

THE STEEPLE

Williston Federated Church

An Open and Affirming, Reconciling Congregation

Pastor's Message

Dear Members and Friends of Williston Federated Church,

I write this page on July 22 (the second day of a 10-day course in graduate theology I am taking at St. Michael's College.) The course is entitled "The History of Christian Spirituality" and I am thoroughly enjoying the professor and my seven classmates from various faith traditions and locations around the country.

I am sure that you will hear my sermons in September sprinkled with some of my gleanings from this course and I am considering offering a "mini" course in The History of Christian Spirituality sometime in the fall.

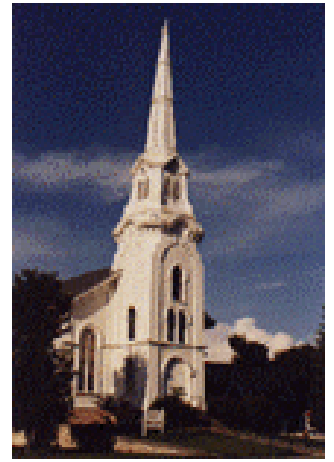
This, from Thomas Merton, *"the real purpose of meditation...is the exploration and discovery of new dimensions of freedom, illumination and love, in deepening our awareness of our life in Christ."* Or this from Hildegard of Bingen, written in the 12th century, *"Hail, O greenest branch, who, in the swirling windgust of sainted questing have come forth...and then there appeared, in greennesses full, all things."*

The words of Mary Oliver, contemporary poet, offer to me both an understanding of meditation and an appearance of "greennesses" - an opening up of the spirit. On this July summer day, I share with you one of my favorite poems from this author.

The Summer Day

*Who made the world?
Who made the swan, and the black bear?
Who made the grasshopper?
This grasshopper, I mean--
the one who has flung herself out of the grass,
the one who is eating sugar out of my hand,
who is moving her jaws back and forth instead of up and down--
who is gazing around with her enormous and complicated eyes.
Now she lifts her pale forearms and thoroughly washes her face.
Now she snaps her wings open, and floats away.
I don't know exactly what a prayer is.
I do know how to pay attention, how to fall down
into the grass, how to kneel in the grass,
how to be idle and blessed, how to stroll through the fields,
which is what I have been doing all day.
Tell me, what else should I have done?
Doesn't everything die at last, and too soon?
Tell me, what is it you plan to do
With your one wild and precious life?*

Peace,
Pastor Joan



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Address:

44 No. Williston Road
Williston VT 05495
Website: www.steeple.org

Pastor's Study: 879-3332
Parsonage: 876-7070
Cell: 345-7953
E-mail: churchmom432@hotmail.com

Church Office Hours:
Tues-Fri 8:30-3:30
Phone: 878-5792
E-mail: office@steeple.org

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

Host Families are Needed in August

to welcome visiting professionals from Belarus. Ten professionals from the Eastern European Republic of Belarus will visit Vermont in August as members of a USAID-funded/Project Harmony-facilitated Community Connections Program. The delegation will learn about the integration of handicapped people into society in the US from a myriad of VT entities, enabling them to advocate for increased inclusion of handicapped persons in Belarus society. Please see the flyer on the bulletin board for more information or call Carol or Renee at 802-496-4545.

Corn Roast

Mark your Calendars! September 6th at 5pm is the 2nd Annual Corn Roast at the Isham Farm. Thank you to the Isham's ahead of time for providing us with such a wonderful spot for this event.

Olan Mills Pictorial Directory Update

Olan Mills Directories Have Arrived!. Please stop by the table in the downstairs entry to pick up your copy or they may be picked up in the church office during regular office hours: Tuesday - Friday 8:30 AM to 3:30 PM. Also, please take your address label so we know who has gotten their directory. Thanks!

Women of the Church Book Discussion

Thank you Sally for hosting us June 30th. We had a lot of laughs discussing Nobody's Fool. Our September book will be The Faith Club: A Muslim, A Christian, A Jew-Three Women Search for Understanding. Our October book will be The Street of a Thousand Blossoms.

Katrina's Barn Sale

At the Isham Family Farm at 3517 Oak Hill Road in Williston, on August 16th and 23rd. Hours: 9 am to 1 pm. Profits will benefit Katrina rebuilding. Here is an opportunity to get involved. We will accept white elephant, furniture and working appliances. All items need to be in good, clean condition. No clothing or textbooks please. Please call ahead if you have large items. Items may be dropped off during following hours: Mondays 9 am - 4 , and Saturdays 9 am - 12 noon. We are looking for volunteers to work at the sale for 2 shifts each opening day; 9 am - 11 am and 11 am - 1 pm. A sign up sheet is on the bulletin board. For more information please call Ginger at 878-4875 or Deb Beckett at 658-6152.

Bible Sunday

will be held on September 21st. Please let Laurie Chipman know what children will be in the 3rd grade by early Sept.

Summer Sunday School Continues

Teachers and helpers are still needed! Curriculum and sign up sheets are on the table in the hallway. If no one signs up, children will be attending worship.

Gardening Group

Anyone interested in joining the gardening group, please send your current e-mail address to Sally Metro at sstock@msn.com or to Trudy Anderson at trudith@aol.com.

Worship CDs Available

CD's of our Sunday worship service are available. Please contact the church office if you would like a CD for your use or to share with family and friends.



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.

August 3

Genesis 32:22-31
Psalm 17:1-7, 15
Romans 9:1-5
Matthew 14:13-21

August 10

Genesis 37:1-4, 12-28
Psalm 105:1-6, 16-22, 45b
Romans 10:5-15
Matthew 14:22-33

August 17

Genesis 45:1-15
Psalm 133
Romans 11:1-2a, 29-32
Matthew 15(10-20) 21-28

August 24

Exodus 1:8-2:10
Psalm 124
Romans 12:1-8
Matthew 16:13-20

August 31

Exodus 3:1-15
Psalm 105:1-6, 23-26, 45c
Romans 12:9-21
Matthew 16:21-28

Thank You Corner From:

The Carpenters

Thank you, thank you for all those wonderful meals. Our church family have been so good to us. Terry and Howard.

Senior Exercise Group

To all who have made it possible, on behalf of the Senior Exercise Group, we would like to express our gratitude for letting us use Fellowship Hall to meet over the years. There isn't one time we have not felt truly appreciative and blessed by your generosity. Again, thank you for this opportunity to keep us going strong! Please come and join us in one of our classes any time. Sincerely, Beverly Gray, Coordinator.

The Church World Service Tools & Blankets Program Honor Roll

Church World Service recognizes Williston Federated for sharing in a hope-filled tomorrow through your support of CWS Tools & Blankets Program. We sincerely appreciate your generous gift of \$500.

Women Helping Battered Women

Thank You, Thank You, Thank You! From the bottom of our shopping carts for helping us with our Shaw's Receipt Campaign! We've received over \$100,000 in receipts, which means we've raised over \$1000 in support of our emergency shelter, children's program and legal advocacy services! On behalf of our staff, service users and community, we sincerely thank you! The program is ongoing, so we are happy to take receipts at any time.

Thank you to Guest Preachers and Musicians

How grateful we are for those faithful men and women of our congregation who have led or will lead worship and preach along with those who provide music ministry in July and August. Thanks to Tony Lamb and Ashley Dubois who have preached and to Charlie Magill who will preach on August 3 and Joe Maloney who will preach on August 10. Thanks to our musicians Connie Kendall, David Goss, Cindy Thurston and Ethan Hain. On August 17th, Pastor Joan will return. Thank you to those offering special music in August: 3rd- David Goss will be playing guitar, 10th- Sean Beckett will be playing trumpet, 17th- Hazen Metro on bagpipes, 24th- the Freebern family and the 31st- Janet Anderson will be playing the violin.

Lemonade Stand

A big thank you to all the children and parents who manned the lemonade stand this summer. We raised \$351.11! Proceeds went provide healthy snacks to the St. George kids attending summer camp.

Another Successful Chicken Barbecue

The annual July 4th Chicken Barbecue was a great success, thanks to the efforts of so many in our church. In keeping with tradition, we sold out of chicken in short order. And to top it off, we were blessed with unusually fair weather. Special thanks go to Barb Bristol and Carolyn Pillsbury for their guidance this year and for the many years they spent organizing this wonderful community event. Thanks as well go to Paul Bouchard for his tireless leadership in the pit and particularly for his assistance during the transition to new leadership this summer. We also appreciate Kent Fraser's willingness to take charge of the all-important pit operation. We would like to extend thanks to Reg Melrose and Vicki Walker, who cheerfully made the early-morning chicken run and then worked the pit crew all morning. Thanks as well to the cupcake makers and to the many volunteers in the kitchen and dining room for making this event run so smoothly. And, finally, thank you to the entire pit crew (including secret sauce-maker, Mike Kerbaugh), without whom this barbecue could not happen. With gratitude, Sarah Hibbeler and Polly Malik, BBQ co-chairs

Labor Day Weekend Lawn Sale!

Support the youth heading to Mississippi in October The youth will be holding a Lawn Sale Labor Day weekend, September 1st, on the Dubois' front lawn to raise money for their Mississippi Mission Trip. Clean out your closets and dust off your knick-knacks - here is your opportunity to clear out what you didn't take to the Barn Sale. Drop off your items Friday August 29th after 5:30pm at 5325 Williston Rd. Questions? Contact Laurie or Ashley.

Altoids Tins

The Membership Committee has a need for Altoids tins for crayons to put in the children's book bags. Thanks!

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."

Walking Club

The *official* Williston Federated Church Walking Club meets at 6 am (Monday-Friday) on the bike path for a 2-3 mile walk. In the tradition of WFC, *all* walkers are welcome (newbies to marathon). For more information, catch up with Cathy Michaels or Joan O'Gorman.

Williston Federated
Church Calendar

August 2008

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
			7:30pm AA	7:15am Rotary 10:15am-12:30pm Senior Exercise	1 6:30am Men's Bible Study	2
3 9:30am Worship	4	5 10:15am-12:30pm Senior Exercise	6 5:15pm Peace Vigil 7:30pm AA 7:30 Trustees	7 7:15am Rotary 9:00am Caring Circle 10:15am-12:30pm Senior Exercise	8 6:30am Men's Bible Study	9
10 9:30am Worship	11	12 10:15-12:30 Senior Exercise 7:00pm Official Board	13 7:30pm AA 7:00pm Finance	14 7:15am Rotary 10:15am-12:30pm Senior Exercise	15 6:30am Men's Bible Study Steeple Submission Dead Line	16 Katrina Barn Sale 9:00am-1:00pm
17 9:30am Worship	18	19 10:15am-12:30pm Senior Exercise Dismas Meal	20 7:30pm AA	21 7:15am Rotary 10:15am-12:30pm Senior Exercise	22 6:30am Men's Bible Study	23 Katrina Barn Sale 9:00am-1:00pm
24 9:30am Worship 31 9:30am Worship	25	26 10:15am-12:30pm Senior Exercise 7:00pm Music and Worship	27 7:30pm AA	28 7:15am Rotary 10:15am-12:30pm Senior Exercise	29 6:30am Men's Bible Study	30

**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

Label goes up to the line
covering these words.
Thanks

Come, Meet Christ, Go Serve

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Reimbursement Forms

Any committee members who need to be reimbursed from the Treasurer, there is now a form to fill out to accompany your receipt and leave in her mail box. The forms can be found in an envelope that is hanging on the bulletin board across from the office. Thanks for your cooperation!

Transportation Ministry Still Rolling! We're looking for volunteers to drive church members and friends to worship services, church events, or medical appointments, or to help with errands such as grocery runs. If you'd like to volunteer, or if you or someone you know needs transportation, please speak with Sarah Hibbeler (872-0827) or Barb Powell (878-5347). Thanks!