

# THE STEEPLE

## Williston Federated Church

*An Open and Affirming, Reconciling Congregation*

### Pastor's Message

*"As Jesus passed along the Sea of Galilee, he saw Simon and his brother Andrew casting a net into the sea—for they were fishermen. And Jesus said to them, 'Follow me and I will make you fishers of men.'*

*And immediately they left their nets and followed him." (Mark 1:16-18)*

*Follow me to lead others.* That's how I summarize Jesus' words from Mark. As church people we are called to be both followers and leaders. We take our guidance from the Lord of Life and we, too, become disciples. But living as a disciple means taking on a specialized way of life. Jesus defined this life when he said, "I will make you fishers of men." Being a disciple means, in large part, leading others to a life in Christ.

How are we to lead others best? The church has dealt with this question from its very beginning, and it's still applicable now. My own view is that the church can best lead when it is healthy; that is, when its mission brings wholeness to those far away and near at hand, when its programs bring enlightenment and spiritual refreshment, when its faith is vibrant, and when its people are joyful, caring, welcoming, and giving.

Stewardship is that activity we undertake to ensure that the church is healthy. It's about marshalling all of our resources, the "Three Ts"—time, talent, and treasure—to faithfully live out the purposes we believe God has for us through the mission and ministry we have taken on together. What I find most interesting is that, when we do this, it has the practical effect of making us a more vital community of faith.

Jesus calls each of us to be disciples, thus leaders. We lead best when our resources have been employed most effectively. Several weeks from now, the Finance Committee will be initiating our annual stewardship campaign and the Nominating Committee will be contacting church members and friends to join committees. At that point, you'll have the opportunity to make some concrete decisions about how you will live out your life of discipleship.

Yet I encourage you to do some thinking now. Take a personal inventory of your gifts and skills, thinking about how these might be used in service to others through this church, and recalling how Jesus used the disciples' fishing skills in unexpected ways. Consider committing your time to the mission and programs of this church, recalling that, at times, the disciples had to abandon their nets in order to follow. Make an honest accounting of what this church means to you and to this community, so that you can make a generous and faithful annual financial pledge to this church, recalling that it is the loving God who makes the pulling in of full nets a possibility. For each of you, what will be given is a different combination of the "Three Ts," but the dual challenge of discipleship and stewardship is the same for all.

How are we best to lead others? By recalling all of those things with which we have been blessed and by offering up a portion of them to our loving God. We do this in many ways. But it is through this special organization—the church—that we are given the opportunity to work together as fellow disciples to usher in God's kingdom. So, grab a net, jump in the boat, share your angling techniques and fish stories with your mates, feel good about your haul, and enjoy the ride!

Peace, Jonathan



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Phone: 878-5792

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Sunday Worship  
Service:  
9:30 AM

**Interim Pastor:**

Rev. Jonathan New  
**Director of Children's  
and Youth Ministries:**

Laurie Chipman

**Church Secretary:**

Brenda Racht

**Organist and Junior  
Choir Accompanist:**

Carolyn Pillsbury

**Music Director:**

Martin Hain

**Nursery Caregiver:**

Michelle Davis



**Our Sympathy and Prayers are Extended To**

- ◆ The family and friends of Bill Cadmus, who passed away on January 12. Bill was a member of WFC for over 40 years.

**Pastoral Search Committee News**

The **Pastor Search Committee** continues to move forward seeking the right person to lead our church. Though we have read over fifty profiles and watched over a dozen sermons/services (not to mention interviews), we continue to be energetic and vigilant looking for the "right fit". There are many characteristics that are addressed which include ... does the candidate:

- Have experience?
- Have traits that match our profile?
- Have a strong faith in God and Jesus Christ?
- Have a strong religious educational background?
- Deliver a spiritually nourishing sermon?
- Have a connection with youth education and ministries?
- Have compassion to reach out to people in need of care?
- Show skills of dealing with conflict and crisis?
- Have the ability to work with many committees?
- And don't forget an important one, is this candidate personable and have a good sense of humor? (not to mention does the person know what late-winter feels like in Vermont?)

You can see there is more to finding the right pastor than one would think. Thank you for your patience and support. We are moving forward and believe things are going well as we get to know possible finalists. Your prayers are greatly appreciated.



**Peace/Non-Violence Lenten Series**

**Sundays March 11, 18, 25; April 1st**  
**"Speaking Peace," "Practicing Non-violence,"**  
**"Communicating Within Our Families" are three of the**  
**four sessions in the Lenten series.**

Sessions will meet in the Sitting Room from 11-12:30, following the Sunday service. Each session will be led by a guest facilitator.

**Sunday, March 11th** - Emily Gould from Montpelier will lead us in communication skills. Ms. Gould has had extensive experience with conflict resolution and leading groups toward speaking peace.

**Sunday, March 18th** - Joe Gainza, VT Program Coordinator for the American Friends Service committee will lead us in exercises to practice non-violence. Mr. Gainza has been active in Vermont for many years in peace and justice events and issues.

**Sunday, March 25th** - a panel with two counselors and two parents will lead discussion on communicating within our families.

**April 1st:** TBA This series has been planned by the Peace/Non-violence Task Force with the understanding that if our children and grandchildren are to live in a peaceful world, we as adults may want to model the language and actions which will move us toward that end.

**\*\*\*\*Next Peace Vigil: Tuesday,**  
**February 6th, 5:15 on the steps of the**  
**Church\*\*\*\***

**LECTIONARY**

Each Sunday we join Christians from many faith communities in hearing God's Word as selected from the *Revised Common Lectionary* ~ readings that over a period of 3 years take us through much of the Bible. Following are the Lectionary readings for this month ~ one or more are read aloud during the service.

<p>February 4</p> <p>Isaiah 6:1-8 (9-13)                  Psalm 138                  Luke 5:1-11                  1 Corinthians 15:1-11</p>	<p>February 11</p> <p>Jeremiah 17:5-10                  Psalm 1                  1 Corinthians 15:12-20                  Luke 6:17-26</p>	<p>February 18</p> <p>Exodus 34:29-35                  Psalm 99                  2 Corinthians 3:12-4:2                  Luke 9:28-36 (37-43a)</p>	<p>February 21  <b>Ash Wednesday</b></p> <p>Joel 2:1-2, 12-17                  Psalm 51:1-17                  2 Corinthians 5:20b-6:10                  Matthew 6:1-6, 16-21</p>	<p>February 28</p> <p>Deuteronomy 26:1-11                  Psalm 91:1-2,9-16                  Romans 10:8b-13                  Luke 4:1-13</p>
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## THE TRUSTEE'S CORNER

We want to devote our Trustee's Corner to only one item today.

### **Sprinkler System**

As you know, we Trustees are very, very concerned for the safety of our beautiful Church. The wood is old and dried and if we were to have a fire, little could be done to save the structure. With this in mind, Stan Trawczynski generously drew up and donated a complete set of floor plans for the entire Church area and based on them, we requested bids from three leading fire sprinkler companies. The bids are now coming in and by next month we will have chosen the winner and will be able to advise you of the cost.

The installation is complicated. Not only must we contend with overhead piping and sprinkler heads throughout the Sanctuary, the Fellowship Hall, the Steeple and the Day Care area, but we also must pay for excavation to connect to the City water main. This means tearing up and then replacing the lawn, the sidewalk and the asphalt street area.

Because we are an active Church, we cannot expect any financial help from historical societies. The burden is going to be on our backs and probably will mean a combination of bank loans, private contributions and funding from Church funds. We have been blessed with a generous Congregation in the past and soon we will be appealing to all of you again for your financial support.

We are aware that this project may not be as glamorous as replacing a highly-visible steeple, but remember, it is the Church and the steeple which we are trying to preserve for our children. Next month we will let you know what the cost will be and then let's band together and see this project through!

## NAMI-VT WALKS TO 'BREAK THE SILENCE'

Come join us for our inaugural walkathon to be held on May 19, 2007 starting at the State House lawn in Montpelier. NAMIWALKS for the Mind of America is organized by the National Alliance on Mental Illness (NAMI); with similar walks scheduled throughout the country.



The walkathon is an opportunity for the mental health community throughout Vermont to reach out to families, friends, colleagues, co-workers, business and community members. The goals for the event are designed to focus attention on the recovery of individuals diagnosed with mental illness; promote research into the causes and treatments; and combat the stigma and discrimination faced by mental health consumers and their families.

Planning is underway for this fundraiser - consider pledging in support of a team that will be walking, and of course if you'd like to walk - please join us! Walking to Break the Silence gives consumers the chance to participate and tell the public that life can be better. It will have a great impact in creating awareness and de-stigmatization, at the same time raising money and having fun.

All of the proceeds from the Walk will be used to fund NAMI's programs here in Vermont. These include supportive services to mental health consumers and their families; support research, and support public education programs designed to eliminate the stigma surrounding mental illness

For more information about NAMI and this Walk, please visit the NAMI website at [www.NAMI.org](http://www.NAMI.org). If you have any questions, please contact Marge Oppold at [namiwalkvt.verizon.net](mailto:namiwalkvt.verizon.net) or 802-434-3470.

### **Women of The Church**

On January 11, six women (Donna Fellingner, Barb Powell, Deb Beckett, Ellen Walker, Maude Cameron, and Joy Lowenthal) attended the Essex Center UMC for a program called "A Call to Prayer and Self Denial". After a meal of soup and salad, they attended a worship service that focused on women in mission.

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
 <b>PRESIDENT'S DAY</b>		 <b>Ash Wednesday</b>		<p>1 7:30 am Rotary 9 am <b>Caring Circle</b> 10-12 Senior Exercise Choir 6,7, 8:15</p>	<p>2 6:30 am Men's Bible Study Groundhog Day </p>	
<p>4 9:30 am Worship 11-1 Education &amp; Youth Committees <b>Heifer Bank Collection</b> <b>Souper Bowl of Caring</b></p>	<p>5</p>	<p>6 10-12 Senior Exercise <b>Peace Vigil</b> 5:15pm 7:00 pm <b>Membership &amp; Worship</b> 7:00 pm <b>Music</b> 7:30 pm <b>Trustees</b></p>	<p>7 7:30 pm AA 7 pm <b>Education</b> 7 pm <b>Finance</b> 7 pm <b>Search</b></p>	<p>8 7:30 am Rotary 10-12 Senior Exercise Choir 6,7, 8:15</p>	<p>9 6:30 am Men's Bible Study</p>	<p>10</p>
<p>11 9:30 am Worship <b>6-8:30 pm JH &amp; SH Youth</b></p>	<p>12 <b>7 pm Search</b></p>	<p>13 10-12 Senior Exercise 7:00 pm <b>Official Board</b></p>	<p>14 7:30 pm AA <b>Happy Valentines Day!</b></p>	<p>15 7:30 am Rotary 10-12 Senior Exercise 5:30 pm <b>Pastor/Staff Relations</b> Choir 6,7, 8:15</p>	<p>16 6:30 am Men's Bible Study <b>Steeple deadline</b></p>	<p>17</p>
<p>18 9:30 am Worship <b>11-1 JH Youth</b> <b>6-8 SH Youth</b> 7 pm Search</p>	<p>19 <b>5:30 pm Women's Book Group</b> <b>Presidents Day</b></p>	<p>20 10-12 Senior Exercise Dismas Meal 7:00 pm <b>Missions &amp; Social Concerns</b></p>	<p>21 7:30 pm AA <b>ASH WEDNESDAY</b> <b>Worship at 7 pm</b></p>	<p>22 7:30 am Rotary 10-12 Senior Exercise Choir 6,7, 8:15</p>	<p>23 6:30 am Men's Bible Study</p>	<p>24</p>
<p>25 9:30 am Worship <b>11-1 JH Youth</b> <b>6-8 SH Youth</b></p>	<p>26</p>	<p>27 6:30 am Men's Fellowship Breakfast at the Lincoln Inn 10-12 Senior Exercise</p>	<p>28 7:30 pm AA</p>	 <b>Saint Valentine's Day</b>		



**The Steeple  
Williston Federated Church**

NON-PROFIT ORGANIZATION  
U.S. POSTAGE PAID  
PERMIT #4  
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RETURN SERVICE  
REQUESTED



**Come, Meet Christ, Go Serve**

Label goes up to the line  
covering these words.  
Thanks

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**Upcoming Events To Put on Your Calendar!**

**Rummage Sale Coming in March**

Mark your calendars! This year the Rummage Sale will be held March 30 & 31. Look for details in the March Steeple.

**Ash Wednesday Observance**

There will be a soup supper starting at 6:30 PM, followed by worship at 7:00 PM. Please call Joe Maloney at 878-8998 by February 18 if you plan to come to the supper.

**Women's Book Group**

The next Women's Book Discussion Group will meet Monday February 19th at 5:30 at Robin Coletta's 98 Chamberlin Lane in Williston. We will be discussing One Thousand White Women: The Journals of May Dodd by Jim Fergus. All women are warmly invited to this informal potluck & book discussion. Please join us even if you don't get a chance to read the book. Questions: Call Robin Coletta at 878-2012

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