

The Star



PUBLISHED FOR THE MEMBERS AND FRIENDS OF GRACE CONGREGATIONAL UNITED CHURCH OF CHRIST, RUTLAND, VERMONT

Summer Worship at Grace!

We continue with our summer worship theme of “Sharing Story”
and pre-service hymn sings at 9:50 a.m.

Join us as we are reminded how God’s stories merge with our stories!

August 5	Communion Sunday John Weatherhogg, preaching	August 19	Summer Choir Barb Kirk, sharing story
August 12	Tracy Weatherhogg, preaching	August 26	Dave Newton, sharing story



Gather with Grace ...

at the Japanese Garden in Hubbardton on Sunday, August 12 at 1:30 p.m.
1:00 p.m. if you would like to meet at Grace; 1:30 p.m. at the Japanese Garden

Gather with Grace at the Japanese Garden in Hubbardton for a time of fellowship and worship on Sunday, August 12. All ages are invited to participate. In particular, we hope you invite a friend or acquaintance who might not have a spiritual home to join you as together we connect with God and each other!

Directions: Take US-4 to Exit 5. Turn north onto East Hubbardton Rd. (becomes Monument Hill Rd.) for 6.4 miles. Turn left onto St. John Rd. for 0.3 miles. Park is on your left.



Bethany Birches Camping Weekend August 31—September 3

All ages are welcome and expected



Everyone is invited to join with others from Grace Church for a camping weekend filled with fun, fellowship, and food! Cabins are available for those who do not have camping gear but are still interested in getting outdoors with friends and family from Grace. A pavilion and kitchen are available for our use as well. To learn more, call the Office (775.4301) or George Jacoby (georgiacoby@aol.com).



A NOTE FROM THE PASTOR

How the Dawn Came...

Many years ago, Tracy and I stumbled onto a wonderfully simple little book called *Christian Basics: A Primer for Pilgrims*, by Dorothy and Gabriel Fackre. At the time, Dorothy was a minister of counseling and Gabriel was a professor of theology at Andover Newton Theological Seminary. It is a delightful, easy-to-read book discussing God's hope for our world and hope for our faithful response. It was perfect for confirmands to use as a guide in their faith development!

The book begins with a poetic story, God's dream for our world! It is called *How the Dawn Came* and it's a wonderful re-telling of the love relationship God has for our world in plain, everyday language – perfect to spark young minds and minds of all ages! Deriving from its salient points, it speaks:

In the beginning, God had a dream. The world is bathed in the divine Light.

Creation and Creator are at one. There is joy and peace in Eden...

But reality shatters the dream. The people love Night more than Light...

The dream, though, will not die. A spark from the blaze finds its way to each dancer.

An inner light keeps alive God's Hope.

God's long-suffering Love will not let us go...

The people who walk in darkness see a great Light!

The dream becomes flesh and dwells among us,...

When Light comes close to those in the grip of gloom, it sears the flesh.

Shalom in our midst shames our shut-up ways. With Light comes Life.

They live by its power, in faith – trusting in the mercy of God, hoping for the Not Yet...

*Dawnlight brings pilgrims together. They see the brother and sister in Christ as well as the forgotten and forlorn... Dawn is not noonday. There are still shadows on the land. Sin persists and death is our common lot. As we live in the half-light of an already-not yet, God's Story merges with our stories. We now become characters in the unfolding plot – seeing the Light, seeing our companions in it, seeing the victims on the Jericho road by it, and pointing others to it. And so unfolds the marvelous Story we have to tell, the song we have to sing:
The darkness shall turn to the dawning,
And the dawning to noonday bright.
And Christ's great kingdom shall come to earth,
The kingdom of love and light!*

We need a jolt of hope in our world! God is not done with us yet, many are still wandering in the long shadows of Dawnlight seeking to find a foothold in life to cling to for safety. But there is no safety for the time being – all are called to gather in the story and offer their role in the unfolding plot of God's great Dream. We are the actors upon whom God relies to carry the Light and Life wherever we go; and as we go, we have a song to sing, a song of Hope, Light and Love! What more could God offer to a broken world reaching out for the embrace we have to give? It's not our embrace! It's God's embrace *through us!* This is how the Light of God will rise to Noonday bright. And there shall be the great Shalom which embraces all beings everywhere, and we shall all know God's Love, Light and Hope!

Sing this song aloud as you enjoy the remaining days of Summer sunshine!

And be the blessing out there... See you soon!





Healing Ministry

By Reverend Bob Boutwell

Healing Prayer Services are held on the second Sunday of each month at 11:25 a.m. in the Chapel. The next Healing Service will be held on August 12th.

In a recent article in *Healing Line*, Judith MacNutt wrote that we need courage to meet suffering. We must remember that God does not send suffering to punish us, but when suffering comes we can depend on the Holy Spirit to help us get through it and to learn from it. One of the things we learn is that God loves us and is always with us and that the faith community goes through the difficulties with us. We learn that we are loved, and there is always hope that our suffering will end either in healing or in heaven. Jesus has promised, "I will come back and take you to be with me." (John 14:1-4) Another thing we discover through our suffering is that Jesus has sent the Holy Spirit to be our advocate. The Holy Spirit is our friend who cares for us very deeply. He is with us throughout this journey and fills us with courage and spiritual strength. In daily prayer we may ask the Holy Spirit to fill us with healing, cleansing, and strength and to guide us through our suffering into all truth. Then we learn to wait for God to speak to us, to bring deep healing and transformation, to offer comfort for our sorrow and our suffering, and to bring us power for ministry and courage for fighting our spiritual battle.

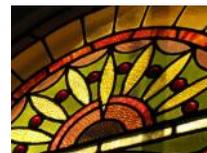
Those who need healing are invited to come and receive the love of Jesus with laying on of hands, the cleansing and healing of prayer, the anointing with oil and the power of the Holy Spirit. In prayer you may ask Jesus for repair of physical damage that you have suffered, healing for illness, emotional, psychological disorders, or inner healing of hurtful memories. You may ask Jesus for healing of genetic and inherited disorders that have come down through your family. You may ask the Holy Spirit to set you free from your addictions. You may ask Jesus to extend healing to your family members and friends and others about whom you are concerned. Members of the congregation are also urged to come to praise God for healings they have received or have heard about and to offer prayers for those who have come seeking healing.

I am in my office on Wednesdays from 9 to 11:30 a.m. for consultation and prayer, or I will meet with you at other times or places if you will call me by phone at 802-773-3057 or send me an email at revrbtwl@myfairpoint.net.



A Pledge Reminder ...

In the midst of your summer fun, please don't forget your 2018 Pledge to Grace Church. You may mail it to the office, drop it off Mon-Thurs from 8 a.m. to 3 p.m., pay online using TITHELY through our website's Support Grace page, or set up an electronic payment. If you are interested in the last option, contact Beth Wolven (775.4301 or beth@gracechurchvt.org).



My heart, O God, is steadfast; I will sing and make music.

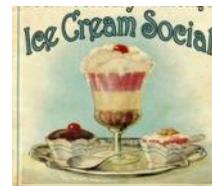
Summer Music

Summer Choir - Sunday August 19

Our pick-up summer choir Sundays are open to everyone! We meet at 9 a.m. to rehearse two easy anthems, and sing at the 10 a.m. worship service. The final Summer Choir Sunday will be August 19th.

Gather With Grace: Hymn Festival - August 26

Please join the local church choirs at 4 p.m. on Sunday, August 26 as we celebrate the wonderful hymn tunes of the British Isles. We will sing Irish, Scottish, Welsh and English tunes including those composed by RV Williams who died 60 years ago. An ice cream reception will follow!



And from our Friends at St. John's Episcopal Church ...

Historic St. John's Episcopal Church in East Poultney will offer a *Choral Evensong* on **Saturday, August 11** at 4:00 p.m. This is a sung service that will include music from the English Renaissance, including works by Thomas Morley, Thomas Ravenscroft and Richard Farrent. The prelude will be played on the church's circa 1830 William Nutting pipe organ that will include compositions by Thomas Tallis, Matthew Locke, and Orlando Gibbons. The service will be led by a choir specially organized for this event.

Fall Choir Start Dates

September is just around the corner, when all our choirs begin again. Please add the rehearsal dates to your calendars, and consider joining our dedicated teams of singers and ringers! Please contact Alastair (alastair@gracechurchvt.org) with any questions.

September 5: Children's Choir at 4 p.m.
SSAA Choir at 6 p.m.
Sanctuary Choir at 7 p.m.

September 9: Joyful Noise at 11:45 a.m.

September 10: Handbells at 6:45 p.m.

September 12: Children's Choir at 4 p.m.
TTBB Choir at 6 p.m.
Sanctuary Choir at 7 p.m.



New ADA Compliant Bathroom Nearly Complete!



Ken Willis has been working hard to transform the men's bathroom outside of Fellowship Hall (in the Preschool corridor) into a fully ADA compliant bathroom. New tiles, sink, fixtures, and a fresh paint job have created a functional and attractive unisex bathroom. Both the Council and the Property



Committee endorsed this plan, along with making minor changes to other restrooms to make them, if not fully ADA compliant, then ADA compatible.

We know that this is an important issue to many in our congregation, and invite you to help fund this renovation (which was not provided for in the 2018 budget). Please send checks payable to Grace Church, noting ADA bathroom in the memo line. You may also use the Tithely.com app or the Support Grace page of our website to use a credit card. Thank you!

Material Aids Sewing Group



In April, the sewing group and their packing crew put together 144 School Bag Kits and 215 Hygiene Kits which were sent to the Church World Service kit program. It is now time to start collecting items for next year's school bags while stores have school items on special sale. We are asking for donations of these 7 items:

70-count spiral notebooks

Hand-held pencil sharpeners

Wood pencils with erasers

Blunt tip scissors (child size)

Large erasers (pink type)

12-inch rulers with metric

Crayons—box of 24 only

There are collection boxes in the hallway at the West and Center Street doors. Thank you!

On Sept. 18 we will start sewing school bags at our first Sewing Group of the year and hope to see some new faces. Call Helen Willis (773.2115) or Ardena Ackerman (773.6435) with questions.

Our Mission Dollars at Work in the Community ...

The Mission and Service Committee recently sent contributions to the following organizations:

◆ Rutland Free Clinic

◆ The Community Cupboard

◆ HEAL



**ON-GOING WEEKLY
EVENTS**

SUNDAY

8:30 Chapel Service
9:50 Pre-Service Hymn Sing
10:00 Sanctuary Service
11:15 A Time of Fellowship

MONDAY

8:00 AA
5:30 AA
5:30 Prayer meeting

TUESDAY

12:00 Staff Meeting
5:00 AA Women's Group
6:00 Bereavement Support
6:30 Wit's End
7:00 AA
7:00 GA

WEDNESDAY

7:00 Prayer Group
8:00 AA
11:30 Men's Luncheon
12:00 AA

THURSDAY

12:00 AA

FRIDAY

8:00 AA

AA- Alcoholics Anonymous
GA - Gamblers Anonymous



SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY
8.5 Food Shelf Sunday Communion Sunday Pre-Service Hymn Sing	8.6 6:00 Sharing Story	8.7 6:30 Fathers Group 7:00 Compassionate Fri
8.12 Pre-Service Hymn Sing 11:25 Healing Prayer Service 1:30 Gather with Grace in Hubbardton	8.13 STAR DEADLINE 	8.14 6:30 Fathers Group
8.19 Greeting Card Sunday Pre-Service Hymn Sing 9:00 Summer choir rehearsal	8.20	8.21 8:30 Lifeline Screening 6:30 Fathers Group
8.26 Pre-Service Hymn Sing 4:00 Hymn Festival 5:30 Welcome Table Dinner	8.27 4:30 Mission and Service	8.28 6:30 Fathers Group

	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY
	8.1 7:00 Prayer Group 8:00 Property Committee 9:00 Healing Ministry Office Open 9:30 Bible Study	8.2 6:00 Diaconate	8.3 	8.4
ends	8.8 7:00 Prayer Group 9:00 Healing Ministry Office Open 9:30 Prayer Shawl Ministry 9:30 Bible Study 10:30 Memorial Service for Jack Elliott	8.9	8.10	8.11 4:00 Choral Evensong at St. John's Episcopal Church In East Poultney
	8.15 7:00 Prayer Group 9:00 Healing Ministry Office Open 9:30 Bible Study	8.16	8.17	8.18 
	8.22 7:00 Prayer Group 9:00 Healing Ministry Office Open	8.23 6:00 Council	8.24	8.25
	8.29 7:00 Prayer Group 9:00 Healing Ministry Office Open	8.30	8.31  <p style="text-align: center;">Camping Weekend</p> <p style="text-align: center;">←—————→</p>	

With thanks ...

To Our Family at Grace-

Paul and I, along with my Mother, Jo Ann Richardson, would like to send our heartfelt thank you to each and every one of you who have prayed for us, thought of us, hugged my Mom, and even have helped with financial support for us.



Stefanie and I continue to recover. Considering that it has only been 2 1/2 weeks since our accident, we have both come a long way. I was discharged on Sunday and Paul and I have been able to move into a comfortable condominium that is located about a half hour away from the hospital. This was donated to us by David and Taina Boynton from Rutland Town. Their daughter Georgie, who was a soccer teammate and is a friend of Stefanie, lives here and has offered any help we need. My cousin and her daughters who live not too far from here have been Angels, and we have plans to have dinner every Sunday with them!

Stefanie has a long way to go. She is awake, which was an answer to prayers, but she has so much more to conquer. We still need her kidneys to kick in, and they are trying to find a balance between getting her off sedation and managing her pain.

Your continued prayers are needed and appreciated. I put my hand on Stefanie each day and ask for the love and prayers of all who are praying for her to go into her body and heal her. Paul and I also need prayers to be the best caretakers we can be.

Love to you all! I can't tell you how good it will feel to be in our wonderful state again and see all of your kind faces!

Thank you again...
Stacey, Paul and Jo Ann

Another Way to Help

A GoFundMe account has been set up to help defray the medical and support costs of caring for Stefanie. Please pray and give if you can! 100% of the funds donated go to the family.
www.gofundme.com/stefanie-schaffer-and-family



StefStrong!

Grace Church has ordered 200 of these StefStrong bracelets, and they are due to arrive at Grace on July 30th. You can purchase as many as you want in the church office for \$3.00@ or a donation of any kind!! Funds raised will be donated to the Bender/Schaffer family to help defray the many costs they are currently facing.

Let's keep Stefani and her family strong through this rehabilitation process!!

Family Ministry Activities



Support Group for Fathers ... Tuesdays, 6:30—8 p.m.

A new social/educational group is forming for new fathers, experienced fathers - anyone in a fathering role! If you are interested in developing as a parent, seek camaraderie and support, or have insights to share, please join us. We will meet weekly at Grace beginning **Tuesday, July 31**, at 6:30 p.m. The initial meeting will offer food and a discussion to help us chart a course, so be sure to bring your ideas.

The group is co-sponsored by the Rutland County Parent Child Center, Grace Church, and Evergreen Substance Abuse Services. To learn more, contact Steve Harrington at 345-5372 or steve.harrington@rcpcc.org. Or just show up!!

Opportunities to share your gifts ... through Christian Education!

Over the next weeks, we will be finalizing plans for the new program year. Many volunteers are needed! If you would be interested or are willing to consider being involved in one of the following areas, we would love to hear from you. Any questions can be directed to Kelly Thompson (236.5270/kelser52378@yahoo.com) or Tracy Weatherhogg at (775.4301/ tracy@gracechurchvt.org) or a member of the Children and Youth Committee.



Child Care

If you would be willing to help on a Sunday morning during worship to provide nurture and care for our youngest visitors to Grace or for special occasions, we would love to hear from you!

Summer Whole Church School Program

We are offering a broadly-graded summer whole church school program for children in preschool and older. Volunteers are still needed for August.

Whole Church School Program

Teachers are needed! Curriculum is provided and team teaching allows for flexibility in scheduling.

PFLAG Meetings

United Church of Dorset and East Rupert, 2nd Sundays at 4 PM

PFLAG (Parents and Friends of Lesbians and Gays) is a national network of support groups devoted to nurturing and celebrating relationships of diverse sexual orientations for all ages. The group is not a political action group, but is meant to create a discreet, loving, and safe family of caring friends facing common challenges. To learn more: contact the Dorset Church: 802.867.2260 / dorsetchurch@gmail.com



FOOD, GLORIOUS FOOD!



Fourth Sunday Welcome Table Summer Dinner Sunday, August 26 5:30 p.m.

Volunteers are needed to help with our Fourth Sunday Welcome Table Dinner on August 26. Cooks, bakers, table hosts, servers, and clean-up crew members are needed. If you are willing to help, please complete the SOS in the Sunday bulletin, look for the sign-up during Fellowship Time, or contact Tracey Marsh (558.5052/traceymvt@comcast.net) or Tracy Weatherhogg (775.4301/tracy@gracechurchvt.org).

Bring your contributions to Grace Church's Table of Abundance Sundays during the summer

If you are a gardener and would be willing to share some of the harvest of your garden with friends at Grace, you are invited to bring produce or flowers each Sunday morning and add them to the "Table of Abundance" during Fellowship Time. The produce will be available for anyone who would like it; any produce left will be taken to the Community Cupboard.

Although there is no charge for the HARVEST produce, you are welcome to make a contribution, which will be given to The Community Cupboard.



Remember Food Shelf Sunday, August 5

The summer months are always a challenging time for The Community Cupboard to meet the needs in the community. In addition to our first Sunday collection, the Mission and Service Committee invites you to bring in food, baby and paper products whenever possible.

Thank you for your support of this important ministry within our community!

Volunteer Opportunities Continue

- **Habitat for Humanity of Rutland County ... Transforming People's Lives and Our Community by Creating Affordable and Decent Housing. Lifting Up One Family at a Time**
Habitat volunteers are needed to help with work being done on Griswold Avenue in Rutland on Wednesdays and Saturdays beginning at 9 a.m. www.rutlandhabitat.com; Rutlandhabitat@gmail.com.
- **Vermont Farmers Food Center (VFFC)—FARMACY Projects on Wednesdays**
VFFC continues with the Farmacy Project (formerly the Health Care Share program) this summer. Participants receive free food from local farms for 12 weeks during the summer plus free cooking classes. Volunteers are needed Wednesdays from 10-noon (all/part of that time). **In addition** ... 2 volunteers are needed to deliver a share to participants in Poultney or Proctor Wednesdays after 2 p.m.
- **Vermont Foodbank—Mondays, 10 a.m. to noon for food sorting**
Gleaning—Thursdays, 9:30 a.m. at Dutchess Farm in Castleton. Sign up for alerts for other gleaning opportunities through the Vermont Foodbank!



God Is Still Speaking...Through Us

Small groups for the whole church are back!! There was such positive feedback for the reVision process small groups, and there is such a need for us to listen for God's voice in this trying time for our country, that the Spiritual Growth Committee is excited to invite you to a time of study, discernment and the practice of Civil Discourse.

One of the blessings of Grace Church is that we aren't all the same! We have differing opinions, political views, theological views, tastes in worship music, and art, and yet we are truly one body in Christ. This can be seen in our wonderful potluck dinners – our “potluck-ishness” is one of our strengths! And so the level of respectful dialogue we have in this church is quite good, but we can make it even better and learn how to share that gift with the Rutland Community.

Modeled on how we formed groups for the reVision process, keep your eyes open for sign-ups for groups that will meet 6 times during the time period of September 23 to November 4. The groups will meet for about 1 ½ hours and will be offered at various times/days/locations. There will also be options for how much work will be done together in class and how much you can do outside of class based on your schedule. We want everyone to be a part of this dialogue with God and each other. We want to make it easy and possible for everyone to be included.

There will be much more information coming, but start planning for hearing God's voice and making yours heard this Fall!

Bible Study and Listening for God Book Discussion

Bible Study will meet Wednesdays, August 1, 8, & 15 and will not meet again until September 5. All are welcome to join us!

Looking for a good book to read during the lazy days of summer or while away on vacation?

LOOKING AHEAD—Listening for God Book Discussion Thursday, September 13 at 5:30 p.m.

Our next *Listening for God Book Discussion* will take place on Thursday, September 13 at 5:30 p.m. in the Parlor. Join us for a potluck and discussion. Bring a dish to share or just come! We will discuss *The Hakawati* by Rabih Alameddine. Books are available on Sunday mornings or through the Church Office for \$14. Any questions, contact (Janice Prindle (345.2924/ jlpen77@gmail.com) or Tracy Weatherhogg (775.4301/ tracy@gracechurchvt.org). All are welcome!



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Grace Church Memorials The Sanctuary and Chapel Flower Memorials



August 5 to the Glory of God and in loving memory of **Charles Velasquez** by the Velasquez and Stager families.

August 12 to the Glory of God and in loving memory of **Jean Hayward** by Ken Hart.

August 19 to the Glory of God.

August 26 to the Glory of God and in loving memory of **Lucile K. and Edward W. Curtis** by their family.

(Please note: If you would like to have a flower memorial in memory of a loved one or for a special celebration, please contact David Hazen: 483.2337/peren@aol.com).

The Church Spire will be illuminated

August 5 to the Glory of God and in loving memory of **Al Ransom and Linda Ransom** by their family.

August 12 and 19 to the Glory of God.

August 26 to the Glory of God and in loving memory of **Charlie E. Jones**
by his wife Ruth and family.

***If you would like to have the Church Spire lit in celebration or in the memory of a loved one please contact the Church Office (775.4301). The cost for this is \$20.



Grace Preschool is accepting registrations for their 2018/2019 classes. For more information please call Liz via the Church Office (775.4301) or email gracepreschoolvt@yahoo.com.

Mark your calendars!

Sunday, Sept. 9—Homecoming Sunday
Worship at 8:30 and 10 a.m.
Special Fellowship Time following worship!