

THE STEEPLE

Williston Federated Church

Pastor's Message

**"Now you are the body of Christ and individually members of it."
I Corinthians 12:27**

It's been delightful getting to know many of you and beginning to learn about the Williston Church's particular culture and ways. In the short time I've been with you, I've been impressed with the number of programs, missions, and ministries in which you're involved. I've observed how hard committees are working. I've noted the care that you show to one another. I've enjoyed sharing with you in meaningful and spirited worship. Above all, I've been struck by the depth of this congregation's vitality.

I'm convinced that central to all of this is your unity as the body of Christ. The *body of Christ* is perhaps the single, most important image of the church that we possess. In my own theology, it stands as a cornerstone for my understanding of what the church is and should be—a community of the diverse, who yet live in unity, having been called by God to spread the good news of Jesus Christ, promote wholeness, and embody God's kingdom.

Paul's metaphor is both powerful and instructive, for as we read the twelfth chapter of First Corinthians we see how the apostle uses the human body to illustrate the importance of each and every member to the whole. We are different, yet we are connected; we bring divergent gifts, yet we need each other; we operate in isolation, yet we share in each other's pain and joy.

Much could be said about this richly textured portrait of the church, but I wish to focus our attention on the idea that *we all bring to this body something that is vital to its functioning, and possibly to its survival.*

In the coming months, I will be encouraging each of us to take a closer look at who we are—what talents and abilities we possess, what resources we have to share, what forms of ministry we are called to, in short, what kind of "body part" we may be. This is important to us as individuals because knowing that we are called and to what we are called gives us meaning and direction in our lives. But it is also important to us as a church. I am convinced that it is only when the *parts* know their meaning and direction that the meaning and direction of the *body* can be established. That is essential at every moment in the life of a congregation, but never more so than when it is on the threshold of receiving new pastoral leadership.

As I've spoken with many of you over the last few weeks, I've been told time and again that, in general, the Williston Federated Church is healthy and strong. I hope that you will rejoice in this time of feeling so blessed! I also urge you, as you remember your past and live in this present moment, to look to your future. Gaining a greater sense of the direction in which this church is headed—this process of individual and corporate discernment—won't happen overnight. However, be assured that it will be undertaken in a spirit of joy and with joy as one of its primary goals.

I look forward to being with you in this time, for it is a moment of enormous possibility. We are indeed one body in Christ. May we have satisfaction knowing there is a critical role for each of us to play in it, may we find meaning in understanding what that role is, may we always feel the exhilaration of moving forward along the path God desires for us, and may we experience the joy of living interdependently. I pray that the God for whom all things are possible will make it so!

Peace, Jonathan



**OCTOBER
2006**

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Church Office Hours:
Monday-Friday 8:30-12:30
878-5792
E-mail: office@steeple.org

Sunday Worship
Service:
9:30 AM

Interim Pastor:
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
Nursery Caregiver:
Michelle Davis



Congratulations To..

- ◆ Meg and Shawn Freebern upon the birth of their daughter, Eleanor Rebecca Freebern who was born on September 5.

Peace Potluck IV

Land Mine Detection dogs return country sides to safe places. Join us on Friday, October 20th 6 p.m. in Fellowship Hall. Kimberley McCasland of the Marshall Legacy Institute; and a mine detecting dog, will be with us to demonstrate how dogs sniff out land mines thus returning the land to its former uses, such as growing food and raising cattle. Each year tens of thousand of people are killed or maimed by land mines. Hundreds of thousands of cattle are killed. Through the Marshall Legacy Institute specialized dogs are trained to sniff out mines around the world thus making a safer place to live. Come to learn more about this work at the Peace Potluck, actually see a trained dog perform its skill, and contribute through a free will offering to the continuation of this program. this peace potluck is sponsored by the Peace/Non-Violence task force.

Peace Vigils Continue

The next peace vigil will be on Thursday night at 6:30 on October 5th. The vigil includes a song, a reflection on war, peace, non-violence or other, a prayer and ends with notices of upcoming events in the area related to peace and justice. We meet on the steps in the front of the church. Please join us in solidarity on these issues. The Peace/Non-Violent Task Force

Women of the Church Book Discussion Group



The next Women of the Church book discussion group will be held on Wednesday, October 18. Join us at Lois Mason's house at 5:30 pm for a potluck supper to start things off. The book to be discussed is "Plan B" by Anne Lamott. All women are warmly invited!

The WFC Chicken Pie Supper

This year the Chicken Pie Supper will be held on Saturday, October 14, with seatings at 5:00, 6:00 and 7:00 pm. Mark your calendars, tell all your friends and call Carol Bouchard 862-7400 for reservations. The cost of the supper is \$9 for adults and \$4.50 for children. The Chicken Pie Supper is an annual event that raises money for missions and provides a wonderful opportunity for community building within the church and the greater community at large, as well as plenty of time for fellowship and plenty of opportunities for work as well!



Skye Farm Memories

Are you like me and thinking of next summer already? If so, I encourage you to pencil in volunteering as a counselor or sending your child to Skye Farm or Covenant Hills Camp next summer. Both are United Methodist and United Church of Christ camps and offer incredible experiences. My daughter, Lillian, and I attended Skye Farm for one week in August. Lillian attended Aquatic camp as a camper and I attended Adventures camp as a volunteer counselor. It was amazing! The Campers and Staff Counselors and Volunteer Directors (like are very own Laurie Chipman) were wonderful. Their goal to *provide a place away from the pressures and distractions of daily life where one can listen and hear God's voice* was certainly achieved. Our memories will last us a life time. Robin Coletta



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.

<p>October 1, 2006 World Communion Sunday</p> <p>Esther 7:1-6, 9-10; 9:20-22 Psalm 124 James 5:13-20 Mark 9:38-50</p>	<p>October 8, 2006</p> <p>Job 1:1;2:1-10 Psalm 26 Hebrews 1:1-4;2:5-12 Mark 10:2-16</p>	<p>October 15, 2006</p> <p>Job 23:1-9, 16-17 Psalm 22:1-15 Hebrews 4:12-16 Mark 10:17-31</p>	<p>October 22, 2006</p> <p>Job 38:1-7[34-41] Psalm 104:1-9, 24,35c Hebrews 5:1-10 Mark 10:35-45</p>	<p>October 29, 2006</p> <p>Job 42:1-6, 10-17 Psalm 34:1-8 [19-22] Hebrews 7:23-28 Mark 10:46-52</p>
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The Trustee's Corner

Welcome back! It's nice to see all of you again and we hope you had a wonderful Summer vacation. Fall is in the air and the Trustee's had their first meeting of the season last week and welcomed three new members to the Board. They are Paul Gurney, Tom Johnson and John Willis. And of course we also welcomed our Interim Pastor, Jonathan New who attended for the first time.

The Parsonage

Our thanks go out to the Youth Group for painting the west side of the Parsonage barn. The Trustees are contributing \$100 to them for their hard work. Well done guys!

Sanctuary Windows

Here's an update on our beautiful Sanctuary windows. You may have noticed that some of the shutters are temporarily missing and sash cords are hanging out. That's all a sign that work is progressing on their repair and restoration. You can imagine the amount of damage the old wood has suffered through years of rain and snow. There was dry rot, rusting and many, many layers of old paint which froze the frames to the side rails. Because of that, for many years the windows could not be opened for cross-ventilation during the summer. The Trustees signed a contract with Jeff Fellingner, a professional conservationist, to do the job. The total price is \$42,225 which includes repair, restoration, replacement and purchase of custom-designed aluminum storm windows and screens which will match the shape of the six Sanctuary windows and four hall windows and prevent further deterioration. \$34,000 still remains to be paid so your Trustees are looking for ways to fund the balance. Do any of you have any suggestions how this can be done?

Front Steps

We hired KJ Construction Co. to repair the crumbling top limestone step. The work is almost finished. Hank Listenik, the owner, injected concrete under the top limestone slab to keep rain water from seeping into the Catacombs. All that remains now is to fill in the cracks around the hand rail supports and to put a coating on the top step to waterproof the limestone against the coming winter. He also removed that large left-hand door which was binding on the top step, planed it down to fit the curvature of the step and re-installed it so that it now opens freely. We figure that should double the Congregation attendance! (Just kidding!)

That's it for now. We will see you here at the same time next month!

Membership Opportunity Coming Soon

On Sunday, October 29th, there will be a membership information meeting after worship. If you are interested in joining the church or if you just want to learn more about WFC, please come to this meeting. The session will include a history of the church and its federation with the United Methodist Church & the United Church of Christ and how we operate today as a Federated Church. Representatives from the various committees will share a little about the work of their committee and how you might become involved. Child care and snacks will be provided. Reception of new members will take place during worship on November 19th. If you are interested in joining or if you have questions about church membership, please plan to attend this meeting, October 29th, 11:00 - 12:30 in the sitting room, or speak to either Rev. New or Carol Bouchard.

About Making Worship Announcements...

Congregational announcements made during our worship service help us all remain informed about and connected with the church's various missions and ministries. To ensure that these are effective and appropriate for the context of worship, please observe the following guidelines:

- Be brief
- Plan what you will say in advance
- Make your delivery from the front of the sanctuary
- Use a microphone
- Be ready to take your turn in a timely manner
- Refrain from repeating announcements already printed in the bulletin

These guidelines will help us maintain good communication and also preserve the quality of our worship experience. Thanks in advance for your cooperation.

From Music and Worship

It is not too early to talk about Thanksgiving, and what the Music and Worship Committee proposes that our church do on the Sunday before Thanksgiving. In many churches, during the offering, worshippers bring gifts, such as the bread and wine to be used in the communion later in the service, in a procession up to the altar. We're encouraging everyone to bring a can of peas or a jar of peanut butter (any canned, wrapped, non-perishable food item) to church with them on that Sunday and join in the procession during the offering as we bring these food items forward and place them in baskets and boxes. Everything collected will be given to the Food Shelf in Burlington to help them feed the hungry during the holidays. Begin planning today what you will bring to church on the Sunday before Thanksgiving.

OCTOBER 2006



Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
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<p>1 9:30 am Worship 11am Youth Ministry Committee</p> <p>World Communion Sunday</p>	<p>2 7 pm Search Committee 7:15 pm Music & Worship</p>	<p>3 10-12 Senior Exercise Choir 6,7, 8:15 Trustees 7:30 pm</p>	<p>4 7:30 pm AA</p>	<p>5 7:30 am Rotary 9 am Caring Circle 10-12 Senior Exercise 6:30 pm Peace Vigil 7:00 pm Membership</p>	<p>6 6:30 am Men's Bible Study</p>	<p>7</p>
<p>8 9:30 am Worship 11-12:30 Jr. High 6-8 pm Sr. High Night</p>	<p>9 7 pm Search Committee</p>	<p>10 10-12 Senior Exercise Choir 6,7 7:00 pm Official Board</p>	<p>11 7:30 pm AA 7:00 pm Education</p>	<p>12 7:30 am Rotary 10-12 Senior Exercise 6:30 pm Finance</p>	<p>13 6:30 am Men's Bible Study</p>	<p>14 CHICKEN PIE SUPPER</p>
<p>15 9:30 am Worship Bible Sunday CROPWALK</p>	<p>16 7 pm Search Committee</p>	<p>17 10-12 Senior Exercise Choir 6,7, 8:15</p>	<p>18 7:30 pm AA</p>	<p>19 7:30 am Rotary 10-12 Senior Exercise 5:30 pm Pastor/Staff Relations</p>	<p>20 6:30 am Men's Bible Study 6:00 pm PEACE POTLUCK 1V</p>	<p>21</p>
<p>22 9:30 am Worship No Jr. High 6-8 pm Sr. High Night</p>	<p>23 7 pm Search Committee</p>	<p>24 10-12 Senior Exercise Dismas Meal Choir 6,7, 8:15 7 pm Missions & Social Concerns</p>	<p>25 7:30 pm AA</p>	<p>26 7:30 am Rotary 10-12 Senior Exercise</p>	<p>27 6:30 am Men's Bible Study</p>	<p>28 9-11:30 am Jr. High</p>
<p>29 9:30 am Worship 11 am New Member Info Mtg. 6-8 pm Sr. High Night</p>	<p>30 7 pm Search Committee</p>	<p>31 6:30 am Men's Fellowship Breakfast at the Lincoln Inn 10-12 Senior Exercise Choir 6,7, 8:15</p>				

News from Missions and Social Concerns Committee

Help wanted: The Mission and Social Concerns Committee is looking for a volunteer to take on the responsibility of collecting and mailing the food labels and boxtops for education. This would be a wonderful outreach for someone unable to participate in other more active ministries or for someone especially interested in the work of the organizations aided. The labels support the Buffalo NY Gateway Longview Foundation, a United Methodist ministry to troubled children, youth and their families and the boxtops help the after school program for refugee children in the Winooski school district. For more information contact Sara Moran at 878-9638.

Mark your calendar for:

Tuesday, Oct. 17 - DISMAS House meal - please support this ministry to former prisoners. Our church has committed to providing meals and participants every third Tuesday throughout the year. Sign up sheet is on the bulletin board in the Fellowship hallway.

Friday, Oct. 20 - Peace Potluck IV - Removal of Land Mines with the help of trained dogs. Please bring a dish to share and a friend.

Oct. 20 - 22 – 2006 National Weekend of **FAITH IN ACTION** to abolish the Death Penalty. "The movement to abolish the death penalty needs the religious community because the heart of religion is about compassion, human rights, and the indivisible dignity of each human person made in the image of God." Sister Helen Prejean. For more information contact: Ruth Magill

November 11 is the annual church Christmas Bazaar and our "**Alternative Christmas Gift Shop**" will be available then and during Advent for early non-material holiday gifts.

Thanksgiving Baskets will be filled again this year and distributed to needy Williston families. Watch for the sign up sheet on the Fellowship Bulletin Board.

Our Mission and Social Concerns literature table has important information, Christian Century magazines, and brochures regarding various outreach programs, such as Heifer, Bread for the World, Church World Service. Please browse and take material home to read and pass on to others. (they do not need to be returned) A special collection of materials reflecting our church's recent adoption of an inclusive and welcoming statement is on the table. Please feel free to take and share this information from the United Methodist Reconciling Ministry and the United Church of Christ Open and Affirming ministry.

Champlain Valley CROP WALK 2006

Sunday afternoon, Oct. 15

1:30 - Registration 2:00 Opening Ceremony
First Congregational Church UCC, Burlington
38 South Winooski Ave

"We walk because they walk." They are the 852 million people who go to bed hungry every night. They are the people just like us, but because of poverty they must walk to accomplish the most basic tasks:

They walk for food, they walk for water.

They walk for firewood, they walk to escape violence.

They walk to seek shelter, they walk to find employment.

They walk to farm their fields, they walk to go to school.

When you walk in a CROP WALK you walk with the world.

75% of funds raised go to Church World Service, 20% to the Chittenden Emergency Food Shelf, and 5% to JUMP (Joint Urban Ministry Project)

CROPWALKER envelopes are available in the Fellowship Hallway.

The Williston Federated Church Caring Circle

This group meets every month on the first Thursday at 9 AM. Our purpose is to keep in touch with home bound members and others unable to participate actively in the life of the church and to inform our pastor of those who have specific needs. We make visits, phone calls, and send cards and notes. Sometimes we facilitate transportation or meals. Please be sure to call the church office if you have a need or know of someone who could benefit from our help. We welcome others who would like to be a part of this group. Currently we are asking for donations of Tide Free or Arm & Hammer laundry detergent, shampoo, Dial soap, toothpaste and store brand diapers (Pull-ups, Xtra-large or 4T-5T) for a church family with special needs. Large boxes of sugar free cereals such as Rice Krispies or Cheerios would also be appreciated. Items may be brought to the church office. Thank you

Volunteer in Mission Trip to Mississippi

Please note the poster and donation box in the Fellowship Hallway. 12 Vermonters are traveling with 40 others from NY to Vancleave MS to help with Hurricane Katrina reconstruction of homes. We are hoping to raise \$1,000 to purchase sheet rock, paint, and taping materials while there. Checks may be written to WFC, memo: MS VIM The team thanks you for your support and prayers. Jane Stickney, Tony Lamb, Ken Stone, Ruth and Charlie Magill and 7 others from central VT.

**The Steeple
Williston Federated Church**

NON-PROFIT ORGANIZATION
U.S. POSTAGE PAID
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WILLISTON VT 05495

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Phone: 802-878-5792
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Come, Meet Christ, Go Serve

Label goes up to the line
covering these words.
Thanks

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Dear Church Members and Friends,

Thank you for all you've done to make my entry into the Williston Church smooth and welcoming.

It's a busy time as we begin the church's program year. I've had to hit the ground running. Fortunately, many of you have provided valuable guidance and practical assistance that has enabled me not to fall flat on my face! This church is blessed with competent staff members and dedicated church leaders, and I'm indebted to each for their support these past few weeks. I pledge my own support in the months ahead to these colleagues in ministry.

I'm also grateful for your efforts to make me feel at home. Whether its your warm reception in worship and the fellowship hour, or your visits to the church office in my first weeks, or your willingness to wear your nametags and introduce yourselves again and again, you have lavished hospitality upon me. I look forward to getting to know each of you better, and becoming more and more a part of this church family during its period of interim pastoral leadership.

To all of you, and to those who have kept me in your prayers, I extend my deep gratitude and warm regards.

Fondly, Jonathan

Christmas Bazaar

Saturday, November 11th, 9 AM - 3 PM

The Christmas Bazaar is just around the corner. Here is a list of the various tables at the bazaar and ways in which you can help. All proceeds from the Bazaar, with the exception of the Silent Auction, go to various local and world wide missions. The Silent Auction money will benefit the youth groups. A sign up will appear in the entry on Oct. 15th.

Craft Table - Chairperson, Carol Bouchard 862-7400 - We need hand made items such as mittens, scarves, ornaments, jewelry, wooden items, Christmas or other holiday decorations. If you need ideas, call Carol.

Bake Sale Table - Chairperson, Rebecca Dubois 658-2865 - We need all sorts of baked goods including pies, cakes, cookies, breads, jams, pickles, fudge etc. The bake sale table is one of the most popular.

Plant Table - Chairpersons, Polly Malik & Romaine DeCamp 879-6968 - We need houseplants, dried flowers, wreaths, gourds, gifts for gardeners.

Attic Treasures - Chairperson Ginger Isham, 878-4875 - We are looking for "antique type" linens, jewelry, and other small attic treasures.

Kids Only Table - Chairperson, Robin Coletta, 878-2012 - This is a table where **children only** will be able to shop for inexpensive, new or gently used, items for their family. Bring an item you no longer use; a candle, a nick nack etc.

RAADA Cutlery - Chairperson, Jan Lawson 878-4218 - Here you will find great kitchen knives and utensils.

Alternative Christmas Gift Shop - Sponsored by Missions & Social Concerns - You will have the opportunity to give an alternative gift to a friend or family member by making a donation in their name to a variety of charitable organizations

Silent Auction - Chairperson, Deb Light, 899-3212 - Proceeds from this event will go to the youth group - Donations of goods and services of all types are needed - Be creative! (see Silent Auction article)

Lunch - Chairperson Vicki Watson, 434-5637 - We will be serving home made soups, bread, chili & hot-dogs. Donations of soup are needed.

Pie Baking - Friday, Nov. 10th 9-12 - Please come peel apples or roll out pie crust. All the supplies are provided - but bring your favorite peeler.

Set Up - Thursday 1-4, Nov. 9th and Friday, Nov. 10th 9-4 - Card Tables and holiday table cloths are needed. Bring your donated items and come help us set up.

SHARE YOUR TALENTS

SILENT AUCTION

SATURDAY, NOVEMBER 11th 9 AM – 3 PM

in conjunction with the Christmas Bazaar
AND SUNDAY NOVEMBER 12th 9 Am -11:15 AM

To Benefit the Youth Group

We all have God-given talents...What can you do or provide that someone else would enjoy?

Need ideas of what to donate? Here are some prior years donations:

- | | |
|-------------------------------------|------------------------------|
| A weekend at your vacation get away | A day of sailing |
| A piece of original art work | A handmade quilt |
| Yard work | An adirondack chair |
| Holiday pies | Snow boarding lessons |
| A catered dinner | A trip to the landfill |
| Baby sitting | College care package |
| Financial planning | Interior design consultation |

Be creative and have fun. Just fill out this form and drop it in the envelope on the bulletin board near the kitchen. Questions? Contact Deb Light, 899-3212

Yes! I want to donate to the Auction!
Description of item or service

Expiration date, if any: _____
Your Name: _____
Phone #: _____

Thank you so much for your support! Please leave this form in the envelope by the kitchen by November 6th.

