



# CROSSWORD

FIRST CONGREGATIONAL CHURCH OF PELHAM  
UNITED CHURCH OF CHRIST

Volume XXIII, Issue 2 February 2011

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## FROM THE PASTOR'S PEN

Dear Friends,

As we enter the month of February, I remain so pleased with the recent number of people who have joined us as full members of the First Congregational Church of Pelham, United Church of Christ. On the first Sunday in February, we will be welcoming 19 new members into our church community! Some have been with us for a while, others are relatively new, but all are excited about adding their presence and their hearts to our church home.

As we all met last month at our new members meeting, I couldn't help but wonder and marvel at the paths people lead to make the commitment and decision to join the church. As we listened to various stories from around the table, people told a bit of their journeys;

- One told of attending church as a child and young adult, then drifted off as many do during college years and early adulthood, then came to find us as she searched for a church that values children and young people in its ministry.
- Others spoke of their faith evolving from strict theological doctrinarian that allowed little room for others in their own interpretations of Jesus' love for all people.
- Others spoke of searching the web to find a church that accepts the title of Open and Affirming, and in fact, lives up to the title in its worship and practice.
- And others were attracted to the church as a stable spiritual influence with wonderful lay and pastoral leadership.

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At the end of Matthew's Gospel, Jesus gave his disciples the Great Commission, to *"Go therefore and make disciples of all nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit, and teaching them to obey everything that I have commanded you. And remember, I am with you always, to the end of the age."* Making disciples involves welcoming and inviting people to come and know what we claim to know, that in our faith, God is with us and in His teachings, Jesus leads us to serve others. In my heart I believe that the call to membership in this church of Christ speaks to our faith and practice that all are welcome! That very same commissioning that Jesus gave his disciples is alive and thriving here in Pelham!

**God Bless.**  
**Rev Bill**

NEW and improved!

A common advertising slogan that goes to the belief that some think that new is better simply because it is new. How many times have we discovered that that theory is not necessarily true? We can all think of things we have lost over time by being replaced with the new, and while we would not give up all of the new stuff, we wish we could have held onto some of the

things we replaced as well.

New isn't bad automatically, either. If it were, we would not allow things to change as much or as quickly as they have. God does new stuff too. Isaiah 43:19 *"Behold, I will do something new, now it will spring forth; will you not be aware of it? I will even make a roadway in the wilderness, Rivers in the desert."* It would be good for us to remember that God does renew hearts, renews covenants, renews creation, all promising a new heaven and a new earth, so new isn't automatically bad either.

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## FIRST FOLKS



OSSES

**Mildred Dudevoir** died on January 9<sup>th</sup>. Her funeral was held in the sanctuary on January 14<sup>th</sup>. We send our condolences to her family.

We also send condolences to **Dick and Cheryl Koch** and their family on the January 11<sup>th</sup> death of Dick's brother, **Jim Koch**.

Condolences also to **Alma Healey** on the death of her sister-in-law, **Dolores Hargreaves**, on January 11<sup>th</sup>.

Condolences also go to the **Mizerek family** on the death of Marie's mother.

### CELEBRATIONS

On January 16<sup>th</sup> we celebrated the baptism of **Olivia Janet Wambui Kamau**, daughter of **Jessica Chadwick** and **Edwin Kambau**, great grand-daughter of **Fran Chadwick**. Congratulations to Olivia and her family.

### GET WELL SOON!

Get well wishes to **Don Hornbeck** who is back home recovering from surgery.

We also send get well wishes to **Dick Whiting** who is currently a patient at Wingate Nursing Home in Brighton, MA.

**Sandie Ellis** is recovering from a broken wrist, the result of a fall on the ice. We hope you are feeling better, Sandie!



## FROM THE DIACONATE

### February's Devotional

*Jesus, you are our friend and our judge. Help us to find blessing and correction by relating to you fully as both. Amen.*

Here are some highlights from the January Diaconate meeting:

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- A HUGE THANK YOU to Scott Andrews for his incredible craftsmanship with our new lectern!! It is beautiful and so complementary to the pulpit on the opposite side.
- Please make all announcements from the lectern instead of the open floor. The mobile red carpeted stairs onto the church apron have been removed so that all traffic is routed to the right and left side stairs.
- We have approximately 17 new members joining our church in February! Awesome news!
- We are encouraging ALL congregational members to wear their name tags on Sundays as we have many new faces that would like to know who you are.

The Greeter Schedule for 2011 is as follows:

January: Board of Trustees  
February: Mission Committee  
March: Pastor Parish Committee  
April: Board of Diaconate  
May: Confirmands  
June: Women's Fellowship  
July: Music Committee

August: Congregational Volunteers  
September: New Members  
October: Stewardship Committee  
November: Board of Christian Education  
December: Board of Diaconate

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 February are Donna Clark and Harmony Campbell. Our greeters are members of the Mission Committee.

Our next Diaconate meeting is Tuesday, February 15<sup>th</sup> 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 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.



## ENDOWMENT COMMITTEE

The hymn "O Day of God, Draw Nigh" includes the phrase *"...and finely build for days to come, foundations that endure..."*

Spiritual foundations are the rock upon which our faith is built for everlasting life. Before you leave this bountiful earth to live in God's eternal glorious heaven, consider that you might help construct a lasting financial foundation for the future generations of this Congregational Church. Your participation here need not cease. An endowment gift will strengthen the future ability of this church to continue our mission outreach, assisting others in building foundations, too.

### Endowment Potluck Supper

On February 19<sup>th</sup> at 6 PM the Endowment Committee is sponsoring a potluck supper. After eating, we will hear from Attorney Mary Howie of Salem, who will talk briefly about wills and other forms of endowments. No tax advice or legal advice will be offered, only general information about end-of-life planning and endowment issues. Join us for communion of casseroles and good eating! Please bring your favorite food to share. A sign-up sheet will be found in Fellowship Hall. Even if you don't sign-up, come anyway! The more the merrier!



## PLEDGE ENVELOPES

Our offering envelopes for 2011 are available. Please pick up your box the next time you are at church. They are in Fellowship Hall.

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## MISSION COMMITTEE

A focus of the Mission Committee this past year has been identifying



hands on mission opportunities that emphasize the giving of our time and talents. Our latest program is "Mission Possible," where individuals, families, and small groups of people can provide help to those who may need it on a schedule that works for them. Types of help that participants may offer is likely to vary, ranging from doing yard work, baking cookies, providing a hot meal during difficult times, driving persons to appointments if they are unable to drive, providing a sympathetic ear when someone is going through a difficult time, providing relief for persons caring for family members, and making minor home repairs for those who may not be able to do so on their own. The sign-up sheet for Mission Possible is still posted, so if you have an interest in helping someone in the local area who may be in need, this is your chance. We have already connected folks who would like to serve with persons in need and will be looking to make additional connections in February. We will be looking to make more matches in February. Feel free to discuss this program with any member of the Mission Committee.

We'd like to thank the congregation for their strong support of the January totally free spaghetti supper. In spite of a morning snow storm, we had lots of available help for the supper and served about 45 guests. Our next spaghetti supper will be in April. As you all must realize, this supper is not totally free, but we will not accept any donations on the night of the supper. However, if anyone would like to donate spaghetti or spaghetti sauce, or monetary contributions for perishable food purchases, we would be more than happy to accept them. Please let anyone on the Mission Committee know if you would like to make such a donation or place monetary donations in a separate envelope marked "spaghetti supper." Our next free spaghetti supper will be on Friday, April 15 (the third Friday of the third month).

Over the past few months we have been exploring possibilities for becoming involved in some manner with the Nashua Chapter of Habitat for Humanity. They hope to begin work on another house in Hudson sometime this spring. This seems to be an ideal time for us to gauge the level of interest of our church in providing work crews to assist in providing housing for those in need. We will keep you posted about when work on this house is scheduled to begin and try to put together some Saturday work crews to help with this very worthy cause.

The needs at the Pelham Food Pantry remain exceedingly strong. Canned fruits, vegetables (except pumpkin), meat, fish, toiletries, and toilet paper remain in constant demand.

Respectfully submitted;  
*Doug Hjorth*



## Christian Education

### Sunday School Schedule

February 6<sup>th</sup> Sunday School/Communion  
Sunday  
February 13<sup>th</sup> Sunday School  
February 20<sup>th</sup> One room Schoolhouse/Start of  
School Vacation  
February 27<sup>th</sup> Sunday School

The Christian Education Board is pleased to report the continued strong attendance at our Sunday School. And the New Year has brought new families to add to our School family.

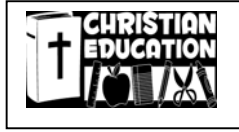
On Thursday February 3 at 7PM, the CE Board is sponsoring a follow-up discussion night to our "Parents of Teens" evening. This will be an opportunity for those who attended the "Parents of Teens" moderated discussion to talk

among themselves about techniques that have or have not been effective with teens and preteens. Please look for the the signup poster in Fellowship Hall.

On Sunday February 6 please support our youth groups by patronizing the Super Bowl Sub and

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Chili sale. The funds raised by our youth groups will go to offset the costs of the Senior High Mission Trip and the Junior High Trip to Heifer Farm.



Sunday February 20<sup>th</sup> is the first Sunday of the school vacation week. There will be a One Room Schoolhouse program for all the children in Pre-K through grade 4. Older grades are invited to help the younger children with the craft of the day.

Rev. Bill is looking for input regarding the Adult Bible Study program: what days and times work for most participants? what topics would you be interested in? Please look for signup sheet in Fellowship Hall.

Upcoming events: Lent begins on Ash Wednesday March 9. The CE Board will sponsor a Lenten Workshop on Sunday March 20 to instruct the Sunday School children in the traditions and practices of Lent.

The CE Board wishes to thank Sandy Blanchard and Nancy Webster for their dedicated service to education of the children of our church. Their terms expired at the end of January and they will be very missed! If you have any interest in serving on the CE Board please see any member of the Nominating Committee or the CE Board.

Respectfully submitted,  
*Maryanne Masterson*  
CE Board



## STEEPLETOPICS

We have had quite a snowy month this past January. However the children have been very busy using their fine motor skills with paper, scissors, glue, crayons, etc. They will continue their efforts in the month of February as they will be making Valentines and other crafts related to that holiday in preparation for parties that will take place. Even with the snow days all have settled back in to their daily routines.

Our parent conferences took place at the end of January. Coming up is our vacation which will take place February 21<sup>st</sup> through February 25<sup>th</sup>.

In February we are starting our registration process for the school year 2011-2012. If you have a child who will be 3 years old as of December 31<sup>st</sup> or 4 -5 by September 30<sup>th</sup> please see our website [www.steepletop.com](http://www.steepletop.com) . We are offering 2-day, 3- day and 5-day preschool programs as well as Kindergarten. You may also call the school at 603-635-2100.

Lastly, we would like to take this opportunity to thank Melanie Surprenant and Michelle Vecchiarello for their hard work on the Steepletop board last year.

***Steepletop Board Committee***



## WOMEN'S FELLOWSHIP

On Sunday, Feb. 13, we will hold our **Valentine's Day Bake Sale**. Come and buy some goodies for a special someone – or for yourself! Proceeds, as always, go to our mission projects.

At our monthly meeting on Tuesday, Feb. 22, we will assemble **Hygiene Kits for Church World Service**. These are sent to people in areas suffering from disasters, violence, and poverty. They can mean the difference between sickness and health for struggling families. The congregation is invited to help by bringing any or all of the items on this list, or by contributing money. There will be collection boxes in Fellowship Hall. Thank you so much for helping.

Contents of Hygiene Kit:

- One hand towel approx, 16" x 28" (no fingertip or bath towels)
- One washcloth
- One nail clipper (no metal files or emery boards)
- One bar of soap (bath size in wrapper)
- One toothbrush (in original packaging)
- 6 Band-Aids

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-One wide tooth comb

**CWS requests NO toothpaste.**

Please come Feb. 22 and help us assemble the kits. We will have coffee and goodies too!

*Cheryl Koch*



## **DAFFODIL SUNDAY ~ 2011**

**Sponsored By Women's Fellowship**

Get ready for spring by ordering a bouquet of beautiful daffodils to support the American Cancer Society. We all know someone, or have ourselves, been touched by cancer. Together we can make a difference!



We invite you to join us in this opportunity to purchase the flowers at our church. Cash donations will also be accepted.

Orders must be in by Sunday, February 27<sup>th</sup>. Please use the order form below and return it to the office **with your payment** (checks should be made out to The First Congregational Church). Your flowers will be available for you to pick up the morning of March 20<sup>th</sup>, Daffodil Sunday.

I wish to order # \_\_\_\_\_ bunches of Daffodils @ \$10.00 per bunch.

I wish to order # \_\_\_\_\_ Limited Edition Boyd's Daffodil Bear with its own bunch of 10 fresh daffodils for \$25.00 per set.

I wish to order # \_\_\_\_\_ pots of Daffodil bulbs @ \$15.00 per pot.

I wish to donate \$ \_\_\_\_\_ to American Cancer Society.

Name: \_\_\_\_\_

Total Enclosed: \_\_\_\_\_

## **OFFICE NOTES...**

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 church office (603 635-7025) by the 20th of the month. You can also E-mail information to us at [office@pelhamucc.org](mailto: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 2011 sign up calendar in the rear hall. The cost is \$25, and Peggy will order them for you from 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."