

NEWSLETTER FOR 2003

WEST FAIRLEE CENTER CHURCH

P.O. BOX 431, FAIRLEE, VERMONT 05045

10 BEAR NOTCH RD., WEEST FAIRLEE, VERMONT

BLESSINGS: ANIMALS AND ATV'S

The second annual **Blessing of the Animals** was lead by Rev. **Gail Dimick**. She was delighted to be asked and spent extra time researching how other churches and traditions had held such events. Once again **Bruce Stevens** provided appropriate and joyous music. Water and treats were provided.

Unlike last year when Rev. Peeler blessed the animals outside, this year they were brought into the church. Rev. Dimick roamed the church to bless any who were quiet enough to sit through the service.

The heat was not as bad as in the past, but still made the event less than perfect

for the critters. However, the participants all enjoyed the evening and Rev. Dimick's sermon.

Next year, we will try to parade the animals through so that they do not have to sit in the heat. Any suggestions for making this event more enjoyable and well attended are welcome. Volunteers are encouraged to join us.

Also this year we added a **Blessing of the ATV's**. Rev. **Gary Wait** addressed a gathering of four wheel vehicles lined up in front of the church. He offered blessings for the drivers and their safe travels. The event was organized by **Chuck Eaton** and **Bruce**

Durkee. About 25 people, children and adults, drove or trailered in from West Fairlee Village and surrounds.

It is hoped by many that we will continue the event next year.



NEW BIBLES IN THE CHURCH

The church now has thirty-six new bibles thanks to the Bible Fund started last year.

During the Annual meeting in June we discussed the choice between the **King James Version** or the **New Revised Standard Version** and decided on

the latter.

We also received a surprise gift of sixteen **large print bibles**. **Marion Godfrey's family** purchased them as a gift to the church in her memory.

We are deeply grateful to

Marion's daughter s **Jan Godfrey Rostron** and **Edythe Slayton** for this thoughtful idea. They were joined at the installation service by **Suayna Slayton** and **Jim Rostron**.

This was the year of the Bible!

SUMMER 2003

MINISTERS

REV. JEAN JERSEY

FR. TOM BROSNAN

REV. ELIZABETH UPTON

PASTOR ROGER DAUM

REV. GAIL DIMICK

REV. BERTHA BROWN

REV. GARY WAIT

WEDDINGS

*KARMEN FLINT AND
DARRYL HATCH
AUGUST 9*

Church Leadership

Moderator

Doris Honig

Secretary/Treasurer

Deecie Denison

Official Bell Ringer

Chris Kearns

Finance Committee

Delcie Hoyt, Doris Honig, JoAnne Sanborn

I had no time to hate, because

The grave would hinder me,

And life was not so ample I
Could finish enmity.

Nor had I time to love, but since

Some industry must be,

The little toil of love, I thought,

Was large enough for me

Emily Dickinson

BLESSING CONT.

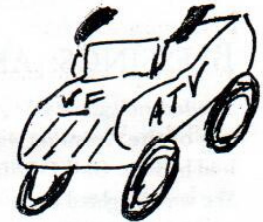
Because the topic was not raised, discussed, and approved at the annual meeting in May, it was decided that it could be held before the last service of the summer as a separate event.

The decision to hold this event did not come about easily. After plans were in place, a meeting was held with Chuck and Bruce present to answer questions.

People in attendance, mem-

bers and friends, had an opportunity to register their enthusiasm or their misgivings. There was discussion about whether it is appropriate for the church to hold this type of activity (as being different than the Blessing of the animals), if in fact the event signifies an endorsement of something that some view to having a negative environmental impact. People were impassioned about the discussion.

In the end, it was agreed to support the event. The benefits of building positive community relationships with neighbors who enjoy and use these vehicles was paramount.



WHAT CAN I DO?

Play music!

Help line up ministers,

Fix minor building problems,

Send out mailings,

Bring refreshments,

Fundraise,

Anything you want to do!

You may also join as an **Associate or a Full Member**. The church is affiliated with the United Church of Christ.

MARGARET EATON SCHOLARSHIP FUND

The Margaret Eaton Scholarship Fund was awarded to the following West Fairlee students: **Ashley Ordway, Heather Miller, Derika Downing, and Katie Southworth**. In response to a special request from Chuck Eaton, an exception was made for Vershire resident Patrick Southworth. However Patrick did not go on to college, but his sister Katie

Southworth is enrolled at NHTC.

Since 1981 when the fund was established twenty-six (26) scholarships have been awarded in the memory of Margaret Eaton.

Current Trustees are **Fred Cook, Tara Russ, and Deecie Denison**. Just before graduation each year we contact Thetford Academy

and Rivendell Academy to find out which students qualify. We also check area newspapers for lists of graduating students.

If for some reason we miss any West Fairlee student, we hope that members of the community will let one of us know so we can add them to our list.

Congratulations graduates!

TECHNICAL GRANT AWARDED

The Preservation Trust of Vermont awarded the West Fairlee Center Church a matching grant for \$250 from the **Robert Sincerbeaux Fund**. These funds, unavailable last year, will be used to hire the services of **George Turner**, an architect with **Banwell Architects** in Lebanon, NH.

Turner will prepare a full report of preservation or restoration options for the building along with his recommendations. These may require some decision-making on the part of our membership.

The report will also include a schedule or sequence of what tasks need to be done in what order, and will become an

essential part of our application to the Preservation Trust for funds next year.

We will continue to keep membership and friends informed of any plans, grant applications, or volunteer services needed. We want to ensure the church is standing for the next 150 years!

OUR COMMUNITY

Each year as we send out this newsletter, we find more and more people who remember and love the West Fairlee Center Church. They remember community activities, people and services. There is a deep history of community and place.

We want people to know about our efforts to keep this small church alive in spite of some trends in area churches. We hope that people will join us for our Vesper Services or

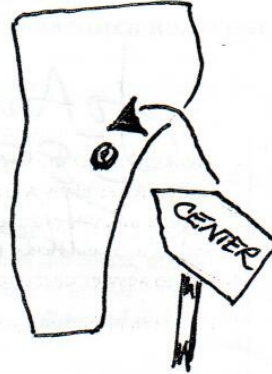
simply feel comfortable visiting the Center and experiencing its serenity.

To that end, we are constantly updating a mailing list with names of those who live in the area or those who have a history here.

We invite people to let us know of anyone who might be interested in sending in a memory or story for us to publish in this newsletter.

Also, if anyone would like to

be on this mailing list we would be glad to add their name.



PRAYER

Prayer is the little implement

Through which men reach

Where presence is denied them.

They fling their speech

By means of it in God's ear;

If then He hear,

This sums the apparatus

Comprised in prayer.

Emily Dickinson

MY INTEREST IN THE CENTER....

Here is an excerpt from a letter written by **Marcia Mead Thomas** to **Deecie Denison**:

"My interest with the church in West Fairlee Center centers primarily with **Julia May**, the aunt of my grandfather, **William George**. She and her sister **Katherine May Kimball Coleman** grew up on Blood Brook

Road across from the cemetery. Julia later taught voice in Garden City, Long Island, but frequently visited Fairlee and sang in the West Fairlee Center Church that her family attended. Often she was accompanied by **Charles Moose [Morse]**, a professor of music at **Dartmouth College.**"

The Charles Morse which

Marcia writes about is the great grandfather of **Cooley and Deecie McNelly**, now Cooley (Cleo) Kearns and Deecie Denison.



~ ~ ~ ~ ~
I never saw a moor,
I never saw the sea:
Yet know I how the heather looks,
And what a wave must be.
I never spoke with God,
Nor visited in heaven;
Yet certain am I of the spot
As if the chart were given.
Emily Dickinson
~ ~ ~ ~ ~

WEST FAIRLEE CENTER NEWS

Cooley Kearns taught a Yoga class at the Clubhouse this summer. It was well attended and enjoyed by men and women alike.

The **West Fairlee Center Community Club** activities can now be followed by logging onto **www.wfcc.org**.

The **Vermont Judicial Historical Society** held its annual meeting at the West Fairlee Center Church. The site was chosen by **Paul Gillies**, president, because of its connection with Judge **Nathaniel Niles**.

As a reminder, the **West Fairlee Congregational Church** in the Village of

West Fairlee holds **Sunday services at 11 AM**. **Rev. Roger Daum** is the presiding minister.

We celebrate with West Fairlee and Post Mills Churches the ordination of **Roger Daum** on Nov. 16, 2003. He and his wife **Martha** bring passion to their parishes!

NEWSLETTER FOR 2003

Contact: Deecie Denison
892 Quinbeck Rd.
Fairlee, VT 05045

Phone: 802-333-9885
Fax: 802-333-4394
Email: Deecie@dmdcoaching.com

ABOUT THE CHURCH ...

The West Fairlee Center Church was established in 1809. The current building was constructed in 1855. In 2002 the building was placed on the National Registry of Historic Places. The role of its founders and continuing membership is well documented in Vermont State and National history .

The community's current affiliation is as a Congregational Church and member of the United Church of Christ.

We welcome all who wish to worship, share community, or simply visit this special place.

