

THE STEEPLE

Williston Federated Church

An Open and Affirming, Reconciling Congregation

Pastor's Message

Dear members and friends of Williston Federated Church,

Two thoughts this month.

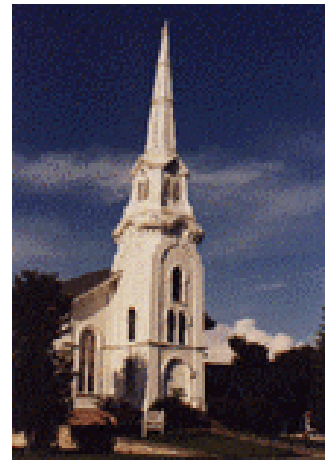
First, "*to everything there is a season and a time for every purpose under heaven.*" (*Ecclesiastes 3:1*) In the "season" of September, we greeted Paula Gile as our Student Pastor; now the "season" has come for us to bid farewell to her as she graduates, is ordained, and seeks a call as Pastor. On May 2, Paula and I will celebrate communion together with the church family and that will be her last day with us. During the service, there will be an opportunity for us to prayerfully give God thanks for our time together and offer our appropriate goodbyes. From the United Church of Christ Book of Worship, here is an important quote: "*Our church family is constantly changing; people come and go, babies are born; children grow up; individuals move into our community and church life; others leave us, moving away to new places, new experiences, and new opportunities; it is important and right that we recognize these times of passage - of endings and beginnings - with the one who is leaving.*" Following the worship service, there will be a reception in the Fellowship Hall with one of the hallmarks of our faith life together - cake! Please be sure to attend on May 2 and offer your thanks to Paula for her ministry among us. We pray for her as God leads her to new and exciting places.

Second, the church here in Williston - and all around the world - celebrates Pentecost Sunday on May 23. Pentecost is the fiftieth and last day of the Easter season. Pentecost celebrates the sending of God's Holy Spirit (read chapter 2 of the Book of Acts). This day marks the birthday of the church! So let's celebrate with color! Color expresses feelings and the color of Pentecost is red to remind us of fire - the symbol of God's Holy Spirit. Wear something red - a red tie, a red shirt, a red blouse, red scarf, red shoes...you get the idea!

I'll see you at church - the place where we celebrate the "seasons" of our lives and the colorful ways God's Holy Spirit is within us.

Peace,

Pastor Joan



**May
2010
No. 5**

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Church Office Hours:

Tues-Fri 8:30-3:30

Phone: 878-5792

E-mail: office@steeple.org

Website: www.steeple.org

Sunday Worship

Service:

9:30 AM

Pastor:

Rev. Joan Newton O'Gorman

Local Pastor:

Rev. Charlie Magill

Student Pastor:

Paula Gile

Church Secretary:

Suzi Ange-Roland

Organist and Choir

Accompanist:

Carolyn Pillsbury

Music Director:

Martin Hain

Nursery Caregiver:

Michelle Davis

April 22, 2010 marked the **40th anniversary of Earth Day** ~ Worship Communities everywhere are pledging to respect and honor God's gift of creation. As part of our commitment to maintaining the beauty of our gift, take time to view the gardens at Williston Federated Church. They are a tangible expression of appreciation for the gift of our planet. We encourage anyone who enjoys the gardens to participate in their maintenance. For more information contact Trudy at 899-3487 or Trudith@aol.com to join the email list that keeps you aware of what needs to be done and who will be working when.

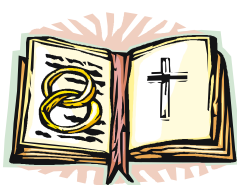
"Godly people give generously to the poor. Their deeds will never be forgotten" 2 Corinthians 9:9 ~ **Church members are cordially invited to attend the Burlington Emergency Shelter's Seventh Annual Fundraising Banquet to be held Friday, May 7, 2010 from 6:15 pm to 9 pm, at the Burlington Sheraton Hotel & Conference Center. Reservations are required.** This year's keynote speaker is Mike Yankoski, author of the book *Under the Overpass*. Mike's book captures his five months journey on the streets and relates the people and experiences that forever changed his life. He spends much of his time speaking to audiences across the U.S. and Canada, sharing his passion for a Christ centered response to our world's greatest needs, especially those of our homeless brothers and sisters. The banquet is an important fundraiser for the Burlington Emergency Shelter. The shelter does not accept any state or federal government funding and instead depends on the generosity of individuals, businesses and churches. Individuals interested in supporting the Burlington Emergency Shelter and attending the banquet should contact Ann Goff, banquet co-coordinator, at 985-3490, or email her at anngoff4@yahoo.com for reservations no later than April 26th.

Rummage Sale Wrap Up ~ Many thanks to everyone who set up, donated to, worked at or cleaned up the rummage sale. It was a huge success! We made over \$2300 that the Women of the Church will use in support of missions. Left over adult clothing, books and household items went to Goodwill. All the children's clothing and toys went to Redeemed, a non profit thrift shop for children.

Spring Clean Up Day ~ Spring clean up day will be on May 15th from 9am until 1pm. Everyone is welcome. Stay for as long or as short as you like. You won't have to do any job you don't care for. We are hoping for a much larger turn out than last year. Give your self and everyone else the gift of a beautiful clean church!

Terry Carpenter Junior Choir Festival ~ Please join us in the Sanctuary on Sunday, May 23rd at 6:00pm for the Terry Carpenter Junior Choir Festival. Contact Martin Hain at 878-7865 with any questions.

Kids4Peace Vermont 2010 Summer Camp ~ Kids4Peace Vermont will hold its third annual interfaith camp this summer, July 23-Aug. 1, 2010 at the Bishop Booth Conference Center in Burlington, VT. Twenty four campers - 12 girls and 12 boys - ages 11-13 from Jewish, Christian and Muslim families in both Vermont and Israel/Palestine come together for 10 days of camp, fun and interfaith understanding. We provide a full schedule of regular summer camp activities (games, music, hiking, swimming, trips, bonfires, crafts) with a healthy dash of cultural flair plus daily opportunities for respectful observation listening, experiential learning about peace-making and child-led discussions of faith practices. For more information, please go to www.kids4peacevt.org or contact our Summer Camp co directors: Ronen Schechner at ronen@kids4peacevt.org or at 802- 985-2597 or contact Connie Saeger Proctor at connie@kids4peacevt.org.



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.

May 2

Acts 11:1-18
Psalm 148
Revelation 21:1-6
John 13:31-35

May 13

Acts 1:1-11
Psalm 47
Ephesians 1:15-23
Luke 24:44-53

May 16

Acts 16:16-34
Psalm 97
Revelation 22:12-14,
16-17, 20-21
John 17:20-26

May 23

Acts 2:1-21
Psalm 104:24-34, 35b
Romans 8:14-17
John 14: 8-17, (25-27)

May 30

Proverbs 8:1-4, 22-31
Psalm 8
Romans 5: 1-5
John 16:12-15

Mission Trips Planned:

Belfast Ireland

Mike and Pat Thomas will again lead a team to Belfast May 4 to 13 to continue efforts at reconciliation between Protestant and Catholic partisans. There could be some work efforts to help the place they are staying as part of this trip. Cost is estimated at \$2300.00. A few spots may still be available on this team. Contact them at mthomas0@mac.com for more information or to register.

Cedar Rapids Iowa

Jack Hill is organizing a team to return September 25 to October 3 and continue efforts to rebuild houses in Cedar Rapids Iowa that were flooded. Maximum cost is estimated to be less than \$400. If you are interested or want more information, contact him at vfhill@yahoo.com

Return to Vancleave, Ms. and the Hinton Rural Life Center, Hayesville, NC

Jay and Cathie Dunkleberger will lead a team to this area from October 10 to 16. It will be a mixed team, with some construction/maintenance work and some other skills needed. Some will be working in the community, some working at the center, and some working at the domestic abuse center operated thrift store. Cost is expected to be \$250. plus your transportation. Some car pooling will be arranged.

Vermont House

A group of thirty will be traveling to Vancleave Ms. the week of October 17-23, 2010 to work on homes in the area. We plan to visit the Vermont House while we are there. Space is limited to 30 so if you are interested let us know as soon as possible. This Teacher Convention week, a short week for school and the trip is suitable for youth. Cost is estimated at \$500 including air fare. Contact Tony Lamb, 878-1251 alamb@alamblaw.com for details, or Ken Stone.

Hurricane Relief in Gulfport, MS.

A group of fifteen will be joining the North Ferrisburg Methodist Church working in Gulfport MS on homes damaged by hurricanes the week of February 20-26. This is school vacation week and ten youth from North Ferrisburg are expected to attend. Cost is estimated at \$500 including air fare. Contact Tony Lamb, 878-1251 alamb@alamblaw.com for details, or Ken Stone.

Dismas House Sign-Up ~ A new sign up has been posted for the Monthly Dismas House Meals. You have the choice of making the meal, providing salad and rolls or a dessert. Don't have time to cook - salad, rolls and desserts are always easy to buy and provide to this important mission. Think about delivering and sharing the meal and help show your support for these men as they transition back into society. Questions, please contact Polly Malik at 879-6968 or ptmalik@myfairpoint.net or Vickie Walker at 497-0017 or vwalker56@comcast.net.

Save the Date - 10,000 Villages ~ On May 1st from 9 am to 4 pm in the Fellowship Hall, a 10,000 Villages Sale will be brought to you by the Missions and Social Concerns Committee. Ten Thousand Villages works with over 130 artisan groups in more than 38 countries in Asia, Africa, Latin America and the Middle East to bring you fair trade jewelry, home decor, gifts and more. This helps improve the lives of thousands of artisans. As one of the world's oldest and largest fair trade organizations, we build long-term relationships with artisans that are based on mutual understanding and respect. Fair trade enables artisans to earn a fair wage and provides the opportunity for a better quality of life. 100% of the proceeds from this sale will benefit local and global mission efforts. For more information, visit www.tenthousandvillages.com or contact Deb Beckett or Micaela Wallace, members of the Missions and Social Concerns Committee. **Please join in a pot-luck supper and a pre-sale for members and friends of the congregation on April 30th at 6pm.**

4th Annual NAMIWALK has moved to Waterfront Park, Burlington September 11, 2010! ~ Get involved in NAMI -Vermont's largest fundraising event of the year - NAMIWALKS VT 2010! NAMI-Vermont has exciting news! The 4th Annual NAMIWALK is moving to Burlington this fall! This change is a result of a great opportunity we have to make the 2010 Vermont NAMIWALK the best ever! We plan to take advantage of this change to begin to build a bigger, stronger base of advocates as we reach more deeply into our communities to raise awareness and the much needed funding in order to provide the free programs that NAMI offers to our friends & neighbors. How can you help? Join the Walk Committee ~ come help us plan Walk Day 2010, Sponsor the Walk ~ become a corporate Sponsor ~ levels begin at just \$250, Be a Team Captain ~ gather your friends or coworkers and form a Walk Team, Just Walk ~ Join a Team or register an individual walker or Just Donate ~ support other walkers. To register for the Walk and / or to donate online go to: <http://www.nami.org/namiwalks/VT> or call (800) 639-6480. Please let your friends, family and neighbors know about the WALK's move to the fall and the special opportunity that this presents for all of us! With your talents and enthusiasm, we can reach (and even surpass!) our 2010 goal of at least \$50,000 with 50 teams walking!

Vision Priorities - Kitchen Improvements ~ As part of the Vision Priorities, improvements to the Kitchen were listed. If you have input into the changes you would like to see to the Kitchen or if you would like to get involved with this project, please contact Vickie Walker (497-0017)/ vwalker56@comcast.net or Polly Malik (879-6968)/ ptmalik@myfairpoint.net.

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Come, Meet Christ, Go Serve

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