



Freedom Rings

First Christian Church of Freedom
Combining Traditional and Contemporary Faith Communities

Newsletter
February 2016

Pastors

Corner



What is 'Epiphany' all about?

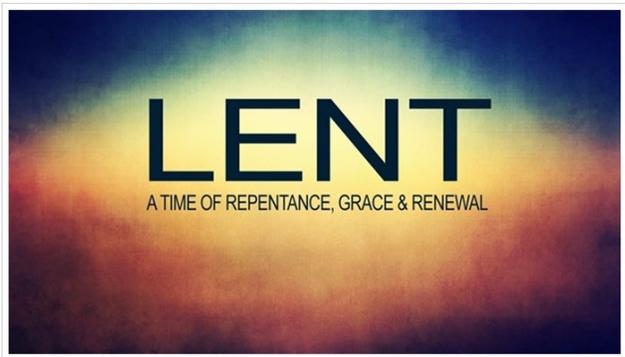
We're in the midst of Epiphany as I write this in mid-January, and most of you will remember that on January 6th, the day of Epiphany was celebrated. Well, it's both a day and a season. After the 12 days of Christmas, there comes 'Three Kings Day', sometimes called Epiphany. An 'epiphany' is a 'showing forth', a 'manifestation', a 'revealing', or 'an uncovering'. It's believed that when the wisemen or Magi came (they probably weren't kings, but people who studied the heavens or stars for signs), they were the first gentiles

to see the baby Jesus. So, Epiphany is the initial revealing of the Messiah to the world. The season continues with Sundays noted as days after the Epiphany, but each is an epiphany in itself. The first Sunday reveals God affirming Jesus in the baptism, the second shows Jesus turning the water into wine, and so forth. The season uncovers who this 'Jesus' really is, the very Son of God, and as the days gradually get longer and lighter, the identity of Jesus becomes clearer and more obvious.

The season comes to a close with Lent, Ash Wednesday to be specific. The Epiphany season also ends the initial cycle of seasons starting with Advent, followed by Christmas. Lent begins a second cycle which is followed by Easter and Pentecost. The first cycle revolves around Christmas Day, December 25, and is preceded by 4 Sundays of Advent. The Epiphany season runs from January 6th until Lent. The beginning of Lent is determined by Easter Day, which is the 1st Sunday after the 1st full moon after the Spring Equinox (usually March 21st). Forty days prior to Easter (not counting Sundays), determines Ash Wednesday.

So what? Church seasons aren't nearly as important as the seasons of winter, spring, summer, and fall, but they do have some value to us Christians. They emphasize important aspects of our faith, especially what we believe about God – the Father, Son, and Holy Spirit. The lessons for each season and week are based on this belief, and seek to bring out various attributes of the God we worship. It may seem like Jesus gets most of the attention, but Jesus does represent the embodiment of the Creator (Father) and the Sustainer (the Holy Spirit). As Jesus acts, so we get a clearer perspective of what God is like. Knowing God helps us deepen and grow in our faith, and leads us to act on that faith. We thank God for revealing His/Her nature in this way. Other religions have various rules or practices that they live by. Judaism, Islam, Buddhism, Hinduism, to name a few, have rather distinctive understandings of the world and how to live their lives. Even atheists and humanists, I suppose, have a creed by which they make decisions and act. We have made certain choices and decisions, and as we have leaned or committed ourselves toward Christianity, we are learning about what that means and how we can best practice it. Hopefully, as we enter the new year of 2016 and as we gather in community during the Epiphany season, I as your spiritual leader would

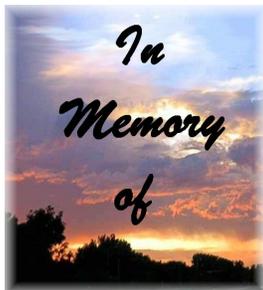
encourage you to get the most out of your Christian faith by practicing regular prayer, regular Bible reading, and regular worship with your brothers and sisters in faith. This way we'll all benefit from the gift God gives us through our faith!
See you at church - Pastor Larry



Ash Wednesday - Feb. 10th - 4:30 P.M.

This year we'll begin the Lenten Season with a service. The odd time is to accommodate those who would like to attend the 'community dinner' at 6 p.m. next door. There will be the 'distribution of ashes' for those who would like. This is a sign of repentance and a reminder that we are the creation of God, and without God we are nothing. As we enter the season, we will follow the steps of Jesus leading to his crucifixion and resurrection. It is a solemn time of meditation and reflection, and gives us an opportunity to remember what God has done for us through Christ - namely providing for our forgiveness, reconciliation, and eternal life. We encourage you to utilize this period to deepen your faith by giving extra attention to worship, prayer, Bible reading, and conversation about 'what it means to be a Christian'. May God bless your efforts!

Pastor Larry



IN MEMORY OF

On All Saints' Sunday (Nov. 1st), we remembered those who have passed from this earthly life to eternal life. We usually have a ceremony at our Annual Meeting also, but didn't this year. We'd like to just recall those who did pass from life to death to life

again with God as we begin the new year of 2016. They are as follows, in alphabetical order:

	DOB	DOD
*Edward S. Acton	05/15/1914	10/16/2015
*Peter Adams		
Jessie Giles Ambrose	1915-02/03	2015
Betty Bischoff	05/01	2015
*David Buswell	05/12	2015
*David Chapman	05/01	2015
Edna Ellis	1940-12/03	2015
Carol Foord	11/25	2015
June Godfry Gilpatrick	04/28/1922	08/15/2015
Stephen Walter Hand	12/10/1952	04/30/2015
*David McCue	10/21/1937	04/28/2015
Ruth Moore		
Lynn Santner	11/11/1935	04/14/2015
Frank Seabury	11/26/1927	02/25/2015
Charles A. Stewart III (Tim)	12/12	2015
Jeannie Thurston	02/27	2015
Ernest White, Jr.	04/05	2015

*** Represents Members**

A long-time member, Ann Foss, who has been convalescing in Florida, passed away on Monday, January 25, 2016. Our condolences go out to her family.

May all their souls rest in God's eternal care!
PS - If we have forgotten anyone in Freedom, please let the office know

*President's
Message*

We are once again embarking on another New Year and if last year was any indication of the vibrancy and growth we experienced, then we are headed in the right direction. Let me share a few of the exciting happenings of this past year

We welcomed 14 new members and we will be welcoming possibly 4-6 more in the spring. Many of the new members are already making their contributions to our church family felt by joining committees, helping with coffee hour, etc.

The new membership mail boxes have been set up in the Davidson Room and are ready to accept notices, newsletters, etc., unless you opted to have them mailed. Please check them often.

Concerts, plays and fellowship dinners were offered throughout the year and were very well attended. These activities are a delightful way of enjoying "lighter" times together in an informal setting. It is hoped that all these activities will continue into this new year. If you have an idea for an activity you would like to see added, please feel free to contact me or LuAnn Rollins of the Membership Comm.

One of our biggest accomplishments to date is our brand new web-site, www.firstchristianchurchoffreedom.org, which is up and running smoothly. Nancy Wogman will be keeping the calendar of events up to date as often as needed.

Though, still in its infancy, it's becoming a valuable tool for keeping us informed as to the goings on here at church. I hope all committee chairpersons will notify Nancy when planning an event, so that it gets on the calendar promptly.

Our coordinated Community Outreach program with the Freedom Community Club has proven to be a very successful program for the many in our community that have been helped over the past year. Drivers are always needed, please speak to Patty in the office if you would like to help out.

There has also been an excellent response in helping to pay down our Capital Campaign Fund and I want to thank all who helped make this happen. Having said this, we must be mindful that with an "aging" church such as ours, problems can arise from time to time that must be addressed promptly and frequent maintenance is a necessity...just like it is for you and me!

As we go forward, you may remember from our Annual Meeting, that Pastor Larry mentioned he would like explore the possibility of a church "Mission" which our congregation can get behind and actively participate in and support. If you would like to join a small committee to explore this

worthwhile endeavor, please let Pastor Larry or myself know.

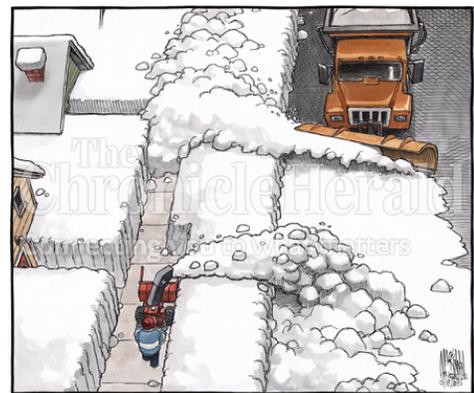
I have every reason to believe this New Year will continue to see our church "family" grow and thrive in God's love and our love for one another. I am thankful and feel blessed to be a part of this special "family."

This seemed like an appropriate way to end this month's newsletter:

"For all that has been---Thanks.
To all that shall be----YES!"

Dag Hammarskjold

Be seeing you around town,
Sandy Boyle



Snow Policy

We had to cancel services twice last year, but are hoping to avoid problems this year. First of all, if it's snowing or sleeting, don't take a chance. If the snow has stopped by 8 a.m., we may cancel, depending on the town's ability to get the streets cleared. We don't have a parking lot, so we depend on street parking, plus we don't want anyone to get 'plowed in'. The determination is made by our president, Sandy Boyle, and our former trustee, Charlie Bojus. Sometimes it's obvious, but other times it depends on circumstance - like if the pastor and/or music director can make it. We will try to arrange with WMUR TV to broadcast a cancelation, and also put it on our website. If we can get it on our 'answering machine' at church, we'll do that also. Otherwise, try calling one of the leaders or another church member. Lastly, please don't take a chance if it doesn't look safe!



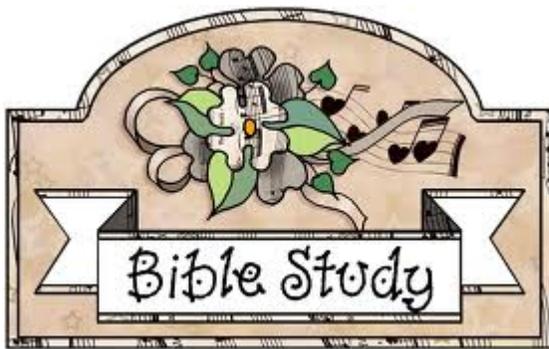
Coffee and Flower Sign-ups

We do have charts on the wall by our coffee makers, and there are plenty of empty slots. With regard to coffee, we do have people willing to make the coffee, but servers put out the cups and bring 'goodies' and cream. Flower providers either can work through the office or bring their own flowers for the altar. They can be in memory of a loved one or in honor of someone or to mark an anniversary, or just to the glory of God. We thank you for providing that service for our weekly worship.



Pastoral Visits

Should anyone wish to have a pastoral visit or communion, please speak to Pastor Larry, a deacon, or Patty in the church office.



All are invited to Camp Calumet each week on Tuesday at 10:00 a.m. for a group discussion of the scripture lessons for the coming week and how the lessons relate to daily living. Bible Study is held in the Camp Calumet Conference Center on the right as you

go west on Lake Ossipee Road. Please see Pastor Larry if interested.



Good Morning Call! Several of us participate in this program offered by the Carroll County Sheriff's office. It is simple.....you make a call and talk to a real person.....if they do not hear from you, the Freedom Police stop by. It is reassuring to know that during an emergency.....either personal or weather related, someone know where you are. Any questions.....call Lee Allison at 539-6429 or the Sheriff directly at 539-2284.



Intergenerational Christian Education News

At First Christian, there are activities for all ages when it comes to Christian Education. Our Faith Journey never ends and we are committed to providing a firm foundation for our youth and opportunities for all ages to continue that journey.

Our March Intergenerational activity will be a **St. Patrick's Luncheon** held on **March 13**. The proceeds will be used for our annual Music Camp during Freedom Old Home Week this summer.

We are also planning our **Annual Strawberry Festival to be held on July 10** immediately after church. Those proceeds will also be used to offset Music Camp expenses.

Additionally, the Christian Ed. Committee voted to again hold in June, the **Graduation Brunch** for the 6th grade students at Freedom Elementary School.

We continue to offer **Sunday School** each week for any children that might be in attendance. We thank Pet Plunges, Carol McIntire, Heide Paulding and Nancy Wogman for preparing lessons. If you know of children in the community or if you have grandchildren that are visiting, please encourage them to come to Sunday School.

Adult opportunities for education abound at First Christian. The Thursday book group meets at 10 a.m. at FCC. That group is led by David Avery and Bob Bossdorf. If you are interested in Bible Study, then join Pastor Larry at Camp Calumet on Tuesdays at 10 a.m. That group explores the lessons for the upcoming Sunday. .

Palm Sunday is early this year-March 20. If you have children visiting, contact Nancy Wogman as we would like children to process that morning with palm branches.

Nancy Wogman



Report of the Financial Secretary

Thank you to all who took the time to return pledge cards. If you requested weekly envelopes, they are in your mailbox in the Davidson Room. January 2016 is off to a good start. As of January 15, 2016, collections are \$1899 for pledge and regular contributions and \$114 for loose plate contributions. This compares to the full year budgets of \$65,000 and \$4,500 respectively. Total year-to-date collections are slightly ahead of the same period last year. A recent donation was made to help defray the cost of a new rug in the church and to make some needed upgrades to the furnace.

Carol Porter



Deacons Report

As usual December and January have been very busy for the Deacons.

In December we helped Bob Smart decorate the church for Christmas. The good news is that nobody broke their neck hanging the decorations over the Nave. Thanks to the Granahan's donation of a new ladder the project was easier this year.

We also were able to visit several shut-ins and continued our project of making medical equipment available to people who have a need, at no cost.

You may have noticed the Deacons have been greeting people at the end of each service. We have been considering swapping the rear of the church and the front with Pastor Larry.

In January we welcomed two new Deacons, Carol McIntire and Gail Bizer.

We finally got around to taking down all the Christmas Decorations. The Nave looks naked without the decorations. I wonder if we should put up decorations for other seasons.

If you know of anybody who needs medical equipment please get in touch with a Deacon, the church secretary or Pastor Larry.

At our January meeting we elected Neal Boyle chairman, Wendell Packard Vice chairman, and Carol McIntire Secretary, for this year. Neal Boyle



Prayer List

Louise Anderson, Nathaniel & Carolyn Anderson, Kathy Avery, Phil Beckwith, Walter J. Bonia, Howard Bouve', Chris Boynton, Kathy Brownrigg, Harold Brown Jr., Herb Burroughs, Carolyn Clancy, Priscilla Collette, Jason Crawford, Pauline Crawford, Roberta Davidson, Sarah Dayton, Florence Dellecese, Craig Devine, Sally Downey, Irene Eichler, The family of Ann Foss, Michael Gaudette's sister-in-law, Linnie Giles, Kathleen Helfrich, Karen Hopkins, Glenn Hormell, Phyllis Kenison, Elmer Killam, Allison Bizer Knox, Ginny Lanoue, Jean Marshall, Carol Melvidas, Frank Meserve, Sarah Millette, Bill Nason, Sean Palumbo, DeMott Post, Jen Scales, Kathleen Sherin, Dan Spear, Dick Stosez, Mike Sudak, Michael Sweeney, Marc Thurrell, Jim Tracey, Cheryl Vitum, and all our country's military personnel and their families.

Please let the office know if names should be added or removed from this list or the bulletin. Thank you.



A note from your head ushers

The current Ushering List is being updated and your input is important. If you are currently an usher and no longer wish to serve for your specified month, either because of health issues or other concerns, please contact one of the Head Ushers (Mark

McKinley 539-6577 or Jim Blake 539-5453). Please know that your faithful service continues to be deeply appreciated and does much to reinforce the welcoming attitude of First Christian Church. If you have not participated, and would like to consider becoming an usher on Sunday mornings, please contact Mark or Jim. Thank you.



ARE YOU INTERESTED IN BECOMING A CHURCH MEMBER?

When you're a member of a church, it means you've made a commitment to your faith. You have said "I'm a follower of Jesus Christ and a member of a Christian community." It also helps from the church's point of view to know who can be counted on to continue the church.

First Christian Church has 2 categories of members. One is as a full member - those who consider First Christian Church of Freedom their primary church. We also have a second category of people who may belong to another congregation. It's called 'associate membership'. It may be that a person is a lifetime member of a church in another state, and really wants to retain their membership there. Or, it may be, as is the case with me and many others, that for other benefits, one wants to maintain membership in a church of a particular denomination, or where one's family has always been a member, and it is necessary or desirable that one retain membership in a denominational church. In this case, one can become an associate member here and have all the privileges of a full member - vote, pastoral care, involvement in various ministries, serving in leadership, etc.

We want to invite those who are not, to become full or associate members. Being on this 'list' does not make anyone better or more Christian than anyone else, but it does help us get 'a handle' on 'who we are' as a congregation, and maybe how we need to shape our mission and ministries.

Please let us know about joining (it's free!), or if you're not sure, speak to Pastor Larry or call the church office 539-6484

Freedom Food Pantry



The activity at the Food Pantry continues unabated. We continue to serve between 2000-3000 meals a month. The volunteers do a great job serving all these people on a weekly basis. Rotary gave us a gift of \$500. Doris, Paul and many others keep us on track and keep the shelves stocked. Walmart has been great about giving us surplus food. We always need volunteers, so if you are interested in helping, call Dan Spear. Doris will be away for a couple of months so we will need some extra leadership during that time. Dallas has become Asst. Treasurer and Nancy Bossi is our new Treasurer. I am working on inputting the client list into a specially designed computer program. Doris has readied the requests from the three towns that give us generous support and will be making those presentations shortly. Remember to vote yes at your town meeting. Things continue to move along through your generous gifts of time and money and so this vital ministry continues. The closing of Lakeview has sent numerous families to us.

Bob
Bossdorf



A special thank you goes out to Doris Sirois for her many hours dedicated to the Food Pantry.

FOOD PANTRY HIGHLIGHTS

Letters to the Freedom Food Pantry:

Dear Doris:

I wanted to take this opportunity to express my deepest gratitude to you and all of your volunteers at the food pantry. I don't believe any of you hear it enough, and my family is grateful to have you all here for us.

There are times when the help we receive from you makes the difference between sharing a family meal, or just making sure our son can eat and we go without.

Please know, we, as a family, are well aware of your sacrifices on your Saturday morning sleep, the hours shopping, sorting, stocking, paperwork and all of the things you do to keep the pantry running.

With our deepest gratitude
Happy Thanksgiving to you all!
A food pantry family

To the Freedom Food Pantry

Thank you all for all of your selflessness & dedication to help so many people. I, for one, wouldn't have such a beautiful holiday if not for your generosity. I look forward to the Saturday mornings. When we visit here, it's wonderful to the friendly faces & hear the goodwill everywhere.

Hope you all have a blessed holiday & a wonderful new year.

Sincerely,

A food pantry family

A note from Doris:

On the days that we provided the Thanksgiving & Christmas meals, I wanted to share the notes I received from our pantry clients. Paul and I also want to thank all of our volunteers who help on Saturdays;

unload trucks, fill in for me when I'm away or provide any other assistance. I couldn't do it without you!

Doris and Paul

P.S. If you have 2 ½ hours on one Saturday morning each month and would like a rewarding experience, please consider volunteering.



Please be sure the office has your email address. Obviously, if you received this newsletter we have your email in the computer. If you picked up the newsletter in your mailbox, however, and you have email, let us know so you can receive it by email next time. A sign-up sheet will be available throughout the year in the Fellowship Room. If you are not a member of the Church and would like to receive the newsletter by email, be sure and let us know.



Fund Raising

The Fund Raising Committee is selling "Rada Cutlery" made in the USA as one of our fundraisers. This will not be a door-to-door event but samples will be on display at our events and ongoing. You may contact Judy Robertson, Velma Hormell or Patty Dumas in the church office if you are interested in checking out the catalog for paring knives, bagel knives, chef's knives, granny forks, pie or cake servers, steak knives, etc. which are available.

We have just received the new catalog for 2016. Keep this extremely well-made cutlery in mind for gifts

throughout the year and you will be supporting the church at the same time. Velma Hormell

Medical Equipment Availability



The Deacons have custody of medical items available for loan purposes. Currently the following items are stored in the church barn and may be borrowed by contacting George Thompson at 539-4601:

- Wheel Chairs
- Crutches
- Canes
- Walkers
- Shower Chairs
- Shower Transfer Benches
- Commodes
- Potty Seats
- Blow-Up Mattress



TRUSTEE REPORT

The Trustees met on January 19, 2016 at the church. Present were Charlie Bojus, chairman, Dan Spear, Roland Millette, Frank Cunio, Mark McKinley, Dean Robertson, Sandy Boyle, and Pastor Larry. Paul Elie was absent (being away on vacation).

The purpose of the meeting was to go over the duties and responsibilities of the Trustees and to review the list of vendors used by the church when outside help is required. Charlie explained that he will be available for the remainder of the year when needed. If something comes up that has not been covered, he will certainly be happy to help.

I have been a Trustee for quite a few years and have been pleased to see many changes and improvements in the church, the parsonage and the parsonage barn over the years. However I think it is time to retire and let others take over. I have appreciated the help of everyone who has volunteered to clean up in the fall and spring and other projects when asked.

Dan Spear and Paul Elie will serve as co-chairs of the Board of Trustees.

Charlie Bojus
Retired Chairman



FROM THE CHURCH SECRETARY

Well, I've survived my first four months at First Christian Church. It's been great. I'm enjoying the visits from members, and non-members as well. Thanks for your patience as I'm still learning the ropes.

If you have any information for the office or for me, please leave it on my desk or in my mailbox on Sunday morning. Office hours are Monday, Wednesday and Thursday from 9am to 1pm.

Sincerely
Patty Dumas



The Ossipee Concerned Citizens, Inc. is requesting your help in filling the need for volunteers to deliver Meals on Wheels to the home-bound in Ossipee, Effingham and Freedom. The meals routes take an hour or more to complete. If you are interested, please contact Bob Bossdorf. They are also in need of people to join the Board. If interested call OCC at 539-6851. Thank you for your help.



FEBRUARY 2016

SUN

MON

TUE

WED

THUR

FRI

SAT

31 9am Choir 10am Church	1 9am Ladies Guild	2 10am Bible Study 7pm Choir	3	4 9am Deacon's Meeting 10am Book Study	5	6 10am Food Pantry
7 9am Choir 10am Church	8 9am Ladies Guild	9 10am Bible Study 7pm Choir	10 Ash Wednesday	11 10am Book Study	12	13 10am Food Pantry
14 9am Choir 10am Church	15 9am Ladies Guild	16 10am Bible Study 7pm Choir	17 7pm Church Council	18 10am Book Study	19	20 10am Food Pantry
21 9am Choir 10am Church	22 9am Ladies Guild	23	24	25	26	27
28	29	1	2	3	4	5
6	7	8	9	10	11	12