

THE STEEPLE

Williston Federated Church

An Open and Affirming, Reconciling Congregation

Pastor's Message

Dear members and friends of the Williston Federated Church family,

I don't know if this has happened to you recently but I find that I'm multi-tasking even as I write this page. In about 48 hours, I leave for a seven-day sojourn in Grand Rapids, Michigan to attend General Synod, United Church of Christ. Think of it as a combined worship experience, committee meeting, opportunity for making new friends, reconnecting with old friends, prayer, silence, and parties! So I'm packing my suitcase, leaving behind much work for Suzi to accomplish, returning phone calls and e-mails and seeing how little sleep I can get by with. In the midst of this busyness, our son Jesse and daughter-in-law Marcy called and asked if I could be grandma-in-residence for 36 hours with my 17-month old grandson, Nicholas (you do know about know Nicholas, don't you??) while they move to a new home in Arlington. I'm about to head down the road there shortly. In the midst of this busyness, I decided to take a breath...and sit down to read some pages of a new book, *Lifting Women's Voices - Prayers to Change the World*. I came across this prayer and - in case you are looking to take a breath in the midst of multi-tasking - I offer this to you. May you find the softening graces of God in these words as I have.

Let Us Be Still

*Let us be still:
and realize God's yearning and desire to enter into a relationship with us.*

*Let us be still:
and open our hearts to the indwelling of God's Holy Spirit.*

*Let us be still:
and bring before God all our worries, stresses and sorrows.*

*Let us be still:
and let ourselves be enveloped in God's all embracing love.*

*Let us be still:
and receive the peace of God that passes all understanding.*

*Let us be still:
confess our wrongdoings and receive God's forgiveness.*

*Let us be still:
and receive God's grace, a gift beyond compare.*

*Let us be still:
and give thanks to God in all things.*

*That filled with joy
We may go out to be a light in the world.*

Pam Holdgate
Taumarunui, New Zealand

Peace,
Pastor Joan



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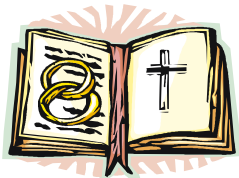
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Tues-Fri 8:30-3:30
Phone: 878-5792
E-mail: office@steeple.org

Sunday Worship
Service:
9:30 AM

Pastor:
Rev. Joan Newton O'Gorman
Local Pastor
Rev. Charlie Magill
Church Secretary:
Suzi Ange-Roland
**Organist and Choir
Accompanist:**
Carolyn Pillsbury
Music Director:
Martin Hain
Nursery Caregiver:
Michelle Davis

Williston Federated Church Vision ~ The Mission Plan book published during the Stewardship Campaign demonstrated all the great works our church does today but as we pondered the question - "What does God want us to do next?" It seems the perfect time to reflect on the Vision for our church. Our Mission statement is: *Our church is a community which seeks, welcomes and gathers people to share the Gospel of God's love, enables people to find fullness of life through Jesus Christ, goes into the world to live lovingly and justly as servants of Christ, and responds actively to human need.* Vision statements are different from mission statements. A Vision will express what our goals are over the next few years and identifies the steps to creating that vision. To create the vision we need to hear from all the people in the congregation, for everyone's voice will be important. Please reserve November 7th to spend the day from 8:30AM to 5PM, to working on the vision for our church. Watch for more details in coming months in the Steeple and the church bulletin. For any questions, contact Pastor Joan O'Gorman, Tony Lamb, Vickie Walker or Polly Malik.

Stewardship Quotes and Prayers ~ *It is possible to give without loving, but it is impossible to love without giving.* Richard Braunstein, author. On Dedication Sunday, we asked the congregation to write prayers for Stewardship. Here are some of those prayers ~ God – Guide us in the ways that we as a local Christian community may reach young adults and bring your message of the love, forgiveness and joy experienced as a disciple of Jesus Christ. May this Church nurture its members and the community. May its work bring justice and peace to the world around us and beyond. Let us be an instrument of peace. May we grow in peace and love for each other and those less fortunate. A prayer that this church can heal those suffering and befriend the lonely.



Monthly Craft/Bake Sale Meeting ~ During July and August we will be making jams, jellies and pickles. Watch the church bulletin e-mails announcing the dates and times we will meet and which bake sale items we will be making. If you have jam jars or canning jars to donate, they would be appreciated. No experience necessary just an ability to laugh. Questions call Vickie Walker 497-0017 or vwalker56@comcast.net

Save the Date!! ~ The Celebrating Seniors Committee will be hosting our 2nd Event of the year--a Summer Boat Cruise on the Spirit of Ethan Allen! We will set sail on Thursday, July 23rd from 2:00-3:30. We'd love to fill the first floor w/ seniors from all over the greater Burlington area (and beyond), so please spread the word for people to get together and purchase blocks of tickets. These tickets are discounted at \$15.99 and this includes a scenic cruise, music, dessert, coffee, tea, iced tea, tip and gratuity. First come, first served, so call the Spirit of Ethan Allen soon at 862-8300. Promotional posters will be available next week which will be distributed around the area. ** The Celebrating Seniors Committee was formed in January 2009, and is a group of professionals from local organizations that have come together to promote fun social events for area seniors. Members of this committee include: Suzanne Lemire and Diane Way of The Lodge at Shelburne Bay, Ellen Gagner of the Arbors, Rita St. Germaine and Kathleen Cote of Pillsbury Manor South, Marie Chase of Gazebo Square at Pillsbury North, Linda Martinez from the VNA, Recille Hamrell a local senior and story teller of South Burlington, Colleen McLaughlin of Starr Farm, and Jeanne Comouche of Armistead Caregiver Services. ** Please feel free to contact me via email or phone with any questions. Hoping for warm weather and sunshine, Jeanne Comouche, Armistead Outreach Coordinator, Armistead Caregiver Services, Shelburne, VT, (802) 355-8899.

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 5

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

July 12

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

July 19

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

July 26

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

Mission of Peace ~ by Lillian Coletta ~ I have been selected to go on a Mission of Peace trip to India from December 27th to January 15th through the Northeastern Jurisdiction of the United Methodist Church. To learn more about the NEJ Mission of Peace, please visit their website at <http://www.nejumc.org/mop.html> This trip will allow me to deepen my faith and be the Peacemaker that Jesus Christ challenges each of us to be. In order to go on this journey, I need to raise \$5,000. For the next several months, I will be rolling out a number of opportunities for you to consider. For the summer months, I will be offering the following: **Cream Puffs** ~ Order some today! They are perfect for any occasion. My Grandma's recipe is a winner. 6 cream puffs for \$10. Please give 48 hours advance notice. Call me at 878-2012 to order your cream puffs.

Babysitting ~ Take some time for yourself. Reconnect with your significant other. Get away for the weekend without the kids. Book me today for all your babysitting needs. I am 15, experienced & fun. \$10/ hour. Call to book me.

Flowers n' Flush ~ If a toilet with flowers is not your idea of the perfect lawn ornament this summer, I encourage you to buy insurance before it is too late. A \$20 insurance policy will ensure that the toilet never appears in your yard. All front yards become fair game starting in July. For those without insurance, the fee will be \$15 to have the toilet removed from your yard within 48 hours. The fee will be \$10 to select the toilet's next destination. Insurance may be purchased at church on Sundays in June, calling me or emailing me at trlcoletta@comcast.net.

Bottle Drive ~ Please put all your returnable bottles & cans in the barrel near the kitchen entrance. **July 4th** ~ I am still cementing my plans but look for me at the Band Concert and before and after the parade. I am counting on your support. For those who would prefer to just write me a check, make checks payable to Lillian Coletta-MOP and drop them in the envelope that is on the youth group bulletin board. In advance, thank you for your support and generosity.

Mission Trip-Hurricane Ike ~ We are planning another trip to the Gulf Coast. This time we will be going to the Beaumont, Texas area to work on hurricane damage from Ike. We are planning two weeks. Oct 18th-24th and Oct 25th-31st. The first week is Teacher Convention week; a short week for school and the trip is suitable for youth. The cost is estimated at \$500 including air fare. Contact Tony Lamb at 878-1251 or alamb@alamblaw.com for details. Charlie Magill and Ken Stone will help lead the work parties. There is also an opportunity in Vancleave MS. From October 11th to the 15th.

Thank You for Gifts of Beauty ~ "Like valleys that stretch out; Like gardens beside the river, Like aloes planted by the Lord, Like cedars beside the waters." (Numbers 24:6) ~ Lobelia. Dahlia. Pansy. Geranium. These are a few of the beautiful plants you will find in the newly redesigned Memorial Garden. Thanks to all those who had the vision, who labored at stump removal and clearing, who planted, watered and tended this beautiful garden: Trudy and Sandy Anderson, Susan Vieth, Sally Metro, Esta Brayton, Jane Stickney, Greg Jackson, and Tony Lamb. Thanks to Arcana Organic Gardeners in Jericho who provided the plants. Take a moment to visit the Memorial Garden, sit, pray, meditate, relax - and give thanks. Thank you also to those who wish to remain anonymous who make beautiful our two entryways with flower arrangements. Whether we choose the front steps or the parking lot entrance, we are met with the beauty of colorful arrangements.

Dismas Meal ~ A huge thank you goes out to everyone who prepare meals and attend the meals for Dismas house. There is still a need for monthly meals and for people to attend. Please sign up on the bulletin board in the entry way. Dismas House is a nonprofit organization founded in 1974 to provide transitional housing and support services to men and women who have been recently released from prison or jail. Dismas provides a unique form of crime prevention by working with at risk individuals to integrate them with community volunteers, college students, and staff. Dismas House recognizes that the cycle of crime can be reduced when men and women who have been incarcerated have assistance readjusting to society. To that end, Dismas House provides room and board, transportation, job referrals, life skills counseling, and drug and alcohol counseling referrals to help former offenders make a successful transition back into the community. To learn more, visit www.dismas.org. There are three Dismas Houses in Vermont: Burlington, Rutland, and the newest one in Winooski. Our church family is a partner with the Burlington Dismas House. For more information, speak with Gil or Mary Lue Rodes. At 878-8966.

E-Steeple ~ Communication is an important aspect of our connection as a church family. If you wish to receive the e-steeple (an e-mail that communicates events and other information to the church family, usually once a week), please contact Suzi at the church office to be added to the e-steeple list.

**The Steeple
Williston Federated Church**

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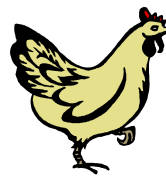
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Come, Meet Christ, Go Serve

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Annual Chicken BBQ! ~ Please join us for the July 4th Chicken Barbecue that takes place at the Williston Central School (approximately 11:30am) right after the Town Parade. The menu includes a half chicken, coleslaw, cranberry sauce, a roll and butter, lemonade and a homemade cookie for desert. Adult dinner \$9, chicken only \$5, Child's dinner \$5.

Your Help is Greatly Appreciated and Still Needed ~ Thank you to all who helped provide refreshments and helped with coffee hour over the last year. We have started our summer schedule of just coffee and lemonade for fellowship time during June, July and August. Please sign up by the coffee maker to set up on a Sunday that you will be here. Greeters are also needed. The sign up sheet is on the bulletin board in the entry way. Thanks so much!

Dear Members of WFC,

I would like to extend a warm and welcoming invitation to everyone who attends the Williston Federated Church to become part of our Sunday School Program. Without your support, Sunday School could not take place. The women of the Education Committee cannot be the only source of Sunday School teachers. The children and youth of our church need to know and see that everybody cares about their Christian education. So, I am reaching out to all members of our church to provide a diverse group of Sunday School teachers.

I know from personal experience that it is hard to commit to teaching Sunday School every week. However, signing up for individual Sundays has taught our committee that there is no continuity or relationship building for the children and youth. I have a vision of creating teams of three Sunday School teachers for each grade level. On a given Sunday, only two people will be required to be present at Sunday School. This will enable people to contribute and be a part of the life of the church as well as alleviate some of the time commitment.

People have expressed to me their lack of qualifications to teach Sunday School or being ill-at-ease with younger children. To help with this, the Education Committee will host training sessions prior to the start of Sunday School in September. These sessions are currently in development and will be announced in the bulletin, Steeple and E-Steeple.

If you still cannot be part of our Sunday School programming, please consider giving of your time and talents on Communion Sunday. If you have a particular talent or creative idea that you would like to share with the children and youth, please speak up! The Education Committee would love to hear it. I challenge everyone to ask themselves the following: What can I do to contribute to the spiritual growth of children and youth in our church.

If you are interested in being part of WFC Sunday School programming, please contact me at 879-6968 or ptmalik@myfairpoint.net. Thank you in advance for your support from the entire Education Committee.

Polly Malik
Chair, Education Committee