

# THE STEEPLE

## Williston Federated Church

*An Open and Affirming, Reconciling Congregation*

### Pastor's Message

Dear Members and Friends of Williston Federated Church,

Shoe polish. Lunch box with thermos. "Wake up." Sharpened pencils. New crayons. A bologna sandwich that has spent several hours in that lunchbox. New experiences. These are some of the sights, sounds, and smells that come to mind when September rolls around. The month of September is such a natural cadence for me to start up new things, feel fresh excitement, anticipate reuniting with those who have been on summer vacations and have stories to share, and begin a new church year.

You will read in this month's *Steeple* about our new beginnings -Sunday School and Youth Group starting up, committees meeting and planning, and pot-luck suppers getting warmed up. Our choirs will return. Soon our new website will be launched. Several opportunities for adult study are available.

One of those adult studies is *A New Earth: Awakening to Your Life's Purpose* by Eckhardt Tolle. This study will be facilitated by Vickie Walker. More information is available in this newsletter.

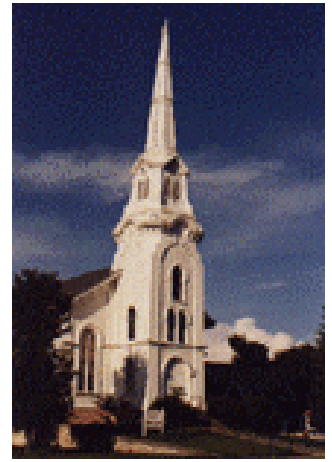
I plan to facilitate another study, *My Mother, Your Mother: Embracing "Slow Medicine," the Compassionate Approach to Caring for Your Aging Loved Ones* by Dr. Dennis McCullough will have the same format, meeting after worship on the following Sundays: November 2, 9, 16, and 23. More information will be available in the October *Steeple*.

I invite you to consider one more opportunity for study and spiritual growth. I will facilitate a *Lectio Divina* group for 5 weeks, meeting on October 3, 10, 17, 24, and 31 from 9-10:30 am in the sitting room. *Lectio Divina* is Latin for "holy reading" and represents a Christian practice of prayer and scriptural reading intended to study, ponder, listen, and pray.

"Wake up" - I can still hear my mother's voice on those first days of the new school year. May we be awakened to the light of God leading us into a new church year with fresh opportunities for worship, fellowship, study, spiritual growth, and mission.

Peace,

Pastor Joan



**September  
2008**

**Vol. 26**

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Address:

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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 Choir**

**Accompanist:**

Carolyn Pillsbury

**Music Director:**

Martin Hain

**Nursery Caregiver:**

Michelle Davis

### Corn Roast

Mark your Calendars! September 6th at 5pm is the 2nd Annual Corn Roast at the Isham Farm. Thank you to the Isham's ahead of time for providing us with such a wonderful spot for this event.

### Women of the Church

A special meeting of the Women of the Church will be held right after worship on September 14<sup>th</sup> in the sanctuary. The meeting will discuss how much money Women of the Church can contribute to the church operating budget. All women are welcome.

### Bible Sunday

Polly Malik, from the Christian Education Committee, tells us that Bible Sunday will held on September 21st. Please let Laurie Chipman know if your child will be in the 3rd grade by early September. If you have a child in 4<sup>th</sup> grade and up who has not received a bible, please let us know.

### All Church Meeting – Oct. 5<sup>th</sup>

There will be an all church meeting on October 5<sup>th</sup> shortly after church in the sanctuary. There are two agenda items. The first is for the Congregation to give input and vote on the recommendation of the Official Board that space be rented for use of a cell tower in our Steeple. The expected income is \$1,250 a month. If you have specific questions before the meeting you may contact Tony Lamb, Ken Stone or the office for details. The second purpose is to hear and act upon the Official Board's Budget Plan for the coming year. There will time for members to raise other issues of interest. Please attend. There will be daycare and refreshments.

### Adult Book Study

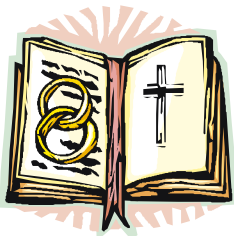
*A New Earth: Awakening to Your Life's Purpose* By Eckhardt Tolle. A book discussion will be held for 4 Sundays following worship: September 21st & 28th; October 12th & 19th. We will be studying *A New Earth*, but not as an academic subject. Our aim is to explore through the teachings of the book, the most important question you can ask: What is the purpose of my life and how do I fulfill God's purpose? Reading this book and participating in the discussions will be a process of self exploration and awakening. Hopefully, it will also help you access a dimension within yourself that perhaps you didn't know existed or only caught glimpses of on rare occasions. Vickie Walker will be facilitating the book discussion. She can be reached at 497-0017. A sign-up sheet is on the bulletin board. Please sign up and indicate if you will need a book. We are purchasing them for \$8. Books and study materials will be available on September 7.

### Youth Mentoring

Check out the bulletin board for a "visual" of those who serve as Mentors at the Williston Central School. You will find some familiar faces! However, your face is needed. Men, especially, are needed to serve as mentors. For more information, call 879-5874. Get involved - "A friend is a hand that is always holding yours, no matter how close or far apart you may be."

### 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](mailto:abell@vna-vermont.org).



### 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 7

Exodus 12:1-14  
Psalm 149  
Romans 13:8-14  
Matthew 18:15-20

#### September 14

Exodus 14:19-31  
Exodus 15:1b-11, 20-21  
Romans 14:1-12  
Matthew 18:21-35

#### September 21

Exodus 16:2-15  
Psalm 105:1-6, 37-45(or  
Psalm 78)  
Philippians 1:21-30  
Matthew 20:1-16

#### September 28

Exodus 17:1-7  
Psalm 78:1-4, 12-16  
Philippians 2:1-13  
Matthew 21:23-32

## Christmas Bazaar

The Christmas Bazaar is Nov. 22nd from 9:00am to 3:00pm. 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. A sign up will appear the end of October on the bulletin board near the kitchen. 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. **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** - Chairpersons - Romaine Decamp 288-9114 & 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** - This is a table where children only will be able to shop for inexpensive, new or gently used, items for their family. Bring an item you no longer use, a candle, a nick nack etc. **Silent Auction** - Proceeds from this event will go to the youth group - Donations of goods and services of all types are needed - Be creative! **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. 21st 9-12 - Please come peel apples or roll out pie crust. All the supplies are provided - but bring your favorite peeler.

## Walk to Defeat ALS

The ALS (Amyotrophic lateral sclerosis, often referred to as "Lou Gehrig's Disease") Association of the Northern New England Chapter is holding its annual "Walk to Defeat ALS" on Sunday, September 28, 2008 at Dorset Park in South Burlington. Registration begins at 10:30 am with the walk starting at 11:30 - so, if you want to join in, wear your walking shoes to church and come right after. I will be participating in the "Walk to Defeat ALS" in memory of my father and in support of those in our church that have been touched by this devastating disease. If you feel moved to donate to my walk team, I sure would appreciate it. Or if you know of someone that I can walk in support of, I would be honored to add them to my list. For more information please give me a call: Connie Kendall - 482-4095.

## Jean Doherty

A memorial service to celebrate the life of Jean Doherty who died on June 12, will be held on September 13th at 11:00am.

## E-Mail Addresses

An unfortunate event in this technological time ~ the church office computer crashed and the e-mail address book was not able to be recovered. It is in the process of being re-created and all addresses that are in our new directory have been put in. If you or someone you know was in that e-mail address book or would like to be added, please forward the info to Suzi at office@steeple.org or call the office at 878-5792. Thank you for your help.

## Mission Committee News

On October 5, World Communion Sunday will be observed. On this date, we invite you to be generous in response to a special offering. Both the United Methodist Church and the United Church of Christ suggest a special offering be taken on this Sunday. This offering will be equally divided between our two denominations. How will your offering be used? The United Methodist Church "provides scholarships for U.S. (racial- and ethnic-minority) and international students.. These scholarships enable people from around the world to serve and lead in their home churches and communities by making higher education a reality. Ethnic scholarship recipients study in a wide variety of fields: family pastoral care, Christian-Muslim relations, clinical psychology, peace and governance, crop production, law and more. Priority areas of mission include elimination of poverty, expansion of global health, leadership and congregational development. We can make a difference for the future by preparing and nurturing the students of today." (umc.org) The United Church of Christ "Neighbors in Need" offering "supports the UCC's ministries of justice and compassion throughout the United States. Two-thirds of the offering is used by the UCC's Justice and Witness Ministries to fund a wide array of local and national justice initiatives, advocacy efforts, and direct service projects. This offering also supports our American Indian neighbors in the UCC. One-third of the offering supports the UCC's Council for American Indian Ministries (CAIM). Historically, forebears of the UCC established churches and worked with Lakota, Dakota, Nakota, Mandan, and Hock in North and South Dakota, Wisconsin, and northern Nebraska. Today there are 20 UCC congregations on reservations and one urban, multi-tribal UCC congregation in Minneapolis, Minnesota." (ucc.org) Your generosity makes another world possible. Your support is greatly appreciated. Envelopes will be available in late September.

## Women of the Church Book Discussion

Our September book will be The Faith Club: A Muslim, A Christian, A Jew-Three Women Search for Understanding.  
Our October book will be The Street of a Thousand Blossoms.

## Correction for 2008 Directory

Kathleen McKennan: 388-9739.

**The Steeple  
Williston Federated Church**

NON-PROFIT ORGANIZATION  
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RETURN SERVICE  
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Label goes up to the line  
covering these words.  
Thanks

**Come, Meet Christ, Go Serve**

**Inside this issue:**

<b>Pastor's Message</b>	Cover
<b>Lectionary</b>	P.2
<b>Corn Roast</b>	P.2
<b>Adult Book Study</b>	P.2
<b>Christmas Bazaar</b>	P.3
<b>Missions News</b>	P.3
<b>All Church Meeting</b>	P.3
<b>Special Interests/Activities</b>	Insert
<b>Christian Education</b>	Insert
<b>Church Calendar</b>	Online Live

**Sitting Room Make Over!**  
Our sitting room has been cleaned out and made over. The goal was to make a pleasant gathering space in the church for meetings, education and reflective time. It is also hoped that families can gather there before weddings and funerals. Thanks to all those who worked on the project: Trudy Anderson, Cathy Michaels, Evan Rounds Michaels, Deb Beckett, Troy Chipman, Lois Mason, Susan Lamb, Tom Vieth, Tony Lamb and Shirley Rounds. We are looking for some donations to pay for new lighting. If you are interested in contributing contact Trudy Anderson.

## Family-to-Family

Family-to-Family is a free 12-week course for family and close friends of individuals with severe mental illnesses. The course is taught by trained family members. All instruction and course materials are free to class participants. Over 115,000 family members have graduated from this national program. Family-to-Family provides current information about schizophrenia, major depression, bipolar disorder (manic depression), panic disorder, obsessive-compulsive disorder, borderline personality disorder, and co-occurring brain disorders and addictive disorders. It provides up-to-date information about medications, side effects, and strategies for medication adherence. It also talks about current research related to the biology of brain disorders and the evidence-based, most effective treatments to promote recovery. The course helps participants gain empathy by understanding the subjective, lived experiences of a person with mental illness. There are special workshops for problem solving, listening & communication techniques and helps participants acquire strategies for handling crises & relapse. The course talks about focusing on care for the caregiver: coping with worry, stress & emotional overload and provides guidance on locating appropriate supports and services within the community. It also provides information on advocacy initiatives designed to improve & expand services. What family members had to say after taking the course: *"It was fabulous! I have been dealing with my son's mental illness for 8 years with no real knowledge of what was going on (though I did read a lot and tried to get info). This course was very thorough and really answered so many questions for me. In addition, it helped me realize that others have the same issues and therefore understand. The support of the teachers and the group was invaluable."* *"Very well organized & presented. All aspects of mental illness & coping were covered. A lot of information, but I was so happy to finally find some of the answers I was looking for."* If you have a loved one with mental illness or if you are a consumer and feel your family would benefit from this class, please encourage them to contact the NAMI-Vermont office at (800) 639-6480 or call Sara Moran at 878-9632.

## Run for the ONE to Benefit JUMP

*Run for the ONE (Old North End)* returns this coming September 27<sup>th</sup> - for the 11<sup>th</sup> time - with the hope of raising \$4,000 in support of direct services at the Joint Urban Ministry Project. Twenty-five area congregations, and many individuals and organizations, participate in supporting the local outreach ministry of JUMP which offers critically needed services weekday mornings to more than 55 Vermont households each week. Providing financial and material assistance, hospitality and pastoral care to families and individuals in crisis, JUMP staff and volunteers respond effectively, assisting more than 3,300 people in 2007, including 1500 children. Run for the ONE is a fun event for *everyone* as it includes an open 5K run, a 1K run for kids under 14, and a .8 mile walk – all on the Burlington Bike Path starting at the north end of Waterfront Park. Those who choose to raise funds and walk - and those with strollers, wagons, wheelchairs and dogs - are welcome to participate in the scenic walk route. Any walker or runner raising more than \$50 for JUMP will win a t-shirt and free entry to the event. There is also the option to pay an entry fee of \$10 to run or walk and \$10 for a t-shirt. Youth (high school age and younger) who raise \$150 will receive a *Run for the ONE* hooded sweatshirt – adults need to raise \$250 to receive a hoodie! Local businesses are donating prizes for the top finishers and fundraisers, and **every** participant will have an opportunity to win terrific raffle prizes. Merchants Bank is a major sponsor of the 2008 *Run for the ONE*. Please mark the date for *Run for the ONE* - September 27<sup>th</sup> at 9 a.m. - and plan to support JUMP services to so many in our community who are struggling to meet basic needs (utilities, food, transportation, etc.) More information about JUMP is available at [www.jumpvt.org](http://www.jumpvt.org).

## Volunteers needed for Run for the ONE to Benefit JUMP

Please e-mail JUMP Board member Suzie Crews at [Run4ONE@jumpvt.org](mailto:Run4ONE@jumpvt.org) if you can volunteer for *Run for the ONE*. We need "a few good people" on race day from 7-11 a.m.. Also, we need people to seek and collect gift certificates from area businesses as prizes.

## Sing for Peace

On September 27<sup>th</sup> at 7:00 pm, Governor Madeleine Kunin will welcome you to the UU Church in Burlington and introduce an historic concert: seven Vermont choruses, one hundred and forty strong, will Sing for Peace. Come join Bella Voce, Sounding Joy, Syrinx, Pumpkin Hill Singers, Maple Jam, Social Band and Counterpoint. Hear each of these outstanding choruses sing pieces from its own repertoire. You will feel the power of song when you add your voice to ours and we all sing *We Shall Overcome*. The sound will echo down Church Street and out across the waters of Lake Champlain. At the close of this free concert, when our voices join together and the quiet and prayerful strength of *Dona Nobis Pacem* spreads over the city, gather with us in the community room for fresh apple cider and delicious desserts -- made for you from the favorite recipes of our singers. Leonard Bernstein once said: Our response to violence will be to make music more intensely, more beautifully and more devotedly than ever before. So we shall.

# Christian Education

## Summer Sunday School

Thank you to all who lead our summer program for the kids using the "Seasons of the Spirit" one room curriculum. We really appreciated your time and energy spent with the kids on the Sundays in the summer. God Bless!

## First Day of Sunday School

*September 7*

We are really excited about our NEW curriculum this fall! Seasons of the Spirit is a lectionary based curriculum that will follow a scripture reading for that day. It will be read upstairs in worship before the children leave so that you will know what story they will be learning about in Sunday school. We have 3 congregational copies here in the office. Pastor Joan and Laurie each have their own and the third in the secretaries office for easy access to any other group that would like to use it. Please let Suzi know if you are interested.

## Class Breakdown for 2008-09

### Preschool— Kindergarten

Leader—*Carolyn Carlson* Helper—*Beth Goss*

### First & Second Grade

Leader—\_\_\_\_\_ Helper—*Karen Allen*

### Third Grade

Leader—*Sarah Hibbeler* Helper—*Wendy Bliss*

### Fourth & Fifth Grade

Leader—*Karen Round* Helper—*Kelly Pashby*

### Sixth, Seventh & Eighth Grade—Junior High

Leader—*Jim Wallace* Helper—*Heather Herath*

### Ninth—Twelfth Grade—Senior High

Leader—*Robin Coletta* Helper—*Vickie Walker*

## Substitute Leaders & Helpers

Are you willing to be a sub for a Sunday school teacher? Please add our name to the yellow sheet on the table. Our Sunday school leaders and help-

ers have signed up for a full quarter this fall. We would like to have coverage for them if they need a Sunday off. Thank you so much! Your time is appreciated!

## Bible Sunday is September 21

We will be celebrating Bible Sunday on Sunday, September 21 this year. If you have a son/daughter in 3rd grade or older who has not received a Bible of their own, please let someone on the Christian Education team know soon. We have a total of 11 so far on our list. Thank you.

## Education Committee for 2008-09

Polly Malik (chair), Laurie Chipman (DCYM), Sarah Hibbeler, Traci Howell, Jan Mejia, Kelly Pashby, Melanie Saia, Cindy Thurston, Eli Thurston (youth representative).

## Registration Form

### Sunday School & Youth Programs

It's a new Sunday school year and we need a new registration form for your children. Only one form per family is needed. There is space for every child / youth (ages nursery on up to high school) on this one form. All the information is very helpful as we plan for the coming year and all the years to come. Laurie will be at a table upstairs each Sunday in September to help you with these forms. These forms are different from the Youth Covenant & Health form. So, if you have a youth in sixth grade and up, please do both forms. Thank you.

## Adult Study Opportunities

A New Earth by Eckhart Tolle. Starting on September 21st after Worship

My Mother, Your Mother: Embracing "Slow Medicine". Starting on November 2nd.

Lecto Divina 9-10:30am on October 3rd, 10th, 17th, 24th and 31st.

Men's Bible Study. Every Friday at 6:30am in the sitting room.