



The Tidings

*A Publication of Tabernacle
Congregational Church, UCC
February/March 2009*



Dear Members and Friends,

Shoveling snow creates aching backs and sore muscles. But it also creates a community of neighbors and friends who are in the same boat.

There is something to be said about being in the same boat these days. When we hear news of lay-offs and banking scandals, of a rising rate of homelessness, domestic abuse, starvation and depression, we realize that we are all vulnerable.

One of the reasons people come to church during times like these is to find a community that understands. We need to feel like we are not alone in our strife. And even if we are superb at praying and communicating with God, there is something to be said for the physical camaraderie of sitting together in the pews and worshipping.

Jesus was the incarnation of God. His compassion and understanding were beyond the norm. His intuition told him when someone needed a healing word or a healing touch. He never shied away from difficult situations; in fact, he approached them with faith in God's constant presence. He was a non-anxious voice in a babbling world.

Why do you come to church? Do you arrive on Sunday mornings with preconceived notions about what you will hear or what you will learn? Do you come open to God's Holy Spirit? Do you come to deepen your relationship with Jesus?

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Change in "The Tidings" Newsletter Distribution

In these difficult economic times the church office is doing whatever it can to cut costs, one of the ways to do this is to combine our monthly newsletter. Beginning this month we will publish a bi-monthly "Tidings".

Below is the 2009 schedule for submitting articles and distribution of the newsletter.

April/May Issue - Articles submitted on or before March 15 - Distributed on April 1, 2009

June/July/August Issue - Articles submitted on or before May 17 - Distributed on June 1, 2009

September/October Issue - Articles submitted on or before August 16 - Distributed on September 1, 2009

November/December Issue - Articles submitted on or before October 18 - Distributed on November 2, 2009

Also, please keep in mind any activities, special events, programs etc. can always be advertised in our weekly "This Week At Tabernacle" which is emailed weekly to our church members and friends.

Thank you
Liz Nelson
Church Administrator

**February and March Worship
Themes on page 2.....**

There is a phrase that I think holds a good amount of truth: **you receive what you ask for.** If we ask for an experience with God that is hopeful and healing when we come on Sunday mornings, we will likely have just that kind of experience. If we come to church looking for support for our sorrows and depressions, we will likely find that as well. If we come to hear the Good News of Jesus Christ, we will hear the Good News.

However you come, come to church just as you are, and trust that God will give to you what you need.

In faith and love,
Rev. Laura Biddle

February Worship Themes

February 1, 2009 Souper Bowl Sunday Communion

Sermon: *Compassionate Wisdom*
Scripture Lessons:
Psalm 111
Mark 1:21-28

February 8, 2009 Men's Sunday -

Sermon: *Miracles*
Scripture Lessons:
Isaiah 40:21-31
Mark 1:29-39

February 15, 2009

Sermon: *Who wouldn't want to tell the story?*
Scripture Lessons:
Psalm 30 1-5; 11-12
Mark 1:40-45

February 22, 2009 Mardi Gras Sunday Baptism

Scripture Lesson:
Psalm 50:1-6
Mark 9:2-9
Sermon: *Did he just Transfigure?*

FEBRUARY 25 - Ash Wednesday - 6:30pm

March Worship Themes

March 1, 2009 First Sunday in Lent

Our Theme for Lent will be
"Walking with Paul through Lent"

Sermon: Spirit In Passion
Scripture Lesson:
Psalm 25
1st Peter 3:18-22

March 8, 2009 - Second Sunday in Lent

Sermon: *Hoping Against Hope*
Scripture Lessons:
Genesis 17:1-7;15-16
Romans 4:13-25

March 15, 2009 - Third Sunday in Lent

Sermon: *God's Foolishness is Wiser than Human Wisdom.*
Scripture Lessons:
Psalm 19
I Corinthians 1:18-25

March 22, 2009: - Fourth Sunday in Lent

Sermon: *When We Were Dead*
Scripture Lessons:
Psalm 107:1-3; 17-22
Ephesians 2:1-10

March 29, 2009: Fifth Sunday in Lent

Sermon: *Humble Surrender*
Scripture Lessons;
Jeremiah 31: 31-34
Hebrews 5:5-10



**Ash Wednesday
Service
February 25
at 6:30pm
Tabernacle Church**

Join us for our Ash Wednesday Service on **Wednesday, February 25 at 6:30pm.** The theme for the evening will be "Fragrance of Christ". The scripture for the evening will be Matthew 6:1-6, 16-21. Stay tuned to "This Week at Tabernacle" for more information.

**Shamrock for
HAWC
Concert
Saturday,
February 14th 2009
at 7:30 PM**



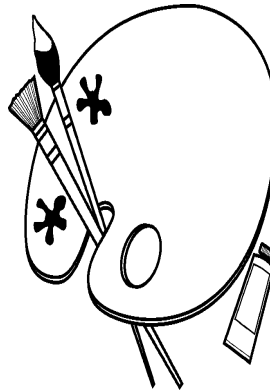
Join us for the *Third annual* **“Shamrock for HAWC Concert** a benefit Celtic music concert on behalf of **HAWC** (Help for Abused Women and Children). This year’s theme *“Love is in the EIRE”* and will be held in the sanctuary of Tabernacle Church. Suggested donation will be \$15.00-\$20.00; Seniors/Students: \$10.00 Bagpipes, tin whistle, fiddle, and song will create a joyful noise while raising money and awareness around the issue of domestic violence. Salem residents Jennifer and Bob Strom, well-known North Shore Celtic musicians, will perform at the concert and have recruited several local favorites to assist in the cause. These include Michael O’Leary Celtic singer, David O’Docherty Irish whistle player and singer, Steve Levy Tenor Banjo player, Emily Peterson concertina player, David de la Barre piper/whistler, along with singers Colin de la Barre and Rose Sheehan, Highland bagpiper Jack MacLean, Shanty singers Peter and Joanne Sousa, singers Bill and Sarah Smith along with Valerie Peterson and Rev. Laura Biddle. In addition to the music, Historian Emily Murphy PhD will give her insights on how the Irish have influenced Salem and Irish scenic photographer Ziggy Hartfelder will display a gallery of photos for viewing and purchase.



**Mark Your
Calendars!!!**

- **Women’s 4th Annual Soiree’** at Tabernacle Church ~ March 6 at 7:00pm~ Pot Luck Dinner
- **Women’s Sunday, March 8**
Stay tuned for more information on these events.

Artists in Worship



For the fourth 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.

**Prayer Shawl
Ministry**



Prayer Shawl Ministry

We almost ran out of Baptismal Blankets but thanks to a heads up from Liz, and some willing knitters that catastrophe has been averted. It looks as though we have lots of Prayer Shawls but we can always use more because we never know when we will need four or five in one week. Won’t you please help out?

If you have started a prayer shawl that you don’t think you will be able to finish, please call Jane Dionne at 978-745-1324 and let her know. Someone else will be more than willing to finish what you have started and we won’t be buying more yarn when there are shawls out there waiting to be completed. Later on you can start again when you have more time



From Our Christian Education

Greetings and Salutations!

As we prepare for another snow storm, I am looking through our calendar for the months of February and March. We will be entering Lent with Ash Wednesday on February 25th. My suggestion for the beginning of February is for us to think about, pray or meditate, on the change you would like to be for 2009. Remember one of your New Year's resolutions and refine it. Then after partying away together on February 22 at our Mardi Gras Festival, be released from the past and enter Lent by putting your prayer into action.

Maybe the change you want to make is cleaning out your closets. The Second Chance Thrift Store at the Salem Mission is in need of good used clothing and furniture. Maybe the change you want to make is to become involved more directly with the homeless or the hungry. Offer to cook and serve the Salem Mission dinner on the 4th Monday of February or March or April. Or offer to organize a food drive for the Mission's food pantry.

Our high school kids would like to do an overnight here at the church focused on the "30 Hour Famine" offered through World Vision. Check out the web site to find out more. If you have been CORI ed by the church offer to chaperone for the overnight.

May be the change you want to make is to get to know more folks here at Tabernacle. Offer to serve coffee after worship. Offer to greet and usher during worship. Attend Mid Week Pause. Attend a Bible Study led by Rev. Laura.

OR Offer to help in the classrooms. Extra adult hands are always welcome on a rotating basis. Just speak with Betsey Bennett to set up a date and age group. We have six different classrooms, including the Nursery which always seems full!

The JYF will be changing their lives by attending an overnight mission/service program through the City Mission Society of Boston. We will leave the church at 5 PM on Friday, February 20 and return to the church at about 5 PM on Saturday, February 21. Reservations are required along with a \$20.00 deposit by Sunday, February 8. Speak to Betsey Bennett for details.

Starting in Lent the Sunday school and the TWA will join forces to collect for Heifer International. If you are unfamiliar with Heifer check out their web site, www.heifer.org. We also have several copies of their bi-monthly magazine, WORLD ARK, available to read in the Bigelow Room. Look for ways to help buy animals in the email "This Week at Tabernacle" sent out by Liz and Rev. Laura.

There are also plans to have both the Cherub Choir, Pre-K – grade 2 children, and the Kids Khorus, grades 3 – 8 children, sing on separate Sundays during Lent.

**Be the change that the world needs.
Shalom, Betsey**

Community News about Free Preschool Screening

Salem School Dept.'s preschool screening for 3 and 4 year old children will take place on March 16, 17 and 18. To be eligible for the 2009 - 2010 school year children must be 3 years old by August 31, 2009 and be a resident of Salem. For a screening appointment please call 978-740-1181 during the week of February 2 – 6, between the hours of 9 AM and 2 PM. Contact Nina in the Early Childhood office at 978-740-1181 with your questions.

**PUBLIC SCHOOL VACATION WEEK IS
FEBRUARY 16 – 20, 2009**



MARDI GRAS SUNDAY, FEBRUARY 22!

Come and Party with your church friends! Pancakes with butter and syrup and some

more exotic toppings such as frozen strawberries, crushed pineapple and whipped cream will be offered. There will be shiny bead necklaces to wear. There will be a pancake race down the middle of the Bigelow Room and there will be a craft opportunity for kids of all ages to make/ decorate masks. We might finish the day with a burning of last year's palms outside in the parking lot.



Now what do we need to get this together:

We need:

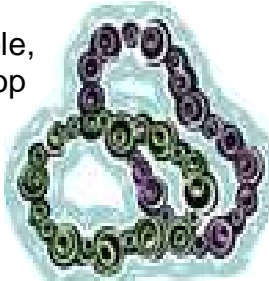
- *Set up of the hall, decorations available in the prop room
- *Paper goods and plastic utensils available at the church.
- *We will need a few griddles, both electric and ones that go on the stove.
- *Cooks
- *Servers

*Clean up crew

*Chaperones for the craft table, masks are available in the prop room, beads and feathers in the craft room along with glue.

*Someone to hand out the necklaces

*Dixie land jazz music on CD or tape



**LET'S MAKE THIS A
FUN FILLED
PARTY FOR ALL!**



YOUTH GROUP MEETINGS

**PYF for Grades 3 – 5
will meet on:**

Tuesday, February 10,
4 – 5:30 PM and

On Tuesday, March 10,
4 – 5:30 PM

Leaders are: Tania
Skeffington and Mary
Reardon



YOUTH GROUP

★ News ★

JYF for grades 6 – 8 will meet on:

January 31, 7 PM

Sunday February 1 after church:

On Friday, February 20, 5 PM –

Saturday, February 21 for their Learn to Serve
trip to Boston

On Sunday March 1, 3:30 – 5 PM

No meeting March 15, Girl Scout Celebration
here!

On Sunday, March 29, 3:30 – 5PM

Leaders are: John Hauber and Betsey Bennett

CE AND TEACHERS MEETINGS

CEAG meets Thursday, February 5 and
Thursday March 5 both at 7 PM

Teachers and Youth Leaders meet Sunday
mornings, February 8 and March 8, both at 9
AM, muffins and juice provided.



Watercolor Painting Class

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. A list of inexpensive materials will be given each student after signing up. Contact Liz Nelson if you are interested.



Mark Your Calendars Now ... for our Holy Week Worship Services



Palm Sunday April 5 at 10:00am

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

Maundy Thursday Tenebrae Service

April 9 ~

Soup at 6:00pm

Tenebrae Service in the Sanctuary at 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 ~ April 10

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

Easter Sunrise Service April 12

Sunrise is at 5:20am!

Stay tuned for more details!

Easter Worship Service April 12 at 10:00am

Come celebrate Christ's resurrection at Tabernacle Church for a traditional Easter

Service featuring inspiring Easter music, decorating the cross with colorful flowers and a spirit filled time of worship.



The Promise
of Easter

Our Lenten Journey 2009

"Walking with Paul through Lent"

Monday Morning Bible Study

"Learning about the Lessons in the Lectionary"

Join Rev. Biddle on Monday mornings beginning **March 2 through March 30 at 7:15am** to learn about the Scripture Lessons in the Lectionary. There is no better way to begin your week!

Thursday Night Bible Study

Let's talk and pray together about *"The Psalms"*. We will meet on Thursday evenings beginning **March 5 through April 2 at 6:30pm** in the Ministers Office.



Seder Meal for Sunday school on Palm Sunday, April 5!

The children and their teachers will participate in an experiential learning opportunity that explains the symbolism of the Passover meal elements while tasting them. We will make our own Charoset, which we will eat with Matzo. We will end with communion, just as Jesus taught us on that fateful Thursday of betrayal.

Did You Know?



We continue with "The Church Endures....."

Whatever hardships and difficulties our churches had already met, and through which they had survived, and those great ones which were yet to be encountered. For the Civil War, with its patriotic enthusiasm and ecstasies, its heart-rending sacrifices and losses, its unplanned suspense, was yet to be fought. Could any institution pass through such convulsions and come out un-shattered, was a question in every mind. Two congenial, fine spirited, high minded and level headed men, as pastors of the two churches, had to help their congregations answer that question. Charles Ray Palmer at Tabernacle and Edward S. Atwood of South Church maintained the stability of these great institutions. They were fortified by faith in the purposes of the eternal God, which could have brought them through.

So we move on into times which some of us can remember. The stirring events of the past are forcing us to ask, have our Churches ever had times of calm undisturbed progress? And the answer is: never for any long period. It is fortunate for them that they have not. In such times they would surely have to think of themselves as adequate. But when they are facing and overcoming the seemingly impossible, they are constantly reminded that their adequacy is not in themselves but in the invincible truths for which they stand and to which each generation must faithfully cling.

During the whole period of the pastorate of DeWitt S. Clark, there were two mighty forces, which these churches had to meet. One was a force, which was changing the whole social structure even to its foundation. The other was a radical change in the mental attitude toward the meaning of man and nature. The first was the development of electricity and the rapid advance of the mechanical age. The other was the statement of the laws of evolution, and their general acceptance by thinking people.

We are too near these events to estimate their effects upon our churches, but history will speak of them as revolutionary. The first created a class-consciousness among the working people who, rightly or wrongly, identified the churches with the money interests. The second, partly because the churches were slow and reluctant in recognizing the validity of the theory of evolution, alienated many thinking young people.

During this period a man of real natural dignity moved among us, Milo E. Pearson. But so many of our ministries confused dignity with mere stiffness and rigidity that informality reigned dangerously near to irreverence and was becoming the more general attitude.

As illustration of what I mean, forgive me if I tell of an incident which has been told many times, and has become classic. Bishop Doane, Episcopal Bishop of Albany, was a man of great formality, high-churched, almost unapproachable. Bishop Porter of New York was most informal. Porter, one day, stepped from a train at a railroad junction. On the platform was Doane waiting for a train, surrounded by many trunks, containing his paraphernalia. Porter greeted him and noticed that his trunks were marked "William of Albany." "It is to bad," said Porter, "that we did not make you Bishop of Buffalo. Then your trunks could have been marked 'Buffalo Bill!'"

This is only one incident, but it is also a symptom of a movement which was sweeping society and the churches away from formality and making it necessary to find in character the only basis for respect.

These objects of interest gathered here this evening have come up to us from the various periods, which I have indicated. They remind us of the ability of the church to survive through radical changes.

Plato never saw an automobile nor an airplane. He never listened to telephone nor radio. He never crossed the seas in our ocean liners. Yet he is today the teacher of all true teachers and the leader of all real thinkers.

So the church has a treasure of eternal truth which is wholly independent of external circumstances and which does not change with changing conditions. And the church will survive so long as it is aware of these eternal truths and is heroically loyal to them.

*Altar
Flowers*

February Altar Flowers



February 1:
In **Celebration of my
Wonderful Church
Family** by Annette Carter

February 8:
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.

March Altar Flowers

March 1:
In loving memory of **Heather
Marie Bennett on the fifth
anniversary of her going
home to Jesus**, from her
loving family, we will
remember you always.



March 8:
In loving memory of **Carolyn Kingsley** from
her Family.

March 15:
In loving memory of **Mr. & Mrs. Willard Earley
and Mr. & Mrs. Howard Stanley**
by the Earley Family

March 22:
In loving memory of **Betty Cooper "Grammy"**
by her family.

March 29:
In loving memory **of my parents, Elizabeth &
Robert Stafford and my sister,
Jody Nordlof** by Priscilla Stafford

Steeple Lighting for February and March



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

The church steeple is lighted
for the month of **March in Memory of Our
Parents, Carolyn and Arthur Kingsley** by their
children, Susan Royer, Linda Smailus and
Barbara Doron and Families.

TWA

Every once in a while someone asks a very
pertinent question. "What does TWA stand for:
is it Trans World Airlines?" No, it stands for
Tabernacle Women's Association to which
organization every female member of the
church belongs automatically. TWA goes back
many, many years and we always encourage
church members to become active TWA
members. We meet on the third Tuesday of
every month except July and August, usually in
the Bigelow Room. This year we have formed
an affiliation with the Christian Education
Department and will be working on projects for
them at our meetings. Every month there is a
hostess who provides dessert and place
settings; the members bring a bag lunch. If you
have never come to TWA, please join us.
**Connie Hollis will be the hostess at the
February 17th meeting; Barbara Bowman will
host the meeting on March 17th.**

Mid-Week Pause



Mid-Week Pause is held every
Tuesday, from 5:45pm to 6:15pm.
for a half hour informal service in the
Joseph Hardy Towne Room,
(formerly the Brides/Deacons
Room) All are welcomed!



February Birthdays

The following members and friends are celebrating birthdays during February:

2	John Phelan
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
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	Ron Leslie
28	Phoebe Burnham

March Birthdays

The following members and friends are celebrating birthdays during March:

1	David Karam
1	Patricia Doyle
2	Amy Davin
3	Olivia Hartwell
5	Marcy Hauber
5	Beverly Strauss
5	Deena Dilorio
7	Gifford Scott
7	Ali Parr
8	Ann Abernethy
10	Connor Reardon
15	Julia Curtin
15	Collette Benoit
17	Bob Anthony
17	Bailey Skeffington
17	Pam Burch
17	Alexander MacLean
18	Eric Morin
21	Jean Dennis
21	Tommy Armstrong
27	Kristine Doll



Heifer Project

Don't forget to save your pennies and other change to donate to the Sunday School Heifer Project in the spring. Lately movie and television personalities have been talking about the Heifer Project as their pet charity which is wonderful to hear.

GEMS

The next luncheon of Gems (*Gourmet Eating Men's Society*) will be held on Wednesday, **February 18 and March 18 at 12:00pm** at the Lyceum.

Save the Date!!!

New England Women's Regional Celebration VIII

UCC Women will celebrate "Together Building Bridges" United Church of Christ Women from all of New England will gather in Burlington, Vermont on **March 12, 13, and 14, 2010** for the **8th Celebration**. The first celebration took place back in 1982 and over 1000 women took part in that event and many looked forward to and participated in similar Celebrations which have been held every four years ever since. Celebration VIII offers exciting opportunities for discovering and understanding differences. Topics such as Race, Immigration, Sexuality, Economics, Generational Differences and Worship Choices will be examined. Plan to join us to make new friends and re-establish old ties. For more information please speak to Barbara Bowman.