

The Pittsfield Pilgrim

First Congregational Church
24 Main Street
Pittsfield, NH 03263

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The Pittsfield Pilgrim



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November 2016

www.pittsfieldcc.org

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

Meet Your Church Family

Liana and Stephen Wittkop, Church Members

Editor: We asked our friends Liana and Stephen Wittkop share a little about themselves.



Liana has been attending FCC for four years and Stephen for almost two, later accompanying his wife for services. Living next door to the church, they

love listening to the carillon playing hymns.

Liana grew up in Palembang, Indonesia, capital of South Sumatra, where she attended a government school. Her family lives in Jakarta and she has a younger sister, a citizen of Holland, living in England. "I love America because of the Pledge of Allegiance having the true God in its words – 'one nation under God,'" she said. She wanted to live in the United States and married here, coming to Christ in 1984.

Wittkop — Continued on Page 3

"Tip o' the Hat"


A "Tip o' the Hat" to Jaime Koladish and Linda Towle for revamping the nursery. Great job and wonderful touches to make our children, mothers and dads feel right at home. Thank you! Ω



Christmas Fair

The Dorcas Guild will hold its 2016 Christmas Fair, luncheon, and bake sale on Saturday, November 19, from 9 am to 2 pm in our church vestry and Pilgrim Room. As in past years, a corn chowder and sandwich lunch with homemade pies will also be available the day of the fair. Our bake sale table will be chock full of wonderful tasty delights.

Since the Dorcas Guild will NOT be holding its annual Craft Fair this year, final Silent Auction bids are due in no later than Sunday, December 4, 12:30-2:30, when the auction will end and the successful bidders will be notified. The Dorcas Guild sincerely appreciates your support! Ω

Mark your calendar – Christmas Concert
December 9, 7 p.m. 

Minister's Minute

On April 15, 2013, one of the best-known sporting events in the world, the Boston Marathon, turned deadly when two homemade bombs planted close to the finish line exploded. The blasts killed three people, wounded 260 others, and cost 16 some of their limbs. For the one year anniversary of the Boston bombing, *The New York Times* profiled a number of survivors and how they're coping with the trauma. Naturally, the interviewees expressed a great deal of sadness, fear, anger and even rage. But surprisingly, there was also another theme that emerged from the interviews: gratitude.



One survivor put it this way: "Life, it's short. The day of the marathon just reinforces my belief. Life is short, and you need to cherish each moment." A 45-year-old female lawyer reflected on what she's learned after a year: "It was such a terrible tragedy that sometimes I feel guilty because it was a blessing for me. It made my life more rich, more full. I learned how to appreciate living in the moment. And I learned not to worry and stress about things as much. I don't let work bother me. I don't let piddling money issues bother me. It was not even a conscious effort on my part. It just changed my attitude."

A 39-year-old scientist said, "I've had moments where I can't believe how close everything came. Now I embrace life for what it is. I want to keep on living and propel my positive energy to help other people be more positive."

It's tough to remember to give thanks to God in all circumstances especially when we are going through a difficult season. Our troubled times beg for attention that often distracts from the bigger picture of God being in control of our lives. The irony of this forgetfulness is that an attitude of gratefulness actually makes our load lighter.

Dr. P. Murali Doraiswamy, head of biologic psychology at Duke University Medical Center, once stated that: "If [thankfulness] were a drug, it would be the world's best-selling product with a health maintenance indication for every major organ system."

With the Thanksgiving holiday rapidly approaching, I thought it fitting to share the following Thanksgiving Proclamation for 2016 written by Michael Chittum, the executive director of our National Association of Congregational Christian Churches:

As a family of faith, we Congregationalists will always be linked with the celebration of Thanksgiving, the Pilgrims, the Native Americans, the feasting, and the giving thanks to

God. It would do well for us, I believe, to be reminded of words written by William Bradford in 1623.

To put the following passage in context, Bradford described a time of great drought. He indicated that no rain had fallen from the 3rd of May through the middle of July. The earth was so parched that the ground looked like withered hay. Then,

*Upon which they sett a parte a solemne day of humiliation, to seek the Lord by humble and fervente prayer, in this great distrese. And he was pleased to give them a gracious and speedy answer, both to their owne and the Indeans admiration, that lived among them. For all the morning and greatest part of the day, it was clear weather and very hotte, and not a cloud or any signe of raine to be seen, yet toward evening it begane to overcast, and shortly after to raine, with shuch sweete and gentle showers, as gave them cause of rejoyceing and blessing God. It came, without either wind, or thunder, or any violence, and by degreese in that abundance, as that the earth was thorowly wete and soked therwith. Which did so apparently revive and quicken the decayed corne and other fruits, as was wonderfull to see, and made the Indeans astonished to behold; and afterwards the Lord sent them shuch seasonable showers, with enterchange of faire warme weather, as, through his blessing, caused a fruitfull and liberall harvest, to their no small comferte and rejoycing. For which mercie (in time conveniente) they also sett aparte a day of thanksgivinge. **

* [taken from pages 152-153 of *Bradford's History of Plymouth Plantation: 1606-1646*, edited by William T. Davis, published by Barnes & Noble, Inc. of New York in 1959 as part of the Original Narratives of American History series]

We will gather with our own family and friends on this Thanksgiving Day, November 24, 2016. May we be as aware of the abundance of God's blessings, given to us in due time, as William Bradford and the Plymouth Bay Colony were. May we not only be aware of them, but may we correctly attribute them to the loving mercy and grace of our God and be filled with "rejoicing." AMEN.

I give thanks for all of you and I would like to express my love and best wishes for a very Happy Thanksgiving. Ω

I love being your minister,

Rev. Dave

Wittkop — Continued from Page 1

Stephen was born and grew up in Duluth, Minnesota, attending Sacred Heart School, and later Duluth Central. Moving to New Hampshire in 1977, Stephen worked in shoe companies in Rochester and Somersworth, and at the Suncook Leather Company in Pittsfield until it closed. “I have worked for Rustic Crust for 12 years. Occasionally I work fixing apartments with Liana. I came to faith in 1981 through hearing Herbert W. Armstrong (founder of the Radio Church of God in 1933) of the Worldwide Church of God,” he said.

They both express having rewarding experiences in sharing their struggles with Pastor Dave. As a role model, they point to their hope in Christ who has “been there all along.”

Books enjoyed by this couple are *The Bible, A Portrait of Jesus* by Joseph Girzone, and *The Final Three Popes* by Dr. Jack Van Impe.

For the future of FCC, Liana and Stephen would like to see continued outreach and the church continuing to be a light to our community. Ω

**From the Board
of Trustees**
**Progress**

The Trustees are pleased to report that the re-roofing of the back portion of church roof has been accomplished in a very timely and professional manner. The old asphalt shingles, installed in 1993, were stripped from the roof, new ice and water shield was laid and new asphalt shingles were installed.

Now that we no longer have a leaking roof, we will be working to replace the water damaged ceiling tiles in the pastor’s office, the Pilgrim Room and adjoining restroom, the nursery and the vestry.

The sanding and resealing of the wooden doors on the front of the church is underway. We anticipate that the use of more weather-resistant products will allow this task to last longer than it has in the past.

Due to the need to conserve what funds are available, the repair of the sanctuary skylight has been delayed once again. The repair has been on the maintenance to-do list for many years. Bids are being sought with the hope of finally having the

skylight work done in the spring. Repairs to the parsonage garage floor and the parsonage walkway have also been delayed.

The Trustees will be working on the 2017 operating budget for the church prior to the new year. It is hoped that the members and friends of our church will submit a monetary pledge for the coming year so that a budget for all church expenses can be made. Not only are there expenses involved with running our church on a daily basis, but a building that is 139 years old presents many maintenance challenges. Please see the Stewardship Letter and Pledge Card attached to this newsletter.

Feel free to contact any trustee with your suggestions and concerns. Marilyn Thyng will serve as interim chair until the annual meeting in January, 2017. Other trustees are: Sue Bleckmann, Gloria O’Connor Biron and Chris Ward. Ω

Reminder: Please keep the parking spots directly in front of the K2 Market available for customers.

Daylight Savings ends November 6 – “fall back.”

Baskets: The Sunday School will again assemble Thanksgiving baskets for local families. Watch the bulletin for more information. Last call is Nov.20.

Special Fellowship Hour – Nov. 20 – as Nancy White, church custodian, retires. Ω

Dorcas Guild Update

The Dorcas Guild met Oct. 11 with Corine Miller and Carolyn Davis sharing devotions about World Kindness Day, Nov. 13. Diane Vaughan reported on cards sent; more were sent around for signing. The September minutes and the treasurer’s report were accepted. The food basket from Kathy Bergeron went to Linda Stasiak and will go next to Evelyn Sheehy Richard. The mystery package brought by Reny Boyd was won by Evelyn.

Our service project of providing the VA with spreads and blankets was completed and Mary Jo Powelson will get the items delivered.

The Guild has taken on the responsibility of the World Day of Prayer for March, 2017, with the focus on the Philippines.

The Christmas Fair is Nov. 19 with Peggy Jacobs and Kathy Bergeron as co-chairs. After a discussion on the Craft Fair, the group decided to cancel this fair; silent auction bids will end Dec. 4.

The next meeting is Nov. 8 with hostesses Diane Vaughan and Linda Towle. Nov. 16 is Christmas Fair set-up day. Ω



November 2016



Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
		1 Infant & Toddler Diaper Pantry 9-11 am	2 Dorcas Guild work group 10-2, vestry Bible Study 7-8:30 pm	3 Chancel Choir Rehearsal, 6:30 pm JuBellation Rehearsal 7:45 pm, vestry	4	5 Funeral service and collation for Fred Carlson -- 1:30 pm
6 Daylight Savings Ends Worship Service 10 am <i>Holy Communion</i> Sunday School 9:45 am Fellowship Hour 11 am Potluck	7	8 Men's Breakfast 8 am Parker's Rest. Dorcas Guild Meets – 6:30 pm – vestry	9 Dorcas Guild work group 10-2, vestry Last call for Fair items Bible Study 7-8:30 pm	10 Chancel Choir Rehearsal, 6:30 pm JuBellation Rehearsal 7:45 pm, vestry	11  Veterans Day	12
13 World Kindness Day Deacons' Meeting 8:45 am Worship Service 10 am Sunday School 9:45 am <i>JuBellation plays</i> Fellowship Hour 11 am (Dorcas Guild hosts)	14	15 Infant & Toddler Diaper Pantry 9-11 am Trustees' Meeting 6 pm	16 Dorcas Guild work group 10-2, vestry Set up for Christmas Fair Bible Study 7-8:30 pm	17 Chancel Choir Rehearsal, 6:30 pm JuBellation Rehearsal 7:45 pm, sanctuary	18	19  Fair, Bake Sale and Luncheon 9-2 Vestry & Pilgrim Room
20 Worship Service 10 am Sunday School 9:45 am Fellowship Hour 11 am <i>in honor of Nancy White</i> Last day for Thanksgiving baskets—Sunday School	21	22	23 Bible Study 7-8:30 pm	24  Happy Thanksgiving NO Rehearsals	25	26 Last day for <i>Pittsfield Pilgrim</i> news -- forward to Nella Hobson
27 Worship Service 10 am Sunday School 9:45 am Fellowship Hour 11 am	28	29	30 Bible Study 7-8:30 pm			

**First Congregational Church
of Pittsfield, N.H.
2017 Pledge Card**

Grateful for the many blessings received from God,
I/we desire to give back to God through the church
during the coming year:

General Operating Fund \$ _____ weekly

Building Fund \$ _____ monthly

Missions \$ _____ monthly

Date _____

Name(s) _____

Address _____

Please place your completed pledge card in the
collection plate, or mail to: George Towle,
Collector, First Congregational Church, P.O. Box
188, Pittsfield, NH 03263