



# PASSING IT ON



THE NEWSLETTER OF THE PILGRIM LODGE CAPITAL CAMPAIGN

## ‘WE WANT TO PASS IT ON’ CAMPAIGN NEARS \$1.8M

As of August 25, the capital campaign for Pilgrim Lodge has received \$1,788,000 from 46 churches, 5 associations, 5 foundations, 2 affiliated organizations and 230 individuals!

There’s two months and \$212,000 left to reach the \$2,000,000 goal!

Have you checked the list of churches in this issue of the campaign newsletter to see if your congregation has pledged?

Have you personally sat down and thought about pledge from you and your family to Pilgrim Lodge’s capital campaign?

There’s still time! The campaign ends officially on October 31. Until that time, the campaign will be receiving pledges over five years that can be paid by check or gifts of stock or other liquid assets. You can find an electronic pledge card on the website at [www.pilgrimlodge.org/passiton](http://www.pilgrimlodge.org/passiton). Or if you have questions, please email Peter Heinrichs at [peheinrichs@gmail.com](mailto:peheinrichs@gmail.com)!

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## GAGLIARDI FAMILY DONATES AMPHITHEATER

Christine and Josh Gagliardi have proven that physical distance from one’s house to Pilgrim Lodge isn’t a barrier to donating to the Capital Campaign. Although originally from Maine, the Gagliardi have been residents of Florida for the past 9 years. Nevertheless, their girls, Anna and Emily, have been PL campers since they were old enough to attend. The power of Pilgrim Lodge in Chris’s life and in the lives of her daughters has led the Gagliardis to donate the *Circle of Friends* Amphitheater to the PL Capital Campaign.

Chris grew up in Standish and attended PL as a camper for 9 years and then served as a counselor for two years while in college. As Chris says, “I lived to go to PL every summer and I look back fondly on every aspect of my time there -- singing at chapel and in the lodge, canoe trips, camp-wide hide-n-seek, interest groups, craft cabin, boardwalk time, evening programs, talent shows, family group, bunk time, daily ice-cream and so, so much more.”



Chris at her first week at PL with Dean Dotty-Kay Stillman (1983)



Anna sailing during her week at One Spirit, Many Gifts

When Chris and Josh first made the decision to move to Florida, one of her first thoughts was “my kids are not going to be able to go to PL!” But extended trips to Oakland, Maine are now a family tradition and include a week at PL for each of the girls. Chris is thrilled that their girls are making friends at PL and developing the same kinds of relationships she had as a kid. “I love that our girls have the opportunity to go to this special place every summer where they are accepted with open arms and where they are able to be their true selves without any judgment. Of course, I have told them how easy they have it now with showers in each cabin...no

more treks to the spider-infested shower house!”

Chris and Josh have not contributed at this level before but were impressed with the improvements visible at camp

*continued on pg. 3*

# PILGRIM LODGE

\$2 m

**\$1,788,447.51 as of August 29th!**

\$1.75 m

\$1.5 m

\$1.25 m

\$1 m

\$.75 m

\$.5 m

\$.25 m

\$0 m

**CAPITAL CAMPAIGN 2013-14**

## NEW DINING HALL AND AMPHITHEATER PLEDGES ANNOUNCED!

Two pledges have been received that will underwrite construction of the new dining hall and the new amphitheater at Pilgrim Lodge.

The Quitobaquito Foundation has increased its original pledge to ensure the building of the dining hall, which is expected to seat 200, contain an up-to-code kitchen, and be usable three seasons a year. Ground breaking is planned for the fall of 2015. The new building will be called the Quitobaquito Dining Hall.

Chris and Josh Gagliardi (see an interview on page 1) have committed funds to ensure the building of the new amphitheater, an open, natural meeting place set into the hillside across from the current Lodge. The amphitheater will hold camp meetings, talent shows and other all camp events. The amphitheater will be called the "Circle of Friends" Amphitheater.

Thanks to the Quitobaquito Foundation and the Gagliardi family!!

### The Last 100 Days (...or less!)

Doesn't that sound like a great title for a movie about World War II? I can picture troops, weary from battle, carrying our flag over the finish line and declaring the world safe from whatever menace we faced. Well, that is a little bit like the last 100 days of our campaign to Pass it On.

We are getting closer to our goal of \$2 million everyday and there is a renewed energy among all our teams. I joined a meeting of our building committee and saw the new dining hall coming to life, poured over a map to see how the amphitheater would fit in and laughed about calling our current lodge "Vintage!" Campers are returning from PL talking about the new boardwalk and the new mattresses and their enthusiasm is contagious.

We have their appreciation to help us through these last 100 days...or less by the time you read this! We're talking with everyone we can to encourage those who haven't had a chance to give to do it now and we have also gone back to early givers and asked again. Everyone is so generous. Whether you have already given or thinking about it - please do it now. Thank you for making our dream a reality.

Pam Gormley, Co-Chair, Capital Campaign Committee

## What the Heck is Crowdsourcing?

Because I am the mother or two twenty-somethings, I actually know what this is. Have you heard of Kickstarter or Rocket Hub? These are fundraising tools that rely on the internet and social media to spread the word. It is the cool way to give. We have identified a project - Updating the Waterfront - and have a volunteer willing to put this effort together. We will run this for 6 weeks (Mid September to the end of October). For the best results, we will be asking everyone to send a link around via your Facebook and email lists. Like dropping a pebble in the water, this will ripple out to many, and hopefully, bring in more funding. Stay tuned for more details and the link!

*By Pam Gormley*

## GAGLIARDI FAMILY *CONTINUED*

this year and wanted to help the campaign reach its goals. "Quite simply quite simply, it was never a question that we would support this campaign" says Chris. They were contributing a little each year to the year-end annual drives, but the idea of the amphitheater donation really struck a chord with them. "After looking through the Sustainability Report, we loved the idea of the amphitheater for so many reasons. Initially, it caught our eye, because our family is so invested in a local community musical theater program here in Central Florida. But after learning more about what the plans are for its use, we love the idea of adding this additional outdoor space that will be large enough for the entire camp to gather and be accessible to all who visit PL."

With the gift for the amphitheater come the naming rights, and as Josh tells, the answer was in the music. "We have the album of live PL songs, and when we were thinking about the songs that were meaningful to us, *Circle of Friends* really encapsulates what the space is for." Chris admits that "to this day I still get emotional anytime I walk into the Lodge to pick up our daughters from their weeks at camp and hear any of my favorite songs being sung. It doesn't matter what song it is...Pharaoh, Pharaoh makes me cry just as much as Those Who Wait Upon the Lord -- it all just takes me back to my time there."

For Josh, although he wasn't a camper at PL, he understands when Chris and the girls talk about how much it means to them. "We have to make sure that PL survives to be as valuable a part of the Maine religious community as it has been. The Campaign can help make sure it's going to be around in the future and stay the amazing place it is."

"Our girls are the third generation in our family to attend PL. My mom was part of a group when she was in high school that spent a week on Manitou clearing the trails that are still in use today," Chris recounts. "We are hopeful that the *Circle of Friends* Amphitheater will exist for generations to come as a place to sit together and 'be at home, be at peace, be at rest'." Well said, Gagliardi family. We have no doubt it will.



Emily with Deans Liz and Marcia Charles from Planting Seeds, Growing Hope

## BUILDING COMMITTEE REPORT

The Pilgrim Lodge Building Committee members have been working since September 2013 after being formed by the Pilgrim Lodge Task Force and confirmed by the Coordinating Council.

Our first task was to get a clear understanding of our responsibility and charge. Bryan Breault, Executive Director of Pilgrim Lodge, gave us a review of all the reports and proceedings leading up to and including the Fred Lilly concept design that was on display for the Blessing Event held September 15, 2013. At the Blessing Event those who attended were able to see the new boardwalk, accessible path to the Labyrinth and chapel. Brad Craig and Mark Schussler met with Fred Lilly and reported the following tasks for the committee:

1. Construct a new building that replicates the exterior and interior appearance of the existing buildings and has a capacity for a kitchen dining space for serving 200 people family style;
2. Provide and extension of the comfortable, welcoming, familiar and safe feeling of the existing camp;
3. Construct a new amphitheater that will serve as a weekly conference greeting venue and a space for general socializing, community building, etc. and preserve the chapel for "sacred space",
4. Create a "town common" atmosphere for the area between the Lodge, office, amphitheater, new building and the lake, (excluding car/truck traffic by creating a new road behind the office and new dining/kitchen building). This includes improvements for ADA accessibility throughout the area/buildings and visibility of the lake.

At our next meeting, we approved replacing the roof of the main lodge due to leakage. The new roof was completed in early December. We received also a capital project "tiers worksheet" to help the committee make timely decisions. In early March we approved new mattresses for all campers and counselors.

Most of our meeting times have been spent on getting information on the new building; for example, design, location and what will be included within the building. In Early April 2014 we are going to Pilgrim Lodge to do some site testing of the area where we hope the new building will be going to ensure that it will fit. We will be doing some additional site work for the roadway and the waterfront. Building committee members include Steve Hatt, Steve Wight, Steve Jones, Mark Patterson, Pam Burnham, Evelyn Clowes, Brad Craig, and Herb Oliver. Bryan Breault and Rick Cowles are advisors to the committee. We thank all of you who have made a 5 year pledge to make this campaign move ahead. All of us want to "Pass it On" to our next generation.

# HONOR ROLL: FOUNDATIONS, ASSOCIATIONS & CHURCHES

## Foundations

Anonymous (2)  
Helen & John Kubach Trust, A Donor Advised Fund of  
Renaissance Charitable Foundation, Inc.  
Quitobaquito Fund  
The Mildred H. McEvoy Foundation

## Associations

Cumberland Association, UCC  
Hancock-Waldo Association  
Katahdin Association  
Kennebec Valley Association  
Midcoast Association of Congregational Churches  
York Association of Congregational Christian Churches

## Conference

Honduras Partnership Committee  
Maine Conference UCC

## Churches

Acton Congregational Church UCC  
Alfred Parish Church UCC  
Bar Harbor Congregational Church  
First Church in Belfast UCC  
West Parish Congregational Church UCC, Bethel  
Boothbay Harbor Congregational Church  
First Congregational Church of Brewer  
Broad Bay Congregational Church UCC  
First Parish Church UCC, Brunswick  
Cornish United Church of Christ  
Congregational Church in Cumberland, UCC  
Day's Ferry Congregational Church UCC  
Dover-Foxcroft Congregational Church  
Falmouth Congregational Church UCC

Federated Church in Thomaston  
Foreside Community Church UCC  
First Parish Church Congregational UCC, Freeport  
Old South Congregational Church UCC, Hallowell  
United Parish Congregational Church of Harrison & North  
Bridgton  
First Congregational Church of Houlton UCC  
South Congregational Church UCC, Kennebunkport  
Limerick Congregational Church UCC  
Lovell United Church of Christ  
Madison Congregational Church UCC  
Monmouth Congregational Society  
Moose River Congregational Church UCC  
High Street Congregational Church UCC, Newport  
First Congregational Church UCC, North Yarmouth  
Phippsburg Congregational Church UCC  
First Congregational Church of Pittsfield UCC  
Presque Isle Congregational Church UCC  
Rangeley Congregational Church UCC  
First Parish Congregational Church UCC, Saco  
First Congregational Church, Scarborough  
United Church of Northeast Harbor & Seal Harbor  
Vinalhaven Union Church  
First Congregational Church UCC, Waterville  
West Paris Mission Congregational Church  
Highland Lake Congregational Church, Westbrook  
Westbrook-Warren Congregational Church  
Whittier Congregational Church  
Williston-Immanuel Church  
First Congregational Church UCC, Wilton  
Windham Hill United Church of Christ  
First Congregational Church UCC, Wiscasset  
Woodfords Congregational Church UCC  
First Parish Congregational Church UCC, York

## We are almost there!

We have received pledges and gifts of over \$1.78 million toward our \$2million goal. We are almost there! Thank you for the love and appreciation that you share for the ministry of the Maine Conference through Pilgrim Lodge.

For those that have already given. Thank you.

For those that have not yet given, we look forward to receiving your gifts and pledges to this campaign!

Please know that any amount great or small is welcome.

We are grateful for all that you can give toward providing Pilgrim Lodge with the greater capacity to move forward to introduce new generations of campers to the gift of community, based on the love of Jesus.

We are almost there! Please help. Please give.

Blessings,  
Rick Cowles  
Interim Conference Minister

Here's an article from the Pilgrim Lodge website about a new walking trail developed by Ben DiSalvatore for his Eagle Scout project who was featured in a previous issue of this newsletter. While this project is not related to the Capital Campaign, exciting things are always happening at PL!

## CAMPER CREATES NEW NATURE TRAIL

Ben DiSalvatore has been a camper at Pilgrim Lodge from the time he was in 3rd grade and hasn't missed a summer in 11 years. So when it was time to choose an Eagle Scout service project to achieve the highest rank in his Boy Scout troop, PL was a natural choice. "I wouldn't be the person I am today without my time at Pilgrim Lodge so this seemed like a perfect fit" said Ben.

In dialogue with Rev. Bryan S. Breault, the Director of Outdoor Ministries, it was decided to create a new nature trail that would allow campers access to parts of the property that they were previously unable to enjoy.



Ben organized a spaghetti dinner at his local church, Hammond

Street, United Church of Christ in Bangor, Maine, to raise funds for building materials. Pilgrim Lodge also received a grant from the United Church of Christ, Outdoor Ministries Association. Rev. Breault and Ben then walked the site and tagged trees with potential options for the trail. The Pilgrim Lodge site is replete with wetland, a fragile and fascinating ecosystem. Because the wetland bisects the property, the trails at one end of the camp were distinct from those on the other. With the help of Global Positioning Satellite and an iPhone, Bryan and Ben determined the shortest distance of wetland in which to connect the two parts of camp.

Ben and his father Chris researched methods for creating walkways that would not negatively impact the wetland while Bryan worked on local permitting. Ben, with help from his family and members of his troop came to Pilgrim Lodge and cleared the trails. Meanwhile at his home in Bangor, construction began on a series of 11 twelve-foot frames used to lay across a series of "permafloats." In June, Ben and his troop and family placed the permafloats, laid the framework across them, and screwed down cedar decking on top. Next they chained the frames to the floats. The entire structure rises and falls with the water flow and does not inhibit the wetland at all.



The trail starts behind the shop at same point as most of the other PL trails. It

runs parallel to the camp road and then crosses the long-term parking road. Next, it traverses behind the ball field and deeper into the woods where it comes to the edge of the former Beaver Pond at which point the floating structure brings the traveler across the wetland to an old logging trail. That trail crosses a stream (across which Ben built a smaller bridge) and ends near the Farmhouse. One day, PL hopes to continue this trail on the other side of the property until it meets with the existing "Red Trail", allowing a hiker to access the entire camp.

Rev. Breault views the new trail as the fulfillment of a dream resulting in campers having access to several different natural environments for educational purposes and allowing them to utilize the entire property. Breault said "We are all very pleased and deeply grateful to Ben, his family and his Boy Scout troop for their dedication and hard work to make this dream a reality. Thank you Ben, and congratulations on your pending Eagle Scout status!"