

# THE STEEPLE

## Williston Federated Church

*An Open and Affirming, Reconciling Congregation*

### Pastor's Message

Dear members and friends of Williston Federated Church family,

I will begin this message with two stanzas of one of my favorite Easter poems, *Seven Stanzas at Easter* by John Updike.

*Let us not mock God with metaphor,  
analogy, sidestepping, transcendence; making of the event a parable, a sign painted  
in the faded credulity of earlier ages:*

*let us walk through the door.*

*The stone is rolled back, not papier-mache,  
not a stone in a story,  
but the vast rock of materiality that in the slow  
grinding of time will eclipse for each of us  
the wide light of day.*

During the next few weeks, we will have the opportunity to complete our journey through Lent, enter into Holy Week, and then - in the wide light of day - celebrate the good news of the resurrection of Jesus.

**On March 20, Maundy Thursday**, we will gather at 7 pm in the Fellowship Hall for a Tenebrae Service and Holy Communion. According to the United Church of Christ Book of Worship, "Tenebrae is the Latin term for *shadows*. It is a service of lessons accompanied by the gradual extinguishing of lights."

**On March 21, Good Friday**, we will gather at 7:30 pm at the Hinesburg United Church for an ecumenical service (Hinesburg United, Richmond Congregational, Williston Federated). The service will be a modified "Stations of the Cross" and will include hymns and a choral anthem. Our Sanctuary will be open from 6 am to 6 pm for personal prayer and meditation.

**On March 23, Easter Sunday**, we will gather at 6:30 am for a "Sonrise" Service at the home of Susan and Tony Lamb (24 Beebe Lane, Williston). This service is led by the youth of our church. **At 9:30 am**, we will gather in our sanctuary for a service of celebration on Resurrection Sunday!

I will close this message with the words of another favorite author, Madeleine L'Engle as she reflects on Easter:

*The happy ending has never been easy to believe in. After the crucifixion the defeated little band of disciples had no hope, no expectation of Resurrection. Everything they believed in had died on the cross with Jesus. The world was right, and they had been wrong. Even when the women told the disciples that Jesus had left the stone-sealed tomb, the disciples found it nearly impossible to believe that it was not all over. The truth was, it was just beginning.*

Beloved of God, let us gather to live in the truth of new beginnings.

Peace,

Pastor Joan



**March 2008**  
**Vol. 26**  
**No. 3**

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Sunday Worship  
Service:  
9:30 AM

**Pastor:**

Rev. Joan Newton O'Gorman

**Director of Children's  
and Youth Ministries:**

Laurie Chipman

**Church Secretary:**

Suzi Ange-Roland

**Organist and Choir**

**Accompanist:**

Carolyn Pillsbury

**Music Director:**

Martin Hain

**Nursery Caregiver:**

Michelle Davis

## A Very Special Thank you

We would like to extend a very special thank you to the wonderful volunteers who have put the Steeple together every month. Without them it would be nearly impossible to get out to you. THANK YOU! Alice Brown, Marcia Cadmus, Sarah Hibbeler, Joy Pashby, Charlotte Philbrook, Larry Pillsbury, Barb Powell, Pattie & Willie Roberts, Bob Salter, Ruth and Bill Skiff. Art Tuthill, Ellen Walker and Vickie Walker.

## 'Clean Church!'

The Trustees are offering each member an opportunity to 'clean church'. Our dumpster is capable of holding more throw-aways that we are using. We ask that all Committees utilize the space in the dumpster to throw away any unnecessary paper, implements and left overs of any kind so that we may assess future needs more accurately. Plus, you'll feel better knowing that you have contributed to an efficient and orderly church space. (submitted by Ruth Skiff)

## Annual Church Rummage Sale

Friday, April 11th, 9am – 6pm & Saturday, April 12th, 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, April 7th. (Please do not bring items early). A sign up for workers will appear later in the month. Contact Carol Bouchard at 862-7400 or email: [carolcbouchard@gmail.com](mailto:carolcbouchard@gmail.com) if you have any questions.

## Turkey Points

If you are not using your turkey points from Shaws, please save them and give them to Polly Malik. She will use them to collect food for families in Williston. You can reach her at 879-6968.

## Thank you to Nancy Stone

whose liturgical art graces the gallery during Lent. Nancy writes, "These acrylic-collage scrolls grew out of two month's sketching and painting during rehearsals of the rock opera, 'Jesus Christ, Superstar', a 1989 Lyric Theater production. They present the moment when the characters face a crisis and willingly or reluctantly accept their destiny in the unfolding drama. Some Flynn Theater architectural motifs are used for the same reason that Andrew Lloyd Webber wrote the contemporary music...so that people today can respond to messages that transcend time."

## Youth Mentoring

Check out the bulletin board for a "visual" of those who serve as Mentors at the Williston Central School. You will find some familiar faces! However, your face is needed. Men, especially, are needed to serve as mentors. For more information, call 879 5874. Get involved - "A friend is a hand that is always holding yours, no matter how close or far apart you may be."

## New Church Pictorial Directory Coming Soon

The last week to sign up for the new Olan Mills Pictorial Directory is March 2nd after church. If you haven't signed up and you want to schedule a photography date, contact Carol Bouchard 862-7400. The dates for photography are March 13, 14 & 15. Everyone who is photographed will receive a free 8x10 and a copy of the directory. If you are going to be away those dates and would like to have a picture in the "Unavailable" section of the directory, please submit a glossy photograph, no larger than 4"x6", or a digital photo in JPEG or TIFF format. These candid photos must be received by March 15th. Digital photographs may be sent to [carolcbouchard@gmail.com](mailto:carolcbouchard@gmail.com).



## 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.

### March 2

1 Samuel 16:1-13  
Psalm 23  
Ephesians 5:8-14  
John 9:1-41

### March 9

Ezekiel 37:1-14  
Psalm 130  
Romans 8:6-11  
John 11:1-45

### March 16 (Palm Sun)

Matthew 21:1-11  
(Palms Liturgy)  
Psalm 118:1-2, 19-29  
(Palms Liturgy)  
Isaiah 50:4-9a  
(Passion Liturgy)  
Psalm 31:9-16  
(Passion Liturgy)  
Philippians 2:5-11  
(Passion Liturgy)  
Matthew 26:14-27:66  
(27:11-54)  
(Passion Liturgy)

### March 20 (Holy Thurs)

Exodus 12:1-4 (5-10), 11-14  
Psalm 116:1-2, 12-19  
John 13:1-17, 31b-35

### March 21 (Good Fri)

Isaiah 52:13-53:12  
Psalm 22  
Hebrews 10:16-25  
John 18:1-19:42

### March 23 (Easter)

Acts 10:34-43  
Psalm 118:1-2, 14-24  
Colossians 3:1-4  
John 20:1-18

### March 30

Acts 2:14a, 22-32  
Psalm 16  
1 Peter 1:3-9  
John 20:19-31

## How Can We Boost the Economy With Our Tax Rebate?

- Go out to dinner 15 times
- Give it to Hurricane Katrina Recovery to help build the Vermont House in MS
- Buy 12 new pairs of jeans
- Give it to Hurricane Katrina Recovery to help build the Vermont House in MS
- Make a down payment on a very small car
- Give it to Hurricane Katrina Recovery to help build the Vermont House in MS
- Buy a HD television as Uncle Sam has told us we must
- Give it to Hurricane Katrina Recovery to help build the Vermont House in MS
- Save it for a "rainy day" - lots of rain forecasted for April
- Give it to Hurricane Katrina Recovery to help build the Vermont House in MS
- Rent storage space to keep our "stuff"
- Give it to Hurricane Katrina Recovery to help build the Vermont House in MS
- Subscribe to "quality" cable TV
- Give it to Hurricane Katrina Recovery to help build the Vermont House in MS

You get the idea! Join with us as we challenge others to put that "found money" into the coffers to buy sheet rock, lumber, roof tiles, windows, doors, cabinets, and bath fixtures. It will help the economy, support the building industry, foster good will, and best of all provide a simple decent house for a family whose home was destroyed by the hurricane. It can also help us put our faith into action. Charlie and Ruth Magill

## Women Helping Battered Women

Shaw's Supermarkets is offering Women Helping Battered Women the opportunity to raise money for the organization by shopping at Shaw's. We simply collect receipts from Shaw's, they get mailed to the headquarters and they get 1% of the total receipts! There is no limit on the dollar amount, and the event is ongoing, so we can collect receipts for as long as we'd like. If you or someone you know shops at Shaw's, save the receipts and put them in the collection bag in the entry way. Thank you for your support!

## New Member Opportunities

The Membership Committee will be hosting an informational session on Sunday, March 30th, for those with an interest in joining the church. We will be meeting in the sanctuary, immediately following worship. Childcare is available. Please come if you'd like to learn more about membership, committees, and church affiliations, or if you have other questions about participating in the life of the church. Our next Reception of Members will be held on Sunday, April 13th. If you have questions about the informational meeting or member reception, please speak with Joan O'Gorman (878-5792) or Sarah Hibbeler (872-0827).

## One Great Hour of Sharing

It is my privilege to serve on the United Church of Christ National Committee for "One Great Hour of Sharing." This special offering promoted and received in March is an effort and partnership of nine Christian denominations (including the United Methodist and United Church of Christ - our Federated Church denominations) alongside Church World Service, transforming lives in this country and around the world. At a recent One Great Hour of Sharing Board Meeting in Cleveland, I was honored to receive, on behalf of the Vermont Conference, United Church of Christ, what is called the "Coveted Blue Globe Award." The award was given in recognition of "most improved" number of churches in Vermont participating in OGHS for 2006 (the most recent year for complete statistics for participating churches.) You will soon see this "Coveted Blue Globe" in our worship setting as we promote the offering, to be received on March 16. You may see it "floating" through the air! Our gifts to One Great Hour of Sharing will be equally divided between the United Methodist Church and the United Church of Christ. What will your generous gift accomplish? It will create sustainable sources of income for rural villages, provide micro-credit to women to start poverty-escaping businesses, teach trades and job skills to people maimed by landmines, offer children a change to survive past the age of 5 and go to school, help rebuild communities ravaged by natural disasters and resettle refugees into new lives. As each of us gives to One Great Hour of Sharing, we help families and villages around the world to build lives and communities that are healthy, safe and sustainable. Sharing our resources really changes lives! We are all a part of the "Blue Globe" - God's beloved creation. Peace, Pastor Joan.

## Big Bag Food Drive

The Missions and Social Concerns Committee will be sponsoring a short but sweet food drive during March. There is a critical need for non-perishable food to fill our local food shelves. We will be placing big grocery bags with a list of specific items for each bag in the Church lobby. Please fill the bag and return it to Church by Easter Sunday (March 23<sup>rd</sup>). These bags can be filled by one person, one family, multiple families, one scout troop, one work group... we're really not fussy! Stay tuned to the bulletin for the specifics.

## March 28-29 ~ 30 Hour Famine update

Area Youth Groups will be participating in World Vision's 30 Hour Famine. This is like a lock in with a focus on area and world hunger. Youth and advisors will begin their juice fast at 8am on Friday, March 28th and arrive here at WFC at 5pm. The program will end with a breaking of the fast and a meal. Departure will be at 3pm. \$15 per person is now due for registration, t-shirt and donation to World Vision. Participants may also collect donations to raise more money for World Vision.

Williston Federated  
Church Calendar

# March 2008

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
						1
2 9:30am Worship  5:00pm Low Carbon Diet Pot Luck Supper in the Fellowship Hall	3	4 10am-12pm Senior Exercise  6:00pm Membership  7:15pm Music and Worship	5 6:15pm Peace Vigil  7:30pm AA  7:30 Trustees	6 7:15am Rotary  9:00am Caring Circle  10am-12pm Senior Exercise  6:30pm Yarn Swap	7 6:30am Men's Bible Study	8 6:30 - 9:00pm Whist Night
9 9:30am Worship  After Worship Book Study on "Amish Grace"	10	11 10am-12pm Senior Exercise  7:00pm Official Board	12 7:00pm Finance  7:30pm AA  7:00pm Christian Education	13 7:15am Rotary  12 - 9:30pm Olan Mills  10am-12pm Senior Exercise	14 6:30am Men's Bible Study  3 - 9:30pm Olan Mills	15 10:00am - 5:00pm Olan Mills
16 9:30am Worship  One Great Hour of Sharing Offering  After Worship Book Study on "Amish Grace"	17	18 10am-12pm Senior Exercise  6:30pm Missions  7:00 Pastor/Staff  Dismas Meal	19 7:30pm AA  Steeple Submission Dead Line	20 7:15am Rotary  10am-12pm Senior Exercise  7:00pm Tenebrae Service in the Fellowship Hall	21 6:30am Men's Bible Study  7:30pm Ecumenical Service at the Hinesburg United Church	22 Holy Saturday
23 ~6:30am "Sonrise" Service ~9:30am Worship  30 9:30am Worship ~New Member Info Meeting	24  31	25 10am-12pm Senior Exercise	26 7:30pm AA	27 7:15am Rotary  10am-12pm Senior Exercise	28 6:30am Men's Bible Study  8:00am 30 Hour Famine  5:30pm Landmine Fund Raiser	29 30 Hour Famine

**The Steeple  
Williston Federated Church**

**NON-PROFIT ORGANIZATION  
U.S. POSTAGE PAID  
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RETURN SERVICE  
REQUESTED

**Come, Meet Christ, Go Serve**

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covering these words.  
Thanks

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**Senator Leahy to Speak at Girl Scout's  
Landmine Fund Raiser**

Girl scout troops from Williston and Essex last April started a \$20,000 campaign to adopt, train and deploy a mine detection dog to a war torn nation. I'm proud to report their success and that their dog, named CHAMPLAIN, begins training soon. They are continuing their land mine work by involving students from WCS, CVU and a school in Essex in a program called Champs International, sponsored by the Marshall Legacy Institute. These students will be connecting with classes in Bosnia via web cam, getting to know each other and working to raise funds to help mine victims. The students will be holding a reception at the Catamount Golf Course March 28th from 5:30-7:30pm to kick off the fund raising efforts. Senator and Mrs. Patrick Leahy will be the guests of honor. Tickets are \$25.00 per person which includes hot and cold appetizers, wine and non-alcoholic beverages. All proceeds will go directly to mine victim assistance. Please call Jennifer Mignano @ 878-9577 with any questions and to purchase tickets