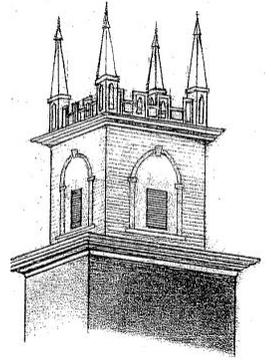


+ **N.E.W.S. CONNECTION**  
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Vol. 22 No.08

August 2022

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**Message from the Pastor**



*Photos from Annual Meeting on July 24, 2022, with two dozen members in attendance. Mary Bushey was able to access this meeting through Facetime [Photos courtesy of Ivy Dixon]. Clockwise from top left: 1. Moderator Ken Gagnon calls the meeting to order, with Clerk Dave Swift ready to take notes. 2. View west in the Fellowship Hall. 3. Memories from Hila Davenport. 4. Memories from Emerson Frost.*

Once again, moving our Annual Meeting from its usual date in January to July has proved successful. Following the meeting's conclusion, we watched a digitized version of a video with anecdotes from church members that Brian Wilson made in 1999 for his Eagle Scout project. The experience was a wonderful time capsule to see once again the faces of folks for whom the Pittsford Church Congregation was and is so important. While I was not a member of the church at that time, I knew several of the people interviewed through their other community connections.

In the recent article in *The Reporter* about our church's "new" pastor, Steven Jupiter insightfully elicited some recurring themes from me: First, in my appreciation of our rich history. We continue to benefit from the ongoing gifts of deceased members such as the yearly contribution from John and Mary Cadwell's endowment that comes to us through the Vermont Community Foundation. As noted in the Deacons' Report, this year's EnerJazz performance honors the memory of Joyce Bates Daniel whose estate left the church a substantial contribution. Our past benefactors' generosity keeps us afloat.

Secondly, as you have heard me often say, worshipping and praying together is at the heart of what we do. "Whenever two of three are gathered together..." Living through the enforced distance and isolation of COVID precautions underscores that point. We should never take for granted being present to and with one another. Our company and camaraderie is good for the soul.

Thirdly, we face our future as a church community with renewed confidence. That does not mean we close our eyes to our turbulent world. Our shared faith will anchor us through many a storm. Let us continue to welcome new members into the fold and draw on their talents and expertise to enrich the Pittsford Congregational and its missionary outreach.

At Annual Meeting, we start a new slate midyear. We thank Sarah Grimes for her years of service as a trustee. Along with the members who continue to hold various offices and serve on committees, we are happy to welcome Carol Bailey Leigh as a trustee, and George Valley who has joined the Mission Committee.

Ministers and friends from other churches will be joining us on Sunday, August 14, at 2 P.M. for the installation of your settled pastor. I hope to see many of you there as well.

Yours in shared faith,

Michael F. Dwyer, Pastor