

# THE STEEPLE

## Williston Federated Church

*An Open and Affirming, Reconciling Congregation*

### Pastor's Message

Dear Members and Friends of the Williston Federated Church

*"There is no life that is not in community, and no community not lived in praise of God." T.S. Eliot. Choruses from the Rock*

As I begin my ministry among you, one of my first impressions is the sense of community that is present here in this church family. What I am finding is a community that lives and has its being - not only in praise of God - but also is a community that sings, prays, nurtures, educates, laughs, learns, shares stories, listens, practices compassion, reaches out to the community and to the world, eats, gives generously, attends peace vigils, lives in hope, struggles with challenges, gets hands dirty with good, honest work, and embodies the unconditional love of God.

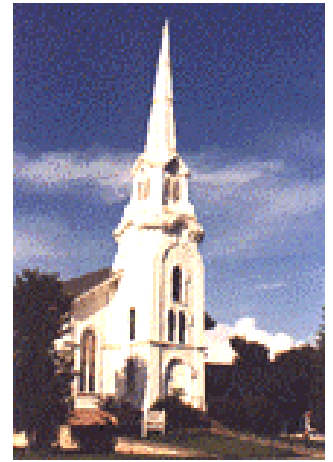
One of the books I have read recently (and you will learn that I love to read - and often quote from these books) is Stilling the Storm: Worship and Congregational Leadership in Difficult Times by Kathleen S. Smith. Let me clarify, I do *not* feel that we are in difficult times - it was a book recommended by a pastoral colleague and it is excellent. (Just to let you know: in the past month I've also read Water for Elephants by Sara Gruen - and I'm not planning on joining the circus! - and A Day Apart: How Jews, Christians, and Muslims find Faith, Freedom, and Joy on the Sabbath by Christopher Ringwald)

I would like to share with you some thoughts from Kathleen Smith's book: *Christianity is a "first-person plural" religion, where communal worship, service, fellowship, and learning are indispensable for grounding and forming individual faith. The strength of Christianity depends on the presence of healthy, spiritually nourishing, well-functioning congregations. Congregations are the cradle of Christian faith, the communities in which children of all ages are supported, encouraged, and formed for lives of service. Congregations are the habitat in which the practices of the Christian life can flourish. As living organisms, congregations are by definition in a constant state of change. Whether the changes are in membership, pastoral leadership, lay leadership, the needs of the community, or the broader culture, a crucial mark of healthy congregations is their ability to deal creatively and positively with change. The fast pace of change in contemporary culture, with its bias toward, not against, change only makes the challenge of negotiating change all the more pressing for congregations.*

Again, let me clarify. Although we are not living in *difficult* times, we are living in a time of *transition* as we enter more deeply into those places where God is calling us to mutual ministry and faith partnership. Let us share those stories from our heritage which bless us; and let us dream of the community that God calls us yet to be.

Peace,

Pastor Joan



## October

### Vol. 29

### No. 9

Address:

44 No. Williston Road  
Williston VT 05495  
Website: [www.steeple.org](http://www.steeple.org)

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:**

## New Member Opportunities in October

We will be holding a church and membership informational meeting following worship on **Sunday, October 7th** in the Sitting Room. This meeting is intended for anyone who is interested in joining the church as well as for those who simply want to learn more about our church's history, committees, and denominational connections. Representatives from the various committees will share a little about the work of their committees and how you might become involved. Refreshments and childcare will be provided. A reception for new members will take place during worship on **Sunday, October 28th**. If you are interested in joining, or have any questions about church membership, please speak to either Rev. O'Gorman or Sarah Hibbeler.

## The 2007 Champlain Valley CROP Hunger Walk

The walk will be on Sunday, October 14 with registration at 1:30; the walk will begin at 2:00 from First Congregational Church of Burlington. The three-mile route will include a tour of the Food Shelf and refreshments at the end of the walk. The CROP Hunger Walk is the largest local/global anti-hunger fund raising event in the Chittenden County region each year... CROP Hunger Walk makes a difference! Please plan to be involved this year! The Youth Fellowship will be participating in the walk and so they will be asking for pledges. Those wishing to support the CROP Walk can give their donation to a member of the church youth fellowship. We all thank you for your support. For more information or CROP Hunger Walk materials please contact: Lucy B. Samara, Director of Outreach Ministries, First Congregational Church of Burlington at 802-862-5010 or [Lsamara99@aol.com](mailto:Lsamara99@aol.com).

## Silent Auction Youth Fundraiser

It's that time again to donate an item or two to the Silent Auction on November 17. This is a fun way to give of your talents or time and support the youth of the church. All items will be put out for bid at the Christmas Bazaar and will continue on Sunday morning November 18. Bids will close at 11am on Sunday. All proceeds go the youth group fund that supports are youth going on trip to conference events of YAC and 4WORD, Heifer Overlook Farm and Soulfest 2008. Thanks for your support.

## Transportation Ministry Still Rolling!

We're looking for volunteers to drive church members and friends to worship services, church events, or medical appointments, or to help with errands such as grocery runs. If you'd like to volunteer, or if you or someone you know needs transportation, please speak with Sarah Hibbeler (872-0827) or Barb Powell (878-5347). Thanks!

## 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.)

## Choir And Contemporary Music Team Rehearsals

started on Thursday, September 6. Junior Choir rehearses from 6:00 to 6:45, Senior Choir rehearses from 7:00 to 8:15 and the CMT rehearses from 8:15 to 9:00. Junior Choir is open to any children in the 3<sup>rd</sup> through 8<sup>th</sup> grade. Senior Choir and the CMT is open to all adults and senior high students. New members are always welcome. No audition required. Call Martin Hain



## 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.

### October 7

Lamentations 1:1-6  
Psalm 137  
2 Timothy 1:1-14  
Luke 17:5-10

### October 14

Jeremiah 29:1, 4-7  
Psalm 66:1-12  
2 Timothy 2:8-15  
Luke 17:11-19

### October 21

Jeremiah 31:27-34  
Psalm 119:97-104  
2 Timothy 3:14-4:5  
Luke 18:1-8

### October 28

Joel 2:23-32  
Psalm 65  
2 Timothy 4:6-8, 16-18  
Luke 18:9-14

## TRUSTEES' CORNER

Dig out your work boots and mark your calendars, Fall Work Day is scheduled for Saturday October 20th from 8:00am to noon. There'll be enough jobs for everyone, so come on out. No special skills needed. Your trustees will be putting together a work list. Suggestions and assistance in coordinating necessary material and tools are welcome. This will be a great opportunity to work together as group.

We are still working with Child Care Resources to get a new lease in place for the day care in the church basement. The old lease expired at the end of July. The new target date for having a lease in place is November 1st.

Excavation needed to connect our fire protection sprinkler system to the water main will begin in the near future. Then, after power-up and testing, the project will be complete.

The pastor and her family have moved into the parsonage, and the recently vacated 2nd floor of the Mace house has already been rented out.

Did you know that Jeff Fellingner is currently restoring the windows in the parsonage? He did a great job on the sanctuary windows, and we expect the same quality workmanship in the parsonage.

Stay tuned.....

**We are pleased to announce** that Suzi is now our permanent church secretary. The new office hours are Tuesday – Friday, 8:30am – 3:30pm.

### **Dr. Marcus Borg Presents His New Book**

Best-selling author and Jesus scholar Marcus Borg will present “The Split Personality of Religion: Promoting Peace or Inciting Violence?” on Sunday, October 21 from 4:00 pm to 5:30 pm at Champlain College Gymnasium. Dr. Borg has appeared on NBC, ABC, PBS and NPR and is a regular columnist for “Beliefnet.” He is the author of fifteen books, including *Jesus: A new Vision* (1987), *Meeting Jesus Again for the First Time* (1994) and *The Heart of Christianity* (2003). He will examine the ambiguous relationship among religion, conflict, and violence, in which religion has sometimes countered conflict, sometimes intensified conflict in the name of God. Admission is free but tickets are required, and seating is limited. Please call 862-1898 or email

[secretary@christchurchburlington.org](mailto:secretary@christchurchburlington.org) to request tickets. See [www.christchurchburlington.org](http://www.christchurchburlington.org) for more information. Co-sponsored by Christ Church, Presbyterian and Champlain College.

## You Are Invited!

Vermont Conference “encourages all congregations declare themselves multiracial and multi cultural”. This quote along with the accessibility article in the August Steeple inspired me to send this invitation to Williston Federated Church congregation.

An upcoming opportunity to discuss “White Privilege: Unpacking the Invisible Knapsack” By Peggy McIntosh will provide a means to share about our unseen assets and how we can become more open to our own unearned privilege. We will share about our common ground and how this can help us work as a community to broaden the base of power in our systems of control. Author, Peggy McIntosh provides us with her facilitation notes to guide us through the process in a mutually supportive way.

This District wide happening will take place at the Burlington United Methodist Church, 25 Buell Street, from 1-6pm, Sunday, October 21 and includes a meal with no charge. It is sponsored by the Troy Conference Commission on Religion and Race and provides for a means to continue the journey of reconciliation started at the last United Methodist Conference in May. Please contact Joy Lowenthal at 878-0240 by Oct. 15 if you plan to attend.

**Christian Peacemaking in a World of Violence ~ Saturday, October 6 from 10am to 3 pm** at Charlotte Congregational Church. The keynote speaker is Dot Maver, Executive Director, The Peace Alliance, Campaign to Establish a U.S. Department of Peace. Workshops, worship and music. There is a \$15 fee for the day. Lunch is provided. To register, contact David Brown at 985 5872 or e-mail to [david2brown@verizon.net](mailto:david2brown@verizon.net).

**Comments on the worship service are always welcome.** Please talk to Pastor Joan, or one of the members of the Music and Worship Committee: Joe Maloney, Carolyn Pillsbury, Esta Brayton, Carol Burbank, Sandy Lawson, Marcia Cadmus or Karen Allen. You can also leave a message in the Suggestion Box located in the corridor outside the Friendship Hall. Either way, we would love to hear from you.

### **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).

Williston Federated  
Church Calendar

# October 2007

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
	1	2 10am-12pm Senior Exercise ~5:15-5:45pm Peace Vigil ~6:30pm Membership ~7:00pm Music & Worship	3  7:00pm Education Committee  7:30pm Trustees	4 7:15am Rotary  9:00am Caring Circle  10am-12pm Senior Exercise	5  6:30am Men's Bible Study	6
7  9:30am Worship  Church and Membership Informational Meeting Following Worship	8	9  10am-12pm Senior Exercise  7:00pm Official Board	10  7:30pm AA	11 7:15am Rotary  10am-12pm Senior Exercise	12  6:30am Men's Bible Study	13  5:00, 6:00, and 7:00pm Chicken Pie Supper
14  9:30am Worship  Special Meeting Following Worship  1:30pm Cropwalk	15  7:30pm Finance	16  10am-12pm Senior Exercise ~7:00pm Pastor/Staff ~6:30pm Missions/Social Concerns ~Dismas Meal	17  7:30pm AA	18 7:15am Rotary  10am-12pm Senior Exercise	19  6:30am Men's Bible Study	20  8:00am-12:00pm Fall Work Day
21 9:30am Worship ~1:00pm-6:00pm "White Privilege: Unpacking the Invisible Knap- sack" By Peggy McIntosh in Burlington	22	23  10am-12pm Senior Exercise	24  7:30pm AA	25 7:15am Rotary  10am-12pm Senior Exercise	26  6:30am Men's Bible Study	27
28  9:30am Worship  New Member Reception during Worship	29	30  10am-12pm Senior Exercise	31  7:30pm AA			

**The Steeple  
Williston Federated Church**

NON-PROFIT ORGANIZATION  
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PERMIT #4  
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Williston VT 05495

Phone: 802-878-5792  
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RETURN SERVICE  
REQUESTED

**Come, Meet Christ, Go Serve**

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covering these words.  
Thanks

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**Sign-up Posters for helpers are posted outside the Fellowship Hall. We need LOTS of help. For more information, Contact Barb Bristol at 863-5807 or Carolyn Pillsbury at 878-2268.**