

The Steeple

Federated Church of Castleton
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February 2012

A Call to Ministry

By Ceil Hunt

This Christmas I received a beautiful Nativity set from my husband. It was just what I asked for. Now that Christmas is over, I have it packed up and put away until next December. It is not a gift I use year round or on a daily basis. However, as Christians, we have all been given special gifts and desires that God wants us to use to build the Body of Christ. Do you have a passion for prayer or feeding the poor? Has God touched your heart to visit the sick and shut-in members of our church? Do you feel the need to feed on God's Word and use it to comfort or cheer others? Like Barnabas, do you have a word of encouragement for the depressed or downtrodden? Do you find yourself handy to hug the hurting? These desires are from our God who wants us to join Him in His work here on Earth. He has called us to be His heart and hands in human form.

We have so many in our church who have been gifted and are using those gifts to comfort the hurting, to lift each other in prayer, to care for the sick, to share sorrows and joys, to rejoice in all God has done, and to bring the lost to a loving Savior. Our hope is to create a ministry team to support the outreach that currently takes place as well as give others the opportunity to identify and use their gifts. Building on Rob's recent sermon, we want to:

1. clarify the mission of our ministry,
2. meet the needs of those inside and outside of the walls of our church,
3. study the Word,
4. pray, and
5. give each member the tools and support they need to fulfill the ministry they have been called to do.

If you would be interested in learning more about this ministry, please join us on Wednesday, February 22nd at the Birdseye Diner at 4:00 PM. Won't you prayerfully consider joining us in this ministry? Please contact me if you would like more information or are planning on joining us at the Birdseye.

Ceil Hunt
Phone 265-7913 or Email: fhgstechie@yahoo.com



WARNING OF THE ANNUAL CONGREGATIONAL MEETING

The Members of the Federated Church of Castleton, Vermont and all those interested therein are hereby warned to meet in the fellowship hall of the church on Sunday, February 12, 2012 following a soup and sandwich luncheon at 12 PM to transact the following business:

1. To hear the reports of the church's officers, boards, committees, and ministers,
2. To elect all officers and board and committee members,
3. To amend the 2012 church budget in accordance with projected income,
4. To transact such other business as may properly come before the meeting.

Respectfully submitted,

Holly Hitchcock, Clerk



Federated Church of Castleton, Vermont

"Together We Can Make a Difference"

Name: _____

Please complete the following questionnaire which will assist in calling persons into the study and service of the church according to their gifts and preferences. Please return to church on or before Christmas Eve using the enclosed pre-addressed envelope.

Instructions: Please use one check mark to indicate that you are interested in becoming involved in that particular area of church service, or two check marks to signify that you are actively involved and would be willing to continue for 2012.

Christian Education:

- Teaching Vacation Bible School
- Assisting with Vacation Bible School
- Assisting/substituting with nursery care
- Serve on the Christian Education Committee
- Substitute/assist with Creativity Time (program for younger children in the fellowship hall which would follow the children's sermon until the end of the worship service)
- Assist with Youth ministry

Worship and Music:

- Senior Choir
- English Handbell Choir
- Play an instrument
- Lay Liturgist (assistent)
- Greeter
- Usher
- Serve on the Worship Team

Membership and Outreach:

- Host Sunday morning
- Assist with church dinners
- Provide transportation to church events, especially Sunday worship
- Participate on the Pastoral Care Team (visitation/welcome/care)
- Prayer chain
- Prepare meals periodically for individuals/families in need
- Help organize church fellowship gatherings/activities

note to self
Remember to return to Jean Britt.

IMPORTANT STEWARDSHIP UPDATE

If you haven't returned your Sharing of Time and Talent questionnaire and pledge (meaning members of the congregation), please do so before the Annual Meeting so we can have a complete report. Jean Britt



Do you receive the weekly email from the church office? Do you get this newsletter in your mailbox or do you have to pick it up at church? Are you listed in our church directory? Do we list your birthday or anniversary in the bulletin? If the answer to any of these is "no" and you would like to be added, please send Bev an email at the office. Remember to update the office when you have a change of contact information. Thanks!

HAPPY FEBRUARY BIRTHDAY TO...

- 2 Maggie Littler
- 4 Travis Beayon
- 12 Laura Bassette
- 12 Scott Beayon
- 13 Maya Povey
- 15 Cassidy Whipple
- 18 Tina Marie Varga Fodor
- 20 Phyllis McGalliard
- 21 Caleb Larson
- 24 Sarah Backus
- 25 Abigail Stoodley
- 26 John Garrison

HAPPY ANNIVERSARY TO...

- 15 Lois and Ray Ladd
- 22 George and Patricia Taggart

SUNDAY WORSHIP SCHEDULE

11:00 WORSHIP SERVICE
(NURSERY AVAILABLE)

HOW TO CONTACT US

THE REV. ROBERT A. NOBLE, III, SENIOR MINISTER
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NATHANIEL DE YOUNG, ORGANIST & MUSIC DIRECTOR
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STEPHANIE STOODLEY, COORDINATOR OF CHILDREN
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BEVERLY CARROLL, ADMINISTRATOR\
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FEBRUARY LAY SERVICE SCHEDULE

Deacon of the Month– Vickie Mulholland

| Date | Liturgist | Usher/Greeter | Trustee Assisting in Audit |
|-----------------------|---------------|------------------------------------|----------------------------|
| 2/5/12 | Ceil Hunt | Patricia Varga and Winfred Pike | Winfred Pike |
| 2/12/12 | Jean Britt | Holly Hitchcock and Tamra Staudter | Norm Williams |
| 2/19/12 | Brad Hunt | Pat and Bernie Jones | Ray Ladd |
| 2/26/12 | Youth/Deacons | Cindy and Norm Williams | John Rehlen |
| Coffee Hour Hostesses | Flora Maloney | Ruth Whipple | |

Traveling Light

By Lynn Olcott

A New Spirit

"For I will give you a new heart and a new spirit..."

Ezekiel 36:26

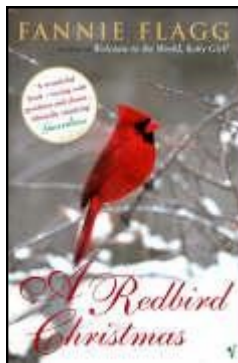
Biblical writers probably could not have foreseen our contemporary age of miracle transplants. We can do amazing things now with these bodies of ours. We can operate on babies before they are born. People who come home from war badly injured can be restored like never before. We can give ourselves plastic knees, new lungs, extra kidneys and even new hearts.

A new spirit is something else. How do we fragile humans replenish ourselves to carry on during hard times, situations of fear, days of despair? I don't know. All I know is that prayer helps. Lighting a candle helps. Talking deeply and freely with God helps. Taking a walk and listening to God outdoors helps. We can gather courage from deep inside if we let God help.

God of all situations, be my new spirit and be my new heart. Amen

LIBRARY NEWS

Rev. Charlene Baird



A Redbird Christmas is a story that fits every season. It is a story of faith and hope told as it can only be told through people showing LOVE.

The setting of the story is a small town in Alabama which seems to be a place where time itself is lost. The community is known as Lost River.

After a diagnosis from his doctor, Oswald T. Campbell leaves Chicago to spend what he believes is his last few months of life in Lost River.

That is all that can be told except a little cardinal bird is the center of an experience of wonder. For the readers enjoyment there is also a cast of hometown characters.

A Redbird Christmas written by Fannie Flagg is worth searching for in the library.

It is also available in Random House Audio and Random House Large Print Edition.

Happy winter reading!

MISSION NEWS

Neighbors in Need Offering

In November – we raised \$343.00 for NIN. Thank you! Also, thank you for your support of the giving tree in December for clients of the South Western Council on Aging.

Our church recently donated \$500 to Erin Spaulding for her upcoming mission trip to Honduras. She will be joining the Rotary Club and a group of volunteers from Vermont and New Hampshire. Some of the projects they will be working on – water purification, staffing a medical and dental clinic, and building a cinder block school.

Upcoming event –

On Sunday, February 5th we will be taking a good will offering on “**Souper Bowl**” **Sunday** for the Castleton Cares food shelf. We are calling the event “monies for meat.” This year we will be asking for monetary donations so that the food shelf can purchase meat and other perishable items as needed.

Thank you notes have been received from Back Bay Mission, United Methodist Committee on Relief (UMCOR) and Erin Spaulding. Here’s what they say:

UMCOR—*“Your gift is providing emergency relief and long-term recovery support for disaster-affected communities...because you gave, UMCOR is able to ‘Be There’ and ‘Be Hope’ on your behalf.”*

BACK BAY—*“Thank you so much for your recent gift...in these hard economic times, we know individual choices about charitable giving are difficult...your gift to us is precious indeed.”*

ERIN SPAULDING—*“I can’t begin to express what your generous gift means to me. It will certainly help with the travel expenses allowing me to really focus on our work in Honduras. Please know how much I truly appreciate your generosity! Muchas Gracias!”*

Thank you from the Mission Committee – Lois Ladd, Vicki Mulholland, Aleda Dutton, Linda Garrison and Tamra Staudter

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Visit us at: <http://www.castletonchurch.org>

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Roast Turkey Dinner

Saturday, February 25, 5:00—6:30

\$9.00 Adults, \$6.00 children under 12

On Saturday, February 26, folks at the Federated Church of Castleton will be serving up a traditional roast turkey dinner with all the fixings. Serving will be continuous from 5:00 to 6:30.

Why not invite a group of friends to fill a table?
Make your own dinner party and let us do the work!
Sounds like a win, win situation.

Proceeds benefit the church *Our Time, Our Turn* campaign.

