

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.

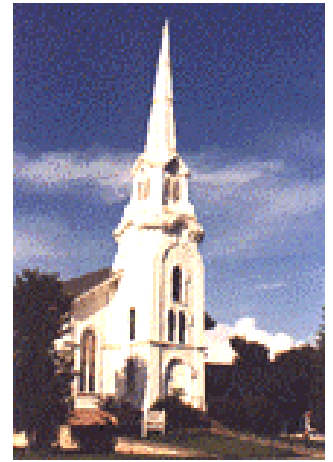
One of the books I have read recently (and you will learn that I love to read - and often quote from these books) is Stilling the Storm: Worship and Congregational Leadership in Difficult Times by Kathleen S. Smith. Let me clarify, I do *not* feel that we are in difficult times - it was a book recommended 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



November
Vol. 30
No. 10

Address:

44 No. Williston Road
Williston VT 05495
Website: www.steeple.org

Pastor's Study: 879-3332
Parsonage: 876-7070
Cell: 345-7953
E-mail: churchmom432@hotmail.com

Church Office Hours:
Tues-Fri 8:30-3:30
Phone: 878-5792
E-mail: 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

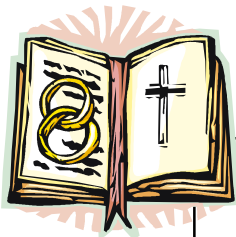
Nursery Caregiver:

Are You Seeking Spiritual Direction?

The Institute of Spiritual Development, a sponsored ministry of the Sisters of Mercy Northeast Community, located in Burlington, VT conducts a two-year intensive training program for spiritual directors. We are seeking persons who would be interested in the process of spiritual direction and would be willing to be seen by one of our interns. Spiritual Direction encourages you to explore a closer relationship with God. In the midst of our busy lives many people find it difficult to notice God's action in their daily routines. In spiritual direction you meet one-on-one with a director to reflect deeply on the experience of your daily life and gradually as you contemplate, you may begin to recognize more of God's presence and grace in your life. If you are in transition, have need for discernment in decisions in your life or want to strengthen your relationship of trust in God, consider spiritual direction. If you are interested in exploring spiritual direction please call our Burlington office at 802-846-7084 to schedule an intake interview. Or if you have some questions and want to speak with a person who is involved in spiritual direction contact, Joy Lowenthal at 878-0240.

Peace Potluck - Friday, Nov. 30, 6 PM

Please bring a dish to share and your table setting to the Fellowship Hall. Our Peace/Nonviolence group will provide beverages and a program suitable for all ages. Libby Hillhouse, Project Coordinator for "Kids4Peace" an interfaith organization which sponsored its first Peace Camp in VT in the summer of 2007, will show slides and tell us about this project. Twenty four campers, ages 10-12 years old from Christian, Muslim and Jewish families in Israel and Vermont, came together at Covenant Hills for a camp experience designed to develop friendships and build bridges of understanding.



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 Lection-

November 4

Habakkuk 1:1-4, 2:1-4
Psalm 119:137-44
2 Thessalonians 1:1-4, 11-12
Luke 19:1-10

November 11

Haggai 1:15b-2:9
Psalm 145:1-5, 17-21
2 Thessalonians 2:1-5, 13-17
Luke 20:27-38

November 18

Isaiah 65:17-25
Isaiah 12
2 Thessalonians 3:6-13
Luke 21:5-9

November 25

Jeremiah 23:1-6
Luke 1:68-79
Colossians 1:11-12
Luke 23:33-43

Volunteers Needed!

Please join your fellow community members in volunteering for Vermont Respite House! We are looking for folks to help with weekend meal serving and cleanup, answering phones, folding laundry, and helping with the occasional project. Vermont Respite house serves terminally ill people and their families and we rely on volunteers to help us in our mission to serve people at the end of life in their time of need. Please call Susan Abell at 860-4497 or e-mail abell@vna-vermont.org.

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!

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.

Hanging of the Greens

Come and join in friendship, decoration, and music as we prepare for Christmas with the Hanging of the Greens on Saturday, December 8th at 6:30pm. Bring your clippers, loppers, wire cutters, and a dessert to share. After the hanging of the greens we will rejoice with our favorite carols. This is a family event, so kids-bring your parents! Many clippers make the task go faster!

Trustees' Corner

Fall Work Day has come and gone. The fall classic was once again a resounding success thanks to everyone who came out to enjoy a morning of hard work and camaraderie on October 20th. Laborers, supervisors, and moral supporters were all key ingredients of a happy work day. Installation of the fire protection sprinkler system is almost complete. The remaining work is basically electrical, and system testing has begun. So far, so good - we haven't had to implement our "unintentional system activation" plan. The galvanized pipes will need to be painted in the near future.....get your paint brushes ready! Our new tenants on the 2nd floor of the Mace house are very happy with their new home. The trustees are considering putting a washer/dryer on the 2nd floor for them. The parsonage is getting its fall face-lift before the arrival of cold weather. Jeff Fellingner is still working on the parsonage window restoration project.

Thanksgiving Baskets

Once again the Williston Federated Church will be providing Thanksgiving Baskets for needy families in the community. This is an outreach project that our church has done for many years. There will be a sign up sheet for donations of food items placed on the bulletin board in the lobby on November 4th. There are many food items needed such as turkeys, gravy, vegetables, potatoes, squash, and pie mix. All food items need to be brought to the church by Sunday Morning November 18th. Thank You!! Polly Malik is collecting points from Shaw's towards the purchase of turkeys, so if you have extra points please save them and we will post where you can turn them in. Thank you Polly! We want to take this opportunity to thank Stephanie Robitaille who has been coordinating this endeavor as well as the Christmas Giving Tree for many years and has done a wonderful job! Stephanie started doing this with Donna Sue Hain at least eight years ago. She and her family have continued on with it and it became a family event. Stephanie felt that it was a natural match for her since she was already working at the school. This year she has passed on the responsibility of both the Thanksgiving Baskets and the Christmas Giving Tree to the Missions and Social Concerns Committee. We are very grateful for her devotion and dedication to these programs for all these years. She has helped to make a smooth transition by providing information and materials. We really appreciate her thoughtfulness! June Simmons has agreed to chair the Thanksgiving Baskets, and Micaela Wallace will do the Christmas Giving Tree. The Missions and Social Concerns Committee want to thank June and Micaela for stepping forward to help so that we can continue to provide these important community holiday outreach programs. So remember to add a few more items to your grocery list and bring them into church by Sunday Morning November 18th!

A Very Special Thank You

Joan, Laurie and Suzi would like to extend a very special thank you to all the fantastic people who generously donated their time and talents in remodeling, repairing, painting and cleaning the church offices. They look wonderful, warm and inviting. Please feel free to stop by any time and see all the beautiful work that has been done.

Cold Weather is Coming and I Need Your Help.

I am currently working with a family that is in need of winter coats, hats, and gloves. The father has had recent surgery, has multiple major illnesses and is very disabled. They speak very little English. The wife works at a low end job. There is a 7 year old girl and 3 year old boy. The man is about 6 foot 3 inches tall and he is lean. The wife is about 5 foot 2 inches and wears a size 14-16 petite. She likes bright colors especially red. The 7 year old girl is tall and lean and the 3 year old boy is husky. If you can help, please contact me at 878-9632. Many thanks, Sara Moran.

Welcome Suzi

For those of you who have not met her, it is my pleasure to introduce Suzi Ange-Roland. Suzi is our recently hired church secretary. She brings with her a background in banking, customer service and administrative work in running an office. She relates one of her "big goals" is to make the office user friendly. She intersperses this with the weekly demands of the job. Suzi is the mother of two children. Many of us have met "her boy" Ramsey, and English yellow lab, who is equally as friendly as Suzi is. She is also working on her certification as a henna artist. She states that she enjoys interacting with people and "being part of the hub of the wheel". Welcome Suzi!

Lyn Kulp for Pastor/Staff Committee



Williston Federated
Church Calendar

November 2007

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
				1 7:15am Rotary 9:00am Caring Circle 10am-12pm Senior Exercise	2 6:30am Men's Bible Study	3
4 9:30am Worship Daylight Savings Time ends	5	6 10am-12pm Senior Exercise ~5:15-5:45pm Peace Vigil ~6:30pm Membership ~7:00pm Music & Worship	7 7:00pm Education 7:30 Trustees 7:30pm AA	8 7:15am Rotary 10am-12pm Senior Exercise	9 6:30am Men's Bible Study	10
11 ~9:30am Worship ~3:00pm Installation Service Reception In Fel- lowship Hall to follow ~Auction Donation Forms Due	12	13 10am-12pm Senior Exercise 7:00pm Official Board	14 7:30pm AA	15 7:15am Rotary 10am-12pm Senior Exercise	16 6:30am Men's Bible Study	17 9:00am-3:00pm Christmas Bazaar And Silent Auc- tion
18 ~9:30am Worship ~Mississippi Mission Trip Collection ~Thanksgiving Basket donations items due ~9:00am-11:30am Silent Auction ~3:00pm Ecumenical Thanks- giving Service at Richmond UCC	19 7:30pm Finance Steeple Submission Dead Line	20 10am-12pm Senior Exercise ~6:30pm Missions/Social Concerns ~7:00pm Pastor/Staff ~Dismas Meal	21 7:30pm AA	22 7:15am Rotary 10am-12pm Senior Exercise Thanksgiving Day	23 6:30am Men's Bible Study	24
25 9:30am Worship	26	27 10am-12pm Senior Exercise	28 7:30pm AA 5:30pm Woman's Book Discussion and Potluck	29	30 6:30am Men's Bible Study 6:00pm Peace Potluck	

**The Steeple
Williston Federated Church**

NON-PROFIT ORGANIZATION
U.S. POSTAGE PAID
PERMIT #4
WILLISTON VT 05495

44 North Williston Road
Williston VT 05495

Phone: 802-878-5792
E-mail: office@steeple.org.
RETURN SERVICE
REQUESTED

Come, Meet Christ, Go Serve

Label goes up to the line
covering these words.
Thanks

Inside this issue:

Pastor's Message	Cover
Lectionary	P.2
Peace Potluck	P.2
Trustees' Corner	P.3
Thanksgiving Baskets	P.3
Christmas Bazaar	Insert
Silent Auction	Insert
Mississippi Mission Trip	Insert
A Call for Volunteer Readers	Insert
Youth Ministry	Insert
Christian Education	Insert
Church Calendar	Insert

November's Women's Book Discussion & Potluck The November book is The Road by Cormac McCarthy. The book discussion & potluck will be Wednesday November 28th at 5:30pm at Mary Ann Wolf's, 304 Whitewater Circle, Williston. All women are warmly welcomed. Please join us even if you haven't read the book as it a great time for fellowship and laughter.

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

Connecting Youth Mentoring program is looking for Mentors. If you are interested there are brochures available on the entrance table. There are several mentors from WFC, if you would like more information please call Nancy Carlson at 802-879-5874.

Meg Freebern is Now Accepting Piano Students on Mondays and Wednesdays. Please contact her at 434-8639 if you are interested.

**SHARE YOUR TALENTS
SILENT AUCTION**

SATURDAY NOVEMBER 17th 9:00 a.m. - 3:00 p.m .
In conjunction with the Christmas Bazaar
and SUNDAY NOVEMBER 18th 9:00 a.m. – 11:30 a.m.

We all have God-given talents...what can you do or provide that someone else would enjoy? Please consider donating to this year's Silent Auction, held in conjunction with the WFC Christmas Bazaar on Saturday, November 17th and Sunday, November 18th. Proceeds will benefit the WFC Junior and Senior High Youth groups and support their mission trips to Heifer Overlook Farm, regional youth events, and activities.

Need ideas of what to donate? Here are some popular donations from previous years:

- | | |
|------------------------------------|------------------------------|
| A weekend at your vacation getaway | Sailing and a picnic |
| Original artwork | Handmade quilt |
| Yard work | Adirondack chair |
| Holiday pies or cookies | Bicycle tuning |
| Catered dinner | Snowboarding lessons |
| Babysitting services | Interior design consultation |
| Financial planning | Homemade treats and goodies |
| Hand-knit scarves | Hockey tickets |

Be creative and have fun! Just fill out this form and drop it in the envelope on the bulletin board near the kitchen by Sunday, November 11th. Questions? Contact Deb Light at 899-3212.

Yes! I want to donate to the Auction!

Detailed description of item or service (please include expiration date, if any):

Your name: _____ Phone number: _____

THANK YOU SO MUCH FOR YOUR SUPPORT!

Christmas Bazaar **November 17th, 9 AM - 3 PM**

The Christmas Bazaar is just around the corner. It's time to get busy making crafts or pickles and jams and repotting your favorite house plants that are overgrown. Here is a list of the various tables at the bazaar and ways in which you can help. If you would like to help or if you need more information contact any of the people listed below. All proceeds from the Bazaar, with the exception of the Silent Auction, go to various local and world wide missions. The Silent Auction money will benefit the youth groups.

If you have a special handicraft and would like to have your own table at the bazaar, speak to Carol Bouchard at 862-7400.

Craft Table - Chairperson, Carol Bouchard, 862-7400 - We need hand made items such as mittens, scarves, ornaments, jewelry, wooden items, Christmas or other holiday decorations. If you need ideas, call Carol.

Bake Sale Table - Chairperson, Rebecca Dubois, 658-2865 - We need all sorts of baked goods including pies, cakes, cookies, breads, jams, pickles, fudge etc. The bake sale table is one of the most popular.

Plant Table - Chairperson, Romaine Decamp, 288-9114 or Polly Malik 879-6968 - We need houseplants, dried flowers, wreaths, gourds, gifts for gardeners.

Attic Treasures - Chairperson Ginger Isham, 878-4875 - We are looking for "antique type" linens, jewelry, and other small attic treasures.

Kids Only Table - Chairperson, Robin Coletta, 878-2012 - This is a table where **children only** will be able to shop for inexpensive, new or gently used, items for their family. Bring a small item you no longer use, a candle, a nick knack etc.

Silent Auction - Chairperson, Deb Light, 899-3212 - Proceeds from this event will go to the youth group - Donations of goods and services of all types are needed - Be creative! (see Silent Auction article)

Lunch - Chairperson, Vicki Watson, 434-5637 - We will be serving home made soups, bread, chili & hot dogs. Donations of soup are needed.

Pie Baking - Friday, Nov. 16th 9-12 - Please come peel apples or roll out pie crust. All the supplies are provided - but bring your favorite peeler.

Set Up - Thursday 1-4 and Friday 9-4 - Card Tables and holiday table cloths needed. Bring your donated items and come help us set up.

Mississippi Mission Trip

Williston Federated Church members will lead another trip to Mississippi December 2nd to 8th to help with Katrina recovery. This will be the third trip for Tony Lamb and Ken Stone and the first or second for others from our congregation. We travel to Vancleave, Mississippi, where we stay at the Methodist Church. They have dorms and showers for sixty volunteers. As they have done for the twenty plus months since Katrina, they provide two hot meals a day, fixings for lunch and bedding for the 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. It is not important that each person have building skills, as there are many other things to do, and as they emphasize each time we go, our presence there is our most precious gift.

We currently have 25 people from six different churches signed up to go. There is still room for five more people. Costs include air fare which is now \$250, rental vans at about \$70 a person for the week, \$100 donation for room and board, and \$40 for meals out.

We would like to raise \$2,000 in donations for materials. This money enables us to supplement what UMCOR provides, which is limited for each home. We typically find that there is much more work that needs to be done beyond the resources available. A collection will be taken on November 18th for this mission, and there is also a jar in which to place donations in the downstairs hallway.

If there are others who would be interested in going, contact Tony Lamb alamb@alamblaw.com or 802 343-1544 or Ken Stone KMStoneVT@aol.com or 879-0243.

A Call for Volunteer "Readers"

On December 7, 2007 Wheeler Elementary School will participate in a community initiative called Reading to End Racism to support the District wide goal of promoting and valuing diversity in Burlington Public Schools. This project creates an opportunity for students to listen to new literature, hear personal stories and join age-appropriate forums to explore and explain racism.

Classroom presentations are led by volunteer "readers" who are solicited throughout the community, all of whom are committed to the elimination of racism. These "Readers" serve as powerful role models for students, and in the past have included police officers, elected officials, educators, artists, business professionals, parents and school board members. Entire schools are enlisted in one-day presentations involving all classes, with book readings, personal stories and discussions on ways students can help end racism. Results from Boulder Valley School District in Boulder, Colorado where thousands of students were offered Reading to End Racism show over 85% believed they had an increased understanding of racism after participating.

This project is a collaborative effort by the Burlington School District, The Women's International League for Peace and Freedom and VARAT (The Vermont Anti-Racism Action Team). Please join us on Wednesday evening November 7, 2007 at 6:30-8 pm in the Learning Center for a volunteer readers training and dialogue on "how to continue the conversation about bigotry and racism with children." Don't miss this opportunity to explore resources to continue the dialogue at home,

For more information about this exciting initiative, or to sign up to be a volunteer reader, please contact:

Denise Dunbar
Chittenden County RER Coordinator
Email: Denise.H.Dunbar@uvm.edu
802-578-2062