

THE STEEPLE

Williston Federated Church

Pastor's Message

Dear members and friends of Williston Federated Church,

On November 1, Daylight Savings Time ends and we adjust our clocks with the familiar "fall back" words. I've been pondering that time change this past week - how we often hear that we "gain" one hour in the fall and "lose" our hour in the spring. Where does that hour go? How does one either lose or gain an hour?

The English language sometimes fails to grasp the nuances of words that other languages seem to offer. The Greek language, the language of the New Testament, has two words for time - *chronos* and *kairos*. *Chronos* is the root word for chronicle and chronological. *Chronos* is time that is marked and named. I am writing this page at 5:30 pm on Monday, October 26 because the deadline is 8:30 am Tuesday, October 27! Some of us wear watches so we can watch the *chronos* time come and go. Appointments, calendars and schedules all exist in *chronos* time. "Remember, we have a meeting at 7 pm tonight." "10, 9, 8, 7, 6, 5, 4, 3, 2, 1 - Happy New Year!" *Chronos*.

Kairos can be roughly translated as "the right time" or "in the fullness of time." *Kairos* time cannot be written on the calendar or warned by the alarm on your cell phone. *Kairos* is when something special happens. A faith understanding of *Kairos* is how God draws near to us as individuals and as community, sometimes when we least expect it. In *Kairos* time, we are deeply present to the person we are with, the people, the situation. We are invited to a deepening of our faith and relationship with God and with one another when we seek to live with an understanding of *Kairos* time. To seek out *Kairos* time is to listen for a different voice; not the voice of the constant *Chronos* but instead the voice of God breaking in when we least expect it.

What will I do with the extra hour of *Chronos* time this Saturday night? I'm not sure but I might spend it with poetry in *Kairos* time. I share a favorite poem with you now.

Ask Me by William Stafford

Some time when the river is ice ask me
mistakes I have made. Ask me whether
what I have done is my life. Others
have come in their slow way into
my thought, and some have tried to help
or to hurt: ask me what difference
their strongest love or hate has made.

I will listen to what you say.
You and I can turn and look
at the silent river and wait. We know
the current is there, hidden; and there
are comings and goings from miles away
that hold the stillness exactly before us.
What the river says, that is what I say.

Peace,

Pastor Joan



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Church Office Hours:

Tues-Fri 8:30-3:30

Phone: 878-5792

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Sunday Worship

Service:

9:30 AM

Pastor:

Rev. Joan Newton O'Gorman

Local Pastor:

Rev. Charlie Magill

Student Pastor:

Paula Gile

Church Secretary:

Suzi Ange-Roland

Organist and Choir

Accompanist:

Carolyn Pillsbury

Music Director:

Martin Hain

Nursery Caregiver:

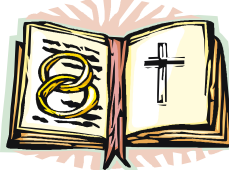
Michelle Davis

Thank You ~ In late October, Sunday School students and parents gathered apples and made applesauce. They delivered this tasty applesauce to Respite House in Williston and Ronald McDonald House in Burlington. Here are the notes they received: **Dear Children** ~ The applesauce is delicious! We all enjoyed eating it and we thank you. Many of our residents here at Vermont Respite House need to have something smooth, like your applesauce, to take their pills. It helps very much. Thank you. Sincerely, Shara Keegan. **Dear Polly Malik and The Williston Federated Church** ~ Thank you so much for the homemade applesauce! The guests staying here really appreciate the home cooked food and we thank you for supporting our "Home away from home." Sincerely, Angela Renna, Ronald McDonald House Charities Volunteer.

Save the Date - December 20th at 7 pm ~ "A Child's Christmas in Wales & Songs of the Season" An evening of community singing, special performances and the telling of Dylan Thomas' "A Child's Christmas in Wales" followed by refreshments and fellowship. A free will offering will benefit the Williston Community Food Shelf.

Fasting for Vision Retreat ~ Our adult study class is reading and discussing *Soul Feast: An Invitation to the Christian Spiritual Life*. One spiritual discipline is fasting. The author observes, "In ancient Jewish tradition, fasting had two primary purposes...first, to express personal or national repentance...second, to prepare oneself inwardly for receiving the necessary strength and grace to complete a mission of faithful service in God's name." Two of the class members have made a decision to fast for 24 hours to prepare spiritually for the Vision Retreat. If you wish to join Sally Stockwell and Joan O'Gorman, just add your names to theirs on the vision wall. For more information, speak to Joan.

Women of the Church ~ If you are a female and are reading this you are a member of Women of the Church! Women of the Church raises funds for Missions. This is our reason for existing. We also help with funeral receptions, keep the kitchen equipment up to date, get together to read and discuss books and try to have fun while serving God. On Sunday, November 8th, right after Church, there will be the annual meeting of the Women of the Church to vote on which Missions we will support in the questions or comments, please call Susan Lamb, 878-1251, evenings or weekends. See you there!



Texas Blog Spot ~ The team traveling to Texas hope to post information concerning their trip on a blog at: texasmission.blogspot.com (no @ sign). Log in and check it out!

Celebrating Seniors ~ Another fun senior event!! A Harvest Dinner with music by the 6 piece Dixieland band, The Dixie Six, at the Elks Club on 925 North Avenue in Burlington on Tuesday, November 3rd, from 4:30-7:00pm. Come enjoy a full turkey dinner w/ apple pie and Ben and Jerry's ice cream, great music and dancing. This fun, intergenerational event is almost sold out! Tickets are \$10 and can be purchased at The Lodge at Shelburne Bay ~ 985-9847, The RehabGYM ~ 876-6000 or Armistead Caregiver Services ~ 288-8117.

Cheer Baskets ~ Donations are needed for Cheer Baskets. It can be any small gift you think might cheer someone up or give them a lift while going through a long illness. This might include hard candy, journal, inspirational book, CD or movie, stamps, note cards, special socks, teddy bear, soy candle, Willow Tree Angel, small colorful towel/washcloth, pocket Kleenex, soup mug, booties, flowers, movie tickets, tea or something that made you feel better in the past. Baskets, gift wrap and ribbon are also needed. Any items may be left in the church office. For more information, please call Ginger Isham at 878-4875 or Barb Powell at 878-5347. Thank you for your help.

Women's Celebration VIII ~ *Together Building Bridges* is the theme for this weekend of spiritual renewal, inspirational worship, exciting music, dynamic speakers, fun entertainment, and lots of varied displays, vendors and much more. Join about 1,000 women from New England and beyond in Burlington on March 12, 13 and 14, 2010. This is an intergenerational event - bring your daughters (ages 14 and older), mothers, grandmothers, sisters, friends! There are registration forms/more information on the bulletin board. For more information and online registration go to www.womenscelebration.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.

November 1

Isaiah 25:6-9
Psalm 24
Revelation 21:1-6a
John 11:32-44

November 8

Ruth 3:1-5,
4:13-17
Psalm 127
Hebrews 9:24-28
Mark 12:38-44

November 15

1 Samuel 1:4-20
1 Samuel 2:1-10
Hebrews 10:11-14
(15-18), 19-25
Mark 13:1-8

November 22

2 Samuel 23:1-7
Psalm 132:1-12
Revelation 1:4b-8
John 18:33-37

November 26

Thanksgiving Day
Joel 2:21-27
Psalm 126
1 Timothy 2:1-7
Matthew 6:25-33

November 29

Jeremiah 33:14-16
Psalm 25:1-10
1 Thessalonians
3:9-13
Luke 21:25-36

All Saints' Day Worship ~ A time of remembrance on Sunday Nov 1st at 5pm. In our busy worlds grieving and remembering often get pushed to the back burner. Come for a time of remembering those loved ones who have gone before us into life after death. There is so little time to grieve those that we have lost, whether their death was recent or in years gone by. You may be grieving the loss of a marriage or job – these too are important losses in our lives. Come; take this time to remember; to light a candle, to pray and to sing.

Mission of Peace to India ~ I am happy to announce that I have reached my goal of \$5,000 to go on the Mission of Peace trip to India this December. With the support of our congregation, many other churches in Vermont, friends and family I have been successful in fundraising. I cannot thank everyone at the Williston Federated Church enough; I am grateful for the support of so many individuals both financially and spiritually. I am looking forward to this three week trip, leaving on December 27th and returning on January 15th. I cannot wait to come home and share my experience with each and every one of you. Once again thank you. Lillian Coletta

Shared Ministries ~ Membership is looking to update the Shared Ministries data base which is housed on Suzi's computer. This data base helps identify many areas we often need help in, and who is willing to help. In Addition to the one enclosed, surveys can be found on the table by the name tags near the back entrance of the church. Please fill out a survey and leave them in the church office, church mailbox, mail it or hand it to someone on the Membership Committee. Thank you for helping us update this important information. ~ Membership

The Best Church Supper Ever! ~ On Saturday, November 7th at 1st Methodist Church on 21 Buell St. in downtown Burlington, JUMP will be hosting a wonderful church supper. JUMP has 26 churches and we are putting on a delicious Fall buffet our favorite foods. Come and join us for the feast! Tickets are \$10 for ages 10 years old and up, \$5 for ages 6-9 years old and free for children under 5 years old. Tickets are available from your JUMP representative, or by calling Beth Dreibelbis at 899-4557 or e-mailing jumpvt@yahoo.com. Buy your tickets early so you can get the seating you would like best. Large groups can be accommodated - just let us know how many tickets you would need at your table. You can also sponsor a JUMP client by purchasing a "sponsor" ticket and help a neighbor come to dinner too! The food will be great, the company friendly and the proceeds go to JUMP and the many people in our area who need help with fuel, food, utilities, and personal and household cleaning supplies. Come and have a wonderful meal and help others at the same time. Seatings will be at 4:30, 5:30 and 6:30pm.



Christmas Bazaar ~ November 21st 9 AM - 3 PM ~

The Christmas Bazaar is coming soon. 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. Most of the 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.

New Note Cards Table – Cal Workman offers hand crafted note cards.

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.

New Ten Thousand Villages Table – Sponsored by Missions & Social Concerns – fair trade jewelry, home decor, gifts and more from around the world.

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

RAADA Cutlery - Here you will find great kitchen knives and utensils.

New Sock Table – To benefit Dragonheart Vermont.

Silent Auction – Chairperson, Liz Lemieux 878-0221. 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 Making – Nov. 20th 9-12 in the church kitchen. 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.

The Steeple
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Come, Meet Christ, Go Serve

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Vision Retreat ~ November 7, 2-6 pm with dinner and childcare provided. Please read the full article in this newsletter and plan to come for this time of conversation, fellowship, and listening - to each other and to God's voice in our lives.

An Opportunity for Vision - A day, a month...and more

"I am the church, You are the church, We are the church together" are the opening lines of an Avery & Marsh hymn. There are 5 verses that talk about not being just a building and that we are varied peoples all over the world. Sometimes we march and sometimes we hide but always we are learning. There is laughing, crying and praying as we spread the good news. This is a comprehensive hymn but the message comes back to....."We are the church". Williston Federated Church has a great mission statement (see below) and now the exciting part is that we each may share our own vision of how best to implement our mission.

Who: Everyone, from the youngest children to the most senior, new comers and people who have attended for many years. It is so important to have as much feedback as possible to get a clear picture of where we want to be 5 years from now.

When: October: Think and pray about the various aspects of our church life that feed us, move us, challenge us and make us who we are. Each week, members and friends of the congregation are invited to answer a different question posed by the retreat steering committee around the central theme of "What is God calling us to do?" There are five weeks leading up to the November 7 retreat and there are five questions to answer! Make your answers as broad or as specific as you like. In fact do both. There is room for all information. Please post your responses on sticky notes on the "Vision Wall" - the wall in the gallery area (near the elevator on the second floor). Be creative...There are three questions in response to five areas of life together as a congregation.

#1. What works well for you in this area of ministry?

#2. What would you like to see more of in this area of ministry?

#3 What are the challenges?

The five areas are:

Week #1 ~ October 4: Fellowship. Think Chicken Pie Supper, monthly fellowship suppers, men's Bible study, women's book group, children's movie night and more. Then refer to the three questions above in response.

Week #2 ~ October 11: Worship. Think Sunday morning, special services (Christmas Eve, Easter), weddings, funerals, ecumenical services, peace vigil and more. Then refer to the three questions above in response.

Week #3 ~ October 18: Education, Discipleship and Learning. Think nursery care, Sunday School, youth groups, adult studies, men's Bible study, women's book group and more. Then refer to the three questions above in response.

Week #4 ~ October 25: Mission and Service. Think *Volunteers in Mission* (trips to Mississippi and Texas), food shelf, Dismas meals, CROP and COTS walks, alternative Christmas shop and more. Then refer to the three questions above in response.

Week #5 ~ November 1: Outreach. Think about the ways in which we reach into the community - and the community reaches toward us: funeral and memorial services, 12-Step meetings, support group meetings (NAMI - National Alliance for the Mentally Ill), Odyssey of the mind. Then refer to the three questions above in response.

Each week's question is a *suggestion*. If you are not here on a particular week(s), there is ample opportunity to respond to the questions as your schedule Permits.

November: The steering committee will collate all the responses into a usable form to be the basis for the large and small group discussions that attendees of the November 7th retreat will have.

November 7th: 2PM – 6M the retreat, held at Williston Federated Church, will be facilitated by Rev Marjorie MacNeill, Interim Pastor, New Haven, Vermont Congregational Church, UCC. Child care will be provided. 6pm Dinner will be served.

January: All church meeting to revisit the retreat and conclusions. What would be wonderful is that the questions spark ongoing conversations and family dialogue. Perhaps they will inspire more people to attend then come to the Chicken Pie Supper. Wouldn't that be terrific?

Here are some answers to some frequently asked questions about the November 7 Vision Retreat. If you have other questions, please contact a member of the Steering Committee.

I haven't participated in the vision process during October, may I come to the retreat? Absolutely. We are trying to get as much participation in the process as we can. While the retreat will build on the information gathered during the preceding steps in the process, that input will be presented in a highly usable form for all participants. We'll also be gathering new input as the retreat progresses.

I can't participate in the retreat will there be more opportunities to get involved? Yes. Once some areas of interest are defined at the retreat, there will be opportunities to get involved at the committee level, as well as any informal ad-hoc groups that may form in response to the areas of interest.

Are young people invited to the retreat? Yes. We are hoping for active participation of our teens in this retreat. For young people under 13, childcare will be provided throughout the afternoon. All ages will join together in the supper meal at 6 pm.

Our Mission Statement. Our church is a community which seeks, welcomes and gathers people to share the Gospel of God's love, enables people to find fullness of life through Jesus Christ, and responds actively to human need.

Peace, The Steering Committee

Trudy Anderson, Connie Kendall, Tony Lamb, Polly Malik, Joan O'Gorman, Barb Powell, and Vickie Walker.

Williston Federated Church

United Methodist and United Church of Christ - Federated 1899

An Open and Affirming, Reconciling Congregation

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Dear members and friends,

The financial crisis that gripped the world a little over a year ago has strained many governments, institutions, and families. Our church is no exception. Proceeds from pledges and plate offerings have decreased since last year and we speculate that this is in part due to uncertainty that many are feeling about their financial future.

Steps were taken over the past year and more to help prepare us for this, and we continue to do remarkable things... a home rebuilding mission trip to Texas... an upcoming youth trip to Nicaragua... a faithful following that continues to serve the local community through countless volunteer hours and giving.

However, we could really use some extra financial support at this time to ensure that we continue to nurture our church and grow our mission.

If you can make a special contribution at this time, please send the enclosed envelope to our financial secretary, Barb Bristol.

Blessings to all this season.

Sincerely,

The Finance Committee

Matt Bliss, Kim Kilmartin, Susan Lamb, Lois Mason, Gil Rhodes