

The Pittsfield Pilgrim

First Congregational Church
24 Main Street
Pittsfield, NH 03263

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Volume XXIX, No. 9
September 2017

www.pittsfieldcc.org

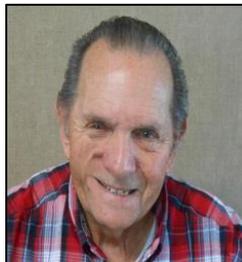
The Rev. David Stasiak, Minister
Nella and Mike Hobson, Publishers

Meet Your Church Family

Arthur Colman

Editor: We asked our friend Arthur Colman to share a little about himself.

Mr. Arthur Colman has been attending FCC for more than three years. He was raised in New Hampshire and lived with his wife, Mary, in Manchester until her passing. Art then moved to Pittsfield to live with his daughter Marian, who is a nurse.



Born in Chatham, New York, Art remembers some hard times such as walking barefoot to school while carrying his shoes to prevent wearing them out. His family moved from New York to Manchester, New Hampshire, when he was around four or five years old.

Art served in the Navy and was stationed on an aircraft carrier that brought parts of the atom bomb to be assembled and tested near Eniwetok Atoll. He witnessed three bomb tests while there, and says the carrier definitely moved across the water from the concussion after the bomb was detonated.

Colman — Continued on Page 3

“Tip o’ the Hat”

Many thanks and a “tip o’ the hat” to Al Douglas who has been working so diligently to get our church’s computer system working properly. Thank you! Ω



Rally Day for 2017 is set for Sunday, **September 17** at the lovely home of Kathy and Don Bergeron (71 S. Main St., Pittsfield). Thank you!

In case of inclement weather, the event will be moved to the church. Hot dogs and hamburgers will be provided. Please bring your favorite salad, hors d’oeuvre, side dish or dessert to share. The festivities will begin following our time of worship. Come and join in on the fun, food and fellowship as we kick off a new Sunday School year!

Registration will take place at this time. Sunday School begins the following week at 9:45 a.m. Ω

Small Talk – As our Sunday School begins, so will our “Small Talk!” If there is anyone who would like to join the “Small Talkers” and provide a teaching moment during worship, please speak to Margie Lank or Pastor Dave. Materials are available. Please consider this way to become involved in our worship service. Thank you. Ω

Minister's Minute

You've heard the expression "Rally Around the Flag." It is where our national anthem, "The Star Spangled Banner" comes from. Francis Scott Key, as a prisoner aboard a British ship, saw the American flag still flying over Fort McHenry in the early morning hours of September 14, 1814. Today we still use the "Rally Around" phraseology. Listen to these recent headlines: Supporters Rally Around Property Tax Resolution, *Tulsa World*, March 19; Fans Continue to Rally Around Morningside Champs, KCAU-TV, Sioux City, IA, March 18; Neighbors Rally Around Mother After Home Invasion, NewsChannel 5, Nashville TN, March 16; Scholars Rally Around Embattled Professor, *The Jewish Daily Forward*, March 11.

There is always a cause or a person to rally around. We have peace rallies, political rallies and car rallies. In Pittsfield, thanks to the Rotary Club, we have the Annual Balloon Rally that draws thousands of people to our town. According to the Merriam Webster Dictionary to "rally" means to arouse for action, to come together again to renew an effort or join in a common cause.

On Sunday, September 17, our church will hold its own annual rally. We call it Rally Day. After the summer season of vacations, school break and enjoying the lazy days of summer we will come together again to renew an effort and join in a common cause. Though growing as a Christian is a daily affair, Rally Day marks the beginning of the Sunday School year when we, both children and adults, reconvene in groups to learn more about God, our faith and discipleship. It is a special time, an important time.

I would like to take this opportunity in advance to thank the members of the Christian Education Committee, the Sunday School teachers and Small Talkers who have graciously volunteered to serve in educating our children about our faith in the coming year. Once again thanks to Kathy and Don Bergeron for hosting the event and thanks to all of you for rallying around the cause of Christ. Hope to see you all at the Bergerons' house for a time of good fellowship, food and fun. Ω

As always, I love being your minister,

Rev. Dave

*By all these lovely tokens September days are here
With summer's best of weather
And autumn's best of cheer. - Unknown*

From the Board of Trustees



Don't forget Saturday, September 16 is slated as "Volunteer Saturday" — a day for friends and members of the church to come together to perform

light maintenance and repair projects around the church. We'll be starting at 9:00 a.m. and plan to be wrapped up by noon just in time for some pizza and refreshments!

Some of the tasks we have in mind include:

- Paint thresholds at the two chancel doors.
- Clean brush from back of church and parking lot
- Clean gutters
- Remove bricks and miscellaneous building material from basement
- Clean sanctuary lights
- Clean out storage area above choir robe closet
- Paint door next to organ (to the right of the organ)
- Clean clock tower
- Block sash of kitchen window so it won't fall.

As always if you see something in need of repair that you think may have escaped our notice, please don't hesitate to let any of the trustees know: Marilyn Thyng, Gloria O'Connor Biron, Susan Bleckmann, Chris Ward or Harry Vogt. Ω

Monthly Update of Income and Expenses

Church income through the month of July:

\$64,415.15

Church expenses through the month of July:

\$81,312.88

Grief Support and Video Series

The Grief Support Group will reconvene beginning Tuesday, September 19 at 11 a.m. in the vestry. Grief encompasses many life crises, i.e. death of a loved one, divorce, loss of a job and even a home. It has to do with attachment and separation.

"Serious Answers to Hard Questions" is a 10-part video series – Bible Study/Discussion group, which will begin September 20 at 6:30 p.m. in the Pilgrim Room.

If you are interested in either the support group or video series or have questions, please speak to Rev. Dave. Ω

Colman — Continued from Page 1

Art remembers meeting Gary Cooper, during the filming of “Task Force,” while on ship and getting his autograph. Proudly acknowledging the military service of his family, Art had four brothers in the Navy and one in the Marine Corps.



Art says that he found FCC when a next door neighbor brought him to our church. Art’s nephew, Peter, serves as a missionary in Chicago and enjoys reading our weekly church bulletins shared by his uncle.

For a role model Art proudly says it’s his son, Arthur Gerald Colman, who served 11 years as an Army medic and now lives in Albuquerque, N.M.

Art has hobbies that he enjoys when he is not walking around town. He loves cookbooks, and reads them on his video magnifier (CCTV). His interest in cookbooks stems from his experience working as a chef at the 88 Restaurant in Manchester and serving as manager of an IHOP restaurant. Additionally, Art worked as a meat cutter for many years.

His newest hobby is making fishing lures using pieces of costume jewelry and sequins that he gets from clothing. He says he does most of this work during the winter to pass the time when it’s too cold to walk outside. His experience in fishing in Alaska some eight times has given him an insight on how to attract and catch the “big ones.”

When asked what he would like to pass on to the church at large, Art states that with the many widowed members of the congregation, it is important to have respect for one another at home. Ω

Diaper Pantry Update

What fun we had at Pittsfield’s Old Home Day selling root beer floats and raffles for our wonderful donations. Thank you to everyone who helped make this such a successful event. We followed this experience by being located in the gazebo at the Suncook Valley Rotary’s Balloon Rally two weeks later, able to do the same thing. What an active summer we’ve had! We thank all of our big-hearted volunteers and generous raffle contributors.

At our last Diaper Pantry opening we were able to assist 95 children and babies, and we welcomed a new family from Pittsfield. As always, we wholeheartedly thank you for your continued support. Together we are making a difference! For more information on the Diaper Pantry and how you might support it, please see Mary Jo Powelson. Ω

Dorcas Guild Update

The Dorcas Guild will begin their evening meetings again this month, Tuesday, September 12 at 6:30. This is their “Pound Auction” night, so bring a wrapped item weighing about a pound and some change for bidding. You are also asked to bring an item for the Pittsfield Food Pantry.

The Guild continues to meet each Wednesday from 10-2 for their workgroup in preparation for their Christmas Fair, November 18. They welcome any donations of handmade items for their craft tables or gently used items for the “Unique Boutique” table or jewelry for the jewelry table.

The project for this year is providing head/neck scarves for those enduring chemo treatments; “chemo tote bags,” which include a variety of items such as a small pillow, hand sanitizer, tissue packs, lip balm, pads, pens, etc.; and children’s tote bags with books, crayons, toys, etc. for emergency crews to give young children when there is a family crisis. The “last call” for these projects is October 10.

If you would like to help in any way or have any questions, please contact Mary Jo Powelson. Ω

Notes from Karen

Just a “note” to say that our first Chancel Choir rehearsal will be **Thursday, September 7, at 6:30** and **the second on September 14 at 6:30** followed by **the 9 a.m. rehearsal on Sunday, September 17...Rally Day!!**

In order to be well prepared to sing our best on Rally Sunday, it is very important to attend both the Thursday rehearsals and the 9 a.m. rehearsal on the 17th. There will **NOT** be a 9 a.m. rehearsal September 10, as we won’t have begun singing during the service at that time.

Welcome back to returning Chancel Choir members and to others who may have formerly sung in choir but have not for a while. If you sang in your high school or other choir and have been thinking about it, please join us! If you have friends you think would enjoy choir, please invite them!

Our rehearsals are fast paced, fun and never boring. Yes, we do work to present the best music we can, and you will feel better after you’ve been to rehearsal than before you came.

See you on September 7 at 6:30 for Chancel Choir! I look forward to getting started with you for a joyful, fabulous year of music. Your Director of Music and Organist, *Karen Brook*. Ω



September 2017



Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
					1	2
3 Worship Service 10 am <i>Holy Communion</i> Fellowship Hour 11 am – Potluck	4 <i>Labor Day</i>	5 Infant & Toddler Diaper Pantry 9-11 am	6 Dorcas Guild work group 10-2, vestry	7 Chancel Choir Rehearsal, 6:30 pm NO JuBellation Rehearsal	8	9
10 <i>Grandparents Day</i> Deacons' Meeting 8:45 am Worship Service 10 am Fellowship Hour 11 am	11 <i>Patriot Day</i>	12 Men's Breakfast <u>8 am</u> Parker's Rest. Dorcas Guild Meets – 6:30 pm – vestry	13 Dorcas Guild work group 10-2, vestry	14 Chancel Choir Rehearsal, 6:30 pm JuBellation Rehearsal 7:50 pm, vestry	15 <i>National POW/MIA Recognition Day</i> 	16
17 Worship Service 10 am <i>Welcome back Chancel Choir!</i> 🎵 Fellowship Hour 11 am-- <i>Rally Day at the Bergerons'</i>	18	19 Infant & Toddler Diaper Pantry 9-11 am Grief Support Group 11 am – vestry Trustees' Meeting 6 pm	20 Dorcas Guild work group 10-2, vestry “Serious Answers to Hard Questions” video series – 6:30 p.m. Pilgrim Room	21 <i>International Day of Peace</i> Chancel Choir Rehearsal, 6:30 pm JuBellation Rehearsal 7:50 pm, sanctuary	22 <i>Fall begins</i> 	23
24 Worship Service 10 am Sunday School 9:45 am Fellowship Hour 11 am <i>JuBellation plays</i>	25	26 Grief Support Group 11 am – vestry Last day for <i>Pittsfield Pilgrim</i> news -- forward to Nella Hobson	27 Dorcas Guild work group 10-2, vestry “Serious Answers to Hard Questions” video series – 6:30 p.m. Pilgrim Room	28 Chancel Choir Rehearsal, 6:30 pm JuBellation Rehearsal 7:50 pm, vestry	29	30