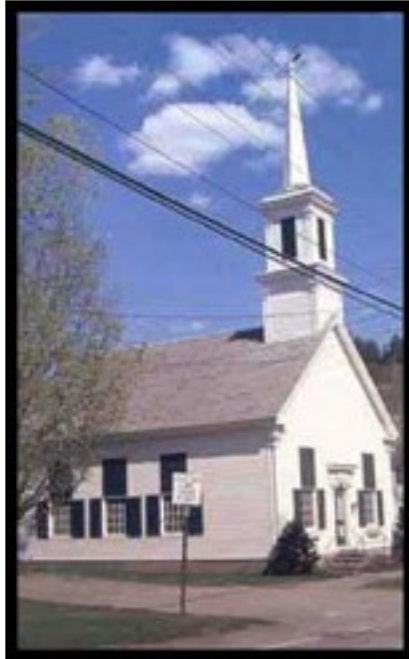


The Weekly

From the Pastor's Desk:

"Come Over to Macedonia..."



One of this week's Scripture lessons from the lectionary comes from the book of Acts. Acts tells the story of the earliest days of the Christian community including the stories of Paul's travels. It is a sort of guide to early church history.

In this passage we hear that Paul dreams that a man is calling to him saying, "Come over to Macedonia and help us." Upon waking Paul goes right to Macedonia, convinced that God is calling him to "proclaim the good news" to the people there.

There are times when we too hear the call of God to immediately go and proclaim the good news. Sometimes we are called to go in person and share our witness to

God's love in words. Other times, though, we are called to share the good news in other ways.

In the aftermath of natural disasters the Christian community is called by God to respond. This week the people of Nashville experienced a catastrophic flood. It will take months for the city to recover.

The first two floors of Vanderbilt Children's Hospital, the regional pediatric trauma center, were flooded. Before being called to New England, I served as a chaplain at this hospital. I cannot imagine the devastation that the damage to just this one of many places will cause in the greater community.

I do, however, have faith that many (continued)

This Week's Lectionary Texts

Sixth Sunday of Easter

Acts 16:9-15

Psalm 67

Revelation 21:10-22:5

John 14:23-29

THIS WEEK'S BIRTHDAYS AND ANNIVERSARIES

May 5: Eddie & Sandy Barber

PASTOR'S NOTE (CONT.)

people are already hearing God's call to them to spread the good news. Already volunteers, supplies and donations are headed to Nashville. And the stories are inspiring.

A friend who is an attorney in Nashville sent me a story about how 400 local inmates volunteered to work for 36 hours straight filling sandbags. They were offered no perks for their service. They simply wanted to serve.

The volunteers might not have realized it, but they were spreading God's good news that

day. In a very real way they crossed over to Macedonia and they carried that good news to those most in need. In the end it was not their words, but their willingness to help, that spread the message of God's love to their neighbors.

The lessons of the Nashville flood can easily be translated into so many other situations. Where in our lives are we hearing God's quiet, insistent call? And how willing are we to respond? We need not wait for a flood to listen and to act. Our "Macedonias" and "Nashvilles" are all around us.

Calendar

Sunday, May 9

Worship at WDCC, 9am

Coffee Hour, 10am

Wednesday, May 12

Coffee Hour at WDCC, 8am

Saturday, May 15

A.A., 8pm

Upcoming Events:

Outreach Discussion, May 16

VT Conference Annual Meeting,

June 3-5, Lyndon State College

Share Your Favorite Hymns

Do you have a favorite hymn that you'd like to hear sung in Sunday worship? Is there a song we haven't sung in a while that you'd like to us sing soon? Is there a song that you love to hear the congregation sing? If so, e-mail Emily at revheath@me.com, so that your hymn can be added to a relevant service soon.

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

This Week's Link:

National Disaster Ministries of the United Church of Christ



<http://www.ucc.org/oghs/national/>

In the aftermath of the devastating flooding in Nashville, national relief agencies need our help. The UCC has an office dedicated to disaster response which administers a relief fund at the above address. Or, text "REDCROSS" to 90999 to donate \$10 automatically to the Red Cross. Charges will appear on your next phone bill.