



Of Time

The Tidings

A Publication of Tabernacle
Congregational Church, UCC
February 2007



Dear Members and Friends,

Can you spare some time? Timing, time, timeframe, lifetime, time management, timetable, timely, timeless, timeworn, playtime.

We talk about time a lot. We refer to our timing, good and bad. We give each other gifts to acknowledge time passing; gifts for birthdays, anniversaries, weddings, graduations, Bar Mitzvah's, confirmations....

But, one of the most important gifts we give to the people we love, is the **gift of time**.

Your time is more significant than your money or your talents. Because your time requires one thing: **You**.

I've been talking with some parents lately; and the common bond that seems to be most important between everyone, rich or poor, employed or not, homeless or homebound, old or young, is the **gift of time**.

At the time of this writing, I am preparing for surgery and I'm very aware of the gift of time; because my time for the next few weeks will be precious, focused on my healing and recovery and my kids.

God's time and timing, is always perfect. I believe we can trust that whole heartedly. Our common challenge is to recognize God in our timeframes, and be grateful for every second.

February is a cold, and quiet month. A great time to rekindle your awareness of God's time.

See you soon, my friends in Christ.
Rev. Laura

February Worship Themes

February 4: **Communion Sunday**

Rev. Ann Abernethy, Preaching

SCRIPTURE LESSONS:

Psalm 138

Luke 5:1-11

SOUPER BOWL COLLECTION

February 11:

SCRIPTURE LESSONS:

Psalm 1

Luke 6:17-26

February 18:

Sermon: *Engaged in Ministry*

SCRIPTURE LESSONS:

Exodus 34:29-35

2 Corinthians 3:12-4:2

February 21: **Ash Wednesday Service**

6:30pm—Bigelow Room

SCRIPTURE LESSON

Matthew 6:1-6; 16-21

February 25: **First Sunday of Lent**

Artists in Worship

Sermon: *Desert Shadows*

SCRIPTURE LESSON:

Luke 4:1-13

Do you work in Boston?

Are you interested in a monthly Tabernacle Church gathering in Boston, during lunch? We can discuss Bible passages and make spiritual connections with all our Boston-based commuters. If you are interested in joining in this Lunchtime Bible Study please speak to Rev. Laura or Avi Lev.

Calling All Women!

Women's Sunday March 11!

Women's Sunday is Sunday March 11th. Jean Karam is looking for volunteers to work on the service. Do you have an interest to be involved? Please contact **Jean Karam at 978-741-2179** if you would like to take part in Women's Sunday.



Timothy Project Discussion List Saturday, February 24, 2007 Edwards House, Framingham Conference Center 9:30 AM - 3:00 PM

Timothy Pilot Church pastors and lay leaders will gather on Saturday, February 24th to share resources, network with one another and learn some new skills for ministry.

These workshops are funded through your generous contributions to Our Church's Wider Mission and Fellowship Dues. All workshops will focus on the needs of the Timothy Church Pilot Church pastors and lay participants. The sharing of best practices from workshop participants will be strongly encouraged.

We encourage you to bring as many people as you would like from your church. While there is no registration fee, PLEASE visit <http://www.macucc.org/timothy>, and fill out a registration form for EACH PERSON attending so that we can plan appropriately for the space needs of each workshop.

List of Workshops Offered:
Transforming Church Organizations
It's all about Stewardship
Today's Technology in the Church
System Stories: Good In - Good Out!
Changing Board and Committees into
Communities of Faith
Understanding the community around you
Timothy Pilot Church sharing and
networking

For More Information please visit
<http://www.macucc.org/timothy>
Or speak to Rev. Biddle.



From Our Christian Education Director

Greetings and
Salutations!

CHRISTIAN EDUCATION

What a glorious Day!
The sun is shining, the
cold has receded

north, and our high school youth led a worship service from the heart. These kids showed us that our future is surely in good hands. We saw and heard them share their music, their words, and their hearts. It is exciting to be part of church family that includes so many talented young people. Grateful thanks are especially expressed to Catherine MacLean. She stepped boldly forward to share her personal story with us in sermon form. Peter Lutts for constantly challenging us, as he wrote the service, which included all the pieces even the Choral Introit. I am grateful to and in awe of a God who gathers us together in Jesus name helping us overcome our fears and frustrations enabling us to share of ourselves in such personal ways. "...And a child shall lead them."

Truly, Youth Sunday proclaims just the beginning of new life here at Tabernacle Church.

On Saturday, January 27, we had several folks attend workshops that broadened and deepened their understanding of God's work here in the church with our children and youth. Two of us attended an all-day training in Godly Play, the Sunday school curriculum we use in the Pre-K through third grades. As a result of this training a renewed commitment to the curriculum will take place, allowing the teachers to become better trained and more familiar with the wonder of Godly Play.

We also have two attending the *Engaging in Effective Youth Ministry Workshop* that is sponsored by the MACUCC (Massachusetts Conference of the United Church of Christ), our state organization. The two attending were introduced to two of the most gifted youth ministry gurus and trainers in our state, and probably in New England this past Saturday. The excitement these two folks will bring to the youth group ministry will be contagious and formidable.

As Director of Christian Education, I am ready, willing, and able to facilitate and support the growth of our programs, both Sunday school and youth group in the coming years. I have the networks with other DCE's and DRE's at both the state and New England level to foster good practices of love, support and care for our blossoming programs. I can only pray and hope that you, as a congregation, become as excited about the possibilities of growth here as I am.

Shalom,
Betsey Bennett



January Salem Mission Dinner

Thank you to **Brianna Bennett, Nanette Diorio, Deena Diorio, Randy Gerrish, Phillip Lutts, Ian MacLean, Holbrook Phelan and Francesca Schaffler** for preparing and serving the January 22 Salem Mission Dinner. Also thanks to the

adults who ably supervised them: Betsey Bennett, John Phelan, Mary Reardon, and Michael Kuras.

More From Our Christian Education Director

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In February, the Godly Play classes will be exploring some of Jesus' better known parables. They will hear the stories of the Good Shepherd; the Good Samaritan, the Great Pearl, the Leaven, and the older children will hear a brand new story, Parable of the Deep Well. Parents, please look for the Parents' Pages outside the classroom doors when you pick up your child. Remember Sunday school ends at 11:15 AM. So, grab cup of coffee or chat with a friend before heading downstairs to pick up your students.

Our fourth through eighth graders will be exploring DAVID, THE BOY in their classes. The Bible story reference can be found in 1 Samuel 16: 1 – 23, 17:20, 2 Samuel 5: 1 – 12 and Psalm 23. Each week they will experience who David was through a medium of Art, Cookery, Games, Music, Science, Story or Movie. This model of teaching is called Rotation and allows kids to explore their environments while learning a specific story, or group of stories, from the Bible. Each week a class will be in a different room using a different medium or center. Be aware that we already watched the Veggie Tale movie, Dave and the Giant Pickle, based on the part where David meets and slays Goliath.

On **Sunday February 11** the classes will take part in crafting and writing valentine's for our shut-ins, those home due to illness or recovery from surgery, and to their loved ones. If there is someone special you would like included on this list please let Betsey know by February 8 by calling the church office or email, betseyben@aol.com.

Our final Sunday in February will find the children and youth exploring and learning about Heifer International. We will be setting up a market area somewhere in the church for the children and adults. At the market, we will be gathering information about what kinds of animals are available to send to needy families throughout the world. The children will choose the animal or animals they would like to send. We will be baking muffins each week during March to sell during coffee hour. Each class will take a turn. The proceeds will go towards the purchase of the animal or animals the children and youth decide they would like to send. Heifer is always an engaging program to run during the Lenten and spring season.

Thank you to all who generously donated baby care items. They will be delivered to HAWC during the week.

As part of our service to the church, the two youth groups will be cooking soups for our annual **Ash Wednesday Service, on February 21**. One soup will be chicken noodle and the second will be corn chowder. Then the youth will be in charge of setting up and serving the soups to those coming to worship that evening. Plan to join us as a family or as an individual. It is always a special time and a meaningful way to begin Lent.



On **Saturday, February 10**, Betsey will be attending an all day workshop sponsored by the Pastoral Excellence Program of the Massachusetts Conference UCC, *The Teaching Ministry of Pastor and Educator* featuring Caroline and John Westerhoff. Rev. Dr. Philip (Joe) Mayher of Weston UCC says, "experience the premier Christian Educators of our time." Having had Joe as a professor at Andover Newton Theological School, I have heard of the Westeroffs, and am excited to be attending.

Christian Education Committee meets on
Sunday, February 11, at 8:30 AM.

Teachers' Meeting is **Sunday, February 25, at 9 AM.**





Mark Your Calendars For Our Lenten Journey 2007

LENTEN CALENDAR

Ash Wednesday, February 21 at 6:30pm

Join us for dinner and Worship in the Bigelow Room.



Women's Sunday March 11!

Women's Sunday is Sunday March 11th. Bridget Delaney will be preaching and Jean Karam, Deacon is looking for volunteers to help with the worship service.

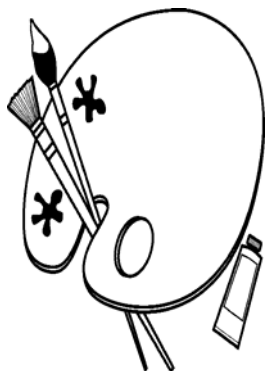
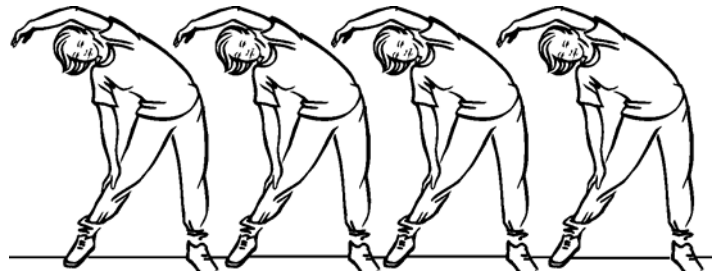
Women's Potluck Dinner ~ March 9!

Mark your calendars for the "**3rd Annual Sisters in Christ Soirée**" on **March 9th** at 7:00pm at the home of Amy Everett, please **RSVP to Liz in the church office** (Thank you Amy!!)

Yoga In Lent

Come connect your body, mind and spiritual practices. We will be offering a beginners yoga class on **Tuesdays, February 27, March 6, 13, 20, 27** from 7:00-8:30pm in the Bigelow Room. You are encouraged to participated on the floor but chair accommodations can be made. The teacher is Kripala Institute Certified and a licensed massage therapist Michelle Gallant. We need 8 participants to hold the class.

The cost will be \$60.00 for the whole Lenten series, or \$12.00 per class.



Artists in Worship For the second 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, 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.

Our Lenten Journey 2006

Lenten Bible Study



Morning Bible Study during Lent

Come and have a conversation about the Lenten Weekly Lectionary. Please join us Monday mornings, **February 26, March 5, 12, 19, 26** at 7:30am in Rev. Laura's Office. There is no better way to begin your week!

Thursday Night Bible Study During Lent

Join Rev. Biddle Thursday evenings **March 1, 8, 15, 22, 29** for Bible Study focusing on the healing stories in Luke's Gospel, from 6:30-7:30pm in Rev. Laura's Office.



Holy Week Worship Services

Palm Sunday
April 1 at
10:00am

Come and learn how to create crosses from palms. Children will process into the sanctuary waving their palms. Tabernacle Choir will offer special music.



Maundy Thursday Tenebrae Service

April 5 ~ 7:00pm

The Deacons will lead a dramatic re-telling of the Passion of Christ in the Sanctuary.

Good Friday ~ April 6

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



Easter Sunrise Service

April 8

At Cabot Farm. Stay tuned for more details

The Promise of Easter

Easter Worship Service

April 8 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?



This is the last in the series of Rob Maiers' sermon that was preached in the summer of 06. His sermon was on The 1629 Covenant which is frequently used during our services Kay Piemonte

Monday, July 20 [1629], was set apart by Governor Endecott "for a solemn day of humiliation" for the choice of a pastor and teacher. The forenoon was spent in praise and teaching" and in the afternoon the election was held. The ministerial candidates were conferred with about their callings, and they acknowledged that these were two-fold, one being spiritual and the other formal. The first was a call from the Lord, to desire for the work; and the other a call from the company of believers "joined together in covenant to walk together in all the ways of God." It was decided that Messrs. Skelton and Higginson were qualified as ministers. The election was by the male members by ballot, which named one candidate for pastor and one for teacher of the church. Mr. Skelton was elected pastor and Mr. Higginson, teacher. They accepted the election and their installation followed. Mr. Higginson and three or four "of the gravest members of the church" laid their hands on Mr. Skelton, and prayed. The same rite was then performed in installing Mr. Higginson.

Perley continues the story. "August 6th was appointed for another 'Solemn day of humiliation,'" and "Mr. Higginson was requested to prepare a confession of faith and a covenant in scripture language." So, on August 6, 1629, the Salem Covenant was adopted. That means that last Sunday was the 377th anniversary of the Covenant. We know this through a letter Deacon Charles Gott wrote to Gov. Bradford of Plymouth. Think of the thousands of people of Salem and surrounding towns who have joined churches over the last 377 years that were formed under the Salem Covenant.

And think of what that joining meant to them and what it means to you and to me. Like our national constitution, the Salem Covenant responds to the times in which we live. This is so because God is revealed to us in different ways at different times.

In the earliest days, the Covenant was used as a measuring stick to determine who was ready and able to join the church. Prospective members had to accept the Covenant as their own and prove their relationship with God in order to be admitted. Over time, this living Covenant has permitted God to reveal to us the folly of that kind of restrictive membership requirement so that today we welcome to membership all who wish to join in the walk we are taking with God regardless of where they are in their personal journey.

The Covenant invites us to participate in the United Church of Christ's Timothy Project to determine how we as a faith community relate to each other and to our community. The Covenant encourages us to ask God to reveal how we at Tabernacle should extend the welcome of membership. And through that process we determined a couple of years ago that Tabernacle is an open and affirming church. Through the Covenant we are bound together. Though we face different challenges than those our Puritan ancestors faced, we do face challenges, and we turn to God for help in addressing them. Do you suppose that Ministers Skelton and Higginson would believe that 377 years later, we have people in Salem who don't even have a dugout hut to live in? Or that the human race has managed to change to earth's environment in such dangerous ways? They might not be surprised that prejudice still exists; they certainly practiced their own prejudices.

We are bound together to help each other understand how God reveals himself to each of us. We do bind ourselves together to grow in faith and to carry out God's will as it is revealed to us here in our Salem community. Together we seek to walk in God's ways as those ways are revealed to us by God through the blessed word of truth. We do bind ourselves together! Amen.



February Memorial Flowers

February 4:
In loving memory of **Grace & Carlton G. Lutts** from their family.

February 11:
In loving memory of **Loved Ones in the MacLean and O'Regan Families** from Maire MacLean and family.

February 18:
In loving memory of the **Willey and MacDougall Families** from Len & Penny Willey.



February 26:
In loving memory of **Heather M. Bennett** from her Family.

February Birthdays

The following members and friends are celebrating birthdays this month.

- 2 John Phelan
- 2 Margaret Fitzgerald
- 4 Annette Carter
- 4 Madeleine Holtz
- 4 Eliza Jane Holtz
- 5 Virginia McArthur
- 5 Betty Tobin
- 7 Thomas DeLoffi
- 9 Spencer Ives
- 10 Donald Whitehead
- 11 Ronald Harrison
- 11 Hannah van de Stadt
- 12 Christiaan van de Stadt
- 12 Norma James
- 13 Ruth Kapnis
- 14 Kyle Burnham
- 16 Grace Bennett
- 17 Emily Karam
- 21 Constance Hollis
- 26 Ron Leslie
- 28 Phoebe Burnham



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.

T.W.A.

The TWA will be meeting in the Bigelow Room on Tuesday, February 16th. Hostess will be Connie Hollis. As always, new members are welcome. Bring a sandwich and join us for fellowship.

Pennies for Blankets

It's not just pennies. We will accept any coins or dollars. Please help us to meet our goal of 200 blankets this year. See any member of TWA with your donations.

Prayer Shawl Ministry



We have comforted over 37 people with prayer shawls and about a dozen babies have received blankets at their baptisms. What a wonderful ministry this is!

Rev. Laura gave a nearly finished prayer shawl which she had been knitting to **Jean Dionne** when he was in Salem Hospital. The metaphor of the unfinished shawl was that Jean isn't finished with his life here on earth and at Tabernacle Church. Rev. Laura is now working on her second prayer shawl during her convalescence from foot surgery.

If you are interested in joining us in this ongoing project call Jane Dionne at 978-745-1324 for directions. Thanks to the Missions Committee and the Board of Deacons. Yarn is also available by contacting Jane.