

West Fairlee Center Congregational Church 200th Anniversary est.1809—2009

Volume 4

2008-2009 Newsletter

Special Notes and Thanks

- The Church appreciates and thanks Don Phoenix for his ongoing care of the lawn around the church and of the triangle.
- The Community Club is equally grateful to Marvin Durkee for maintaining the lawn around the Club House
- Both communities are grateful to the Westshire ATV Club for their support of our projects, donation of the sandwich board, and help with cleaning the buildings.
- With deepest appreciation to Henry Adams for his ongoing support for historic preservation work in the Center, the congregation decided to dedicate to him the restoration of all the church windows.

2008 Weddings

Caitlyn Pero & Joseph Scovel 8/9/08
Elice DeLuna & Jonathon Morgan 9/27/08

Passings

Ken Southworth

Shirley Teal

Dorothy Southworth
Savacool

Carol A. Cutler

PVT Funded Work on Church Finished. Now we are on our own!

The Preservation Trust of Vermont (PVT) issued its last check to the Church, for a total of \$20,000, upon completion of the first Phase of preservation work. This generous grant from the PTV and the Freeman Foundation has helped to do the following work:

- Removal of the chimney and cricket, and damage to wall and roof repaired,
- Removal of the old furnace and fuel oil drum,
- Installation of a new gas furnace and buried tank,
- Drainage system replaced,

- Removal of maple tree that was too close to the building and its replacement with a sturdy oak,
- All windows completely re-glazed, repaired, and painted.

The next major project will be to paint the exterior. This will require more money than is in our matching fund coffer and so we will need to do additional fund raising.

Special thanks are extended to Doug Porter, Ann Cousins, and Eric Gilbertson of the PTV for their outstanding support and guidance.

Also, although we are not



Removal of the cricket and repair surrounding damage.

finished with them, as there is work to do with the Club House, we extend our ongoing gratitude and thanks to Ray Clark of Recreate Inc. and his craftsmen who provided their skill and expertise.

PVT work begins on Club House!

Center preservation work is shifting to the Community Club House which has a matching grant for \$15,000 from the PTV and the Freeman Foundation. The focus is to secure the building from the elements and to gen-

tly move the current residents out in time for them to find new homes (bats, foxes, etc.).

To date, the drainage system has been replaced, windows repaired, and the big maple next to the

building removed. The next major project which is going on this fall, is bat and bat quano removal. This next year Recreate, Inc., will begin to re-point the brick work and shore up the center of the building.

Nathaniel Niles State Historic Marker installed 9/27/08

The West Fairlee Historical Society, the Center Church and the Community Club celebrated the unveiling of West Fairlee's first State Historic Marker this September. The role of Nathaniel Niles in US, Vermont, and West Fairlee history is now recognized by a stunning forged, green sign situated in front of the Center cemetery. The text was drafted by Rev. Gary Wait and revised by the state division of historic preservation.

The West Fairlee Historical Society sponsored the event and set up a display of photos and articles about West Fairlee Center in the Community Club House. Refreshments were served as well.



FR: Bonnie Cray, Mary Jane Smith, Doris Honig, Peggy Williley, Roger Bailly, SR Barbara Slack, Deecie Denison, Hannah Fogg, Timothy Brown, Jim McDade, BR: Nancy Charke and guests.

Nathaniel Niles 1741 – 1828



Revolutionary War patriot and author of the popular ode "The American Hero," written in celebration of the Battle of Bunker Hill, Nathaniel Niles was an original settler of Fairlee, then founder of West Fairlee, and first minister of this church. He came to Fairlee soon after the Revolution from Norwich, Connecticut, where he was active in politics, manufacturing and religion. During a public career that spanned three decades in Vermont, Niles served on the state Supreme Court, as Speaker of the state House of Representatives, as a trustee of Dartmouth College, and as one of Vermont's first two Congressmen. A staunch Jeffersonian Democrat, he led his party in Vermont and also published frequent articles on religious topics.

Vermont Division for Historic Preservation -
2007

BATS IN THE CLUB HOUSE

Many of us love bats. We love their role of patrolling the night sky and certainly their famous appetite for mosquitos and other annoying bugs. As much as we revere them and their historic "good luck" charm role, they need to find a home other than the attic of the Community Club building.

Due to the nature of work which needs to be done on the Club House, we need to have the resident bat popu-



lation removed and the potentially hazardous quano cleaned out before work can be done on the interior of the building. Therefore, we em-

ployed Presidential Pest Services to help us move them to another place.

Presidential and the companies with whom we spoke about bat removal were all extremely sensitive to the role of bats in the ecosystem and the need for appropriate timing in managing them. At

the same time, pest control services

are aware of how very clever bats are at finding ways back into a place which they have habited for some time.

The strategy for removal was to deter them from returning to the building in the fall with one one-way escape hatches and securing all cracks and crannies which they can enter, thereby encouraging them to find a new place to hibernate for the winter.

Summer is now here and the bats have found new homes, the bat quano will be cleaned up, and Recreate Inc. workers can work safely in the building.

**AMAZING BATS LIKE TO EAT
THOUSANDS OF BUGS FOR A
TASTY TREAT.
FLYING THROUGH THE
MOONLIT AIR,
TRAVELING HERE AND TRAVEL-
ING THERE.
HIBERNATING WHEN THE
WEATHER'S COLD,
GATHERED WITH HUNDREDS
OF FRIENDS,
I'M TOLD.
MANY BATS ARE ENDANGERED,
I'M SAD TO SAY
THERE ARE FEWER AND FEWER
BATS EVERY DAY.
BE KIND TO BATS, THAT'S THE
THING TO DO,
TELL YOUR FRIENDS AND YOUR
FAMILY TOO!**

AUTHOR UNKNOWN



Carol Cutler and Mary Jane Smith at the unveiling of the Niles marker

West Fairlee Center Church

2009 Summer Vesper Services

Sunday Evenings 7pm (except where noted *)

July 5 Rev. Jean Jersey

July 12 Old Fashioned Community Hymn Sing

July 19 * BLESSING OF THE ANIMALS 6:30 pm

Rev. Gail Dimick

July 26 Rev. Elizabeth Upton

Aug. 2 Introduction to Shape Note Singing

Chris Hebb (Co-sponsored with the
Community Club)

Aug. 9 * BLESSING OF THE ATVS 6:30 pm

Rev. Dick Hodge

Aug. 16 Rev. Heidi Hoskin

Call (802) 333-4412 or 333-9527 for more information

