



Freedom Rings

First Christian Church of Freedom
Combining Traditional and Contemporary Faith Communities

April Newsletter



HOLY WEEK

April 2014
Pastor's Corner

"Is Spring Coming?"

We have a sign on our front porch that says, "Let it snow, let it snow, let it snow!" We took it down about a week ago. We haven't had much snow since, and like many of you, we are more than ready for Spring. Of course, the merchants, ski resorts, and snow plowers are hoping for more, so, sometimes it depends on your situation.

We might feel the same about Lent. What a dismal season. We focus on the controversies and eventual crucifixion of our Lord. We are to be solemn, confessional, and repentant about our behavior during this time. Why don't we just skip to Easter, the resurrection of our Lord. What a glorious day that is, with rousing hymns, fragrant flowers, uplifting lessons, inspirational sermon – they all cry out "Halleluia, praise the Lord!" That's what we need, a positive experience of God's love and hope.

However, we need to recognize that to fully appreciate the warmth and growth of Spring, we have to endure the full force of the winter winds, cold, and snow. It has been extreme this year, but we are confident that the weather will change, just as we know that our faith is constantly strengthened and renewed by God as

we study his Word and worship God's Name. We look forward to the next season as we focus on the one we're in. May God bless you, and I look forward to seeing you in church!

Pastor Larry

MAUNDY THURSDAY(April 17th at 7 P.M.)

We will again be celebrating the anniversary of our Lord's last supper with a service. This begins a 3 day period in which we remember the Passover and the institution of the Lord's Supper, and then the trial and crucifixion of Jesus, and finally celebrate Jesus rising from the dead. Come and join us in honoring this ancient sacrament in the life of the church.

GOOD FRIDAY(April 18th at 1 P.M.)

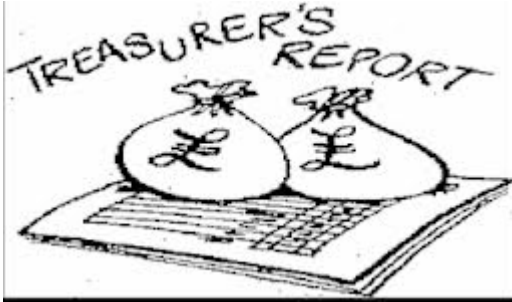
This is another ancient tradition in which we observe "the stations of the cross". We'll be singing some of the beautiful hymns that focus on the cross, as well as trying to understand the various 'stops' of Jesus from the trial to Calvary.

EASTER SUNRISE(April 20th at 7 A.M.)

For those who enjoy watching the sun come up, we'll gather at the pavilion on Loon Lake on Easter morning for a very brief service (a hymn or two, reading, a short comment, and closing prayer). It's a meaningful way to begin the day, and if we're lucky, the sun will be coming up and there'll be a loon on the lake. Following that, come to the breakfast at the town hall next to the church.

FEAST OF THE RESURRECTION OF OUR LORD(April 20 at 10 A.M.)

This is the most important service of the church year when we're assured of God's love in the raising of Jesus from death and the grave. As Jesus is given new life, so are we promised the same, despite our sin and rebellion against God. We express our thanks for this 'gift' and seek to glorify God's name in word and hymns. We always look forward to the church 'decked out' with flowers, a wonderful choir anthem, and a full congregation. If you're in town, be sure to join us!



Treasurer's Report

All 2014 Church bills received have been paid. There are no "red flags" to report. Church investment accounts are secure at two different custodians, Vanguard and TD Ameritrade.

Thus far for 2014 Church income is about \$1,400 less than bills paid which is due primarily to sluggish pledge and loose plate contributions. Expenses are in line with our 2014 budget.

Of the Church's other Funds:

- The Food Pantry was about breakeven for January 2014.
- The Capital Campaign Fund has raised \$1000 thus far in 2014. The church has spent \$55,000 to repair the Church siding, front doors, Parsonage roof, front porch, and to purchase a chair lift. We hope to raise another \$10,000 to cover upcoming repairs. With \$15,000 raised since launching our Capital Campaign in the Fall of 2013, there is still \$50,000 to be raised. We hope congregation members and friends of the Church will consider contributing to the Capital Campaign Fund.
- The Scholarship Fund has distributed \$1,600 in scholarships but has received only \$50 in contributions. Earnings from the Scholarship Endowment Fund make up the difference each year but we hope congregation members and friends of the Church will consider contributing to the Scholarship Fund to replenish the Endowment.

Respectfully submitted,

Paul J. Olzerowicz, Treasurer

Financial Secretary Report

As of 3/16/14, FCCF has received \$11,104 in pledge and loose plate contributions. Although this is well below our budget for week 12, we're likely to catch up once the warmth of spring reaches us and attendance picks up. Our full-year goal is \$60,500.

As you know, the contributions each of us make each week are important to supporting the church ministry. However, you can also make tax-deductible contributions directly to other funds at any time: Altar Flowers, Capital, Choir Robe, Davidson Scholarship, Flagpole, Music Camp, Organ, Food Pantry, and the Pastor's discretionary fund. Simply note the fund of choice on the check or envelope, and either mail or place it in the collection plate. Let me know if you have questions about any of the funds.

Nadine Chapman, Financial Secretary



Joys and Concerns....

Pet Plunges is recovering from a fall which resulted in a serious injury to her arm requiring surgery. She is doing well but if anyone is available to take her dog for a walk she would certainly appreciate that!

Gail Bizer is finally on the road to recovery. She has had cataracts removed from both eyes and her vision is improving daily. She is very grateful to have a good friend like Lucy Kendall who has been driving her back and forth to Boston. Now she can

spend time taking care of her new granddaughter and helping out her daughter and family.

Dean and Judy Robertson have been away on a relaxing vacation in the sunny south. Hopefully they didn't run into a storm. They will be home in time for Easter.

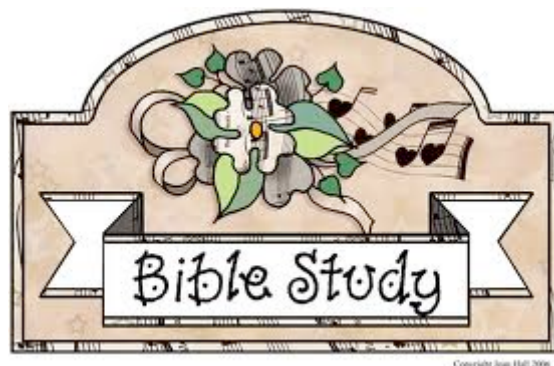
I just have to say to all the members and friends of the church who have been lucky enough to spend time in Florida or other warm states, I hope you appreciate how fortunate you have been this winter. I am looking out the window now on the last day of March and the snow banks are four feet tall. I wonder if it will be melted before the Easter Sunrise Service. It has been a very long, cold winter and I can't even drive up Cushing Corner Road; it is one big frost heave after another – the poor car. However, I feel very blessed to sit in my kitchen window in the late afternoon and early in the morning and watch the deer (17 at last count) come and go each day. I would not want to live anywhere else, it is so beautiful and peaceful here. I have much to be grateful for. Pat Bojus



Pastoral Visits

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

If you have any news you would like to share, please submit it to the church office by the 20th of the month. We would love to hear about your travels and adventures.



All are invited to Camp Calumet each week on Tuesday at 10 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.

April 6, 2014

Ezekiel 37:1-14

Psalms 130

Romans 8:6-11

John 11:1-45

April 13, 2014 Psalm Sunday

Matthew 21:1-11

Isaiah 50:4-9

Philippians 2:5-11

Psalms 31:9-16

Matthew 26:14-27

April 20, 2014 Easter Sunday

Acts 10:34-43

Colossians 3:1-4

Psalms 118:1-2, 14-24

Matthew 28:1-10

April 27, 2014

Acts 2:14, 22-32

1 Peter 1:3-9

Psalms 16

John 20:19-31

Adult Study

The next book for our book group on Friday mornings will be Zealot: The Life and Time of Jesus of Nazareth by Reza Aslan. Aslan gives us a picture of Jesus of Nazareth through the lens of the culture and time in which he lived. The gospels are balanced against historical sources describing life in his time. We see a politically conscious revolutionary who defies Roman occupation and authority along with their allies in the religious hierarchy. His writing has been described as a "thought-provoking, elegantly written biography with the pulse of a fast-paced novel: a singularly brilliant portrait of a man, a time, and the birth of a religion."

We shall probably start this book on Friday, April 4th at 10:00 A.M. The book costs \$15.26. A few copies will be available at the church or pick up a copy yourself. Come join us.

David Avery



President's Message (this month it will be the Vice President's Message)

As many of you know, Dean and Judy are away on a much-deserved vacation. Therefore, as Vice President, the privilege of writing a small piece for the newsletter is my responsibility this month.

As difficult and long as this winter has been, Spring is right on our doorstep and we can look ahead to warmer days and new beginnings. We will have a concert to look forward to on the 12th of April, featuring the New England Tenors at 2 PM. Approaching soon after will be Holy Week followed by a glorious Easter. Hopefully there will be no snow!

Plans for Holy Week are well under way and will hold several opportunities for introspection and contemplation as we follow Jesus on His journey and His ultimate sacrifice on the cross. We will begin with Palm Sunday on April 13 at 10 AM, followed by a Maundy Thursday service with Communion, as we share in His Last Supper. There will be a Good Friday service at 1 PM with music and very moving visuals of His way to the cross. Also on display will be the golden Icons of the 12 Stations of the Cross, donated to the church by Elmer Killam. If you have yet to see this display, please take the time, for they are indeed stunning. The church will remain open until 4 PM to allow ample time for reflection and quiet time.

We hope many of you will find time to attend one or more of these special Lenten observances and slow down your busy lives long enough to spend time with Him in your own special way.

You are wished a very Blessed Easter.
Sandy Boyle



Deacon's Report

Spread the word – Spring is here! However, winter continues to be hammering away at us in our little New Hampshire village. We may complain but despite the ice, snow and frigid cold, our spirits remain high. We cherish a sunny, windless day as a special blessing. Many of our "snow birds" have returned to Freedom from the southern climes and probably wish they had waited a bit longer before coming home. It is good to see them in church again.

The new members of the Deaconate, Henry Granahan and Wendell Packard are a great addition. Henry volunteered to make wooden

crosses for the Deacons to wear around their necks when serving Communion. He is making them from beautiful wood and, hopefully, they will be ready to wear for the April Communion.

Many of our parishioners are either homebound or not living in their homes anymore and are therefore unable to attend Sunday services. Pastor Larry and his wife Nancy, and the Deacons, want to make sure everyone that would like a visit will have that opportunity. If anyone would like to assist with these visits they may call a Deacon or the church office (539-6484) to get more information.

The Ash Wednesday service was well attended and there were several new worshipers in church. Although weekly attendance numbers have at times been lower than usual for weather, etc., reasons, there seem to be new faces at each Sunday service and coffee hour is, as usual, a popular event.

The annual Easter Breakfast will be held in the Town Hall following the Sunrise Service at Loon Lake. Coffee will be available at 7:30 AM and breakfast will be served from 8:00 to 9:30 AM. Donations will be accepted. The church service will be held, as usual, at 10:00 AM.

Don't forget to give some thought to being prepared in the event of an emergency situation. The Freedom Fire Department has a form on their website that can be downloaded and filled out with information on next of kin, meds, contact numbers and other pertinent information.

May we all be thankful for this wonderful town we call home, for our special friendships and for our many blessings in our church fellowship.

Respectfully submitted, Mary Hockmeyer



Prayer List

Marion Barnes, Rev. Bob Bosdorf, Priscilla Collette, Pauline Crawford, Jeannette DeAngelis, Sarah Delzell, Craig Devine, Ramona Fateux, Donald Flanders, Gordon C. Gladden, Scott Hayman, Dale Johnson and family, George Kendall, Phyllis Kenison, Elmer Killam, Nancy Koza, Elizabeth Landry, Laura Leddy, Brenda Libby, Harold Libby, Jr., Louise Lipson, Parker MacInnis, Elise Mancini, Spike Mayhew, Carol Melvitas, Frank Meserve, Bill Nelson, Kelly Nelson, Mindy Olson, Roger Olson, Sean Palumbo, Mary Piper, Ed Roberts, Sally Schenker, Kathleen Sherin, David Sell, Virginia Sprague, Sue Stamm, Michele Stoddard, Emery Stokes, Dick Stosez, Ethel Thomas, Janet Thompson, Jim Tracey, Clay Wagner, Patricia Watts, 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.



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 desired 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



Food Pantry

The months fly by, here it is April and it is still snowing! Along with the interminable weather there are the increasing numbers of people that have been showing up for food at the pantry. We served over 2000 meals in February. The good news is that we are staying ahead of the crowd – for now. Thanks to Judy and Jim Blake who did the

heavy lifting while Doris and Paul Sirois were enjoying the warmer weather for the last couple of months – and welcome back to them!

We continue to try and find affordable supplies of meat since the Food Bank in Manchester has little. RSVP helped us out with some foodstuffs and some meat – all at no cost to us – and we will explore that some more. If anyone would like to buy some ground beef and donate it, we would appreciate it; one and two pound packages would be nice.

Freedom voted to give us a substantial amount of money again, Effingham is voting as we speak; Ossipee will vote at a delayed town meeting next week, with a recommended \$8000. The potential problem there is a “no support” motion for Agape, which will bring a host of people from there I am sure. We will be having a Board meeting after church sometime in April to look at the operation of the pantry and see where we go from here.

A super thing happened to us! We got a substantial anonymous donation from a foundation in New York City (with relatives in Effingham) that has allowed us to buy two new freezers and two new refrigerators (energy efficient, etc.) for the pantry. They were delivered and installed on Wednesday, March 19th. We are overwhelmingly thankful.

We continue to be thankful for all who help us by serving on Saturdays, and as needed during the week. We could not do without your consistent help

For the Freedom Food Pantry,
Bob Bossdorf, Co-Director

Thank You to Thrivent Financial

FCCF would like to thank church members and Freedom area residents who are Thrivent Financial members who have directed Thrivent Financial to donate Choice Dollars to FCCF. In 2013 nearly \$2,000 was directed to FCCF and the Freedom Food Pantry through the Choice Dollar program or a Care Abounds in Community grant.

BOOKS ON WHEELS

The Freedom Public Library is pleased to announce our home delivery service. This program provides services to Freedom residents who are unable to get to the library due to short/long-term illnesses, physical challenges, visual disabilities, inability to drive, hospitalization or long-term care residents. Some of the benefits of our Books on Wheels program are personalized visits by a library volunteer and delivery of materials tailored to your preferences. We can deliver books, movies, magazines and audio books right to your home. If you or someone you know would like this service, please call the Freedom Public Library at 539-5176 or Lee Allison at 539-6429.



A Technicolor Promise

Registration forms are now available for the 2014 Children's Summer Theater Camp. The dates will be Monday through Friday, July 28th - August 1st from 10 AM - 3PM. This year we will be presenting "A Technicolor Promise", the story of Noah's Ark. Performances of the play will be at the Freedom Elementary School on Friday, August 1st at 3PM and Sunday, August 3rd at 10AM. The Sunday performance will be a part of the Church's Old Home Week Worship Service. Children must be 8 years of age to participate. For more information or for a registration form contact Carolyn Olzerowicz at colzerowicz@gmail.com or at (603)569-5711. Forms are also available at the church.



COMING EVENTS AT CAMP CALUMET

Women's Retreat

There will be a Women's Retreat at Camp Calumet on Saturday, May 3rd from 9:00 am to 4:00 pm. The cost is \$15.00. This year's theme is "The Questions of Jesus", a look at serving in Jesus' name with Bible study, silent reflection and conversation.

Come and experience a day of peaceful interaction and learning with other women. Lunch will be provided.

Call Nancy Wogman at 539-2783 for more information or questions.

Presentation of Haiti

Karen Hopkins and companions who have returned from their trip to Haiti will entertain us with stories and pictures of their amazing experience. The date is Wednesday, May 21st at 11 am. A luncheon of Haitian food will be served. The cost is \$10.00. This promises to be an interesting and inspirational event.

George T. Davidson, Jr. Scholarship for 2014

Anyone who intends to further his or her education in an accredited post-secondary institution may submit an application for consideration to the Scholarship Committee of the First Christian Church. Applications may be obtained at the church office in Freedom Village or at the Kennett High School Guidance Office. Completed forms must be submitted to the Scholarship Committee by May 1st.

Jane Hartnett