

# Get Government Out Of The Pulpits Of Faith

By Jennifer Coffey

New Hampshire State Representative

*Jenn is a New Hampshire State Representative running for re-election.*

The gay marriage issue has been brought up time and time again. It goes back and forth between acceptance and non-acceptance, and the legislative body has set in motion a ping-pong ball with people's lives. Bills to create and ban have become a yearly event, and that is wrong. Government shouldn't grant privileges and then take them away at the whim of the current majority. Somewhere along the line, people have forgotten there are real lives affected by these votes.

People who have health care one day may not the next, and so on and so forth. One thing is for certain: government shouldn't dictate to the people what religious practices are accepted and which are not.

After all, that would be to admit that government has the right to decide what religion rules all others. It is for this rea-

son that we should get the government out of the pulpits of faith.

To each their own faith as it is their natural and unalienable right to worship and practice according to their own conscience. This means that ministers, priests, pastors, rabbis, and all those who lead their faithful have the right to perform their religious ceremonies without the intrusion of government.

If not, which faith wins in this debate? Do Catholics trump Reformed Jews, or Baptists trump Universal Unitarians? Who gets to be in the front of the bus, and who is relegated to the back?

It is in part because of these reasons that I joined Standing up for New Hampshire Families and helped to lead the floor fight against creating a new system of classism in New Hampshire.

If we are truly a nation of religious freedom, then we need to stop trying to control what religions practice and get out of the personal lives of the people. 

The Swap Shop will be open on Aug. 11 from 8 AM to 2 PM and welcomes (before 1 PM) reusable items in working condition like toys, clothing, books, bicycles, and kitchenware. Please, **no** upholstered furniture, tires, windows, doors, electronics, or porcelain fixtures.



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### Fairy Houses

Lorraine Roberts has a thing for fairy houses – you know, those naturally constructed dwellings that pop up in the woods among the roots of old pine trees. Never seen one? Just ask Lorraine, because her interest and expertise guided all of us on a beautiful day in June on the grounds of the Annex, across from the Library. Having built a few myself on an island in Maine, I was really happy to see that someone else had taken the fairy world to heart. Lorraine and several others provided supplies, while Priscilla laminated house signs, and the kids and families got to work. For just over an hour the only sounds were the excited voices of children and the rustling of twigs and leaves and birch bark and the occasional clink of seashells imported from beach excursions, and perfectly allowable!

Thank you, Lorraine, for sharing your excitement and skills with families in town in this art of very small house design and construction. We loved it!

Janet Moore

## Fourth of July Invocation

July fourth is our traditional time to celebrate the birth of these United States. We celebrate our longevity as a democratic nation, one that we have held together for 236 years. Our founding mothers and fathers worked tirelessly to create a union of independent colonies and to write a constitution, updated with amendments, that honors all peoples. We are “the land of the free and the home of the brave,” just as much as we have become a valuable and sustaining member of the global community. Every citizen of this country can be proud of our efforts to maintain a free and democratic society and to remain strong in purpose and fulfillment. We are a country committed to the ideals of those who hosted our great experiment and those who brought it to fruition in the founding of the United States of America. We shall always bear in mind the closing words of the Declaration of Independence: “Relying on divine providence ... we mutually pledge our lives, our fortunes and our sacred honor.”

Janet Moore

**SEND A LETTER!** Your opinion on local issues matters!



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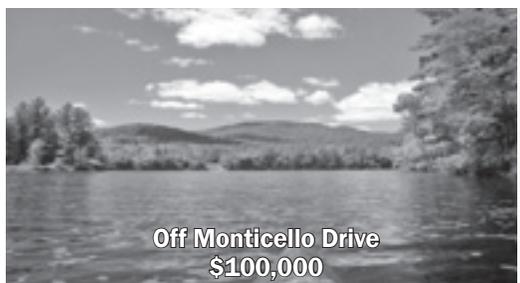
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