

The Pittsfield Pilgrim

First Congregational Church
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Pittsfield, NH 03263

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Happy New Year!

The Pittsfield Pilgrim



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

Meet Your Church Family George Towle, Collector

Editor: We asked our friend George Towle to share a little about himself.



I started coming to church in April of 2009 after John Johnson invited me to come and give it a try, as he enjoyed Reverend Dave's sermons and the warm friendly atmosphere at the church. I began to also enjoy Reverend Dave's sermons as they told a good message and he spoke on things that I could apply to my everyday life. As time went on, I developed a closer friendship with Reverend Dave and started going out to coffee with him weekly, and now we play a few rounds of golf each summer.

I attended New Hampshire College (now Southern New Hampshire University) and graduated in 1969. I then worked for the U. S. Government for 33 years as an auditor for the Department of Agriculture and the Defense Department.

Towle — Continued on Page 3

"Tip o' the Hat"

A big thank-you and "Tip o' the Hat" to Colby Powelson for stepping up to take on the church bus driving duties and responsibilities! Thank you! Ω



Annual Reports

Our church annual meeting and pot-luck luncheon will be held Sunday, January 24 following the worship service. For those of you responsible for submitting reports, please submit them to Pastor Dave no later than January 10 so the read-ahead copies can be available January 17. Ω

Thank You!

The Dorcas Guild offers its very warmest gratitude for your support of the Christmas Fair, the Craft Fair and the Mitten Tree project. We are thankful for the blessings of dedicated workers and friends who help to make our efforts successful every year. The report of the Mitten Tree is not yet available; please watch the bulletin for the results of your generosity. Ω

Minister's Minute

If you had to summarize your life in six words, what would they be? Several years ago an online magazine asked that question. It was inspired by a possibly legendary challenge posed to Ernest Hemingway to write a six-word story that resulted in the classic "For sale: baby shoes, never worn." The magazine was flooded with so many responses that the site almost crashed, and the responses were eventually turned into a book. *Not Quite What I Was Planning* by Larry Smith and Rachel Fershleiser is filled with six-word memoirs by writers "famous and obscure." Here are some of the memoirs that range from funny to ironic to inspiring to heartbreaking:



- "One tooth, one cavity; life's cruel."
- "Savior complex makes for many disappointments."
- "Cursed with cancer. Blessed with friends." (written by a nine-year-old boy with cancer).
- "The psychic said I'd be richer."
- This one was only five words: "One long train to darkness."
- "Tombstone won't say: 'Had health insurance.'"
- "Not a good Christian, but trying."
- "Thought I would have more impact."

We can add any number of our own six word memoirs or adapt one from someone else. One of my favorites that you often see on wall art is from Bessie Anderson Stanley's poem written in 1904 and entitled "Success." "Live well, Laugh often, Love much." Makes a great New Year's resolution except for the particulars on how you're going to go about doing them.

The challenge of the six-word limitation is its demand to focus on what matters most, to capture briefly something of significance. How would you summarize your life, or just last year, or more significant now that it is the end of December 2015, what six words would you use for the upcoming year of 2016?

May God bless your New Year with hope, peace, joy and love and lots of it! Ω

I love being your minister,

Rev. Dave

Pledges

The Board of Trustees appreciates all of the 2016 pledges received thus far and extends the invitation for those of you who haven't yet made your submissions to do so. That enables the Trustees to plan for 2016 expenses. Additional pledge cards and your 2016 church envelopes can be found on the tables at the back of the sanctuary. For those of you who do not have an assigned box of envelopes and would like one, please speak to our collector, George Towle. Thank you! Ω



✿ Inclement Weather ✿

In the event of inclement winter weather and hazardous driving and walking conditions, Sunday services and Sunday School *may* be cancelled. While the Trustees will try to post cancellations at least 12 hours in advance of Sunday services on Channel 9 (WMUR), people should use their own judgment about attending and being safe. Since the weather reports and forecasts are sometimes uncertain, decisions may be made with short notice. Meetings/rehearsals through the week will be held at the discretion of those leaders. Ω

New Member



We extend a warm welcome to our newest member, Renée Raymond, who joined our church family December 13.

Congratulations and welcome! Ω

"Just One"

The "Just One" mission outreach group will start the new year by meeting twice in January – the 16th and 30th, from 10 a.m. to 2 p.m. in the church vestry. There are activities and crafts for all skills and abilities. Please contact Paula Corriveau for more information. Ω

THANKS ... Thank you for your generous donations of decaf coffee for Fellowship Hour! We are set for quite a while. Ω



Towle — Continued from Page 1

Based on that experience, I was asked and accepted to take on the position of Church Collector that Steve White had previously held. When I took over, the job changed considerably as the church went to a computerized format, and I had to learn how to input the collection amounts in each category. I look forward to counting, inputting the data, and depositing the collection each week.

I have been retired since the summer of 2004 and enjoy my horse farm on 17 acres in Epsom called the “Lazy T.” I have five horses as my hobby and have shown them at various horse shows in the area over the years. My daughter, Katie, and grandson, Jack, have also enjoyed showing horses.

We have a camp down on Northwood Lake, which we rebuilt in 2008 after it was destroyed in the tornado. In the summer months, we spend as much time as we can down there with the family taking boat rides, swimming, and having cookouts. I feel very blessed to have this place on the lake where I am able to relax on the deck where I watch the sunsets and my grandchildren play in the water.

The role models in my life are my mother and father. My mother taught me how to manage finances and instilled a sense of family tradition. My father was a great influence in that he was a hard worker. He would always tell me that “the project isn’t going to get done, unless you get working on it.” My father could fix just about anything and helped me around the farm repairing equipment, fixing fences, cutting wood, and mowing my fields. We enjoyed a lot of good times working together on projects.

My wife Linda and I have three daughters with whom we are very close. Two live in Epsom with their families. Tara, my middle daughter, attends Epsom Bible Church with her family. My oldest daughter, Bobbie Lynn and her four children have become involved in this church. My youngest daughter, Katie, had Rev. Dave perform her wedding ceremony in Portsmouth, and she attends this church when she visits from New Jersey.

My experience with how God works in our lives occurred in March 2012 when I was involved in a serious head-on car accident. During this time, I had no doubt that I was going to fully recover with God’s strength and my determination. Having a positive attitude, as well as support from my family, friends, doctors, and the church really helped me during this difficult time. Today I am a success story as I am fully recovered.

As far as what I would like to see for the future of the church is to attract more families with children, as they will become the next generation to carry on the Christian way and spread the values that Rev. Dave tries to instill in each of us every week. When I was younger, I went to the Chichester Methodist Church with my family and relatives. I was in the Methodist Youth Fellowship with 12-15 other kids. I would like to see more young families and young adults become involved in our church. I would also like to see the children’s nursery/play area expanded. Linda is pursuing this project. Ω

Dorcas Guild Update

The December meeting, which was the annual Christmas Pot Luck and Gift Exchange, began with a warm holiday welcome by President Nancy Fogg. Peggy Jacobs began a time of devotions by reading a paraphrased Christmas version of 1 Corinthians 13. Nancy led the group in prayer culminating with “The Lord’s Prayer.”

The group then enjoyed a delicious meal of varying selections with hostesses Peggy and Nancy serving.

The November 2015 minutes were approved with some minor changes; the treasurer’s report presented by Reny Boyd was accepted. The food basket will go from Evelyn Sheehy Richard to Nancy in January and then to Gailann Newton. The mystery package will be brought by Mary Jo in January.

The Nominating Committee consisting of Gailann Newton and Linda Towle brought the following slate of officers, which was accepted unanimously with one vote: President, Mary Jo Powelson; Vice Presidents: Kathy Bergeron and Nancy Fogg; Recording Secretary: Nella Hobson; Corresponding Secretary: Diane Vaughan; Treasurer: Bev Murdough.

The president noted that we needed a volunteer to purchase kitchen supplies. Linda Towle volunteered, with Audrey Moore and Kathy Bergeron initially serving as mentors.

While we enjoyed dessert, we had our gift exchange with many lovely gifts exchanged. Reny provided a cute snowflake ornament for each attendee.

Next month’s meeting will be held January 12, at 7 p.m., with hostesses Paula Corriveau and Evelyn Sheehy Richard. Wednesday meetings will be suspended until February 3, 2016. Ω

Here’s to the bright New Year, and a fond farewell to the old; here’s to the things that are yet to come, and to the memories that we hold.

— Unknown



January 2016



Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
					 1 <i>Happy New Year!</i>	2
3 Worship Service 10 am <i>Holy Communion</i> Sunday School 9:50 am Fellowship Hour 11 am	4	5 Infant & Toddler Diaper Pantry 9-11 am	6 Epiphany	7 Chancel Choir Rehearsal, 6:30 pm NO JuBellation Rehearsal	8	9
10 Deacons meet 8:45 am Worship Service 10 am Sunday School 9:50 am Fellowship Hour 11 am Annual Reports Deadline	11	12 Men's Breakfast 8 am Parker's Restaurant Dorcas Guild – Meeting 7 pm, vestry	13 Bible Study 7-8:30pm	14 Chancel Choir Rehearsal, 6:30 pm JuBellation Rehearsal 7:45 pm, vestry	15	16 “Just One” Mission Outreach Crafts – 10 am-2 pm Church vestry
17 Worship Service 10 am Sunday School 9:50 am Fellowship Hour 11 am	18 Dr. Martin Luther King Day	19 Infant & Toddler Diaper Pantry 9-11 am Trustees Meeting 6 pm	20 Bible Study 7-8:30pm	21 Chancel Choir Rehearsal, 6:30 pm JuBellation Rehearsal 7:45 pm, vestry	22	23
24 Worship Service 10 am Sunday School 9:50 Annual Meeting & Pot Luck Lunch – 11 am	25 Last day for <i>Pittsfield Pilgrim</i> news -- forward to Nella Hobson.	26	27 Bible Study 7-8:30pm	28 Chancel Choir Rehearsal, 6:30 pm JuBellation Rehearsal 7:45 pm, sanctuary	29	30 “Just One” Mission Outreach Crafts – 10 am-2 pm Church vestry
31 Worship Service 10 am Sunday School 9:50 am JuBellation Plays Fellowship Hour 11 am						