

West Fairlee Center Congregational Church

July 3, 1999

Dear Friends and Family of the West Fairlee Center Church:

Once again we are planning a season of vesper services, beginning this year on July 11, 7:30pm, with the Rev. Jean Jersey. Services will continue weekly through August 15, to be concluded by the Rev. Gary Wait, as in the past many years.

We are looking forward, as always, to coming together once again after the long winter, sharing the old hymns and spiritual refreshment, and enjoying the peace and beauty of the place.

At our annual meeting on June 1 we awarded the **Margaret Eaton Scholarship to Meghan Crosby**, of Blood Brook, new graduate of Thetford Academy, to use for her education at **Dickinson College, PA**. We then reviewed the critical state of the church building, and agreed to **meet** after the opening service, on **July 11, soon after 8:30pm**, to lay our concerns before those members who can stay.

This is the church's 190th year, and its 144th year in the present building, built 1855.

Looking back only a generation, to the steeple crisis, replaced in 1973, we can see that it created a spiritual renewal, for during the 60's there were years when no service (or only one) were held.

We appreciate anew that generation which sprang forward when the steeple threatened to fall. So many of them have already left us, the most recent being Marjorie Graves, 91, on this past March 17th, who, among other things, darned the old curtains to keep them going.

They all come to mind: Margaret Eaton, moving spirit, and Mo and Rick; Dorothy Cook, Leonard Russ, Dwight and Vena Beebe, Henry Graves, Bob Adams, Buster Bates, and so many more. Everyone contributed in one way or another and shared the work as well as the excitement of the arrival of the new steeple.

All of these friends were **THE CHURCH**. The building which they worked to restore is a much-loved shelter, filled with memories and associations of all sorts.

Let's hope we may be able to pass on some sense of these roots to the coming generations.

Meanwhile, let's enjoy the coming season of fellowship and sharing!

Sincerely,



Doris Honig
Moderator