



1801 - 2011

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

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October 2011

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WEB!
VISIT US AT
WWW.RCCUCC.ORG**



Sunday School News

Sunday morning classes have begun for all interested children. Children in preschool through second grade meet in the first classroom on the right. Children in grades three through five meet in the classroom on the left. Children in sixth and seventh grade meet in the second classroom on the right except on the first Sunday of each month when they are invited to stay in church

October Schedule for Sunday School Teachers

Date	Pre-2nd Grade	3rd-5th Grade	6th-7th Grade	Nursery
Oct. 2	Eileen McCoy	Wendy de Forest	Kids in Church	Lori Aldrich & Kaitlin Scherber
Oct. 9	Janine Plumer	Karen Clark & Chris Carfaro	Margo Mutttilainen	Margaret Taft
Oct. 16	Amy Gifford	Doug Wysockey-Johnson	Anne Peterson	Kirk Peterson
Oct. 23	Susanne Parent	Robin Rabideau	Cindy Preston	Matt Plumer
Oct. 30	Melissa Wolaver	Anne Peterson	Cindy Preston	Wayne & Michelle Villeneuve



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The Messenger

Richmond Congregational Church ■ October 2011

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



Youth Mission Trip Planning

Got plans for April vacation? Hopefully, many of the RCC youth will consider spending it together helping others. We're planning a Mission Trip, and would like youth input! Our current thinking is to go to a community within Vermont that felt the wrath of Irene, and do what we can to make a difference. It's still early in the recovery effort, so it's hard to know specifics. Maybe we'll be doing clean up, maybe reconstruction, maybe some of both or something altogether different. We'd like to share our thinking with youth, get your ideas and see what we can create together.

Join us for conversation on Sunday, October 23 from 5 - 7 pm. Whether you're part of the Youth Group or not, if you're in eighth grade or high school, we hope you'll come to the church, join us for supper and planning. Whether you're ready to sign up or are just a little curious, come, be part of the conversation and help shape the trip. Supper will be provided by the youth group, so it would be helpful to know how many to plan on. Please notify the church office if you are coming.

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

Reflections From the Pastor

I wonder if you've figured out yet how much I like food. As with many things in life, I normally blame it on my mother. Actually, a wedding recently put me in touch with cousins I grew up alongside, and that triggered an awareness that maybe this inclination reaches back to my grandmother. Or generations before her I never knew. The rehearsal dinner and reception pushed the start menu on memories of Thanksgiving and Christmas dinners, summer picnics when we gathered around tables heaped with home baked, home grown and often home raised bounty. My grandfather was a gardener, my father was a farmer and most of the men were hunters. Breads and pie, cakes and candy, beans and pickles were standard fare, and all of it homemade. And all of that was really just backdrop for the most important part: getting together to enjoy it. How many people can a Grandmother fit around a dinner table? However many there are. And what is a mother's highest joy (at least my mother's)? To have all of the family gathered in one place at one time. It just doesn't get much better than that!

Who knows if they knew they were doing it or not, but I think those family feasts were preparation for my theology of communion, especially World Communion which we celebrate on the first Sunday of October. What could be better than gathering all of the family together, from all over the world, the more the better, to share in the feast of God's love? Much like the tables where I grew up, even if we focused on the food, we always knew it was really about the love that lay behind it all and that knit us together as family. I cherish opportunities to come together around the table, and swap stories of lessons learned, struggles survived, accomplishments mastered, grace glimpsed, mercy shared. The bread and cup offer tangible reminders of just what variety of love it is that has prepared this feast, and we're encouraged to help ourselves to a serving, in order that we might be fed and nourished, empowered and equipped to pass it on and keep it going.

I've had a few conversations recently and made a few observations that remind me how important it is that we help our children experience and savor the bounty of this table. Unlike the ones my family gathered around, here in the church the kids are usually out of the room when we sit down to eat. When we celebrated the meal at the Round Church, I was aware of children who stayed in the pews while parents came forward, children who came forward but did not partake and children who did receive the bread and cup along with the adults. Any and all of those choices are fine, but it reminded me that we need to be teaching them what it means to come to the table, find our place and take part in the feast of God's love. I'm glad that the sixth and seventh graders will be encouraged to join with us in worship on communion Sundays this year, and intend to make the most of these weeks as times when all of us can reflect together on the importance of the Table, and the invitation that Christ extends to each of us to come and eat, take and drink. The table is spread and there's room for all. See you at the table, my friends.

Peace.

Alice

RUMMAGE SALE

The Richmond Congregational Church will be holding its Fall Rummage Sale on Friday, October 14 from 9:30 am until 4 pm, and on Saturday, October 15 from 9:30 am until Noon. You never know what treasures you might find!

For more information call 434-2053.



Choir News

As you are aware by now, our Music Director for the past 3 years, Geoff Bennington, has left us for greener pastures in New York City. In his place as Adult Choir Director we welcome Liz Thompson. Liz will be with us through December and possibly into the new year. Liz lives in Jericho and has served as St. Paul's sabbatical director. We look forward to working with her.

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

COMMUNITY CHRISTMAS BASKET SIGN-UP

Dates for 2011



Bolton • Huntington • Jonesville • Richmond

Please take notice!
Oct. 10th, 17th & 31st
Also Nov. 21st (This 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

THESE ARE THE ONLY SIGN-UP DATES!



Chicken Pie Supper!

Final planning is underway to make this year's Chicken Pie Supper as delicious as ever. If you have not already made reservations for the October 5th supper, you can still do so by calling 434 – 2516 any day between 1 and 8PM.

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.



Newsletter Info

Wanted!

Deadline for November Messenger:
Saturday, October 15th

A Bit of the Past

Submitted by Ingrid Cichoski

Although we have all been thinking about the most recent crises to hit our corner of the world, the recent week of remembrances has taken us farther back in time. Ten years ago what were you doing when the planes flew into the World Trade Center, the Pentagon and the field in Shanksville, Pennsylvania? Just as those of us old enough to remember other cataclysmic events in our world's history, most of us adults remember that bright, blue September morning vividly. I was at work at the library at Hiawatha Elementary School. Our wonderful special educator, Alice, came in asking about a television. Did we have one available? At once we realized this wasn't an ordinary request for equipment. Alice was visibly shaken up about something. We steered her into the room where we kept the TV's and turned one on. She told us what she knew. She had had a call from someone who had told her about the first crash. She had a very close friend in New York City and had tried to reach her

by phone to no avail. As it turned out, Alice's friend was alright, thank goodness. At RCCUCC we were just getting our fall events underway. Sunday School had begun. Were you teaching that semester? The chicken pie supper guys were gearing up. Had you made some calls soliciting pies? Had you planned on making some dessert pies or a chicken pie? What were you occupied with? As we sat in church on Sunday past, then at the Round Church later in the day, it kept occurring to me that we must look back from time to time, but we must look forward, too. What can we do to help ensure that our world will never have to endure another such human-made calamity? Maybe we can "Show up" as Pam Lucas urged us to do. Maybe we can teach Sunday School. Maybe we can help with the Chicken Pie Supper. Maybe we can help flood victims in Richmond and beyond. I am sure that you have even more and better ideas. Let us pray that some parts of our history will not be repeated.



Are You Interested in Becoming a Member of Richmond Congregational Church?

Curious about what membership means and what RCC is all about? Feel free to speak with Alice Ling or one of the deacons. We want to hold a class to share information and help people begin get to know each other. What would work best for you? Right after church? Late Sunday afternoon or early evening? A week night? It would probably last a couple of hours, and be an opportunity for learning, discussion and exploration. Hopefully we can have the class and receive new members in the next couple of months, so let us know if you are interested.



Thank You, COTS Walkers!

Thank You Richmond Congregational Church for Raising Over \$800.00!

From all of us at COTS, a huge thank you for helping make the 2011 COTS Walk a tremendous success. Your effort and the good energy made sure the event was a fun and fantastic fund-raiser that celebrates our community's commitment to making sure everyone as safe and decent shelter and housing.

You helped raised more than \$150,000 for COTS shelters and programs. This money will go a long way towards providing services to Vermont families and individuals who are homeless or at risk of becoming homeless. We are so grateful for your hard work!

For photos from this year's events, visit: www.cotsonline.org. And, mark your calendar for the COTS Walk 2012 on Sunday, May 6, 2012.



Youth Group News

The youth group began the new year at the end of September. We shared a meal together, made dessert and talked about the upcoming activities, including a hat and glove drive, a mission trip with other opportunities for community service and friendship building. The group will meet most Sunday evenings from 5 - 7 pm at the church. Any questions, give Louise a call at 434 5354.

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.



Pecan time will be coming up in early November, so keep that in mind as you

think ahead to holiday baking and presents. Those of you who are storing pecans in your freezers, I will be contacting you soon. Thanks so much for keeping them for us over the summer.

~ Carol Adams

Parking for Sunday Worship

Please remember on Sunday mornings to reserve the few parking spaces that run along RCC on Church Street for those members who have difficulties when it comes to walking across from the town parking lot. If you are spirited enough, please park across the road and enjoy the walk with a fellow member or friend of RCC as we gather for worship. Thanks for your cooperation and understanding.

Trustees report:

Greetings from the RCC Trustees –



- First, the Trustees would like to welcome Meredith Schuft as the new administrative assistant. We welcome you to the office.
- In the last month the Trustees have been busy with several projects around the Church.
- Due to the numerous uses of the dining room, there has been a problem of running out of propane. This will be solved by installing a second propane tank.
- Work has been done on the dishwasher. The sanitization system is now working properly. The issue of hot water has been dealt with temporarily, but we are looking into a larger hot water tank.
- The French doors in the dining room were replaced recently. Luckily, the cost of the door panels will be covered by the warranty.
- We are asking that folks using the church facilities be sure to lock all doors when you leave. At no time should children be allowed to wander and play in the building unattended. The day care playground is reserved for day care use only. Please be respectful of that area.
- We are looking forward to the annual Chicken Pie Supper to be held October 5, hope to see you all there.



Visitors Needed!

*Are you interested in donating a little of your time?
Become a Friendly Visitor Volunteer!*

CVAA is looking for volunteers to visit seniors in the Richmond community. A senior man is looking for a man to visit with him every 1-2 weeks; and a senior woman is looking for someone to visit her once per week. Volunteering is flexible- you and the senior decide on the schedule. If you can help one of these seniors or know someone who could, please contact Jen Manosh at 802-865-0360 EXT 1058 or via e-mail at jmanosh@cva.org. Make a friend and a difference at the same time!

Stock Gifts

RCC now has an account with Charles Schwab through which we can accept stock donations.

Please contact Randy Sargent, Church Treasurer at 434-5078 for more information.

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

October Schedule for Readers, Ushers and Greeters

Date	Readers	Ushers	Greeters
Oct. 2	Carol Adams	The Grzywna Family	Carol Adams
Oct. 9	Robin Rabideau	Ray & Ann Houston	The Rabideau Family
Oct. 16	Jon Milazzo	TBD	Jon Milazzo
Oct. 23	Barb Wyman	Barb & Ted Wyman	The Villeneuve Family
Oct. 30	Molly Dugan	Dugan/Churchill Family	Tess Starecheski

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.



Neighbor's in Need

Offering

Imagining Another World Is Possible

Neighbors in Need (NIN) is a special mission offering of the UCC that supports ministries of justice and compassion throughout the United States. One-third of NIN funds support the Council for American Indian Ministry (CAIM). Two-thirds of the offering is used by the UCC's Justice and Witness Ministries (JWM) to support a variety of justice initiatives, advocacy efforts, and direct service projects.

The Neighbors in Need offering, which we will receive on October 2, 2011 as part of our World Communion Sunday observance, supports the UCC's ministries of justice and compassion throughout the United States. Two-thirds of the offering is used by the UCC's Justice and Witness Ministries to fund a wide array of local and national justice initiatives, advocacy efforts, and direct service projects. Through UCC Take Action.org, our national Justice and Witness Ministries office offers resources, news updates, and action alerts on a broad spectrum of justice issues. Working with members of the UCC Justice and Peace Action Network (a network of thousands of UCC justice and peace advocates), Justice and Witness continues its strong policy advocacy work on issues such as the federal budget, voting rights, immigration, health care, hate crimes, civil liberties, and environmental justice.

Neighbors in Need helps make another world possible. It needs your support. Please give generously. And remember, contributions to Neighbors in Need can be made on-line at any time at: www.ucc.org/nin.

Thank you!



*Time to mark your
Calendar!!*

DECEMBER 3, 2011

Yes, it is the annual Holiday Market, it seems far away, but will be here soon enough. Think of it when you are make crafts, collecting and drying flowers or making jam.

Any little effort will be appreciated, baking, volunteering or just partaking. Think ahead of things you might help with or collect for.

Be a part of this community tradition. Could use some management help if anyone is interested.

Barb Willis, Co-Chair Holiday Market: bawillisvt@comcast.net or 316-7746

Governance Proposal Adopted

At a special meeting of the RCC membership on Sunday, September 18, 2011, the RCC Governance Proposal presented by the study committee was formally adopted. The adopted proposal contained such key elements as a more effective organizational structure for the church size that embodies fewer boards and committees, broader and more encompassing responsibilities, a clear sense of committed leadership, and a vision enabling both program maintenance and ministry. The new organizational structure now moves onto the next phase of the governance proposal process.

Core Teams identified in the adopted proposal will begin to define their new internal organization. The RCC Nominating Committee will use the new framework and organization of core teams as they prepare to fill the 2012 nomination slots. The RCC Cabinet will form a governance transition team this fall which will work on the applications presented in the governance proposal as well as reviewing, updating, and developing the RCC by-laws, all of which will be presented and discussed at the 2012 RCC Annual Meeting.

If you have any questions or thoughts about the governance proposal and next steps in the process, please contact any member of the committee; Catherine Burns, Jerry Carpenter, Jon Milazzo, Kirk Peterson, Dave Thomas and Pastor Alice Ling.



Adult Study Opportunity - Two Churches Together!

Our fall adult study opportunity is a partnership with the Williston Federated Church. One session has taken place, and there will be sessions each Sunday night in

October from 5 - 6:30 pm. October 2, 16 and 30 we will meet in Richmond; October 9 and 23, we return to Williston.

Each session features a video segment from Living the Questions #2 that includes conversations with leading voices of faith, stories illustrating aspects of an evolving faith and concrete spiritual practices and disciplines. Each session is a “stand-alone” session, so come for some or all. Remaining topics are:

- Lives of Jesus
- Evil, Suffering & A God of Love
- Practicing Resurrection
- Social Justice: Realizing God’s Vision
- Prayer: Intimacy with God

These materials are, quoting the “Living the Questions” website, “an open-minded alternative to studies that attempt to give participants all the answers and instead strives to create an environment where participants can interact with one another in exploring what’s next for Christianity.” You can visit the website www.livingthequestions.com for more information about the materials, or speak to Alice Ling.



RCC SPIRITUALITY GROUP GOES “DEEP IN THE FAMILIAR”

As you may know, the “Soul Friends” prayerful reflection groups have been meeting monthly since early last spring, drawing from the Upper Room devotional for inspiration. Now we are ready to try something new, and invite you to join in.

Starting in early October, we will be enjoying a book study of Joan Cannon Borton’s little gem “Deep in the Familiar”. Through short essays and insightful reflection questions, Joan encourages us to mine our everyday lives for the rich vein of spirituality which has the power to sustain and guide us. If you are interested in participating in either group (first Thursday afternoon of the month, 3:30-5pm; second Thursday evening of the month, 7-8:30pm), contact Tess Starecheski by phone at: 434-7005 or by email at: tesstar@gmavt.net for more information.



October 2011



SUNDAY

MONDAY

TUESDAY

WEDNESDAY

THURSDAY

FRIDAY

SATURDAY

 <p>10/01 Virginia Roberts 10/03 Grace Butler 10/05 Justin Estes</p>		<p>10/09 Paul Giacco 10/09 Ben Jin Johnson 10/10 Patrick Berteau 10/11 Seamus Buford 10/13 Janice Chandler 10/13 Lindsey Goudreau 10/14 Caleigh Carpenter 10/16 Rodney Andrews 10/17 Duane LaRose 10/18 Carol LaRue</p>			<p>10/18 Pat Carpenter 10/19 Sandra Parent 10/19 Connie van Eeghen 10/21 Kyra Muttillainen 10/21 David Roberts 10/23 Colin Cavanaugh 10/23 K. Peter Parent 10/25 Matthew Estes 10/28 Alice Ling 10/30 Tina Carpenter</p>		1
2	3	4	5	6	7	8	
<p>Worship 10:00am Adult Study 5 pm @ Richmond AA - 7 pm</p> 		<p>Narcotics Anonymous 6 pm Endowment 6:30 Deacons 7 pm CPS Set up</p>	 <p>Chicken Pie Supper</p>	<p>Soul Friends 3:30-5 pm Peace Vigil 5:30 PM Trustees 7 pm</p>	<p>Friday Food Affair at 5</p>	<p>VAST 8:30 am-4:30 pm</p>	
9	10	11	12	13	14	15	
<p>Worship 10:00am Youth Group 5-7 pm Adult Study 5 pm @ Williston AA - 7 pm</p>		<p>Narcotics Anonymous 6 pm Cabinet 6:30 pm</p>	<p>Adult Choir 7:00 PM</p>	<p>Soul Friends 7:00-8:30 pm Peace Vigil 5:30 PM Stewardship 7:00pm</p>	 <p>9:30-4:00 pm</p>	<p>9:30 - 12 noon NEWSLETTER DEADLINE!</p>	
16	17	18	19	20	21	22	
<p>Worship 10:00am Youth Group 5-7 pm Adult Study 5 pm @ Richmond AA - 7 pm</p>		<p>Narcotics Anonymous 6 pm</p>	<p>Adult Choir 7:00 PM</p>	<p>Peace Vigil 5:30 pm</p>	<p>Friday Food Affair at 5</p>		
23	24	25	26	27	28	29	
<p>Worship 10:00am Adult Choir Sings Adult Study 5 pm @ Williston Youth Group 5-7 pm AA - 7 pm</p>		<p>Narcotics Anonymous 6 pm Knitting & Crocheting Group 7pm</p>		<p>Peace Vigil 5:30 PM</p>	<p>Friday Food Affair at 5</p>		
30	31	<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>Esther Nui & Jerry Carpenter 10/04 Melissa & Morgan Wolaver 10/22</p>			