

# WEST FAIRLEE CENTER CONGREGATIONAL CHURCH

NEWS FROM 2002

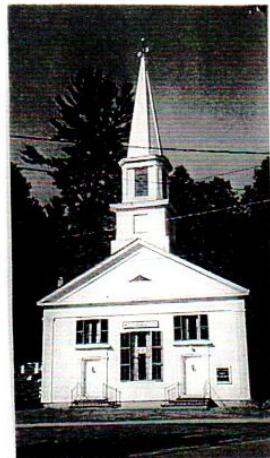
## NATIONAL HISTORIC REGISTRY DESIGNATION

Our beloved West Fairlee Center Church was officially entered on the National Register as a National Historic Site on June 21, 2002 according to Suzanne C. Jamele of the Vermont Division for Historic Presentation.

The Registry application process started in 1988 with a written assessment of the building prepared by Jack Anderson. It was completed by the thorough and rich investigative work of Bill Thrane, Architectural Historian in Thetford, VT. The community is deeply grateful to both of these men for their contribution to the church's protection

The architectural signifi-

cance of the church is that "it typifies many of the characteristics of the Greek Revival architectural style," and that "members of its early church community, such as Nathaniel Niles, played important roles in the formation of the state and nation" (from the National Register of Historic Places Registration Form). The church was founded in 1809 and the current building built in 1855 for a cost of \$2000. Early services were led by Nathaniel Niles (1740 - 1828) considered the founder of the Town of West Fairlee, and often held in his home known as Elmwood Farm currently owned by a Niles descendant Chuck Eaton and his wife Delcie Hoyt.



## BIBLE FUND

With the generosity of a friend, we have created a Fund which will be used to purchase Bibles for the church. The contribution prompted us to look at the value of having Bibles in the pews and also to ask ourselves which Bible interpretation, translation, or ver-

sion should be chosen. We would like your input.

The two versions under consideration are the **King James Version** and the **New Revised Standard Version**. Here are two quotes, pro each, which barely begin to touch the

depth of any discussion about this remarkable piece of literature. However, they might give us something to ponder.

"With good reason it [the King James Version] has been termed 'the nobles

*Cont. at the bottom of page 2*

## Memberships

*Deecie Denison* changed from Associate Member to Full Member August 18 (among the animals).

## Weddings

*Carol Perry and Paul Meagher* were married on July 27.

## Passings

*We will deeply miss the presence of Alfred Slack and Marion Godfrey. Our sympathy is extended to their respective families.*

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## Summer 2002 Ministers

*Rev. Jean Jersey*

*Rev. Pam Lucas*

*Pastor Roger Daum*

*Cleo "Cooley" Kearns, PhD*

*Rev. Elisabeth Upton*

*Rev. Gail Temperley Dimick*

*Rev. Yorke Peeler Upton*

## Moderator

Doris Honig

## Secretary/Treasurer

Deecie Denison

## Official Bell Ringer

Chris Kearns

## Finance Committee

Delcie Hoyt, Doris Honig, JoAnne Sanborn

### BLESSING OF THE ANIMALS

On Sunday August 18 the West Fairlee Center Church was alive with dogs, rabbits, guinea pigs, cats, and a chicken. They all came to the service to be blessed.

Rev. Yorke Peeler started the service outside where all God's creatures were gathered. He wandered among them and asked owners their names and offered a blessing for each and every one.

Bruce Stevens, organist and

friend of the Church, provided appropriate musical background. Don Phoenix, neighbor and building guardian ensured that there were water dishes placed around as the evening was exceptionally hot. Jamie Ordway was diligent in making sure that all guests signed the guest book or that their people signed for them. Sarah Eaton was the official photographer.

Most magical was the appearance of a bat which chose to

swoop the slide around the inside of the church during the sermon. Although the building is an excellent home for bats, few have been seen and certainly never during a service. Clearly this macro-carpon was eager to be blessed too.

We hope to continue this tradition of expressing our love for God's creatures great and small.

#### NOAH'S PRAYER

Lord,  
what a menagerie!  
Between Your downpour  
and these animal cries  
One cannot hear oneself  
think!  
The days are long,  
Lord.  
All this water makes my  
heart sink.  
When will the ground cease  
to rock under my feet?  
The days are long.  
Master Raven has not come  
back.  
Here is Your dove.  
Will she find us a twig of  
hope?  
The days are long,  
Lord.  
Guide Your Ark to safety,  
Some zenith of rest,  
Where we can escape at last  
From this brute slavery.  
The days are long,  
Lord.  
Lead me until I reach the  
shore of Your covenant.

Carmen Bernos  
De Gasztold

Translated by  
Rumer Godden

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**Correspondence and  
Donations may be  
mailed to:**

**West Fairlee Center  
Congregational Church**

**c/o Deecie Denison  
892 Quinibeck Rd.  
Fairlee, VT 05045**

**(802) 333-9527**

### SIGNS

Passing drivers may miss the relevant and changing messages on the sign which announces the schedule and summer ministers. We have started to change the message on the board to reflect thoughts and issues. It was especially meaningful that the church was open on the first anniversary of September 11.

We are researching the possi-

bility of having a state historical marker for Nathaniel Niles.

Finally, a sign to celebrate the Church's new historic designation is being forged by Healey Bros. It should be ready by December. Is anyone interested in a sign hanging ceremony?



### BIBLE CONT. ....

monument of English prose, and it has entered, as no other book has, into the making of the personal character and the public institutions of the English-speaking peoples. We owe to it an incalculable debt." (Bruce Metzger, written as preface for the *New Revised Standard Version*.)

The New Revised Standard

Version stands in a tradition, many centuries old, of translating the Bible so that ordinary people can understand it when it is read aloud in worship gatherings or when they study it for themselves. More immediately, the NRSV stands in a direct succession from the King James Version of 611." (Wayne A. Meeks, Introduction To The Harper

Collins Study Bible)

Please think about the choice too and let us know your thoughts. You may call Deecie Dension who will pass them along.

The decision will be made next spring and we will order about 25 Bibles to have in place for next summer services.