

**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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September 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>.

### **Fall Sermon Series: The Second Coming of Christianity**

Mainline Christianity is currently undergoing a decline in the face of scientific and cultural changes, and yet this period of decline also opens up possibilities for exploring new ways of interpreting the Christian faith. This fall Patricia will be giving a sermon series which will look at our current understandings of the evolution of life, universe and consciousness and will consider Christianity's place in the emerging paradigm which moves us beyond notions of separateness and into the experience of oneness. What might a "Second Coming of Christianity" look like? How will a new paradigm affect how we understand God, Jesus, the Kingdom of God, death and resurrection? And what are its implications for how we live as individuals and as a community? These are some of the questions we will explore beginning on September 13 and continuing until Advent.

## Lift Your Voice In Song this Fall!

Have you enjoyed the Tab Ensemble sharing their music? Have you wanted to add your voice to our amazing chamber ensemble but have been too shy? Do you love singing but haven't done so for years? Now is the PERFECT time to add your voice to our ensemble! This season we will meet three **Wednesday** nights per month and sing in three worship services/month, on average (a change from our Thursday rehearsals). Folks who enjoy gathering for a "brown bag" dinner arrive at 6 pm. This is a wonderful way to transition from work/school into the community singing time. Rehearsal is promptly at 7 pm and runs until 8:30 pm. If you love to sing, have sung in choirs in your past and can learn the music fairly quickly in rehearsal, that is all that is required.

The schedule is below, worship services on the left, WEDNESDAY rehearsals (except where noted!) on the right). Contact Holly at [holmus@aol.com](mailto:holmus@aol.com) if you are interested or have further questions.

<b>SEPT 13</b> - OFF	<b>SEPT 16</b> - 6 pm: Dinner; 7 pm: Rehearsal
<b>SEPT 20</b> - Warm-up 9:15 am	<b>SEPT 23</b> - 6 pm: Dinner; 7 pm: Rehearsal
<b>SEPT 27</b> - Warm-up 9:15 am	<b>SEPT 30</b> - 6 pm: Dinner; 7 pm: Rehearsal
<b>OCT 4</b> - WORLD COMMUNION SUNDAY - Warm-up 9:15 am	<b>OCT 7</b> - OFF
<b>OCT 11</b> - OFF	<b>OCT 14</b> - 6 pm: Dinner; 7 pm: Rehearsal
<b>OCT 18</b> - Warm-up 9:15 am	<b>OCT 21</b> - 6 pm: Dinner; 7 pm: Rehearsal
<b>OCT 25</b> - OFF (RETREAT)	<b>OCT 28</b> - 6 pm: Dinner; 7 pm: Rehearsal
<b>NOV 1</b> - Warm-up 9:15 am	<b>NOV 4</b> - 6 pm: Dinner; 7 pm: Rehearsal
<b>NOV 8</b> - Warm-up 9:15 am	<b>NOV 11</b> - 6 pm: Dinner; 7 pm: Rehearsal
<b>NOV 15</b> - OFF	<b>NOV 18</b> - 6 pm: Dinner; 7 pm: Rehearsal
<b>NOV 22</b> - GOSPEL MUSIC SUNDAY - Warm-up 9 am!	<b>NOV 25</b> - OFF
<b>NOV 29</b> - OFF	<b>DEC 2</b> - 6 pm: Dinner; 7 pm: Rehearsal
<b>DEC 6</b> - Warm-up 9:15 am	<b>DEC 9</b> - 6 pm: Dinner; 7 pm: Rehearsal
<b>DEC 13</b> - Warm-up 9:15 am	<b>THURS DEC 17</b> - 6 pm: Dinner; 7 pm: Rehearsal
<b>DEC 20</b> - Warm-up 9:15 am	<b>THURS DEC 24 - CHRISTMAS EVE</b> (time TBA)
<b>DEC 27</b> - OFF	<b>DEC 30</b> - OFF

## September Service & Bulletin Roles

DATE	PREACHING	WRITING	LITURGIST	CHILDREN'S TIME	QUOTE
Sept 6	Susan Wargo	Kilian Kroell	Deb Burnham	Donald Wargo	Susan Wargo
<b>Sept 13</b>	<b>Patricia Pearce</b>	<b>Deb Burnham</b>	<b>Pauline Abernathy</b>	<b>Deb Burnham</b>	<b>Patricia Pearce</b>
<b>Sept 20</b>	Patricia Pearce	Katie Day	Lynn Lees	Patricia Pearce	Deb Burnham
<b>Sept 27</b>	<b>Patricia Pearce</b>	<b>Susan Wargo</b>	<b>Andy Lees</b>	<b>Todd Koser</b>	<b>Pauline Abernathy</b>

## September Supporting Roles

DATE	GREETERS	COFFEE HOUR	COUNTER(S)	RECYCLING	COMPOST
Sept 6	Mike Ehling & Susan Collins	Ken & Martha Gritter	Mike Ehling	Todd Koser	Deb Burnham
<b>Sept 13</b>	<b>Lynn &amp; Andy Lees</b>	<b>Vic &amp; Charlene Compher</b>	<b>Jean Erb</b>	<b>Kip Leitner</b>	<b>Todd Koser</b>
<b>Sept 20</b>	Vic & Charlene Compher	D. Burnham, K. Huseman (POTLUCK)	Bob Case	Patricia Pearce	Kip Leitner
<b>Sept 27</b>	<b>Susan &amp; Donald Wargo</b>	<b>Lynn &amp; Andy Lees</b>	<b>Chris Purdom</b>	<b>Lynn Lees</b>	<b>Deb Burnham</b>

## Rotations

Extra copies of the rotation schedule are on the Greeter's table, on the fridge in the kitchen and the bulletin boards in the office and community room. Contact the office immediately if you need one or download it from the blog (*see page 6*). 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!

**Potluck!**

Don't forget about the annual potluck luncheon on Sunday, September 20 after church (in place of Coffee Hour).

**Paperless Sundays**

The third Sunday of each month (usually) is paperless (no printed bulletin, shown on the grids by the shading on July 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 38<sup>th</sup> Street, northbound, between Walnut & Sansom Streets; the Greeter will validate garage tickets at Tab. *Until 1 pm* meter parking on Chestnut, 37<sup>th</sup>, 38<sup>th</sup> 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.

**One Book, One Tabernacle:  
Building our Tab Community**

This month we are introducing One Book, One Tabernacle by reading Marcus Borg's book *Jesus: Uncovering the Life, Teachings and Relevance of a Religious Revolutionary* and discussing it in neighborhood cluster groups.

Here's what some people are saying about this book:

"What would we do without Marcus Borg? If he did not exist, we would have to invent him, for we have no better guide to the recovery of an authentic Christian faith for these difficult times that this articulate and prolific public theologian." ~Peter Gomes, author of *The Good Book*

"In every generation there are a handful of writers of whom it can be said, 'Read everything they write.' Marcus Borg is one of these today." ~Walter Wink, author of *The Human Being*

But these gatherings are intended to be more than just book discussion groups. They will also be an opportunity for Tab folks to get to know each other better and build up our church community. You will be contacted by your cluster group's host (if you haven't been already) with more information. The clusters will begin in September, meeting about three times, and hopefully will finish up before our church retreat in late October. Thanks also to our hosts who have generously offered their homes as our gathering places.

Our One Book, One Tabernacle study is sure to be an energizing and intellectually stimulating experience, as well as a wonderful opportunity to get to know the Tab people living near you better. We hope you will plan to participate!

**All Church Retreat**

This fall we have something wonderful to look forward to: the Tab All-Church Retreat, at Appel Farm, October 23-25. Do you like to sing around a campfire? Or walk a labyrinth? From games and activities, to study and meditation, to prayer and praise, there will be something for everyone to do at the retreat.

Please pick up a form on Sunday after church or print out the registration form (go to <http://www.tabunited.org/ljfiles/Retreat-Reg-Form.pdf>). Forms can be mailed or left in the church office.

We are asking for registration now, along with a small deposit, because this is a significant commitment of funds for the reservation of the retreat location, and we need to know now how many people are coming. You don't want to miss this!

## September/October Tab.Edu

Tab.edu starts September 27 with a 3-week program: *Progressive Christianity 201*, a “sequel” to *Progressive Christianity 101*, which focused on Progressive Christian responses to social issues. We will examine theology (the study of God or how we think about God) and Christology (the study of Christ or how we think about Christ), covering a wide range of individual belief systems of Progressive Christians. Tab folks will discuss their understandings of God and Christ and answer questions.

9/27 - *Progressive Christianity 201* (Kip Leitner, Susan Wargo, Beverly Dale and Jean Erb)

10/4 - *Progressive Christianity 201* (B. Purdom, C. Purdom, S. Pierce)

10/11 - *Progressive Christianity 201* (TBA, plus Q & A)

10/18 - *Body Justice*, led by Rev. Beverly Dale

10/25 - Church Retreat

## Letter from our Sister City, Las Anonas

June 12, 2009

Dear and memorable brothers and sister of the different churches that make up and form the committee of the Romero Interfaith Center of Philadelphia. Receive appreciative very affectionate greetings from the *junta directiva* of your sister community, Las Anonas de Santa Cruz, wishing our all-powerful God is blessing you every moment.

On this occasion we have the honor to write you to inform you of the work that we are carrying out for the development of our community. We believe there is a lot of work to do to move towards a good future for our *compañeros* and brothers and community, and we believe that by standing still with out doing anything we will never resolve the needs of our people. This is why we have put so much energy into looking for resources that benefit the majority of our population.

(1) We are content and very happy because very soon we are going to have the builders group with us. We feel very happy and thankful for the economic support that they have given us to make the repairs and purchase of laminate roofing project a reality for the families that have joined our community and the youth who have married.

(2) Also, we want to tell you that one of the achievements that we believe is very important is the triumph of Mauricio Funes, our president of the Republic of El Salvador. For the first time in history the Salvadoran people united to get the bad members of the ARENA party out of the government. As we have said for many years, after so many years we have been blessed by our God who gave us a different government and that this government is for all the citizens of our nation.

(3) We want to share with you the report about the work that corresponds to us from March 2008 to March 2009.

(a) We have carried out a fertilizer and seed project for 71 farmers; 98% of the inhabitants have received benefits and the project was solicited in the Ministry of Agriculture and Livestock (MAG).

(b) Repairs to the agricultural paths which are the roads that go to the fields. This project was solicited through the municipal government of Tecoluca.

(c) The project for buying land to expand the football field. This project was solicited through the municipal government of Tecoluca and is the project that originally was putting a fence around the field, but the junta directiva thought it would be good to buy land and leave the rest of the money as a fund to continue with fencing in the field in the future.

(4) The fundraising of some economic resources to support some *compañeros* who have been sick and we have also helped to cover the funeral costs of some *compañeros* who have died. We have not forgotten about our patron saint festivals and the repairs project we are going to do with the builders.

Well brothers and sisters this is what we have to share with you. We want to tell you we are very happy to have our brothers and sisters here with us in June. We want you know we will be praying to God that he keeps you well in your lives and that it be our God who keeps you strong and cherished. These are our words. May God bless you.

Sincerely, Ricardo Carvajal- Community President, Ernesto Isaias Granados-Vice president, Adan Ramos Sanchez- Secretary, Jose David Ayala Cortez, Maria Leoncia Iraheta Gochez

## An Appreciation

As a new member of Tabernacle Church, I've been asked to share some of my thoughts about the unique gifts Tab has and the special role Tab might play in helping people who are spiritually homeless connect with a committed community of believers—a community that values dialogue and takes seriously the deep questions of faith.

Tabernacle Church is an oasis of welcome. On any given Sunday morning there is a wonderful informal atmosphere where all people are welcome and diverse people can find a unique place. A certain thoughtfulness and respectfulness is “in the air” —both during worship and at the coffee time. The worship style is open and engaging—both in spoken word, in silence, and in music. The atmosphere is restful, while also challenging. Beauty and the arts are utilized to connect the Gospel message with people in multiple ways. Then, following worship, meeting the members of Tab is an opportunity to link with real people who are engaged in city-wide issues of urban living. It is obvious that people at Tab want to make a difference in the city. And there is always food and fun and fellowship to be had. Am I describing the Tab which you know?

I think many people would benefit from being introduced to the authentic style of Christianity found at Tabernacle Church. Because Tab is located on the Penn Campus where people from every corner of the world study, work, and live, Tab has the possibility of touching a wide diversity of people and, through them, impacting the world. Letting Tab's light shine would bring change both for the new people who show up, as well as for the church itself. But isn't that what Christianity is all about: losing one's life in order to gain a new one? We have a mandate as Christians to share our gifts with a world that is longing for a way to connect with a God and a Savior who are real. I believe the people of Tabernacle Church can do that in a very natural and invitational way!

~ Geneva Butz