



# PASSING IT ON



THE NEWSLETTER OF THE PILGRIM LODGE CAPITAL CAMPAIGN

## ONLY \$633,000 TO GO! PASS IT ON!

### TOM & HOLLY HANCOCK



There's a good chance Tom and Holly Hancock may have made the first gift to the PL Capital Campaign...without even realizing it. Several years ago, Tom and Holly made a gift to PL for the boardwalk, specifically to make the chapel handicapped accessible. Since the boardwalk project was not a simple one, it took awhile to get up and running, and Tom and Holly's gift waited in the care of the Conference for that



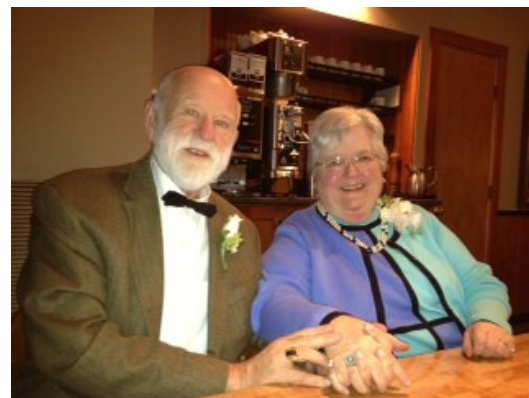
time. Once the Capital Campaign was off and running, Tom and Holly decided to make a substantial pledge, using their original gift as their first year donation and matching it for four more years. "The plan for the new buildings and structures is so cool," says Holly. "We're building on a success story, like rewarding good behavior."

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### CHUCK & REBECCA ERB

The number of times Revs. Chuck & Rebecca Erb have been to Pilgrim Lodge: 2  
Pledge to the PL Capital Campaign: \$15,000

As you can imagine, there's more to this story. Despite having only been to Pilgrim Lodge twice, once to pick up one of their grandchildren and once to attend Grandparent Camp, the Erbs have made a significant pledge to the Capital Campaign, allowing them to name two BURPs\* (aka Boardwalk User Resting Places), one for each grandchild. More on that later.



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The Erbs both grew up in the Evangelical and Reformed Church which eventually merged with the Congregational Christian Churches to form the United Church of Christ. Chuck's family started going to family camp in

### SALLY COLEGROVE

Rev. Sally Colegrove, minister of Windham Hill United Church of Christ and Moderator of the Maine Conference, began deaning at Pilgrim Lodge in the summer of 1999 as the dean of the drama camp. Since then, she has been and continues to be the dean of Arts Alive, PL's "Spirit-filled creative community" as described in the PL brochure. A transplant from Connecticut, she deaned an arts week at Silver Lake, Connecticut's summer camp, for 20 years before bringing this art-inspired week to Pilgrim Lodge. She describes Pilgrim Lodge as "a unique gift which goes way beyond what I've seen in several other settings."

Sally has made a \$5,000 pledge to the PL Capital Campaign and hopes to make a second pledge in the future. When asked why she pledged, she didn't hesitate to give a very thoughtful and thorough response. "I feel very strongly that PL is the future of the UCC in action. Our young people are the most important part of the church, because they

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[www.pilgrimlodge.org/passiton](http://www.pilgrimlodge.org/passiton)

## SALLY COLEGROVE *CONTINUED*

represent the church continuing on and continuing to represent what the UCC has been historically - a mainline denomination that includes everyone." She went on to describe how in a world where churches are competing against sports teams, travel teams, academics, performing arts, and more for time on kids' schedules, a week at PL is "a dedicated period of time and there is a possibility for real in-depth engagement with them." PL gives us an opportunity to "provide young people with Christian education but also with a feeling of identity and a feeling of ownership of their faith."



Sally captured the PL worship experience and the positive impact it has in both campers and the local church worship experience. PL "provides us with an opportunity to teach them to lead worship, to help them to enjoy worship, to provide them with several different settings for worship, and to help worship become something they enjoy and that they seek as part of their everyday...not just as something you go to when you have time on a Sunday."

In case you've never been to PL, over the course of a week, every camper will be part of leading a worship service as part of a group of campers. Campers and counselors lead morning chapel or evening vespers services. Sally has seen that young people in her congregation who have been to Pilgrim Lodge are very comfortable leading Sunday services at Windham Hill and are confident reading scripture, singing, and speaking in front of the congregation. She has no doubt that local churches reap huge benefits from the worship experience, and from the Arts Alive perspective, arts experience that kids get at PL and bring home to their local church.

"We're teaching them faith disciplines and the building blocks of theology as well as guiding them towards growth as kind and respectful people." Truly, can we ask for anything more from a week at summer camp? I think not.

### FROM THE CAMPAIGN CO-CHAIR

Happy New Year! With all this wonderful (?), winter weather, I wonder what Pilgrim Lodge must look like decorated with snow. I remember bringing our church Youth group to PL for a retreat one weekend in October. And it snowed! We stood shivering on the boardwalk and tried to convince our campers that we should go home. This was met with "we're not leaving PL - we can make this work." We all moved into one cabin and took turns keeping the wood stove hot. We sang songs, talked about our lives and our connection with God. It was incredible - all because of a little snow!

The magic of Pilgrim Lodge knows no season and continues to enrich the lives of all. We are well on our way to achieving our fund raising goal of \$2,000,000 - just shy by \$633,000. Let's keep passing it on!

Many thanks, Pam Gormley  
Co-Chair, Capital Campaign Committee

## Campaign Giving Circles *there is a circle for you*

Pilgrim Lodge means so much to so many people in so many ways. As I listen to the stories of campers, staff, deans and counselors, every corner of the camp gets mentioned: the waterfront, the chapel, the Lodge....the BURPs.....the Labyrinth.

Every person who wants to "pass it on" to future generations has a different financial capacity to make a pledge. Every pledge matters. Pledges of **every size** are necessary to put the Pilgrim Lodge Capital Campaign over its \$2,000,000 goal. To date, the campaign has received about 125 pledges totaling \$1,367,000. That means almost \$633,000 to go! So near - and still so far!

We are celebrating every level in Giving Circles named after favorite places at Pilgrim Lodge. We hope you'll a look and see where your 5 year pledge might fit in! You can fill out a pledge card online at [www.pilgrimlodge.org/passiton](http://www.pilgrimlodge.org/passiton). While you are there, take a look at the beautiful Pilgrim Lodge video - it's on the tab at the top of the campaign page.

If you have any questions about making your pledge - electronic fund transfer or stock transfer or naming opportunities or whatever - please email me at [peheinrichs@gmail.com](mailto:peheinrichs@gmail.com) or call my cell phone at 207-615-2212. I'm always glad to hear your story about Pilgrim Lodge.

Giving Circles for the Pilgrim Lodge *We Want To Pass It On* Capital Campaign

- \$500 - BURPs Circle
- \$1,000 - Boardwalk Circle
- \$2,500 - Labyrinth Circle
- \$5,000 - Chapel Circle
- \$10,000 - Lodge Circle
- \$25,000 - Cobbosseecontee Circle

And may there be many more Pilgrim Lodge memories to build and remember in 2014!

Peter Heinrichs, Capital Campaign Consultant

## “Now that I’ve made my pledge to the Pilgrim Lodge Capital Campaign, how do I make my payments?”

Nita Dehais, Donor Relations Coordinator,  
Pilgrim Lodge Capital Campaign

There are several answers to this question depending on your preferences and circumstances.

### By Check

Checks should be made payable to **The Maine Conference, United Church of Christ**, with “Pilgrim Lodge Capital Campaign” in the memo line, and mailed to: Pilgrim Lodge Capital Campaign, c/o Maine Conference, UCC, One Weston Court Suite 104, Augusta, ME 04330.

### By Credit Card

There are actually two credit card options.

Payments can be made by accessing the “We Want to Pass It On” website at <http://www.pilgrimlodge.org/passiton/>. Click on the “How Do I Give” tab, and click on the “Donate” button in option 2. (If you haven’t made your pledge yet, you can fill out a pledge card here as well.)

If you would like to set up a recurring payment schedule from your credit card to take place automatically (for example: monthly on the 1<sup>st</sup>), please contact me at [plboardwalk2013@gmail.com](mailto:plboardwalk2013@gmail.com), and I will email an authorization form to you.

### By Electronic Funds Transfer from your Checking Account

Like the credit cards, we can set up either a one-time donation, or periodic payments from your checking account. Again, please contact me at [plboardwalk2013@gmail.com](mailto:plboardwalk2013@gmail.com), and I will email an authorization form to you.

Any further questions that I haven’t covered here, please feel free to contact me. With people like you, we will be able to Pass Pilgrim Lodge On to future generations.

Dunkirk, NY in 1945, and Rebecca’s grandmother had gone to family camp on the shores of Lake Erie. Chuck and Rebecca are the third generation of their families to be “nurtured” at church camp with their children being the fourth and their grandchildren being the fifth. Their church camp roots are deep and wide.

When Chuck and Rebecca arrived at seminary, they compared notes with fellow seminarians and realized that, for many of them, it was their church camp experience which had led them into the church and onto this path. Since their ordinations in 1964 and 1966, Chuck and Rebecca have directed church camps at Living Waters in the Penn West Conference, Dunkirk Conference Grounds and Lisle Conference Center in the New York Conference, their own church family camp in Deering, NH and Wappingers Falls, NY, and at Camp White in the Kansas-Oklahoma Conference. He and Rebecca have directed summer camps, family camps, youth retreats, and confirmation camps. As Chuck said, “we thrived on it.”

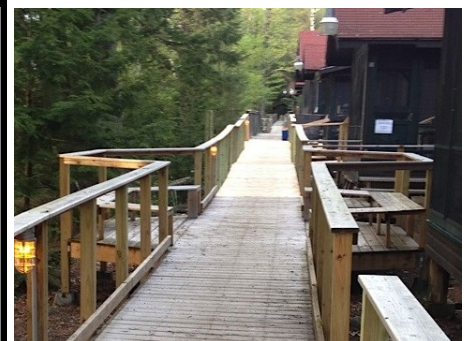
By the time they arrived in Maine in 1998, they weren’t interested in that level of involvement any more, but as we know, camp doesn’t ever leave your soul, so it’s not surprising they got connected to PL through their children and grandchildren. Their son, daughter-in-law, and grandkids (Matthew and Hannah) attend Woodfords Congregational Church in Portland, and Woodfords has an annual family weekend at PL. Matthew and Hannah they have gone to PL every year of their lives in September with Woodfords and have attended as campers since they were old enough.

As you can see, the church camp roots are strong in this family, so now it’s easy to understand the Erbs’ pledge. They see their pledge as a part of their tithing and call it an act of faithfulness - “from those to whom much has been given, much is expected” Chuck asserts. They decided to give at a level which would allow them to name something in honor of each of their grandchildren - a BURP. Matthew and Hannah were excited about the gift and have been involved in what the plaques on the burps will subtly say - the meanings of their names (Matthew means *Gift of God* and Hannah means *Grace of God*) with their initials below. The Erbs have also assisted the PL Campaign Committee by spearheading outreach to other grandparents of PL campers.

And while the ability to name a BURP makes it fun, the pledge is truly to ensure that PL is there for generations to come. Chuck summed it up nicely saying “we who have been nurtured for five generations by church camping want to make sure it is sustained in the Maine Conference. Pilgrim Lodge is a treasure, a marvelous facility on Lake Cobbosseecontee. Supporting PL makes sure there is a facility for our church constituency. Our greater task is to make sure that there is a constituency to attend PL This is the challenge of the present church - to insure the vitality of the future church. We’re called to nurture the generations that follow us.” Amen!

### **\*A note about BURPs**

BURP is PL-speak for the sections of the boardwalk that bump out for seating. While the name BURP is as old as the BURPs themselves, in the recent past, a camper figured out that BURP could stand for Boardwalk User Resting Place. It’s just another wonderful example of camper ingenuity.



## TOM & HOLLY HANCOCK *CONTINUED*

Why did they decide to make a pledge? “It was and continues to be important...it’s pilgrimlogical,” Tom says. (FYI: Tom came up with the word *pilgrimlogical*.) “I think that for most kids that go to PL, if you ask them 20 years from now to tell you the 5 most important things they did as a kid, PL would be one of them. To have church camp be one of them is pretty good.”

Tom and Holly’s personal PL experiences are radically different. Tom started counseling in the 1990s, and for 20 years or more, he was a dean or a counselor and 1-2 weeks per summer. Although his very first counseling experience was an accident as he got called in at the last minute, “it hit the right chord with the way I see how it should all work.” Holly, on the other hand, was a dean twice for the White Mountain Trip Camp, helped build the labyrinth, and participated in a few Jump Start Weekends. She’s a ninja with a chainsaw and can make an impressive amount of firewood.

Tom echoes what we’ve heard from many donors. “I love being in the cabins with junior high and high school boys and creating a safe environment for them to talk about God and what God might mean to them. I don’t think there’s a

place anywhere else in the world where they can do that. If they can talk about that out loud and in front of other guys, that is a magical moment to me.”

*Holly deaning the White Mountain Adventure in 2003*



*Photo courtesy of Rachel McCarthy*

## PILGRIM LODGE

\$2 m

\$1.75 m

\$1.5 m

\$1,367,440 raised as of 1/15/14

\$1.25 m

\$1 m

\$0.75 m

\$0.5 m

\$0.25 m

\$0 m

CAPITAL CAMPAIGN 2013-14



# THE SAME IS NOT THE SACRED

*Rev. Bryan S. Breault, Director of Outdoor Ministries*

Over the years I have received many earnest cards and letters from people involved at PL expressing their gratitude for the experience they've had and for whatever role my work may have contributed to it. Such notes are encouraging and appreciated, often arriving at just the perfect moment to pick up my spirits on a trying day and helping me remember why PL is so important. But there is one that stands out to me as particularly relevant.

A young man who was involved with PL before and during the time of my arrival was looking back on the myriad of changes to the program and site since I appeared on the scene. He went through a long list. So long, that seeing one item after another was a bit startling. In fact, I wasn't really sure where he was going with this. The list included all sorts of changes, big and small, physical and program. It included things such as the addition to the dining room, the insistence that counselors remain with their cabin after lights out, cleaning bathrooms everyday, streamlining the registration process, developing the website and online registration, and rebuilding cabin 5 (after a fire) to include program space. The list kept going.

What warmed my heart was his conclusion at the end. What prompted him to write was the realization that somehow, in the midst of all these transitions, the thing he deep down feared would be lost, was the very thing that now shined through brighter than ever! The heart of Pilgrim Lodge, the Holy Spirit, and the direct experience of God through the natural world, and through community were not diminished. Rather, the path for PL's mission became clearer and more defined. He went on to mention how each of these changes was made with the mission, and the character of Pilgrim Lodge at its heart.

Recently, while discussing the PL Capital Campaign with another life-long Pilgrim Lodger, I was trying to sum up what I perceived as resistance to the proposed capital changes by some with whom I had spoken. As I stumbled to find the words, my friend finished my sentence in the most pure and simple manner. She said "But it won't be the same!"

Whenever we introduce a change to a well-loved program or space, there is an immediate reflexive response. Fear: *Perhaps this change will mean the end of what I hold most dear. I don't want to leave the old, rugged, beloved Lodge with its field stone fireplaces and walls that have absorbed more than a half century of spirit, laughter and devotion. What if I lose what matters most?*

First, the Lodge isn't going anywhere. In fact, a large part of the campaign money will make sure it is shored up and maintained for future generations. Without that love, the Lodge may not be around too much longer. It will remain the center of our program and gatherings. So why not just re-tool the kitchen and keep things as they are? Many years of thought, discussion, and study have gone into that question.

To bring the existing kitchen up do date would be so involved and expensive, that building a new kitchen and dining hall costs just a bit more. And as we move forward in the new and shifting realities of church, we have come to realize that we need to be able to house more than one age-group and program at a time. Additional program space is necessary to make that plan work. The new dining hall assures us additional program space, and a new, workable kitchen (and a view of the lake), while retaining and refurbishing the Lodge.

During my first year, I remember a mom coming to look at the chapel and being very disappointed. The platform on which so many Bible stories are acted out, so many heart-felt testimonies are given, and so many bonds are formed and re-formed, was at that time still fairly new. She didn't like it. She turned to me and said, 'don't you see? This was one place where my daughter could come and have the same experience that I had when I was her age.' I shook my head (internally) remembering photos of the different ways the chapel had been structured over the years. I was sure powerful moments had occurred, but this chapel platform was safer, and made it easier to include large groups in leading worship. Surely if we had retained the sacred "sameness" we would have never taken the next step in creating what is the heart of PL.

As I think back on that young man's earnest letter, and the message it conveyed, I realize that the writer was thanking me for keeping that which is most important at the heart of PL. And there was an acknowledgement that the fervent desire to keep things exactly the same may well have meant decline.

Yes, there will be some significant changes to PL as the result of this campaign, but they are all made with one intention, to keep the heart of Pilgrim Lodge growing for the next generation. There is an element of trust involved. Not supporting the Pilgrim Lodge Capital Campaign because you don't want PL to change is a little like not watering a plant because it looks great in the window, and you don't want it to grow. If a plant is not growing, it's dying. Please, help it grow.

[www.pilgrimlodge.org/passiton](http://www.pilgrimlodge.org/passiton)