

The Visitor



Notice of Annual Corporate Meeting

To all members and qualified voters of the Tabernacle Baptist Church of Utica, notice is hereby given that the Annual Corporate Meeting of the Tabernacle Baptist Church of Utica will be held on *Sunday, January 28, 2018 at 12:30 PM* in Thorn Memorial Chapel, 13 Clark Place, Utica, New York, for the purpose of:

- Electing successors to those members of the Stewardship Ministry Team (Trustees) whose terms of office expire.
- Receiving financial reports for 2017.
- Adopting the annual Current Expense budget and Missions and Benevolences budget for 2018.
- Conducting such other business that may properly come before the body.

Utica, New York
January 1, 2018

David Tomidy, Chairperson
Stewardship Ministry Team

Notice of Annual Congregational Meeting

To All Members of the Tabernacle Baptist Church of Utica, notice is hereby given that the Annual Congregational Meeting will be held on January 28, 2018 immediately following the Annual Corporate Meeting, for the purpose of:

- Electing Officers and successors to those members of the Ministry Teams whose terms of Office expire.
- Conducting such other business that may properly come before the body.

Utica, New York
January 1, 2018

Karen Dunne
Moderator

The Church Office will be
closed on Mondays,
January 1 and 15

All Annual Reports are due
in the church office by
Sunday, January 7.

The Deadline to submit an
article for the
February Visitor is
Sunday, January 21



Interim Pastor's Page



God Smiled at My Plans for 2017

With another year dawning, many of us are wondering what the New Year will bring. Some are excited and some are fearful. With that thought in mind, let me share with you my own experience about coming here to Tabernacle.

Someone once said, "God smiles when he sees our appointment book." I think he did that with my plans for 2017.

I had completed a wonderful interim ministry assignment at First Baptist Church of Redlands, California and was planning to spend time with family and friends and then head off to Europe to do some traveling. On my travel wish list of places to go was Myanmar, formerly Burma. I had always had an

interest in ministry there ever since I read about the Judsons who were missionaries there 200 years ago.

Those were my plans. Then a phone call came in March. The call was from Dr. Pat Hernandez, Director of Transition Ministries for American Baptist churches, USA. Pat was calling to ask if I might be interested in another Interim assignment.

She explained that the church was Tabernacle Baptist Church in Utica, New York, a landmark Baptist Church with a wonderful history and which now had a very large number of Karens in the congregation. Of course, the Karen people were a large population from Burma. That got my attention. Since I had always wanted to go to Burma, this would be a wonderful opportunity to serve among the Karen people, known for their strong Christian faith.

As I thought about it, it seemed like it could be God's leading for me to have the privilege of going to Tabernacle Baptist Church. Yet, I felt I still needed to pray about it, seek counsel from some wise, godly people and assurance from the Lord to follow what was being impressed upon me. I had a good conversation with the Church Interim Ministry Search Committee about the church's ministry and what they were seeking in an Interim Pastor. Yet, I still felt I needed to follow the three-step process that I used during the course of my ministry.

Many years ago at a Bible conference I learned the three-fold process. It included prayer, counsel from wise, godly people and assurance from the Lord that this was what God wanted me to do. After several days following this process, the answer seemed to say, "yes." Now after serving here for nine months, I know this was the right decision. It has been an incredible experience. Coming to any decision can be daunting but the three-step process that I learned long ago is a good way to help make the right decision. I had my plans but God had other plans. I am so thankful that I followed his plans. As we face the dawning of another year, may this process that has helped me, help you also.

"For My thoughts are not your thoughts. Nor are your ways My ways," says the Lord. "For as the heavens are higher than the earth, so are My ways higher than your ways, and My thoughts than your thoughts." Isaiah 55:8-9.

Have a blessed New Year,

Pastor Richard

A Three- Fold Process for Decision- Making

1. Pray
2. Seek counsel from wise, godly people
3. Seek assurance from the Lord





Karen Pastor's Page



ပကအိၣ်ဒီးတၢ်မူအသီလၢနံၣ်အသီပူၤ

၂ကရံၣ်သူး ၅း၁၇ မၤသးဒ်န့ၣ်ဒီးပူၤတဂၤဂၤမ့ၢ်အိၣ်လၢခရံၣ်အပူၤဒီးမ့ၢ်အမ့ၢ်တၢ်တအသီလီၤ.
တၢ်လီၤလံၤတဖၣ်လဲၤပူၤကွံၣ်ဝဲကွံၣ်ကွံၣ်တၢ်ခဲလၢကဲလၢအသီလံၤ.

နံၣ်လီၤလံၤလဲၤပူၤကွံၣ်ပူၤလံ-ပဟံးဃာ်အီၤတသ့လၢၤ, မ့ၢ်နံၣ်အသီအိၣ်ကတၢ်ကတီၤအသးလၢပ
ဂီၢ်လၢပကဘၣ်လဲၤခိဖျိအီၤအဂီၢ်လီၤ.လၢနံၣ်အသီအပူၤအလီၢ်အိၣ်ဝဲလၢပကဘၣ်အိၣ်မူတၢ်အိၣ်မူအ
သီလီၤ.ပတၢ်အိၣ်မူဖဲပူၤတဂၤဂၤတဂၤဂၤမ့ၢ်ပျဲကစၢ်ယုၣ်ရှူးဒီးအိၣ်ထီၣ်အသးအဝဲတြီန့ၣ်အဝဲကမ့ၢ်ပူၤ
အသီတဂၤလီၤ. တၢ်လီၤလံၤတဖၣ်ကလဲၤပူၤကွံၣ်ဝဲဒီးတၢ်ခဲလၢကဲလၢအသီလီၤ.

ရိမ့ၢ်ရး၂၅စံးဘၣ်ပူၤ-ယစံးထီၣ်ပတြၢၤယွၤအဘျူးအဖျိၣ်လၢပကစၢ်ယုၣ်ရှူးခရံၣ်အသီလီၤ.
မၤသးဒ်န့ၣ်ဒီးယကစၢ်ဒၣ်ယဲအံၤလၢသးန့ၣ်ယမ့ၢ်ယွၤအတၢ်သိၣ်တၢ်သီအကုၢ်အပူၤလီၤ.မ့ၢ်လၢတၢ်
ဖံးတၢ်ညါန့ၣ်ယမ့ၢ်တၢ်ဒီးဘးအတၢ်သိၣ်တၢ်သီအကုၢ်အပူၤလီၤ.ဒ်စီပီလူးအသိး,ပကကျဲးစးပးဆဲး
ကွံၣ်တၢ်အတၢ်သီအကုၢ်အဂီၢ်လၢပပူၤခိဖျိသးအတၢ်သိၣ်တၢ်သီအတၢ်မၤနၢၤပူၤဒီးစံးဘျူးကစၢ်ယွၤ
လၢယုၣ်ရှူးခရံၣ်အသီလၢဟ့ၣ်ပူၤတၢ်မူအသီလၢပကဒီးန့ၣ်တၢ်ဆိၣ်ဂ့ၤန့ၣ်က့ၢ်.

မ်ပကဂံၢ်ထီၣ်ပမ့ၢ်နံၣ်လၢလဲၤပူၤကွံၣ်စံးဘျူးယွၤဒီးလဲၤတၢ်လၢနံၣ်အသီအပူၤလၢတၢ်အိၣ်မူအ
သီတက့ၢ်.

မ်ယွၤအတၢ်ဆိၣ်ဂ့ၤကလီၤဘၣ်သုလိၤထူးထူးတီၤတီၤလၢနံၣ်အသီအပူၤတက့ၢ်.

သရၣ်ဒိၣ်ဒဲနယၢ်စၣ်



THANK YOU!!

I would like to extend a HUGE thank you to everyone who participated and helped make our Christmas Eve production a great success! Many hours of preparation, practice and planning go into putting it together. We couldn't do it without all the support of so many dedicated participants, teachers and parents!

Thank you!

ANNUAL MEETING - SAVE THE DATE!

The Annual Meeting for Tabernacle Baptist Church will be held on January 28, 2018, beginning at 12:30 p.m. As Moderator - I am asking that ALL members of Ministry teams and committees plan on attending the Annual Meeting. Following the meeting, I request that each team/committee call a short meeting to meet their new members and schedule the next meeting. Please plan on joining us for this important time as we discuss the business of Tabernacle Baptist Church, and prepare for the year to come.

Karen Dunne

Blanket Sunday ~ January 14th



For many years, our congregation has received a special offering during January to support the work of the **Church World Service (CWS)**. The **Blanket Offering** is one way we respond in Christian care and compassion to the needs and hurts of our neighbors across the United States and around the world.

Because you give to the **Blanket Offering**, CWS can:

- provide **warm blankets** for families who lives have been devastated by a tornado.
- provide **warm blankets** to homeless individuals and families in the U.S.
- provide refugees resettling far from their homelands the **gardening tools and materials** to build small raised beds for vegetables.
- provide **sewing machines and training for women**, empowering them to earn an income and feed their families.
- provide displaced families with **emergency food packages** that will feed a family of five for one month.
- provide a dam that gives an entire community a source of **clean water** year round.

The **Blanket Offering** is blankets and so much more. Every January, Tabernacle invites friends and members to **contribute to the work of CWS through the Blanket Offering**. We make this sharing opportunity available because every year we see many opportunities around us that call for a compassionate response. We envision a world in which people love and care for each other, and no one walks away from those in need thinking, "someone else can help them." **The Blanket Offering is one way we can step in, step up and find a way to help.** Won't you give generously on **Sunday, January 14th**?

Karen New Year Celebration at MVCC



The Youth of Tabernacle have been practicing very diligently in preparation for the Karen New Year Celebration which will take place on *Saturday, January 6, 10:00 a.m. at MVCC in Utica in the Jorgensen Athletic Fitness Center*. Our youth will be performing several traditional dances, including a Karen Bamboo dance, a preschool action dance, a Karen rope dance, and a children's don dance. **Don dancing** originated with the Pwo Karen, who developed it as a way to reinforce community values. (Don means "to be in agreement") The **don dance** is a series of **dances** performed by groups of **dancers** and accompanied by traditional **Karen** instruments. The day will begin with a traditional Karen breakfast at 8:00 a.m. in Thorn Chapel and will continue at MVCC. Please make plans to attend.



Stewardship Program

Thank you to everyone who has turned in a completed pledge card. *As of December 24, 88% of Restoration and Preservation, 96% of CE, and 97% of Missions has been pledged.* If you have not yet returned your completed pledge card, please place it in the offering plate or mail it to the church, Attention: Financial Secretary. Extra pledge cards and Stewardship packets are available on the literature table in Thorn Chapel.



Thanks
for Your
Support!

Shirley Watkins 1927-2017



Shirley Watkins, a faithful member of Tabernacle since 1950, died peacefully, surrounded by her family, on Friday, December 22. She was a devoted and loving wife, mother, grandmother and great-grandmother. She and her husband, Tom were members of Tabernacle Baptist Church for over 60 years. Tom passed away in February of this year. They were both active members serving in the Sunday School and on various church boards and Shirley was an active member of the Circle 16 Women's Group. Shirley also had a great love for animals. Our condolences to her daughters, Wendy and Gail and her son, Tom and the rest of her family and friends.

Offering Envelope Boxes

Offering envelopes for 2018 are available in Thorn Chapel. If you do not find your name, please speak to one of the pastors or contact the church office.

Christmas, A Joyful Time at Tabernacle

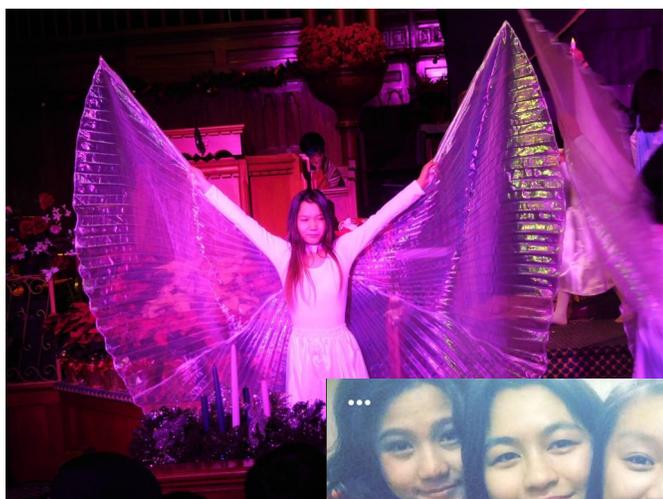
It was a very Merry Christmas at Tabernacle. It began with our 10 a.m. service, led by Pastor Richard as we lit the last Advent Candle—the candle of Love. In the early afternoon a delicious Christmas meal prepared by many of the Karen families followed by a family gift exchange.

At 7 p.m., we enjoyed a beautiful Christmas Eve Service. The theme of the service was “Circle of Light” and involved our children and youth who performed the Christmas Story so beautifully. There were close to 500 in attendance. In addition to the beautiful choir music, two dances, a fan dance and a stick dance, thrilled the congregation. The two narrators were Lay Lay Mar and Mu Toh Taw, who told the Christmas Story so well. The play was written and directed by Karen Dunne, our Minister of Christian Education. Karen was assisted by Joanne Gould who directed the choirs and Mike Dunne who built the set.

Immediately following the Christmas Eve Service, a Youth Christmas Concert was presented in Thorn Chapel, which was choreographed by the our Youth Leaders. Many Karen Youth sang Christmas music, danced, and played musical instruments to the entertainment of a crowd that filled Thorn Chapel. After the concert over 70 people stayed for the Midnight Christmas Eve service led by Pastor Dan.

On Christmas Day, a Christmas service was held at 11:00 a.m. also led by Pastor Dan and attended by over 200. Thank you, also, to Gwen Deragon and all who donated to and organized the beautiful poinsettias which adorned our Sanctuary stage this Christmas season and to the many Karen Youth who decorated our Sanctuary and Thorn Chapel with festive lights, trees, murals and more. Thank you too to the volunteers who gave the sanctuary a deep cleaning, early in December, in anticipation of Christmas.

A special thank you to all who made this a Christmas to remember.



Services, Meetings, Special Events and Deadlines ~ January 2018



Children's Don Dance Practice and Preschool Action Song Practice

Monday and Friday, January 1 and 5, 5:00 p.m.

Praise and Worship Band Rehearsal

Fridays, at 6:30 p.m.

Karen Christian School

Saturdays, 3:00-6:00 p.m.

Karen Language Classes and Children's Music Practice

Saturdays, 3:00 p.m.

Karen Choir Practice

Saturdays, 5:00 p.m.

Youth Praise & Worship, Bible Study and Song Practice

Saturdays, 6:00 p.m.

English Worship Service and Sunday School

Sundays, 10:00 a.m.

Karen Worship Service

Sundays, 11:15 a.m.

Office Closed

Mondays, January 1 and January 15

Karen New Year Breakfast in Thorn Chapel

Saturday, January 6, 8:00 a.m.

Utica Karen New Year Celebration at MVCC Jorgensen Athletic Fitness Center

Saturday, January 6, 10:00 a.m.

Annual Reports Due

Sunday, January 7

Karen New Year Performers' After-party

Saturday, January 13, 10:00 a.m.

Ministry Coordinating Council Meeting

Sunday, January 14, 12:30 p.m.

Stewardship Ministry Team Meeting

Sunday, January 14, 12:30 p.m.

Church Cleaning Day

Saturday, January 20, 10:00 a.m.

February Visitor Article Submission Deadline

Sunday, January 21

Women's Worship Service

Third Sunday of Each Month, 5:00 p.m. (January 21)

Annual Meetings

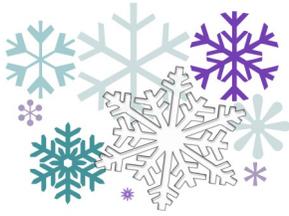
Sunday, January 28, 12:30 p.m.

Worship and Witness Ministry Team Meeting

January 28, after the Annual Meeting

Youth Worship Service

Last Sunday of Each Month, 6:00 p.m. (January 28)



JANUARY BIRTHDAYS



Saw Kar 1/1
 Bu Kler 1/1
 Lay Kler 1/1
 Eh Htoo Law 1/1
 Kaw Lay 1/1
 Tamla Htoo Lea 1/1
 Ehler Sa Lu 1/1
 Ehpleh Lu 1/1
 Heh Tha Lu 1/1
 Naw Dwe Lu 1/1
 Lay May 1/1
 Pee Mee 1/1
 Mu Mu Meh 1/1
 Eh Moo 1/1
 Eh Kaw Moo 1/1
 Mulah Mulah 1/1
 Light Na 1/1
 Saw Na 1/1
 Bo Kyet 1/1
 Tin Aye 1/1
 Win Ban 1/1
 Bi Bi 1/1
 Thi Bway 1/1
 Di Di 1/1
 Saw Thaw Gay 1/1



Dah Gwae 1/1
 Pa Hai 1/1
 Tay Heh 1/1
 Kaw Paw Htee 1/1
 Htoo Htoo 1/1
 Rayni Htoo 1/1
 Ta K'Taw 1/1
 Gay Paw 1/1
 Hser Lah Paw 1/1
 Khee Lar Paw 1/1
 Lah Ku Paw 1/1
 Naw Pay 1/1
 Lah Kah Phaw 1/1
 Pi Pi 1/1
 Baw Po 1/1
 Gracy Po 1/1
 Da Poe 1/1
 Ba Rar 1/1
 Ka Baw Say 1/1
 Aung Tun Sein 1/1
 Su Shae 1/1
 Eh Soe 1/1
 Htoo Tha 1/1
 That U 1/1
 Herme Linda Lawrence 1/3

Continued on the following page....



JANUARY BIRTHDAYS



Isabella Moo	1/3		Jeason Aung	1/17
Eh Paw Na	1/3		Carolyn Dalton	1/17
Ser Lay Paw	1/3		Jerry Htoo	1/18
Wella Ban	1/4		Brando Sancrown	1/20
Yee Yee Aye	1/6		Dah Nyunt	1/22
Daniel Beal	1/8		Carol Green	1/25
Christine Caruana	1/8		Christ Abell	1/26
Htoo Lay Moo	1/9		Diane Olivadese	1/26
Glo Na Wah	1/9		Johnay Calvin San	1/26
Kali Shee Moo	1/10		Gedeon Win	1/27
Hon Moon	1/10		Thu Lay Paw	1/27
Eh Taw Nee	1/10		Hkee La	1/28
Alan O'Brien	1/10		Paw Bluet Ser	1/28
Thea Da Muint	1/12		Paw Ta Shu Wah	1/28
Say Wah Htoo	1/12		Dar Ler Day	1/29
Eh Blur Wah Win	1/14		That Lo Paw	1/29
Darryl Htoo	1/15		Caphis Baw	1/30
New Year Htoo	1/15		Pur Lun	1/31
Evelyn Sheen	1/17		Paw Ehlar Thart	1/31
Thein Than Soe	1/17			



If you would like yours or a family member's birthday announced in our Visitor, please contact Tammy in the Church office at 315-735-7534 or churchoffice@tbcutica.org



Tabernacle Baptist Church
13 Clark Place
Utica, New York 13501

Nonprofit Org.
US POSTAGE
PAID
Marcy, NY
Permit No. 289



January 2018



**Tabernacle Baptist Church
Sunday Worship**

10:00 a.m. English Service
11:15 a.m. Karen Worship

Office Hours

Monday through Thursday
8:00 a.m. to 3:30 p.m.
Closed on Fridays

**In Case of
Emergency,
please contact:**

Pastor Richard
315-864-8438
954-933-1834

Pastor Daniel
315-790-4449

Church Office
315-735-7534

TABERNACLE BAPTIST CHURCH

Rev. Richard D. Burke	Interim Pastor
Rev. Daniel Calvin San	Pastor
Rev. Dr. James V. Davison	Pastor Emeritus
Karen Dunne	Minister of Christian Ed.
Say Wah Htoo	Christian Ed. Associate
Tammy Daly	Administrative Secretary
Lewis Olivadese	Sexton
Michael Dunne	Sexton

CONTACTS

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Pastors' Email

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Pastor Daniel associatepastor@tbcutica.org
theylar@gmail.com