

The Pittsfield Pilgrim

First Congregational Church
24 Main Street
Pittsfield, NH 03263

Nonprofit
Organization
U.S. Postage Paid
Pittsfield, NH 03263
Permit No. 16
Address
Service
Requested



The Pittsfield Pilgrim

Volume XXVIII, No. 5
May 2016

www.pittsfieldcc.org

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

Meet Your Church Family

Linda Stasiak, Chancel Choir Member

Editor: We asked our friend Linda Stasiak to share a little about herself.



Both David and I were blessed when we came to Pittsfield to serve at FCC in September of 2008.

As a member of FCC, I love singing in the choir. I am now retired having worked in school systems most of my life — University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill, Indiana University, Louisville Presbyterian Seminary and Embry Riddle Aeronautical University, to name a few.

I was born in Cleveland, OH, the first born of George and Barbara Pellon. My father said he always knew he wanted to be a chemist. Mom always wanted to be a wife and mother. I have three younger siblings and my only brother, Bill, lives here in Pittsfield.

Stasiak — Continued on Page 3

“Tip o’ the Hat”

A big thank-you and “Tip” to Nancy White, who always keeps our church sanctuary and other rooms clean and ready for our use. Her energy is unmatched when it comes to maintaining our building. Thank you, Nancy, for your “behind-the-scenes” efforts. We all really appreciate you! 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 very generously donated the results of his endeavor to our church so that anyone wishing to own these volumes may do so. All proceeds will be deposited in the newly established Quintin B. Berkson Memorial Fund at First Congregational. The interest from this account is to be used for the benefit of the church. This fund is in memory of Larry and his wife Susan’s son Quintin, who passed away at a young age.

The two-volume set will be sold at \$35 and can be purchased after church during Fellowship Hour or by contacting Susan Bleckmann to reserve your copies. Ω

Ladies: Hat Day is Sunday, May 8!



Minister's Minute

John Wycliffe, a professor at Oxford University in England, became one of the greatest English religious reformers, writing under the protection of John of Gaunt (1340–1399). His most outstanding achievement was being the first to translate, along with his followers, the Holy Scriptures from the Latin Vulgate into the English language. Known as the “Morning Star of the Reformation,” John Wycliffe wrote in the General Prologue of his 1384 translation of the Bible: *“The Bible is for the Government of the People, by the People, and for the People.”* Those words may sound familiar.



One of the best known speeches in American history is the Gettysburg Address. It was delivered by President Lincoln during the American Civil War, on the afternoon of November 19, 1863, at the dedication of the Soldiers' National Cemetery in Gettysburg, Pa., four and a half months after the Union armies defeated those of the Confederacy at the Battle of Gettysburg. At the end of his address President Lincoln said this:

It is rather for us to be here dedicated to the great task remaining before us — that from these honored dead we take increased devotion to that cause for which they gave the last full measure of devotion — that we here highly resolve that these dead shall not have died in vain — that this nation, under God, shall have a new birth of freedom — and that government of the people, by the people, for the people, shall not perish from the earth.

One of the common criticisms of Christianity is that it is too old-fashioned to be relevant for living in today's society. It is often thought that the Bible speaks to a different time and place that no longer exists in modern society. However, the principles upon which Christians live is a breath of fresh air in a world that is dominated by greed, covetousness, lying and payback.

Almost everybody has heard of the Ten Commandments, especially since their placement in United States government buildings has become a controversy in the courts.

As our society moves further and further away from the Ten Commandments and the Greatest Commandment — to love God with all of our heart, mind, soul, and strength and our neighbor as ourselves — we will no doubt become a society most to be pitied for we will have lost our moral compass.

Let us never forget that, *“The Bible is for the Government of the People, by the People, and for the People.”* Ω

Thank you for letting me be your minister,
Rev. Dave

*“Happy Mother's Day” means more
Than have a happy day.
Within those words lie lots of things
We never get to say.*

*It means I love you first of all,
Then thanks for all you do.
It means you mean a lot to me,
And that I honor you.*

*But most of all, I guess it means
That I am thinking of
Your happiness on this, your day,
With pleasure and with love.*

From the Board of Trustees



Roofing issues ...

The time has arrived when it is necessary to deal with the parsonage roof and the rear roofs of the church. The shingles are beyond their useful lives and water leakage on both structures must be addressed.

After reviewing bids, the Trustees have entered into a contract to repair and reshingle the parsonage roof this spring. We intend to also contract to replace the asphalt shingle roofs on the rear of the church before the end of this year.

The cost for the parsonage is \$12,505. This will expend about half of the available monies in the Building Fund. The bid for the church roofs is \$23,075.

As we are facing even more maintenance issues, we are asking you to prayerfully consider donating to the Building Fund in order to accomplish these much needed maintenance projects in a timely manner. A bundle of shingles, installed, is approximately \$100. Any amount of a monetary donation will be greatly appreciated and will ensure that our properties are safe and maintained. Ω

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



Stasiak — Continued from Page 1

My favorite hobby is reading historical fiction and several New England based fiction writers. I enjoy drawing and spending time with my granddaughter, Cove. I have two grown sons in Oxnard, Cal. and hope to visit them. Our daughter, Whitney, lives just outside of Boston with her family.

Getting to know our church members has been rewarding. Every member is gifted in some way and sometimes in unexpected ways. My role model has always been my Mom. She was a musician playing piano and organ. Her voice was beautiful and very well trained. Mom was an award-winning welcoming committee for visitors to her church. I know she never met a stranger.

I concur with others who say they would like to see more young families and children join our church family. I believe receiving new members into our fellowship is important to carrying on the missions and ministry of the church. The various musical concerts that we have held introduce many people in the community to our church. Music is so very important to worship, so I would like to see our choir grow and continue to hold concerts to reach out to more people.

I have enjoyed reading so many good books that it is hard to pick one favorite. I loved reading *Marley and Me*, all of the Jan Karon books, books by Jodi Picoult, Jacqueline Sheehan and Charles Frazier who wrote *Cold Mountain*.

I love being a resident of Pittsfield and my life as the minister's wife of FCC. Ω

Dorcas Guild Update

The April meeting of the Dorcas Guild began with a call to order and welcome by President Mary Jo Powelson. Gailann Newton began with devotions reading from: *If Life Is a Game, These Are the Rules*. 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 as read.

The food basket brought by MaryJo went to Bev Murdough and will go next to Audrey Moore. The mystery package brought by Bev was won by Elaine Coffey.

We next discussed our 2016 project, which is twin-sized spreads, blankets, adult hats and mittens

for the VA. These items go home with the veterans as they transition.

The new plastic vestry tables will be purchased hopefully by the next meeting. Linda Towle gave an update on the nursery refurbishment project. The Merrimack County "Meals on Wheels" fundraiser, which is a "Walk-a-thon" on May 21, coincides with the memorial service for Sally Lewis. A motion was made and carried that we make a donation to the fundraiser.

The service for Sally Lewis will be held at the North Barnstead Congregational Church, May 21. More details will be provided as the time gets closer. We confirmed that the Dorcas Guild will host the 2017 World Day of Prayer service. The Dorcas Guild will host Fellowship Hour the third Sunday of every month even through the summer. Our June Banquet will be held June 14 at 6 p.m. Gailann and Bev will research restaurants.

Delicious refreshments were enjoyed by all as we revealed our Prayer Partners. Next meeting is May 10 at 6:30 p.m. with Kathy Bergeron and Mary Jo Powelson as hostesses. It is our "White Elephant in a Brown Bag" event. Workgroup continues Wednesdays from 10-2. Ω

Diaper Pantry Update

We have been busy this spring! The Infant-Toddler Diaper Pantry served 107 children in April. We welcomed a new family at our April 19 opening. Our young families have been generous in bringing in lots of clothes and toys they no longer need, to pass along. Currently the Pantry could use size 4 or 5 diapers, along with unscented wipes. Monetary donations are also greatly appreciated. If making a donation, please note on your check or envelope that it is for Missions--Diaper Pantry. Thank you! Together we are making a difference. Ω

Mark your calendar... for Thursday, May 12, 7 p.m., as Harry Vogt will give a presentation on the town clock housed in our church. The presentation will begin at the Pittsfield Historical Society building, 13 Elm Street, and then transition to our church for a tour of the clock tower. Ω

Our annual Patriotic Concert – while the details for this year's Patriotic Concert are still being worked out, we're sure it will be one you will want to attend. It is tentatively set for Friday, June 10, 7-8 p.m. at our church. Ω



May 2016



Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
 May Day 1 Worship Service 10 am with <i>Holy Communion</i> Sunday School 9:50 am Potluck Brunch 11 am <i>Welcome New Members</i>	2 First Watch Discussion Group 7 pm - Parsonage	3 Infant & Toddler Diaper Pantry 9-11 am	4 Dorcas Guild work group 10-2, vestry	Ascension Day 5 Chancel Choir Rehearsal, 6:30 pm JuBellation Rehearsal 7:45 pm, sanctuary	6	7
Mother's Day 8 Hat Day - Ladies Deacons meet 8:45 am Worship Service 10 am Sunday School 9:50 am JuBellation plays Fellowship Hour 11 am	9 First Watch Discussion Group 7 pm - Parsonage	10 Men's Breakfast 8 am Parker's Restaurant Dorcas Guild – Meeting 6:30 pm, vestry	11 Dorcas Guild work group 10-2, vestry	12 NO Choir Rehearsals Harry Vogt presents program on "The Town Clock" at the Historical Society 7pm	13	14
Pentecost 15 Worship Service 10 am Sunday School 9:50 am Fellowship Hour 11 am -- hosted by the Sunday Sch.	16 First Watch Discussion Group 7 pm - Parsonage	17 Infant & Toddler Diaper Pantry 9-11 am Trustees Meeting 6 pm	18 Dorcas Guild work group 10-2, vestry	19 Chancel Choir Rehearsal, 6:30 pm JuBellation Rehearsal 7:45 pm, vestry	20	Armed Forces Day 21 Memorial Service for Sally Lewis at the N. Barnstead Cong. Church – 11:30 am
Trinity Sunday 22 Worship Service 10 am Fellowship Hour 11 am	23 First Watch Discussion Group 7 pm - Parsonage	24	25 Dorcas Guild work group 10-2, vestry Last day for <i>Pittsfield</i> <i>Pilgrim</i> news -- forward to Nella Hobson	26 Chancel Choir Rehearsal, 6:30 pm JuBellation Rehearsal 7:45 pm, vestry	27	28
29 Worship Service 10 am Fellowship Hour 11 am	30 	31				