation - \$10.00

See enclosed Flyer.....



Did You Know?

We continue with *“The Tabernacle Church, the Church Endures.....”*

.....But in the earth, history shows us that shock after shock was disturbing the tranquility of human life. What reverberations must have shaken the very souls of the people of Salem and the Third Church when refugees from Arcadia came flowing into Massachusetts and through it toward the west and the south; when more than one Evangeline was peering into every face in the agonizing effort to recognize her long-lost Gabriel. What questionings of faith must have shaken our forebears here when Montcalm and Wolfe met on the Plains of Abraham and settled the fate of half of the North American Continent. The Church could not fail to recognize the vast changes, which were going on all about it. It could not fail to hear the rumblings and feel the tremblings of the foundations of the social and political structure. But it moved on through them undefeated and unafraid. Through all this critical period from 1745 – 1762 the teacher and leader at Tabernacle was one whose name, like that of many quietly efficient men, has not taken a conspicuous place in history, Dudley Leavitt.

But far more severe shocks than these were imminent, for revolution was in the air, and its terrible physical accompaniments were near at hand. The philosophies of Rousseau and of Voltaire had percolated into the masses of the people. New ideas of personal freedom and national independence were teeming in men’s minds. The Bill of Rights was gradually shaping itself in American thinking. The temptation to break away from old forms and institutions was very urgent. And eastern Massachusetts was one of the most active centers of this turmoil.

Then came the day in March of 1770 when people gathered excitedly and talked about a Boston Massacre, and again in 1773 about a certain Tea Party, which had been so unconventional as not to take place at four o’clock in the afternoon. Event followed on the heel of event. It may be a question how much attention was given to sermons on Sundays when they were following the stories of Lexington and Concord, for men were dropping their hammers and ploughs, were picking up their weapons and hurrying toward Bunker Hill and Cambridge. Completely upset were men’s lives and women’s plans throughout the historic years, which followed.

Yet the church held together through it all, in spite of the fact that the first meetinghouse was destroyed by fire in 1774, and a new meetinghouse, occupied in 1777, had to be erected.

Through its whole revolutionary period the Third Church in Salem was under the leadership of Nathaniel Whitaker, about whom it was mysteriously rumored that he had not disdained to add to his now personal income through privateering.

Then in 1789 the novice, who, when this church was organized, and was playing under the cherry trees at the age of five, was inaugurated President of the United States and became in very truth the Father of his Country. The Church had survived this vast human upheaval. Incidentally we may note there were at that time 730 houses in Salem, and the population was 5,210, of Boston 15,400, of New York City 23,380.

Deep were the emotional stirrings and strong were the controversies which raged during the whole of that remarkable and almost unique pastorate of Browne Emerson at the South Church. For 67 years he served that Church; 44 of them unassisted and 23 with associates. During the whole long period the Unitarian controversy was raging, disrupting congregations, especially in eastern Massachusetts, and causing sharp divisions of opinion between individuals. The same grave difficulties were there for father and son, Samuel Worcester and Samuel M. Worcester, who steered the rocking ship of the Third Church through those tempestuous seas during fifty-five years, with a break of only eight years between their terms. What historic events also were diverting the attention of congregations from the work of the church when they heard with great elation of Perry’s victory on Lake Erie in 1813, during the latter part of the Napoleonic period, which included the Battle of Waterloo in 1815.

Stay tuned next month for another installment in *“The Tabernacle Church, The Church Endures....”*
Kay Piemonte

January Altar Flowers

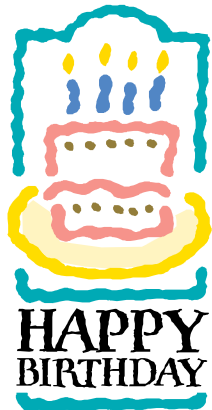


January 4: In Celebration of Allison & Jim Kilcoyne's 10th Wedding Anniversary.

January 11: In loving memory of Our Parents, Thomas V.; Alfreda C. and Katherine DeLoffi and William G. Young by Tom & Audrey DeLoffi.

January 20: In loving memory of Jenny Malin by Ed, Judy and Chloe Burge.

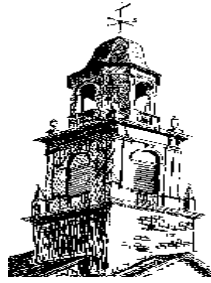
January 25: In loving memory of Helen T. Bourget by the Carter Family.



January Birthdays

The following members and friends are celebrating birthdays this month:

4	Joe Bennett
7	Holbrook Phelan
9	Abigail Clark
8	Natalie Binder
8	Andrew Lutts
14	Jean-Paul Dionne
14	Evelyn Borish-Wayson
16	Julia McInnes
17	Teagan Wilson
21	Jack MacLean
24	Paul Lambe
25	Jonathan Chesbro
26	Cindy Burnham
26	Carlton "Brud" Lutts
31	John Dionne



Steeple Lighting

The church steeple is lighted for the month of January in loving memory of **Mary Parthum** by her husband, Chuck and the Parthum and Zakas Families.

T.W.A.

The TWA Christmas luncheon was held at Jane Dionne's house on Tuesday December 16th at 11:30. We enjoyed a wonderful turkey dinner and a stimulating Yankee Swap. Rev. Laura and Liz joined us for lunch; we were pleased to have four other guests join us and we hope that they will continue to come to TWA on other occasions

Our January meeting will be a special treat. On **Tuesday January 20th** at 10:30 in the Bigelow Room we will serve refreshments courtesy of hostesses Marge Ives and Julia McInnes. Then our own Bob Anthony will be showing slides and conducting us on a trip around China. Bob was a guide for Americans in China for many years; we are fortunate that he has agreed to guide us. As always guests are welcome and we hope to see many of you there.

Don't forget to save your pennies and other coins as we plan to join with the Sunday School in their Heifer Project next spring.

Prayer Shawl Ministry

It is time to get back to knitting prayer shawls. We have had a need for them within our own church family recently and, with the bad weather breathing down our necks, we may have need for more. Please finish any shawls you might have started for this wonderful ministry.

GEMS

The Gems (Gourmet Eating Men's Society) will meet on **Wednesday, January 21** at 12:00pm at the Lyceum.

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