

# The Village Steeple

## From the Pastor's Desk:

*By Any Other Name...*



Earlier this week I was browsing the CNN webpage when I saw an interesting poll question. The poll had a picture of a glass of a certain kind of sugary, carbonated beverage and then a poll that asked, "What do you call this?"

The options were: Coke, a soft drink, soda, pop, or other. Now, where I grew up in the South we called it Coke. And by "it" I don't just mean Coca-Cola. I mean every carbonated soft drink was called a Coke. If you go to a restaurant in many parts of the South the conversation goes something like this:

Waitress: Would you like a drink?

### ***This Week's Lectionary Texts***

13th Sunday in Ordinary  
Time

1 Kings 2:1-2, 6-14

Psalm 77

Galatians 5:1, 13-25

Luke 9:51-62

Southerner: I'll have a Coke."

Waitress: What kind?

Southerner: I'll have a Sprite.

My friends here in the North have told me that this is bizarre and makes absolutely no sense. But I promise; there are people out there who speak my language.

I thought this was a pretty interesting question so I posed it to my family and friend. A friend from the midwest informed me it was called "pop". Most of my New England friends said, "soda". My dad, raised in DC and Virginia, said "soft drink. And my Mom, a native of New Hampshire, insisted it was "tonic". (continued)

### THIS MONTH'S BIRTHDAYS AND ANNIVERSARIES

June 1 - Danny Childs

June 20 - Eddie Barber

June 20 - Sally Mundell

June 26 - John Thurber

June 27 - Sharain Moivich

June 29 - Barbara Willenbrock

June 8, 2002 - Alan Jones & Sharain Moivich

June 21 - Sam and Suzy Blodgett

**June 23, 2010 - Kiera Murphy!**

June 24, 1978 - Randy & Mary Schoonmaker

**Pastor's Note (continued)**

My highly unscientific poll made me think about something bigger than Coca-Cola, though. If we speak different languages about something so simple as a beverage, how much more is that true when it comes to what is beyond our human comprehension?

Christians come from so many different backgrounds, places, and cultures. We speak very different languages from one another, even when we all think we're speaking the same one. Your friend can say one thing and think that you know exactly what they mean, only to find out later that you had no idea what they were talking about.

Growing up people used to ask me when I had "gotten saved". I had no idea what they were talking about. But I did know what it meant to be loved by Jesus and to know that God's grace was with me. They had no idea what I was saying either. Years later I realized we had been talking about the same things.

I think that happens all the time in churches. We all tell the story of what God has done in our lives in our own different ways. Some of us don't even use words. But each of our stories is equally valid. And each deserves our respect because each is ultimately a story about God.

Sometimes Christians do not see eye to eye with one another on things. We think the other guy gets it wrong, and we get it right. Sometimes we are quick to even label some folks as "not Christian". This happens all too often in the greater church. And it usually happens before everyone even gets the chance to learn the same language.

As Christians we have to learn to speak one another's languages. We have to hear each other tell our stories in our native tongues. And we have to accept the reality that God's grace is too great to be contained by anything; even words. If common language fails us when describing something as common as Coke, how much more so is it true for what is truly uncommon?

**Calendar**

**Sunday, June 27**

Worship at WDCC, 9am  
Coffee Hour, 10am

**Wednesday, June 30**

Coffee Hour, 8-10am

**Thursday, July 1**

Deacons Meeting, 8am

**Saturday, July 3**

A.A., 8pm

**Upcoming Events**

July 10 - Blessing of the Bikes

**This Week's Link:**



**The UCC's Involvement in the Gulf Oil Spill Clean-Up**

Learn more about the spill, how the UCC is involved in rescue efforts, and what you can do at this special site set up on the national webpage:

<http://www.ucc.org/gulf-oil-spill/>

**STAYING CONNECTED**

Your pastor is available to you at all times of day and night, and particularly in emergencies.

If you or a loved one are sick, hospitalized or in crisis please call (802) 258-1143 at any time.

West Dover  
Congregational Church  
Route 100  
PO Box 710  
West Dover, VT 05356  
(802) 464-1195  
revheath@me.com