

# THE STEEPLE

## Williston Federated Church

### MINISTER'S MUSINGS

Time certainly passes quickly. As I sit here at the computer keyboard, I realize this is my last minister's musings for the Williston Federated Church **Steeple**. The thoughts, meditations and even occasional Mary like ponderings of others will soon faithfully fill this space. That is as it should be. For our one remaining month together I trust we will continue to do the things and share experiences that will make us eager to embrace the changes that are ahead. I am convinced God's guiding presence has big plans and hopes for the Williston Federated Church and her people.

When I conclude my ministry here at the end of June, I will be able to do so with a sense of satisfaction for the time we have had together and with a sense of assurance that the church is healthy and ready to enter into new occasions of faithful service and spiritual growth. The Pastor/ Staff Relations Committee deserves our sincere appreciation for their successful search for interim pastoral leadership. The Rev. Jonathan New is an excellent choice and you will greatly benefit from his multitude of gifts. The Search Committee is doing a thorough job and deserves every bit of trust and support the process requires.

I want to express my intensely heartfelt gratitude for the precious memories that will accompany us as we move to Burlington. Such memories will undoubtedly be the focus of future, quiet, personal musings. Thank you for being gracious in allowing me to serve in the ways that I have felt called to be your minister. Thank you for forgiving me when I have missed the mark. Thank you for realizing there are many, many different styles of pastoral ministry and not one is the only way to lovingly serve others or nurture faith. Thank you to those who tolerated a minister who did not wear a robe, who conducted services that often exceeded an hour, who seemed to avoid God talk and picked some hymns that were unknown and as a result unheard. I know you will extend similar understanding, support and an eagerness to share your faith development with those you will call pastor in the days ahead.

We have done well together. Our worship gathering on June 25 will formally acknowledge the conclusion of my ministry among you. Part of that service will include the worship order for ending an authorized ministry. You will release me from the duties of being your pastor and I will release you from turning to me or depending upon me for pastoral care. That is as it should be. I do not think it is going to be at all difficult for me to relinquish the pastoral role, but it will be difficult parting from a community of people as treasured as you. If we meet on the street or share other experiences, I am sure we can find much to talk about without discussing the church.

Finally, it has been my request that my ministry here conclude without any special gathering, comment or mementoes to observe the occasion. We have already been welcomed twice and given a farewell in the past. I have also asked that we celebrate communion together at the conclusion of the service on June 25. It is truly the feast of the people of God. A feast that welcomes all the people of God – all who seek to join others at Jesus' table. It is a joyful feast! It is an awesome privilege to witness the people of God as they come to partake of the broken bread and the cup of new life. It is a time when we are the community God intends. I will smile, rejoice and leave with an enduring memory in my mind's eye and heart's affection of being in the presence of Christ's people. I cannot imagine a more precious gift.

In Christ's love and service,

*Richard*



**JUNE**  
**2006**  
**Vol. 25 No. 6**

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Website: [www.steeple.org](http://www.steeple.org)

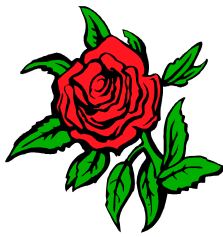
Office Hours: Monday-  
Friday 8:30-12:30  
Sunday Worship  
Service:  
9:30 AM

**Pastor:**  
Richard B. Crocker  
**Director of Children's  
and Youth Ministries:**  
Laurie Chipman  
**Church Secretary:**  
Brenda Racht  
**Organist and Junior  
Choir Accompanist:**  
Carolyn Pillsbury  
**Music Director:**  
Martin Hain



## Dedication

The June edition of the *Steeple* is dedicated to the following folks who faithfully show up once a month and lovingly put together this newsletter for all of you.



Our sincere thanks to :Ellen Walker, Alice Brown, Charlotte Philbrook, Art Tuthill., Patty Roberts, and Chris Riggs. To those who helped for many years: Maxine Griffith, Helen Bono and Betsy Gordon. We also dedicate this issue to the following folks who before their deaths also came to help: Dennis Barker, Bea Alling, Betty Bradish, Bob Doherty, Marge Swift, and Fran McMillan. We are looking for more folks to join this group. If you can help out for about 1 hour a month we would be delighted to have you! If you have an interest, please phone the church office.

## Peace Potluck III

**Monday, June 5 from 6-8 pm**

Join us in the Fellowship Hall and learn how students at Champlain Valley Union High School promote respect for all groups of people. Sponsored by the Peace/Non Violence Task Force at WFC.



## Troy Conference Summer Learning Fellowship/School of Christian Mission July 20-23, 2006 in Rutland, Vermont

The weekend is spent worshipping, studying, singing, and praying. Information is available in the WFC church office if you would like to know more about this opportunity.

## Box Tops for Education

As of 5/01/06 we have collected 118 soup labels and 137 box tops since 01/04/06. We collected 120 labels and 110 box tops in January. So the total this year so far is 238 labels and 247 box tops. For box tops that equals \$13.70 and \$24.70 for the year-not bad for just saving some labels and box tops. Box tops are collected on the Missions and Social Concerns bulletin board in the downstairs hallway.

## CWS Online Auction

**Church World Service** is hosting the "Children of the World Online Benefit Auction." Visit <http://www.cws.cmarket.com/> to see exciting and unique items. Funds from the auction will help CWS minister to children in need around the world. Founded in 1946, Church World Service is the relief, development, and refugee assistance ministry of 35 Protestant, Orthodox and Anglican denominations in the United States. This is an opportunity to bid on items and services of interest knowing that you will be making a difference in the world. **The Bidding starts June 1 and continues through June 25.**

## A Thank You from Judy Crocker for the Garden Party Gathering

Sincere thanks to all the women of the church who shared stories, friendship, good food and a garden full of memories with plants as cherished reminders.

## Richard Crocker's last Sunday

Sunday, June 25, 2006 will be Richard Crocker's last Sunday as pastor of WFC. The service will include communion and will be followed by a strawberry social, sponsored by the Education Committee.

## 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 4, 2006

\*Acts 2:1-21  
or  
*Ezekiel 37:1-14*  
Psalm 104:24-34, 35b  
Romans 8:22-27  
or  
Acts 2:1-21  
John 15:26-27; 16:4b-

### June 11, 2006

Isaiah 6:1-8  
Psalm 29  
Romans 8:12-17  
John 3:1-17

### June 18, 2006

I Samuel 15:34-16:13  
or  
*Ezekiel 17:22-24*  
Psalm 20  
or  
*Psalm 92:1-4, 12-15*  
II Cor 5:6-10; 14-17  
or  
*II Cor 5:6-17*

### June 25, 2006

I Sam 17:(1a, 4-11, 19-23), 32-49  
or  
*Job 38:1-11*  
Psalm 9:9-20  
(opt. with I Sam 17:57-18:5, 10-16)  
or  
*Ps.107:1-3, 23-32*  
II Corinthians 6:1-13  
Mark 4:35-41

## Notes from the Music and Worship Committee

The committee continued this month to discuss results of the survey conducted last spring. We looked primarily at comments about the greeting time at the start of the service, as well as the times set aside for requesting prayers and making announcements. We're guided by the belief that our duty is to "make sure that we promote the worship of Almighty God through every part of the worship service", remembering that the service is not like a committee meeting or a social gathering at the church. Consequently, we talked about the reasons why we stop and greet one another just as we are about to enter into worship. By this simple ritual we signify that we are united in mind and heart, intent to worship God as friends and neighbors, whether we are church members, guests, visitors, or folks who have never been to church before. All are welcome in the Lord's house.

Some parishioners object if the service is lengthened by the number and complexity of prayer requests. There are ways to shorten the requests, possibly limiting them request written out beforehand, but the committee recognizes that, in some instances, it is important for an individual to make the request orally. Perhaps a prayer board with on-going prayers could be posted in the gallery.

Announcements are often lengthy. They do, however, "express our identity as a congregation". The committee believes they are important, ought to continue being given by different persons, but should be kept as brief as possible. Perhaps announcements involving non-church related community events should just be posted.

Since we seem to prefer an informal worship service, the committee recommends no changes at this time in the areas of greeting, announcements, and prayer time. Please remember that every worshipper is responsible for keeping the service to a reasonable length by making any requests for prayer or announcements as brief as possible. We will continue to brainstorm suggestions and publish them periodically in the Steeple.

By Carolyn Pillsbury, secretary of Music and Worship

**Reminder:  
The Annual Meeting of the  
Williston Federated Church will be held  
following worship on Sunday, June 11.**

## The Trustee's Corner

### STORM WINDOWS

How many of you noticed the scaffolding on the south side of the Church? That was Jeff Fellingner working on the installation of the two sample storm windows 12 of which we hope to purchase soon for the Sanctuary. There are two types to consider: one is fixed and the other slides up and down. Your Trustees will meet soon to determine which is the more practical. We'll keep you posted.

### FELLOW TRAVELERS

Those of you who will be traveling by car, plane or train can help us out. When you check in to the next motel or hotel take a look at the "freebies" sitting on the bathroom sink. Usually there will be small bars of soap, bottles of shampoo and body lotion and even toothbrushes and toothpaste. Some of you may take these gifts, others may not bother --- but a homeless person would be grateful for them. It's a small thing, but from now on could you remember to collect these "freebies" and bring them to the Church? We are going to have a small basket on the table in the downstairs entry labeled "Toilet Articles". Just dump them in there and when we have a bunch we will take them to the homeless shelter. Many thanks!

### ROOFING

We are expecting two bids for re-roofing the Mace House. We will let you know the winner as soon as possible.

### STEEPLE

Another big project we are working on is the renovation of our beautiful steeple. Three groups have expressed interest in bidding on the project which should start in September or October. Do you know what is involved in that job? (1) Climbing up (2) Checking for dry rot (3) Scraping off the existing paint (4) Caulking all cracks and joints with high-grade caulk, and (5) Putting on two coats of high-quality paint! The project should take about three to four weeks.

### INTERIM PASTOR

Well, the Search Committee did its job and we now have an Interim Minister, Jonathan New. We are looking forward to welcoming him but at the same time we have to accept the sadness of losing Reverend Crocker and Judy. Since Reverend New will not be living in the Parsonage, we and the Parsonage Committee are going to get together and do some much-needed repairs.

### WE HAVE A CHAMPION!

Brian Goodwin, our Chairman, is going to Chicago with his Girl's Water Polo Team which he coached to a championship. We have to tip our hats to Brian and say, "Well done!!"

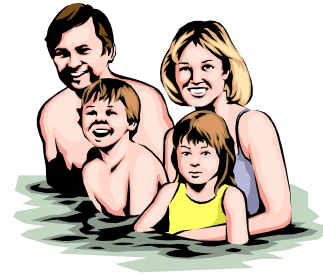
We'll see you here in July!

Williston Federated  
Church Calendar

# JUNE 2006

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
				1 7:30 am Rotary 9-10:30 am Caring Circle 10-12 Senior Exercise 6:30-7 pm Peace Vigil Choir 6,7,8:15	2 6:30 am Men's Bible Study	3
4 9:30 am Worship  <b>Confirmation</b>  <b>Youth Sunday</b>	5  <b>6:00 pm Peace Potluck III</b>  7 pm Search Committee	6 10-12 Senior Exercise  7:00 pm Membership  7:00 pm Official Board  7:30 pm Trustees	7  7:00 pm Music & Worship  7:30 pm AA  <b>Choir Rehearsals</b> 7,8:15	8 7:30 am Rotary  10-12 Senior Exercise  6:30 pm Finance	9 6:30 am Men's Bible Study	10     <b>Wedding 4 pm</b>
11 9:30 am Worship  <b>ANNUAL MEETING</b>	12  7 pm Search Committee	13 10-12 Senior Exercise	14 7:30 pm AA  7:00 pm Education  <b>Choir Rehearsals</b> 7,8:15	15 7:30 am Rotary  10-12 Senior Exercise  <b>Steeple Deadline</b>	16 6:30 am Men's Bible Study	17
18 9:30 am Worship	19 7 pm Search Committee	20 10-12 Senior Exercise  5:30 pm Pastor/ Staff Relations  <b>Dismas Meal</b>  <b>Choir Rehearsals</b> 7,8:15	21  7:30 pm AA	22 7:30 am Rotary  10-12 Senior Exercise	23 6:30 am Men's Bible Study	24
25 9:30 am Worship & Communion  <b>Strawberry Social</b>	26 7 pm Search Committee	27 6:30 am Men's Fel- lowship Breakfast at the Lincoln Inn  10-12 Senior Exercise	28  7:30 pm AA	29 7:30 am Rotary  10-12 Senior Exercise	30 6:30 am Men's Bible Study	

**CHURCH CALENDAR FOR July & August.** Please take note that this calendar reflects church related events only. There may be other events that have been scheduled with the church office that do not appear on the calendar. It is possible thanks to cooperative planning by church committees and groups.



### July

**Sun., July 2** ~ 9:30 am Worship at the Old Brick Church  
**Tues., July 4** ~ **Fourth of July ~ Church Office Closed** ~  
**Thurs., July 6** ~ 10:15 am Sr. Exercise  
**Fri., July 7** ~ 6:30 am Men's Bible Study  
**Sun., July 9** ~ 9:30 am Worship  
**Tues., July 11** ~ 10:15 am Sr. Exercise  
**Thurs., July 13** ~ 10:15 am Sr. Exercise  
**Fri., July 14** ~ 6:30 am Men's Bible Study  
**Sun., July 16** ~ 9:30 am Worship  
**Tues., July 18** ~ 10:15 am Sr. Exercise ~ Dismas Meal  
**Thurs., July 20** ~ 10:15 am Sr. Exercise  
**Fri., July 21** ~ 6:30 am Men's Bible Study  
**Sun., July 23** ~ 9:30 am Worship  
**Tues., July 25** ~ 10:15 am Sr. Exercise  
**Thurs., July 27** ~ 10:15 am Sr. Exercise  
**Fri., July 28** ~ 6:30 am Men's Bible Study  
**Sun., July 30** ~ 9:30 am Worship

### August

**Tues., Aug 1** ~ 10:15 am Sr. Exercise  
**Thurs., Aug 3** ~ 10:15 am Sr. Exercise  
**Fri., Aug 4** ~ 6:30 am Men's Bible Study  
**Sun., Aug 6** ~ 9:30 am Worship  
**Tues., Aug 8** ~ 10:15 am Sr. Exercise  
**Thurs., Aug 10** ~ 10:15 am Sr. Exercise  
**Fri., Aug 11** ~ 6:30 am Men's Bible Study  
**Sun., Aug 13** ~ 9:30 am Worship  
**Tues., Aug 15** ~ 10:15 am Sr. Exercise ~ Dismas Meal  
**Thurs., Aug 17** ~ 10:15 am Sr. Exercise  
**Fri., Aug 18** ~ 6:30 am Men's Bible Study  
**Sun., Aug 20** ~ 9:30 am Worship  
**Tues., Aug 22** ~ 10:15 am Sr. Exercise  
**Thurs., Aug 24** ~ 10:15 am Sr. Exercise  
**Fri., Aug 25** ~ 6:30 am Men's Bible Study  
**Sun., Aug 27** ~ 9:30 am Worship  
**Tues., Aug 29** ~ 10:15 am Sr. Exercise  
**Thurs., Aug 31** ~ 10:15 am Sr. Exercise

**The Steeple  
Williston Federated Church**

NON-PROFIT ORGANIZATION  
U.S. POSTAGE PAID  
PERMIT #4  
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Phone: 802-878-5792  
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RETURN SERVICE RE-  
QUESTED

**Come, Meet Christ, Go Serve**

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Thanks

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**Worship at the Old Brick Church**

The Annual Fourth of July Worship Service at the Old Brick Church will be held on Sunday, July 2 at 9:30 am.  
Rev. Jonathan New will lead the service.

**WFC ANNUAL CHICKEN BBQ**

Mark Your calendars now for the Annual WFC July 4 Chicken BBQ at the Williston Central School from 11:30-1:00 pm. The cost is \$8 for adults and \$4 for children.

Sign Up Posters for helpers will appear in June. We need LOTS of Help. Need more information? Contact Barb Bristol or Carolyn Pillsbury.

### **It's time to create a Williston Federated Church technology team**

Quite recently the church expanded and upgraded our technology equipment and applications. In order to most effectively utilize and maintain these enhancements we hope a few of the computer wizards in the church (gurus and geeks welcome) will step forward to provide immediate and ongoing expertise. Part of the current need is to identify someone who will either serve as webmaster or assist staff in learning the skills to create and maintain a website for the church. If you are interested please

