



The Tidings

A Publication of Tabernacle
Congregational Church, UCC
March 2007



Dear friends in Christ,

On the first Sunday of Lent, a child came and sat with me on the sanctuary steps. She was wearing **red sparkle shoes**, just like Dorothy from the *Wizard of Oz*. Red sparkle shoes always mean "There's no place like home."

Returning to Tabernacle to worship God with you, was like coming home. My foot is still healing, and I am confident that by Springtime, walking will be a joyous experience. Meanwhile, your prayers and kindness have filled me with the Holy Spirit.

Lent begins with a pilgrimage. Jesus walked out into the wilderness. He was healing from the loss of his friend and prophet John the Baptist, and he was preparing for a life that would be centered **ONLY** on God.

What would your life look like if Your primary focus was God. Every morning, you would eat breakfast with God. You would run errands for God. You would pick up your children and bring them to sporting events, because God gave them the desire to play and you the wisdom to follow their Spirit. You would exercise to help God care for your body. And when you climbed into bed at night, God would be the last thing on your mind.

What would **the world** look like, if God was our primary focus? Why does this concept seem so utopian? Maybe, it's our lack of faith that makes it seem like a dream that can't come true.

March Worship Themes

March 4 **Second Sunday in Lent**
Artists In Worship
Communion

Sermon: *Jesus Impassioned*

Scripture Readings: Genesis 15:1-6
 Luke 13:31-35

March 11 **Third Sunday in Lent**
Artists In Worship
Women's Sunday

Bridget Delaney, Guest Preacher

Scripture Readings: Psalm 63:1-8
 Luke 13:1-9

March 18 **Fourth Sunday in Lent**
Artist In Worship

Sermon: *The Prodigal Spirit*

Scripture Readings: Luke 15:1-3; 11-32

March 25 **Fifth Sunday in Lent**
Artists In Worship

Sermon: *Leave Her Alone*

Scripture Readings: Psalm 126
 John 12:1-8

2007 Concert Series

Mark you calendars for March 31 at 7:00pm. Tabernacle Church will host a Folk Fest Concert Series, sponsored by the Sacred Arts Committee. This lively concert will feature Folk Music and also introduce new songs from local Folk Singers. All proceeds from this concert will benefit the Salem Mission. Suggested donation is \$10.00



Continued on page 2

I hope your Lenten Pilgrimage deepens your faith and refocuses your relationship with God.

March is the month devoted to women's histories. March 8 is International Women's Day. Tabernacle Church is celebrating women on **March 9, at our "Women in Christ Soiree"** (see page 3 for all the details) and in Worship on **March 11, with Bridget Delaney as our preacher.** Please bring a woman friend to our celebrations. We want to reach out to women of all ages and backgrounds. We love women!!!!

God bless you on your Lenten Pilgrimage.
Sincerely yours,
Rev. Laura



Art Show

*From Meadows To Marines
And Things In Between*

Ron Harrison, Artist and Church Member will be featured in a "one man" show at The Gallery at Grosvenor Park, 7 Loring Hills Ave in Salem. Come

and see all Ron's watercolors. An *Artists Reception* will be held on Sunday, March 11 from 3-5pm. Ron's watercolor works will be featured from March 3-April 17. The show is open to the public and all are welcome to attend.

One Great Hour
of Sharing



One Great Hour of Sharing

This ministry to our neighbors close by and around the world has been active since 1949 providing responses to the headline disasters around the world as well as chronic environmental and poverty issues. The range of programs served by this collection include rebuilding towns and villages overcome by natural disasters, creating clean water supplies for rural communities, establishing micro-credit for women to start businesses, and improving medical access so children under 5 can survive and attend school.

This outreach to neighbors we do not know challenges our faith to help the stranger along the road to Jericho, to Ohio, to Laos, to Mississippi, to Angola, to Sudan, and to places we will never know or visit. It is the wonder of God's love that will bring our support to those miles away from our life experiences.

The Missions Committee will be collecting a special offering on Sunday, March 18th for this One Great Hour of Sharing. Come together with us and join in reaching out to our neighbors here and beyond our doorsteps.



February Salem Mission Dinner Thanks go to....

Thank you to Jean Bentas, Kayla Bentas, Nicole Silva (Jean's niece), and Beverly Strauss for cooking the February Mission dinner.

Weight Watchers.....

Are you interested in starting a Weight Watcher's meeting at Tabernacle Church? If so please contact Mary Jo Bennett at 978-745-6980.



For Our Lenten Journey 2007

LENTEN CALENDAR



Women's Potluck Dinner ~ March 9!

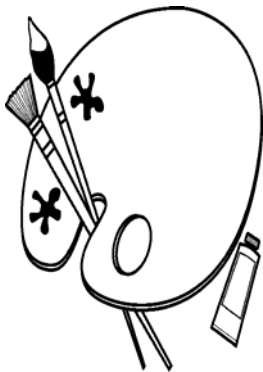
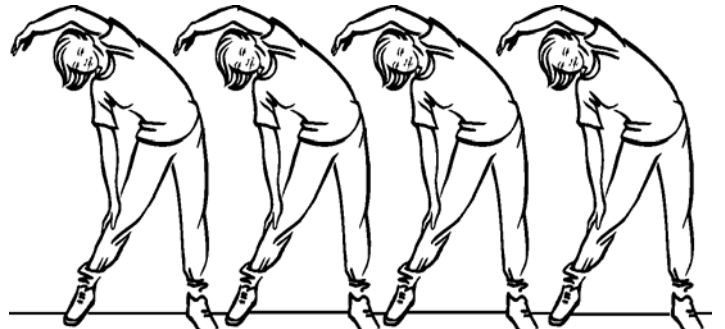
Mark your calendars for the "3rd Annual Sisters in Christ Soirée" on **March 9th** at 7:00pm at the home of Amy Everett 14 Columbus Ave in Salem Willows, please **RSVP to Liz in the church office** (Thank you Amy!!)

Women's Sunday March 11!

We will celebrate Women's Sunday on March 11th. Bridget Delaney will be our guest preacher and we will have a Tabernacle "Women's Choir." Come and join us to celebrate women's spirit and energy.

Yoga In Lent

Come connect your body, mind and spiritual practices. We will be offering a beginners yoga class on **Tuesdays, 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 \$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.

Turn the page for
Holy Week Activities



Our Lenten Journey 2007

Lenten Bible Study



Morning Bible Study during Lent

Come and have a conversation about the Lenten Weekly Lectionary. Please join us Monday mornings, **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 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. Our Processional this year includes a camel, cloaks, children and palms. Join us on this High Holy day to honor the entrance of Jesus to Jerusalem.



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. 1:00-2:00pm Tabernacle Church members and friends are invited to stay and continue this complete time with Rev. Laura Stay Tuned for more details in Sunday Bulletins and April's Tidings.

Easter Sunrise Service

April 8

At Winter Island. 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.



From The Board of Deacons

BOARD of DEACONS

The Board of Deacons expresses its heartfelt gratitude to our outgoing chairman, Rob Maier, for shepherding us through his term. Rob has a lot going on in his life right now and the workload of a chairmanship is just a bit more than he can make fit into his frame. Rob will continue as a deacon and I am honored and privileged to follow a talented leader who we have come to rely upon.

We also express our heartfelt thanks to Natalie Binder who has left the deacons for work in Christian Education. Natalie is missed already but we know she is perfect for the new role she has assumed. Natalie will again be leading the art in worship program this year as she did so successfully last year.

Barbara Bowman has also left the deacons for work on the stewardship committee. We will miss her sense of humor and sharp wit and know that she will be a welcome addition to stewardship.

There has been so much happening with deacons this month it's making my head swim. With Rev. Laura out on convalescence, there are worship services we are responsible for. In that light, we are also deeply grateful to Betsey Bennett for her professional handling of last Sunday's service. Betsey made it look easy and we know that it isn't.

As I write this column late on the night of Feb. 13th, there are still two more services for the deacons to lead before February is through - Sunday the 18th and Ash Wednesday. We are praying in earnest for Rev. Laura's healing and return to the pulpit.

As the incoming chairman of the deacons, one of the first things I am attempting to accomplish is the finalization of the Deacons Handbook, a project we began a year ago and never completed.

When finished, it will be a practical guide for deacons concerning how to practice the ritual of worship including communion, baptisms, and communions outside the church.

At this moment, the draft version is in Rev. Laura's hands awaiting her editorial comments and blessings.

My goal was to have the handbook ready for our monthly meeting on the Feb. 11th because we welcomed two members to the Board of Deacons. Joining us for their first terms are (drum roll please): Jim Dillon, a new church member and husband of music director Patty Dillon and Denise Turner who brings a wealth of experience leading worship service in her father's church.

In December, Rev. Laura and the deacons took communion to two members who couldn't be in church. This was a first training session for the deacons who will be doing this on our own every communion Sunday after regular services.

Plans are underway for Men's Sunday and for four Sundays this summer when Rev. Laura is on vacation. I am also pledging to try and make this "From The Deacons" column a regular feature of Tidings.

It's going to be another blessedly busy year for deacons!

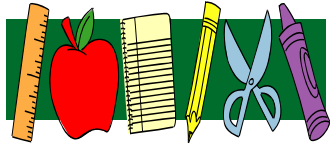
God's grace to all,
Donald Whitehead

We Need The Following:

- Needed for
- Sunday School
- *Stickers for Easter
- *Playdoh
- *Model Magic



CHRISTIAN EDUCATION



From Our
Christian
Education
Director

The Tidings ~ March 2007 page 6

We are now in the season of Lent. Lent comes from the Latin word meaning springtime or the lengthening of days. It's a period of 40 days, excluding Sundays, prior to Easter. 40 days was chosen by the early church in the fourth century because 40 days is the length of time Moses, Jesus and other Biblical characters went into the wilderness to prepare for various tasks.

Lent is the time for the color purple. It is a time of preparing. Purple is the color of Kings. We are preparing for the coming of a king and his going and his coming again. We are preparing for the Mystery of Easter. It is a serious time. It takes many weeks to get ready to enter the Mystery of Easter.

During this time of preparing, the church offers the Lenten season as a period of time for introspection, self examination and repentance. The church teaches that Lent is an intentional time for prayer, spiritual disciplines, reflection and almsgiving. The church also teaches that our bodies are temples and a gift from God. During Lent we should not separate our physical care from our spiritual care.

To help you in your Lenten spiritual practice, Tabernacle is again offering the mind, body, soul experience of Yoga on Tuesdays.

There are two opportunities to give yoga a try. One is Tuesday evenings, 6:45 – 8:15 PM for \$12.00 or Tuesday mornings, 8:45 – 10:00 AM for \$10.00 each session, starting February 27. Michelle Gallant is a Kripalu Certified Yoga Instructor, and is licensed in therapeutic body work of massage, Reiki, and cranial sacral therapy. Come connect body and soul through the breath and discover the spiritual practice you have been craving.

If you can't join us for Yoga, try one of the Bible Studies offered in the Pastor's study with Rev. Laura on either Monday mornings or Thursday evenings starting March 5. Another opportunity is the Artist in Worship program that will be on going in the balcony during Lent beginning February 25. Try your artistic expression by sketching, sculpting, or painting.

Or you might easily and intentionally add one or all of these into an already busy lifestyle.

After turning off your alarm each morning, open your eyes and before getting out of bed, recite this from the Psalms: "This is the day the Lord has made. Let us rejoice and be glad in it." Live each day from a place of gratitude. Decide that your day will be a day joy filled with God's light and love.

Water is an important symbol of God's abundant and life giving grace. As you soap and rinse in the shower, pray to have washed away all feelings of anger, hostility, bitterness, or guilt. Recall the words of Jesus at the well 'whoever drinks the water I give will never be thirsty again!'

During your daily commute turn your drive time into a time of prayer. After you start your engine, put your hands on the steering wheel. Before pulling out, breathe deeply three times. Ask the God to steer you all day.

If you work in a building with stairs, make them work as part of a spiritual discipline for your body and your soul. Climb each step thoughtfully, breathing slowly. Use the climb to experience a connection with God. Pause on each landing. Focus on the many blessings in your life. Say thank you God and then continue climbing the staircase.

Continued on page 7

If your building has no stairs, as you enter your place of work, say a silent prayer. Add your smile to the space. As you walk to your office silently ask God to bless each person you see or whose office you pass.

As persons in ministry we are all very busy. We multi-task constantly, writing on our computers while listening for emails to enter from the web, talking on the phone while photocopying etc. Instead of dividing oneself between assorted and varied tasks, do one thing at a time-prayerfully, intentionally offering your work in ministry as a gift to God and to God's people that you serve.

Instead of reviewing a "to do" list, create a "to-be" list. Let words like kind, welcoming, compassionate, generous, peaceful and loving permeate your thinking. Imagine God's love and grace floating inside and with you through the day.

"Native Americans have this proverb: "Never let a day go by without touching the earth with your foot." During the day, take a ten or fifteen minute break to walk outside in a meditative way. Focus on your walking. Observe your breathing. Be reflective. Become aware of the beauty of the earth and its creatures that you see or hear. Listen for sounds of nature. The creation can make us aware of the presence of our Creator.

Chances are you'll no longer be tempted to make those wrong food choices. If you do give in to the temptation, remember, God forgives you.

If you make lunches for your family, children and adults alike, while preparing each person's lunch pray for the person sending the prayer right into their lunch. Visualize them as they open and eat their meal. Send them a warm smile into their bag too. Tuck in a written grace, blessing or love note or write a special message on their napkin.

Cooking can be offer spiritual nourishment as well as provide physical nourishment. While making dinner or some other meal, reflect on other times that you made the dishes you are getting ready. Pay attention to the memories that are kindled. Bless all those who are in your recollections, thanking God for the spiritual nourishment these people have given you. As you serve the meal, thank God for each person present.

Shalom,

Betsey

Footnote: this information came from several sources including Godly Play by Jerome Berryman, Creative Ideas for Lent by Robert Davidson and February 2007 E-Connection from our Massachusetts Conference supported by our OCWM gifts. See the 2007 Budget for how much money we give to Our Church's Wider Mission (OCWM).



Often in Lent people choose to "give up" certain foods for forty days. However, even when we haven't decided to sacrifice foods for Lent, during times of stress, we are often tempted to reach for those kinds of foods that aren't healthy for us. Before you grasp those poor choices - try this. Pause for the count of ten. Offer those ten seconds to reflect on how God graces you with self control and self determination. Thank God for those blessings.

Souper Bowl Collection Totals

Last month, the kids collected funds for the Souper Bowl. The total was \$250.00 This money was donated directly to the Salem Mission Food Pantry. The National Total was \$7,329,885.04 Thank you for all your generous donations.



New Member Classes

The United Church of Christ is a United and Uniting denomination. **We welcome people from all walks of life to join us in our daily walk with Jesus; and we want to join you.**

If you are interested in:

- *Becoming a member of the church (with voting rights and a voice)
- *Learning about Tabernacle Congregational Church UCC
- *Knowing more about the United Church of Christ

Please come to the New Member Luncheon on Sunday, March 25 following our morning worship service. We will then meet again on Saturday April 15 from 10am–12noon for breakfast and fellowship. Childcare will either be available or children will be welcome at the conversation table. It is also an opportunity for us to get to know each other.

AND, If you have been a member for a long time and would like to meet new people or refresh your awareness, please come!!!

NEW MEMBERS WILL JOIN TABERNACLE CHURCH ON SUNDAY, APRIL 15! Please call Liz Nelson in the church office if you would like to join us or if you have any questions.

Recap of Learning and Serving Mission Trip

On February 16 and 17 eight Tabernacle middle school youth attended a Learning and Serving Mission Trip to Charlestown. After spending Friday night at First Church in Charlestown, our group combined with West Parish from Andover on Saturday morning. We traveled by car to Chelsea to help move boxes from Chelsea to Malden for the **Ministries of Aides International, Inc.**, a children's support organization in Haiti. We also helped build office dividers in their newer bigger brighter space in Malden. Pictures from our trip are in the Bigelow Room. You can find out more about this valuable ministry program at www.ministiresofaidesinternational.org. The following article is written by Ian MacLean who attended this trip.

“For the youth group mission trip we went to a church in Charlestown. Other churches were coming as we arrived. When we first got there it was a little awkward but then everyone got there and settled down. Then we played some cards which was the ice breaker it got everyone communicating and making friends. The game we played was spoons a really fun game but a lot of people stopped and then there was just a small group of us really talking and having a blast. The next morning when we all woke up we had breakfast it was a buffet line and we sat down once again starting to talk with other kids from other churches. Then our church and one from Andover went to help a small church that sends supplies to orphans in Haiti. They support three thousand children without parents. So what we did was move boxes of supplies from their small office to a bigger office so from their they will be shipped to the orphanage. Also we help paint the office and put up cubicles. It was fun but still it was really hard. The Lutheran's pace of working was a lot slower than we were used to. It was very rewarding though I had a lot of fun and learned a lot about how life isn't as good for some as it is for others.”

Ian MacLean



Did You Know?

With all the publicity about the First Church silver it reminded me of an article that Alice Woodbury wrote many years ago about Tabernacle silver. It has been run before in this column but with many new people it seems appropriate to run it again.

Also, Nancy Lutts has framed several pictures of some of our interesting pieces and they are hanging in the Bigelow Room so you can see what they actually look like. The silver was given to the church over many years by thoughtful parishioners. Kay Piemonte

CHURCH SILVER

The term "church silver" used in this article always refers to the silver used at the two sacraments celebrated in Protestant churches, the sacrament of baptism and the sacrament of communion.

Whenever we speak of church silver we must remember that dates engraved thereon are often misleading, also that some pieces were first used in private homes before being given for the church's use.

Two examples of this are our two baptismal basins and two mugs marked IB and IT.

On November 8, 1708, Benjamin Browne, a merchant of Salem, made a will in which he bequeathed "unto ye church of Salem, fifty pounds money, about ye one halfe towards ye furnishing of ye Lord's Table and ye other halfe for purchasing a decent Bason for Baptism."

Benjamin Browne died a month later, December 7, 1708.

The silver basin was made and used at the First Church.

Evidently when the division came in the "First Church" in 1735, and the "Third Church" was formed, this baptismal basin was given to the "Third Church", as a part of the share of the church silver.

Then later, when the "Third Church" was divided into the Tabernacle and South Churches, these two churches decided that "The Christening Bason being so large, the Committee agreed that it should be melted up and that two Basons be made of the same to accommodate both churches."

This evidently was done.

One basin was engraved "The Gift of Benjamin Browne, Esqr. To the now Tabernacle Church of Christ in Salem, 1708."

The other "The gift of Benjamin Browne, Esqr. To the now Third Church of Christ in Salem, 1708."

(At this time South church was called "Third Church", while at other times Tabernacle was so-called.)

The original date, 1708, the date the money was bequeathed to First Church for a baptismal basin, was engraved on the now two basins, although there was no "Third Church" until 1735, and no Tabernacle and South Churches until 1774, also the division of silver from the Third Church between Tabernacle and South was not made until 1785.

The three most valuable pieces of church silver, which Tabernacle Church owns, are the two baptismal basins and the beaker-shaped cup with the maker's mark of Jeremiah Dummer (1645-1718) of Newbury, Massachusetts.

These without question (i.e. the original large baptismal basin) were used by the First Protestant Church organized in America, at Salem, 1629.

Stay tuned next month for more about our Church Silver.....



March Memorial Flowers

March 4:
In Celebration of my Wonderful Family by Barbara Bowman

March 11: **In loving memory of Carolyn Kingsley** from her Family.

March 18: **In loving memory of Mr. & Mrs. Willard Earley and Mr. & Mrs. Howard Stanley** by the Earley Family.

March 25: **In loving memory of my parents, Elizabeth & Robert Stafford and my sister, Jody Nordlof** by Priscilla Stafford.



March Birthdays

The following members and friends are celebrating birthdays this month:

- | | |
|----|-------------------|
| 1 | David Karam |
| 1 | Patricia Doyle |
| 5 | Marcy Hauber |
| 7 | Gifford Scott |
| 8 | Ann Abernethy |
| 10 | Connor Reardon |
| 15 | Julia Curtin |
| 17 | Bob Anthony |
| 17 | Pam Burch |
| 17 | Alex MacLean |
| 18 | Eric Morin |
| 23 | Charles Haven |
| 25 | Marybeth Richburg |
| 28 | Avi Lev |

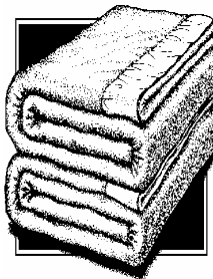
TWA

The TWA will be having their March meeting on Tuesday, **March 20** at 10:30 in the Bigelow Room. Members should bring a bag lunch; Kay Piemonte will be the hostess and will provide dessert. New members are always welcome



Steeple Lighting

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



Blanket Fund

This year Blanket Sunday will be on **April 1** which is Palm Sunday. On this day there will be envelopes in the pews for Church World Service's Blanket Fund and the loose plate collection will be given to the Blanket Fund. Please plan to give generously to this wonderful mission project which is sponsored by the Tabernacle Women's Association. We also welcome any donations of change or dollars that you give us. There is a jar in the Bigelow Room for these contributions or they may be given to any member of the TWA. Thank you in advance for your support.

Prayer Shawls



There are new knitters making prayer shawls and many of you who have been working on this project have finished your shawls for dedication on March 1. For the first time since the prayer shawl mission began the supply may be temporarily exceeding the demand. However, this does not mean that we do not need more knitters or more shawls. The need is always there. If you want to join us in this ongoing project call Jane Dionne at 978-745-1324 for knitting directions. Thanks to the Missions Committee and the Board of Deacons. Yarn is also available by contacting Jane who is usually at the church on Friday mornings at 11am and would be glad to get you started knitting a shawl.