

THE STEEPLE

Williston Federated Church

An Open and Affirming, Reconciling Congregation

Pastor's Message

Dear members and friends of the Williston Federated Church family,

June is a beautiful month! The greens of our mountains are more crisp, the blue of our waters warming enough to place a toe ~ or more ~ into those flowing places. June is also a month of changes, transitions, and transformations. There are graduations. Weddings. End of the school year and the beginning of summer. I share with you two prayers: one for graduates and one for those who are celebrating a marriage. Please feel free to share them with others. May God's softening graces be with you.

Peace, Pastor Joan

A prayer for Graduates

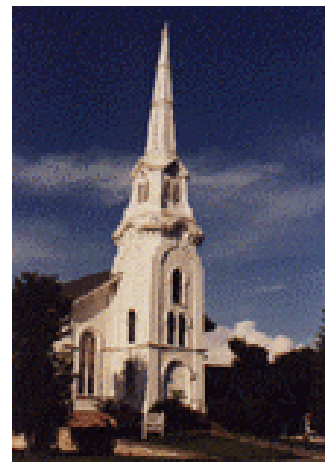
God of wisdom, bless these graduates
Whose hearts you have fashioned
For beauty and grace.
Bless those who love them
And those who have guided them
To this holy time and place.
Call them to discovery,
To seek their truest self,
To fall in love with wisdom
And claim her as their wealth.
Send them forth in knowledge,
Your teachings be their guide.
Watch over them,
Protect them,
Walk softly by their side. Amen.

(Patricia Leonard Pasley. Prayers from the Heart)

A Prayer for a Marriage

May you be bound with unbreakable bonds of love to one another ~
May you be bound with unbreakable bonds of love to your God ~
May your love for each other reflect the love of your Maker, Savior, and Guide,
The Three of limitless love.

(Celtic Blessings: Prayer for Everyday Life. Compiled by Ray Simpson)



**June
2010
No. 6**

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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

Church Secretary:

Suzi Ange-Roland

Organist and Choir

Accompanist:

Carolyn Pillsbury

Music Director:

Martin Hain

Nursery Caregiver:

Michelle Davis

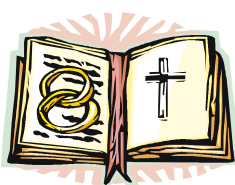
Dear WFC, Thank You, Thank You, Thank You! ~ Words can not effectively express what a wonderful learning and growing experience I had in your warm and compassionate faith community. The diverse and practical experiences I had at WFC will go with me where ever I am called to serve. On May 16th I passed my Ecclesiastical Council, which means that I am approved for ordination pending a call to serve a church. WFC was well represented at this special meeting and their smiling faces were a constant comfort. WFC will always be in my prayers and I will stay on your "Steeple" email list to keep tabs on the wonderful things you are doing. Thank you once again. God Bless, Paula Gile

A Big Thank You from the Trustees ~ The Trustees would like to thank the following people for helping spruce up the church property during "Spring Clean Up Day": Trudy Anderson, Carol Burbank, Hallery Burnet, Carolyn Carlson, Robin Coletta, Miranda Haskell and friends, Susan Lamb, Tony Lamb, Sylvia Maloney, Lois Mason, Cathy Michaels, Joy Pashby, Kimball Simmons, John Willis and Mary Ann Wolf. We got a lot done and we appreciate your help. Thank you

April 22, 2010 marked the 40th anniversary of Earth Day ~ Worship Communities everywhere are pledging to respect and honor God's gift of creation. As part of our commitment to maintaining the beauty of our gift, take time to view the gardens at Williston Federated Church. They are a tangible expression of appreciation for the gift of our planet. We encourage anyone who enjoys the gardens to participate in their maintenance. For more information contact Trudy at 899-3487 or Trudith@aol.com to join the email list that keeps you aware of what needs to be done and who will be working when.

There are Many Kids Who Need a Family Like Yours ~ Casey Family Services is holding an orientation for families thinking about foster and adoptive parenting. Tuesdays June 1, 8, 15, and 22 from 5-9 PM. RSVP required. Casey Family Services believes that good parents come in all shapes and sizes. There are over 1,200 Vermont children in foster care. Many of these kids are looking for a family like yours. Here is what one young girl said about her dreams for a family: *"I am thirteen years old. I like to help out around the house. I have a huge heart and love to be outside. My favorite thing is to be down by the brook with a fishing net catching things. I like it when people read to me. I have not given up hope that there is a family who will adopt me."* Whether you are interested in weekend-only or full-time parenting, come learn about what it takes to give a child the chance to succeed. We provide ongoing training, support, and financial assistance. Kids in our community need you now more than ever, so now is the time to learn more about becoming a foster or adoptive parent. RSVP by contacting: Michelle Turbide at 655.6688 (ext 4715) or mturbide@caseyfamilyservices.org or check out our website at www.caseyfamilyservices.org

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.



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.

June 6

1 Kings 17:8-24
Psalm 146
Galatians 1:11-24
Luke 7:11-17

June 13

1 Kings 21:1-21a
Psalm 5:1-8
Galatians 2:15-21
Luke 7:36-8:3

June 20

1 Kings 19:1-15a
Psalm 42
Galatians 3:23-29
Luke 8:26-39

June 27

2 Kings 2:1-2, 6-14
Psalm 77:1-2, 11-20
Galatians 5:1, 13-25
Luke 9:51-62

Mission Trips Planned:

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

Return to Vancleave, Ms. and the 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.

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.

Ronald McDonald House and the Ronald McDonald Family Room are in need of volunteers 18 years old or older. Both facilities are open from 9am to 9pm. Volunteer screening and training provided. Anyone interested in volunteering or finding out more information can contact Deanna at 862-4943 or Deanna_Cameron@comcast.net.

Office Calendar ~ When reserving times on the calendar in the hall by the office for use of the Fellowship Hall, Sitting Room or the Sanctuary, please include the times the room(s) are needed and a contact person and phone number. When available times are not checked carefully, it sometimes results in double booking and contact information is vital to make arrangements that work for both parties. Thank you so much for your cooperation.

Bitty Bag Drive ~ The Missions and Social Concerns Committee would like to announce our annual JUMP personal care items drive, aka "The Bitty Bag Drive". According to JUMP, they run very low on personal care items over the summer. We have committed to running a drive every Spring to help fill their shelves. The personal care items drive will run until June 13th. "Bitty Bags" can be picked up and returned to the lobby. A list of the requested personal care items will be attached to each bag with a string for easy removal to bring shopping. Thanks in advance!

Graduate Celebration ~ The church family celebrates with all high school and college graduates. If you are graduating or have a son/daughter, grandson/granddaughter who is graduating, please e-mail the office at office@steeple.org or by calling 878-5792 by June 2 and let us know. Graduates will be honored on Youth and Children's Sunday, June 6.

Women of the Church Book Discussion will be on June 9th at Susan Vieth's home on 3838 South Road in Williston at 5:30pmpm. Please come even if you haven't read the book. The book is *Letters From a Pioneer Homesteader* by Pruitt Stewart. Hope to see you there!

An invitation to all Women of the Church ~ Let's get together for a garden and hat party on Sunday June 27th at 6:00. Please bring a creative salad to share. Drinks, plates and utensils will be provided. It would be great if any of you that love to bake contacted me about some desserts for the evening. (We won't leave the sweets up to pot luck!) Rain date will be Monday the 28th. Susan Vieth 878-7314 susan.vieth@gmail.com.

Peace and Non-Violence Task Force News ~ The Peace and Non-Violence Task Force continues to meet on the front steps of the church on the first Wednesday of each month at 5:15pm. We sing, we talk about war news and peace events, and we pray. This is the prayer from the May meeting. Regardless of how you feel about the war, please join us in praying for an end to it. *"God of Love and Great Patience for us when we falter, We bring again our plea for peace in your world, peace among all of your children. We understand that peace is so much more than the absence of warfare. First, we need peace in our own world, among neighbors and nations. This peace can only come from peace in our hearts, and that peace requires honesty, trust, and respect. Your message to us is that we must communicate with others at the deepest level, with love, which is beyond words, beyond speech, and beyond concept. This will lead us, not to a new unity, but to discover an older unity. We, and the rest of the world, are already one. But we imagine that we are not. We have to recover our original unity. What we have to be is what we are. Lord, we pray for vision and the feelings of brotherhood. Amen."* ~ Yvonne Alexander ~ 5/5/10

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Come, Meet Christ, Go Serve

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The Annual Meeting of the Williston Federated Church will be on June 13th at 11:00 AM. The annual report will be available on June 6th. Please review this important document prior to the annual meeting. Come to hear church reports, approve a budget for the 2010 - 2011 fiscal year, elect new committee representatives and discuss our goals for the coming church year. If you have any questions, comments or concerns, please share them with Tony Lamb at 878-1251 or alamb@alamblaw.com or Vickie Walker at 497-0017 or vwalker56.comcast.net. We look forward to seeing you at this gathering of our church family.