

# THE STEEPLE

## Williston Federated Church

*An Open and Affirming, Reconciling Congregation*

### Pastor's Message

Dear members and friends of the Williston Federated Church Family,

I share with you a favorite poem/song for the New Year. Blessings to you and yours.

### The Work of Christmas

*by Howard Thurman  
Graphics by Heather Peck*

*When the star in the sky is gone,*



*When the  
Kings and  
Princes are  
home,*

*When the  
shepherds are  
back with their  
flocks,*

*The work of Christmas begins.*

*To find the lost,*

*To heal the broken,*

*To feed the hungry*

*To release the prisoner,*

*To teach the nations,*

*To bring Christ to all,*

*To make music in the heart.*



Peace,

Pastor Joan



**January  
2010  
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Church Office Hours:  
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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:**

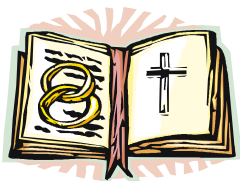
Michelle Davis

**Christian Education Updates ~ Thursday, January 14. 6-7 pm in the Fellowship Hall. "Children and Communion"** ~ a discussion which is open to all people in the church family, but especially designed for families with children. Do you want some tools to discuss Communion with your children? Do you want to know more about the history and practice of Communion here in the Williston Federated Church? Our church does not suggest a particular age when children may participate in communion. The Communion table is open to all people at all times, regardless of age, understanding, or membership. This session will focus on supporting parents in explaining Communion to their children. A flyer, "Children and Communion" is available in the bulletin board area - please take one and read it.

**Saturday, January 16. 9-11 am at the Parsonage (8052 Williston Road). A Teacher Appreciation Breakfast!** If you have ever been a Sunday School Teacher, or currently teach, or might consider teaching at some future date (!), or are a member of the Christian Education Committee (or have been in the past) you are invited to attend this gathering. For those who are able to trudge through the snow, please park in the church parking lot and walk over. Please rsvp by signing up on the bulletin board or calling the church office at 878-5792.

**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](http://www.womenscelebration.org).

**Dismas House Sign-Up** ~ A new sign up has been posted for the Monthly Dismas House Meals. You have the choice of making the meal, providing salad and rolls or a dessert. Don't have time to cook - salad, rolls and desserts are always easy to buy and provide to this important mission. Think about delivering and sharing the meal and help show your support for these men as they transition back into society. Questions, please contact Polly Malik at 879-6968 or [ptmalik@myfairpoint.net](mailto:ptmalik@myfairpoint.net) or Vickie Walker at 497-0017 or [vwalker56@comcast.net](mailto:vwalker56@comcast.net).



### 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.

#### January 3

Isaiah 60:1-6  
Psalm 72:1-7, 10-14  
Ephesians 3:1-12  
Matthew 2:1-12

#### January 10

Isaiah 43:1-7  
Psalm 29  
Acts 8:14-17  
Luke 3:15-17, 21-22

#### January 17

Isaiah 62:1-5  
Psalm 36:5-10  
1 Corinthians 12:1-11  
John 2:1-11

#### January 24

Nehemiah 8:1-3, 5-6, 8-10  
Psalm 19  
1 Corinthians 12:12-31a  
Luke 4:14-21

#### January 31

Jeremiah 1:4-10  
Psalm 71:1-6  
1 Corinthians 13:1-13  
Luke 4:21-30

**Come Celebrate YOUR Birthday** at our Inter-generational Birthday Celebration in the Fellowship Hall on Friday, February 12th at 7pm. What month were you born? Meet others in the church who share your birthday month! Each month will have a table complete with decorations, cake or pie, and beverage. Please sign up on the bulletin board to get a seat at your birthday table. For more information, contact Cathy Michaels.

**Mission Trip to Texas** ~ FEMA is pushing for everyone in East Texas to be out of their trailers by Mid March. We are putting together a team to put finishing touches on homes so that families can move back in by then. Leave Sunday, March 7, back Saturday, March 13. Contact Tony Lamb 343-1544 or [alamb@alamblaw.com](mailto:alamb@alamblaw.com) for details.

**Project Chacocente** ~ The Senior High Youth Group will be traveling to Project Chacocente in Nicaragua this July. There will be a variety of fundraisers happening between now and July including an ongoing bottle drive (leave your bottles at church or contact Ashley Dubois to pick them up at your house). See the youth bulletin board for more information.

**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 is 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.

**Whist Night** ~ Come join the fun on January 16th. It's easy to learn and a lot of fun! Child care will be available. Please sign up on the bulletin board in the entry way or call / e-mail the office. Hope to see you there!

**Put a little VERV in your life!!!** ~ What is VERV you say? The Vermont Emergency Response Volunteers program (VERV) is a network of trained volunteers ready to assist in Vermont's emergency response activities. Emergency Response volunteers are medical service professionals and Vermonters from all walks of life. Volunteers are trained to be a part of an emergency response team - performing critically needed jobs, such as supporting the operation of mass clinics, and assisting patients in getting the help they need right away. Sign up to become a Vermont Emergency Response Volunteer. Emergency preparedness means being ready now to respond to a situation quickly and effectively. You can help respond to a public health emergency. In your neighborhood and throughout Vermont, citizen volunteers and medical professionals are needed to provide the important - and often life-saving - services needed in any emergency. The Vermont Department of Health will be among the multiple state agencies that is trained to respond. VERV volunteers can sign up to work alongside a number of state agencies, including the Health Department, in the event of a public health emergency such as a natural disaster or terrorist event. Your participation will provide critical support in our state's time of need. Sign up today, so we can all be ready when you're needed! For more information: <http://healthvermont.gov/emerg/verv/verv.aspx> . To register on line: <http://healthvermont.gov/emerg/verv/index.html> . This sight gives you information on training to be a Vermont Emergency Response Volunteer: <http://healthvermont.gov/emerg/verv/verv-training.aspx>. Or you can call 863-7205. Thank you! Submitted on behalf of the State of Vermont by Sara Moran.

**The Steeple**  
**Williston Federated Church**  
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**Williston VT 05495**

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**Come, Meet Christ, Go Serve**

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## Inside this issue:

<b>Pastor's Message</b>	Cover
<b>Lectionary</b>	P.2
<b>Christian Edu. Updates</b>	P.2
<b>Women's Celebration</b>	P.2
<b>Dismas Meals</b>	P.2
<b>Mission Trip</b>	P.3
<b>Project Chacocente</b>	P.3
<b>VERV</b>	P.3
<b>Cheer Baskets</b>	Insert
<b>Church Calendar</b>	Insert and Online Live

**Our deepest fear is not that we are inadequate.** Our deepest fear is that we are powerful beyond measure. It is our light, not our darkness, that most frightens us. We ask ourselves, who am I to be brilliant, gorgeous, talented, and fabulous? Actually, who are you not to be? You are a child of God. Your playing small doesn't serve the world. There's nothing enlightened about shrinking so that other people won't feel insecure around you. We are all meant to shine, as children do. We are born to make manifest the glory of God that is within us. It's not just in some of us, it's in everyone. And as we let our own light shine, we unconsciously give other people permission to do the same. As we are liberated from our own fear, our presence automatically liberates others.

*Nelson Mandela ~ Excerpted from his Inaugural Speech*

## All-Church Meeting on January 17

Please plan to stay for the all-church meeting following worship on January 17. This will be an opportunity to review the goals from the Vision Retreat we recently held as well as a time to share our thoughts and perspectives about church life together. Whether or not you attended the Vision Retreat, this all-church meeting will be a time for conversation about our strengths and areas for improvement. Think of this as a "mini Annual Meeting." You are an important part of the church family and your feelings and opinions are of value. Following worship, the Membership Committee will have a table with coffee and snacks in the Gallery Area (the hallway on the second floor, near the elevator) Get some coffee and come back to the Sanctuary.