

THE STEEPLE

Williston Federated Church

An Open and Affirming, Reconciling Congregation

Pastor's Message

It was a day of faith, though not a Sunday for the pious faith of church-goers. It was a Thursday, but requiring, nonetheless, a deep and confident faith. It was, in fact, the morning after our record-breaking, near three-foot snowfall, and the four of us bundled up and went out to survey the strangely quiet, close world around our home. Whittier's words in "Snowbound" came to life:

We looked upon a world unknown,
On nothing could we call our own.
Around the glistening wonder bent
The blue walls of the firmament,
No cloud above, no earth below,—
A universe of sky and snow!

Truth is, we could recognize plenty as our own — the play structure with the strangely foreshortened slide, the tips of the spindly lilacs we planted two springs ago, and the top of the wood pile I'd conscientiously cleared a path to throughout winter. But there was that huge mound next to it that only with great faith we could believe to be our second car, a Subaru. Its presence there prompted a terse but warm conversation: "I thought *you* pulled it into the garage!" "I thought *you* did!!"

After two months of scarcely any snow, in one fell swoop February has more than made up for the delay of true winter. Now we wonder, "How long will this stuff be around?" Not knowing, we spent an hour clearing nearly three feet of snow off our Subaru, knowing the job might only get worse with procrastination. These wintry and difficult days of winter can surely try our faith.

Winter is not unlike the Lenten season that, on account of its somberness, can wear us down. Yet Lent, like Advent, is a forward-looking season. In fact, the term "Lent" has linguistic roots that mean "to lengthen," and points to the increase of daylight hours that comes with spring. No doubt, Lent is a season of penitence and self-examination. But Lent always anticipates a time of renewal.

Carl Sandburg, in "Blossom Themes," helps give us the sense of Lenten anticipation when he writes:

Late in the winter came one day
When there was a whiff on the wind,
a suspicion, a cry not to be heard
of perhaps blossoms, perhaps green grass
and clean hills lifting rolling shoulders.
Does the nose get the cry of spring
first of all? Is the nose thankful
and thrilled first of all?

Looking out on snow a yard deep, blossoms and green grass may seem far off. Yet with all the signs of winter still about us, let us keep ourselves in a state of faithful anticipation. In faith and together, let us stand poised for the cry of spring and of Easter resurrection in all the whiffs and sights and sounds of mud season and of Lent.

Peace, Jonathan



MARCH

2007

Vol. 26

No. 3

Address:

44 No. Williston Road

Williston VT 05495

Website: www.steeple.org

Pastor's Study: 879-3332

E-mail: jnew@gmavt.net

Church Office Hours:

Monday-Friday 8:30-12:30

Phone: 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



Daisy

Thank You

Thank You to all the people of the church who extended words of encouragement with cards, phone calls, and visits at the time of the death of my husband, William Cadmus. Thank you to Jonathan New for a joyful and comforting service. Thank you to the Women of the Church who provided a reception that was very special. The Williston Federated Church family is extraordinary.

Marcia Cadmus

It's Time For The Rummage Sale! Friday, March 30, 9am – 6pm Saturday, March 31, 9am – 12pm

Wanted: 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 Monday, March 26th. Tables will be set up and labeled. If you have time, please take a moment to place your items on the appropriate tables.

Workers are also needed to help with set up during the week, to work at the sale Friday & Saturday and to help take the left over items to the Salvation Army and 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



Peace/Non-Violence Lenten Series Sundays March 11, 18, 25; April 1st "Speaking Peace," "Practicing Non-violence," "Communicating Within Our Families" are three of the four sessions in the Lenten series.

Sessions will meet in the Sitting Room from 11-12:30, following the Sunday service. Each session will be led by a guest facilitator.

Sunday, March 11th - Emily Gould from Montpelier will lead us in communication skills. Ms. Gould has had extensive experience with conflict resolution and leading groups toward speaking peace.

Sunday, March 18th - Joe Gainza, VT Program Coordinator for the American Friends Service committee will lead us in exercises to practice non-violence. Mr. Gainza has been active in Vermont for many years in peace and justice events and issues.

Sunday, March 25th - a panel with two counselors and two parents will lead discussion on communicating within our families.

April 1st: TBA This series has been planned by the Peace/Non-violence Task Force with the understanding that if our children and grandchildren are to live in a peaceful world, we as adults may want to model the language and actions which will move us toward that end.

Audio Worship Tapes Available

Audio tapes of our Sunday worship service are now available. Please contact the church office or Nancy Stone, tape ministry coordinator, if you would like a cassette for your use or to share with family and friends. (We regret that, at this time, it is not possible for us to make copies of the worship service in CD format.)

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>March 4</p> <p>Genesis 15:1-12, 17-18 Psalm 27 Philippians 3:17-4:1 Luke 13:31-35</p>	<p>March 11</p> <p>Isaiah 55:1-9 Psalm 63:1-8 1 Corinthians 10:1-13 Luke 13:1-9</p>	<p>March 18</p> <p>Joshua 5:9-12 Psalm 32 2 Corinthians 5:16-21 Luke 15:1-3, 11b-32</p>	<p>March 25</p> <p>Isaiah 43:16-21 Psalm 126 Philippians 3:4b-14 John 12:1-8</p>	<p>April 1</p> <p>Palm Sunday Luke 19:28-40 Psalm 118: 1-2, 19-29 Isaiah 50:4-9a Psalm 31:9-16 Philippians 2:5-11 Luke 22:14-23:56 or Luke 23:1-49</p>
--	---	---	--	--

THE TRUSTEE'S CORNER

WE NEED YOUR VOTE!

This Sunday, glance up at the new Sanctuary windows and notice the beautiful half-moon-shaped windows above each main window. These are called Kite windows and they have been lovingly restored by hand by Jeff Fellingner as part of our Restoration Project. In the past, these kite windows were covered up by shutters which hid their beauty. **We want you to vote:** do we cover up the kites again or should we leave them as they are? If we do not hear from you by the end of February, we will take that as a vote to leave them uncovered. If you wish to have the shutters back in place, please drop a note or speak to any Trustee, or to Brenda, or send an email to Bob Shepard at santaferhs@comcast.net.

Sprinkler System

We have the bids in hand and are preparing to analyze them. We hope to start work this Summer. A Fund-Raising committee is being formed to study the different ways to raise the necessary funds. We will keep you posted.

You're In Hot Water!

Twice our hot water supply was disrupted and the culprit has finally been identified: air was getting in the lines and blocking certain valves. We have contracted to install a special Spiro-Vent valve which will automatically bleed off any air and eliminate the problem. As soon as Falcon Plumbing Company is free of emergency heating repairs during this cold spell, they will do the installation for us.

Parsonage Windows

Trudy Anderson has presented our planned window replacement project to the Historic Preservation Society. They will review the design and advise us whether we can proceed.

The Church Web Page

Our official web page is currently being redesigned and will have some interesting new features. We will let you know when this has been completed.

Women of the Church Book Group

The next meeting will take place on March 21st at Liz Lemieux's house (505 Metcalf Lane) The March book is: The Last Report of the Miracles at Little No Horse by Louise Erdrich. Caroline Webster will facilitate the discussion. All women are warmly invited. We begin at 5:30 pm with a potluck supper. For April, we are tentatively scheduled to meet on April 18th at Maude Cameron's house. The book for April is Water for Elephants by Sara Gruen

Whist Night

There will be a whist night on Friday, March 23 at 7 pm in the Fellowship Hall. This is a fun and easy card game that will be taught that night. Desserts will be provided by the Membership Committee. A supervised video will be shown for children in the Sitting Room during this if you sign up for it ahead of time. For more information or if you need a ride, call Coleen McBournie at 878-0809. There will be a sign up sheet on the bulletin board. Hope to see you there!

Nominating Committee Wants to Know What Brings You Joy?




Guess what? Ideally every church member and active attendee would have a task, job or committee assignment that brings them joy and helps us be the Body of Christ together. This is the only way to be a healthy church.

Your Nominating Committee is hard at work and we want you to understand the process. The Committee members are: Jonathan New (church office 878-5792), Ginger Isham (878-48-75) Brenda Racht (mornings 878-5792), and Kim Hornung-Marcy (878-8316). We are reviewing where there are openings and we will be eager to fill as many of these as we can by our late spring Annual Meeting (date TBA).

Our by-laws give us five excellent guidelines. 1. People are given a three year term when they say yes to serving on a committee (terms start and end on July 1) 2. No one should serve on more than one committee at a time (pastor and lay leader serve on all, all chairpersons are automatically on the Official Board). 3. People can serve on a committee for two three year terms but then should take a break from that committee. 4. You do not have to be an official member to serve. 5. Committees elect their chairpersons at their first meeting after July 1 each year.

Healthy churches also strive for a mix of men and women, ages, and length of time of church membership on all committees. When churches follow these guidelines they will avoid burning anyone out or getting stuck in ruts, and many people will have the joy of serving. We will try to observe these guidelines but we will not cast them in stone. Grace trumps law in this church.

We are publishing the list of all committees and elected positions so you can know and thank the people serving in this way. If you have questions or if you are eager to serve through a committee or position please speak to one of the members of the Nominating Committee.

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
				1 7:30 am Rotary 9 am Caring Circle 10-12 Senior Exercise	2 6:30 am Men's Bible Study	3 10-12 Program on Global Warming
4 9:30 am Worship & Communion w/Kim Hornung Marcy 11:00 am Youth Ministry	5	6 10-12 Senior Exercise Peace Vigil 5:15pm 7:00 pm Membership & Worship 7:00 pm Music & Worship 7:30 pm Trustees	7 7:30 pm AA 7 pm Finance 7 pm Education	8 7:30 am Rotary 10-12 Senior Exercise Choir 6,7, 8:15	9 6:30 am Men's Bible Study	10
11 9:30 am Worship Turn Your Clocks AHEAD 6-8:30 pm All Youth	12	13 10-12 Senior Exercise 7:00 pm Official Board	14 7:30 pm AA	15 7:30 am Rotary 10-12 Senior Exercise Choir 6,7, 8:15 5:30 pm Pastor/Staff Relations	16 6:30 am Men's Bible Study <i>Steeple deadline</i>	17 Saint Patrick's Day
18 9:30 am Worship 11:00 am Safe Sanctuaries 11-1 JH Youth? 6-8 pm SH Youth	19	20 10-12 Senior Exercise Dismas Meal 7:00 pm Missions & Social Concerns	21 7:30 pm AA Spring Arrives 5:30 pm Women's Book Group	22 7:30 am Rotary 10-12 Senior Exercise	23 6:30 am Men's Bible Study Whist night 6:30-9:00	24
25 9:30 am Worship 11-1 JH Youth 6-8 pm SH Youth	26 Rummage Sale Set Up All Week in Fellowship Hall	27 6:30 am Men's Fellowship Breakfast at the Lincoln Inn	28 7:30 pm AA	29 Choir 6,7, 8:15	30 6:30 am Men's Bible Study Rummage Sale 9-6	31 Rummage Sale & Youth Bake Sale 9-12

**The Steeple
Williston Federated Church**

**NON-PROFIT ORGANIZATION
U.S. POSTAGE PAID
PERMIT #4
WILLISTON VT 05495**

44 North Williston Road
Williston VT 05495

Phone: 802-878-5792
E-mail: office@steeple.org.
RETURN SERVICE
REQUESTED



Come, Meet Christ, Go Serve

Label goes up to the line
covering these words.
Thanks

Inside this issue:

Youth Ministry	insert
Lectionary	p.2
Pastor's Message	Cover
Rummage Sale!	P.2
Church Calendar	insert
Christian Education	insert
Global Warming	P.2
Trustee Corner	P.3
Lenten Series	P. 2
Nominating	P.2
Easter	insert

Volunteers needed

Our church has been available to provide a reception after a funeral or memorial service for those who wish to do so. Ginger Isham and Ruth Painter have faithfully organized these for several years and wish to step down from the fine job that they have done. We are now looking for volunteers who would be willing to serve a three month span to be the organizers at these times. I can truly emphasize there are many willing to help and there are guidelines to assist as well. If you are interested would you be so kind to speak to Ursula White or myself for more information. Thank you sincerely. Carol Burbank.

Don't Forget — Daylight Savings Time Begins on Sunday, March 11th!

Contrary to what many calendars indicate, Daylight Savings Time begins on Sunday, March 11th and not on Sunday, April 1st. This is no April Fool's Day joke! The Federal Government made this change last year after many calendars were already printed. So, don't be late for worship on Sunday, March 11th — set your clocks forward an hour on Saturday night, March 10th!

WFC Mentors at Williston Central School

In honor of **National Mentoring Month**, please take a moment to recognize the wonderful people of the Williston Federated Church (Esta Brayton, Polly Malik, Coleen McBournie, Mary Lu Rodes, Micaela Wallace, Charlie Wolf, Cathy Michaels, and Libby Flegenheime), who serve as mentors to 5th through 8th graders at Williston Central School. They spend an hour each week with their student “mentees” participating in many different activities together, including games, art projects, and sports. These close personal and supportive relationships make all the difference in helping students to develop their abilities, their self-confidence, and their connection to school. Connecting Youth Mentoring and Williston Central School are thankful for these wonderful volunteers from WFC who are helping to transform the program and the lives of their student mentees.

For information about how to become involved, please contact CY Mentoring Coordinator Nancy Carlson at 879-5874 or CarlsonN@wsdvt.org.

Holy Week Observances at the Williston Federated Church

He is Risen!

Maundy Thursday Observance — April 5th, 7:00 P.M.

Our service will take place on Thursday, April 5th, at 7:00 p.m. and will include Communion and a Service of Tenebrae. Maundy Thursday commemorates the institution of Holy Communion and the giving of the new commandment (Latin: *mandatum*) that we should love one another even as Christ loves them (John 13:34-35) at the Last Supper. *Tenebrae* is the Latin term for “shadows.” The Service of Tenebrae includes scripture lessons telling the story of the Last Supper and Jesus’ passion, and the gradual extinguishing of candlelight. Please speak with Rev. New or any member of the worship committee if you are interested in being a reader. We hope you will plan to attend this moving Holy Week worship experience.

Easter Sunrise Service — April 8th, 6:00 A.M.

We invite everyone to join us at the home of Tony and Susan Lamb on Easter morning for a Sunrise Service. Williston Church youth will lead this brief but joyous service at 6:00 a.m. (Sunrise is at approximately 6:22 a.m.!) Refreshments will be served following worship. The Lambs live on the corner of Oak Hill Road and Beebe Lane in Williston. Beebe Lane is the entrance to the Lake Iroquois Beach and State Fishing Access. Come be one of the first to declare, “Christ is risen!”

Easter Worship — April 8th, 9:30 A.M.

Our Easter worship will also include a 9:30 a.m. worship service that includes a brass quartet, choir anthems, children’s time, hymns, and an Easter message.

Coming This Spring — “Called to Care: Training For Lay Caregivers”

As a congregation, we are ever seeking to live out with renewed faithfulness Jesus’ command to love one another. In an effort to strengthen our church as a community that cares, called by a God who cares, the Caring Circle will be sponsoring a five session workshop series titled, “Called to Care: Training for Lay Caregivers.” Acknowledging that many of us are already extending care to others, these training sessions are designed to enhance the skills for and ministries of caregiving by laypersons.

Called to Care will address such issues as Christian perspectives on caregiving, the challenges of carrying out a ministry of presence, and approaches for ministering to people who are sick, bereaved, or dying. The Caring Circle’s larger hope is to develop a trained group of caregivers within our congregation who will work with our pastor in a shared ministry of visitation. However, anyone who wishes to be better equipped to offer caregiving is encouraged to participate.

Dates for “Called to Care” have not yet been established but we anticipate offering the series in May or early June, on Sundays following worship. Please speak with Jonathan or any member of the Caring Circle — Carol Burbank, Sarah Hibbeler, Ginger Isham, Ruth Magill, Ruth Painter, Barb Powell, Jane Stickney — if you are interested, would like to weigh in on the workshop series dates, or have questions about “Called to Care.”

Transportation Ministry

Both the Membership Committee and Caring Circle are working on a project that is called the Transportation Ministry. Lately we have become aware of several church folks who could benefit from this ministry. We are still trying to be more precise in our goals; however we need to make a start. So far we know there are people needing rides to church services and events, to go to appointments, and to help with errands. Some need more assistance than others, and perhaps might be limited as to the type of vehicle that would be used.

We would like to identify those needing rides (and what type) as well as those willing to help and when the drivers would be available. After we get that information, we ideally would like to have two or three people to be “dispatchers”.. .in other words to coordinate the riders and the drivers.

Some things we need to accomplish are finding out if there might be an insurance issue, as well as reaching the folks who don’t come to church (because they can’t get a ride!)

Any advice would be most welcome. Please contact Sarah Hibbeler or Barb Powell.