

*The Pittsfield Pilgrim*

First Congregational Church  
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Pittsfield, NH 03263

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# The Pittsfield Pilgrim

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[www.pittsfieldcc.org](http://www.pittsfieldcc.org)

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

## Meet Your Church Family

Dave Pollard, Church Member & Former Trustee

*Editor: We asked our friend Dave Pollard to share a little about himself.*



I was raised in the Congregational Church. My parents taught Sunday School in Goffstown, and I became a member when I was sixteen years old. After graduating from Goffstown High School in 1961, I joined the Navy. I later attended New England

Institute of Sanitary Arts and Sciences in Boston (a fancy name for embalming school) and was licensed as a funeral director in 1976.

I became a member of First Congregational by transfer from Goffstown Congregational Church in 1981 when I moved to Pittsfield.

I purchased the Perkins Funeral Home in 1981 and have operated it until I merged it with the Waters Funeral Home in Concord in July, 2015. I am still a practicing licensed funeral director and have assisted many families in the Pittsfield and Barnstead areas for over 35 years.

*Pollard — Continued on Page 3*

## “Tip o’ the Hat”

Although this “Tip” has appeared in this column before, it bears repeating! Many thanks to our Sunday School teachers and leaders and “Small Talkers.” A special “Tip” to Bev Murdough for faithfully leading the “Kids’ Songs!” Their untiring dedication and service to our children is top-notch. Thank you! Ω



## “A Slice of Americana”



Our annual patriotic concert is set for Friday, June 10, 7 p.m. at our church. It will feature the Chancel Choir, JuBellation Handbell Choir and the very talented Bill Parker as well as others. Light refreshments will be served. Be sure to mark your calendar for this exciting event for all ages. Ω

**Men: Wear your tropical shirts on Father’s Day, June 19!**

## Minister's Minute

This past Memorial Day we honored the men and women who made the ultimate sacrifice while serving in the armed forces of our country. Tuesday June 14 is Flag Day and Sunday June 19 is Father's Day. Soon after that we will once again celebrate our independence as a nation on July 4. I think it is safe to say that many of our fathers served in the armed forces to defend our country and the flag that we proudly fly as Americans. We all have seen the famous picture taken by Joe Rosenthal on February 23, 1945 of five United States Marines and a United States Navy hospital corpsman raising the U.S. flag atop Mount Suribachi, during the Battle of Iwo Jima in World War II.



I am proud of the fact that both my father and father-in-law served in World War II and are part of the greatest generation that Tom Brokaw wrote about. It was a generation that came of age during the Great Depression and the Second World War and went on to build modern America. It was a generation united not only by a common purpose, but also by common values--duty, honor, economy, courage, service, love of family and country, and above all, responsibility for oneself. The people of this generation persevered through war, and were trained by it, and then went on to create interesting and useful lives and the America we have today. Brokaw says of this generation, "It is, I believe, the greatest generation any society has ever produced." I wholeheartedly concur with Brokaw's statement.

Many of these people including my dad are now part of that great cloud of witnesses that the Apostle Paul wrote about in Hebrews 12. Eugene Peterson in his Biblical translation, *The Message*, puts it this way:

*Do you see what this means—all these pioneers who blazed the way, all these veterans cheering us on? It means we'd better get on with it. Strip down, start running—and never quit! No extra spiritual fat, no parasitic sins. Keep your eyes on Jesus, who both began and finished this race we're in. Study how he did it. Because he never lost sight of where he was headed—that exhilarating finish in and with God—he could put up with anything along the way: Cross, shame, whatever. And now he's there, in the place of honor, right alongside God. When you find yourselves flagging in your faith, go over that story again, item by item, that long litany of hostility he plowed through. That will shoot adrenaline into your souls!*

I firmly believe that the heroes and heroines who sacrificed their lives, as well as all of our soldiers who served and continue to serve to defend our country and the flag we so proudly fly, will have a place of honor, right alongside God. Let us always honor their courage, bravery and commitment by running with perseverance the race marked out for us, fixing our eyes on Jesus, the pioneer and perfecter of faith.

Happy Father's Day, Dad and George, and to all fathers and men who have made a positive influence in their children and the world. Thank you for all you have done and continue to do. Thank you, God our Heavenly Father, for loving us and granting your peace that surpasses all understanding. Ω

I love being your pastor,

Rev. Dave

### From the Board of Trustees



### Building Issues

As you are probably aware of from last month's Trustees column in the *Pilgrim*, there is work to be done. Both the parsonage and the Pilgrim Room roofs have outlived their life expectancy, both having leakage issues. New shingles are needed for both.

The floor of the parsonage garage is sinking and needs to be removed, needs new subgrade and compacting and floor replacement. The walkway to the front door has the same issue, the pavers need to be removed, the walkway needs new subgrade and compacting and the pavers laid anew.

At this time, the parsonage roof has been completed. The work on the garage and walkway will be starting very soon.

We hope to be able to reshingle the Pilgrim Room in the fall before any snow falls. We have reasonable quotes on all the work by reputable contractors.

Unfortunately all this work takes money. We depleted the Building Fund to get the parsonage roof finished quickly. It would be very desirable to replenish the Building Fund and pay for the additional work in a timely manner. On this note, we are asking you to open your wallets once again to fund major repair work to our properties. We will also consider some fund raising projects during the summer.

Please help us raise \$45,000 to cover the costs of these projects. This will pay for the work still needed and replenish our Building Fund so we are prepared for any repairs that may arise in the near future. All checks can be designated as donations to the Building Fund. Thank you. Ω

The Board of Trustees

**Stasiak — Continued from Page 1**

When I was on the Board of Trustees for the first term, it was during the time we “razed” the old parsonage, created the parking lot and added to the vestry. That was an exciting time with all that going on. There are many more improvements which happened but are too numerous to mention here.

I have many role models whom I have known and worked with throughout my life. My father was a Navy Veteran of World War II and was shipped overseas just before I was born in California. My mother returned to New Hampshire on the train and my dad did not get home for two more years. The perils that families went through at that time in this country’s history makes me think that all those folks should be role models to all of us.

Rev. Dave has done a remarkable job attracting new members, especially younger folks. New youth is absolutely necessary to the church’s future. Ω

**Dorcas Guild Update**

The May meeting of the Dorcas Guild began with a call to order and welcome by President Mary Jo Powelson. For devotions, Mary Jo began with a reading entitled, “Faith Muscle” from *Words of Jesus for Women*, a daily devotional. All joined in “The Lord’s Prayer.”

Diane Vaughan read correspondence and sent around cards for signing. Both the secretary’s report and treasurer’s report were accepted.

The food basket brought by Bev Murdough went to Audrey Moore. The mystery package brought by Elaine Coffey was won by Kathy Bergeron. Both items are suspended until September.

Our continuing 2016 project is twin-sized spreads, blankets, adult hats and mittens for the VA. These can be purchased or made; gently used items are OK.

The new plastic vestry tables will be purchased soon. The service for Sally Lewis will be held at the North Barnstead Congregational Church, May 21.

Our June Banquet will be held June 14 at 6 p.m. at Main Street Grill in Pittsfield. Selections are beef, chicken or fish; cost is \$20 -- see Bev Murdough.

Mary Jo then read a letter from Mary Poarch, retired missionary from New Tribes Missions. A motion was made and passed to donate some funds to Mary for her personal use.

Church and parsonage repairs were discussed. A motion was made and passed to donate to the Building Fund for repairs.

Next discussed was the church’s Patriotic Concert occurring June 10, 7 p.m. The group lent its support in the form of cookies and servers.

Mary Jo inquired whether the group wanted to continue having the minutes prepared on the reverse of the agenda or read by the secretary. She also asked about the 6:30 time for the meeting. The group liked the current arrangement for both.

Delicious refreshments were shared by all as we enjoyed the “White Elephant in a Brown Bag” event. Next meeting is our banquet at the Main Street Grill, Pittsfield at **6 p.m.** Ω

**History of the First Congregational Church**

Larry Berkson has researched, written and published a two volume *History of The First Congregational Church*. He has donated the results of his endeavor to our church so that anyone wishing to own these volumes may do so. All proceeds will go to the newly established Quintin B. Berkson Memorial Fund at the church. The interest from this account is to be used to benefit the church. This fund is in memory of Larry and Susan’s son Quintin, who passed away at a young age.

The two-volume set is \$35 and can be purchased after church during Fellowship Hour or by contacting Susan Bleckmann. Ω

**Welcome!** We are very happy to welcome three new members to our congregation: Dawn Brown, Robert Giegerich and Reed Kraft. And congratulations to the Kraft family on the baptism of Abel! Ω

**Florida, Tropical or Hawaiian?**

Whatever you call those great flowered shirts, the men are asked to wear one on Father’s Day, June 19. Ω



♪ **Music anyone?** As our choirs take a well-deserved summer vacation, if anyone would like to offer any special music in the weeks ahead, please see Nella Hobson. Ω

**For your information...****Rev. Dave’s phone numbers:**

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# June 2016



Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
			<b>1</b> Dorcas Guild work group 10-2, vestry	<b>2</b> Chancel Choir Rehearsal, 6:30 pm JuBellation Rehearsal 7:45 pm, vestry	<b>3</b>	<b>4</b>
<b>5</b> Worship Service 10 am <i>Holy Communion</i> Fellowship Hour 11 am	<b>6</b> Anniversary of D-Day First Watch Discussion Group 7 pm - Parsonage	<b>7</b> Infant & Toddler Diaper Pantry 9-11 am	<b>8</b> Dorcas Guild work group 10-2, vestry	<b>9</b> Chancel Choir Rehearsal, 6:30 pm JuBellation Rehearsal 7:45 pm, sanctuary	<b>10</b> "A Slice of Americana" Patriotic Concert 7 pm	<b>11</b>
<b>12</b> Deacons meet 8:45 am Worship Service 10 am Fellowship Hour 11 am	<b>13</b> First Watch Discussion Group 7 pm - Parsonage	 <b>Flag Day 14</b> Men's Breakfast <b>8 am</b> Parker's Restaurant Dorcas Guild Banquet – Main Street Grill <b>6:00 pm</b>	<b>15</b> Dorcas Guild work group 10-2, vestry	<b>16</b> Chancel Choir Rehearsal, 6:30 pm JuBellation Rehearsal 7:45 pm, sanctuary	<b>17</b>	<b>18</b>
<b>19</b> <i>Father's Day</i> (Tropical Shirts) Worship Service 10 am Fellowship Hour 11 am JuBellation plays	<b>20</b> First Watch Discussion Group 7 pm – Parsonage <b>Summer Begins!</b>	<b>21</b> Infant & Toddler Diaper Pantry 9-11 am Trustees Meeting – 6 pm	<b>22</b> Dorcas Guild work group 10-2, vestry	<b>23</b>	<b>24</b> Last day for <i>Pittsfield Pilgrim</i> news -- forward to Nella Hobson	<b>25</b>
<b>26</b> Worship Service 10 am Fellowship Hour 11 am	<b>27</b> First Watch Discussion Group 7 pm - Parsonage	<b>28</b>	<b>29</b> Dorcas Guild work group 10-2, vestry	<b>30</b> <b>Choirs' Dinner</b> <b>6:30 -- Parsonage</b>		