

**Tabernacle United Church**  
**3700 Chestnut Street**  
**Philadelphia, PA 19104**

Address Correction Requested



## **Tab Connections**

The newsletter of Tabernacle United Church  
37<sup>th</sup> and Chestnut Streets  
Philadelphia, PA 19104  
[tabernacle@tabunited.org](mailto:tabernacle@tabunited.org)

Office hours: Monday, Tuesday, Thursday and Friday 12:30-5:30 pm  
Pastor's hours: Monday-Thursday 10:00 am-3:00 pm

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May 2009

### **About TAB: Staff**

Ministers.....TAB congregation  
Pastor.....Rev. Patricia Pearce  
Director, Arts & Spirituality Center.....Rev. Susan Teegen-Case  
Director of Music.....Holly Phares  
Office Manager.....Barbara Purdom  
Sexton.....Susan Lindsey

### **About TAB: e-newsletter**

The Tab e-newsletter is published monthly around the first of the month. It is available at [www.tabunited.org](http://www.tabunited.org) and also sent to everyone on the tab-news email list. Please contact the church office ([tabernacle@tabunited.org](mailto:tabernacle@tabunited.org)) to submit content. Instructions about how to join the various TAB email mailing lists are available at <http://www.lists.tabunited.org>.

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### **Peace, Justice and Reconciliation Group**

A phrase in Tab's Mission Statement emphasizes "advocating for peace, justice and reconciliation". To enhance Tab's effectiveness in carrying out this important aspect of our mission, the Tab Council is putting out the call for the formation of a new group: the Peace, Justice, and Reconciliation Group. The responsibilities of this group will include: helping to focus and prioritize the congregation's involvement in peace, justice and reconciliation efforts based on the values and interests of our congregation; reviewing requests from outside groups for Tab's involvement in peace, justice and reconciliation projects; making recommendations to Council about mission projects in support of Tab's Mission Statement; and advising Council on Tabernacle's missions budget and on contributions to mission-related groups.

Ideally, the Peace Justice and Reconciliation Group would include about five members who will be able to confer regularly in person, by telephone, and/or by e-mail and to advise Patricia and Council on a monthly basis or as needed. If you are interested, please contact Patricia or any of the Tab Council members.

## Save the Date: Interfaith Sustainability Sabbath May 31

A new environmental faith based coalition, the Philadelphia Interfaith Network for the Environment (PINE), is taking shape in our city. PINE is an initiative of the Academy of Natural Sciences and its mission is to enable faith communities to partner together to be a stronger presence to further the green agenda for our city. Patricia has been representing Tab at the steering meetings and Ginny Rice, a member of Tab's Sustainable Living Affinity Group (SLAG), also took part in a recent planning session.

On the afternoon of Sunday, May 31, PINE will launch its public presence with its debut event, an Interfaith Sustainability Sabbath. On that day, volunteers from Philadelphia faith communities will partner with Fairmount Park to help in an environmental restoration project which will be followed up by an educational forum led by an environmental scientist from the Academy of Natural Sciences. There is no Tab.edu scheduled for that day so that Tab people can participate in the PINE event.

It would be fabulous if we can have a strong turn out of volunteers from Tab to participate in the event! If you would like to participate, please email Patricia at [patricia@tabunited.org](mailto:patricia@tabunited.org), or sign up at the church. Also, if you would like to represent Tab at PINE meetings and in the planning of future events, please let Patricia know as well.

To learn more about PINE visit the Academy's website at [www.ansp.org/environmental/interfaith.php](http://www.ansp.org/environmental/interfaith.php). Tab is among the congregations listed on the site, which gives information about the environmental activities of various faith communities in our area.

## Bible Study Group

The Bible Study Group meets most Wednesdays, 5:30-7:00 pm at CA House (adjacent to Tab). To RSVP or get more information contact either Jean Erb ([jeanerb \(at\) verizon \(dot\) net](mailto:jeanerb@verizon.net)) or Nicole Diroff ([nicolediroff \(at\) yahoo \(dot\) com](mailto:nicolediroff@yahoo.com)). Go to Vanderbilt's website: <http://www.divinity.library.vanderbilt.edu/lectionary/BEaster/index.htm>.

## Sustainable Living Affinity Group

The Sustainable Living Group will meet Thursday, May 21 at 6:30 pm in the Community Room. We will begin with a simple dinner and will discuss green initiatives for the church to implement in 2009. All are invited, and we welcome new participants!

## Paperless Sundays

The third Sunday of each month (usually) is paperless (no printed bulletin, shown on the grids by the shading on May 17 19). Contact the office for tips on creating a paperless liturgy.

## About TAB: Mission Statement

We are called into compassionate community following Christ, advocating for peace, justice and reconciliation, and celebrating God's loving embrace of all creation.

## About TAB: Join us for worship!

Sunday Worship is at 10 am, ALL YEAR ROUND! Children and youth attend Sunday School during the service and childcare for children under 6 is provided. Worship is followed by fellowship time during Coffee Hour. Hope to see you in church!

## About TAB: Tab Online

Tab's website, [www.tabunited.org](http://www.tabunited.org), has info about affinity groups, events, news, a calendar, sermons, and more! If you are part of a team/committee/affinity group, please help monitor website content about your group. Contact the office or [webmaster@tabunited.org](mailto:webmaster@tabunited.org) with corrections, additions, ideas, etc. Tab's blog (<http://tabunited.livejournal.com/>) has "breaking news"; all blog posts are embedded on Tab's News page and appear on the Tab Facebook page via an RSS feed. (Enter "Tabernacle United Church" in the search box on Facebook.)

## About TAB: Sunday Parking

*Meter parking* on Market, Ludlow and Walnut is FREE Sundays. *Walnut & 38th garage* - Enter on 38th Street, northbound, between Walnut & Sansom Streets; the Greeter will validate garage tickets at Tab. *Until 1 pm* meter parking on Chestnut, 37th, 38th and Sansom Streets is FREE to those with a Tab ID on the dashboard. (You can get the ID ahead of time by going to the Tab website: [http://tabunited.org/images/TAB\\_Parking.pdf](http://tabunited.org/images/TAB_Parking.pdf), or you can get it from the Greeter.) To dispute a ticket received during a service contact Hilda Belecki, Philadelphia Parking Authority, at 215-683-9786, or the PPA Public Advocate, Frank DeAngelis, at 215-683-9614.

### May Service & Bulletin Roles

DATE	PREACHING	WRITING	LITURGIST	CHILDREN'S TIME	QUOTE
May 3	P. Pearce	D. Burnham	Ginny Rice	Katie Day	D. Burnham
May 10	Vanessa Cardinale	Susan Wargo	S. Teegen-Case	Donald Wargo	Yue Yu
<b>May 17</b>	P. Pearce	N. Diroff	C. Purdom	P. Abernathy	Susan Wargo
May 24	P. Pearce	Erin Hayes	S. Pierce	Nicole Diroff	Mia King
May 31	P. Pearce	J. Hojnacki	M. Ehling	Mark Colvson	K. Huseman

### May Supporting Roles

DATE	GREETERS	COFFEE HOUR	COUNTER(S)	RECYCLING	COMPOST
May 3	C. Purdom, M. Ehling	S. Gleeson Blue, L. Pugh	Chris Purdom	Jim Gerhard	Mark Colvson
May 10	Ginny & John Rice	V. & C. Compher	Pauline Abernathy	Deb Burnham	Kip Leitner
<b>May 17</b>	D. Ahrens & J. Culley	B. Case & S. Teegen-Case	Jessica Culley	Mark Colvson	Laura Line
May 24	V. & C. Compher	Mike Ehling & Kip Leitner	Jean Erb	Bob Case	Patricia Pearce
May 31	J. Goldstein & L. Line	Ken & Martha Gritter	Mike Ehling	Kip Leitner	Josh Goldstein

### Rotations

Extra copies of the rotation schedule are available on the Greeter's table every Sunday and copies are hanging on the refrigerator in the kitchen and on the bulletin boards in the office and community room. Please contact the office immediately if you need one or download it from the blog (*see page 7*). Remember to also contact the office when you switch Sundays with someone (the information above reflects changes already made), and don't forget to check the schedule before you go out of town!

### May Tab.edu

May 3

#### Tab is Retreating!

(Facilitated by the Fun!Group)

We're not literally retreating as in "running away", we're actually planning the All-Church Retreat at Appel Farm, in Elmer, NJ during the weekend of Oct. 23-25. This meeting is all about planning, Fun!Group-style! We will be both hammering out the final details for the Coffee House on May 9, plus planning for the retreat itself. If you can't make it on May 3, please contact Susan Collins if you'd like her to bring your ideas to the meeting.

May 10

#### Creating a Sustainable Person Vision

(Led by Jen Gleeson Blue)

Vision is about what we intend to become. It's that completed picture we have in our minds. And for most of us, our ability to envision our best selves as well as our future propels us forward and motivates us toward action. Enjoy creating:

- A clearer picture of what you want your life to look like
- A deeper understanding of how you want to be in the world
- A richer sense of community
- Next steps to carry out and sustain your personal vision

May 17

#### I Cannot Be Silent: Testimonies of Peacemaking

(Led by Vic Compher)

*I Cannot Be Silent: Testimonies of Peacemaking* is an intergenerational documentary by Vic Compher depicting older peace advocates sharing adventures in peacemaking with young people. Their stories address historical and current violence: escape from slavery; opposition to war; escape from a Nazi concentration camp; and opposition to urban gun violence. The young adults also share their experiences of trauma with these older peacemakers, who advise them on healing emotionally and promoting peace and social justice in our world. Forty-eight minutes, followed by Q & A.

May 24

#### NO TAB.EDU - MEMORIAL DAY WEEKEND

May 31

#### NO TAB.EDU - SUSTAINABILITY SABBATH (See page 2)

## Talent Show and Coffee House May 9

Want to be the first to sponsor an as-yet-undiscovered talent? Want to be the first to witness another Susan-Boyle-esque performance? Or see your friends act totally silly, or hear an amazing nose-flute, or have a chance to purchase artwork by a Tab artist, all while helping a good cause? Come join in the fun at the Tab Talent Show and Coffee House, on Saturday May 9! The show will start at 7 PM, with refreshments throughout the evening. Entry: only \$5 per person, additional donations gladly accepted (kids under 15 get in FREE!).

For this event to be a smash hit we need producers. So if you would like to “sponsor” one of the Talent Show acts, watch for the sponsorship flyer that will be distributed during Coffee Hour on May 3. Sponsor an act and your name will be in the program!

Proceeds go into a fund to help defray the cost of the all-church “Building Community” retreat in October, to guarantee that everyone who wants to come to the retreat is able to afford it. So come to the show on May 9, and then come join in the fun again at the retreat in October!

## Peace Walk

The Philadelphia Interfaith Walk for Peace and Reconciliation is in West Philadelphia on May 3 from 2:00-5:30 p.m. (with an optional pre-gathering, including Salat midday prayers, at Al Aqsa Islamic Society at 12:45 PM.) The 2009 program begins and concludes at the Philadelphia Cathedral at 38<sup>th</sup> & Chestnut Sts. and includes stops at Philadelphia Masjid and Millcreek Baptist Church, with prayers, teachings and music/dance from Jewish, Muslim, Christian, Sikh, Buddhist, Bahai and other traditions. This year’s theme is *People of Light, People of Hope, People of Courage*.

Last year the Interfaith Peace Walk drew some 800 people from all over Philadelphia and the surrounding counties. True to its multi-cultural, multi-religious tradition, the walk creates opportunities for people to learn about and celebrate their own and others’ faiths. By walking, praying and giving witness to suffering together, the event serves as a walking dialogue and spiritual journey of discovery. As such, it is intentionally non-political: No signs or banners are permitted aside from those expressing a wish for peace. Organizers ask participants to wear white in a display of unity.

As in previous years the Walk will conclude with refreshments and fellowship. Please see the Peace Walk website ([www.interfaithpeacewalk.org](http://www.interfaithpeacewalk.org)) for additional information. We hope to see you there!

## Lift Your Voice in Song!

Join the Tab Ensemble *three Thursday night rehearsals* per month. We sing music spanning from Medieval times to the present day, including Gospel/Spirituals and original works by our director, Holly Phares.

The ensemble participates in three services per month and two or more Gospel Music Sundays per year. One does NOT need to read music to join, or have extensive vocal experience. Just bring a love of singing, a good ear, decent voice, and willingness to commit to the rehearsal/worship schedule.

We usually rehearse 6:45-8:15 pm in the Community Room, except when noted. For those who wish, we gather at 6 pm for a “brown bag dinner” prior to rehearsal. **Upcoming rehearsals: May 7, 14 and 28 (OFF on May 21). Upcoming services: May 3, 10 17 and 31 (OFF on May 24).**

If interested please let Holly know ASAP (215) 235-4696 or email: holmus (at) aol (dot) com. She will get a schedule to you or you can download it from the Tab website—look for this article in the online newsletter). You need *not* commit to every rehearsal and service but DO return the form with the info on the rehearsals and services you CAN commit to, for planning purposes.

## Not Your Mother's Potluck

We all love a good Tab potluck. And it’s not just because of the relaxing conversation that rises. Tab potlucks are known for their creativity, inventiveness and spunk. In other words, they’re not your mother’s potluck. That’s the new name of the resurrected Circle Suppers or Cluster Groups which were last revived in 1999.

As introduced by the Fun! Group in 2009, Not Your Mother’s Potluck will gather small groups of Tab folks to share good food and good conversation. The idea is that a group of folks, usually geographically similar (if possible) will gather on a regular basis (the interval to be determined by the specific group) for a meal/dessert/snacks in someone’s home. The aim is to enjoy good food, get to know one another and provide time for conversations longer than those we can have during coffee hour.

In the next month or two you’ll receive info on your group and its initial gathering. If you’re too busy on a specific date, remember: the Fun! Group’s motto is “No Pressure”. And if you don’t want to participate right now, please let either Katherine Huseman or Marge Conn know and we’ll take you off the list.