

W CROSS R D

NOT FROM THE PASTOR'S DESK...

Family? Whose family? What family? As I sit here and contemplate what "family" is, I realize there are many definitions. Besides my parents, siblings, spouse, and children (not to mention all the in-laws), I realize I'm not much different than Dorothy in the Wizard of Oz.

"There's no place like home", and home is where my family resides. Family also means those who surround me, care for me, guide me, and are part of my life. I guess what I mean is that this church is also part of my family.

.....And what a journey our church family has taken! Over the past couple of years, we have had ups and downs, all the while supporting each other. We have seen family members go off on their own, others who have come back to dine with us at the Lord's Table, and more who have become new members. We welcome them with open arms because that's what a family does.....and boy does it feel good!

As all these changes occur, the dynamics also change, but the true meaning of family still remains. When we are faced with a challenge, we rise to the occasion, work together, and arrive at an appropriate solution. Most recently, we were obviously faced with the challenge of finding a new Pastor. As stated, our family came together, searched together, and found someone to fit the "Bill".

Our "family" is growing, and now eagerly awaiting the arrival of our newest members! As we all come together, yet again, to prepare the parsonage as their new home, please take a moment to welcome Rev. Bill, Maureen, John, Dan, and Andrew.

**The First Congregational Church
United Church of Christ**

P.O. Box 847

Rev. Bill will formerly start Sunday services on August 26th, but you might find them moving some belongings and starting to settle in at any time! As I welcome these people into my family, I hope you will too!

A Member of Our Church Family

FIRST FOLKS

Freda Ayer died June 25th. A memorial service was held for her in the sanctuary on July 3rd. We send our condolences to her family.

We send get well wishes to Kenny Andrews who underwent surgery on July 9th at Children's Hospital in Boston and is now home recuperating. We hope you will be up and about very soon, Kenny! **

Also recovering from recent surgery is Hope Hitchcock, Jean and Albert Robarge's daughter. We hope you are feeling better, Hope.

We also send get well wishes to: Mary Yannetti who recently broke her leg; Laurie Perrone who is recovering from a broken ankle; and Ryan Koehler who is recovering from a bike accident that caused him to be med-flighted to Boston.

****THANK YOU**

Thank you all for your get well wishes. It was a long week in the hospital, but Ken is doing very well learning how to get around again and mending superbly. All of your prayers, notes of encouragement and telephone calls were very much appreciated. It made a difficult situation a lot more bearable.

Peace to all.

Kenny, Cheryl, Scott and Amanda Andrews

August 2007

WE ARE LOOKING FOR.....

We have had several requests here in the office for the recipe for that wonderful warm pineapple dish that was served at the Pot Luck Supper on June 23rd. If you made that delicious dish, please send the recipe to

Peggy in the church office. Thank you.

TRUSTEES' CORNER

Where is the Trustees' Corner?? That is what Peggy is asking, as I try to put something together for her yesterday. After the past two weeks I think I know where the corner is. It is in the cellar of the parsonage. During the past two weeks we have accomplished a lot at the parsonage. However, the Trustees seem to be stuck in the cellar. Ron has spent hours putting up insulation under the living room floor, Dan has struggled with the old hot water heater, Dick has spent some time in the hole but mostly upstairs on his projects with an occasional check to see if the cellar guys are OK. Tom has spent his fair share in the cellar patching holes in the foundation under the front portion of the house. Ok, so where are we on our time line. The furnace is in, the duct work will be completed by the time you read this, the hole is insulated and sealed. Upstairs, one closet has been skim coated and painted by Ed and Tom L., the laundry room door is no longer a door thanks to Dick. So we are making progress, however we are not on schedule. We need much more help if we are going to accomplish all that we wanted to do before the new minister arrives. There is grunt work, painting, finish work, plumbing, electrical, and just plain cleaning to be done. For now the house is open 24/7. There is a list of projects on the kitchen counter and a sign in sheet. Questions can be directed to any of the Trustees and I (Donn)am available most all the time to consult and answer questions. We not only need people to work on projects, but we need funds to do some projects which have come up which we did not anticipate. We have just 3-4 weeks to do what needs to be done. We expect Rev. Ferguson and his family to begin to occupy the house after the 12th of August and to move in the following

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week. If everyone pitches in we will be successful. If the level of participation continues as it has been for the past two weeks, we will be very short of our goals. Put a family work night together, get a group of people and have a work party complete with pizza and whatever. As we have said before, that house is your house, it is a valuable asset to the Church and the Community, let's take care of it and be proud to be the present caretakers of such a historic building.

On a slightly different note. Please plan on giving your support to The Play Among The Stars Theatre Group which will occupy our yard on Sunday the 18 of August for a good old fashioned BBQ. Buy a ticket, have some good food and meet an inspiring group of people. Listen to some great music also. One of the performers is our own David Hardwick.

For The Trustees,
Donn Clark

FROM THE DIACONATE

A Message from the Deacons **Welcome Rev Bill Ferguson and family!!!**

We are thrilled to welcome Rev. Bill Ferguson and his family to our church. Most recently, Rev. Bill served as Associate Pastor at the Hampstead Congregational Church, Rev. Bill graduated from Boston State College in 1979, received his Masters Degree from Bridgewater State College in 1984 and graduated from the Andover Newton Theological School in 1999.

Rev. Ferguson, his wife Maureen, and their three sons will be moving to the church's parsonage in August following much needed repairs. Rev. Bill will begin conducting services on August 26th. Please join us in welcoming Rev. Bill and his family to our church family. Please do not forget your obligations to our church. The electronic giving site for the church is <http://pelhamucc.org/giving.html>.

Please say a prayer every day for the swift end to the hostilities in Iraq and Afghanistan and the safe return for those who serve our country. Please say a prayer for the leaders of our country and other countries involved that the Holy Spirit may touch them and provide the wisdom and courage to resolve our differences.

August 2007

Charities

Summer is a time for vacations. However, please don't forget others who need your help!

Our Church's electronic giving site:

<http://pelhamucc.org/giving.html>

Nashua Soup Kitchen -

<http://www.charityadvantage.com/nsks/Home.asp>

Lazarus House — see below.

Pelham Food Pantry

Pelham Good Neighbors

Nobody's Children - <http://www.nobodyschildren.org/>

Mercy Corp - <http://www.mercycorps.org/>
Habitat for Humanity - <http://www.nashabitat.org>
Oxfam America - <http://www.oxfamamerica.org/>
The Fixit Program for Seniors: <http://www.bm-cap.org/fixit.htm>

The Fixit Program for Seniors

The Fixit Program for Seniors is a wonderful program of volunteers who assist seniors (60 yrs and older) or disabled homeowners with minor home repairs and maintenance. Several of our members have had very positive experiences with this program both as volunteers and clients. The program goal is to help seniors to remain in their homes as long as possible. Please call 1-800-322-1073 ext. 6168 or 603-881-3805 for help or to volunteer as a Mr. or Ms. Fixit. This is a local program that works! Please consider giving your time to help seniors!

Lazarus House

Frank Holden coordinates a group to visit and serve dinner at Lazarus House every second Friday of the month. Anyone interested in helping out can contact Frank (Frank.Holden@analog.com and/or his cell phone 490-8681). Find out more at <http://www.lazarushouse.org>

Acolyte and Greeter Sign-up

Please sign up to be a Greeter or Acolyte. Sign up sheets will be available following service and on the bulletin board between the church and Fellowship Hall. Here is an activity the whole family can participate in!!!!

Diaconate Responsibilities

Just a reminder - The Diaconate is responsible for the worship and spiritual life of our church, the mission budget, care of ill or hospitalized members and a

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regular review of the church membership. If you have any comments, concerns, questions or compliments about the worship service or the church spiritual life, please let us know. Jane Ambargis and Doug Hjorth are the co-chairs. Please free to reach out to them or any member of the Diaconate at services or send email to deacons@pelhamucc.org.

Yours in Christ,
Steve Blanchard

FROM OUR SUPERINTENDENT

We still need Sunday School teachers and co-teachers. If you can volunteer about an hour and half a week of your time and enjoy working with children, please think about volunteering. We will have a meeting before Sunday School starts to provide training.

Calling all Sunday School students. We have missed you this summer and would like to invite you to an end of the summer gathering during church on Sunday August 26. Come visit with your friends, watch a short movie and meet our new pastor. I look forward to seeing you there.

Mark your calendars for Rally Day, September 16, the start of the new Sunday School year.

Cathy Miller

Sunday School Superintendent

STEEPLETOPICS

In just a few weeks, our staff and students will be returning to begin a new school year! I can't believe the summer is almost over! We have been busy downstairs all summer getting things ready for the new school year.

We would like to welcome two new additions to our staff! Patricia Parece will be our new Pre-K/Nursery teacher; Carolyn Thompson will be our new full day Kindergarten assistant teacher. We are very excited that they will be joining our "Steepletop family!"

August 2007

We are continuing to accept registrations for the 2007-2008 school year. If you have a child who will be age 3-5 by September 30th and are interested in enrollment for the Fall, please call the school at (603)635-2100 and leave a message for the Registrar.

Submitted by,
Melanie Surprenant

SUPPORT OLD HOME DAY!

Old Home Day is almost here (September 9th) and we need lots of help between now and then. Can we count on you? The OHD Committee will be meeting next on Thursday, August 2nd. Please stop by and see where

you can best help out!

There is still time to support Old Home Day and be included in our 101st souvenir book under one of the categories below:

Sponsor - \$5 to 24

Benefactor - \$25 to 99

Patron - \$100 or more

All proceeds will be used to offset the costs of Old Home Day and provide support to the community and charitable causes through the First Congregational Church of Pelham (this includes support to many groups and organizations such as the Nashua soup kitchen, Lazarus House, Pelham Good Neighbors Fund, Food Pantry, Nobody's Children, Habitat for Humanity, etc.).

If you would like to help us with a contribution, please fill out the form below and make your check payable to "The First Congregational Church." **Forms, with payment,** may be put in the collection box on Sunday, turned in at the church office or mailed to:

First Congregational Church
Attn Old Home Day
PO Box 847
Pelham, NH 03076

We must receive your form no later than noon on Friday, August 10th, in order to guarantee that your name will appear in this year's ad book.

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Yes, I would like to help support our 101st Old Home Day Ad Book.

Please list me as a:

_____ Sponsor (donation of \$5-\$24)

_____ Benefactor (donation of \$25-\$99)

_____ Patron (donation of \$100 or more)

Name(s) as you would like it to appear in the Ad Book:

Penny Sale

OHD is fast approaching!!!! Just how creative can your family/group be?

Are you and your family/group looking for a special way to help out with Old Home Day? Let your imagination run wild and help OHD at the same time!

How about putting together a gift basket that reflects your family or group's unique interests? Possible themes for the gift baskets are: movie basket (movie w/candy), candle basket, Girl Scout cookies, basket in honor of our troops, bird lover's basket, game night basket, scrap-booking basket, Red Sox/Patriots them basket, fishing basket, or gardening basket. You can also donate a new item or gift certificate.

Your family/group's name will be displayed with the basket or new item at the Penny Sale. Show everyone just how creative you can be!!!! You can drop off donations of gift baskets or new items at the church office beginning on August. 1st. Thanks in advance for making the Penny Sale a hit!!!

Any questions, just call Sandy at 635-8974.

The Blanchard Family

Pies! Pies! Pies!

Can you bake a pie? We need more pies for the Old Home Day supper. Although we purchase pies from the supermarket when we are short, we would really like homemade pies for dessert. It just gives it more of a "church supper" feel. Pies can be dropped off anytime on Friday, September 8th.

August 2007

We will be moving equipment from the barn and setting up on Friday, August 24th at 6 PM and on Saturday, August 25th at 9 AM. If you could give an hour or two to help here, it would be greatly appreciated!

If you have any questions about Old Home Day or would like to help out, you may call the church office at 635-7025, Brenda at 898-2842 or Wally at 635-7607.

WOMEN'S FELLOWSHIP

Women's Fellowship will be meeting on August 2nd at 7 PM. Plans are to continue to work on the crafts projects for our Old Home Day table. We hope to see you there!

COMMUNITY NOTES...

Play Among The Stars Theatre Groupe, Inc. will be hosting their 3rd Annual Country Western BBQ on August 18, 2007- rain or shine at the First Congregational Church, Main Street, Pelham NH. All proceeds go toward paying the transportation and facility costs of our programs with developmentally challenged youth and adults.

SERVING HOT DOGS, SAUSAGE, CHIPS AND SODA FROM NOON TO ONE PM. WHILE DJ DAVE BOIVIN SPINS SOME TUNES.

THEN SERVING MORE VITTLES!

FROM 4PM -5:30PM SERVING CHICKEN, CORN, , BEANS, COLE SLAW, CORN BREAD, BEVERAGE, AND DESSERT--WATERMELON, OF COURSE!

Musical entertainment by the Three Daves, featuring: **Dave Potvin, Dave Chapman, and, "Texas Dave" Hardwick** from 4PM — 8PM.

COST: \$15.00 ADULTS

CHILDREN UNDER SIX YEARS OF AGE: \$7.00

To purchase tickets, please contact:

Alice Longworth @ 603-893-3685

Pat Boivin @ 978-681-8948

Sara Brown @ 207-510-1789

www.playamongthestars.com

church office (603 635-7025) by the 20th of the month. You can also E-mail information to us at office@pelhamucc.org.

If you would like to donate flowers in memory or in honor of someone special on any Sunday, you can sign up for a specific date on the 2007 sign up sheet in the rear hall. The cost is \$25, and Peggy will order them for you from either For Someone Special or Exquisite Flowers. If you have any special request as to the color or style of arrangement, or if you would prefer to order them yourself, please let Peggy know ahead of time. Your payment may be included with your weekly offering. Checks should be made out to the First Congregational Church. Be sure to mark it for "flowers." You may also mail it directly to the church office at PO Box 847, Pelham, NH 03076. A member of our Care Givers Group will try to deliver them to a "shut in" following Sunday's worship.

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OFFICE NOTES...

CHURCH MAIL

Please

remember - when mailing correspondence to the Church, send it to:

PO Box 847

Pelham, New Hampshire 03076

Do not mail it to 2 Nashua Road or 2 Main Street.

The Post office may not deliver it!

If you have something that you would like to have put in CROSSWORD, or if you know of someone who should be mentioned in our First Church People column, please get the information to Peggy Murphy in the