



1801 - 2011

Richmond
Congregational Church
United Church of Christ
P.O. Box 302
Richmond, VT 05477



November 2011

Address Service Requested

**WE'RE ON THE
WEB!
VISIT US AT
WWW.RCCUCC.ORG**



Non-Profit
U.S. Postage
PAID
Richmond, VT
Permit No. 4

Richmond Rescue Memory Tree Bulbs



Light a bulb on the Richmond Rescue Memory Tree in honor of a loved one. Bulbs are \$2.50 each. An order form is included below and can also be found at Bridge Street Café, Richmond and at Beaudry's Store, Huntington. Completed forms and payment made out to : Friends of Richmond Rescue, can be mailed

to Richmond Rescue, (Attn.: Memory Tree) P.O. Box 404, Richmond, VT 05477 or dropped off at Bridge Street Café and Beaudry's Store.

The Memory Tree will be lit following the 4:00pm Old Round Church Carol Sing on Sunday, December 4th.

Richmond Rescue 2011 Memory Tree

Name: _____

Address: _____

Phone: _____ Email: _____

Name(s) to be remembered:

Number of bulbs ordered _____ @ \$2.50/bulb Enclosed is a check for \$ _____

Return to: Richmond Rescue, Attn.: Memory Tree, P.O. Box 404, Richmond, VT 05477

Questions? Call Donna Lewis at 434-3155.





1801 - 2011

The Messenger

Richmond Congregational Church ■ November 2011

The Richmond Congregational Church, United Church of Christ, is an Open, Welcoming and Affirming Church



**DON'T FORGET.
DAYLIGHT
SAVINGS TIME
END AT 2AM
ON SUNDAY
NOVEMBER 6TH!**

HOW TO REACH THE PASTOR

Alice takes Mondays off, but will be in and out of the office Tuesday - Friday. Specific office hours are:

Tuesday, 1 - 4:30 pm;
Thursday and Friday,
9 to noon.

Feel free to be in touch to set up a different time to meet if something else works better for you.

Alice can be reached at the church 434-2053 or by email: alice@rccucc.org. In case of emergency, you can reach her on her personal cell phone: 802-735-5098.

Reflections From the Pastor

It's a challenge to wrap my brain around the fact that we've been together for nearly a year, but it's true. Before the month is over, somewhere around Thanksgiving Sunday, we will hit our one-year mark. I'm not quite sure how that happened, but probably much the same as every other milestone: one day at a time.

What a year it's been! We've hit most of the markers in the church year, with just Stewardship and Thanksgiving to go. I have yet to celebrate a wedding at the church, but I did one at the Round Church; I baptized a member of the Confirmation class and have had a conversation about the upcoming baptism of an infant. Together, we've worshipped and eaten; studied, reorganized, and planned; prayed and stood vigil; laughed, cried and considered. We bid farewell to an administrative assistant and music director and hello to the ones who bring fresh gifts to existing positions. We said hello to a young child from Korea and farewell to one of the oldest and longest members of the church. We gasped and wept at the news of a teen suicide, and then proceeded to reach out with grace and compassion. We observed together the tenth anniversary of terrorist aggression and national vulnerability. We withstood a wind storm, record breaking snow and spring flooding, a few boil water notices and a Hurricane the likes of which hadn't visited for 85 years. One holiday bazaar, two rummage sales, three summer suppers, one chicken pie supper, one installation, and 50 Friday Food Affairs at 5. I have no idea how many people and meals have been served, but I give thanks for all of it.

Through it all, we've been getting to know each other, and I pray, listening together for the call and movement of God in our midst. In clergy circles, we sometimes talk about the day or month when the honeymoon ends. I don't think ours has (you can feel free to share a different perspective on that), and I'll admit that I don't exactly look forward to the day when our socks start to smell and our clutter becomes annoying. But I do look forward to a growing sense of comfort and trust with each other, encouraging us to take risks and speak our hearts, to own our limits and be honest about frayed nerves and pressure points that we get tired of keeping under wraps. I don't scare easily, and I deeply value honest engagement and active cooperation. I eagerly look forward to the ways in which we will continue to roll up our sleeves together and dig deeper into the Gospel's call for us and our life together as a church.

I don't pretend to know precisely where we are headed, and I have no illusions of knowing what God has in store for us. What I trust and believe with all my heart is that when a community of Christ comes together in the presence of God and commits themselves to listening deeply, sharing openly and loving freely, motivated more by faith than fear, there is no limit to what can be accomplished. God is among us and God has called us together to love and serve, worship and work, teach and learn in this time and place. As long as we continue to show up, open our hearts and respond to the Spirit's stirrings, anything is possible. I give thanks for the beginning we have made together, and I pray that we'll adventure forth in faith, courage, compassion and love.

Peace, my friends.

Alice

Deacon's Corner

Looking for New Deacons

The deacons are looking for some folks willing to help us serve you. Some of us have been on the board for a long time — through our lengthy transition from Barbara to Len to Lee to Alice. Now it's time for some new people to join us as the church enters a new era with our new pastor.

There's no requirement that you be a longtime member to become a deacon. There's no age requirement. There's no test of religious knowledge. If you care about worship, then being a deacon can be a deeply rewarding experience.

Don't hesitate to question one of us about what is involved — Nancy Remsen, Bonnie Morin, JoEllen Swaine, Laura Baker, Susan Snyder, Frank Johnson.

Then give service on this board your prayerful consideration.

~Thanks.



Newsletter Info
Wanted!

Deadline for December Messenger:
TUESDAY, NOVEMBER 15th

COMMUNITY CHRISTMAS BASKET SIGN-UP

Dates for 2011



Bolton • Huntington • Jonesville • Richmond

PLEASE TAKE NOTICE!

Nov. 21st is the LAST sign-up date!!

Time: 12:30pm until 5:00pm

Place: Richmond Food Shelf & Thrift Store ONLY

- Please bring proof of income and bills.
- MUST also bring social security numbers of ALL Household members.

For special appointment and for more information please call Edythe Slayton at 802-434-4619



Ecumenical
Thanksgiving
Service

Join with others from the community on Sunday, November 20th

at 4:00 pm to thank God for the blessings of our lives.

We'll gather at the Williston Federated Church; also participating in the worship service with additional choir members from the Immaculate Heart of Mary in Williston and Our Lady of the Holy Rosary in Richmond. The offering will be shared between the Richmond Food Shelf and Thrift Store and the Williston Food Shelf.



Hanging
of the
Greens

Our Hanging of the Greens service will take place on Sunday November 27th - the first Sunday of Advent.

This is always a special service designed to help us move into Advent, reflect on the symbols of the season and decorated our sanctuary.

We will also be lighting the first candle on our advent wreath. Come and be part of our annual tradition.

A Bit of the Past

Submitted by Ingrid Cichoski

Recently several bits of the past were “unearthed” from a safety deposit box in the local bank. John LaRue, who was present at the unlocking of the box, has graciously scanned all of the items and preserved them on a computer zip drive. It is my intention to copy the zip drive so that there are two copies as well as the originals. The originals are in rather a fragile condition, some of them dating from the 1800’s, so it is important to preserve them using the technical methods available to us here in the twenty-first century. In the meantime it has been entertaining and edifying to peruse some of the documents. They include a list of pledges for the building of the “new” church in 1903, a copy of the first sermon preached in the new building on January 10, 1904, a record of the Incorporation of the church, dated March 15, 1854, a brief

history of the church covering the years 1833-1875, the constitution of the First Congregational Society of Richmond, Vermont dated 1849 and several other items. A couple of the items are very humorous. They are typewritten minutes of meetings of the Executive Committee in September, 1938 and August, 1939. It’s hard to know whether they were conserved for serious consideration or entertainment. When I have successfully copied the first zip drive I will be glad to lend the copy to anyone who would like to peruse all the historic papers. Some of them are difficult to decipher, since they are handwritten and a bit faded, but it is my hope that perhaps someone else can “translate” what they say. In any case, we are fortunate to have these things preserved for us and for posterity.



Membership Q.&A.

What does it mean to be a member of Richmond Congregational Church? What would be expected of me if I was? Why bother and not just continue to be a friend who takes part? What is the United Church of Christ? Where does the money to run the church come from?

If any of these questions sound like your questions (or you have others), plan to attend a membership class after church on **November 13**. We’ll meet over a light lunch and talk together about the faith and practices, history and organization of RCC.

Whether you know you want to become a member or are just curious, this can be a helpful time to learn more and explore the idea of joining in covenant with others in the pew. Our hope is that those who decide to become members will do so during worship on November 20. Speak with Alice Ling or a deacon if you have questions.



Youth Mission Trip Planning

We’re in the early stages of planning a Mission Trip for youth in grades 8 -12. Our current thinking is to work within a Vermont community joining in the Irene recovery effort.

We look forward to spending a week together in another community, getting to know each other as well as some people whose lives have been impacted by storm damage. Very soon we need to decide

whether we plan this trip for April school vacation week (April 22-28) or immediately after school ends (June 24-30). Please contact us if you would like to know more about our plans and, if you think you might want to participate, let us know if one set of dates is preferable.

Planning committee:

Jen Arnott, Bill Eschholz, Dave Estes, Alice Ling, Don Morin, Cindy Preston



Pecan Half Price Sale!

During the Sundays in

November before our new shipment of pecans arrive, we will be selling last year's for half-price at the back of the church following the service. These have been residing in several freezers during the summer and are fine, but we want to have them sold before the fresh crop arrives. There aren't too many, so if you're interested, we'll see you at the back of the church or contact one of us by phone.

Thanks, The Pecan Committee
Janice Chandler, Ingrid Cichoski, & Carol Adams



A Big Thank You!!
Rummage Sale News

Thank you to all the fabulous workers who pitched in and made the October rummage sale the smashing success it was!

It was a wonderful group effort and we are very pleased with the profit of \$1447.49!! We are very grateful!

Look for the April sale dates next spring!

**Stewardship
Sunday is
November 13th.**

Thoughts From the Trustees



- Time has come to work on next year's Church budget. Pledges this year have exceeded last's year's budget, which is good news. We had only budgeted for six months of rent from Beary Country School, but they are still going strong, therefore the deficit we had predicted will not be as large, but we do need to plan for next year. As we approach the Stewardship Campaign, we hope that the great support that we have seen this year will continue next year.
- We are still working on such items as door latches, furnace cleanings and hot water issues. The French doors in the dining room were replaced in time for the Chicken Pie Supper.
- A date has been set to have a second propane tank installed for the cooking propane.
- This fall, Spence Excavating will be pouring gravel & grading the parking area.
- To comply with the Safe Church Rules, 10x10 inch windows will be installed in the three classroom doors.
- By the time of the newsletter publication, a new pulpit microphone will have been installed.
- Meredith has been kind enough to update the church usage forms and rental agreements.
- Wright Preston & Linda Parent are working on the records of the Memorial Garden that will be recorded in the town records.

RICHMOND HISTORICAL SOCIETY POTLUCK SUPPER AND FALL PROGRAM

Saturday, November 5 at 6:00 pm

Richmond Congregational Church Hall

Program: Downtown Richmond - A Look Back in Time

This slide show program features historic photos and stories of the Richmond business district drawn from the Richmond Historical Society archives.

Bring a main dish to share and join your neighbors for an evening of fellowship and entertainment with the Richmond Historical



Society. \$2.00 per person will be charged at the door to cover the cost of salad, beverage and dessert.

Those wishing to attend only the program may do so free of charge. The program will begin at approximately 7:00pm. For info call 434-6453. Handicapped accessible.

November Schedule for Readers, Ushers and Greeters

Date	Readers	Ushers	Greeters
Nov. 6	Marshall Paulsen	Marshall & Gretchen Paulsen	Mary Ann Warren
Nov. 13	Ingrid Cichoski	Susan Snyder & Margaret Buxton	Ingrid Cichoski
Nov. 20	Linda Parent	The Haddock Family	The Carfaro Family
Nov. 27	Jen Arnott	The Arnott Family	The Eschholz Family

If you have questions about the schedule or would like to volunteer please contact Julie!
 If you know you will be attending church on a specific Sunday, give Julie a call and sign up!!!
 Julie can be reached via email at eschholzj@gmavt.net or via phone at 434-4255.

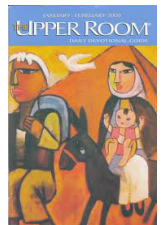
Holiday Market News

Mark your calendar for Saturday December 3rd, from 9:00 to 3:30 for the 8th annual Holiday Market. As many of you know, this is a great event for our Church as we provide one of the biggest venues for the RABA sponsored European styled market. Along with providing the community with a great location to host the event, our church offers a warm and welcoming space with great food and good company. Please become a part of this fun event by donating baked goods and soups for the luncheon (look for sign-up sheets at church, this is where we make the most money!), donate small white elephant type or holiday items for our



church table (not bigger than a bread box please, space is limited) or come and shop to support the local economy. Please volunteer, any time and help you may be able to donate would be great, help with set-up (Friday at noon), clean-up on Saturday (around 3:45) or donate items to sell at the market. This is a great fund raiser for the church (last year around \$2,500) and your involvement makes a difference! Please contact Barb Willis at 316-7746 or bawillistvt@comcast.net with any questions or donations. We are looking forward to another great event, see you there!

The Upper Room Daily Devotional Guide Available



Did you know that we have copies of the by-monthly **Upper Room Daily Devotional Guide**? You'll find them in a basket on the table in the Church parlor.

The Upper Room Daily Devotional Guide contains meditations that show real people struggling to live faithfully in real-life situations, with the Bible as the touchstone for and measure of faithful living.

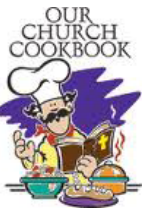
The writers of the daily meditations that appear in The Upper Room are both laity and clergy and come from around the world. However, all in some way reflect the belief that God wills only good for each of us and that God calls us to lives of love, forgiveness, and service to others, according to the example of Christ.

Suggested donation: \$1.00.



Hats & Mittens Wanted

The youth group is collecting hat and mittens, either new or in good condition for local families. They will be sent to the VNA family room, the thrift shop in town and one other organization that serves children in the community through the United Way non profits. You can leave the items in the box in the parlor. Questions call Louise at 434-5354.



We are Still Looking for More Recipes for our Church Cookbook

While you're gathering all your holiday recipes together, please remember to make a copy for the church cookbook. And, take a few minutes to send some of your everyday recipes as well.

You know all those slips of paper you have shoved in a binder with recipes you've collected from fiends and from the web? Wouldn't it be great if they were all organized in one place... like a church cookbook?

Even if a recipe was in our last Church cookbook, please send it along. There are many of us who don't have that cookbook and we'd love to have those "old" recipes as well.

You can leave a hard copy of your recipes in the folder in the church parlor or send them electronically to Terri Schultz at schultz@gmavt.net.



A Message from the Stewardship Committee

Many times we refer to our church as a family. We are a family. We like each other. We care about each other. We help each other. We meet together regularly and share a meal or two. We also disagree with each other. We sometimes get angry with each other. We share a common space. We have a leader, the head of the family. We have a budget. We debate over the best way to use what we have. We worry about making ends meet. We huddle together knowing that there is comfort and safety being close to people we love.

One of the requirements of being in a family is that you have to show up once in a while, write home, call to say hello, let the rest of the family know you still care. The church is like that. You may be a family that has been active in the past, you're still here in the community but we haven't seen you for a long time. Come back, please. We ask you to participate, at least a little. You need to let your friends here at the church know you still care. We care about you, we really do. If you're someone who hasn't been to church in the last 6 months, come next Sunday or the Sunday after

that. We want the opportunity to say "Great to see you again".

For those of us who have been active, think about personally reaching out to someone you know who may be slipping away into the "inactive" category and let them know they're missed.

There are no entry fees, no tests to take, no bar to jump over. The church is here to allow you to pursue a spiritual dimension in your life and to enjoy the fellowship of some really nice people. This is not a limited time offer. The door is always open.

We have a stewardship campaign coming up this month and our theme is **"The church is a gift from God, some assembly required"**. Later in the month, we will be asking you to pledge support for 2012. We know that people who truly want to be part of this church family, even if they consider themselves a distant cousin, will pledge support. We won't be asking for a specific amount, we will be simply asking folks to make a pledge. You decide. Whatever the amount it will be great and remember, some assembly is required.

Thanks,
Your Stewardship Committee

Are you interested in receiving an electronic copy of the Sunday worship service sermon?

Just call the church office or email us at church@rccucc.org. Be sure to leave your name and email address.

LARGE PRINT Bulletins are available each Sunday for our morning worship service. Please ask one of the ushers if you would like one.



November 2011

Richmond Congregational Church



SUNDAY

MONDAY

TUESDAY

WEDNESDAY

THURSDAY

FRIDAY

SATURDAY

 <p>Heidi Burbo 11/01 Sophia Spence 11/02 Sophie Andrews 11/03</p>		<p>William IV Supple 11/04 Ben George 11/06 Douglas Chandler 11/07 Ellie Churchill 11/07 JoEllen Swaine 11/08 Craig Wood 11/11 Christian Patenaude 11/13 Gail Workman 11/13 Karen Richard 11/14 Margaret Buxton 11/15</p>		<p>Lori Grzywna 11/17 Scott Brown 11/17 Erik Remsen 11/19 Taylor Yeates 11/21 Francis Churchil 11/26 Amelia Frederick 11/26 Molly Warren 11/28 Sue Carpenter 11/29 Erich Schwer 11/30 Jared Supple 11/30</p>	
<p>Please let the church office know your birthdays and anniversaries. We don't want to miss anyone! Call: 802-434-2053 or email: church@rccucc.org</p>		<p>1 Funeral 10:00am Deacons & Trustees Meeting 7pm</p>	<p>2 Field Hockey Dinner Fellowship Hall 4:45-7:00pm</p>	<p>3 Soul Friends 3:30-5 pm Peace Vigil 5:30 PM Pastoral Relations 7 pm</p>	<p>4 Friday Food Affiar at 5</p> <p>5 Richmond Historical Society 3:30-9:30pm</p>
<p>6  Worship 10:00am Youth Group 5-7 pm AA - 7 pm</p>		<p>8 Review Board 6:30pm Cabinet 6:45pm</p>	<p>9 Adult Choir 7:00 PM</p>	<p>10 Soul Friends 7:00-8:30 pm Peace Vigil 5:30 PM</p>	<p>11 Friday Food Affiar at 5</p> <p>12 VAST 8:30-4:30pm</p>
<p>13 Worship 10:00am STEWARDSHIP SUNDAY Membership Class after church Youth Group 5-7 pm AA - 7 pm</p>		<p>15 NEWSLETTER DEADLINE!</p>	<p>16 Adult Choir 7:00 PM</p>	<p>17 Peace Vigil 5:30 pm</p>	<p>18 Friday Food Affiar at 5</p>
<p>20 Worship 10 am Adult Choir Sings New Members Join 4:00pm Ecumenical Thanksgiving Service @ Williston Federated Youth Group 5-7 pm AA - 7 pm</p>		<p>22 Knitting & Crocheting Group 7pm</p>		<p>24 </p>	<p>25 Friday Food Affiar at 5</p> <p>26</p>
<p>27  Worship 10 am 1st Sunday in Advent AA - 7 pm</p>				<p> HAPPY ANNIVERSARY Paul Giacco & Linda Kogut 11/03 Roberta & Gene Frederick 11/29</p>	



SUNDAY SCHOOL
Make the Connection

November Schedule for Sunday School Teachers

	Pre-2nd Grade	3rd-5th Grade	6th-7th Grade	Nursery
Nov. 6	Janine Plumer	Margo Mutttilainen	Kids in Church	Louise & Molly Friedeborn
Nov. 13	Ernie Buford	Doug Wysockey-Johnson	Karen Clark & Chris Carfaro	Janine Plumer
Nov. 20	Melissa Wolaver	Anne Peterson	Margo Mutttilainen	Margaret Taft
Nov. 27	Amy Gifford	Robin Rabideau	Cindy Preston	Jen & Joan Arnott



Round Church Holiday Carol Sing

On Sunday, December 4, the Richmond Historical Society will host two community caroling sessions at the Round Church, at 4:00 pm and 5:00 pm respectively.

For both sessions, Tom Walters and friends will once again lead a program of familiar holiday songs and traditional carols. Get in the holiday spirit with some family fun in Richmond's historic community meetinghouse; but please dress warmly—the Round Church has no heat.

This event is free and open to the public. For more information contact Martha Turner at rhs@oldroundchurch.com or 434-6453.

Note: Seating at the Round Church is now limited to 228 by order of the state fire marshal.

Heifer Project Living Market Sunday, December 4th After Worship Service

Make The Holidays More Meaningful!

Our Sunday School children will once again put together a Heifer Project Living Gift Market.

Give a life-changing gift to Heifer International in honor of a friend or loved one. Heifer Project provides families around the world with food and income producing animals and training in their care. It's a gift that brings promise to hungry families and opportunity for a better life to the less



fortunate. Gifts bought at the Living Gift Market enable hungry families to become more self-reliant. Giving a heifer gift takes the stress out of shopping while putting the meaning back into giving. Prices start at just \$10 and are a great way to acknowledge a friend during the Christmas season.

If you cannot attend the Living Gift Market, you may still make a purchase and receive an "Honor Card" by contacting Wendy de Forest at 434-4412.



Please let the church office know if someone is ill, hospitalized or in need of a visit.

Call Meredith at 434-2053 or email the church office at church@rccucc.org.





As I've been thinking back over my 50+ years with

RCC I'm struck with the variety of people, experiences and theology we've gone through (in some cases, slogged through). Some ministers have stressed social justice, some, salvation. Some have been more intellectual, some have been more practical - a few were frauds. With every change of leadership we gained a few, lost a few - somehow the basic structure and makeup of the church continued. The same with people and experiences.

As a young family, our needs and interests were met in one way; as we coped with teenage angst, we were grateful to the teachers and advisors who were there for our children (and us, at times!). There have been times of great joy (joining the church community, baptizing the youngsters, weddings), great sorrow (funerals and partings, as many good friends left the church or the area). In later years, the experience of Bible studies and relevant sermons have been sources of knowledge and support; watching other "young" families grow and change is always fascinating, and, of course, the friendship of innumerable people down through the years to present time has been and still is, a blessing.

Like the exerciser bunny, RCC seems to just keep plugging along. Sometimes we've been discouraged (as when we had to physically leave the church building

because it was literally unsafe) or sad (losing some special people to death or disagreement), but there have been more times of joy and renewal.

We hear a lot now about the irrelevance of the church. Perhaps so. We each have our own way of worshiping even within the boundaries of an organized congregation. For many of us, that private worship could not have been maintained without "the assembly required".

~Carol Adams

Why I Give: The Pilgrims gave their very lives in their strife for religious freedom. We must carry on that principle to insure future generations of a place to worship the God they came to this country to serve -- the same God we love and worship today.

~Irene LaRose

Why I Give: I like the Richmond Congregational church because it helps me with my spiritual amnesia problem. I forget to be grateful; I forget to pray; I forget that I need God. I also want my children to learn about God in a community of diverse ages, and the church provides that.

~Doug Wysocky-Johnson

Have you visited our church website, www.rccucc.org lately? It's still a work in progress, but has many new features and links. Your comments and/or suggestions are welcome. Just email me at meredith@gmavt.net. Thanks!



Youth Group News

We have been meeting weekly, sharing a meal and are beginning to collect hats, mittens and scarves. We signed up with United Way to distribute these items and they will give Louise a specific group who is in need of these items.

There was a huge turn out of youth at our last meeting. The more youth that join together, the more we can do for the church and community as young committed Christians. If any parent has an idea or activity the youth group may want to be involved in, please call Louise at 434 5354. *Friends are welcome.*



Gentle Yoga for Everyone!

Practice gentle postures to improve flexibility, strength, balance, and overall well-being. This yoga program uses a stable chair for support. Beginners are encouraged to attend. **FREE** and open to the public! **WHEN?** Fridays 10:30-11:30 beginning Nov. 4th, and will continue through Dec. 23rd. **WHERE?** The Richmond Free Library 201 Bridge St., Richmond.

Pre-registration is recommended. If you would like to make a reservation or have any questions, contact Neighbor to Neighbor AmeriCorps Member, Jen Manosh at 865-0360 EXT 1058, or jmanosh@cva.org.

Richmond Congregational Church Cabinet News

The October Cabinet meeting began with Pastor Ling reporting on a UCC workshop she attended, with members Karen Clark, Kathy Kort and JoEllen Swaine, called *New Keys for an Old Door*. Tom Ehrich, the keynote speaker, said "God knows your name - where ever you may worship." Ehrich also talked about the need to make our church visible because there are people looking for places to serve but not necessarily seeking a responsibility for an organization. In addition, electronic communication is vital to rethinking communications. Finally, emphases on small groups are another way of growing connections with others in the church.

Pastor Ling met with Father Harlow from the Holy Rosary and Joan O'Gorman from Williston Federated to discuss a Thanksgiving Ecumenical service, which will be held Nov. 20 at 4:00pm at the Williston Federated Church. There will be an ecumenical choir lead by Williston and the offering will be split between the Williston and Richmond food shelves.

Finally, Pastor Ling updated the Cabinet on aiding flooded families in our community, and a plan for RCC to participate in the statewide Oct. 22 clean -up event from Hurricane Irene.

The Cabinet reviewed the recent Governance vote that approved a new governance structure for RCC. The next step is to

select a transition team to help implement the new structure with RCC and work with each RCC committee on the model. It was decided that on Tuesday Dec. 6, there would be an all church meeting night; at this meeting the transition team would walk through the new governance model and answer questions from individuals. The gathering will start at 6:30 with a potluck of soup and bread with meetings to follow. In addition, a By-laws committee has been assembled to modify the present RCC By-laws and to accommodate the new governance procedures.

The Stewardship committee gave an update on this year's campaign. The theme for the campaign will be "*Church is a gift from God, some assembly required*". Pledge mailing due out in late October and Nov. 13 has been selected as Stewardship Sunday. Also, the Stewardship committee has assembled gift bags for visitors to our church which contain: a church magnet, candle, newsletter, and welcome cards.

The Cabinet reviewed and discussed the September Pilgrimage Service and whether there was a need to create greater visibility within the Richmond community and this historical church service.

Finally in other business, the Cabinet approved RCC

hosting a blood drive on Jan. 4th and committing to host on May 2, 2012 and Aug. 22, 2012. RCC Clerk, Louise Friedeborn, has announced that she will not be filling the clerk position in 2012. The Cabinet would like to find a new clerk to shadow Louise during the task of producing the 2011 RCC Annual Report. The RCC Ad Hoc Membership committee is continuing to sift through the present member/friend data base and creating an updated members list.

The next Cabinet meeting will be on Tues., Nov. 8th. Prior to the Cabinet meeting that evening, the RCC Review Board will meet for its annual assessment of RCC employees. As always, please make sure a representative from each committee is available for the monthly Cabinet meetings. Happy Fall!





All Committee/Board Night Set for December 6 at 6:30

The new governance model was approved by the membership in September. As we enter the transition phase, all current members of boards and committees are invited to attend a kickoff & learning session on December 6, 2011 at 6:30. A light meal of soups and sandwiches will be served. There will be a brief orientation which will be followed by individual core groups breaking out to begin a process of learning how they will organize, meet, and conduct their business. Facilitators will be on hand to help guide the discussions. One of the objectives will be to identify any skill needs which the nominations committee can then try to fill by February.

The Council replaces the Cabinet and is designed to be the Church's leadership body focusing on the long term direction but with an indirect eye on tactical issues. The Council will consist of a Chair and Clerk and five other members. Each member will have liaison responsibilities with one of the Core Groups (Worship, Operations, Education, Communication, and Outreach). In order to minimize the work, a Council member is advised not to have any Core Group membership responsibility.

We are looking for members who might be interested in being a council member.

The scope of responsibilities includes:

- Evaluate, develop, & implement new outreach missions
- Prepare and run all church-wide meetings
- Provide vision and strategic direction leadership
- Develop & train lay spiritual leadership
- Personnel review - adopt salary recommendations
- Liaison to operating groups & ministries, helping solve issues only as required
- Liaisons ensure groups in sync with Church calendar
- Evaluate who we are, why are we here, & how can we do better

Those having previously served on boards/committees who have held leadership positions and/or are very interested in being a part of helping formulate RCC's future, then please contact Alice or a member of the Nominations committee, John LaRue, Kathy Kort and Martha Alexander.

Again, we would be pleased if all current members of boards and committees would make this date and time on their calendars and plan to attend this vital kickoff and learning session.

Thank you.



Justice and Climate Change – Faithful Action

Vermont Interfaith Power and Light Conference

Vermont Interfaith Power and Light (VTIPL) is holding a conference on Sun., Nov. 6 from 1:15 – 5:45 pm at Vermont Law School, S. Royalton. Members of faith communities from all over the state will be coming together to learn, share ideas, and plan actions to address the crisis of climate change and its serious impacts on people and all of Creation.

The conference's Keynote Speaker will be Professor James Gustave (Gus) Speth, a world-renowned environmentalist, author, and activist. In his career, Gus co-founded the Natural Resources Defense Council, founded the World Resources Institute, worked in the Carter administration, administered the U.N. Development Programme, and was dean at Yale. He is now a professor at Vermont Law School. Other speakers include Professors Michael Dworkin and Amy Seidl, and Shyla Nelson is song leader.

Over a dozen organizations are sponsoring and will have exhibits and provide information. Following the conference, supper is offered (optional) for those who can stay. Find out more and get the registration form at VTIPL's website: www.vtipl.org/node/176. Contact: Betsy Hardy info@vtipl.org or 802-434-3397.