

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

Renée Morse

Editor: We asked our friend Renée Morse to share a little about herself.



I started attending First Congregational Church two years ago when Art asked if I would like to attend church with him. I had been searching for a church to attend and just couldn't seem to find a place.

When Art asked me to attend church with him, I went and immediately felt right at home. Everyone was so welcoming.

I lived in Hooksett until I was in third grade, and then my parents bought a house in Pembroke and I lived there until 1977 when I got married. I did live at Fort Bragg, NC, from 1961-62 and enjoyed that very much.

I attended schools in Hooksett/Pembroke and attended New Hampshire College (now SNHU) after high school. I moved to Barnstead in 1977.

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“Tip o’ the Hat”

A grand “Tip o’ the Hat” to Nancy White for the tremendous job of custodian, always keeping the church looking sparkling and inviting. There were many behind-the-scenes tasks that also were done flawlessly. Thank you! And thanks also for the super support of Steve White! Ω



Annual Reports & Annual Meeting

Our church annual meeting (and potluck lunch) will be held Sunday, January 22 after worship. Please bring an appetizer, salad, entrée or dessert. For those of you responsible for submitting reports, your deadline to get them to Rev. Dave is no later than January 8. Ω

Inclement Weather Decisions

The Trustees have voted *not* to cancel Sunday services in the case of bad weather. Everyone is encouraged to use good common sense as to whether or not it is safe for them to travel. Any weekly studies, meetings or rehearsals will be held at the discretion of those leaders. Ω

Minister's Minute

In 1738, the literary giant Samuel Johnson wrote in his diary: "Oh Lord, enable me to redeem the time which I have spent in sloth." Nineteen years later, he wrote, "Oh mighty God, enable me to shake off sloth and redeem the time misspent in idleness and sin by diligent application of the days yet remaining." He wrote some variation of this prayer every year after that. Finally, in 1775, 38 years after his first resolution, he wrote, "When I look back upon resolution of improvement and amendments which have, year after year, been made and broken, why do I yet try and resolve again? I try because reformation is necessary and despair is criminal."



Johnson is describing human life. We start every year thinking, *This is the year!* We resolve to turn over a new leaf — and this time we are serious. We promise ourselves we're going to quit bad habits and start good ones. We're going to get in shape, eat better, waste less time, be more content, be more disciplined, and so forth. We're going to be better husbands, wives, fathers, mothers. And then, 12 months later, we've fallen short ... again.

The gospel is the good news announcing Jesus' infallible devotion to us in spite of our inconsistent devotion to him. As this new year gets under way, take comfort in knowing that we are weak and he is strong — that even as our love for Jesus falls short, Jesus' love for us never will. Every morning you awake give thanks for life and remind yourself of these words from the apostle Paul, "*If anyone is in Christ he is a new creation; the old has passed away, behold the new has come.*" My prayers are that your life in 2017 and beyond is filled with God's hope, peace, joy and love. Ω

Thank you for the privilege of being your minister,

Rev. Dave

For your information...

Rev. Dave's phone numbers:

Church office: 603 435-7471

Home: 603 435-0083

Cell: 603 545-8990

E-mail: keysman02@aol.com



From the Board of Trustees



Latest Info

The Trustees are pleased to announce that the repair and refinishing of the front doors are complete. As I'm sure all who have seen them agree, the doors look fantastic.

The Trustees are also pleased to let you know that Jaime Koladish is now filling the position of church custodian. Thank you, Jaime, for your willingness to take on these responsibilities. And a **BIG** thanks to Nancy White for the many years that you filled this role.

At its December meeting, the Trustees finalized the church's 2017 operating budget. As with every budgeting exercise, income and expenses were carefully looked at. To balance the budget, we found it necessary to propose cuts to some of the church's operating budget while also showing a 3% increase in pledges and giving in 2017. We recognize that even a 3% increase in your financial support of the church may be difficult, especially when on a fixed income; however, we must ask that everyone prayerfully consider increasing their giving this year. The Trustees will be presenting a detailed breakdown of the 2017 budget at the church's annual meeting on January 22.

Please remember that you can view the church's monthly calendar of events on the church website www.pittsfieldcc.org. In addition to viewing the calendar you can also read the current and past editions of the Pilgrim and catch-up on weekly announcements. This year we plan to add an on-line donation page to the church's website which we hope will make it easier for all to make a donation to the church or to send in their weekly pledge while out of town. More details to follow.

If you have any questions, ideas or concerns feel free to let any one of the trustees know - Marilyn Thyng, Gloria O'Connor Biron, Sue Bleckmann, Chris Ward or Harry Vogt. Ω

Bible Study ... The Wednesday night Bible Study will resume Wednesday, January 18, 7-8:30 p.m. in the Pilgrim Room. For more information, contact Bev Murdough at 776-8448. Ω

Address change? If you have a mailing address or phone number 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

Morse — Continued from Page 1

I have one son that we adopted when he was 14 weeks old (he is now almost 34). He gave me a few gray hairs along the way, but he has certainly been a blessing, especially after my husband passed away. I don't know how I would have survived without him.

When my son was going through school, I was fortunate to be able to have my own business and work at home. Once he was out of school I worked outside the home.

I am currently retired, and have been for a year, and I am enjoying every minute of it. I now have time to read, which I enjoy a great deal. As you know I have been doing a lot of traveling! Art and I don't seem to stay put for very long!

The book *Following Atticus* is a must read. It's about a little dog and his owner who have the most unique relationship. The book is about hiking in the White Mountains of NH. I am not and have never been a hiker, but reading this book wants to make me start! I was fortunate enough to hear Tom Ryan, the author, give a talk at the Currier Museum of Art and that really brought the book to life. Atticus has passed on, and Tom now has a new four-legged friend, Samwise, so I'm sure there will be a book about Tom and Samwise at some point. Ω

Dorcas Guild Update

The December meeting of the Dorcas Guild, which was the annual Christmas Pot Luck and Gift Exchange, began with a welcome to the 15 attendees by President Mary Jo Powelson.

Peggy Jacobs began a time of devotions by reading "If I Were a Goose" from "Stray Thoughts for an Ordinary Christian Woman." Then they heard "The God Who Understands" from *The Upper Room*. All joined in "The Lord's Prayer."

The group enjoyed a delicious meal of varying selections including salad, bread, soup, ham, casseroles, side dishes and desserts. Hostesses Peggy and Mary Jo assisted serving.

Diane Vaughan reported on various cards sent for Christmas as well as for the sick, shut-in and bereaved. The November 2016 minutes were approved as written as was the treasurer's report. Treasurer Bev Murdough reported on the success of the 2016 Christmas Fair. Peggy reported briefly on the fair noting that the Silent Auction "roundup"

may be changed. Gailann Newton reported on the luncheon. The president thanked all those involved.

The food basket will go from Corine Miller to Gailann in January. The mystery package will be brought by Nella Hobson in January. Program books will also be distributed in January.

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

The president noted that SouperFest, hosted by the Concord Coalition to End Homelessness, will be held March 17 at the Rundlett Junior High in Concord. The church is being asked to make some baked goods, namely cookies, for this effort. There is a sign-up sheet on the vestry bulletin board. Baked items will be delivered from the church to the SouperFest. Elaine Coffey is our liaison.

While we enjoyed dessert, we had our gift swap with many lovely gifts exchanged. Reny Boyd provided a hobby horse ornament for each attendee.

Next month's meeting will be held January 10, 2017 at 6:30 p.m., with hostesses Mary Jo Powelson and Nella Hobson. Wednesday meetings will be suspended until February 1, 2017. Ω

Thank You!

The Dorcas Guild offers its very warmest gratitude for your support of the Christmas 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; but please watch the bulletin for the results of your generosity. Ω

Pledges and Envelopes -- The Board of Trustees appreciates all of the 2017 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 2017 expenses. Additional pledge cards and your 2017 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. Ω



January 2017



Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
Happy New Year! 1 Worship Service 10 am <i>Holy Communion</i> No Sunday School No Fellowship Hour	2	3 Infant & Toddler Diaper Pantry 9-11 am	4	5 Chancel Choir Rehearsal, 6:30 pm NO JuBellation Rehearsal	6 Epiphany	7
8 Deacons' Meeting 8:45 am Worship Service 10 am Sunday School 9:45 am Fellowship Hour 11 am Annual Reports Deadline	9	10 Men's Breakfast <u>8 am</u> Parker's Rest. Dorcas Guild Meets – 6:30 p.m. – vestry	11	12 Chancel Choir Rehearsal, 6:30 pm JuBellation Rehearsal 7:45 pm, vestry	13	14
15 Worship Service 10 am Sunday School 9:45 am Fellowship Hour 11 am (Dorcas Guild hosts)	16 Dr. Martin Luther King Day 	17 Infant & Toddler Diaper Pantry 9-11 am Trustees' Meeting 6 pm	18 Bible Study 7-8:30 p.m. Pilgrim Room	19 Chancel Choir Rehearsal, 6:30 pm JuBellation Rehearsal 7:45 pm, vestry	20 Inauguration Day	21
22 Worship Service 10 am Sunday School 9:45 am Annual Meeting & Potluck Lunch – 11 am	23	24	25 Bible Study 7-8:30 p.m. Pilgrim Room	26 Chancel Choir Rehearsal, 6:30 pm JuBellation Rehearsal 7:45 pm, sanctuary	27 Last day for <i>Pittsfield Pilgrim</i> news -- forward to Nella Hobson	28
29 Worship Service 10 am <i>JuBellation plays</i> Sunday School 9:45 am Fellowship Hour 11 am	30	31				