

THE STEEPLE

Williston Federated Church

An Open and Affirming, Reconciling Congregation

Pastor's Message

Dear members and friends of the Williston Federated Church family,

*One of the slogans of the United Church of Christ is, "No matter who you are...or where you are on life's journey...you are **welcome** here."*

I had a conversation yesterday with a woman who emigrated from her home country of Vietnam when she was 19 years old. She is now the mother of two children; the first of the children, a daughter, now 5 1/2 years old, is entering school for the first time. The mother beamed as she spoke of visiting the school with her daughter and getting her daughter prepared for the first day. She also spoke of preparing herself for this first day - again beaming - proud that her daughter, a citizen of the United States, is making a new start, in a new school, in a new country.

We are making a new start here at church. We do every September. We feel fresh excitement and anticipate reuniting after summer vacations with new stories to share. The church year begins and all things new are promised with the God who makes all things new. You will read in this newsletter of new beginnings in Sunday School and youth ministries; in the start-up of our adult, junior, and contemporary music team choirs; in the opportunity for adult study; the invitation to join a mission trip to the Gulf Coast.

There are **two new opportunities** I wish to highlight. First, is an adult study, **Spirituality 101**, which is designed as an overview of spiritual practices. We will use *Soul Feast: An Invitation to the Christian Spiritual Life* by Marjorie Thompson as our resource. As the author states in her Introduction, this book is primarily experiential and interactive. As such, it is highly usable in both form and function. The book is designed with wide margins containing quotations that illuminate the text, questions to contemplate, suggestions for written reflection, and space enough to scribble ones notes. The content treats eight disciplines: spiritual reading, praying, worshiping, fasting, examination of conscience, spiritual guidance, hospitality and developing a "rule of life". The author provides strong, gentle guidance in a voice that is clear and direct. Her approach is inclusive of all Christians, transcending liturgical and dogmatic differences. This ecumenical approach is evident in quotations and works cited.

The course begins on September 27 (please note this is a change from what was previously stated in the August newsletter). The study will meet for five weeks (concluding on October 25th) and will meet after worship, approximately 10:45 am and end at noon. Please register for this course by signing up on the bulletin board. The cost of the book is \$15.25. Deadline to register to September 10. If you would like more information, please ask me!

The second opportunity is linked to our tradition of presenting Bibles to our third graders. We will do so on Sunday, September 27 during the worship. You are invited to bring your own Bible/a special Bible to church with you that day. Also, I am hoping that 5 people (be the first to sign up!) will share with the congregation, especially with the Sunday School, why their Bible is important to them. Please let me know if you would be a part of this presentation. If your son or daughter is in a grade higher than third grade and if s/he does not have a Bible (perhaps you are new to the church family), please call the church office and let us know. We want to be sure all of our students have their own Bible to use either at Sunday School and/or to take home.

I hope to see you soon at the place where all are welcome.

Peace,

Pastor Joan



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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

Local Pastor

Rev. Charlie Magill

Church Secretary:

Suzi Ange-Roland

Organist and Choir

Accompanist:

Carolyn Pillsbury

Music Director:

Martin Hain

Nursery Caregiver:

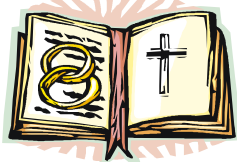
Michelle Davis

Williston Federated Church Vision Workshop Planned for November 7th ~As we pondered the question - "What does God want us to do next?" it seems the perfect time to reflect on the Vision for our church. The Nov 7th all day workshop (8:30 AM to 5 PM) will identify the goals for our church and the steps needed to complete these goals. Please mark this important date on your calendar. Childcare will be available with special events planned for each age group. For any questions, contact Pastor Joan O'Gorman, Tony Lamb, Vickie Walker or Polly Malik.

Steering Committee Volunteers needed to complete the planning for the Vision Workshop ~ A preliminary plan has been developed for the day but more work needs to be done. The Steering committee, composed of 6 to 8 people, will be responsible to complete the workshop plan and coordinate all the activities for the day long event. This is a great opportunity to get involved in a project that supports the future of our church. The time commitment will be about 10 hours. The committee will meet each week during September and October. Some additional time may be needed for specific assignments. If you would be willing to volunteer to serve on this committee, please contact Vickie Walker or Polly Malik.

Lowell L. Fellingner, father of Bill Fellingner, died at home peacefully on July 24th. Donna, Bill's wife, Lowell's wife, daughter Nancy and wonderful caregiver Cyndi were at the bedside. A memorial service will be held in St Louis on September 19th. Let us keep the Fellingner family in our prayers.

Women of the Church Potluck & Book Discussion ~ For September, we have chosen to read The Guernsey Literacy and Potato Pie Peel Society by Mary Ann Shaffer and Annie Barrows. Ruth Magill will be hosting us at her home on September 30th at 5:30. Please contact Robin Coletta at 878-2012 or tricoletta@comcast.net should you have any questions.



Mission Friends ~ Our mission trip to Texas to help with hurricane Ike recovery is taking shape. We are going to have two weeks of work, October 18-24 and October 25 - 31. Our capacity is 30 people each week. The first week is scheduled around the Vermont school break, so we expect a focus on youth, although the trip is open to everyone. Because of the youth, everyone going that week will have to go through a free "safe sanctuaries" background check. We will find out the exact church where we will stay in late September or early October. Our plan is to fly to Houston on Sunday morning and drive to the area where we will be working. We will caravan back to Houston in time for mid-morning flights on Saturday. If you plan to participate in this, call the group organizer, Tony Lamb, 876-1200, to be sure there is still space, send \$50.00 per person to Williston Federated Church Mission Trip, 44 North Williston Rd, Williston VT, 05495, and get your airline tickets to Houston. We look forward to a tiring, rewarding, hard working, and enjoyable time serving Christ and the people of Texas in their time of need.

"Sing for Peace" concert to benefit Kids4Peace ~ Counterpoint, a twelve member vocal ensemble, directed by Robert De Cormier, is interested in hosting the second annual Sing for Peace concert with proceeds from the free will offering to benefit Kids4Peace. A total of seven Vermont choruses will participate, including Counterpoint, Sounding Joy, Maple Jam, Bella Voce, Pumpkin Hill Singers, Syrinx and the Essex Children's Choir. The concert will take place at the first Unitarian Universalist Society at the head of Church Street, Burlington on September 26 at 7 p.m.

Howard and Terry Carpenter have moved to Shelburne Bay Senior Living. Their new address is Shelburne Bay, Apt. 322, 185 Pine Shore Rd., Shelburne, VT, 05482. Their phone number is 802-846-9272.

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 6

Proverbs 22:1-2, 8-9, 22-23
Psalm 125
James 2:1-10, (11-13), 14-17
Mark 7:24-37

September 13

Proverbs 1:20-33
Psalm 19
James 3:1-12
Mark 8:27-38

September 20

Proverbs 31:10-31
Psalm 1
James 3:13-4:3, 7-8a
Mark 9:30-37

September 27

Esther 7:1-6, 9-10;
9:20-22
Psalm 124
James 5:13-20
Mark 9:38-50

Student Pastor, Paul Gile, begins her Ministry with Williston Federated Church on Friday, September 18th. During the worship service on Sunday, the 20th, we will officially welcome Paula Gile as our Student Pastor. She will be with us for the Seminary academic year from September through May. Paula will be engaging in "on-the-job" training thus she will participate in worship, preach occasionally, attend Committee meetings, and bring her particular gifts to our setting. This will be a rich opportunity for all of us to learn and grow together. I know you will join me in welcoming Paula. Please be sure to introduce yourself to her when you see her, she will be in the office on Fridays and worshipping with us on Sunday mornings. Please read the following message from Paula: *Greetings from Paula Gile, I am looking forward to serving with you and getting to know each of you as we begin our partnership in ministry in the coming months. I am in my fourth and final year of seminary at Andover Newton Theological School in Newton Centre Massachusetts and will be graduating with my Masters of Divinity next May. I am also a Member in Discernment with the UCC Vermont Conference in Randolph. I recently completed my first year of field education working and learning at First Congregational Church in Burlington. I have been a member of Malletts Bay Congregational Church United Church of Christ in Colchester for sixteen years and I live in Colchester with my husband, Bill and two grown sons, Matt and Chris. I have a master's degree in Education and worked as a guidance counselor for several years. Prior to that I was a case manager for a therapeutic foster care agency and our family provided a home to several children during those years. Prior to seminary, I worked for the State of Vermont as the Substance Abuse Prevention Coordinator for Chittenden County. Currently I work part time for the Burlington Partnership for a Healthy Community. We partner with over fourteen agencies, schools, businesses, parents, youth and colleges to do substance abuse prevention and tobacco prevention in the Burlington Community. Throughout my various jobs I have had the privilege of working with several members of this congregation and I look forward to serving and worshipping with you all in the very near future. Thank you for this opportunity.*
Paula

Service of Installation for Brigid Farrell Oct. 4th at Hedding UMC, Barre ~ Bishop Susan Hassinger will preside at a service for the Celebration and Welcoming of Brigid Farrell as superintendent of the Green Mountain District and of the Vermont District which will come into being in July 2010. This service will be held at the Hedding UMC in Barre on Sunday, October 4, at 3:00 p.m. Members and friends of all United Methodist churches in Vermont are invited to this service.

Our Little White Church has Turned Green! ~ We are so proud to share with you that the Williston Federated Church is now green. The products used to clean our church are now non-toxic, earth friendly, bleach and phosphate free, concentrated and economical. Feel free to contact Suzi at the office with any questions.

Stewardship Quotes and Prayers ~ From Stewardship Sunday, May 17th ~ A prayer to agree to disagree when a compromise cannot be reached. (Robin Coletta) Prayer for peace, love and happiness all round the world, forever and ever. For peace and for gentle leading of our children. (Donna Felligener)

Run for the ONE to Benefit JUMP, Inc. ~ September 26th ~ *Run for the ONE (Old North End)* returns this coming September 26th - for the 12th year - with the hope of raising \$6000 in support of direct services at the Joint Urban Ministry Project. Twenty-six area congregations, including Williston Federated Church, 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 1,400 clients who made a total of 2,900 visits and represented an additional 2,300 household members, including 1,500 children in 2008. 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. Please mark the date for *Run for the ONE* - September 26th 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.) *Run for the ONE* brochures will be available here at WFC in August, or by mail or email from JUMP Board member Suzie Crews at slcrews1@msn.com. Please contact Suzie if you'd like to volunteer for the event. More information about JUMP is available at www.jumpvt.org.

The Steeple
Williston Federated Church
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Come, Meet Christ, Go Serve

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 Thanks

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SAVE THE DATE ~ Sunday School starts on September 13th at 9:30 am. Children, youth, and adults will be invited to join their "footsteps" with the "footsteps" of Jesus. A visual art presentation of many feet and steps will grace our sanctuary and fellowship hall. Our Sunday School is open to all children pre-school through high school. We believe that all people are children of God, and the most important lesson we can learn is that God loves us unconditionally. We will be using *Seasons of the Spirit* curriculum this year. We believe in the importance of our collective and individual stories as God's people. We think it is important to explore the meaning of our collective story, to know the Bible and how it speaks to us today. If you want more information about Sunday School, please contact Polly Malik, Chair of the Christian Education Committee at 879 6968; e-mail at ptmalik@myfairpoint.net.