

# Good News



## **Bethany Church, UCC**

30 N. Main St., Randolph, VT 05060  
Senior Pastor and Composer in Residence:

Rev. Kathy Wonson Eddy

Associate and Youth Pastor: Rev. Robin Junker

Sabbatical Assoc. Pastor: Rev. Lee Moore

**An Open and Affirming Congregation**

July 2009

### **Summer at Bethany Church, UCC**

Summer worship 9:30 a.m. continues through Labor Day Sunday. 10 a.m. worship resumes Sept. 13. Come for inspiration, community

### **Come Learn How to Better Hear Others' Stories and Tell Your Own July 12**

**Everyone has a story to tell!** Would you like to learn how to encourage people in your family to tell their stories? How to listen? How to draw out stories from our more shy folks? How to speak your own story? Come to a **potluck at 6 p.m. Sunday, July 12, and then a workshop by Greg Sharrow of the VT Folklife Center from 7—8:30.** Greg will lead us in a wonderful evening of celebrating stories and learning how to listen. This is part of our congregation's share of Robin's Lilly Endowment Grant for Pastoral and Church Renewal. Don't miss it! Please sign up at coffee hour for the potluck and workshop.

### **Need to Process and Heal Loss in Your Life? Come July 19<sup>th</sup>!**

**Illness and death have a profound impact on our lives, and we are often bewildered and discouraged by the many faces of grief.** The ways of coping are as varied as each individual. This interactive workshop will present some of the ways people cope as they process grief, including mindfulness, expressive arts, and narrative therapy. **The workshop will be held on Sunday, July 19, 7-9 PM in the vestry.** The presenter is Amy Emler-Shaffer, MA, a mental health counselor with experience working in bereavement, grief, loss, and depression. Her workshop is made possible through our grant from the Lilly Foundation. All are welcome! Sign up downstairs. A follow-up session will be held a few months after the initial workshop.



**Come to Bible Study**

### **Monday Dates for the Summer**

The Monday Bible study at 3:30 p.m. welcomes new folks to join us! We meet in Kathy's office to study the lectionary texts for the following Sunday, share concerns, and pray. During the year we meet every week. This summer we are meeting twice a month. Dates remaining are: July 6 & 13; August 17 & 24. Come join us!

### **Vermont Academy of Spiritual Training (VAST)**

- VAST - it's time for all who hunger and yearn to grow deeper in wisdom, faith and spirit to register for the 2009-2010 academic year of the Vermont Academy of Spiritual Training.
- VAST - it's time for all who have wondered "What does that comma mean," "why is God still speaking?," "Is God speaking to my church?," "What is this thing called the United Church of Christ?," and "Why should I fall in love with my denomination?," to register for "AUTONOMY AND COVENANT: A Practical Look at the Identity, History and Polity of the United Church of Christ" offered in 2009-2010 through VAST.
- VAST - it's time for Licensed Ministers (and others who may be interested in Licensed Ministry) who hunger and yearn to grow deeper in their skills for preaching and pastoral care - to register for "Preaching in a Congregational Context" and/or "Pastoral Care in a Congregational Context" for a continuing education opportunity offered in 2009-2010 through VAST.



Information and registration forms can be found at [vtucc.org](http://vtucc.org)

### **Vacation Bible School July 27 to 31st**

This year's Vacation Bible School is July 27-31 from 9:00 to 12 noon. And we are adding a new feature this year. There will be a potluck and end of the week celebration in the Vestry Friday evening, July 31st. (If the weather will cooperate we might even picnic on the lawn.) We'll plan to eat at 6:00 and then do some show and tell about our VBS days, ending by 8:00. All the members and friends of

Bethany Church and our VBS are encouraged to "come on down". Each family is asked to bring their own plates, glasses, utensils, and food to share.

We will have a joyous time focusing on our theme, ON THE MOVE, GOD'S GRACE FROM PLACE TO PLACE. Our "On the Move" VBS bus will take us on a 5 state tour of some of the lesser-known places of the Civil Rights Era: Cambridge, MD, Charleston, SC, The Mississippi Delta, Tennessee and Tidewater, VA. Here we will learn of God's presence in the people and events that helped to shape this Era of our Nation's history.

To have a successful VBS experience we need lots of volunteers. If you could come and help us out for one morning or all five, please contact Lee Moore (728-5849 or [bethanyucc@gmail.net](mailto:bethanyucc@gmail.net)). We could also use some "before the VBS" helping hands and all your prayers and good wishes for a successful Vacation Bible School.

### **"Writing the Sacred" Workshop** **August 29, 9:30 to noon**

The Encouragement Trust Committee is delighted to announce a wonderful opportunity in late August. Author Ray McGinnis will lead us in experiencing the richness of the Psalms (and writing our own!) Saturday, August 29, 9:30 to noon in the vestry.

Ray is a poet and psalm enthusiast, and has taught over 8000 people how to write prayers, poetry, and autobiographies, guiding them to bring their whole heart, mind and spirit to the process. He offers a new, deeper, and more meaningful way to explore and understand the Psalms. He discusses the intent and meaning of the historical psalms and then sets us on a path to creating our own sacred poetry. Ray has written the book, *Writing the Sacred*.

### **Tikkun Olam (Healing of the World)** **Celebration September 6<sup>th</sup>**

The Tikkun Olam award will be given Sunday, September 6<sup>th</sup> – Labor Day Sunday – to Kinari Webb of "Health in Harmony" in Borneo. Kinari is traveling from Indonesia to preach that day and receive the award. On the following Tuesday, the day after Labor Day, there will be a potluck at 5:30 p.m. in the vestry and a slide/lecture presentation by Kinari about her and her husband Cameron's work in rainforest regeneration and health clinic/hospital for poor villagers. Come Sept. 6 to hear her, and sign up at coffee hour to come to the potluck.



## **Star-Gazing on Braintree Hill August**

**30 at 8 p.m.!**

Bethany has our own resident astro-physicist! Dr. Andrea Kunder Phillips received her PhD from Dartmouth in May and will be in our church community until October when she and her husband move to Chile (where she will begin a job there at a huge observatory). Andrea will talk about astronomy and teach us about the visible stars in our sky on Sunday, August 30 at 8 p.m. at Kathy and Bob Eddy's on Braintree Hill. We hope you'll come! (If the weather is "iffy" call 728-5402 to see if it is still on.) Come and experience the awe of God's creation in the heavens!

### **A Financial Report on the Status** **of the 2009 Budget**

Randy reports that pledging/giving has been up and expenses down in the first half of 2009, so we have whittled our deficit to \$2500. We're hopeful with your continued generosity, the reverse offering to be collected in September, and the August 22<sup>nd</sup> tag sale, that we'll end the year with a surplus! We would love to begin paying back our "painting fund" (which we used to help balance the budget during this unprecedented economic downturn since the fall of 2008). We are grateful for your help in beginning to grow the painting fund again! Extra contributions by check can be given to Ron Allen or put in the offering plate.

### **"Reverse Offering" to Be Collected**

#### **September 13**

On Pentecost, May 31<sup>st</sup>, we examined the parable of the talents, and every person present received an envelope with money inside to "grow" for God. We'd love to hear what each of you are doing with the money you received. (Brenda and Abi Caswell for example used the money to go to Paint-Your-Own pottery. They created hand-painted pottery to sell and used the money generated to go back to paint more! Kathy Eddy put her money in a bowl on the kitchen table and adds coins every time she feels gratitude and "enoughness"/sufficiency. Her money has already doubled!)

Share what you are doing by calling or emailing the office and we'll put your ideas in the bulletin for summer Sundays. The results of all the sharing of our "talents" and growing our money will be collected and dedicated Sunday, September 13<sup>th</sup>.

### **Vacation Dates for Kathy and Lee**

Kathy will be away from Randolph July 23 – August 11, returning to work August 12<sup>th</sup>. She and Bob will be with their sons and families

and their AFS daughter Esther's family for a reunion at Esther's home. Lee will be away August 8-12<sup>th</sup>.

**Robin to Return from Sabbatical August 12<sup>th</sup>**

Robin has been on sabbatical since the day after Easter, studying storytelling, fiddling, playing and simply enjoying her family and the ocean. She'll be back in ministry here August 12<sup>th</sup>. *We will celebrate her return with a Celtic music concert and dance (with musicians from the New World Festival!)* under the tent in the church driveway Saturday, September 5<sup>th</sup>, 7-9 p.m. Don't miss this! Welcome back, Robin! We hope you are refreshed and renewed!

**Tag Sale—Sat., August 22, 9 a.m. to 1 p.m.**

Bring your no-longer-wanted items to the church tag sale! Jill Montgomery is in charge. She says you can bring items to the church that morning at 8, or call ahead of time to arrange for them to be picked up. Last year's sale was wildly successful and we hope you'll participate in this year's sale!

**Godspeed Blessings to Dean Walch July 19<sup>th</sup>**

Dean Walch is moving to New York state at the end of July. We have appreciated his dedication to the choir and his faithfulness to God and to our church. We'll be recognizing Dean with prayers in worship July 19<sup>th</sup>, and a wonderful cake for coffee hour prepared by Deb Allen. We love you, Dean!

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Note: Bethany puts out a newsletter three or four times a year. The rest of the time when there is an event we would like to tell you about, we send the information by email. If you haven't been getting our emails and would like

to, please send your email address to [bethanyucc@gmail.com](mailto:bethanyucc@gmail.com)