

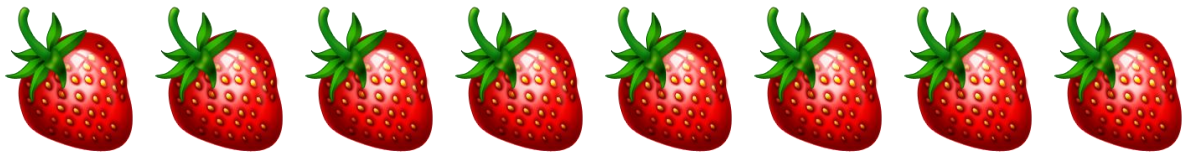
THE SPIRIT IS MOVING AND GOD IS STILL SPEAKING! THE UNITED CHURCH OF NORTHFIELD JULY 2011 NEWSLETTER

From the Pastor's Desk

I have just returned from Annual Meeting and am still thinking of all I experienced. Last year at this time I had just completed a challenging year of completing my final year of V.A.S.T. and concurrently three classes for licensed ministry. I was excited about new opportunities that might arise. Summer progressed with all its busyness. In August I received a call from Bev Knox asking if I would preach one Sunday. I said yes and immediately got shaky—this would be the first time I preached outside of my home church in Chelsea. I remember that Sunday so clearly: you all were so warm and welcoming! I left feeling very good about the whole experience. September came and I was back in school. Bev called again asking if I could come again. Of course I said, “Yes!” At some point I was asked if I would consider being your Interim Pastor. I talked about it at the Conference office and by mid October I was in Northfield every Sunday. In November Pam Lucas came for a Sunday service to install me as your licensed minister. I could now serve communion and baptize! This was exciting and humbling at the same time.

Over the past few months several of you asked me if I would consider staying; being your settled Pastor. I was and remain honored that it was even a consideration, as I am so aware that I do not have much experience in this field. I knew that as an “Interim,” or in my case, “Bridge” Pastor, I could not do this. But just in case, I met with Pam Lucas at the UCC Conference office and talked it over with her. She was happy to hear how well it has been going, but she confirmed that I really couldn't apply for the position. So...I will happily stay until you find the right person called to be your settled Pastor. Just as I found myself in the United Church of Northfield through the work of God, I know also there is the right Pastor whom God will send to you. That Pastor will find here a church whose people ARE the church, and who lovingly care for each other. You all have taught me so much—I look forward to continuing to serve you until the right person comes into your sanctuary. I hope we will all look back on this time with happiness, as it has been very special. For now, it is summer in VT and that is an especially wonderful season! School is almost out, we are already preparing for Vacation Bible School, and I look forward to whatever Sundays hold.

With love for each of you,
Pastor Sherry Baer



***Come One, Come All
Bring Your Friends and Neighbors
to an***

OLD FASHIONED STRAWBERRY FESTIVAL

SATURDAY, JULY 2nd

1:00 p.m. - 4:30 p.m.

***The United Church of Northfield
58 South Main Street, On the Common***

Strawberry Shortcake

With Homemade Biscuits,

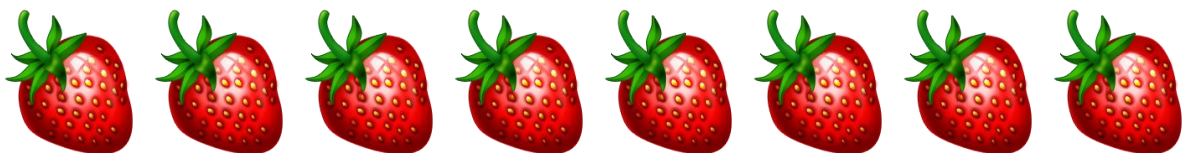
or

Strawberry Sundaes

With Ben and Jerry's vanilla ice cream!

Adults: \$5.00 Children under 12: \$2.50

TAKE OUT ABVAILABLE



*Contact Judy Plumley 485-6117 or Laura Ranker 229-4351.
Proceeds benefit the missions of the United Church of Northfield*

SOS CHALLENGE-ANONYMOUS DONOR MATCH

There is still time to take advantage of this wonderful matching offer, if you make your donation now.

We have all used the expression, "It was an answer to my prayers." Well, the congregation of the United Church of Northfield has had an answer to their prayers! That answer was, as most of God's answers - unexpected, just what we needed, and timely.

The answer is an anonymous donor who will be matching all individual donations until June 30, 2011! This match started on Easter morning. Since that day we have received \$9,126 in individual donations that will be matched dollar for dollar toward our steeple restoration goal of \$99,292.

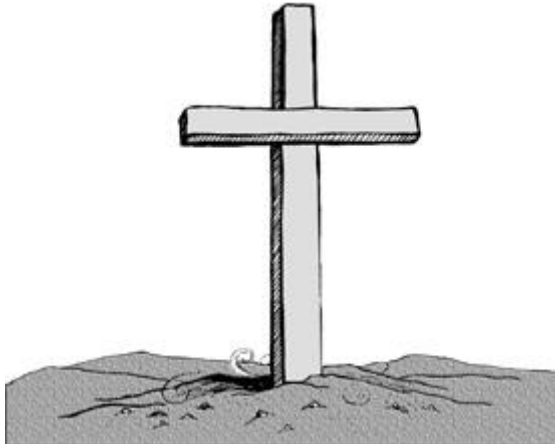
We are getting closer and closer to our goal every week. Your Steeple Committee consists of: Debra Maloney-Evans, Frank Plumley, Lauren Howard, Laura Ranker, Judy Knapp, and Kevin Beal. These members have been meeting nearly weekly since November 2010. Through a variety of fundraising events, letter campaigns and grants \$61,177 has been raised to date. This does not reflect the match. Factoring in the \$9,126 match we have \$28,988 left to raise!!!! You heard it right! With your continued help and support we will be under construction by late summer or early fall.

Please consider a tax deductible donation NOW, before the month of June is over. Don't let this opportunity to double your gift with the match pass you by. If you wish, you can make your donation in the memory or honor of another person(s). Send your donation to:

UCN/SOS
PO Box 188
Northfield, Vermont 05663

"The greatest use of life is to spend it for something that will outlast it."—William James

*Thank you,
Deb Maloney Evans, chairperson*



LECTIONARY READINGS PENTACOST

JULY 3rd to AUGUST 28th

July 3, 2011

Genesis 24:34–38,
42–49, 58–67
Psalm 45:10–17 *or*
Song of Songs 2:8–13
Romans 7:15–25a
Matthew 11:16–19, 25–30

July 10, 2011

Genesis 25:19–34
Psalm 119:105–112
Romans 8:1–11
Matthew 13:1–9, 18–23

July 17, 2011

Genesis 28:10–19a
Psalm 139:1–12, 23–24
Romans 8:12–25
Matthew 13:24–30, 36–43

July 24, 2011

Genesis 29:15–28
Psalm 105:1–11, 45b *or*
Psalm 128
Romans 8:26–39
Matthew 13:31–33, 44–52

July 31, 2011

Genesis 32:22–31
Psalm 17:1–7, 15
Romans 9:1–5
Matthew 14:13–21

August 7, 2011

Genesis 37:1–4, 12–28
Psalm 105:1–6, 16–22, 45b
Romans 10:5–15
Matthew 14:22–33

August 14, 2011

Genesis 45:1–15
Psalm 133
Romans 11:1–2a, 29–32
Matthew 15: (10–20), 21–28

August 21, 2011

Romans 12:1–8
Exodus 1:8–2:10
Psalm 124
Matthew 16:13–20

August 28, 2011

Romans 12:9–21
Exodus 3:1–15
Psalm 105:1–6, 23–26, 45c
Matthew 16:21–28



USHERS AND GREETERS - Please check the dates for Ushering and Greeting and call Judy Plumley (485-6117) if you find that you cannot be there the scheduled date and she will arrange a swap or a substitute. Thank you.

July 3rd:

Ushers- Judy and Frank Plumley

Greeters- Marilyn Bruce & Judy Plumley

July 10th:

Ushers- Kevin and Kate Beal

Greeters- Evelyn Bird & Laura Ranker

July 17th:

Ushers- Barbara and Kayla Barrows

Greeters- Annalill & Anita Crain

July 24th:

Ushers- Bev and Ed Tucker

Greeters- Harriet Hirst and Bonnie Gayle

July 31st:

Ushers- Judy Knapp and Leah Knapp

Greeters- Bert and Barb Hastings

August 7th:

Ushers- Max Greene and Dean Howe

Greeters- Philo and Esther Hardie

August 14th:

Ushers- Bev and John Knox

Greeters- Bev and Lorinda Dezotell

August 21th:

Ushers- Judy Knapp and Leah Knapp

Greeters- Linda and Burley Harvey

August 28th:

Ushers- Ray and Ginny Kunkel

Greeters- Marilyn Bruce and Liz Butler

COMMUNION STEWARDS – We offer a gluten free communion option. Communion is offered on the first Sunday of each month.

July 2011: John and Beverly Knox, Barbara Barrows, Beverly Dezotell

August 2011: Roy and Liz Butler, Laura Ranker, Audrey Avery

September 2011: Peter and Debbie Maloney-Evans and partners

COFFEE HOURS: A time for fellowship.



The coffee hours are being simplified and we will save the fancier coffee hours for special occasions. Coffee hour hosts will be asked only to make coffee and tea water and a cold beverage. Anyone, on any given Sunday, wishing to bring a food item to share during the coffee hour is welcome to do so. Fellowship with each other is our goal; food is nice, but not essential.



Early Bird Bible Study! Join Pastor Sherry Baer as she facilitates a Bible Study on **Monday mornings at 9:00 a.m.** at the home of Bev Knox, 41 Washington St. All are welcome and encouraged to join the bible study group where there is lively discussions and new learning's.



**JULY COMMUNITY
VACATION BIBLE SCHOOL
ISLAND ODYSSEY
JULY 25TH THROUGH JULY 29TH
9:00 A.M. TO NOON**

ALL CHILDREN GRADES PRESCHOOL TO ENTERING 5TH GRADE are invited to attend. Limit 25 children. Register now. Contact Pastor Sherry Baer 279-7251 (Cell phone) or 685-9967 (home) sherrybaer@mac.com OR Laura Ranker 229-4351 (home) laura.ranker@racdc.com or uccnorthfield@trans-ideo.net

SUMMER LUNCH PROGRAM - The United Church of Northfield is looking for 10 to 12 volunteers to help with the Northfield Summer Lunch Program on **Tuesday, July 28th and August 2nd.** **Drivers and Baggers are needed.** The group will gather at the Northfield Elementary School where the Baggers will load the groceries into bags and then depart with their driver to deliver the grocery bag and a gallon of milk to Northfield area families. Baggers need to arrive at the school at 3:45 and Drivers to arrive by 4:00. Contact Chris Southworth 485-8738 or 793-5433.



United Methodist Church Free Friday Night Dinners – In supporting the UMC and providing some relief to their tireless efforts, the United Church of Northfield is going to host one of these Friday night dinners each month and we are looking for volunteers to assist with this effort. If interested, Call Chris Southworth at 485-8738 or 793-5433. This is a wonderful way to share in fellowship with the community.

SUPPORT FOR THE LOCAL CERV – Please bring in non-perishable food items that will go to the Northfield Food Shelf (peanut butter, cereal, soup, crackers, rice, hamburger helper, canned fruit, meats, etc.). Donated items can be placed in the mission baskets now located inside the sanctuary at the rear corner of the church.

OPPORTUNITY TO SERVE THE UNITED CHURCH OF NORTHFIELD

The church council announces the following recent appointments: Judy Plumley as Council Clerk and as Deacon to fill the term vacated by Billie Porter and Frank Plumley to the Finance Committee. The willingness of Frank and Judy to serve the church in these capacities and share their talents and time is greatly appreciated.

CHURCH POSITIONS AVAILABLE - Please consider sharing *your* time and talents and serving the church in these following ways:

SOS Committee

Building Maintenance Committee

VT Conference Representative

Restoration Committee

Coffee Hour Coordinator - every third month

Coordinator for the Annual Chicken Pie

Supper over Labor Day

SOS Committee - one position, specific to the "Save Our Steeple" campaign. Meets as needed.

Building Maintenance Committee - one position, meets as needed. Oversee maintenance of church properties and buildings, minor repairs and hire professionals as needed, work with church sexton.

VT Conference Representative - one position, attend and represent UCN at annual conference of the VT Conference.

Restoration Committee - one position, meets as needed. Oversee building projects beyond the realm of routine maintenance.

Coordinator for the Annual Chicken Pie Supper - we need someone to organize this event and coordinate the activities. Past years information and "how to" instructions are available. Event takes place in September during the Labor Day Weekend; the supper is served that Saturday.

Coffee Hour Coordinator - every third month; responsible for signup sheet for coffee hours for a given month; rotates among three coordinators every third month.

****further detailed descriptions and information on the roles and responsibilities of these positions can be found in the church bylaws and by speaking with others serving on the particular committee.*** Please contact Peter Evans, Church Moderator with your interest.

Due to the lack of a spring newsletter these Easter thank yous are belated but none the less are sincere and well deserved.

Special thanks to all those who contributed food, time and money to the Easter Breakfast.

Workers – Philo Hardie, Max Greene, Burley Harvey, Joan Koenig, Bob Cruickshank, John Cruickshank, Larry Porter, Tom Taylor, Ray Kunkel, Roy Butler, Allan Baer, John Knox, Dean Howe, Peter Evans, Judy Plumley, Frank Plumley.

Donations of food &/or equipment – Esther Hardie, Phyllis Greenway, Beverly Knox, Brenda Cruickshank, Tom & Karen Taylor, Ian & Chandra Blackmer, Liz Butler, Annalill Crain, Ray & Ginny Kunkel, Laura Ranker, Joan Koenig, Judy & Frank Plumley.

Thank you to all who made the Easter Breakfast a success.

In Peace, Frank Plumley

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Thank you so much for your contribution of the lily (lilies) for Easter Sunday. It added great beauty to the sanctuary and reminded us of Jesus sacrifice. God raised Jesus from death reminding us of the promise of everlasting life. The spirit of Christ has come among us, claiming us for our new life together. CHRIST HAS RISEN! Hallelujah!!! *God Bless You, Bev Knox*

United Church of Northfield  
58 South Main Street  
P.O. Box 188  
Northfield, VT 05663  
Bridge Pastor Sherry Baer  
Phone: 485-4431  
E-mail: [uccnorthfield@trans-video.net](mailto:uccnorthfield@trans-video.net)  
Website: [www.unitedchurchofnorthfield.org](http://www.unitedchurchofnorthfield.org)

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**BOTTLE RETURNS TO BENEFIT SOS FUND. *AN EASY WAY TO SUPPORT THE SOS FUND.***



RETURN YOUR BOTTLES AT THE CONVENIENCE PLUS BOTTLE REDEMPTION CENTER AT THE IRVING STATION (f/k/a Mobil) ON MAIN STREET NORTHFIELD. BRING YOUR BOTTLE RETURN RECEIPT SLIP TO THE CASHIER INSIDE AND TELL THEM YOU WANT TO GIVE THE MONEY TO THE UNITED CHURCH OF NORTHFIELD "SAVE OUR STEEPLE" FUND (SOS FUND). THE CASHIER WILL PUT THE RECEIPT SLIP INTO A SPECIAL ENVELOP MARKED FOR THE UCN SOS FUND. THANK YOU.