



The Tidings

A Publication of Tabernacle
Congregational Church, UCC

May 2008



Prophetic voices are woven through our scriptures. Each prophet in the bible delivers a message to the people from God. Each prophet shares in a public way, his or her relationship with God. Prophets throughout the ages faced their inner doubts about their "Call" and confronted the fears of their community and their political leaders. The prophetic office was a hard and lonely place.

Pastoral voices are also woven through scripture. The breeders of sheep and goats, the tenders of flocks and the protectors of herds practiced working together as a team of pastors. They took responsibility for the care and nurture of animals and each other. They provided food and drink, moved with their community when necessary and assured the health and well being of all. The pastoral voice speaks with tenderness and assurance with hope for long life and harmony.

Jesus was both prophetic and pastoral. After his resurrection, when he charged his disciples to carry his message to all the nations and the world, he commissioned them to be both prophetic and pastoral. In seminary nowadays, clergy are encouraged to find both their prophetic voice as well as their pastoral voice. And churches like Tabernacle "Call" ministers to be both.

As we enter the time of BEING CHURCH, the time of Pentecost, we are challenged once again, to discern our prophetic and pastoral voices.

On May 18th Tabernacle will participate in a national "sacred conversation" about the relationship between African Americans and European Americans.

We will consider our prophetic and pastoral voice here in Salem regarding the history of slavery, the role of our church in civil rights and the response to today's tensions and concerns about race relations.

Please, take a moment to examine your heart and join us for these important conversations.

We respect and support people of every race, ethnicity, creed, class, gender, sexual orientation, age and physical and mental ability.
Sincerely yours,
Rev. Laura

May Worship Themes

May 4, 2008 **Communion ~**

Scripture Lessons:

1 Peter 4:12-14

John 17:11-13

Sermon: *So that they may be One*

May 11, 2008 **Mother's Day ~**

PENTECOST AND CONFIRMATION SUNDAY

Scripture: John 20:19-23

May 18, 2008

Scripture Lessons:

Genesis 1:1 thru Genesis 2:1-3

Sermon: *Science versus Faith*

May 25, 2008

Memorial Day Weekend~

Scripture Lessons

Psalms 131:1-2

Matthew 6:25-34

Sermon: *Life in the Field*



Prayer Shawl Ministry

Casting Our Bread Upon the Waters

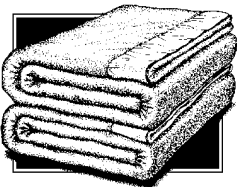
We have received a lovely note from Pam Small, the Volunteer Coordinator for Back Bay Mission, UCC in Biloxi, Mississippi.

“Dear Ladies of Tabernacle, What gorgeous prayer shawls. Thank you so much for doing such a beautiful job at knitting them. We will save them for our home owners when we turn the houses over to them. As your note says, the shawls celebrate love and hugs from a wonderful group from Salem, Massachusetts, and we thank you. God Bless you all.”

A Gift to an Old Friend

On May 18th Owen Hanson will be baptized at Tabernacle Church. The baptismal blanket that will be given to him was knit by Kay Piemonte. Owen’s great grandmother was Marge Godfrey who was Kay’s best friend. This will make the gift very important to Owen’s family.

Blanket Fund



The donations for Palm Sunday totaled \$380.78. If you have coins for this cause still sitting around please give them to Jane Dionne since we will

soon be sending our check for blankets to Church World Services. Thanks to everyone who has supported us over the years as we have bought blankets. It is appreciated.

Thank you

Thank you to **Joshua Cabral, Karen P. Murray and Jane Kelly** for cooking the April Salem Mission Dinner.



Missions Sunday Update

Mission Sunday was a very inspiring experience for the members of the Mission Committee and we hope for the congregation as well. The message from Holly Fulton’s sermon was two fold. Mission is not just helping those around the block in Salem, but helping those who need help no matter where they live in the world, “beyond our borders.” The second was that short term altruistic ventures usually are not helpful and if they include imposing our standards and ideas rather than respecting their culture, probably do more harm than good. Participating in long term efforts is a more effective use of our limited resources. One of the greatest contributions after making a visit to an impoverished country is to raise the awareness of the needs. We as individuals and as a church, can make a difference. If the life of only one or a few people in need benefit from our efforts it is worthwhile. Jesus makes it very clear what our obligations as Christians are and it is the Missions Committee’s function to find the most effective way to meet our obligations with the limited resources available.

Holly Fulton

Silent Auction Proceeds

The Missions committee voted to distribute the funds from the silent auction to the following organizations:

The Salem Mission	\$1,250
The Inn Between/Inn Transition	\$750
HAWC (Help for Abused Women and their Children)	\$1,000
The Plummer Home	\$750

Thank you for supporting this mission project.

Your Missions committee



Greetings and Salutations!

A recent issue of the magazine **WONDERTIME**, included an article *In the Beginning, One Mom's Year of Sunday school*. It

chronicles the downs and ups of one family's first year at Church and Sunday school with two children ages 7 and 4. As director of Christian education and Sunday school, I found it interesting to follow the children as they resisted going to church, but the mom was persistent and consistent with attendance over the year and the rewards for her were many. Most importantly, the children learned the idea of prayer and of being a servant in God's ever present kingdom.

Imagine giving your children a most precious gift. The difference that a church home and family can make in a child's life is immeasurable. It takes a village to raise a child, and what better place to find a village, with values and morals that matches your own, than a church home and family. The community of Tabernacle dedicates itself to you and your children, from baptism on. We will be here with you through it all, joys and sufferings, sharing your burdens and your celebrations.

If you have ever fought with your child about attending church or Sunday school, know that you are not alone, we have all been there. Know that teaching your children about God, Jesus and the Holy Spirit are a top priority for us, but our teaching does not end at the church doors. We have offerings to support you through the entire week. Use the Taking Faith Home bulletin inserts. Come to Adult Bible study. Attend special social times like the Silent Auction, the All Church Picnic, or Maundy Thursday dinner and Tenebrae. Or call the church office and ask to speak with Rev. Laura or me to discuss your children and their Christian education.

I will place copies of the article in the Bigelow Room. Look for the Education sign on the bulletin board and find the article on the table below the sign.

Shalom,
Betsey

WOW!!! What A Night!

Friday evening, April 18, Rabbi Lee of Temple Shalom in Salem welcomed three 6 and 7 graders and 3 adults to his worship service with the words "Shabbat Shalom." For an hour we prayed in song the psalms and other readings from the Torah, most in Hebrew but some in English. After the service we were welcomed upstairs to their "oma," coffee hour. After, Rabbi Lee gave us a tour of the formal sanctuary with the curtain, the holy of holies, behind which are the scrolls of the Torah that are this congregation's. What a thrill to see in life the "holy of holies"! To hear the psalms sung in Hebrew! To know that Jesus was with us in this house of worship, a house of worship that he might attend if he lived in Salem today! Thank you to Kim Ayers for arranging this terrific evening!

Overlook Farm in Rutland, MA: A Heifer International Farm Experience

Friday, May 2 – Sunday, May 4

3 boys and 2 girls from grades 6 and 7 along with Betsey Bennett and Joe Bennett will be attending a weekend mission trip at Overlook Farm. Our plans are to leave Salem via van by 4:30 PM with bag suppers. We will arrive at Overlook Farm by 6:30 PM. Our experience includes a stay in a Global village, living, working and eating as they would in Thailand, Peru, or Guatemala. 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. We will share our experiences with you all when we return.

Important Meetings for May!

CE Action Group Meeting, Thursday, May 1,
Happy May Day!
Teachers' Meeting Sunday, May 11, 9:15 AM
Confirmation Sunday, May 11, no Sunday
School!

Lib Caldwell, May 31,

rescheduled from February 23, due to weather.

A group of us are attending a seminar presented by The Pastoral Excellence Program of the MACUCC, (Massachusetts Conference of the United Church of Christ) on Saturday, May 31, 2008. The topic **Faith and Families: Bringing the Church into the Home** features Dr. Elizabeth (Lib) Caldwell. Dr. Caldwell is the author of many articles and books on topics of religious education including: **Leaving Home with Faith: Nurturing the Spiritual Life of our Youth**, United Church Press, 2003; **Making a Home for Faith: Nurturing the Spiritual Life of Your Children**, United Church Press, 2000; **Come Unto Me, Rethinking the Sacraments for Children**, United Church Press, 1996.

Being Safe in our Church Home

The teachers have been shown locations for all phones and fire extinguishers in building. Emergency Exit signs have been posted in each classroom. Thank you to Cyndy Collins for designing these and helping with our safety plans. Mini first aid kits have been placed in each class room. Thank you to Kathy Dougherty for assembling those.

A Water Buffalo For Heifer

Our Heifer fund raiser for this year earned \$290.00 with the money we purchased a water buffalo. Thank you to Tania Skeffington for donating her Lenten fruit still life for purchase. Thank you to Kayla Bentas for teaching our children how to make pinch pots from clay. Proceeds from the sale of these art items along with the sale of muffins contributed to the entire earning.

Calling all 4th and 5th Graders

PYF meets Tuesday, May 6 and Tuesday, May 20, 4 -6 PM at the church. The kids had a great time bowling and eating pizza in March. In April they began coloring quilt squares for a Noah's Ark Quilt designed by their leader, Tania Skeffington. Plans are underway to finish painting flower boxes and then to plant them and deliver them to the Habitat for Humanity house on Crombie Street. The flower boxes were begun several years ago at VBS.

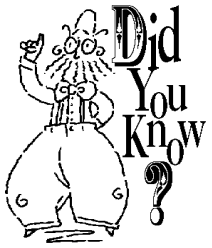
Looking Ahead!

Mark your calendars for the Annual All Church Picnic and Children's Sunday festivities, on Sunday, June 8, 2008. Plans for Children's Sunday worship service are coming together. The children are planning pieces of the worship service with their teachers. Look for a Heifer Farm review, the Ten Commandments, a liturgical Lord's Prayer, and singing by the youngest and the not so youngest. We have already begun learning songs!

**Beach Party, Surfin'
Through the
Scriptures
Our annual Vacation
Bible School,
Monday – Friday,
August 11 – 15,
9AM – noon**



Enclosed in this issue of the Tidings is a registration form for VBS. You may make additional copies or call the church office (978)744-3164 for more copies. The cost remains the same at \$25.00 per child with a family cap of \$50.00 for 2 or more children. We are looking for adults and high school kids to help with this fun week of Bible learning. We have several folks who have said they would help, but we always need more help. There are openings specifically in registration, snacks, science, games and storytelling. Call Betsey Bennett for more information, to register a child or to volunteer to help. See you at the BEACH!



Did You Know?

DEDICATE PARISH HOUSE OF THE NEW TABERNACLE CHURCH

Exercises Held Sunday Morning Were Conducted by Pastor, Rev. William H. Spence; Congregation Inspects Rooms Completed

From: Salem News, September 14, 1924
**The Parish House in the Rear of the
church was Dedicated Yesterday**

The first service in the new Tabernacle church was held yesterday forenoon in the assembly hall of the parish house, at which time that portion of the new edifice was dedicated. Some 300 people attended the service and took part in the dedication exercises led by the pastor, Rev. William H. Spence. The ceremony was quite informal, the pastor reading the following: "In obedience to what we humbly believe has been the leadership of the Holy Spirit, and in conformity to the growing custom of the Christian church we have here built a house which is a symbol of the wider application of our faith to the life of man. The ministry of the church does not stop with public worship and the preaching of the word, primary though these functions are, but includes any worthy activity which will bring the souls of men in touch with the life of the spirit. We believe in religious education, in the fellowship of Christian believers, in the work of philanthropy and charity, in Christian missions, and in all good causes which make for the common good. We rejoice that God has made it possible for us to erect this house in which these varied interests of the church may find expression.

"Let us, therefore, reverently dedicate this house to the Glory of God, to the uses of his church, and the service of our fellow men."

The congregation's part in the service was simply responding with the sentence, "We dedicate this house." after each of the following sentences by the minister:

"To the Glory of God the Father, in loyalty to Jesus Christ, in whom the glory of God is revealed.

"In the education of children and youth, that they may be taught the Holy Scriptures, and trained in Christian discipleship.

"For Christian culture, that here fellow believers may find a place for common prayer, meditation, and council concerning the faith and practice of the Christian religion.

"For the manifold work of the church, that the cause of Christian missions may be promoted and that here hands and hearts may unite in all kinds of labor for the unfortunate and needy.

"For the welfare of our community, our nation, and the world, that we may better share in the service of all good causes that make for the common good and the brotherhood of men."

In speaking of the new church and parish house, Rev. Mr. Spence outlined briefly what the Tabernacle people hope to do with the building. They hope it will become a social center and the parish house has been arranged to that end. Still he hoped that "it will be something more than a social club, a center of spiritual influence, to which all people will feel free to come with their philanthropic activities – where any person will feel at home." He called it a "friendship house," by which name he hoped the Tabernacle would be known.

Following the dedication and communion service the minister invited the congregation to inspect the Parish House, or those rooms which were completed, there being one or two, which like the church, will not be completed nor opened to visitors until the day of the dedication of the main church, Sunday, Oct. 5. In opening the house to the inspection of the congregation Mr. Spence pointed out that the building is owned legally by 500 people, and being able to build only one church, the building committee has worked to made the Tabernacle such a building as will meet the needs in every respect! Therefore he urged the congregation to inspect the parish house, and if it found things which pleased, to talk loud and enthusiastically of these things.

Stay tuned next month for more.....



May Altar Flowers

May 4: **In Celebration of Jack and Kate Duda on their 4th and 2nd birthdays**, Love Mommy and Daddy.

May 11: **In loving memory of our mothers, Katherine Ring and Margaret Curtin** by Carol and Ed Curtin.

May 18: **In loving memory of Betty's Sister, Dorothy** from Betty & Dick Lutts.

May 25: **In loving memory of Arthur and Bertha Doyle** from their Family.

May Birthdays

The following members and friends are celebrating birthdays this month:

- 4 Jessica Reardon
- 8 Jennifer Strom
- 8 Doug Karam
- 8 Becky Young
- 14 Stephen Bogan
- 15 Rachel Lutts
- 15 Jean Karam
- 15 James Patch
- 15 Bridget Sullivan
- 18 Alex Grover
- 19 Robert Peterson
- 20 June DeRoin
- 21 Owen Grover
- 23 Kate Duda
- 26 Valerie Peterson
- 29 Robert Willey



This Month's Birthdays

Church Steeple Lighting

The church steeple is lighted for the month of **May** in loving memory of **Mary Parthum, Connie Grieco, and Jane Harrison** by Jane Dionne.



TWA

The TWA will be meeting in the Bigelow Room on **Tuesday, May 20th** at 10:30am. Hostess will be Kay Piemonte. As always, new members are welcome. Bring a sandwich and join us for fellowship.

Gems

Gems (*Gourmet Eating Men's Society*) will be meeting on **Wednesday, May 21** at 12:00pm at the Lyceum. All men are welcome to join



Memorial Fund

A donation has been received for the Memorial Fund in memory of **Jane Harrison** from the Tabernacle Women's Association. A donation has been received for the Memorial Fund in memory of **Jane Harrison** from Chuck Parthum.

A donation has been made to the Tabernacle Missions Committee in memory of **Margaret Fitzgerald** from Richard and Candace Archambault.

