

## FAMILY CELEBRATIONS, TRANSITIONS, ANNIVERSARIES AND NECROLOGY – Annual Meeting 2010

### *Recognition of Milestones in the lives of some of our Members In Discernment*

**Paula Gile**, member of the Malletts Bay Congregational Church, graduated from Andover Newton Theological School on May 22<sup>nd</sup>. Her Ordination Ecclesiastical Council was held on May 16<sup>th</sup> by the Champlain Association and she was approved for ordination pending call. Her Ministerial Profile is circulating.

**John Sanborn**, member of Grace Congregational Church in Rutland, and serving as licensed Assistant Minister at Vergennes Congregational Church, also graduated from Andover Newton Theological School on May 22<sup>nd</sup>. He is working on his Ordination Paper, will be providing Sabbatical Coverage for Gary Lewis at Vergennes this summer, and in September will begin a nine month Hospital Chaplaincy Residency at Brigham & Women's Hospital in Boston.

**Robin Lunn**, member of the North Pomfret Congregational Church and graduate of Andover Newton Theological School, received approval from the Windsor Orange Association Church and Ministry Committee on May 12<sup>th</sup> to present her ordination paper for examination at an Ecclesiastical Council of the Windsor Orange Association.

**Barry Jacobson**, member of Bethany Church in Randolph, graduate of Andover Newton Theological School and in care of the Windsor Orange Association was been approved for Ordination pending call in November 2008. He was called to the Community Church of Christ in Franconia, New Hampshire and began his ministry on February 8, 2010. His Service of Ordination will be at Bethany Church on Sunday, July 11.

**Jonathan Ferrell**, member of College Street Congregational Church in Burlington, was received as a member in discernment on June 1, 2010. He has been attending Andover Newton Theological School for the past year.

### *New Calls to Settled Ministry*

On June 14, 2009, the **Rev. Sandra Daly** began her ministry at the Newfane Congregational Church. A graduate of Andover Newton Theological School, she was ordained in 1999. Sandy had previously served in Vermont as the Interim Associate Pastor at the First Congregational Church of Essex Junction, and a short term Interim at the Brattleboro Centre Congregational Church. She was installed by the Windham Union Association on November 22, 2009.

On July 12, 2009, the **Rev. Susanna Griefen** began her ministry at the Dummerston Congregational Church. She was installed by the Windham Union Association on November 1, 2010. A graduate of Harvard Divinity School and ordained in 1982, Susanna came back to

Vermont from years of ministry in Connecticut and Massachusetts, but there are many in Vermont who remember her earlier ministry of almost 12 years in Hartland.

On November 1, 2009, the **Abby Hodges** began her ministry at the New Haven Congregational Church. A graduate of Eden Theological Seminary, she was ordained by the Pacific Northwest Conference in Spokane, Washington on December 5<sup>th</sup> – so she became officially the Rev. Abby Hodges! Her installation is being planned by the Addison Association for the fall.

On November 15, 2009, **Christina Findlay** began ministry at the Orleans Federated Church as licensed Pastor. Christina is a Member in Discernment and a 2009 graduate of Andover Newton Theological School.

On November, 19, 2009, the First Congregational Church of West Brattleboro, asked the **Rev. Joseph Amico** to come and serve them as a quarter time pastor. That role has expanded and Joe is now the half time Re-development pastor. He is bi-vocational here as he was in California where he served a congregation in South Los Angeles. Ordained in 1971, Joe has also served churches in Wisconsin and Minnesota and in the Southwest Conference as Associate for New Church Development.

On November 29, 2009, the **Rev. Andrew Nagy-Benson** began his ministry at Middlebury Congregational Church. Andy comes to Vermont from the Spring Glenn United Church of Christ in Hamden, Connecticut. Andy is a graduate of Yale Divinity School and was ordained in 1998. He also served as Adjunct Professor of Preaching at Yale Divinity School. He was installed on May 16<sup>th</sup>.

On January 2010, the Shoreham Congregational Church called **Gary O’Gorman** to be their licensed pastor. A graduate of VAST, previously Gary had served the Shrewsbury Congregational Church as an interim pastor. And we thank the **Rev. Debbie Ingram** for serving the Shrewsbury Congregational Church for many months while still serving as the Executive Director of Vermont Interfaith Action.

On March 1, 2010, **Laura Cadmus** began a co-ministry as a licensed minister with the **Rev. Peg Slater** at the United Church of Cabot. Laura is a Member in Discernment and a student at Andover Newton Theological School.

On May 2, 2010, the **Rev. Emily Heath** began her ministry at the West Dover Congregational Church and the Wilmington Congregational Church. A graduate of Columbia Theological Seminary, Emily was ordained in 2001 by the Presbyterian Church USA. She received Privilege of Call from the Barnstable Association of the Massachusetts Conference. Emily had been serving as Chaplain of Hospice Services of Vermont.

On June 20, 2010, the **Rev. Mary Brownlow**, will begin ministry as the Pastor of the Norwich Congregational Church. A graduate of Andover Newton Theological School and

ordained in 1998, Mary had previously served for 12 years as the Associate Pastor in Norwich, ending that position on January 31<sup>st</sup> of this year.

### *Official Transitions, Retirements and Moving on...*

#### *OUR INTERIMS*

On August 1, 2009, the **Rev. Lynda Hadley** began interim ministry at the Second Congregational Church of Jeffersonville.

On October 4, 2009, the **Rev. David Andrews** and the **Rev. Jane Henderson** began Co-interim Ministry at the Cornwall Congregational Church.

In October of 2009, the **Rev. Linda Overall**, began interim ministry at the United Church of Sharon. Ordained in the American Baptist Convention  
This is her second interim after serving in settled ministry.

Having ended her interim ministry at the New Haven Congregational Church last October, the **Rev. Marjorie MacNeill**, began interim ministry at the Sharon Congregational Church on November 15, 2009.

On February 7, 2010, The **Rev. Richard Ringenwald** officially began interim ministry at the First Congregational Church of Manchester.

On February 21, 2010, the **Rev. Roger Brown** began interim ministry at the United Church of Northfield. Previously Roger served interims in Danville and West Brattleboro.

And in this past year, the **Rev. Jonathan New** ended interim ministry in both Middlebury and in Norwich...and contemplates what's next!

#### *RETIREMENTS*

On November 1, 2009, the **Rev. Gordan Naser** retired from the West Rutland Congregational Church. Ordained in 1970, Gordan began his ministry there in 1987.

On November 22, 2009, the **Rev. Linda Kulas** retired from the United Church of Northfield. Ordained in 2002, she had served as Pastor for the past seven years. She and Russ have moved to Rutland – and she's available for pulpit supply!

On June 30, 2010, the **Rev. Dale Hindmarsh**, retired from the Cornwall Congregational Church. Ordained in 1975, Dale had previously worked in the secular field after serving churches in the New York and will be returning there.

On May 9, 2010, the Rev. **Bette Ann Abild** retired from the Wells River Congregational Church. Ordained in 2001 by the American Baptist Churches, she is moving to North Carolina to be closer to family.

On June 13, 2010, the **Rev. Russ Gates** will leave the United Church of Proctor. He has served in Proctor for 21 years. Ordained in 1973, Russ also served Vergennes Congregational Church. He is heading for eastern Pennsylvania “somewhere pretty close to a little girl named Emily” where he will enjoy his granddaughter’s growing up years.

On June 30, 2010, **Janice Rathbun**, local pastor in the United Methodist Church, will retire from the Waterville Union Church after 8 years.

*and MOVING ON...*

On June 14, 2009 the United Church of Putney held a Closing Service of Thanksgiving and Hope celebrating a life well-lived for 237 years. Their pastor, the **Rev. Susan Tarolli** had journeyed with them for 9 years in this amazing ministry. Susan left Vermont to become the Eastern Regional Minister of the Connecticut Conference, beginning in September of 2009.

On July 31, 2009, the **Rev. Mary Thompson** resigned from the United Church of Strafford to both receive Interim Ministry Training in January and to begin a Masters’ in Social Work at Smith. She begins that work in this week. In between she has been doing pulpit supply.

On June 27, 2010, the **Rev. Connie Moser** will leave the Ascutney Union Church after 11 years of ministry. Ordained in 1999, Connie will be the Hospice Chaplain for the Bayada Hospice in Norwich, Vermont.

On June 30, 2010, the **Rev. James Proctor** will leave the United Church of South Royalton after 25 years. Ordained by the United Methodist Church, he has been appointed to ministry in the Corinth United Methodist Church in Maine.

On July 27, 2010, the **Rev. Janice Chilek** will end her ministry at the Greater Hartford United Church of Christ.

On July 27, 2010, the **Rev. Kaye Hult** will leave the United Church of Bellows Falls. Ordained in 1984 she has served as their pastor for 14 years. She and her husband, Al Torres are moving to Washington State to be near Al’s family, and where some form of ministry is in her future. And recently, Kaye received the Community Catalyst Award from Southeastern Vermont Community Action for her leadership in establishing the Greater Falls Warming Shelter.

## *ANNIVERSARIES OF ORDINATION*

Ordained in **1990**, The **Rev. Margaret M. Slater** and the **Rev. Mark Mendes**, Senior Pastor at the First Congregational Church of Essex Junction - celebrate their **20<sup>th</sup>** anniversary of ordination.

Ordained in **1985**, The **Rev. Joan O’Gorman**, pastor of the Williston Federated Church, the **Rev. Janet Langdon**, and the **Rev. Joan Vincent** - celebrate their **25<sup>th</sup>** anniversary of ordination.

Ordained in **1980**, The **Rev. Edward Hults**, more commonly known as “Pete”, pastor of the Hubbardton Congregational Church, the **Rev. Dr. Marcia Dorey**, the **Rev. Dr. Mary N Hawkes**, and the **Rev. Dr. Richard Ringenwald** - celebrate their **30<sup>th</sup>** anniversary of ordination.

Ordained in **1975**, the **Rev. Margaret Stoddard**, the **Rev. Marshall Hudson-Knapp**, Pastor of the Fair Haven Congregational Church, the **Rev. Dale Hindmarsh**, and the **Rev. Jay Sprout**, pastor of St. Johnsbury North Congregational Church – all celebrate their **35<sup>th</sup>** anniversary of ordination.

Ordained in **1970**, the **Rev. James MacIntyre III**, Chaplain with the Vermont Veterans and Family Outreach Team of the Vermont National Guard, **the Rev. Gordan Naser**, and the **Rev. Jack Bixby** – all celebrate their **40<sup>th</sup>** anniversary of ordination.

Ordained in **1965**, the **Rev. Richard Miller**, pastor of the Plymouth Congregational Church, the **Rev. Paul Willard**, and the **Rev. Murdale Leysath** – all celebrate the **45<sup>th</sup>** anniversary of ordination.

Ordained in **1960**, the **Rev. Jordan Dickenson**, more commonly known as “Skip”, and the **Rev. Thomas Steffen** – celebrate the **50<sup>th</sup>** anniversary of ordination.

Ordained in **1955**, the **Rev. Richard Bingham**, the **Rev. Norman MacFarlane**, and the **Rev. Donald Goff** – celebrate the **55<sup>th</sup>** anniversary of ordination.

And, ordained in **1945**, the **Rev. Serge Hummon** – celebrates the **65<sup>th</sup>** anniversary of his ordination.

## *NECROLOGY*

Last September, the Conference received word that the **Rev. William Meredith Edwards** died in 2005. He served the North Bennington Congregational Church from 1983 to 1986 when he retired from ministry and moved to Washington State.

**The Rev. Alan Bond** died on August 23, 2009. Born September 4, 1936 in Winchester, Massachusetts, he graduated from Middlebury College with a BA in Economic Theory in 1957. He received his Master of Divinity degree from Andover Newton Theological School in 1965. He served the Rochester Federated Church from 1965 until 1974. He then served at the Scottsdale Congregational Church in Arizona and the First Congregational Church of Reading Massachusetts, retiring in 1998. He also served as Chair of the Board of Directors and President of the Vermont Conference. He leaves his wife Lois in Rochester.

**The Rev. Wesley Megaw** died on August 26, 2009 in Punta Gorda, Florida. Born on November 2, 1917 in Ottawa, Canada, he graduated from Duke University and Princeton Seminary and Union Seminary, he was ordained in 1948 in the Presbyterian Church. Following years of ministry in that denomination, he received Privilege of Call in the United Church of Christ and served the West Lebanon Congregational Church in the Grafton Orange Association from December of 1970 until February of 1981. He then served the United Church of Johnson from 1981 to 1986 and retired to Eden, Vermont. His wife, Joyce, died in 2004.

**The Rev. Charles N. Graham** died on September 4, 2009 in Clarendon. Born September 3, 1942 in Bennington, he received his Master of Divinity from Methodist Theological School and was ordained in 1967. He served churches in Essex New York, Hardwick, Grand Isle and North Hero and Retired from Bristol Federated Church after serving there for 17 years.

**Warren Gorman** died on October 5, 2009. He was 88. A graduate of the Vermont Academy of Spiritual Training, Warren served as licensed pastor of the First Congregational Church of Royalton from 1995 to 2006.

We remember as well the many who have died in this past who were a part of our Conference family and our local church communities... including Nancy White – Jack Dorey – Edna Fairbanks – Estelle Brown.