

CROSSWORD

*First Congregational Church of Pelham
United Church of Christ*

Rev. William Ferguson, Pastor
P.O. Box 847 ~ 3 Main Street
Pelham, New Hampshire 03076
603 635-7025 ~ Office@pelhamucc.org

FROM THE PASTOR'S PEN

But the angel said to the women, 'Do not be afraid; I know that you are looking for Jesus who was crucified. He is not here; for he has been raised, as he said. Come, see the place where he lay.' (Matthew 28:5-6)

There seems to be a lot of doom and gloom prognosticators these days. The airways are stuffed with ominous reports, causing discomfort, yes, even fear. Cars that won't stop accelerating, predictions of a worsening economy, angry protests in nearby communities, uselessness in Congress, (it's the Democrat's fault, it's the Republican's fault), reports of cover-ups of Child abuse, violence in homes, are all cries of fear mongers. While some certainly cause great concern and need attention, if one didn't know any better, one could conclude that there is nothing in the world to rejoice over. No, the only action would be to live in fear – at least that's what one could conclude.

However, the church has a different message to share. We say no to the false fear mongers. We say no to the doomsayers. We say no to those who would have us live in fear.

How can we be so sure? How can we live in this world, untouched by the terror of the world? How can we say we don't need to live in fear? How? – Because the tomb was empty!

The Easter proclamation "Jesus is risen!" needs to live on after Easter! In fact, we believe each Sunday is an Easter day! Because the tomb was empty, we no longer have to live in fear because in Christ, we understand it is God's plan that we live not in fear, but with the knowledge of God's grace in Jesus, that nothing can separate us from God's love. Let the prognosticators rant and rave their doom and gloom – we have the risen Christ! Let the angry and hateful spew their venom – we have the risen Christ! Let those who would divide for personal gain try to do their evil – we have the risen Christ! We need not live in fear, but in joy! Because, we live with the assurance of our faith – Christ is risen! That makes all the difference.

RB ~ May 2010

FIRST FOLKS

John Hollinger's mother, **Angie Michaud** died on April 3rd. We send our condolences to **John, Tracy** and their Family.

We also send condolences to **Cheryl & Richard Koch** and their Family on the death of Cheryl's aunt, **Marge Dean**.

Condolences also go to **The Getty Family** on the recent death of **Deb's** grandmother, **Ethel Nutting**, and **Mark's** grandmother, **Mary Bernardi**.

STUDENTS GRADUATING IN MAY, JUNE

If you are graduating this year from High School or College, please contact the church office so we may include you in our special prayers and Moments of Joy during our Worship Service on Children's Day, June 13. E-mail the church office at (office@pelhamucc.org) or Rev Bill at (revbill819@gmail.com)

BARNABUS' CORNER

Barnabus was a disciple who roamed the countryside honoring those who performed anonymous good deeds for the benefit of others. In that spirit, we do likewise.

~**The Harris Family** for their hospitality as we gathered for Easter Sunrise Worship on the grounds of the Pelham Inn.

LET'S CONGRATULATE OURSELVES

There are those occasions when we should be entitled to congratulate ourselves joyfully. We have much to be joyful about here at First Congregational Church of Pelham UCC. On many occasions we talk about "money" issues. This year we have been very fortunate to be on target with our budget due to our member's stewardship faith commitments and our Trustees' good management. It is thrilling to know that we have over 90 pledges for over \$110,000 pledged to the general operating budget of the church. We support all five of the UCC Special Offering opportunities, including Our Church's Wider Mission, Neighbors in Need, Strengthen the Church, One Great Hour of Sharing and the Christmas Fund. Our Mission Committee has presented several hands-on Mission opportunities to serve, including the Pelham Food Pantry, the Lowell Wish Project and the Derry Sonshine Soup Kitchen. We have a successful Sunday School program and Youth Group program and make our church building available for AA and AI-A- Non Meetings, the Animal Rescue Network of New England, the Greeley Singers and several Scouting programs.

We deserve to congratulate ourselves and to thank each other for the mission of outreach and support for First Congregational Church of Pelham United Church of Christ and for this family from which we all receive love and support.

EDUCATIONAL AND SPIRITUAL GROWTH-FORMATION OPPORTUNITIES

A note of thanks for all who attended our Lenten Adult Education Classes on End of Life Issues. I found the classes to be very rewarding with the sense of community we have found together in discussing the different topics throughout the six-week course of study. Topics ranging from Wills and Proxies to Doctor Assisted Suicide brought out concerns and hopes for end of life issues. We thank our guest speakers as well for all they added to the group. Stay tuned for more Adult Education class opportunities.

If anyone has any suggestions on the topics for future classes, please speak with Rev Bill or Karen Frey, Chairperson of our Christian Education Committee.

VIDEO ACCESS AROUND THE WORLD!

We are pleased to now be able to offer the replay of three previous Sunday services that may be viewed anywhere in the world where Internet is available. The current service may be viewed within four days after the Sunday that it was presented and will remain on the web for three weeks. Polly & Pete Bennett's daughter, Lauren, who lives in Australia has E-mailed us to tell us that it looks great there!

To view the services:

1. Go to www.pelhamucc.org
2. Click "Enter" in the lower right side of the page.
3. The Welcome page will appear, one click on "Video" on the left side
4. The video page will appear; click once on the arrow on the service you wish to view.
5. The service will automatically load and begin.
6. To switch to a different service, just click once on the arrow in the center of that video.

Our 10 AM worship service is aired live every Sunday on PTV Channel 22. You can also watch replays on:

Sunday:	8 AM, 10 AM - Live
Monday:	9 PM
Tuesday	5 AM, 3 PM
Wednesday:	9 AM
Thursday:	12 AM, 6 PM
Friday:	11 AM, 7 PM
Saturday:	6 AM

ENDOWMENT COMMITTEE ESTABLISHED

At a Called Church Meeting on Sunday March 28, the members of First Congregational Church voted to adopt a new church By-Law establishing an Endowment Fund Committee for the church. The Committee is responsible to the Board of Trustees and will establish a new and separate fund to be known as THE ENDOWMENT FUND in order to enhance the mission and general operation of the church. THE ENDOWMENT FUND will be funded through bequests in wills, trusts, charitable gift annuities, life insurance assignments and transfers of property (cash, stocks, bonds, real estate, etc.).

IMPORTANCE OF WILLS

Do you have an up-to-date will? If not, you probably should. A will is your way of ensuring your wishes are carried out after you're gone. A will allows you to decide now what should happen to your belongings when you pass away. A will can help you take care of family and loved ones — and the organizations you care about — down the road. Wills need to be reviewed and updated regularly. The death of a spouse or family member is often a reason to review your will. It is best to consider carefully any changes and not make any impulsive or drastic changes immediately following the death of a loved one. Most experts agree it is better to contemplate and consider changes over time. Consult your attorney and trusted friends or family.

The establishment of the new Endowment Fund will allow you to remember your church in your will.

TOWN WIDE YARD SALE JUNE 5, 2010

We are sponsoring a Town Wide Yard Sale on Saturday June 5th from 9:00 AM to 3:00 PM on the church lawn. You are welcome to rent a 12 x 12 foot area to sell your treasures or come and shop for those special bargains you have been looking everywhere to find! Cost for a space rental is \$20 and all proceeds will benefit the General Fund of the church. For more information, contact the church office at 635-7025. If you would like to donate some items for the church space, please speak with Rev. Bill.

This program is available for anyone in town who would like to rent a space. Please spread the word among neighbors and friends.

OLD HOME DAY ~ Sept. 18th!

This month we will be holding our OHD planning meeting on the third Sunday (May 16th) because Mothers' Day is the second Sunday. Anyone who is interested is encouraged to attend. We are still looking for volunteers and ideas to help OHD run more smoothly.

OLD HOME DAY COMMITTEE MEMBERS 2010

OHD Chairmen:

Ron/Debbie Schneider dschneid06@yahoo.com, 978_649_6362

Dan/Marie Murphy dfm7045@comcast.net, 635_7045

Ad Book:

Hal Lynde

hal@rocketmail.com

Auction:

Wally Cibulski

635_7607

Bob Sherman

rsherman57@aol.com, 635_2758

Booths:

Laurie Perrone

978 375-0621 (cell)

Country Store:

Cheryl Koch
635_2505

Dining Room:

Cheryl Andrews cherylandrews@comcast.net 603_566_0987

Doll Carriage/Bike Parade:

Nancy/Dave Webster
635_9585

Electricity:

Frank Tredeau
603_898_1299

Food Tent:

Tom Manners
cjmanners@aol.com, 635_1951

Games:

Denise Duff
deniseduff@comcast.net
603_508_7110

Maryanne Masterson mmfifer@comcast.net, 635_9296

Hot Dog Stand:

Jane Provencal
provencal8@aol.com, 635_2884

Master of Ceremonies:

Doug Hjorth
dhjorth@louisberger.com, 635_3227

Parade:

Tom Seniow
tсениow@mansd.org, 603_898_2842

Penny Sale:

Sandy Blanchard
sandy@blanchard.com, 635_8974

Photography:

Marie Cibulski
635_7607

Pretty Pies:

Rev. Bill
revbill819@gmail.com, 635_2826

Publicity:

Pete Bennett
benprops@comcast.net
603_898_2770

Raffle:

Judy Reid
635_7438

Road Race:

Norman Demers
Nashua Special Olympics

Secretary:

Sue Howard carolynshoward@comcast.net 603_883_7626

Set Up/Break Down:

Dan/Marie Murphy dfm7045@comcast.net, 635_7045

Signs:

Maureen Ferguson

cmsne@comcast.net, 635_2826

Supper:

Scott Andrews cherylandrews@comcast.net 603_566_0987

Website:

Dan Murphy

dfm7045@comcast.net, 635_7045

White Elephant:

Debbie/Ron Schneider ron7249@yahoo.com, 978_649_6362

MISSION NEWS

Your Mission Committee continues to work hard to identify opportunities for our church to share their time, talents, and treasures to make this world a better place. One of our key goals for this year is to provide a variety of hands-on mission opportunities for our congregation to express Christ's love for those less fortunate than us. We are working on a number of different potential and real projects so stay tuned for ones that fit your style. Here are some of those real opportunities that are coming up in the next few months.

Our quarterly **Community Suppers** are gaining momentum and April's was our most successful event yet. We are establishing a standard night for future events; the third Friday of the third month. That would make our next event **Friday, July 16th** and since it will be the "good old summertime" we are thinking of breaking out of the spaghetti bowl and flattening the meatballs and having an outdoor barbecue with perhaps some lawn games for young and old (weather permitting). As usual, the event will be open to the entire community including those in need and all persons and families interested in a fun event. Stay tuned for ways you can help out.

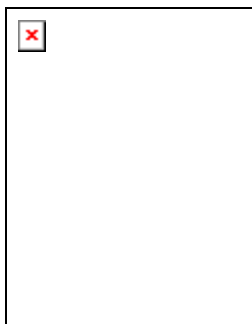
We continue to have strong congregational support for our monthly commitment to help out at the **Lowell Wish Project**. Our next trip to Lowell will be on May 3 and you can either meet us in Lowell at 6 PM, or if you would like to car pool or not sure how to get there, a group of us typically meet in the church parking lot at 5:30 PM. Our first trip to the **Sonshine Soup Kitchen in Derry** on April 13 was a smashing success with a great crew of youngsters and adults helping to serve a meal to those in need. Our next trip to the Soup Kitchen will be on **Tuesday, June 8th**, and we'll meet at the church at 2:30 PM. And we can't forget our support for the **Pelham Food Pantry** in the form of our monthly food and non-perishable donations and our volunteer crew that helps stock shelves and distribute goods. There is a constant need for such items as toilet paper, laundry detergent, and basic hygiene items such as toothbrushes, tooth paste, razors, and soap. Volunteers at the Food Pantry need to be trained, so if you are interested, contact Maureen Ferguson or Alma Healey.

We are also going to sponsor a program called "**Just One Seed**" this summer. The idea is when you plant your vegetable garden this year, plant one seed (or maybe a few) that you dedicate the produce that might come from the seed to the Pelham Food Pantry. We will have a separate bin next to the dry good container in Fellowship Hall for produce from your gardens beginning in June and all produce received will be brought to the Pelham Food Pantry. What a refreshing treat for those who may not be able to afford fresh vegetables or other produce.

On Saturday, June 5, our church will be sponsoring a **Town-Wide Yard Sale**, where maps to promising treasure troves (yard sales) around town will be available for sale and tables will be available for rental at the church common, too. The Mission Committee plans to sell refreshments at the church and any proceeds will go towards missions identified by line items in our annual budget.

The Christian Education Committee will be offering a **Birthday Bash** after worship on Children's **Sunday, June 13**. The concept is to honor everyone's birthday because everyone is special. In keeping with this theme, the Mission Committee is urging everyone to bring an un-wrapped children's gift to the Bash. We will bring all collected "birthday gifts" to **the Nashua Soup Kitchen's New Toy Room**. Parents who may not have enough money to buy gifts can select a gift or two from this room and brighten up their children's birthdays.

As mentioned in need for a during or after worthy causes important that our church's fund raising consecutive seeking to situations. We regard and a "request form" for potential fund raising and other solicitations of non-monetary donations. We will present it at the late April Church Council meeting for discussion and approval. Our goal is only to coordinate church-related donations.



our April CROSSWORD article, we believe there is a written policy regarding fund-raising on Sundays either the worship service. Although there are many very that are in need of financial support, we also think that is fund raising on Sunday be connected in some way to ministry. We also are cognizant that having multiple events on the same Sunday or during multiple Sundays can be disconcerting to some, and we are coordinate our fund raising events to avoid such have developed a proposed policy statement in this

**Respectfully submitted,
Doug Hjorth**

TRUSTEES' CORNER

As Trustees, we always breathe a sigh of relief in April when snow plowing is just a memory, heating bills are noticeably smaller, and spring cleaning begins. Many thanks are in order to the enthusiastic group who scrubbed away the effects of winter both inside and outside our church home on Spring Cleanup Day. A few outdoor painting and window re-glazing tasks remain which require warmer and drier weather.

Finances are still on track so far this year thanks to your pledges and successful fund-raising events earlier this year. The Endowment Committee by-law changes were adopted at our Congregational Meeting in March and several volunteers stepped forward to serve on the committee. The Trustees feel the establishment of an Endowment Fund is a major step toward improving the financial health of the church and we look forward to the committee's recommendations.

There are several larger maintenance projects to do around the church and parsonage. We would like to get started on some of these projects soon so they can be completed before next winter. We feel these projects are currently the highest priorities:

Repair Parking Lot Drain Grate – The pavement surrounding the grate over the parking

lot drain started shifting and settling over the last few years so the area was roped off as a safety precaution. The project will remove, raise and reset the drain grate and re-pave around it so the ropes can be removed. Cost \$1500 - \$2000

Replace the Front Double Door of the Church – The double doors on the Main Street entrance to the church are sagging on their hinges so they don't close and seal properly and are very difficult to lock. They also are not insulated and contribute to high heating costs. The Narthex and the adjacent part of the Sanctuary get very cold in the winter. The project will replace the doors and all the hardware. Cost \$3500 - \$4000

Most of the funding for these kinds of projects comes from your Building Fund envelope donations. If you wish to target a donation toward these projects just indicate it on your Building Fund envelope or on your check. We appreciate your continued generosity.

Respectfully submitted by Dan Murphy for the Trustees (Angele, Denise, Donna, John, Tom & Pete)

FROM THE DIACONATE

May's Devotional

O God, perhaps without realizing it, I've been longing for intentional time alone with you. Funny, I never thought about how much you might have actually missed me, too. I don't want to wait until a crisis brings us together. Help me set aside five intentional minutes . . . today. I love you. Amen.

Here are some highlights from the April Diaconate meeting:

Holy Week and Easter services were fabulous and enjoyed by all! We received many positive comments regarding the services. 83 people attended Easter

From The Diaconate contd.

Sunrise and 262 for the 10AM service!

The Diaconate will hold the second Acolyte training session on May 2nd.

Our handicap parking will be moving to the east side of the church by the wheelchair ramp entrance. New "visitor" parking spaces will also be marked.

The Diaconate and the Trustees are discussing options to make the sanctuary more accessible for those with physical challenges as well as rockers for new mothers.

Transportation to Church Needed? If anyone has a need for transportation to church or a church function (e.g. church dinners/suppers), please contact the church office or a Deacon.

Prayer List

Please help us keep the prayer list current. You may contact Rev Bill or Peggy to let them know when someone needs to be added or removed from the list or needs a visit or call from Rev Bill.

Worship Coordinators & Greeters

The Worship Coordinators for May are Donna Clark and Harmony Campbell.

Our greeters for May will be members of this year's Confirmation class.

Our next Diaconate meeting is Tuesday, May 11th at 7PM. Please feel free to drop by if you are interested in attending and would like to learn more about the Diaconate. As always, please feel free to contact a member of the Diaconate with any questions, comments, or suggestions. Diaconate Co-Chairs Judy Boucher and Bob Diack can be reached at ja_boucher@comcast.net and bdiack@cio.com.

CHRISTIAN EDUCATION

We hope everyone enjoyed the Heifer Fair held on April 18th. The teachers and children worked hard on their projects and raised \$147.00 which will be donated to the Heifer Project. Thank you for all of your donations! A special thank you to Brenda Seniow for bringing in her goats and chickens to share with us.

Please check out the Horton Center website for summer camp information and to register. Horton Center offers several different weeks and activities for all ages. Their website is www.hortoncenter.org

Children's Sunday will be on **June 13th**. Please watch for more information in next month's CROSSWORD.

Sunday School Schedule

May 2nd: Sunday School/Communion Sunday
Food Pantry Donations
May 9th: No Sunday School
May 16th: Sunday School
May 23rd: Sunday School/Confirmation Sunday
May 30th: One Room Schoolhouse

There will be **no Sunday School on Mother's Day, May 9th**. Please celebrate Mother's Day by bringing your Mom to church!

This month our bulletin board in Fellowship Hall will be decorated by our 7/8th grade Sunday School class.

**Respectfully submitted,
Sandy Blanchard
Christian Education Board**

WOMEN'S FELLOWSHIP

Bake Sale

Women's Fellowship will hold a Bake Sale on Sunday, May 2nd, to benefit our mission projects. Please come - stock up on goodies for yourself and your family. Don't forget Mothers' Day! See you there.

Blankets & Tools Sunday

Every year, Women's Fellowship and our church support this Church World Service project. CWS brings blankets and tools to people who have suffered from disasters. There will be one collection only this year on Mothers' Day, May 9th. You may use the special envelopes in the bulletin to donate; there will be greeting cards available to give to a loved one, telling them of your gift in their honor. Please consider supporting this worthwhile project that helps so many people.

Women's Fellowship's next meeting will be held on Tuesday, May 25th, at 7 PM in the parlor. We will be telling Family History stories together. Please come and share in fellowship with us. Coffee and dessert are always on the agenda, too!

Cheryl Koch

UNITED CHURCH OF CHRIST NEWS

Even before the UCC officially launched its new viral marketing message, The Language of God, leaked links to the video had become so popular that YouTube froze the view count on the message, thinking significant traffic was computer generated and not legitimate viewing. "This is disappointing as we'd hoped to use the view count as an indicator of how broadly the video had been distributed," said the Rev. J. Bennett Guess, the UCC's director of communications. "On the plus side, it's exciting to know that we generated so much traffic that YouTube flagged our video."

YouTube's policy, limiting the incrementing of a video's view counter, has been broadly criticized for penalizing popular items that attain rapid success. Their suspicion is that videos attaining such rapid popularity are being viewed by "viewbots" – automated programs that view a given video multiple times.

Although the UCC initially spread the YouTube link through Twitter and its Facebook fan and email newsletter lists, they have now begun directing viewers to the same video posted at Vimeo, another video sharing service that does not have view count restrictions.

In the first hour after switching its links to Vimeo, the view count had registered in excess of 2,000 plays. Guess estimates the initial YouTube launch may have generated tens of thousands of views. The UCC is currently working to obtain an accurate count from YouTube.

Reaction to the fast_paced, visually stimulating video has been positive. YouTube viewer, Revkirk, commented, "I've watched about a dozen times already. Each time I think my heart beats faster and my smile gets wider."

The viral launch of this message has garnered national attention, with front_page headlines in the Cleveland Plain Dealer and prominent blog features in the Huffington Post and the Washington Post.

"If only one person sees this message and understands that God is as relevant today as in any age, we've succeeded in our efforts," said Guess. "Of course, we know that it has already reached many more and believe it will challenge us to consider how the Christian message

continues to be meaningful today."

“UCC Leaders Applaud Presidential Order On Patient Visitation”Written by Gregg Brekke

UCC leaders have issued a statement following President Obama's order requiring hospitals that receive Medicare and Medicaid to allow patients to designate visitors and respect durable power of attorney directives.

General Minister and President, the Rev. Geoffrey A. Black, the Rev. Michael Schuenemeyer, executive in the UCC's Office for Health and Wholeness Advocacy, and Sandy Sorenson, director of the UCC's Washington D.C. Office, issued the joint statement Friday afternoon, 4-16. Citing proclamations of the UCC's General Synod, the leaders expressed solidarity with today's announcement while encouraging continued work for anti_discrimination policies.

THE UCC HAS BIG PLANS! (YOU!)

Last October, Rev Felix Carrion, Coordinator for the Still Speaking Ministry of the UCC, traveled across the country speaking with several Pastors, including Rev Bill here in Pelham, to develop new means of communications of the mission of the United Church of Christ. On Friday, April 16th at 9 AM, the United Church of Christ Still Speaking Ministry launched a new powerful video spot on the Internet.

At first the video message was delivered to tens of thousands— by email, through Internet ads, and posts to social networks. Then as the day unfolded, “God Is Still Speaking” swept the Internet like a mighty wave—reaching millions!

Go to <http://www.ucc.org/god-is-still-speaking/april-16.html>. Watch it. Let it sink in. Then share it on social network sites like Facebook. Send the email link by email to family, friends, co-workers, and church members, inviting them to watch it and share it with others. Thanks to you and countless others, millions have received a counter-cultural message about a Still-speaking God—a word of inclusion, justice, and welcome.

THANK YOU

Dear Bill,

On behalf of the NHC UCC and our OCWM Committee, THANKS for your congregation's generosity - a clear sign of vitality!

Please present this certificate with flourish! Celebrate generosity.

Rev. David C. Williams

PRAYER OF GOD'S BLESSINGS

May today there be peace within you.
May you trust God that you are exactly where you are meant to be.
May you not forget the infinite possibilities that are born of faith.
May you use those gifts that you have received.
May you pass on the love that has been given to you.
May you be content knowing that you are a child of God.
May you let His presence settle in your bones.
May you have the freedom to sing, dance, and to bask in the sun.
May you accept God's blessings every day.
