

# THE STEEPLE

## Williston Federated Church

*An Open and Affirming, Reconciling Congregation*

### Pastor's Message

Dear members and friends of the Williston Federated Church,

Words cannot adequately express my deep gratitude to you. What a warm welcome - from the first day when the moving van pulled in and we were greeted with a delicious lunch and then a delightful dinner. In the days following, flowers have appeared, cookies have arrived, tomatoes delivered, and your generous spirit expressed in so many ways. Thank you so very much. I am grateful for the sacred privilege of serving as Pastor to the Williston Federated Church family and the partnership we share in loving God, neighbor, and self.

Two thoughts have occurred to me as I sat down to write this. We are still unpacking boxes. When I first began to pack boxes in early August, I was careful to sort the items thoroughly, dust when necessary (read "always") and carefully label each box. As the time crunch closed in, many items were packed "as is" and boxes labeled "miscellaneous." When unpacking began, what I discovered is that nothing magical happens in the moving van. Items that needed dusting, still do! Books that should have been sent to the library for book sale and weren't, are still unwanted. And those things from the junk drawer? Do we create a new junk drawer? Do we really need that thingamajig? And so therein I found a spiritual metaphor. What in my faith life needs to be dusted off and made new? What needs to be passed along? Does the old still work in a way that is good and nurturing? If not, how shall it be discarded?

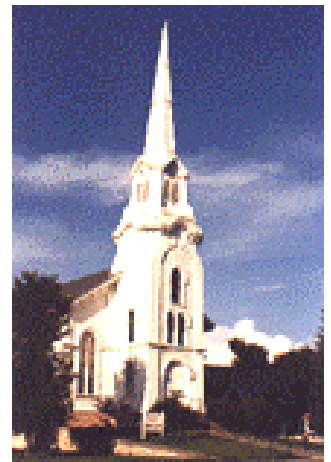
Second thought. This came on an early evening kayaking experience with Gary on Lake Iroquois. It was close to sunset and I was paddling toward the west in hopes of seeing a spectacular sunset. There was a slight cloud cover, enough to obscure the setting sun. Then behind me, Gary called out and said, "turn around and look at the moonrise." A slight shift and a turn to the east offered an almost-full moon rising above a balcony of white and pink clouds. I was so intent on looking for the sunset that I nearly missed the moonrise. Again, for me, a spiritual metaphor. I (we) need to look - both behind us and before us, aware of God's presence in all people and at all times.

As we enter into these first steps of ministry together; as we share conversations and hopes, may the Holy One bless us as we honor our rich traditions and history *and* as we look to the future and new things.

Upon my return from the kayaking experience, I read the following prayer in [Listening to the Heartbeat of God: a Celtic Spirituality](#) by J. Philip Newell:

*The grace of the love of the skies be thine,  
The grace of the love of the stars be thine,  
Thee grace of the love of the moon be thine,  
The grace of the love of the sun be thine.*

Peace,  
Pastor Joan



**September**  
**Vol. 28**  
**No. 8**

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Pastor's Study: 879-3332  
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Cell: 345-7953  
E-mail: [churchmom432@hotmail.com](mailto:churchmom432@hotmail.com)

Church Office Hours:  
Tues-Fri 8:30-3:30  
Phone: 878-5792  
E-mail: [office@steeple.org](mailto:office@steeple.org)

Sunday Worship  
Service:  
9:30 AM

**Pastor:**

Rev. Joan Newton O'Gorman

**Director of Children's and  
Youth Ministries:**

Laurie Chipman

**Church Secretary:**

Suzi Ange-Roland

**Organist and Junior Choir**

**Accompanist:**

Carolyn Pillsbury

**Music Director:**

Martin Hain

**Nursery Caregiver:**

Michelle Davis

### News from the O’Gorman family

Change and transition are a very real part of our lives recently. On August 26, Gary received the call of the Shrewsbury Community Church (near Rutland) to serve as their part-time (16 hours per week) Interim Lay Pastor for one year. Gary will also continue as a student in VAST (Vermont Academy of Spiritual Training) in his third and final year. The class meets in Manchester, Vermont. We wanted to share this good news with you and also communicate that Gary will be in worship at WFC on September 2 and 9 and will begin at Shrewsbury on September 16.

Thank you so much! For all your many kind acts...food and flowers; prayers and plants; smiles and support. All these and more have helped to make our move into the parsonage and our transition into Williston a joy. Please make note of these new phone numbers and e-mail; Parsonage: 876-7070. Joan's cell: 345-7953. Joan's personal e-mail: [church-mom432@hotmail.com](mailto:church-mom432@hotmail.com). I very much look forward to leading worship and preaching on September 2nd. May God's blessings be with us all. Pastor Joan

### All Church Corn Roast

Save the date, September 15th, 5:30PM – 8:00 PM for a corn roast to be held at the Isham Family Farm, 3517 Oak Hill Road. Please bring a side dish to share. Corn, hot dogs, dessert, beverage and utensils will be provided. Please sign up on the bulletin board at church or phone Sara Hibbeler at 872-0827. The Isham Farm is located 3.5 miles south of the church on Oak Hill Rd. on the left hand side of the road

### Thanks from Dick and Nancy Bell

We want you all to know how we appreciate your personal cards and notes to us over the past six months or more. We have felt it a blessing to be remembered during the sudden over growth of Dick’s lymphoma and the celebration of our fiftieth wedding anniversary on June 15.

We thank you for your prayers. Over the 13 years since Dick received the cancer diagnosis we have become convinced that prayers offered by one self and others really contribute to healing. Prayer does work!

At present, with the assistance of chemo therapy, the lymphoma has drastically retreated. Dick has been given a summer without treatment of any kind and we leave shortly for the southwest and a family reunion in Santa Fe. Our son, Doug and his daughter, Condelia will be camping across the country with us.

As one of you wrote us, God does continue to hold us “in the palm of his hand”. We pray you know and feel he does the same with you.

Lovingly, Dick and Nancy Bell

### Audio Worship Tapes Available

Audio tapes of our Sunday worship service are now available. Please contact the church office, Nancy Stone, or Denise Johnson if you would like a cassette for your use or to share with family and friends. (We regret that, at this time, it is not possible for us to make copies of the worship service in CD format.)



### 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.

#### September 2

Jeremiah 2:4-13  
Psalm 81:1, 10-16  
Luke 14:1, 7-14

#### September 9

Jeremiah 18:1-11  
Psalm 139:1-16, 13-18  
Philemon 1-21

#### September 16

Jeremiah 4:11-12, 22-28  
Psalm 14:1-7  
1 Timothy 1:12-17  
Luke 15:1-10

#### September 23

Jeremiah 8:18-9:1  
Psalm 79:1-9  
1 Timothy 2:1-7  
Luke 16:1-13

#### September 30

Jeremiah 32:1-3a,  
6-15  
Psalm 91:1-6, 14-16  
1 Timothy 6:6-19  
Luke 16:19-31

## Trustees' Corner

The steeple painting/repair project is done, and it looks good up close as well as at a distance now. The contractor said it should be good for 10 years. Most importantly, Bill White likes it! By the way, our lightning rod is hooked up and in good working order.

Installation of the fire protection sprinkler system is nearing completion. The kitchen, fellowship hall, and day care area are done, and the sanctuary is well under way. Excavating bids have been obtained, and digging will begin in the near future to connect the system to the water main.

The parsonage has been vacated by the former renters. They left it in a clean, ready to move in condition. Just a few things need to be done before the new pastor moves in such as changing locks, removing the tree on the southwest corner that's rubbing against the building, and adjusting the mailbox. Jeff Fellingner is in the process of restoring the parsonage windows. They will be done a few at a time as available funds permit.

The renters on the 2nd floor of the Mace house are moving out this month, and the family downstairs will be moving out in November. The trustees will advertise, as needed, and find new renters. Modest monthly rent increases are planned.

The 3-year lease agreement with the day care in the church basement expired at the end of July. The trustees are working with Child Care Resources to address some outstanding issues. Target date for a new lease to be in place is October 1st. A one-year lease with a substantial monthly rent increase is anticipated.

Stay tuned.....

## Church Keys

The Trustees are trying to locate all the keys to the church. If you have a key please call or email Suzi in the church office to let her know that you have one. We are trying to come up with a fair plan for enabling groups who use the church after hours to come and go. The office number is 878-5792 and the email address is [office@steeple.org](mailto:office@steeple.org).

## Tanzania Trip

Lynn Monty has returned from Tanzania and would like to thank all of those in the church community for supporting her trip and the orphans at the Ilula Orphan Center. The children loved their new pillow cases and sheets. Lynn would love to share her experience with you. Please contact her at [monty@gmavt.net](mailto:monty@gmavt.net) if you would like to hear more. Or visit [www.ilulaorphanprogram.org](http://www.ilulaorphanprogram.org) for more information.

## Trustees concerns regarding the Fellowship Hall

It has come to our attention that people using the Fellowship Hall do not always leave it in good condition or the way they found it. Some of these are church groups and some from the community. So we have made a list of Rules for the use of the Hall which we will post in the Hall and give out to non-church groups that use the space. The following are the Rules. Thank you for taking care of our property!

The Federated Church welcomes the community into its life in Wiliston. We strive to share our resources with our community whenever possible. We offer the use of the Fellowship Hall to those who request its use and have regular commitments to community groups. Use of the Hall may be scheduled by contacting the Church Secretary, Suzi, at 878-5792. In the event of off-hour use, please coordinate key use with Suzi. If you encounter some difficulty or discomfort while using the Hall please notify the Church Secretary. If we can help you or if there are things you would like to see changed in our Hall, please let us know. Thank you for holding your event at our facility. In order to continue to offer this space to as many groups as possible, we have devised a set of guidelines:

1. The room may be arranged in whatever manner you wish. However, please put it back exactly as it was when you arrived.
2. Be sure to leave the room as clean as it was when you assumed responsibility for the room.
3. The hall is heated to comfort level; however, if you feel you must adjust the heat be sure to return the thermostat to the original temperature. If you need to open windows, be sure to close all windows before you leave the building.
5. All trash should be placed in trash bags and in the large trash bins in the kitchen.
6. In case of emergency, a First Aid Kit is on the right hand wall as you enter the kitchen. You may dial out for 911 on the kitchen phone to the left of the door in the kitchen.
7. If your event brings children to the Fellowship Hall please do not let them go into other parts of the church, especially not the Day Care center. The items there do not belong to the church and are not included in any agreement to use our facility.

## Scrapbook Update

The WFC scrapbook has expanded slowly but surely over the summer, filling with photos and stories about the people in our church. Thank you to everyone who has submitted pages so far. It is our goal to organize the submissions into a finished book this fall. If you haven't yet submitted a page and plan do so, please return it to Sarah Hibbeler or Carol Bouchard by September 16th. (You may also place it in the album itself, located just outside Fellowship Hall.) Please call Sarah (872-0827) or Carol (862-7400) with any questions.

# September 2007

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
						1
2 9:30am Worship	3	4 ~10am-12pm Senior Exercise ~5:15-5:45pm Peace Vigil ~6:30pm Membership ~7:00pm Music & Worship	5 7:30pm AA  7:00pm Education Committee	6 7:30am Rotary  9:00am Caring Circle  10am-12pm Senior Exercise  5:30-10:00pm Haunted Forest	7 6:30am Men's Bible Study	8
9 9:30am Worship	10	11 10am-12pm Senior Exercise  7:00 pm Official Board	12 7:30pm AA	13 7:30am Rotary  10am-12pm Senior Exercise	14 6:3am Men's Bible Study	15 5:30-8:00pm Corn Roast at Isham Farm
16 9:30am Worship	17	18 ~10am-12pm Senior Exercise ~7:00pm Pastor/Staff ~7:00pm Missions/Social Concerns ~Dismas Meal	19 7:30pm AA	22 7:30am Rotary  10am-12pm Senior Exercise	21 6:30am Men's Bible Study  6:00pm Missions/Social Concerns Pot Luck	22
23 9:30am Worship	24	25 10am-12pm Senior Exercise	26 7:30pm AA	27 7:3am Rotary  10am-12pm Senior Exercise	28 6:30am Men's Bible Study	30
31 9:30am Worship						

**The Steeple  
Williston Federated Church**

NON-PROFIT ORGANIZATION  
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Phone: 802-878-5792  
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RETURN SERVICE  
REQUESTED

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Label goes up to the line  
covering these words.  
Thanks

**Come, Meet Christ, Go Serve**

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**WANTED!! AND NEEDED...Dismas House Meal Coordinator**

The Missions Committee is looking for one special person to coordinate a meal for the third Tuesday of each month. That person would be the church contact for Dismas House. He or she would ensure that folks were signed up to bring the meal and dine with the residents of Dismas House as well as encourage volunteers to prepare either a main course, salad/veggie and rolls, or dessert. That person does not need to attend or prepare the food-just make sure that folks are signed up and remind them as the date nears. Our dear Mary Van Der Hoven had been our coordinator. We miss her very much and know she would like to see this mission carried on. Brenda Racht graciously carried it on for the year after Mary died. Please contact Sara Moran at 878-9632 or the church office if you are interested.

Sign-up Posters for helpers are posted outside the Fellowship Hall. We need LOTS of help. For more information,

## Mission Trip to VanCleave Mississippi - December 2 to 8<sup>th</sup> 2007

A group of folks from the Williston Federated Church are planning a return mission trip to Van Cleave Mississippi to assist with Hurricane Katrina rebuilding. An earlier email indicated that the trip would occur in October. The dates have been changed to December 2-8.

This will be the third trip for Tony Lamb and Ken Stone.

We travel to Vancleave, Mississippi, where we stay at the Methodist Church. They have dorms and showers for sixty volunteers. We hope to have about 20-25 in our group. We would like volunteers from five different churches or church communities.

As they have done for twenty or so months since Katrina, they provide two hot meals a day, fixings for lunch and bedding for the week. They do not ask for a donation, but we usually try to make a donation of \$100 per person per week.

UMCOR has a representative on site and he (Curt) coordinates the work with case workers. They prioritize the needs and insure that there is little duplication of efforts. They also provide the materials. They match our skills with the work to be done.

No special construction skills are required. It would be great if we had a couple of people with roofing experience because there is a great need for that even now. All skills and skill levels can be utilized. In the past we have done some roofing, some demolition of interiors, sheet rocking, painting, siding, kitchen installation and flooring. Many of the skills needed can be taught on site. A hammer, tool belt, tape, and sheet rock knife are useful but not required. We found it helpful to bring our own battery powered drills.

While final plans have not been made, our typical pattern is to fly out on Sunday, December 2, 2007 at 6 am on Jet Blue. Arrive in New Orleans late morning. We rent seven passenger vans; visit the historic French Quarter, drive through part of the devastation there and then drive to Vancleave, arriving about 5 pm for orientation. Vancleave is about 2 hours from New Orleans. Work assignments are put up Monday morning and work begins as soon as we can get there. The work is usually about 20 minutes away. We return around 5 p.m. Dinner at 5:30, followed by evening devotions. In the past some have driven down.

At orientation they will tell you that it is not important how much work you get done. What is important is your presence. We have found this to be true in many ways and for many reasons.

Air fare is now \$250. The vans cost about \$70 a person for the week. \$100 donation for room and board. \$40 for the meals out. We would encourage churches to provide a couple of scholarships. We need at least two youth over the age of 15.

We would also like to find \$4,000 to 5,000 in donations for materials. This money enables us to supplement what UMCOR provides

If you or someone you know might like to participate, please contact Tony Lamb [alamb@alamblaw.com](mailto:alamb@alamblaw.com) or 802 343-1544 or Ken Stone [KMStoneVT@aol.com](mailto:KMStoneVT@aol.com) or 879-0243.