

THE STEEPLE

Williston Federated Church

An Open and Affirming, Reconciling Congregation

Pastor's Message

Dear Members and friends,

You are invited! On February 16, from 9 am to 4 pm, the Official Board and I are planning a Church Retreat at the Mallet's Bay Congregational Church in Colchester. The theme for our retreat is, "Where God is Leading Us." Please read Jeremiah 29:11 for the words of scripture that will guide us, "For surely I know the plans I have for you, say the Lord, plans for your welfare and not for harm, to give you a future with hope." (NRSV)

The retreat will include time for large and small group study and discussion as well as individual quiet time. Our leader is The Rev. Connie Moser, Pastor of the Ascutney Union Church (United Church of Christ) in Ascutney, Vermont. Rev. Moser grew up in Springfield, Vermont and was a member of the United Methodist Church. She graduated from UVM and had a career as a dental hygienist for over 20 years. Following a call to pastoral ministry, she attended Andover Newton Theological School, graduated with a Master of Divinity degree in 1999 and was called to serve as Pastor of the Ascutney Union Church. She has led workshops and retreats locally and Conference-wide on topics such as spirituality and church growth, hospitality, and spiritual care for the elderly.

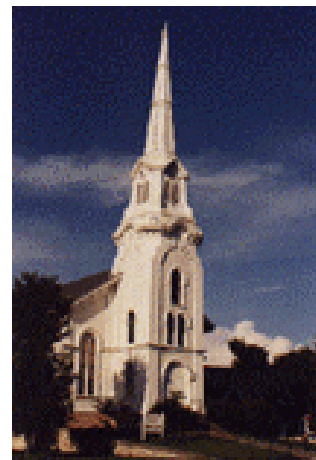
Pastor Connie will facilitate this gathering that will focus on our joining together as a church family and taking the initiative to build our future. We are a faith community with many gifts and this day-long retreat will allow us the "time apart" from our daily and busy routines to explore ways to nurture our sense of community, mission and purpose. Our hope is that we will experience God together and catch a glimpse of the future.

What do *you* need to do? Put the date on your calendar. Sign-up on the bulletin board in the entryway. Pack a brown-bag lunch for yourself (morning snacks and all beverages will be provided). Pray for this church. Give yourself permission to take this day as a day away, a time to get to know the people who worship around you a little better, and an invitation to participate in a faithful conversation about where and how God is calling us to be "church" in 2008. And the cost - simply a donation; whatever amount feels right for you.

Any questions? You can ask me and I'll do my best to answer your questions. I am excited about this possibility - my first retreat as your pastor. Please...let us be together on this date.

Peace,

Pastor Joan



February 2008

Vol. 26

No. 2

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Pastor's Study: 879-3332

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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 Choir

Accompanist:

Carolyn Pillsbury

Music Director:

Martin Hain

Nursery Caregiver:

Michelle Davis

Free Piano!

Love to listen to music? Love to make music? We can help. The Trustees still have one piano currently in the church for anyone to enjoy at home. Mention your interest to any member of the Trustees or to Suzi in the church office.

Epiphany Ends - Lent Begins

On Sunday, February 3 (the Last Sunday after Epiphany) we will celebrate with "Alleluia Sunday." Our hymns, anthem, and prayers will include many "Alleluias" as we speak and/or sing as many as possible...and then not speak and/or sing an Alleluia again until Easter Sunday (March 23). It should be a very festive Worship Service! Lent begins on Ash Wednesday, February 6th and we will observe this with a Worship Service at 7 pm in the Sanctuary. This brief service (about 30 minutes) will include meditative music, prayers - and for those who choose - the imposition of ashes on the forehead.

2007 WFC Christmas Giving Tree

The Missions and Social Concerns Committee would like to thank everyone for their generosity at this year's Giving Tree. Christmas in seventeen homes was hopefully a brighter event because of this generosity. We know that the timeframe to participate was short and this made it all the more difficult at an already busy time of year, but you all made it happen. I have the added bonus of being an employee at Williston Central School and can't tell you how many other employees were awestruck at the "generosity", the "huge Heart" and the "commitment to this community" of Williston Federated Church. Thanks again.

Souper Bowl of Caring Sunday February 3rd - which began in 1990 and has raised more than \$41 million to help people in need. In 2007 alone, over 14,500 groups participated generating over \$8 million. Please join young people around the US as they demonstrate God's love by loving their neighbors through the Souper Bowl of Caring. Drop your dollar (or more) in the soup pot (team pot) of your choice next Sunday.

Fall Missions Projects

"WOW, WOW, WOW" is all I can say in response to the incredible generosity of this Church! It is my honor to share with you all the summary of the Missions Committee's fall financial report.

Christmas Bazaar: JUMP made \$450 from the sale of tangible products. Thanks Charlie Wolf.

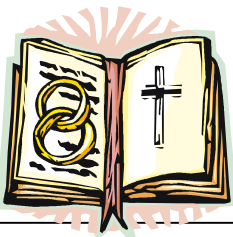
Mississippi Trip: \$5207 was raised at the special offering that occurred on November 18th.

Alternative Gift Shop: \$5570 was sent to 18 different organizations.

Christmas Eve Offering: \$5338 will be divided and sent to JUMP and the Cancer Patient Support Program. \$1050 was collected at the 11 pm service and will be sent to the Williston School District Sunshine Fund.

Christmas Giving Tree: Seventeen families received Christmas gifts and homemade Christmas cookies.

Thanksgiving Baskets and Turkey Points: Polly Malik reports that 1,112 pounds of food was collected for the baskets and food shelf donations. 979 pounds of food was donated to the Emergency Food Shelf and 133 pounds were used for the baskets from Church. A total of 32 packets of "Turkey Points" were collected, each of these packets is a \$20 value. Those "Turkey Points" made quite a difference! A huge "Thanks" to Polly and her "Turkey Crew". The great thing is that all of this was in addition to what June Simmons had coordinated for the nine baskets that were filled by the generosity of our Church members. Nine families received Thanksgiving dinner this year due to that generosity. I guess I can also say, "THANKS, THANKS, THANKS!!!" Micaela Wallace



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.

February 3

Exodus 24:12-18
Psalm 99
2 Peter 1:16-21
Matthew 17:1-9

February 6

(Ash Wednesday)

Joel 2:1-2, 12-17
Psalm 51:1-17
2 Corinthians
5:20b-6:10
Matthew 6:1-6, 16-21

February 10

Genesis 2:15-17; 3:1-7
Psalm 32
Romans 5:12-19
Matthew 4:1-11

February 17

Genesis 12:1-4a
Psalm 121
Romans 4:1-5, 13-17
John 3:1-17

February 24

Exodus 17:1-7
Psalm 95
Romans 5:1-11
John 4:5-42

TRUSTEES' CORNER

2007 was a busy year for your trustees. Roofs were shingled, windows restored, the steeple was repaired and painted, a fire protection sprinkler system was installed throughout the church complex, and tenants moved into and out of church property. Besides these high visibility projects, day-to-day maintenance and property management issues such as trash removal, painting, plumbing, electrical repair, lease renewals, state inspections, snow plowing, sanding, pothole leveling, carpet cleaning, tree trimming, lawn mowing, sign posting, weatherproofing, space allotment, equipment maintenance, and budget management - just to name a few - continued. As always, the trustees enjoyed and appreciated the patience and perseverance of the congregation while the major projects were under way. We would also like to bring to your attention the outstanding job which North Country Fire Protection, Inc. did on the installation and activation of our sprinkler system. There was an incredible amount of work done with very little disruption of church activities. North Country adhered to their established timetable and responded immediately to all of our concerns during installation. Their workmanship and professionalism are obvious, while the finished product is minimally obtrusive. Thanks to North Country, we now have an efficient fire protection system throughout the church facility. Oh, one small surprise - they came in a bit under budget!!! Kudos to North Country Fire Protection, Inc.!

Lenten Book Study

The Peace and Non-Violence Task Force had a very rewarding book study last fall. We decided that we would like to continue our discussions about how to live as Christ would have us live. So starting on Sunday, February 10, we will start a weekly book study group that will meet in the Sitting Room after church each week until Palm Sunday. The book to be discussed is Amish Grace, by Kraybill, Nolt, and Weaver-Zercher. This is the story of how the Amish community dealt with the shooting of their schoolchildren in 2005. Please contact Sally Metro, Ruth Painter, or Joan O'Gorman if you have questions. We look forward to this opportunity to discuss how to live as Christians in this stressful and sometimes scary society. Please join us!

Swap, Sip & Stitch

Do you have yarn leftover from projects you just don't know what to do with? Patterns you enjoyed making (or *thought* you'd make!) but won't use again? Let's swap! Bring the yarn and patterns, trade it for someone else's extras and start a new project! Don't have any yarn kicking around? Come!! Drop a donation in the basket and still go home with a new project. Donations will be used to purchase yarn to make prayer shawls. After swapping let's enjoy an evening of sipping coffee, munching on dessert and stitching your newly swapped yarn or bring the project you've been working on. Thursday, March 6 at 6:30pm in the Fellowship Hall. Bring a friend, all are welcome! Call Liz Lemieux at 878-0221 with questions or to help with set-up.

Membership News

We are pleased to introduce some of the new members who were received by our congregation this past October. (Please see the January Steeple for more new member descriptions.) To view photos of all our new members, be sure to take a look at the directory on the Membership bulletin board outside Fellowship Hall.

Karen Rounds and Cathy Michaels

Karen and Cathy live in Williston with their nine-year-old son, Evan, and little white puppy dog, Molly. Their lives are incredibly busy with work, volunteering, sports, church activities, and time spent with family and friends. Karen serves as Chief Operating Officer at Champlain Valley Cardiovascular Associates (CVCA) in South Burlington and brings her considerable skills to the position of treasurer at the Williston Federated Church as well as to the 4th- and 5th-grade Sunday School class. Cathy has a background in education and respiratory therapy and is currently working part-time at CVCA. When she is not also volunteering at Evan's school and as a mentor at Williston Central School, Cathy coaches Evan's baseball and basketball teams and finds time to pursue her passion for scrap booking and stamping. The WFC is very fortunate to have Cathy on the Membership Committee as well. As a family, the Rounds-Michaels love camping with friends from spring through fall and travel extensively around the Northeast. Their favorite place to visit, however, is Montana, where many of their family live and which they describe as "the most beautiful, soulful place."

Hallery Brunet

Hallery has lived in Vermont for seventeen years. She and husband Wayne moved here from South Carolina (following Hurricane Hugo) in 1990. She taught school in Randolph until her retirement in 2005. A few years after Wayne's death, she relocated to Williston to be closer to her parents, son, and grandchildren, who live in Essex. Hallery says that she truly enjoys attending the WFC with companion John Willis and his family. She met John while waiting in line for a flu shot, just before departing on a trip to Peru. In addition to her son and grandchildren in Essex, Hallery has a son in Florida, a daughter in South Carolina, and a son in Waco, Texas.

Barbara Boyd

Barbara was born and raised in Winthrop, Massachusetts. She moved to Vermont in 2006 from Doylestown, Pennsylvania, in order to be closer to her daughter who lives in East Montpelier. Three days after her arrival in Williston, Barbara attended the WFC and felt immediately welcomed and "pleased to have a Methodist Hymnal" in her hands. She has stepped right into church life and currently serves on the Membership Committee. Following the death of her husband, the Reverend Dr. James M. Boyd, Jr., a Methodist minister and chaplain at Drew University, Barbara worked as a secretary for 27 years. In addition, she has worked at various times as a preschool teacher specializing in four-year-olds! Barbara has four adult children: Krista, who lives in East Montpelier; Pam who is in St. John's, Newfoundland; Cheryl in Chalfont, Pennsylvania; and Jimmy in Chelsea, New York City.

February 2008

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
					1 6:30am Men's Bible Study	2
3 9:30am Worship Souper Bowl of Caring Sunday	4	5 10am-12pm Senior Exercise 6:30pm Membership 7:15pm Music and Worship	6 ~6:15pm Peace Vigil ~7:00pm Ash Wednesday Service ~7:30pm AA	7 7:15am Rotary 9:00am Caring Circle 10am-12pm Senior Exercise	8 6:30am Men's Bible Study 6:00pm Friendship Supper & Square Dance	9
10 9:30am Worship Pretzel Sunday After Worship Book Study on "Amish Grace"	11	12 10am-12pm Senior Exercise 7:00pm Official Board	13 7:00pm Education 7:00pm Finance 7:30pm AA	14 7:15am Rotary 10am-12pm Senior Exercise	15 6:30am Men's Bible Study 7:00pm Talent Night Youth Fundraiser	16 9:00am-4:00pm Church Retreat at Mallet's Bay Congregational Church
17 9:30am Worship No Youth Group After Worship Book Study on "Amish Grace"	18	19 10am-12pm Senior Exercise 6:30pm Missions 7:00 Pastor/Staff Dismas Meal	20 7:30pm AA Steeple Submission Dead Line	21 7:15am Rotary 10am-12pm Senior Exercise	22 6:30am Men's Bible Study	23
24 9:30am Worship No Youth Group After Worship Book Study on "Amish Grace"	25	26 10am-12pm Senior Exercise	27 7:30pm AA	28 7:15am Rotary 10am-12pm Senior Exercise	29 6:30am Men's Bible Study	

**The Steeple
Williston Federated Church**

NON-PROFIT ORGANIZATION
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PERMIT #4
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Phone: 802-878-5792
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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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February 6 is Ash Wednesday, the day that marks the beginning of the season of Lent. We will observe Ash Wednesday with a worship service at 7 pm in the Sanctuary. The service will include hymns, prayers, and the placing of ashes on the forehead (this is optional). Also on that evening, Junior High Youth Group will meet at 6 pm in the sitting room for henna tattoos. Senior High Youth Group will meet at 7 pm at the Coletta's house for henna tattoos.

First Sunday in Lent is February 10th ~ Christian Education Committee is sponsoring **Pretzel Sunday!** Please sign up on the bulletin board downstairs for ingredients and to help in the kitchen. Our children and youth will be rolling pretzels during Sunday school time to share with the whole congregation for fellowship time after worship. They will also be hearing about the activities planned for our Lenten Season. Thanks for helping on this special day!

February Family Night Supper sponsored by the Pastor/Staff Relations Committee Friday, February 8, 2008 at 6:30pm. Bring a salad, main dish or dessert to share; your place settings/dishes and **YOUR DANCIN' SHOES!** After a potluck meal, we will have a short demonstration from a local square dancing group, and then we, too, will be dancin'! This is a family affair – all are welcome.

New Pictorial Directory

We are excited to announce that we are going to create a new pictorial directory of our church family. The directory will help us to connect names with faces. It will be an ideal outreach tool and will capture the history of our church congregation. Please participate! All we ask is that you have your picture taken by the professional Photographer and meet with a Portrait Consultant at the church. For the next several weeks, we will be making appointments before and after services at the church. Please sign up as soon as possible to get the best appointment to fit your schedule.

_Every participating family/household that selects a pose for the directory will receive a free directory and a complimentary 8x10 Custom Natural Portrait.

_You will come to the church only once for photography and for portrait viewing. .

_The program is available at no cost to the church budget.

_You will have the opportunity to order additional portraits during your scheduled appointment time.

_If you wish to purchase extras, the portraits come with a 100% Satisfaction Guarantee.

_Whether you decide to dress formal or casual, you will want to make the most of this opportunity.

The Scheduled Dates for Photography and Portrait Viewing Are: March 13, 14, and 15.

If you have questions, please contact Carol Bouchard 862-7400. We look forward to seeing everyone in the directory. Our new pictorial directory just won't be complete without you!

Volunteers Needed

TO ASSIST WITH THE PREPARATION OF A NEW PICTORIAL DIRECTORY

*SIGN UP COMMITTEE

Assist people in selecting photography appointments at church

*TELEPHONE COMMITTEE

Call people who have not made a photography appointment

* HOST/HOSTESS COMMITTEE

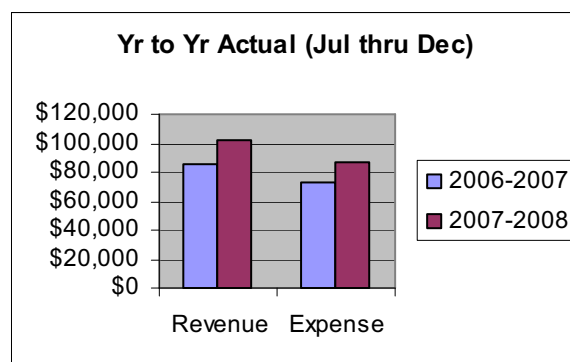
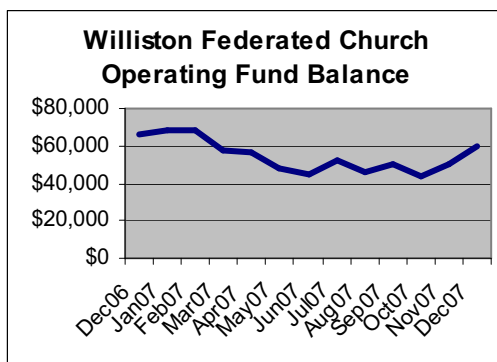
Greet people and provide clerical support to the photography team during the photography sessions.

If you would like to help, please call Carol Bouchard 862-7400

Pictures Needed

We are looking for photos of church related activities to submit to Olan Mills to be included in the church activities section of the new pictorial directory. Do you have pictures of a family night supper, the Chicken Pie Supper, Chicken BBQ, Youth Groups, Sunday School, worship services, committee meetings, canoe trip or other?. Digital photos are preferred, but snapshots are welcome. If you have any photos, contact Carol Bouchard 862-7400.

Finance Update



At the December 9th service, we announced that just over \$20,000 in pledges had been made which exceeded the \$10,000 matching gift challenge by an anonymous donor. That's a total of more than \$30,000! Thank you to the anonymous matching gift donor for being a catalyst and to all who responded to the challenge.

Over half of the pledged giving from this drive has been received, and the results can already be seen in the trend chart of the operating fund balance. We want to conclude the matching funds pledge drive by February 15th so please present your pledged gift by then in any plate offering or by mail. Please be sure to write "WFC Matching Pledge" on the memo line of any checks. A new option is also available to donate shares of stock through a brokerage account since it can offer tax advantages to the donor. Contact Matt Bliss if you have any questions about this new option.

Christian Education for Youth & Children

Lenten Season Trivia

What is the first day of Lent called?

How many days are in Lent?
and how do you count them?

What is the liturgical color for Lent? And why?

Why would you be asked to give something up for
Lent?

Is there an equation to figure out when Easter falls
on the calendar each year?

What is the earliest date Easter can be?
What is the latest date Easter can be?

What symbols can you think of for Lent? and why
do you choose them for Lent?

Look for answers to appear on the Education Bulletin board (by the drinking fountain) in March.

First Sunday in Lent Pretzel Sunday February 10

The Sunday school children will be learning about pretzels and making pretzels for all to eat during coffee hour on February 10th. Junior and Senior high youth are encouraged to be apart of the activities downstairs on this day and throughout Lent. There is a sign up sheet on the bulletin board to help donate items needed and/or to get involved and be a helper in the kitchen, for set up or clean up.

Sunday school during Lent

The children will be following the lectionary gospel readings for Lent. Keep your eyes open for the Lenten prayer chain that will continue to grow each Sunday and the Lenten tree that will be decorated with symbols. The children will be creating these during the Lenten season.

Heifer Campaign in February

Sunday school children will be collecting money for Heifer International which helps support third world countries by sending an animal to a family in need. This will help the family by providing food to eat and money to buy needed items. This family will in turn give the first offspring to another family in need, and the cycle continues. Our kick off for this fund raiser will begin on Feb. 3rd during Faith Talks time with the children downstairs. The banks will be distributed at this time. We will conclude on Feb. 17th when the children will return their banks. At a later date, the children will have an opportunity to select what animals they would like to purchase with the money collected. Adult participation is also welcome for this fund raiser. Look for envelopes in upcoming bulletins.

Opportunities to Give of Your Time

Spiritual Friends

Join the kids downstairs on Communion Sundays for Faith Talks

Come get to know the children of the church! We will all be back upstairs to gather for communion.

Sunday School Helpers

We are still striving to have 2 adults with each group of children and youth on Sunday mornings. This is a great way to get to know the kids and see what is going on in Sunday school. You might just learn something you didn't know before. We know you'll have a great time!

Education Committee 2007-08

Barb Berry

Brad Berry, youth representative

Laurie Chipman, DCYM

Robin Coletta, Co-Chair

Aimee / Mike Hilliker

Polly Malik, Co-Chair

Sue McNamara

Mark Trifilio

Youth Ministry News

A fun Senior High Lock-In on January 20

In attendance were:

Meaghan G, Lillian C & friend, Andrew L, Josh H,
Tim C, Ellie B & friend, Troy C and Ben H.
Viewed and discussed "Jesus Camp" DVD, played
'Ed', snacks, breakfast & Pizza Put next day.
Many thanks to Pastor Joan for joining us!

February 3

Souper Bowl of Caring Sunday

Arrive early before service to decorate pots.
Help with collection following the service.

6-9pm Super Bowl Party at the parsonage
Bring a potluck dish to share
(park at the church and walk over)

February 6

Ash Wednesday Henna Tattoos

6pm JH here at WFC in sitting room
7pm Ash Wednesday service
7pm SH at Coletta's house

February 9

4-5pm Night Light Praise Team

Come learn the music for Night Light!
All youth are welcome! Especially singers!

February 10

Night Light

A Youth Praise Service @ 7pm
Carpool from WFC @ 6:30pm
Return by 8:30pm

February 15

7pm Talent Night Fundraiser

Bring a dessert to share
Sign up to share a talent and ask others in the con-
gregation to sign up to share a talent.

February 17th

No Youth Groups

February 24th

No Youth Groups

* * * **UPCOMING** * * *

March 2

11-1pm Easter Sunrise Service planning
Easter is March 23rd
Sunrise Service at the Lamb's
Gather there at 5:30am and bring a potluck dish to
share for breakfast!

Upcoming Youth Trips

Put down your \$50 non-refundable deposit
and save your place!

4WORD'08 April 25-27

current 8th—12th grades

Possible Heifer Overlook Farm Camp

If enough interest! Date TBA
Need to be 12 yrs old by June 20

Soulfest 2008

July 20— August 2, 2008
Current 8th—12th grade

Mississippi Mission Trip

Around October 18-25
Next year's 9-12th graders

* * * * *

Youth Covenant & Health Release Form

All youth **MUST** have one on file **PRIOR** to
the start of an event!

Check the bulletin board to see if your name in on
the list of those who still need to turn one in.
Reminder that this one form covers all onsite and off
site events for this year up to August 31, 2008. Par-
ent and youth signatures are needed to complete
the forms. Next September you'll be needing to fill
out a new one.

Youth Ministry Committee:

Trent Coletta, Ashley Dubois, Deb Light,
Rich Haskell—YM treasurer

Director of Children & Youth Ministry

Laurie Chipman, laurie@steeple.org