

# *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

Florence Freese, Church Member

*Editor:* We asked our friend Florence Freese to share a little about herself.

I was a farm girl born in Loudon during the “Great Depression,” the middle child of five. Times were tough, but I had a great mom and dad. They taught us to keep the Sabbath holy, work hard and help a neighbor in need. I graduated from Pittsfield High School in 1942, the first class to hold graduation exercises in the new high school auditorium. It was World War II.



In 1948, I married George E. Freese, Jr. in this church and have been in attendance ever since, becoming a member in 1970. We were blessed with five children: Barbara, Patricia, George III (GEF), J. Douglas and Robert. All grew up in this church and are members.

**Freese — Continued on Page 3**

## “Tip o’ the Hat”

A “Tip o’ the Hat” to Sue Bleckmann for making and donating the marvelous quilt for the raffle to benefit the Building Fund. Not only that, but she headed up the raffle, printing and selling the tickets over the course of the summer. (See separate article on the results of the raffle.) Thank you! Ω



## Help Needed

The Pittsfield Food Pantry is in need of volunteers to serve one or two hours a week Mondays, 11 a.m. to 2 p.m. or Thursdays, 4 to 6 p.m. Meanwhile your food contributions are always welcome and can be placed in the wooden container in the vestry. See Pastor Dave for more information. Ω

**Bible Study ...** Bible Study continues on Wednesday evenings, 7-8:30 p.m. in the Pilgrim Room. The study is on the book of Proverbs. If you are interested or would



like more information, contact Bev Murdough at 776-8448. Ω

## Minister's Minute

While driving to Concord this past week I noticed the trees starting to change color, albeit slightly from their summer shades of green to hues of orange, yellow and red. Fall is certainly a beautiful time of year in New England, evidence being the numerous leaf peepers who visit the state. The trees instinctively know what's ahead and they begin to prepare for the change from the warmth of summer to the cold of winter. The sap drops in the trees and the leaves begin to fall. Change is in the air. We begin to see it and feel it. John F. Kennedy said that, *"Change is the law of life. And those who look only to the past or present are certain to miss the future."*



Life is change whether we like it or not. Many times whether it be business, politics, or religion, change is needed or sought after. The current political climate is a case in point. The problem with change is not the actual circumstance but the transition from the old to the new. Resistance to change is fueled by familiarity and comfort with the way things are even though they may not be working or effective.

Then of course there is the element of fear. What if the change is wrong or unsuccessful? Before you can begin something new, you have to end what used to be. Before you can learn a new way of doing things, you have to unlearn the old way. Before you can become a different kind of person, you must let go of your old identity.

So beginnings depend on endings. The problem is, people don't like endings. Change also brings with it a sense of loss. French writer Anatole France wrote that, *"All changes, even the most longed for, have their melancholy; for what we leave behind is part of ourselves; we must die to one life before we can enter into another."*

That certainly is true of the Christian life. We must die to one life before we can enter into another. Jesus said that anyone who believes in him even though they die yet shall they live.

Embracing Christian principles and values is no doubt difficult but we have help and that is the spirit of God who makes all things new. Ω

I love being your minister,

Rev. Dave

## From the Board of Trustees



## Board Reconvenes

The Board of Trustees met Tuesday, September 27. Hearts were heavy due to the passing of Dave Powelson, Chairman of the Board. His quiet, knowledgeable leadership and friendship will be greatly missed.

Replacement of the asphalt shingles on the back portion of the church roof will begin about October 6. It is hoped that repairs to the exterior portion of the sanctuary skylight can also be made. It has been broken and partially boarded over for a number of years. A bid to refinish the five front doors of the church was also accepted.

Replacement of the sinking garage floor at the parsonage has been delayed at this time.

As the fourth quarter of 2016 begins, we will be working on next year's proposed budget. Stewardship letters and pledge cards will be included in next month's newsletter.

Please contact any trustee with your suggestions and concerns. Marilyn Thyng will serve as interim chairman until the Annual Meeting in January, 2017. Other trustees are: Sue Bleckmann, Gloria O'Connor Biron and Chris Ward. Ω

## Diaper Pantry Update

The Diaper Pantry was pleased to host the Rotary dinner on September 7, as a fundraiser. Elaine Coffey, Peggy Jacobs, Margie Lank, Corine Miller and MaryJo Powelson contributed to the fun evening by preparing and serving the dinner. They gave a brief presentation to the Rotarians explaining about the Infant Toddler Diaper Pantry. After the meeting, the Pantry was surprised and so very happy when it was presented with two checks, one for the dinner and the other a donation to the Pantry. Thank you to the generous Rotarians!

As of the end of August 2016, they are proud to report that from the very beginning of the Diaper Pantry (January, 2013), they have helped 3,432 children (packages of diapers). Currently in 2016 they have given out 861 packages of diapers (as of the end of August) and have 62 families that are currently being assisted.

At this time, the Diaper Pantry could use size 3, 4, 5 or 6 diapers or unscented wipes. If you would like to make a monetary donation, please make your check out to: FCC-Missions and in the memo, please note for Diaper Pantry. Thank you. Together we are making a difference! Ω

**Freese — Continued from Page 1**

I worked at Globe Manufacturing Company, a Freese family business now in its fourth generation, for the next 30 years as a designer and production supervisor in the ski and sportswear division. George and I traveled to Hong Kong, Japan and Singapore for manufacture of lower priced goods and to Austria and Germany for higher priced skiwear. The division was dissolved in 1975 to make room for the growing firesuit and safety company of today.

As a family, we cared for the church grounds, spring through fall, for about 30 years. We planted shrubs in the courtyard and trimmed the hedge, cleaning weeds and sweeping Main Street from Chestnut to Elm at no expense to the church. I had the ladies' and men's restrooms renovated as well as the first rehab of the nursery and took care of repairing the windows between the sanctuary and vestry. I helped for many years with setup for collations for weddings and funerals and also the facelift of the vestibule with Joan Riel and Marilyn Thyng. In 1989, I chaired the 200<sup>th</sup> birthday of the church with Charlotte (French) McClary. The artwork done of the church at that time by local artist, Andrea Robbins, has become our logo.

I am retired and live in an old 1829 colonial farmhouse. Its demands are a reason to get up every day.

It is my hope, as the town of Pittsfield works on restoration projects, that more young families will move in and find our church as their place to worship.

I do enjoy reading a good book and have just finished "Vagabond Chic" by Gloria Jean (Hathaway) Pszonowsky Hillsgrove, a local and gutsy lady. Ω

**Our Building Fund** continues to grow, thanks to your generosity. The fund thermometer at the rear of the church sanctuary now shows a level more than halfway to the goal of \$45,000. Thank you! Ω

**The First Watch** discussion group is suspended for the month of October. Ω

**Quilt Raffle Results**

The quilt raffle has ended with a grand total of \$1,161 raised. The winning ticket was drawn by the Trustees September 20, and the winner is Carolee Davison of Chichester. A huge thank-you to all for your support. Ω

*"Just a Phone Call Away"*

I wish there was a phone in Heaven  
so I could call my mom.

To talk awhile would be like all the  
other times we talked, and planned  
and talked and cried.

I miss her voice, her sweet laugh, the  
kind of caring she always had.

When I was sad she always said,  
"Don't cry, it'll be OK.

Oh, how I hate to see you sad."

If there was a phone in Heaven, I could  
tell her all about her great granddaughter,  
and how beautiful she turned out to be.

I want to tell her how I wished we could  
have had more time together, before the  
Lord took her away.

So now all I have is a memory, of a mother  
who was more precious than  
anything could ever be.

If there was a phone in Heaven I'd be  
able to hear her say, "Don't cry,  
I'll always love you, and I'm  
'just a phone call away.'"

BJH

## **Dorcas Guild Update**

The September meeting of the Dorcas Guild began with a call to order and welcome to the 14 attendees by President MaryJo Powelson.

For devotions, Freda Jones began with a humorous story and then a piece from Norman Vincent Peale's *The Rewards of Positive Living* entitled, "Blessings," the message being that you can never fully count all your blessings. All joined in "The Lord's Prayer."

Mary Jo read correspondence and there was an update on the ill and shut-ins; cards were sent around for signing. The May and June minutes and the treasurer's report were accepted.

The food basket brought by Audrey Moore went to Kathy Bergeron and will go next to Linda Stasiak in October. The mystery package brought by Kathy was won by Reny Boyd.

Changing our normal routine, we broke for delicious refreshments provided by Freda Jones and Audrey Moore, and reconvened to discuss some old business including our service project of providing twin-sized spreads, blankets, adult hats and mittens for the VA. Our last call will be the next meeting, October 11.

We are reminded that our group has taken on the responsibility of the World Day of Prayer for 2017, the actual day being Friday, March 3, 2017 with the focus on the Philippines. The group was asked to consider asking any Filipino friends, neighbors or acquaintances to consider being our guests.

As far as new business, we discussed our Christmas Fair, which will occur November 19. New chairpersons are Peggy Jacobs and Kathy Bergeron. All donations to the fair should be received by November 9. Gailann Newton will work the luncheon and will seek assistance. We discussed our second fair – the Craft Fair – with the possibility of discontinuing it. We tabled any decisions and will vote on this next meeting.

A 2016 program booklet was passed around for members to check their names and address for accuracy for next year's booklet. The change booklet will also be circulated at future meetings.

Linda Towle asked for volunteers for the nursery and also requested prayer for young families to attend our church. If anyone is interested in volunteering for "nursery duty," please see her to complete a form and agree to a background check.

We enjoyed a further time of fellowship with our "Pound Auction." The meeting adjourned at 8 p.m.

The next meeting is October 11 at 6:30 p.m. Hostesses are Corine Miller and Carolyn Davis. This is the last call for our service project. Work meetings continue on Wednesdays from 9-2. Ω

## **Last Call for Dorcas Guild Project**

The Dorcas Guild has selected the VA in Manchester for their 2016 project. They will be providing twin-size blankets and spreads, as well as adult hats and mittens. The closing date to receive any items for this project will be **October 11**. If you have contributions for the project, please get them into the church by then as we will be delivering them soon after. The blankets and spreads are generally twin size and can vary from 40" x 75" to 65" x 90". If you have any questions, please contact Mary Jo Powelson or Nella Hobson. Ω

## **Dorcas Guild Plans Christmas Fair**

The Dorcas Guild is in the process of planning its 2016 Christmas Fair and Luncheon, to be held this year on Saturday, **November 19**, from 9 a.m. to 2 p.m. in our church vestry and Pilgrim Room. As always, we look forward to receiving any handcrafted items you may have made, jewelry items, gourmet products, etc., and those special items for the Unique Boutique. Bring them to the church as available, but no later than **November 9**, and give them to Kathy Bergeron, MaryJo Powelson or Nella Hobson.

We also welcome your baked goods for our food table, which will be due the afternoon of November 18 or the morning of the fair. As in past years, a corn chowder and sandwich lunch with homemade pies will also be available the day of the fair. The Dorcas Guild sincerely thanks you for all your support! Ω

## **Fellowship Reminder**

**Our current schedule** for Fellowship Hour after our Sunday service is: the first Sunday of the month is a pot-luck brunch. The third Sunday is hosted by the Dorcas Guild. The second, fourth and fifth Sundays are available for your donations and assistance serving and cleaning up. In the event no one steps forward to host one of those Sundays, there will be coffee and punch. Ω

**Church Bus:** If you need transportation to and from church on Sundays, please call Steve White at least the day before at 435-9165 or 470-3457. Ω



# October 2016



Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
						<b>1</b>
<b>World Communion Day 2</b> Worship Service 10 am <i>Holy Communion</i> Sunday School 9:50 am Fellowship Hour 11 am Potluck	<b>3</b>	<b>4</b> Infant & Toddler Diaper Pantry 9-11 am	<b>5</b> Dorcas Guild work group 10-2, vestry Bible Study 7-8:30 pm	<b>6</b> Chancel Choir Rehearsal, 6:30 pm JuBellation Rehearsal 7:45 pm, vestry	<b>7</b>	<b>8</b>
<b>9</b> Deacons' Meeting 8:45 am Worship Service 10 am Sunday School 9:50 am Fellowship Hour 11 am	<b>Columbus Day 10</b>	<b>11</b> Men's Breakfast <b>8 am</b> Parker's Rest. Dorcas Guild Meets – <b>6:30 pm</b> – vestry <i>Last call for VA project</i>	<b>12</b> Dorcas Guild work group 10-2, vestry Bible Study 7-8:30 pm	<b>13</b> Chancel Choir Rehearsal, 6:30 pm JuBellation Rehearsal 7:45 pm, vestry	<b>14</b>	<b>15</b>
<b>16</b> Worship Service 10 am Sunday School 9:50 am Fellowship Hour 11 am (Dorcas Guild hosts)	<b>17</b>	<b>18</b> Infant & Toddler Diaper Pantry 9-11 am Trustees' Meeting 6 pm	<b>19</b> Dorcas Guild work group 10-2, vestry Bible Study 7-8:30 pm	<b>20</b> Chancel Choir Rehearsal, 6:30 pm JuBellation Rehearsal 7:45 pm, sanctuary	<b>21</b>	<b>22</b>
<b>23</b> Worship Service 10 am Sunday School 9:50 am <i>JuBellation plays</i>  Fellowship Hour 11 am	<b>United Nations Day 24</b>	<b>25</b> Last day for <i>Pittsfield            Pilgrim</i> news -- forward to Nella Hobson	<b>26</b> Dorcas Guild work group 10-2, vestry Bible Study 7-8:30 pm	<b>27</b> Chancel Choir Rehearsal, 6:30 pm JuBellation Rehearsal 7:45 pm, vestry	<b>28</b>	<b>29</b>
<b>30</b> Worship Service 10 am Sunday School 9:50 am Fellowship Hour 11 am	<b>Hallowe'en 31</b>					