



# Good News October 2009

## Bethany Church, UCC

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Rev. Kathy Wonson Eddy, Pastor

Rev. Robin Junker, Assoc. Pastor

October 2009

Dear Bethany Friends,

I've just returned from the Vermont UCC Ministers' convocation on Lake Champlain, an annual retreat that always nourishes me. This year the theme was "How to Be on Fire without Burning Out: Changing Our Over-Committed, Over-Busy, Fast-Paced Lives."

Rev. Dr. Kirk Jones of Andover-Newton Theological Seminary led us in three days of biblical study, personal reflection, laughter, and prayer. We explored the story of Jesus calming the storm as a template for strategies to change our over-full lives. In that story Jesus leaves a hectic scene where many clamor for his healing and teaching by going out in a boat with his friends and promptly falling sound asleep in the stern. Dr. Jones encouraged us all, clergy and laity alike, to take "back-of-the-boat" time for renewal, time when we are not "up front" in leadership, but instead taking deep rest. I have discovered that my Thursdays and Fridays off each week provide this refreshing, renewing back-of-the-boat time for me. I hope each of you is marking off time in your calendars each week to simply rest with Christ. It is not a luxury, it is a necessity!

Dr. Jones also spoke about many ways to live at a more "sacred pace," and to claim smaller increments of "back-of-the-boat" time each day as well as Sabbath time each week. He told us about the New Orleans African-American church he grew up in, where each Sunday the old deacon would kneel in front of the congregation and begin the prayer the same way every Sunday for years: "Lord, I come to You as an empty pitcher before a full fountain."

Dr. Jones uses that image in prayer every day as an adult. He sees himself before the fountain of God's grace, peace, and love. In fact, he often visualizes it as a waterfall spilling onto his tense neck and shoulders as he stands under it! This image in prayer helps him re-charge when he gets over-committed. It reminds him that all he needs is available from God, always. This prayer in the waterfall teaches him each day that he can relax and let God work in his life, God loving him and guiding him instead of frantically (and often resentfully) just doing the things on his over-full calendar as if he has to earn God's love and the approval of others. He says it helps him live out of a place "from acceptance" instead of living "for acceptance" of others. We clergy found this message transformative!

I invite you this fall to take lots of "back-of-the-boat" time for renewal and refreshment. I invite you to pray the image daily of yourself in God's waterfall of grace and love, the waters of God's peace and healing washing over you. Who knows what will happen if we live like this!

Peace and joy to you,

*Kathy*



### "Transforming Vermont" - Oct. 17, 9:30 a.m.!

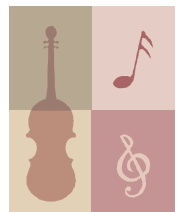
A community organizing workshop, "Transforming Vermont" sponsored by Vermont Interfaith Action, will be held this Saturday from 9:30 a.m. to 3 p.m. here at Bethany. The workshop will introduce people to the VIA's model of achieving social justice and systemic change in communities by mobilizing grassroots support. Registration is \$10; lunch included. Registration forms downstairs. For more info: 651-8889 or [office@viavt.org](mailto:office@viavt.org)

### Special Music October 18

Kathy has composed a new piece based on Jeremiah 29:11, a verse that has been a profound comfort for those in grief or in difficult life situations. It will be performed by Jane Harness, violin, and Jack Davis. Also that day, Jim Thomas will preach as our "consecrating steward." Jim is on fire about stewardship. Come catch his enthusiasm!

### Opportunities to Participate in Bethany's Music

Do you or your child play a brass instrument? The brass choir will play in worship November 22, December 20, and Easter, April 4<sup>th</sup>. Speak to Bill Brigham if you'd like to be a part of the intergenerational brass choir.



Would you like to provide offertory music by playing an instrument, singing alone or with a small group you organize? Speak to Kathy. We welcome new offertory participants!

Would you like to join the senior choir or have your child be in the junior choir? Speak to Marta Borgstrom. Being part of a choir is a wonderful way to deepen your own faith and give a gift to others at the same time!

### The Web-Site Is Almost Complete

We thank the Encouragement Trust and Pam Knights for extraordinary effort to create our exceptional web-site! You will be able to see it in November at [bethanyuccvt.org](http://bethanyuccvt.org). You'll notice Bob Eddy's beautiful photographs, copy written by many committees and your pastors, calendars, youth pages, Kathy's music, Bethany history and up-to-date information about events, missions, and classes.

### Daylight Standard Time Begins November 1st!

Set your clocks back an hour before going to bed October 31st in order to be at church on time!

### Report from the Centennial Building Committee



This summer has witnessed a beehive of construction-related activity at Bethany. It has been overseen by the Construction Task Force composed of Ed Butler, John Chittenden, Steve Pratt, and Larry Richburg, with valuable assistance from Gene and Helene Woodward.

Prior to beginning with the actual improvements to the church, some minor projects had to be undertaken in the late Spring. These included removing, as a health-safety measure, all asbestos-containing material from around the boiler, basement ceiling, and heating pipes; making repairs to the roof, in order to protect our investment in the new Sanctuary ceiling insulation; and removing all of the ancient knob and tube wiring in the basement and attic, to eliminate a potential fire and safety hazard. Then the basic structure of the church was strengthened and reinforced in both the attic and basement; a new electrical panel was installed in the basement; and insulation was added to all the exterior walls and to the ceiling above the sanctuary.

The final piece of work in this first construction phase is replacing our old steam heating system with a modern, efficient, two-boiler, hot water arrangement. This has required removing the old boiler and all of the old steam radiators, amounting to over eight tons of scrap metal, and replacing them with new copper piping, soft-touch radiators, and a multi-zoned heating control system. When finished we will no longer need to heat the entire building in order to use only a room or two, and our energy consumption will be significantly reduced both by the new zoning system and by the new insulation. In addition, we will be able to heat the church's entrance foyer, which currently has no heating system.

The only glitch in the schedule is that delivery of the soft-touch radiators has been delayed a month more than anticipated. This delay will require that we install some temporary heating units in the Vestry and Sanctuary during the month of October. Final installation should be completed the first week of November.

Looking ahead, the Centennial Building Committee has begun discussing what might be included in the second phase of the project and when that phase might be able to commence. This discussion will continue in October when costs and future pledge payment projections become clearer, and a further report will be made to the congregation upon its conclusion.

Paul L. Kendall, Chair  
Steve Pratt, Chair – Construction Task Force

### Eva Lurman Memorial Service Set for Tuesday, October 27, at 2 p.m.

We will thank God for the life of Eva Lurman on Tuesday, Oct. 27 at 2 p.m. A cousin from Europe and a cousin's daughter from Maine will be with us. We will hear stories from Eva's oral history interview with Rick Edwards and hear some music in German, Eva's native language. We hope you will join us!

### Windsor-Orange Fall Meeting Oct. 18 in No. Pomfret

All are invited to the fall meeting of the Windsor-Orange Assoc. and the installation of Rev. Margaret Flad in the North Pomfret UCC (formerly served by Sami McRae). Registration begins at 2 p.m.

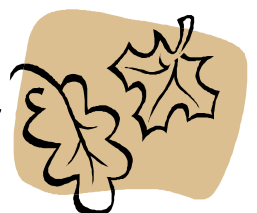
### Kinari Webb's Work in Borneo an Inspiration

Dr. Kinari Webb preached in Bethany on Sept. 6<sup>th</sup> and received the 2009 Tikkun Olam (healing of the world) award. Copies of her inspiring sermon are available at coffee hour. Her work which combines personal health in Borneo with restoring the rainforest (thus affecting climate change) has global implications. At present we are hoping to help her expand her clinic to a full hospital with laboratories, surgical suites, and beds for inpatients and their families. If you'd like to contribute to this ministry, you can write a check to Bethany ear-marked for "Health in Harmony in Borneo."

### October 24<sup>th</sup> Is International Day of Climate Action

With churches all around the world, we will ring Bethany's bell 350 times on October 24<sup>th</sup>, beginning at noon. (Other Randolph churches will ring at other times the same day.) Three-hundred fifty times because 350 parts per million is the maximum concentration of carbon dioxide that the atmosphere of planet earth can sustain life as we know it. At present we are at 387 parts per million. That's why the Arctic has melted with stunning speed the last two summers and why the pH of the oceans has shifted dramatically in the past decade. The "350" campaign, an international grass roots movement, has already had some creative responses: in the Himalayas of Ladakh, 1,500 Buddhists formed a giant 350 against the backdrop of the snowy peaks. It is hoped that when world leaders meet in Copenhagen in December, they will have one number in their minds and the resulting treaty will be much stronger. You can learn more at 350.org.

In addition, An Ad Hoc committee, including representatives from Bethany's Advocacy Committee, the Randolph Peace Coalition, VTC, and Randolph Union High School, as well as our Associate Pastor Robin Junker and Bethany Youth Member Morgan Easton are planning an exciting recognition of the International Day for Climate Action. It is our hope that 350 people will assemble at the Randolph skating area, wearing green and carrying signs about global warming. It is hoped that there will be music and, perhaps, hot cider or cocoa, as well as simple activities and fliers, about how we can combat global warming. The rally will take place from noon to 2 PM on the 24th. Other churches will be asked if they would like to join the more solemn recognition of bell-ringing and/or to sign people up to be "one of the 350"! Given that we are trying to decrease our carbon footprints, we urge all who can possibly do so to walk to this event! *Try to be there at 12:30 for an official photograph of the group!*



### November 1st Is Bread for the World Sunday

We will pray and work for ending world hunger on Sunday, November 1<sup>st</sup>. Worship will feature a special litany and a new hymn by Kathy, "I Am Your Hunger, I Am Your Bread." After worship, for those who desire, there will be letter-writing to Congressional people encouraging legislation to end hunger.

November 1<sup>st</sup> is also All Saints Day. We will celebrate by singing "For All the Saints" and "I Sing a Song of the Saints of God."



Kathy will be on vacation November 2 to November 11.

### ARIOSO Concert in Our Sanctuary, November 8<sup>th</sup>

Come Sunday, November 8<sup>th</sup> at 4 p.m. to hear music for voice, strings, and piano! "Arioso," an ensemble including our own Marjorie Drysdale, will offer lovely music for soprano, alto, violin, viola, cello, and piano. (The program will include Kathy Eddy's composition "Gosport Harbor" for viola and cello, a piece composed on Star Island.) A free will donation will be received at the concert. All invited.

#### Financial updates:

~Reverse Offering (so far!) - \$2,231.02!!  
~At the September 23<sup>rd</sup> Church Council meeting, it was decided that any budget surplus for 2009 is to go into the Church Painting Fund to begin to repay the funds that were borrowed last year to balance the budget.

#### Calling All Women!

Save March 12-14, 2010 for the 8<sup>th</sup> annual New England Women's Celebration in Burlington: "Together Building Bridges." It is not too early to register! Women will learn to Build Bridges Together in a new workshop which will feature intergenerational, participatory time. Leaders will be Valerie Tutson, a renowned storyteller from Rhode Island, and Whendi Cooke, singer, songwriter, musician and visual artist from Connecticut. Together they will lead in creating expressions of the journey as sisters of spirit. Experience CONNECTIONS through art, music, dance, faith and fun! Check out the website for more information <http://www.uccwomenscelebration.org>. We look forward to seeing you at CELEBRATION VIII in Burlington.



GOOD NEWS is published by Bethany United Church of Christ, 30 N. Main St., Randolph, VT 05060. Church phone & fax: 728-5849; Pastors: Revs. Kathy Wonson Eddy e-mail: kebethanyucc@gmail.com & Robin Junker; e-mail: rjbethanyucc@gmail.com Secretary: Phyllis Roberts; Church e-mail: bethanyucc@gmail.com Worship, with nursery-care and Sunday School for children is at 10 a.m. on Sundays

### A Letter from the Stewards

It's that time of year when leaves turn and fall; here at Bethany we begin preparation for funding next year's program and mission.

Good news! Giving is up at Bethany; the forecast is that we will end the year even, or slightly ahead.

We are in the midst of a four-week pledging period right now. Together, we will fund our future. Following the example of Jesus Christ, your Stewards and Pastors are certain that your personal well-being depends, in large part, upon your generosity. That's right! Jesus himself said, Sow abundantly and you will reap abundantly; sow sparingly and your yield will be meager."

In short, we ask you to increase your pledge this year because:

- ◆ Bethany is doing good and wonderful works; your dollars are being used wisely for the up-building of community, of the world.. and...
- ◆ You will be better for it. That's right...if you want to feel more alive, more joyful, give yourself more to life. The benefits are huge! You will be happier for it.

Bethany—we are growing a more loving church. Hope to see you this Sunday!

Bethany Stewards

### Would You Like to Consider Membership in Bethany Church?

If you have thought about becoming a member of Bethany Church, now's the time! There will be two new members classes: 1) Sunday, November 15 and 2) Sunday, Nov. 22 following worship. New members will join on Sunday, December 13<sup>th</sup>. There is no pressure to join; this is a time for exploration! We will also discuss associate membership, which allows you to vote in Bethany meetings and also keep a former association with another church or denomination. It would be helpful if you would let us know if you are interested so we have an idea of how many to plan on.

### Saturday Afternoon November 14: Habitat Concert!

Our own Chris Smith and musical friends are planning a fabulous concert in Chandler on Saturday, November 14<sup>th</sup> at 3 p.m. It will benefit our local chapter of Habitat for Humanity. At present our new Habitat house is growing on Mountain Avenue (above the fire station). Go check it out! And come to the concert to enjoy the music and to insure that the funds are available to finish the house!

### Advent begins Sunday, Nov. 29

Watch for the Advent newsletter which will describe wonderful plans for spiritual focus, special music (including our lamplight harp concert, newly composed music) our outdoor live crèche, the pageant, and much more.



## Christian Education News

### Adult Education

An adult education class begins Sunday, November 1st at 8:45 a.m. in the UCC Conference building. Robin will lead a group study on the book, *What's so Amazing about Grace*, by Phillip Yancy. Following is an excerpt from the study guide cover: "It's one thing to talk about grace; it's another to taste its power. This book takes you and your group for interactive, gut-level encounters with radical, life-changing grace. Through candid video interviews, Yancy integrates true-life faces and experiences with 10 powerful sessions that will rock your preconceptions, get you thinking and talking, and help you discover together why grace is more amazing than you've ever dreamed. This Participant's Guide will help you not only gain a better understanding of what grace is and why it is so precious, but also integrate it into your life. Engaging questions, provocative Bible studies, and lively discussions are just part of the package. You'll also be challenged to look for grace where it counts the most: in your own character and personal life." Come join us! Sign up in the vestry.

### Sunday School

Bethany's Sunday School is up and running. We have a toddler, K-3, 4-5 and 6-8<sup>th</sup> grade class. We have a great group of teachers this year!

One of the highlights this year is the addition of the 6-8<sup>th</sup> grade class led by Regina Beidler and MaryKay Dreher. This class alternates each Sunday between worship and classroom discussion. The youth enjoy getting to know one another and sitting together in worship.

We also thank Deb Allen for coming forward to help organize the toddler Sunday school class with Robin. If you have not registered your child, please do so by calling Phyllis at the office. Thanks!

### Youth Groups

Bethany has youth groups for three different age groups: 4-6 graders, 7-8<sup>th</sup> graders, and 9-12<sup>th</sup> graders. The 4-6 graders meet on alternate Wednesdays after school. The junior high group meets at 5 p.m. every Friday, and the senior high group meets at 7 p.m. on Fridays. These groups are lively, fun-filled, and help the youth to explore ways of faith.

The groups are off to a healthy start! The 7—8 graders are fed a spaghetti dinner every Friday night at 5:00. This is particularly helpful to those juniors who are so hungry after soccer practice. The senior high is also offered a dinner from 6:00 till 7:00. These dinners have proven to be great community builders and have been much appreciated by our youth.

Our goal for youth group this year is to strive to live out the church's mission statement: As a diverse group of people, we will strive to love the Lord our God with all our heart, mind and soul and love our neighbor as ourselves. We endeavor to be the hands and feet of the living Christ in the world. Rest assured, we will have fun doing this! Our programs will reflect this mission by ensuring our youth the opportunity to engage in social and environmental outreach and spiritual practices of prayer and worship.

## Schedules for the Group

### 4-6 Grades: (has group spaghetti on a regular basis)

~Wednesday, October 21<sup>st</sup> – apple-pie making. We'll be making pies with the apples we picked. We'll freeze them and offer them for sale as thanksgiving approaches. This has become a fundraiser that everyone looks forward to each year! Be ready to get sticky!

~Wednesday, Nov. 4<sup>th</sup> – origami prayer balloons...

~Wednesday, Nov. 18<sup>th</sup> – advent wreath making...

~Wednesday, December 2<sup>nd</sup> – apple-butter making for holiday sales. Another yummy fundraiser!

~Wednesday, December 16<sup>th</sup> – preparation and rehearsal for our upcoming Christmas Pageant. Another Bethany tradition! Parents, mark your calendars for December 20<sup>th</sup> at 10 a.m. This is a play you won't want to miss!

### 7-8<sup>th</sup> Grades:

~Friday, October 16<sup>th</sup>, 5-6:30 p.m. – group building hands and feet – What? You'll see! Plan on getting some paint on your clothes!

~Friday, October 23<sup>rd</sup> – No youth group. In-service day.

~Friday, October 30<sup>th</sup>, 5-6:30 p.m. – come in costume! We'll be trick or treating for the Food Shelf. Bring a pillowcase to carry canned goods.



### 9-12<sup>th</sup> Grades: (spaghetti suppers)

~Friday, October 9<sup>th</sup> – haunted corn-maze (see 7-8<sup>th</sup> grade item above) spaghetti at 5 at church. Leave at 6 p.m. Bring drink, or money for drink.

~Friday, October 16<sup>th</sup> – movie night! Bring comfy blanket, cozy pillow.

~Friday, October 23<sup>rd</sup> – flashlight tag and weenie roast – location TBA. Bring flashlight.

~Friday, October 30<sup>th</sup> – trick or treat for Food Shelf. Bring yourself in costume!

### Kids in Worship Leadership

You may have noticed youth greeting you upon your arrival at church, or have been a participant in youth led prayers of the people. This is because we are involving more youth in worship duties this year. Every other week, youth meet with Robin after school to write a prayer or learn how to read a scripture passage. This is such a delight. If you have any affirmations, concerns or want to help, please contact Roger Ennis.

### Need for People to Help with Live Creche

We would love to have a live crèche this year! Horses, sheep, donkey? Are you willing to help organize this event with the help of the CE committee? Please speak with Robin or Brenda. Thanks!