

CROSSWORD

*First Congregational Church of Pelham
United Church of Christ*

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PASTOR'S MESSAGE

"We have been the recipients of the choicest bounties of heaven; we have been preserved these many years in peace and prosperity; we have grown in numbers, wealth and power as no other nation has grown.

But we have forgotten God. We have forgotten the gracious hand, which preserved us in peace and multiplied and enriched and strengthened us, and we have vainly imagined, in the deceitfulness of our hearts, that all these blessings were produced by some superior wisdom and virtue of our own.

Intoxicated with unbroken success we have become too self-sufficient to feel the necessity of redeeming and preserving grace too proud to pray to the God that made us.

It has seemed to me fit and proper that God should be solemnly, reverently and gratefully acknowledged, as with one heart and one voice, by the whole of the American people. I do therefore invite my fellow citizens in every part of the United States, and also those who are at seas and those who are sojourning in foreign lands, to set apart and observe the last Thursday of November as a day of Thanksgiving and praise to our beneficent Father who dwelleth in the heavens."

President Abraham Lincoln's 1863 Thanksgiving Proclamation

This simple call to come together for one day to honor and thank God established Thanksgiving as a national Holiday. Thanksgiving is my particular favorite holiday, because of the gathering of family and loved ones even for a short time. Thanksgiving, for the most part, has not been truly able to be as commercialized as other holidays, I suggest, because of the simpleness of the idea that we come together to give thanks and praise to God.

Set the day apart to give thanks for your "bounty" from God. Robert N. Rodenmayer says there are three kinds of giving. "There are three kinds of giving: grudge giving, duty giving and thanksgiving. Grudge giving says, "I have to"; duty giving says, "I ought to"; and thanksgiving says, "I want to." The latter comes from a full heart. Thanksgiving is an open gate into the love of God."

*Happy Thanksgiving.
Rev. Bill*

FIRST FOLKS

WELCOME TO OUR NEWEST MEMBERS!

On Sunday October 4, the First Congregational Church of Pelham welcomed four new members into the full life and membership of our church. We welcome **Ronald Messina, Mildred and Warren Leuteritz, and Marie Mizerek** officially into our family of faith. Please seek them out and extend them a personal welcome!

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.

~**Youth Fellowship members** who joined with the Mission Committee to host last month's Free Spaghetti Dinner. We are so proud of our young people!

~**Shawn Duggan and Steve Blanchard** for re-working the church website.

GETTING TO KNOW YOU!

We appreciate the support we have received from many for the use of our new Welcome Books in worship. The Welcome Books allow us to follow up with visitors to our church, and they also enable you to greet those who share your pew by name after the worship service. Even if you are a long-time member of First Congregational Church, we encourage you to sign the Welcome Books.

As we gather again this fall, we also hope that you will wear your name tag on Sunday mornings. This will allow us to get to know the members of our church family, and it might even help you to get to know some new faces, too. We encourage both members and regular attendees to wear name tags. The Deacons will be happy to have a name tag made for you if you need one.

ADULT BIBLE STUDY— UNCOMMON MEN OF THE BIBLE

A new adult Bible study class will begin the first week of November as we turn our attention to learning about some of the lesser known men in the Bible. We will gather in the parlor and are open to old friends and newcomers alike. No previous Bible study experience is necessary to participate in Bible study at First Congregational Church.

We will explore lives filled with betrayal, deception, rejection, jealousy, and exploitation, learn of men with exceptional boldness, courage, determination, and independence. We will delve into the stories of men such as Absalom, Achan, Naaman and Stephen. In our exploration, we will seek to answer these questions:

Who are these men?

What do their actions mean?

Do their actions make them sinners or saints?

What do their stories mean to us today?

This Bible study will be eye-opening, fun, and challenging for both men and women alike. Readings taken from "Men of the Bible" will be available for each class. If you have any questions about this upcoming study, please contact Rev Bill in the church office or by e-mailing revbill819@gmail.com.

We will meet November 5th, 12th and 19th at 7 PM. Please pick up your reading materials from Rev. Bill before the first session.

DEAL A MEAL UPDATE

I just had my “Deal A Meal” dinner! If you haven’t scheduled yours yet, you should! It’s such a wonderful experience, especially if Tamara Pikulik is your “Chef Of The Day.” We had a wonderful time and became better acquainted. The dinner was Japanese cuisine. Delicious!

Now I can’t wait for our next “Deal A Meal.”

Jean Robarge

COMMON SENSE STEPS TO HELP PREVENT THE FLU...

Wash your hands often... hand sanitizer will be available at the entrances to the sanctuary. If you or a family member are sick, please stay at home and get well. We’ll keep you in our prayers.

If you do not feel comfortable shaking hands, simply keep your hands to your side and offer a warm verbal greeting. We will understand. It is perfectly natural to do this, especially during the flu season.

Our Deacons will take special care to ensure that communion is carefully prepared and served. Take care of and watch out for your neighbors and friends. When we are sick it is nice to know that someone is watching out for us. A bowl of chicken soup would be a nice gesture. Remember to cover that cough or sneeze, and please don’t leave used tissues in the pews. Take care of yourself—body, mind, and soul. Vigilant hand-washing, lots of fluids and plenty of rest will help protect you against the flu this season.

If you have needs, please make Rev. Bill or the Deacons aware of them.

PASTORAL VISITS

Our pastor is available to visit with you upon your request. If you would like Rev. Bill to call upon you at home, or if you would like to meet with him at the church office, please do not hesitate to call the church to make an appointment. Rev. Bill makes regular hospital calls and nursing home visits. Please keep the church office informed of members and friends who might appreciate a visit.

FROM THE DIACONATE

Even though we have had some recent cold days (and even snowflakes!), our church remains warm and inviting with many activities to bring and keep the community together! Spaghetti Suppers, Pot Lucks....yum! As the colder weather sets in, take the opportunity to visit a Nursing Home and spread some cheer to the residents who so love visits from anyone to discuss anything.

May everyone have a safe and enjoyable Thanksgiving!

Here are some highlights from the October Diaconate meeting:

- Stay tuned for details regarding the Thanksgiving Ecumenical Service;
- The activities related to Sunday Hospitality have been documented and are being reviewed; we have several church members interested in participating;
- The Senior High Youth Group might be able to offer assistance to our seniors on Sundays at the church entrances; this will be discussed with them.

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 November are Deb Schneider and Donna Clark. Our greeters for November will be members of the Stewardship Committee.

Our next Diaconate meeting is Tuesday, November 10 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.

CARING MINISTRY

Have you heard about the Caring Ministry? The Board of Deacons is gathering a list of volunteers for the following teams: transportation, meals, calls to new moms, prayer chain, prayer shawl ministry, lay visitation, and bereavement support. We need your help to reach out to those in need, though. Please contact the church office if you or someone you know might appreciate a visit.

NOVEMBER HAPPENINGS

WARM FUZZY CLOTHING DRIVE SUNDAY, NOVEMBER 8th

We will be accepting good warm winter clothing for our WARM FUZZY CLOTHING DRIVE for area shelters. As you clean out your closets and prepare for winter, we thank you for your generosity remembering those who are not as fortunate as we are as winter approaches.

FAMILY FELLOWSHIP EVENT CHILI AND CHOWDER COOK OFF ~ SATURDAY, NOVEMBER 14th, 6-8 PM

We have added a new category to our Chili Contest this year. We are inviting our Chowder cooks to share their favorite recipes with us and compete to see who wins the Blue Ribbon! This event has always been a popular night of fun and fellowship and we hope you make it a part of your Family time with church friends and family. If you would like to sign up for the Contest, please add your name to the list in Fellowship Hall. This is a Pot-Luck Dinner, so please feel free to bring dinner to share!

HANGING OF THE GREENS NOVEMBER 28 6:00 P.M.

Join us as we decorate the church for Advent and Christmas as we gather for the HANGING OF THE GREENS. There is a lot of work to be done to get the sanctuary and church ready! Join us for a wonderful opportunity to prepare for the season. Donations of Gingerbread and Cocoa would be awesome!

most. Perhaps because of the rain, and therefore the smaller than usual crowd, we got to know each other better. What a gift September 12, 2009 gave to Old Home Day workers!

As November nears, I'm more aware of blessings. The Raffle Tent helpers: Orlene Hagedorn, Diane Molloy, Pam Tepolt, and Sharon Hone, are terrific!

Two of this year's winners donated their prizes to our church. Sandi Grant won and donated a \$75.00 Gift Certificate for Pelham Building Supply, and John Spottiswood won and donated a \$25.00 Gift Card to Sam's Club. Unexpected generosity!

The Raffle Tent was visited many times during the day by a young boy who had purchased one ticket, hoping to win the Wii system at 5 PM. As the day progressed, he decided the other prizes weren't so bad. He was polite, respectful, optimistic, a joy. We looked forward to his visits. If I could have found his ticket, I would have magically produced it at 5:00. Maybe that's why I'm not allowed to pick!

Until next year-
Judy Reid

NYASS - WHAT IS IT???

Beginning on Sunday, November 15th, and each month thereafter, NYASS or **Not Your Average Sunday School** will be held. What is NYASS? It is a discussion group for teens, from 10th grade up. The meetings will take place at 10 am in the parlor during church service time; teens are encouraged to come, invite a friend, have breakfast, relax and discuss issues related to their daily lives. Members of the group will ultimately determine the topics of discussion, but some that are being considered include stress, maintaining integrity, family issues, making difficult choices, death, current events, the options are limitless.

Yes it is Sunday morning..... so pajamas will be accepted. Come join us, give it a try, you may be pleasantly surprised. For more information contact, RB, Mrs. Oxner or Mrs. Ferguson.

WOMEN'S FELLOWSHIP

Look for our **SERRV Sale** on November 8th. Fair Trade items make wonderful Christmas presents - a gift for your loved ones, plus a gift of employment to those people - mostly in 3rd world countries - who make these beautiful things. Stop by after worship and see these treasures.

We will participate in the **St. Patrick's Craft Fair** on November 14th. Look for us there!

Our regular meeting will be November 17th (not the usual 4th Tuesday). We have a special **"Thanksgiving Surprise"** for our program. Come and bring a friend.

On Sunday, November 22nd, we will have a **Bake Sale**. This is the Sunday before Thanksgiving, a good time to supplement your menu for family gatherings. Save yourself some time baking - we've baked for you!

Cheryl Koch

CHRISTIAN EDUCATION

We hope you all enjoyed our annual Halloween celebration this year! We'd like to offer a special Thank You from the CE committee to the teens that helped with the party. We really appreciate your excellent help: we couldn't do it without you!

Here are the winners of the candy jar contests - Congratulations!

Pumpkin jar - tootsie rolls: Mikayla Patterson

Moon vase - tootsie rolls : Clara Duff-Marsh

Reese's pieces: : Victor Masterson

If anyone is interested in working with the CE board, Rev Bill, and our Sunday School students, and taking on the role of our CE Superintendent, providing support for our great Sunday School program, the children and the teachers, please contact the Nominating Committee, or any member of the CE committee. Your support is truly needed, and will be appreciated!

Or, if you'd prefer to contribute in another way, we are still in need of co-teachers. Just let us know. Our teachers would love the support!

Please check out the Bulletin Board area located in Fellowship Hall. Each month, one Sunday School class will be decorating the board, with a little peek into who they are and what they do in class. For November, the PreK/Kindergarten class will be decorating the board.

NOVEMBER CE CALENDAR

Nov. 1 st :	Communion Sunday and Sunday School: Please bring Food Pantry donations
Nov. 8 th :	Sunday School.
Nov. 15 th :	Sunday School.
Nov. 22 nd :	Sunday School.
	Teacher meeting after church
Nov. 29 th :	Thanksgiving Sunday No Sunday School.

Blessings.

Karen Dorman - CE committee

STEEPLETOPICS

The children have had a busy month of October with Picture Day, the Fundraiser, Parent/Teacher Conferences and of course our fun Halloween parties and parades. We hope you all had a safe trick or treat!

In November the children will have a lot to be thankful for. There will be no school on November 11th (Veteran's Day). The children will be enjoying a feast with the arrival of the Pilgrims and the Indians. Steepletop will be closed in observance of the holiday from November 25-27.

Steepletop has been offering a computer class for kids run by Imagine Tomorrow. If you are interested in signing your child up please contact Imagine Tomorrow at (603)898-3300.

We are continuing to accept registrations for the 2009-2010 school year. If you have a child who will be 3 years old by December 31st or has turned 4-5 years old by September 30th and are interested in enrollment, please call the school at (603)635-2100 and leave a message for the

Registrar.

Melanie Surprenant

CALLING ALL SINGERS!

We're doing a new thing to celebrate Christ's birth- a **Christmas Cantata!** It will be performed during the December 20, 2009 church service while our youth portray the scenes of the Nativity story. If you sing- even a little- please consider joining us. Rehearsals will be on Sundays from 11:45 a.m. until 1 p.m. and begin on Sunday November 8, 2009. Do you know someone who isn't a regular church-goer who likes to sing? Please invite them to join us.

If you have any questions, please contact music director Tom Seniow at 603 898-2842 or e-mail tсениow@mansd.org.

COMMUNITY NOTES...

CHRISTMAS CRAFT FAIR

St. Patrick Parish is hosting its annual **Olde Fashioned Christmas Craft Fair** in their Parish Center on November 14th and 15th. There will be crafts, home baked goods and raffles. Our own Women's Fellowship will be hosting a craft table there. This will be a good opportunity to get a jump start on your holiday shopping!

PELHAM GOOD NEIGHBOR FUND 40TH ANNIVERSARY

The Pelham Good Neighbor Fund was established in 1969 by residents who wanted to help their Neighbors In Need at Christmas with food, clothing and toys, so they organized a food and donation drive in front of Purity Supreme at the Pelham Plaza with the help of the American Legion, Veterans of Foreign Wars and members of the fire department who collected the donations. Other organizations who later got involved with the Annual Christmas Drive included the St. Patrick Knights of Columbus, Pelham Lions and Leo Club and the Boys Scouts. The Pelham Good Neighbor Fund expanded their program year round to include heat, electricity, food, rent and other household expenses. In 1991, the Pelham Good Neighbor Fund established the Sponsor-a-Child program to help families who needed assistance in providing Christmas gifts for their children. Since the program began, over 1100 children have received boots, clothing and toys. We recently held our sixteenth annual golf tournament which is run by a separate committee comprised of business people and residents in town. We also receive donations throughout the year from businesses, organizations, schools, churches, families and individuals. Since we are a non-profit charitable organization, all donations are tax deductible. These donations have made it possible to provide financial assistance to our Pelham residents for household expenses, the food pantry, an annual scholarship for a high school senior to attend college, financially supported a women's and men's shelter. In the last twelve years, we have coordinated the Annual Food Drive with the Post Office for St. Patrick Food Pantry. There are fourteen active members who meet on a regular basis. We are all volunteers who are dedicated and committed to helping our less fortunate residents in Pelham where 100% of the donations goes back into the community. We have helped over 2000 families in the last forty years. Our slogan is **People Helping People** and that has certainly been our experience in good times as well as bad times in the town of Pelham. In celebration of our 40th Anniversary, the Pelham Good Neighbor Fund committee will be hosting their 40th Anniversary Celebration with a Dinner/Dance at the Harris Pelham Inn on Friday, November 6, 2009. The tickets are

\$40.00 each with cocktails at 6:00pm and dinner at 7:00pm. There will be a raffles and door prizes. If you would to donate something for the raffles and door prizes or purchase a ticket, please contact Deb Peglow at 893-5472 or Frank Sullivan at 204-5299. For more information about the Pelham Good Neighbor Fund, please visit us at www.pelhamgoodneighborfund.org.