

The Village Steeple

From the Pastor's Desk:
Exodus journeys.



For the past two weeks members of both churches, as well as St. Mary's Episcopal and members of the local Jewish community, have been gathering on Thursday nights to study the book of Exodus. (And you can join us each Thursday at Wilmington at 7pm.) In only the first two weeks I've already been impressed with how much each person at the table brings to the discussion. It is truly a great opportunity for study and conversation.

At the first meeting I was asked what made me pick this particular book for our first Bible study. Part of the reason was that Exodus provides many of the enduring

This Week's Lectionary Texts

18th Sunday after
Pentecost

Jeremiah 32:1-15

Psalms 91

1 Timothy 6:6-19

Luke 16:19-31

images of our faith: the Burning Bush, the Ten Commandments, the Passover, the Red Sea. It's a book full of the stories we all know and love. That in itself makes it worth reading.

But mostly, I picked it because it's a book about a journey. Moses is called by God to bring the Israelites out of Egypt. Initially, they don't want to go. Even though they are being enslaved by the Egyptians and worked nearly to death, they fear the unknown.

When the Israelites do decide to leave Egypt, they end up on a journey that seems to never end. They lost faith in their future, faith in themselves, (continued)

THIS MONTH'S BIRTHDAYS AND ANNIVERSARIES

Sept. 2 - Mindy Childs

Sept. 2 - Emily Heath

Sept. 6 - Eric Kurucz

Sept. 7 - Louise Severance

Sept. 9 - Riley Childs

Sept. 9 - Alex Kurucz

Sept. 9 - Dick Severance

Sept. 10 - Frank Smith

Sept. 13 - Mary Schoonmaker

Sept. 29 - George Newton

Sept. 6, 1952 - Dick & Louise Severance

Sept. 24 - Kelly & Mike Murphy

Sept. 30 - Mitch & Laurel Cashman

Pastor's Note (continued)

and faith in their God. They go hungry, get lost, and start to wonder why they ever left Egypt in the first place. But, they don't turn back.

There's something about that that may feel familiar to us. We sometimes feel in a situation that we hate, yet we are too afraid to break away. We sometimes start out, with great faith, on a journey, but find the going is a lot tougher than we ever thought. And sometimes, especially when we are lost in a new land, we wonder why we ever dared to make a change at all. We may wonder whether God has deserted us.

But not every journey needs to end that way. Even when the way is unclear, and the future looks uncertain, we still have reason for faith. Even when we are lost in the wilderness, we still are not alone.

There is something poignant about the fact that it was only when the Israelites were lost and at their wit's end that God gave them the Ten Commandments. It was only when they were so lost, and so without direction, that they received a sign and a new way to live.

Sometimes it's the same for us. When we feel the farthest away from God, that's when we need to start looking for a sign. When we don't see any hope, that's when we need to go up on the mountain tops. Because that is often when God is ready to show us the next right step.

We are all on our divine journeys. We are all being called out of the places that are no good for us, and towards the Promised Land. And no matter what, God is with us. Learning to let God be our traveling partner is the first step to a successful journey.

Calendar

Sunday, September 26

Worship, 9am
 Coffee Hour, 10am
 Bible Study, following
 Pastoral Installation, 2:30pm

Wednesday, September 29

Coffee Hour, 8-10am

Thursday, September 30

Exodus Bible Study at WCC, 7pm

Saturday, October 2

AA, 8pm

A Reminder:

The Deerfield Valley Food Pantry needs donations in order to supply the growing need in our area. We have designated the first Sunday of the month, Communion Sunday, as a canned food drive day. Please bring soup or tuna if you are able.

This Week's Link:

Twenty Ways to Add More Prayer to Your Life

<http://www.ucc.org/feed-your-spirit/your-life-better/remembering-prayer/>

A new feature from the UCC showing the ways in which we can add prayer to our daily lives. Prayer is about our relationship to God, and this resource will help you build up that relationship.



STAYING CONNECTED

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

West Dover
 Congregational Church
 Route 100
 PO Box 710
 West Dover, VT 05356
 (802) 464-1195

www.westdovercc.com