

W CROSS R D

**"I have not stopped giving thanks for you,
remembering you in my prayers" Ephesians 1:16**

Paul's Letter to the Church in Ephesus is a wonderful example of someone who had learned to be thankful in any and all circumstances. How difficult is that for you? From the very start of the letter to the end, Paul is filled with a spirit of thanksgiving. "Let us give thanks to the God and Father of our Lord." He rejoices in all the blessings that have come through our relationship with Jesus Christ. He cautions people that instead of thankless words coming from our lips, we should offer words of thanksgiving, giving thanks to God "at all times and for everything."

The Plymouth Pilgrims had the same ability and spirit to give thanks in any and all circumstances. Every November we are reminded of that small group of Separatists from the Church of England, who made their way from England to Holland to America aboard a service vessel, a small ship called the Mayflower in search of religious freedom. Many had been imprisoned because of their faith and quest for religious freedom. Families were separated as they set sail from England leaving others behind. They were swindled out of money by immoral sea captains; their original ship was a leaky sieve and they crossed the Atlantic at one of the worse times of the year. They faced violent crosswinds and fierce storms. Many battled seasickness and disease. Upon arriving in America sixty six days later, they faced a barren, snow-covered land on Cape Cod, lacked shelter ashore and spent months on the ship as

they had no where else to go. Many died during the winter of cold and exposure. Yet the following November, with the help of the Native American Wampanoag Indian tribe, who themselves had been devastated from diseases introduced by prior European expeditions, they found the time to celebrate in a Harvest celebration, a "thanks-giving". Ninety-one Wampanoag Indians, led by Massasoit, and the colony feasted for three days on venison, lobsters, fried corn, stewed pumpkin, fish, berries, clams, and plums.

Here is the question; How could the Pilgrims possibly have been in the spirit to give thanks, when so many had died and they were so far from the life they had envisioned? I suggest the answer is found in understanding the true nature of thanksgiving and our reasons for offering it. Real Thanksgiving is appropriate in any and all circumstances. Even in difficult times, such as the Pilgrims and Paul endured, there is reason to give thanks.

As you gather around your Thanksgiving table filled with the bounty of food from the earth that represents to us all the good things from God, remember our Congregational beginnings. Remember and give thanks for those present with you, those far away from home and those who are now with God. And give thanks! Real thanks-giving is offered in every and all circumstances. Acknowledge the gifts that God has lavished upon us with true gratitude and love.

***Wishing you a most blessed Thanksgiving,
RB***

Congratulation to Kate and Joe Marcotte on the birth of their son, Joseph Norman Marcotte Jr., on September 21st.

Joyce Mason died September 22nd after a long illness. We send our condolences to Joyce's family.

Charlie Ward is now a resident at Courville Nursing Home in Nashua. Charlie would love to hear from his old friends, either with a visit or a note. His address is:
Courville Nursing Home - Room 217
22 Hunt Street, Nashua, NH 03060

Get well wishes go to Dan Atwood, Margaret Greff and Jackie Schneider who are all, recovering from surgery. Also, please continue to keep Sandy Ellis' son, Steve Harvey, in you prayers. He underwent more surgery on October 19th.

On October 14th we celebrated the baptism of Camden Jefferson MacNeil, son of Tammy and Jeffrey MacNeil. We send our congratulations to Camden and his family.

NEW MEMBERS

We are planning to hold an informative "New Members Class" on Wednesday, November 7th, at 7 PM in the church parlor, and would like to invite anyone interested in becoming a member of our congregation to join us. Child care will be provided if needed (please let us know if you will need this service). We will receive our new members on Sunday, December 2nd, during the 10 AM Worship Service.

If you are interested in joining our church at this time, please let me know. You can reach me at the church office (603 635-7025) or you may E-mail me at Revbill819@juno.com.

Rev. Bill

Page 2

CONFIRMATION CLASS

Our 2007-2008 Confirmation Class has begun under the direction of Rev. Bill and Barbara Calabro of our Diaconate. This year we have fifteen 9th grade students registered to study, discuss and contemplate several aspects of their faith and faith journeys leading to their

own decision to join the church at the completion of their program.

This year's class includes:

Wendy Bean	Emily Long
Brian Coccoziello	Nicole Olson
Elizabeth Collins	Shannon Oriole
Hayley Cummings	Connor Patterson
Andrew Ferguson	Matthew Reppenhagen
Sara Jo Fuller	Mariah Webster
Geordan Henderson	Danielle Winn
Chelsea Howard	

FAMILY FELLOWSHIP EVENT

NOVEMBER 10TH - 6 PM
CHILI POT LUCK SUPPER

Do you have a favorite chili recipe that you think beats all others? Do you enjoy sampling different types of chili? Do you enjoy fellowship with your church family? Come and join us for a **chili pot luck supper** and experience all that and more.

If you would like to submit your chili for our contest to be judged, just make a batch we can serve to our judges and then share the rest with the crowd (if you want to donate chili without being judged, that's great, too)

A sign-up sheet is in Fellowship Hall for chili, salads, cornbread and desserts. Hot dogs for the kids! Sign up now!

November 2007

ADULT EDUCATION

We have several options for our upcoming Adult Bible Study Programs. We would like to know what subject you are most interested in learning and sharing about. You can drop a quick note to the office (E-mail - office@pelhamucc.org) with your opinion for the subject and times for the class.

Possible Topics:

1. Book of Judges
2. Book of Ruth
3. The Early Church Video Series
4. Death to Life in the Christian Church
5. Current Events

Possible Times:

1. After church - twice monthly
2. After church - once monthly
3. Weekday evening

CHRISTIAN EDUCATION UPDATE

A great time was had by all at our Halloween celebration on Oct 28th! A special Thanks! from the CE committee goes out to the teens that helped with the party. It is very much appreciated — we couldn't do it without you!

Please look for our CE Bulletin Board in Fellowship Hall: November will be presented by our 1st/2nd grade class. Check out the Sunday School year calendar on the board as well as the Parent Volunteer sign-up sheet. Please remember to sign up to volunteer downstairs for at least one Sunday through the school year. Reminder postcards will be sent to each volunteer.

Schedule for November

Nov 4th - Sunday School / Communion

Nov 11th — Sunday School

Nov 18th — Sunday School

Nov 25th — Thanksgiving — No Sunday School

Save the dates!

Dec 1st - Hanging of the Greens/ Family Fellowship Pot luck

Dec 2nd - Advent Workshop

Sincerely,

Karen Dorman, for the CE committee

Page 3

WOMEN'S FELLOWSHIP

Thanks for your help!

A big thank you to the choir members who helped us set up chairs and tables for the funeral luncheon for Joyce Mason. This helps us so much when we spend four hours setting up food, serving and cleaning up.

And another big thank you to those church friends who provided food for the luncheon. Our group could not do that on our own, and we really appreciate your generous, uncomplaining response to our requests.

CALENDAR

Sunday, November 4th

We will sell SERRV items and our handcrafts after the 10 AM service. Maybe you'll find some presents for

Christmas!

Sunday, November 11th

Bring turkeys or chickens for the Food Pantry

Sunday, November 18th

Bake Sale. Stock up for Thanksgiving!

Tuesday, November 27th

Our regular meeting night

Tuesday, December 11th

Our Christmas Party at Debbie Schneider's home:

Cookie Swap, bring an appetizer or dessert to share.

NO Yankee Swap - bring a gift for the Giving Tree

(Pelham Good Neighbor)

OLD HOME DAY WRAP UP

The 101st Old Home Day Committee will be holding a wrap-up meeting/pot luck supper on Friday evening, November 2nd, beginning at 6:30 PM. **Everyone** who worked on Old Home Day is welcome and encouraged to attend and to bring their ideas and recommendations for next year's Old Home Day!

If you have any questions, call Wally (603 635-7607) or the church office (603 635-7025).

November 2007

"NEVER HAVE ANOTHER BAD DAY"

This is the title of the program sponsored by the NH Women's Fellowship, which was held on Saturday, October 20th, at the Henniker, NH Congregational Church.

It was well attended by Women's Fellowship members from all over the state. Judith Ruddy Godfrey, author of "Never Have Another Bad Day," was our guest speaker. She spoke for one hour and had audience participation. She referred to many different chapters from her book to answer specific questions. There are 12 chapters and the book (85 pages) is available at local book stores.

The program was really appreciated and helpful to most everyone who attended.

Respectfully submitted,

Alma Healey

CHRISTMAS CHOIR

Christmas Choir rehearsals begin Sunday November 4, 2007 from 4:00-6:00 P.M. in preparation for our December 16, 2007 Church Christmas Concert. Anyone of high school age or older, no matter what town, church (or lack thereof), height, or political party is encouraged to give Christmas Choir a try. Just make sure you are interested in fun singing, good fellowship, and bringing the Christmas message to our community. Questions? Contact Music Director Tom Seniow at 898-2842 or tseniow@mansd.org.

PELHAM GOOD NEIGHBORS

CHRISTMAS IS COMING...

This year, we are once again working with the Pelham Good Neighbors to provide Christmas gifts to local families who need help. We hope to have "gift tags" (with a child's age and gift request) available in Fellowship Hall by the weekend after Thanksgiving for those who would like to participate in this wonderful holiday project.

Page 4

When purchasing your gift, please request a **GIFT RETURN RECEIPT**. This will be helpful if the family needs to exchange the item. All gifts must be dropped off at the church office, **unwrapped (but with the tag attached)**, by December 9th. This will allow time to deliver the gifts to the families. Donations of wrapping paper, gift tags and tape would also be greatly appreciated.

For more information please contact Peggy Murphy in the church office (603 635-7025).

A NEW CHRISTMAS PROJECT!

The NH Department for Children Youth and Families services almost 1400 children in Foster Care in New Hampshire each day. The needs of the kids varies from clothes and school supplies to essentials needed to stay warm. Rev. Bill has spoken with the Nashua office and has arranged a donation of Teddy Bears for some of the kids for the holidays. In some cases it may be the only gift they receive this year.

There will be information in Fellowship Hall to assist you in donating the bears. We would like all donations to be

in, unwrapped, by December 2nd.

Thank you for helping to make a child's Christmas a little bit brighter!

JUNIOR & SENIOR HIGH YOUTH GROUP

Youth Group members, mark your calendars! We have lots of great activities scheduled for the next few weeks!

November 4th, 1 PM "Rake & Run" ~ Jr. & Sr. High members

November 18th, 6 PM "Gospel According to the Simpsons" ~ Sr. High only

November 25th, 6 PM "Cookie Bake" ~ Jr. High only

December 9th, 5 PM Christmas Party at the Parsonage ~ Jr. & Sr. High members

November 2007

FROM THE DIACONATE

Fall is in the air!!!

Cool crisp air, warm cider, carving pumpkins, the Red Sox winning the World Series!!!! How the series has brought New England together! We look to our church to provide community and to meet our spiritual needs. Stewardship season is upon us!!! Think back to Old Home Day, the Halloween party, Hanging of the Greens and many of the events that take place in the church! When you respond to the fellowship call, please give generously. As I said last month, please also consider contributing time to our church or the community. There are a number of ways that you can contribute to the church without having to give money. Feel Christ in your heart as you contribute and make our church and community stronger.

Please say a prayer for the safe return for those who serve our country and the innocent civilians who live in Iraq and Afghanistan or who have become refugees as a result of the hostilities. Our leaders continue to spend billions on the wars in Iraq and Afghanistan. At the same time, they veto an expansion of health care for children in the US. Please say a prayer for the leaders of our country and other countries involved that Holy Spirit may touch them and provide the wisdom and courage to resolve our differences. May the Holy Spirit help our leaders clearly see what their priorities should be.

Charities

Thanks for your support for Neighbors in Need . This months special collection is for Bridges in Nashua.

Bridges is a non-profit agency dedicated to helping victims and survivors of domestic and sexual violence. Please don't forget others who need your help!

Our Church's electronic giving site:

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

Bridges: <http://www.bridgesnh.org/index.html>

Nashua Soup Kitchen -

<http://www.charityadvantage.com/nks/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/>

Page 5

The Fixit Program for Seniors:

<http://www.bm-cap/org/fixit.htm>

Worship Coordinators

The worship coordinators for November : Judy Boucher and Jane Ambargis

New Deacons!

Please join me in welcoming two new deacons - Debbie Schneider and Amanda Andrews.

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 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. If you have any comments, concerns, questions or compliments, please let us know.

Yours in Christ,
Steve Blanchard

COMMUNITY NOTES...

ECUMENICAL THANKSGIVING SERVICE

This year, **Pelham's Ecumenical Thanksgiving Service** will be held at The New England Pentecostal Church on Wednesday, November 21st. Time TBA.

ST. PATRICK'S CHRISTMAS FAIR

St Patrick's Parish will be holding its annual "**Olde Fashioned Christmas Fair**" in their Clubhouse on November 10th (9AM - 6 PM) and 11th (9 AM - 1 PM), featuring local crafters, home baked goodies and raffles. This is a good opportunity to support our "neighbors" and get a jump start on our Christmas shopping.