

THE STEEPLE

Williston Federated Church



Dear Church Members and Friends,

I send you fond greetings from my home in Waitsfield, Vermont where I am eagerly anticipating joining you in ministry during your time of pastoral transition.

For years, as I've made my way to my in-laws in Burlington or to my wife's sister's family in Essex Junction (or simply left Waitsfield for the relative civilization of Chittenden County!), I've cast a curious eye upon the magnificent white steeple that may be seen from Interstate 89. Now my curiosity is about to be satisfied.

While your steeple is, indeed, impressive, in the last few weeks I've begun to learn that who you are as a people is more remarkable by far. At the top of my summer reading list was your recently published *Annual Report*, hot off the presses. Having grown up as a pastor's son, with years of ministry myself, I've developed a practiced eye in reading between the lines of these things. Your committee and board chairs, and your staff, speak animatedly about Christian Education and Youth Ministry, Missions and Social Concerns, as well as enhancements to the Worship and Music life of the congregation. What's more, the facts and figures in the *Report* bear these statements out! Your recent decision to become an Open and Affirming, Reconciling Congregation also speaks volumes about your church's faithfulness in addressing the difficult, but rewarding consequences of being a church of extravagant welcome. Moreover, having now met many church leaders and begun to press them about current concerns and struggles, I yet find most filled with optimism and joy, and sense in them confidence and ability to make further progress. All of this tells me of your vitality as a congregation.

Following in the footsteps of Rev. Crocker will indeed be a challenge, yet his able ministry has paved the way for the continued growth of the Williston Federated Church's vitality and faithfulness. As I see it, my work among you over the next year will be to build on the foundation of Richard's fine ministry, and especially to lay further groundwork for the settled pastor who will succeed us. With all of the various stresses on congregations and their pastors these days, I know this can feel like a time of testing for both. Yet what gives me heart as I prepare to begin interim ministry in Williston is the wonderful pastoral leadership you have enjoyed, your long history and your sound track record as a congregation, a leadership core that is competent, and, above all, a deep sense of God's Spirit at work within, among, and through you.

I look forward to meeting many of you in worship during the first four Sunday's in July when I will be taking the pulpit for the first time in Williston. While I will not officially take up my duties as your interim pastor until the last week of August, I am confident that these hours in worship will help us become better acquainted. For those of you whose summer pursuits will make it impossible for us to meet in July, I delight in the expectation of a happy meeting in August or September.

Until such a favorable time as we do meet, and by God's grace, may these weeks of summer further warm your hearts toward one another and give you occasions for Sabbath that will refresh and renew you for our ministry together.

Yours in Christ,

Rev. Jonathan New

**JULY/
AUGUST
2006
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Address:
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Church Office (802)
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Pastor's Study: 879-3332
Parsonage: 879-1842
E-mail: office@steeple.org
Website: www.steeple.org

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

Interim Pastor:
(beginning August 28)
Rev. Jonathan New
**Director of Children's
and Youth Ministries:**

Laurie Chipman
Church Secretary:
Brenda Racht
**Organist and Junior
Choir Accompanist:**

Carolyn Pillsbury
Music Director:
Martin Hain

Congratulations To.....

- ◆ Laurel Stone and Kristian Omland who were married at WFC on June 10. Laurel is the daughter of Ken and Nancy Stone. Best Wishes

Baptisms

- ◆ Derek Thomas Allen , son of Karen and Bruce Allen was baptized on June 11.
- ◆ John Kenneth Kerbaugh, son of Mike and Marie Kerbaugh was baptized on June 18.

Our Sympathy and Prayers are Extended to.....

- ◆ The family and friends of Mary Van der Hoven who passed away on June 28.

High School Graduates

Steven Behun, Elise Brisson, George Davis, Daniel Hildebrand, Jacob Klecka, Elliot Smith, Kevin Zittritsch all graduated from CVU. Sean Beckett has been accepted to Vassar and will be pursuing studies in environmental studies and continuing his music interests. Kathy Crane, graduated from Timber Creek High School in Florida and was accepted to the University of Florida to study music performance and music education. Hazen Metro has been accepted to the Royal Scottish Academy of Music and Drama in Glasgow for a three-year Bachelor's Degree program in Bagpiping.

College Graduates

Erin Morton graduated from Maine College of Art with a Special interest in art education and photography. Ashley Dubois graduated from Castleton State College in Dec 2005 with a degree in in Education and just returned home from Nicaragua. Bryan Connelly graduated from Plymouth State with a degree in Business Management and a minor in Political Science and will be attending UNH in the fall for a Masters in Public Administration. Isaac Moran received a Ph. D in Polymer Science at University of Connecticut. Janet Anderson received her Masters in Linguistics at University of Southern California in 2006 and is continuing for a PhD. Sara Bouchard graduated from UVM in Nursing will be working in California. Chris Stewart will be graduating in the fall with a degree from Champlain College in Education.

Finance Notes

The Finance Committee would like to thank everyone who has made a commitment to pledge to the Williston Federated Church for our up coming fiscal year of 2006-2007 which starts on July 1st, 2006. We appreciate everyone's generosity and their participation during our recent stewardship campaign. It appears that we will see an increase of 12-14% over last years giving level. Thank you! If you have not had an opportunity to fill out a pledge card or you need one to fill out, it's not too late, pledge cards will be graciously accepted anytime! Please contact Barb Bristol or Bruce Allen to receive one. Also, if you would like weekly pledge envelopes, those may be ordered wit Barb Bristol.

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.

July 9, 2006

5th Sunday after Pentecost

2 Samuel 5:1-5, 9-10;
Psalm 48
2 Corinthians 12:2-10;
Mark 6:1-13

July 16, 2006

6th Sunday after Pentecost

2 Samuel 6:1-5, 12b -19
Psalm 24
Ephesians 1:3-14;
Mark 6:14-29

July 23, 2006

7th Sunday after Pentecost

2 Samuel 7:1-14a;
Psalm 89:20-37
Ephesians 2:11-22;
Mark 6:30-34, 53-56

July 30, 2006

8th Sunday after Pentecost

2 Samuel 11:1-15;
Psalm 14
Ephesians 3:14-21
John 6:1-21

August 6, 2006

9th Sunday after Pentecost

2 Samuel 11:26-12:13a;
Psalm 51:1-12
Ephesians 4:1-16;
John 6:24-35

August 13, 2006

10th Sunday after Pentecost

2 Samuel 18:5-9, 15, 31-33;
Psalm 130
Ephesians 4:25-5:2;
John 6:35, 41-51

August 20, 2006

11th Sunday after Pentecost

1 Kings 2:10-12; 3:3-14;
Psalm 111
Ephesians 5:15-20;
John 6:51-58

August 27, 2006

12th Sunday after Pentecost

1 Kings 8:1, 6, 10-11, 22-30,
41-43; Psalm 84
Ephesians 6:10-20;
John 6:56-69

Open Choir Recruitment

If music critics covered the quality of singing done by ordinary church choirs on a Sunday morning, let me assure you they would definitely rave about the awesome sound that comes forth from the Senior Choir, Junior Choir, and Contemporary Music Team (CMT) at Williston Federated Church. Working tirelessly with a small but dedicated group of musicians, Martin Hain, Music Director, brings out the best in us, using his personal enthusiasm to persuade us to rise to the challenge of unfamiliar pieces.

Even the best choirs go through times of shrinking and expanding membership and ours are no exception, due to the many demands made on the limited time of director, organist, and members alike. To be blunt, we need more singers in the choirs, and there are openings in all sections, with the greatest need in the Senior Choir bass section. We are a most welcoming and encouraging group and anyone interested in joining the choir does not have to pass an audition or demonstrate prior choir experience. You just have to love singing to the glory of God and show up for a rehearsal to see if you like singing with us.

All the choirs go on vacation for a couple of months after the July 2 worship service at Old Brick Church. So, you have a couple of months to think and pray about whether you feel called to share your singing talents with the church. Then, you can plan on joining the choir at rehearsals on Tuesday evenings after Labor Day. Now is your opportunity to step forward and become part of one of the best singing groups in all of Vermont.

Joe Maloney
For the Choirs and CMT

Women of the Church Book Discussion Group

Women of the Church - potluck supper and book discussion, Monday, September 11 at 5:30pm. Ruth Magill will host and the book is "On the Occasion of My Last Afternoon" by Kaye Gibbons. A novel about a southern woman during the American Civil War. It might be interesting to re-read "The Red Badge of Courage" for another view of that disturbing war. All women welcome, call Ruth (879-6238) for directions to her house.

Thank You

A great Big Thank You to everyone who volunteered their time to help out with the annual Fourth of July Chicken Bar- B- Que! It was a great success!

The Trustee's Corner

Fellow Travelers

The response to our request for "freebie" toilet articles has been outstanding. The basket is overflowing and there will be many grateful recipients. Thank you all!

Roofing

The bid to re-shingle the Mace House roof has been awarded and work will start in early July.

Church Threshold

Good news! We have received approval to proceed with the repair of the top step at the Church entrance. For those of you who are not aware of the story, although the bottom steps are concrete, the topmost step is an original limestone slab. (Just look at it!) Through the years it has sagged and cracked allowing rainwater to enter the Catacombs below and causing the left hand door to bind. We have contracted to repair this damage and you should see the improvement in the weeks to come.

Official Board Rep

Ruth Skiff has agreed to take the position of Permanent Representative to the Official Board and our thanks go to her! This will improve communication between the two groups and streamline our joint efforts to improve our Church home.

The Steeple

We are moving forward with plans for the steeple repair and painting. Bids have been received and we are in the process of evaluating them.

The Parsonage

During the stay of our Interim Pastor, the Parsonage will be rented for one year. We are negotiating with a contractor to do needed repairs and normal maintenance.

Storm Windows

As you can see in the Sanctuary, the work is moving along. Brian Goodwin is trying to get a grant from the Troy Conference to ease the financial burden. We also are hoping that the Congregation will help us out --- as it always does!

We will be back in September. Happy vacation everyone!

JULY 2006



Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
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						1
2 9:30 am Worship At the Old Brick Church	3 7 pm Search Committee	4 Fourth of July Church Office Closed	5 7:30 pm AA	6 7:30 am Rotary 9:00 am Caring Circle 10-12 Senior Exercise 6:30 pm Peace Vigil	7 6:30 am Men's Bible Study	8
9 9:30 am Worship	10 7 pm Search Committee	11 10-12 Senior Exercise 7:30 pm Trustees	12 7:30 pm AA	13 7:30 am Rotary 10-12 Senior Exercise	14 6:30 am Men's Bible Study	15
16 9:30 am Worship	17 7 pm Search Committee	18 10-12 Senior Exercise Dismas Meal	19 7:30 pm AA	20 7:30 am Rotary 10-12 Senior Exercise 5:30 pm Pastor/ Staff Relations	21 6:30 am Men's Bible Study	22
23 9:30 am Worship	24 7 pm Search Committee	25 6:30 am Men's Fel- lowship Breakfast at the Lincoln Inn 10-12 Senior Exercise	26 7:30 pm AA	27 7:30 am Rotary 10-12 Senior Exercise	28 6:30 am Men's Bible Study	29
30 9:30 am Worship	31 7 pm Search Committee					

AUGUST 2006



Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
		<p>1 10-12 Senior Exercise</p> <p>7:00 pm Trustees</p>	<p>2 7:30 pm AA</p>	<p>3 7:30 am Rotary 9- 10:30 Caring Circle 10-12 Senior Exercise 5:00 pm Membership 6:30 pm Peace Vigil</p>	<p>4 6:30 am Men's Bible Study</p>	<p>5</p>
<p>6 9:30 am Worship Youth Sailing 2-5 pm</p>	<p>7 7 pm Search Committee</p>	<p>8 10-12 Senior Exercise</p> <p>6:30 pm Finance 7:00 pm Official Board</p>	<p>9 7:00 pm Education 7:00 pm Music & Worship</p> <p>7:30 pm AA</p>	<p>10 7:30 am Rotary 10-12 Senior Exercise</p>	<p>11 6:30 am Men's Bible Study</p>	<p>12 Wedding</p>
<p>13 9:30 am Worship</p>	<p>14 7 pm Search Committee</p>	<p>15 10-12 Senior Exercise</p> <p>Dismas Meal</p>	<p>16 7:30 pm AA</p>	<p>17 7:30 am Rotary 10-12 Senior Exercise</p>	<p>18 6:30 am Men's Bible Study</p>	<p>19</p>
<p>20 9:30 am Worship</p>	<p>21 7 pm Search Committee</p>	<p>22 10-12 Senior Exercise</p> <p>7:00 pm Missions & Social Concerns</p>	<p>23 7:30 pm AA</p>	<p>24 7:30 am Rotary 10-12 Senior Exercise</p>	<p>25 6:30 am Men's Bible Study</p>	<p>26</p>
<p>27 9:30 am Worship 4-8 pm Youth Group Kick Off</p>	<p>28 7 pm Search Committee</p>	<p>29 6:30 am Men's Fel- lowship Breakfast at the Lincoln Inn 10-12 Senior Exercise</p>	<p>30 7:30 pm AA</p>	<p>31 7:30 am Rotary 10-12 Senior Exercise</p>		

**The Steeple
Williston Federated Church**

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RETURN SERVICE RE-
QUESTED

Come, Meet Christ, Go Serve

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covering these words.
Thanks

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The Storyteller

Inspired by Mrs. Judy Crocker

A smile fills the canvas of her face,
Reaching souls and lighting space.
Children crowd 'round her tightly
Touching props and knees, to hear the story.

Shy or bold; tall or small; young or older,
The kids of the church adore her.
Wanting to see, to touch, to be heard,
Arms shoot upward to get in a word.

Grown-ups are witness to kids' delight
When the question is asked and answered right.
We glance at each other, smiling with eyes
And uptipped mouths that "ooh" and sigh.

God's Love is a concept dancing on air,
A comfort to children, to hear that One cares.
Truth and Respect and Good Works are a mist
The storyteller parts with her words and her wit.

"What did you learn?" I glance at their faces
As we drive home to dinner and saying graces.
They always remember something at least,
And I smile for the one who gives it her best
And never knows, really, the lives that she changes.

By Diane Davis