

The Pittsfield Pilgrim

First Congregational Church
24 Main Street
Pittsfield, NH 03263

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The Pittsfield Pilgrim

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The Rev. David Stasiak, Minister
Nella and Mike Hobson, Publishers

Meet Your Church Family

Buffy Lee Grandmaison

Editor: We asked our friend Buffy Grandmaison to share a little about herself.

I was born on April 20, 1973 in Melrose, Massachusetts, along with my twin brother, Jeffrey P. Kimball. I moved to Pittsfield with my family when I was just a year old.



At the age of 13, I was baptized by full emersion and became a member of the Park Street Baptist Church. I remember racing up the hill with my brother every Sunday — he always won. We also attended Sentinel Baptist Church Camp in Wolfeboro every summer when we were 9 until we were seniors in high school.

My life was very busy. I was a Girl Scout from grades 1-12 and went to Girl Scout Explorer Camp every summer. I also participated as an Explorer Fire Fighter from ages 14-18. I played all sports in school, but my favorite was softball which I began in fourth grade. I had great coaches every year.

Grandmaison — Continued on Page 3

“Tip o’ the Hat”

A “Tip o’ the Hat” to all those who contributed in any way to the Thanksgiving Basket project hosted by the Sunday School. And thanks to those organizing this great outreach program! Ω



“Christmas Joy” — Plan to attend our annual Christmas concert entitled “Christmas Joy,” Friday, December 9, 7 p.m. It will feature the Chancel Choir, the JuBellation Handbell Choir, Richard Hackeman on trumpet as well as special guest, Bill Parker. You will also have the opportunity to sing some of your favorite carols. Add this fun, festive family event to your holiday celebrations! For more information, see Nella Hobson or call the church office at 435-7471. Ω

Annual Reports — Our church annual meeting (and potluck luncheon) will be held Sunday, January 22, 2017. For those of you responsible for submitting reports, consider getting your information together soon. Please submit your report to Pastor Dave no later than January 8. Ω

Mark your calendar – *Christmas Eve
Candlelight Service* – December 24, 7 p.m.



Minister's Minute

The wonderful music of Advent and Christmas tells the story of our Lord's birth. From "Away in a Manger," to "What Child Is This?," to "Silent Night," to "Angels from the Realms of Glory," to "While Shepherds Watch Their Flocks by Night," all tell the story of that first Christmas. They bring the message of the blessed event that happened over two thousand years ago in Bethlehem to us here and now. They invite us to adore that Christ-child and to receive the gift of his birth.



Just as shepherds in the field could not understand what was happening as the angels sang, "Glory to God in the highest," perhaps we need help as well. Even as the songs and carols of the season seemingly invade each store and shop, we can be reminded that in every facet of our lives, we are to be prepared for the coming of Christ. We can have open hearts and minds for the message: "good tidings of great joy – for unto you is born this day in the city of David, a Savior, which is Christ the Lord." He wants to enter your heart to give your life meaning and love.

I heard a story about a man who was staying in a hotel in Norway in the mid-19th century. While in the lobby, he heard a terrible sound. He looked over and saw a child at the piano making an awful noise. He thought, "This is painful!" Then he saw a man sit down alongside the little girl, and rather than stop her playing, he began to play with her filling in the gaps. As the two were playing together, the man heard the most beautiful music. He discovered afterward that the man was the girl's father, Alexander Borodin, the famous composer.

Our God wants to live with us, and wants to take our feeble efforts and make beautiful music. As we immerse ourselves in the season of Advent and Christmas, let us hear God speaking to us from all places. Find *your* place at the manger this season as you prepare to invite Christ in and show His love.

Linda and I wish you God's richest blessings for a joyous and love-filled Christmas! Ω

I love being your minister,

Rev. Dave

Volunteer/s needed: To proofread, print, fold and insert announcements for Sunday bulletins. If interested, please speak to Rev. Dave. Thank you.

Pledges Needed

From the Board of Trustees



In the last issue of the Pilgrim, our church members and friends received the annual stewardship letter and a pledge card to be filled in and returned to the church. Pledges are a very important part of the church budget. The Trustees are hard at work building a budget for 2017, but it is very difficult to do without knowledge of anticipated income.

Because of generous donors and dedicated volunteers, many things are accomplished throughout the church. However, utilities, employee costs, routine maintenance and many other things are costs that must be dealt with relying on more guaranteed income.

Winter brings costs for heating oil, snowplowing, increased use of electrical lights, etc. These costs must be paid. It is so easy to take our beautiful house of worship for granted. It has stood for nearly 140 years. Its care and continuance has been handed down through the generations to those of us who worship within it now. We are obligated to carry the torch forward. In this season of giving thanks, please consider how you can help.

If you have not filled in a pledge card, please do so and place it in the collection plate or mail to the church, Attention: George Towle, Collector.

If you or someone you know has keys to church that are no longer needed, please return them to Pastor Dave or a Trustee.

Reminder: please help the church be a good neighbor to K2 Market by not parking in a couple of spaces in front of the store on Sunday mornings.

As always, if you have concerns, ideas, or comments, share them with a Trustee — Marilyn Thyng, Gloria O'Connor Biron, Sue Bleckmann, Chris Ward or Harry Vogt. Ω

Bible Study ... The Wednesday night Bible Study is suspended until January 2017. Check the Sunday bulletin for information on when it will resume or contact Bev Murdough at 776-8448. Ω



The mitten tree in the front of the sanctuary stands ready for your donations of warm knitted items like hats and mittens for the area's needy children.

Place your items on the tree or give to any member of the Dorcas Guild through Christmas for distribution in January. Thank you. Ω

Grandmaison — Continued from Page 1

When I went into high school I met Mr. Glidden and Mrs. Varigan. They were the best coaches I ever had, teaching me how to dig in and work for what I wanted. I worked hard and in my junior year of school I was one of the backup pitchers for the varsity softball team. Then as a senior I was a starting pitcher. When I was not pitching I played catcher.



I graduated in 1992 from Pittsfield Middle High School and then graduated from Cosmetology School in Concord in 1993.

In 2004 I married my longtime high school friend and first love, Brian R. Grandmaison. In 2005 we had our beautiful baby girl, Ali Brooke; in 2010 we had our handsome son Bryer Phillip.

We now live next door to my mother in Loudon. She is a great help. Every morning she comes over at 6 a.m. so I can go to work. I drive a school bus for Barnstead Elementary School. I have been doing this for four years, and I love all my “kids.” It is a fun job ... every day is different.

My hobbies include serving as Girl Scout leader/helper for Ali’s troop and as a coordinator for the Girl Scout Waterways Community Camporee Weekend (third year now). I love to crochet and sew. This past fall I helped out Ali’s soccer team. My life is full and busy. I love it.

I do want to take this opportunity to say “thank you” to my mom, Carla Kimball. Thank you, mom, for everything you do for my family and me. Thank you for being there my whole life when I needed you. You were always there. You knew what to say and when not to and just hold me. You have and always will be my best friend!

A special Merry Christmas to all my old and new friends. Ω

Report from the Missions Committee

The Missions Committee of the Diaconate has been busy this past month allocating contributions to Missions for the year. In the effort to keep the congregation informed, the following is a list of how your mission dollars have been spent: For local missions, the Barnstead, Chichester, Epsom and Loudon food pantries and the Concord Homeless Resource Center each received \$200; the Pittsfield food pantry and the Infant-Toddler Diaper Pantry each received \$400.

For national missions, the Open Air Campaign, Teen Challenge and Maine Seacoast Mission each received \$200.

As far as global missions, Gideon’s International received \$200, NACCC Mission (Haiti relief) received \$300 and Holy Joe’s Café received \$100.

The grand total is \$3,000. The Missions Committee and the Diaconate sincerely thank you for your generosity as they minister to those in need. Ω

Dorcas Guild Update

The Dorcas Guild met Nov. 8. Linda Towle shared devotions about thankfulness. Diane Vaughan reported on cards sent and passed more for signing. The secretary’s and treasurer’s reports were accepted. The food basket brought by Linda Stasiak went to Evelyn Richard, going next to Corine Miller. The mystery package brought by Evelyn was won by Nella Hobson.

We next discussed our Christmas Fair on November 19; the Silent Auction will end Dec. 4; remaining items will be boxed and stored Dec. 5.

Mary Jo reported on our service project: items were brought to the VA for their “Help Keep Veterans Warm” outreach project. The donations included: 7 quilts, 1 spread, 7 blankets, 3 Afghans, 2 throws, 2 sheet sets, 18 hats, and 2 pairs of gloves.

The Guild is slated to host the World Day of Prayer for March 2017, focusing on the Philippines.

The next meeting is Dec. 13, the Christmas Potluck/Gift Exchange at 6:00 p.m. Hostesses are Peggy Jacobs, Reny Boyd and Mary Jo Powelson. All ladies are welcome. Ω

Note of thanks — On behalf of the Sunday School, I would like to thank the congregation for all the donations for the Thanksgiving baskets. There are eight families in town that received all they needed for a Thanksgiving dinner and a lovely card from our Sunday School kids! We were able to make a contribution to the school’s food drive as well with the items that didn’t make it into a basket. It was a blessing to have so much to contribute. Many thanks to all who made this possible. – Jaime Koladish Ω

Address change? If anyone has a mailing address or phone change, please notify Rev. Dave, or complete the form that is included with the church bulletin; mark it “address change” and place in the collection plate. Ω



December 2016



Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
				1 JuBellation Rehearsal 6:30 pm, vestry	2	3
<i>2nd Sunday of Advent</i> 4 Worship Service 10 am <i>Holy Communion</i> Sunday School 9:45 am Fellowship Hour 11 am Potluck lunch	5	6 Infant & Toddler Diaper Pantry 9-11 am Chancel Choir Rehearsal, 6:30 pm	7 <i>Pearl Harbor Remembrance Day</i>	8 JuBellation Rehearsal 6:30 pm, vestry	9 <i>Christmas Joy Christmas Concert 7 pm</i> 🎵	10
<i>3rd Sunday of Advent</i> 11 Deacons' Meeting 8:45 am Worship Service 10 am Sunday School 9:45 am Fellowship Hour 11 am	12	13 Men's Breakfast <u>8 am</u> Parker's Rest. Dorcas Guild Meets – <u>6:00 pm</u> – vestry <i>Potluck Christmas Party</i> Trustees' Meeting 6 pm	14	15 Chancel Choir Rehearsal, 6:30 pm JuBellation Rehearsal 7:45 pm, vestry	16	17
<i>4th Sunday of Advent</i> 18 Worship Service 10 am Sunday School 9:45 am Sunday School Pageant <i>JuBellation plays</i> Fellowship Hour 11 am (Dorcas Guild hosts)	19	20 Infant & Toddler Diaper Pantry 9-11 am	21 <i>First day of winter</i> ❄️	22 Chancel Choir Rehearsal, 6:30 pm JuBellation Rehearsal 7:45 pm, sanctuary	23	24 <i>Christmas Eve</i> Candlelight Service 7 pm 
<i>Christmas</i> 25 Worship Service 10 am Fellowship Hour 11 am	26	27 Last day for <i>Pittsfield Pilgrim</i> news -- forward to Nella Hobson	28	29 No Rehearsals	30	31 <i>New Year's Eve</i>