

THE STEEPLE

Williston Federated Church

An Open and Affirming, Reconciling Congregation

Pastor's Message

Dear members and friends of the Williston Federated Church,

T.S. Eliot poetically expresses this month:

*April is the cruelest month, breeding
Lilacs out of the dead land, mixing
Memory and desire, stirring
Dull roots with spring rain.
Winter kept us warm, covering
Earth in forgetful snow, feeding
A little life with dried tubers.
(from The Waste Land)*

The Gospel of Mark prophetically expresses the Easter faith, "and every early on the first day of the week they went to the tomb when the sun had risen. And they were saying to one another, 'who will roll away the stone for us from the door of the tomb?' And looking up, they saw that the stone was rolled back." *Mark 16:2-3*

In the past few days, winter has made a return with a dusting of snow and some chilly air. Outside my window are the tiny promises of crocuses emerging. Soon the season of Lent will complete its cycle and we will join with Christians all around the world in proclaiming the joyous "Alleluias" that speak of hope which emerges from dull roots and life which springs forth from dried tubers. But...just as spring weather is slightly away from our grasp, so too are the "Alleluias." First, we make our journey through Holy Week.

Holy Thursday, April 1 at 7 pm in the Fellowship Hall, we will re-enact the hours of the last days of Jesus' life with a foot washing service and a communion service around the table, the reading of scripture and extinguishing of candles, and the procession of the cross from the Hall to the Sanctuary.

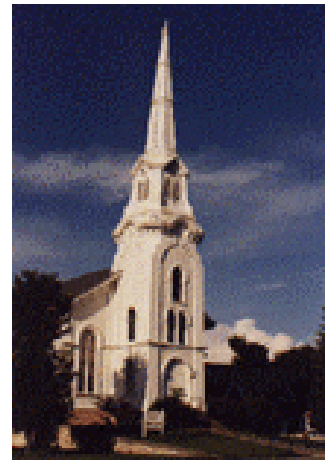
Good Friday, April 2. From noon until 3 pm, the Sanctuary will be open for personal prayer and meditation. At 3 pm, there will be a service of prayer, hymns and story as we remember Jesus' journey to the Cross.

Easter Sunday. Two Services are offered - a Sunrise service at 6:15 am at the home of Susan and Tony Lamb, 24 Beebe Lane, overlooking Lake Iroquois. A pot luck breakfast buffet follows. An offering will be received to benefit the youth of the church who are going on a mission trip to Nicaragua in July. At 9:30 am, we will celebrate the Resurrection of Jesus with joyful hymns, hopeful "Alleluias", and special music by both the Junior and Senior Choirs.

Beloved of God - I look forward to seeing you in the place where we proclaim hope and new life!

Peace,

Pastor Joan



**April
2010**

No. 4

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Church Office Hours:

Tues-Fri 8:30-3:30

Phone: 878-5792

E-mail: office@steeple.org

Website: www.steeple.org

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

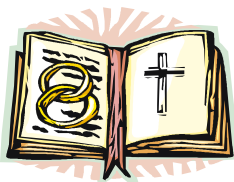
Thank you to Karen and Bruce Allen for their donation of six copies of "Grief Therapy" an excellent book about how the grieving process takes time and deserves attention. Each book has this inscription, "The gift of this book helped us when we lost our son, Cody Sean Allen. We hope it will bring you healing in your time of loss. The Allen Family." March 10 was the fifth anniversary of Cody's death. Copies of the book are available in the office.

The Lenten Study Faithfully Exploring End of Life Issues has come to a close. Approximately fifteen people participated in the discussions on a variety of end of life issues. We discussed: Do not intubate and resuscitate orders, organ donation and palliative care, preparing advance care directives and Hospice care. We welcomed experts in different areas to help us in these discussions—thank you to Stephanie Fraser, Michelle Peirce, Toby Rockwood, Donna Fellingner and Sharon Keegan from Respite House for sharing their knowledge with us. One of the themes that ran through all the meetings was that we need to be thinking about these things and talking to our family and friends about what our desires are. Copies of some of the handouts are available for anyone who is interested on the table in main entry way of the sanctuary. Please consider completing an advanced care directive or at least exploring the need for one. If you have any questions please feel free to speak with Paula Gile at any time. She can be reached at p.gile@comcast.net or 802-310-4598.

Vision Priorities - Kitchen Improvements ~ As part of the Vision Priorities, improvements to the Kitchen were listed. If you have input into the changes you would like to see to the Kitchen or if you would like to get involved with this project, please contact Vickie Walker (497-0017)/ vwalker56@comcast.net or Polly Malik (879-6968)/ ptmalik@myfairpoint.net.

Friends: The Vermont United Methodist Mission Fair is Saturday April 10th at the Rutland United Methodist Church from 9 AM to 3 PM. The keynote speaker is the Northeast Jurisdiction (UMC) director of Volunteers in Mission. Tony Lamb, Vicki Walker and our WFC Mission Committee are preparing displays to show what our congregation is doing in mission outreach. **Each church** is to bring a loaf of bread and **each person** is to bring something to add to the "Stone Soup" pot, that will be our lunch. Registration is \$10 per church no matter how many people we bring. The offering is food items for the Rutland Community Cupboard and/or health kits for UMCOR. Prizes are cash. Points are received for each person attending, bringing Pastor Joan and the mission committee chair person gives us additional points. We also receive points for distance traveled and the number of food items and health kits we bring. We welcome any who would like to accompany us. Ruth and Charlie, Tony, Pastor Joan, Reg and Vicki.

NAMIWalk ~ The National Alliance on Mental Illness Vermont, or NAMI VT, invites you to enjoy the beauty of your state capital by coming to join our **Walk for the Mind** on May 15th in the morning. The apple blossoms are fragrant, and the tulips lining the walk to the steps are just gorgeous. Then enjoy an easy walk along the Winooski River. Come as you are or as a couple. Or better, create a team or join a team. The link to the website is below and it is simple to sign up. We encourage you to support the National Alliance on Mental Illness of Vermont in its flagship awareness and fundraising event, the 2010 Vermont NAMIWalk For the Mind of America walkathon. NAMI-Vermont works to advocate, support, and educate people with mental illness and their families. Our programs and classes are offered to the community **at no cost** to participants. One out of every 5 people in Vermont suffers from a mental illness or addictive disorder. Your participation in the Walk is a great way to help. Come **Join us for Vermont's 4th Annual NAMIWalk for the Mind of America** on the State House Lawn in Montpelier, VT at 9:30 am for check-in and start the 5 K walk at 11:00 am. For more information about this event, please contact Erin Evarts at eevarts@namivt.org or (802) 244-1396. Or feel free to contact Sara Moran 878-9632 if you have questions or would like to join my team "Minds Matter!" For more information about NAMI, visit their website at www.namivt.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.

April 1

Exodus 12:1-4 (5-10), 11-14
Psalm 116:1-4, 12-19
1 Corinthians 11:23-26
John 13:1-17, 31b-35

April 2

Isaiah 52:13-53:12
Psalm 22
Hebrews 10:16-25
John 18:1-19:42

April 4

Acts 10:34-43
Psalm 118:1-2, 14-24
1 Corinthians 15:19-26
John 20:1-18 (or Luke 24:1-12)

April 11

Acts 5:27-32
Psalms 150
Revelation 1:4-8
John 20:19-31

April 18

Acts 9:1-6 (7-20)
Psalms 30
Revelation 5:11-14
John 21:1-19

April 25

Acts 9:36-43
Psalms 23
Revelation 7:9-17
John 10:22-30

Rummage Sale ~ Friday, April 9th from 9am to 6pm and Saturday, April 10th from 9am to 12pm. *Wanted:* Please bring in gently worn clothing for all ages, clean and in good condition, plus small household items including toys, books, linens, dishes, tools, etc. Items may be brought to Fellowship Hall beginning on Monday, April 5th. Tables will be set up and labeled. If you have time, please take a moment to place your items on the appropriate tables. Please do not bring items until sale week. Helpers are also needed for set up during the week, to work at the sale Friday & Saturday and to help take the leftover items to either Goodwill, Salvation Army or Recycle North on Saturday. If you can help, please sign up on the bulletin board near the kitchen or call Carol Bouchard at 862-7400 or email: carolbouchard@gmail.com.

All Church Meeting, April 11 ~ It's that time again...budget discussions at WFC. This year, the Pastor Staff Relations Committee wishes to have a conversation with you about hiring a part-time Associate Pastor. We need to all talk about the quandary of finding funding for a new staff position when we have been struggling to fund a balanced budget. This will be a time of discussion and personal consideration about our commitment to our church, what our church means to each of us and our families, and where we hope to go in the future. Please come to the after-church meeting on April 11. Childcare will be provided. We can't over-emphasize the importance of this meeting. See you there! For more information, please speak with Sally Metro or Tony Lamb.

Women of the Church Potluck & Book Discussion ~ Sylvia Maloney will be hosting us at her home at 624 Meadow Bend Road on Tuesday April 27th. We will be discussing Galileo's Daughter by Dava Sobel.

Terry Carpenter Junior Choir Festival ~ Please join us in the Sanctuary on Sunday, May 23rd at 6:00pm for the Terry Carpenter Junior Choir Festival. Contact Martin Hain at 878-7865 with any questions.

Kids4Peace Vermont 2010 Summer Camp ~ Kids4Peace Vermont will hold its third annual interfaith camp this summer, July 23-Aug. 1, 2010 at the Bishop Booth Conference Center in Burlington, VT. Twenty four campers - 12 girls and 12 boys - ages 11-13 from Jewish, Christian and Muslim families in both Vermont and Israel/Palestine come together for 10 days of camp, fun and interfaith understanding. We provide a full schedule of regular summer camp activities (games, music, hiking, swimming, trips, bonfires, crafts) with a healthy dash of cultural flair plus daily opportunities for respectful observation listening, experiential learning about peace-making and child-led discussions of faith practices. For more information, please go to www.kids4peacevt.org or contact our Summer Camp co directors: Ronen Schechner at ronen@kids4peacevt.org or at 802-985-2597 or contact Connie Saeger Proctor at connie@kids4peacevt.org.

Dishes ~ Please look through the dishes and containers in the church hall and take them home if they belong to you. Any that are not claimed will be donated to the Bazaar. Thank you.

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 or Vickie Walker at 497-0017 or ywalker56@comcast.net.

Calling All Sunday School Teachers/Helpers - There are only 6 Sundays in this final session of Sunday School. Please consider being a Sunday School teacher/helper. There are still many slots that need to be filled. The sign-up board is in Fellowship Hall or contact Polly Malik at 879-6968. *We are a mission driven congregation. Let's make the Christian Education of our children our mission.*

Save the Date - 10,000 Villages ~ On May 1st from 9 am to 4 pm in the Fellowship Hall, a 10,000 Villages Sale will be brought to you by the Missions and Social Concerns Committee. Ten Thousand Villages works with over 130 artisan groups in more than 38 countries in Asia, Africa, Latin America and the Middle East to bring you fair trade jewelry, home decor, gifts and more. This helps improve the lives of thousands of artisans. As one of the world's oldest and largest fair trade organizations, we build long-term relationships with artisans that are based on mutual understanding and respect. Fair trade enables artisans to earn a fair wage and provides the opportunity for a better quality of life. 100% of the proceeds from this sale will benefit local and global mission efforts. For more information, visit www.tenthousandvillages.com or contact Deb Beckett or Micaela Wallace, members of the Missions and Social Concerns Committee.

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!

The Steeple
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Mission Trips Planned:

Return to Vancleave, Ms. and the Vermont House

A group of thirty will be traveling to Vancleave Ms. the week of October 17-23, 2010 to work on homes in the area. We plan to visit the Vermont House while we are there. Space is limited to 30 so if you are interested let us know as soon as possible. This Teacher Convention week, a short week for school and the trip is suitable for youth. Cost is estimated at \$500 including air fare. Contact Tony Lamb, 878-1251 alamb@alamblaw.com for details, or Ken Stone.

Hurricane Relief in Gulfport, MS.

A group of fifteen will be joining the North Ferrisburg Methodist Church working in Gulfport MS on homes damaged by hurricanes the week of February 20-26. This is school vacation week and ten youth from North Ferrisburg are expected to attend. Cost is estimated at \$500 including air fare. Contact Tony Lamb, 878-1251 alamb@alamblaw.com for details, or Ken Stone.

Cedar Rapids Iowa

Jack Hill is organizing a team to return September 25 to October 3 and continue efforts to rebuild houses in Cedar Rapids Iowa that were flooded. Maximum cost is estimated to be less than \$400. If you are interested or want more information, contact him at vfhill@yahoo.com

Belfast Ireland

Mike and Pat Thomas will again lead a team to Belfast May 4 to 13 to continue efforts at reconciliation between Protestant and Catholic partisans. There could be some work efforts to help the place they are staying as part of this trip. Cost is estimated at \$2300.00. A few spots may still be available on this team. Contact them at mthomas0@mac.com for more information or to register.

Hinton Rural Life Center, Hayesville, NC

Jay and Cathie Dunkleberger will lead a team to this area from October 10 to 16. It will be a mixed team, with some construction/maintenance work and some other skills needed. Some will be working in the community, some working at the center, and some working at the domestic abuse center operated thrift store. Cost is expected to be \$250. plus your transportation. Some car pooling will be arranged.