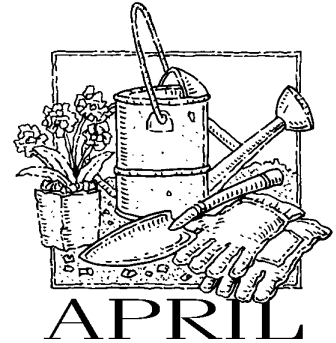




The Tidings

A Publication of Tabernacle
Congregational Church, UCC

April 2008



EASTER March 23-May 11

When I think of childhood Easters, I think of dancing around my back yard on our swing set. I think of boldly singing "Jesus Christ is Risen Today" so that all my neighbors could hear. I think of pretty dresses, lacy bonnets and shiny Maryjanes. Flowers bloom everywhere in my Easter memories. People smile and joy radiates from deep within them. There is only happiness in my Easters' past.

My parents, like most Christian parents, had perfected the art of making Easter look delightful. Now I know that underneath the wonder and beauty, was reality. There was the issue of Dad's all-day-commitment to the church; and the issue of sibling arguments that started on our way to Easter Sunrise; and the issue of teenage pre-occupations which were always dramatic and MOST important.

I admit, in spite of my father's career (Episcopal Priest) and his faith, I never knew that Easter was the season of grief and recovery. It never dawned on me that during the Easter season, the disciples visited all the emotions that accompany bereavement. They felt disbelief, shock, fear, guilt, regret, doubt, anger and hopelessness. They were desperate to awaken from the nightmare; to go backwards and start again; to see Jesus again; to tell him that they loved him; to apologize for denying and betraying him.

And, then, he forgives them. He joins them. He brings them into the spiritual realm. He gives them reason for joy. Alleluia! Christ is risen!

**I never appreciated that without death
Easter would be irrelevant.**

Without death, resurrection would be meaningless.

Which is why, Easter is such an important part of our faith. Because only death can bring us into the spiritual realm with such clarity. Only death can teach us about the Holy Spirit and eternal life. Only death can speak to us of God's unending presence. Only death can make EASTER HAPPY!

Rev. Laura

April Worship Themes

April 6 ~ Communion

Scripture Lessons:

Luke 24:13-35

Acts 2: 42-47

Sermon: *STAY With Us!*

April 13, 08

Scripture Lessons:

Acts 7:55-60

John 14:1-14

Sermon: *He Prayed for Forgiveness*

April 20, 08 Women's Sunday

History of Tabernacle

Kay Piemonte will be our guest preacher

April 27, 08 - Mission Sunday/HAWC Walk

Scripture Lessons:

Acts 17:22-31

John 14:15-21

Sermon: *Beyond Our Imagination*



Friendship Potluck Dinner & Silent Auction Update

Even though the rain was threatening, we had an excellent turnout for this event that was held on Friday, March 7th. Approximately 73 people attended. All of the food was wonderful and it was a great time for everyone to relax and catch up while raising funds for our Mission work.

Thank you to everyone who came to the event, donated items for the auction, solicited items for the auction and bid on the auction items.

We raised about \$4,500 for local missions. The Missions Committee will meet soon and decide exactly how to allocate these funds – keep posted for a future report here in the Tidings.

Special recognition to those who came to help set up for the event: Jane Kelly, Kristine Doll, Marcia Olsson, and Kay Piemonte. Thanks to Joe Bennett for all his efforts in the kitchen! Thanks to Rachel Lutts for providing the lovely flowers for the tables. Special thanks to Jane Kelly for staying to the very end for cleanup!

-Pam Burch

Did you Win The Shaklee Item?

Betty Lutts would like to get in touch with the person that "bid and won" the Shaklee "Get Clean" Kit at the Silent Auction. She would also like to touch base with those that "bid" and did not get the "Get Clean" Kit. Thank you for calling Betty at 978-745-2937.

Thank You Pam!!!

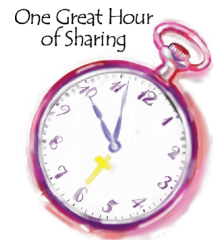
A big thank you to **Pam Burch** for a fantastic job organizing the silent auction and pot luck dinner to benefit our local mission projects. This is a very important event in the life of the church as it is a time of fellowship and a time of giving to our neighbors in need. Thank you to everyone who supported this event.



The missions committee will decide on the distribution of funds, and it will be communicated to the Congregation. Thanks again to Pam and everyone who helped with this event.

OGHS Update

We collected \$685 for One Great Hour of Sharing. Thank you to everyone for your generosity in supporting global mission projects.



Mission Dinner Thanks

Thank you to Joshua Cabral, Natalie Binder, Mary Jo Bennett and Brianna Bennett for cooking the February 25 Mission Dinner.

Thank you to Mary Jo Bennett, Brianna Bennett, Joshua Cabral, Natalie Blue, Marcia Olsson and Jane Kelly for cooking the March 24 Dinner.

Mission Sunday



Missions Committee News

Mission Sunday, April 27th

Please join us on **Sunday, April 27th** for our annual Missions Sunday service.

The Missions committee will be conducting the entire service, and this year's theme is "Haiti: Reaching Out Beyond Our Geographical Boundaries". The morning will include a special Haitian brunch, which you can enjoy before heading out for the annual Walk for HAWC.



Walk for HAWC, April 27th, 12 noon

Walk for HAWC

The annual walk for HAWC will be

held on Sunday, April 27th, right after the Mission Sunday service at 12 noon. HAWC stands for Help for Abused Women and their Children. It is an agency in Salem that offers shelter, counseling, support groups and advocacy to women (and their children) in abusive relationships. It is a tradition to have a team from Tabernacle walk together. What better way to celebrate the mission of our church!

This year we will have Tabernacle t-shirts for all walkers. The Sunday school children will design the t-shirt. Please sign up in the Bigelow room by April 1st so we know how many t-shirts to order. Also, be sure to pick up your pledge sheets and get as many pledges as you can for this very worthy cause. More information, a sign up sheet and pledge sheets will be displayed in the Bigelow room beginning in March.

We thank you for your support!
Your Missions Committee



St. John's Prep School Men's Chorus in Concert

The annual St. John's Prep School Spring Concert will take place on **April 17, at 7:30pm**, at Tabernacle

Men's Chorus

Church. Featuring the 100-voice Men's Chorus, and the Chamber Ensemble, the program will present a wide variety of music to celebrate spring. Music from the Broadway tradition, folksongs, love songs, and classical music will all be included. There is no admission charge and all are welcome; the church is accessible to all.

New Member Class

Part of our celebration of the resurrection is to invite new people to join our community at Tabernacle Church. On **Saturday, April 5 at 5:00pm** we invite you to an informal New Member Class with appetizers and wine. Please join us and bring any questions you may have about Tabernacle Church.

We ask that you RSVP to Liz Nelson in the church office by phone at 978-744-3164 or email at liz@tabernaclechurch.org.

Mark Your Calendars Now

Joel Richardson is planning on forming a group to attend the Holiday Pops in December 2008. The Pops will not come out with their schedule until this summer, but you if you are interested in attending a weekend matinee in mid-December you can contact Joel at JoelRichardson@verizon.net or call him at 978-744-5291 with your contact information. The price range for tickets will be about \$30.00



From the Christian Education Director

Religious Education

Greetings and Salutations!

Easter Day has come and gone, yet we are still in the season of Easter for another six weeks, until the day of Pentecost, May 11. We will be hearing stories about Jesus' appearances to his disciples and followers over the next coming weeks.

Quinn G. Caldwell in the Still Speaking Lenten Series writes, *"By the Tuesday after Easter, there is little left to show that Easter has just happened. Some candy, maybe. Some leftovers. For most of us, that's it. We just finished celebrating the most world-changing, mind-blowing thing God ever did, and when most of us got back to work yesterday, life looked pretty much the same as it ever does. But on the Tuesday after the Easter, far from petering out, the power of the Resurrection was just beginning to kick in. The Disciples would still have been reeling from the shock and excitement, trying to figure it all out. Can you imagine it?"*

Two thousand years later, it can be tough to maintain that kind of excitement in a world that's gotten a little too used to Easter. So, we do the best we can: We pray, to keep ourselves close to God. We sing songs like Psalm 118, with some of the most memorable lines of Scripture, to remind ourselves of God's goodness. This, too, is a day that the Lord has made. And so we say it, over, and over, and over, until we begin to live it as well: He is risen!"

He is risen indeed! Alleluia!

Shalom, Betsey

APRIL VACATION PLANS CANCELLED

The trip to Overlook Farm which was scheduled for April vacation has been cancelled. The farm is closed that week to field trips. They are doing staff training. We will try again next year.

Calendar items for April:

During April vacation, the Sunday school classes will be meeting together to learn the Lord's Prayer one week, and to hear the story of The Sower and planting marigold seeds in pots afterwards. So, if you are not away come join your friends for some fun while learning!

CE Action Group meets **April 3 at 7 PM** in the Director's office

Teachers' Meeting is Sunday, April 13, at 9:15 AM in the Youth Room.

Pilgrim Fellowship Grades 4 & 5

Meets Tuesday, **April 8, 4 – 6 PM**. We will begin our Noah's Ark quilt. Come with your artists' hats and hands.

Team Tabernacle Walks Against Domestic Violence

Walk for HAWC is **Sunday, April 27**, after church. All adults and children are encouraged to sign up to walk with Team Tabernacle and for a T-shirt in the Bigelow Room. Deadline is April 13. Gather pledges from family friends all month. We will have fun!

Overlook Farm, Rutland, MA A Heifer Int. Farm Experience

Grades 6 and 7 will be attending a weekend mission trip at Overlook Farm on **Friday, May 2–Sunday, May 4**. An informational meeting will be held on Sunday, April 6, after worship in the youth room. If your child is planning to attend the weekend you and your child need to attend this important meeting to sign papers and review the schedule. Thank you in advance for your cooperation.

Our plans are to leave Salem by 4:30 PM with bag suppers. We will arrive at Overlook Farm by 6:30 PM. Set up our sleeping bags in our tents and follow a set schedule. We will arrive home on Sunday after working hard all day on Saturday. We are very excited about this opportunity to do some real work and learn more about Heifer International and their work at eliminating hunger and poverty in the world.



Do You Like To Meet New People?

If you answered yes, we have an opportunity for you! We are looking for **Greeters/Ushers and**

Coffee Pourers on Sunday mornings. It is a great way to have fun and meet new people!!!! Please sign up on the Tabernacle Time and Talents Section in the Bigelow Room, you will also find instructions for Greeters and Coffee Pourers. If you have any questions, please speak to any member of the Hospitality Committee; Mary-Jo Bennett, Jen Santo, Bob Anthony, Karen Murray, or Marge Ives.

Update on Brides Room

Progress is being made by the Brides Room Committee to transform the room. We envision the room to be used as a Meditation Room, a Retreat, or a quiet place as well as for meetings and for Brides awaiting their marriage ceremony. Some furnishings have been relocated and a new area rug is in place. We are planning more redecorating. Sincere thanks to the Anderson Family and especially to Dick Anderson for the gift of the beautiful new rug. Helping on the committee are Cindy Phelan, Jean Karam, Barbara Bowman, Kristine Doll, Patricia Lev, Cindy Collins and Nancy Lutts.

Penny Fund For Blankets

We received an unexpected gift of pennies from two children who attend our Vacation Bible School each summer and have read of our penny fund in the Tidings. Michele and Mark Lemieux have been saving their pennies all year and donated them to our blanket fund.

Memorial Fund



Donations have been received for the Memorial fund in memory of **Margaret Fitzgerald** from the Tabernacle Women's Association and Nancy & Brud Lutts.

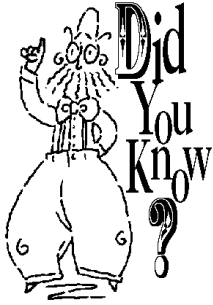
Donations have been made to the Tabernacle Missions Committee in memory of **Margaret Fitzgerald** from

Dorothy Disorbo, Marjorie A Haverty, Judith L. Mediates and Patricia Gaudet & Families: Jane and Jean Dionne, Patricia Tudbury and Jeanne Mulligan and Susan Sargent.

Gems

Gems (*Gourmet Eating Men's Society*) will be meeting on **Wednesday, April 16** at 12:00pm at the Lyceum. All men are welcome to join.





Did You Know?

**Famous Weathervane
Placed on New Tabernacle
Handiwork of Samuel
McIntire, Formerly on Spire
of Old South Church, is
Restored to Service**

Article taken from a Salem Paper ca. 1923

The new weather vane on the tower of the new Tabernacle Church, which formerly adorned the tip top of the famous Old South church spire, corner of Chestnut and Cambridge streets has been put in position and has attracted much attention of late. Many people have wondered from whence it came.

The old South Church was destroyed in the spectacular fire of December 19, 1903, when that church was burned to the ground. No one seems to remember just who rescued the vane from the ruins and left it in custody of the Essex Institute, but it was saved and remained there in its somewhat damaged condition until recently, when, through the courtesy of the directors of the institute, on request of the building committee of the Tabernacle church, Authur H. Phippen, chairman, Alvah P. Thompson and Walter S. Frisbee, the vane was given to the church society, to be placed on the new edifice.

That section of the vane which was in poor condition was repaired at the Puritan Iron Works at Boston at a cost of several hundred dollars and it was set in place on the spire of the new church last week.

Owing to the recent union of the South and Tabernacle churches it is very appropriate in this new place, perpetuating as it does the history of the former church.

The main vane is made of copper and was unquestionably the design of Salem's noted architect, Samuel McIntire, who designed the old South Church. The arrowhead and a few of the other missing smaller parts had to be replaced at the iron works before shipping it to Salem.

For almost a century the beautiful spire of the historic old South Church pointed its tapering finger heavenward, as if in mute guidance toward the goal for which Christianity is striving.

The spire was almost world famous. In fact, architects and students of architecture came to Salem from all parts of the country to view this beautiful piece of art, in its fine proportions and shapely contour.

Samuel McIntire, who died in 1811, was the most accomplished of all Salem architects and wood carvers. Many examples of his handiwork may be seen at the Essex Institute; a medallion head of Washington, formerly a decoration on the Common gate; an eagle that spread its wings before the old custom house on Central street; a mantel taken from the old registry of deeds building and various architectural detail.

Mr. McIntire, besides designing the old South church, submitted plans for the capitol at Washington, the original drawings being now preserved by the Maryland Historical Society. Of the many houses which he designed, the best examples now standing are the Peirce-Nichols house, 80 Federal Street and the White-Pingree house 128 Essex Street, the interior finish in both being remarkably fine. There are, however, several others.

The old South church building was erected in 1804 and dedicated Jan. 1, 1805. As a specimen of Colonial church architecture it was much admired.





April Memorial Flowers

April 6: In loving memory of **Betty Cooper "Grammy"** by her family.

April 13: **In Celebration of Lindsey Peterson's Birthday with love**, from her Family.

April 20: In loving memory of **Carolyn & Eugene Mailman** by Anne & Stephen Bogan.

April 22: **Celebrating the loved ones, past & present, in our lives** by Collette Benoit and Bridget Sullivan.

T.W.A.

The TWA will be meeting in the Bigelow Room on **Tuesday, April 15th at 10:30**. Hostess will be Jane Dionne. Bring a sandwich and join us for fellowship. As always, new members are welcome.

Prayer Shawl Ministry

Marcia Olsson brought three prayer shawls to Biloxi, Mississippi when she joined the Glastonbury Connecticut church as they helped to rebuild this Katrina ravaged region. We would like to thank those who constantly help by renewing our supply of shawls, both church members and those who are friends of members. Betsey Bennett has a friend who has made two shawls for us and Martha Bagby's friend has made several baby blankets as well as a prayer shawl. We appreciate the gifts of time and talent as we pursue this worthy ministry.



Church Steeple Lighting

The church steeple is lighted for the month of April in loving memory of **Lucy & Walter Lewis, Linda Lewis and Barbara Hamilton Newell** by Brenda Lewis.



April Birthdays

The following members and friends are celebrating birthdays this month.

- 1 Kyle Reardon
- 3 Liz Nelson
- 3 Lindsay Peterson
- 5 Kay Piemonte
- 5 Heath Wilson
- 7 Bonita Black
- 8 Anastasia Patch
- 9 Audrey DeLoffi
- 10 Anne Bogan
- 10 Abby Burnham
- 11 Vanessa Bentas
- 12 Alicia Chevoor
- 14 Megan Holtz
- 14 Joshua Cabral
- 15 Kathryn White
- 16 Kayla Bentas
- 18 Kurt Piemonte
- 21 Jack Duda
- 23 Corinne Bennett
- 23 Charles Haven
- 25 Philip Lutts
- 26 Christopher Lutts
- 26 Beth Currier
- 27 Kim Ayers
- 28 Ross Peterson
- 29 Ian MacLean
- 29 Mary Jo Bennett
- 30 Craig Burnham