



Freedom Rings

First Christian Church of Freedom

Combining Traditional and Contemporary Faith Communities

July/August Newsletter



Pastor's Corner

The last few weeks the lessons from Matthew have focused on the Great Commission and Jesus' instructions to his disciples as he sends them out on their first mission. It reminds us that we are a 'mission church' and each of us is meant to spread the 'good news of God's love in Jesus Christ.' What does it all mean?

You may have heard the story about the Sunday schooler who expressed her disappointment about the class. "The teacher kept telling us to go out into the world to make disciples of all nations, but all we did was sit there – for a whole hour." It's not uncommon to find a church crammed with faith-filled people neglecting to share their faith – a kind of contradiction in terms. We Christians struggle with how to express our faith in meaningful ways, realizing that Christianity will not spread unless we do it. Yet we also question some of the aggressive and heavy-handed ways other groups do it. It seems that Jesus was less intrusive and more invitational – he blessed them, he loved them, he came to their aid and taught them, and they followed. We may wonder how we can possibly convey the message of God's love without coming on too strong or appearing self-righteous.

So, how do we testify to the benefits of the Christian life? Can we truly be a Christian without witnessing to others? Isn't it enough that I'm a 'good person' and try not to hurt anyone?

If Christianity was about my personal faith, it would be acceptable to remain silent. There are religions that focus on the individual and they emphasize being a better person, trying to gain individual salvation by gaining God's favor. But Christianity is a communal religion. We have been chosen by God to be a people who love God and each other. We seek to be self-less, regarding others as fellow creatures of a loving God. God wants us all to be part of God's Kingdom. And so we reach out.

Like many other things, witnessing our faith often happens in the course of daily events. God presents 'openings' to share what we believe. One way is by **modeling Christian behavior**, acting in a Christ-like way. People around you may well ask or pick up on the fact that you act in love or with compassion. The 4th Century teacher – John Chrysostom – was quick to say, "Let us astound them before all words, by our way of life." A second way is by **practicing the disciplines of faith** – worship, study, prayer, service, and meditation. If people see how important your faith is to you, they may desire the same for themselves. A final way is to **'be prepared' when people seek your counsel**. Are you able to cite examples of holy living, Biblical characters who have experienced frustrations, depression, challenges, or other issues that others might identify with? We must always be careful not to put another down for their lack of faith or loose living, but sensitively seek to give sincere advice.

God suggests that we needn't worry about what to say or do in a given situation, but the Holy Spirit will supply for the need. If we practice our faith, we'll never be found 'wanting'. God bless you!

See you in church. Pastor Larry



All 2014 First Christian Church of Freedom (FCCF) bills received have been paid.

Through June 17, 2014 Church income is about \$2,400 more than bills paid. There are no “red flags” to report for church accounts.

The situation with the parsonage tenants seems to be under control for the moment. The Trustees continue to monitor the situation closely.

Finance Committee projects include:

1. A Capital Campaign Fund update will be going to all congregation members and friends of the congregation shortly.
2. Alan Grant is working diligently on the 2014/2015 fuel oil provider project and hopes to have a recommendation shortly.
3. Andrea Libby of Libby Computer will be providing computer assistance for the church office as needed.
4. Nadine Chapman continues to work on a church records retention policy.
5. Paul Olzerowicz continues to work on investment account rebalancing.

Please feel free to contact our Treasurer, Paul Olzerowicz or anyone on the Church Finance Committee for more information.

Respectfully submitted,

Paul J. Olzerowicz, Treasurer

“Every charitable act is a stepping stone toward heaven.”

Quote from Henry Ward Beecher



Financial Secretary's Report

It's interesting to note that since last year, our contributions have shifted slightly from loose plate to pledge. This is a result of moving a few individuals into the “pledge” classification because they have become regular contributors. So loose plate collections are down somewhat and pledge (and regular attendee) collections are up by a comparable amount. Overall year-to-date collections total \$31,323, which is consistent with past experience for this time period.

FCCF has, for some time, needed a new office computer and updated software. After much research and effort, I'm pleased to report that, along with Paul, we have made a decision on what to buy and where, all for the best value we could find. In addition, we will engage Andrea Libby of Libby Computers to assist in the installation and initial training to familiarize Pat and others with the new operating system. Thank you to the many individuals who weighed in on this matter and provided valuable guidance.

Respectfully submitted,

Nadine L. Chapman

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.

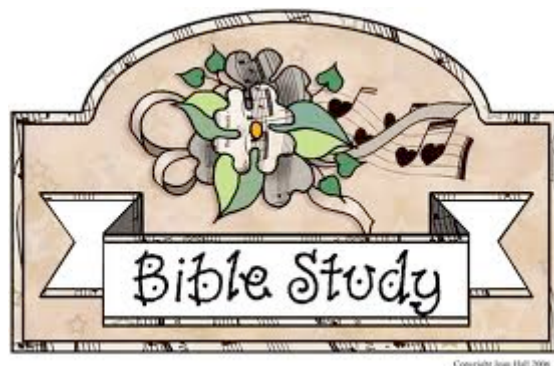
BOARD of Trustees' MEETING

The Trustees met at the church on June 10th. Some of the information from the meeting includes: mulch will be purchased to put around the shrubs in front of the church and one of the bushes will be removed since it died over the winter. Mike Gaudette has agreed to do the work to repair the potting shed at the back of the parsonage. It was agreed that all items left in the parsonage barn after Old Home Week will be removed and the barn will only be used for storage of church property (Christmas decorations, props for the summer music camp are examples). A small area will be left for storage of steel items that can be recycled. Money is received when these items are taken to the recycling facility.

Charlie Bojus, Chairperson

LOWREY ORGAN DS

Two keyboards, many extras, and in mint condition. If this interests you or if you have any questions, please call Mark McKinley at 539-6577.



All are invited to Camp Calumet each week on Tuesday at 10:30 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.

July 6, 2014

Zechariah 9:9-12

Psalms 145:8-14

Romans 7:15-25a

Matthew 11:16-19, 25-30

July 13, 2014

Isaiah 55:10-13

Psalms 65:1-8, 9-13

Romans 8:1-11

Matthew 13:1-9, 18-23

July 20, 2014

Isaiah 44:6-8

Psalms 86:11-17

Romans 8:12-25

Matthew 13:24-30, 36-43

July 27, 2014

1 Kings 3:5-12

Psalms 119:129-136

Romans 8:26-39

Matthew 13:31-33, 44-52

August 3, 2014

Isaiah 55:1-5

Psalms 145:8-9, 14-21

Romans 9:1-5

Matthew 14:13-21

August 10, 2014
1 Kings 19:5-15
Romans 10:5-15
Psalms 85:8-13
Matthew 14:22-33

August 17, 2014
Isaiah 56:1, 6-8
Psalms 67
Romans 11:1-2, 29-32
Matthew 15: 21-18

August 24, 2014
Isaiah 51:1-6
Psalms 138
Romans 12:1-8
Matthew 16:13-20

August 31, 2014
Jeremiah 15:15-21
Psalms 26:1-8
Romans 12:9-21
Matthew 16:21-28

Adult Study

No god but God (Updated Edition): The Origins, Evolution, and Future of Islam by Reza Aslan is the next book the book group will be reading. The cost is \$10.00.

"In *No god but God*, internationally acclaimed scholar Reza Aslan explains Islam – the origins and evolution of the faith – in all its beauty and complexity. This updated edition addresses the events of the past decade, analyzing how they have influenced Islam's position in modern culture. Aslan explores what the popular demonstrations pushing for democracy in the Middle East mean for the future of Islam in the region, how the internet and social media have affected Islam's evolution, and how the war on terror has altered the geopolitical balance of power in the Middle East. He also provides an update on the contemporary Muslim women's movement, a discussion of the controversy over veiling in Europe, an in depth

history of Jihadism, and a look at how Muslims living in North America and Europe are changing the face of Islam. Timely and persuasive, *No god but God* is an elegantly written account that explains this magnificent yet misunderstood faith." (Amazon)

The Adult Study group will be taking the summer months off and will resume in the Fall with this interesting book.

David Avery

Program on Haiti

Karen Hopkins has sent a note that her program on her trip to Haiti has been rescheduled to Wednesday September 24th at 11:00 am at Calumet. The cost is \$10 and includes lunch. All are welcome and it should be a very interesting program. You can let Pat know in the office if you would like to attend and we will be able to give them a number so they can plan the lunch. Many Haitian foods will be served.

Capital Campaign

Please take the time to read Paul Olzerowicz's letter regarding the Capital Campaign. These are difficult times financially for some but the work of the church goes on and it is our responsibility to help make that happen in any way we can. It can cost \$40 or so to go out to eat at most restaurants. Charlie and I will give up an evening out and put that money toward the Capital Campaign. I'm sure there are a few other things we can give up.

Pat Bojus

"Flowers are the sweetest things God ever made and forgot to put a soul into."

Quote from Henry Ward Beecher



Prayer List

Marion Barnes, Rev. Bob Bossdorf, 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.

Christian Education News

The Intergenerational Project for this summer will be a **Berry Shortcake Festival** on Sunday, July 13 after the service. The proceeds will be used to offset the cost of the summer Music Camp. We hope to raise \$250. We have also applied to Thrivent Supplemental Funds for another \$150 for this project.

Adult education is alive and well at First Christian! The **Book Group** meets on Friday, 10 a.m. at the church. This group is led by Bob Bossdorf and David Avery. The **Tuesday Bible Study** at Camp Calumet is led by Pastor Wogman. Both of these options are open to FCCF members and friends. Just plan to drop in at anytime.

The committee also held the **Annual 6th Grade Graduation Brunch on June 19th**. There were 12 children who graduated from Freedom Elementary School. A number of our members prepared and served the brunch.

Summer Sunday School will continue to be held each Sunday, thanks to our teachers, Pet Plunges, Carol McIntire, Chris Boynton, Heidi Paulding and Nancy Wogman. If you have children visiting this summer, they are welcome to attend. We can accommodate 3 year olds to grade 5.

July 28 to August 3, Music Camp will be held. Registration forms are available in the church office.

The **Church Picnic** will be on **September 7th** at **Camp Wakuda**.

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 **Quality of Life Award** is given annually to someone who has gone over and above in their volunteer efforts to help people in Carroll County – making sure that people receive needed services, helping to organize and facilitate getting these services to the people that need them, and promoting the Mount Washington Valley as a wonderful place to visit and to live. Doris Sirois of Freedom is a long-time volunteer who certainly meets the standards of this award. Doris has been an RSVP volunteer since January of 2009 and has contributed much to the health and well-being of many people in Carroll County.

Doris comes from a management background and has used those experiences to help better organize the Freedom Food Pantry, and most especially to work to get a continuing source of funding for the Pantry. She was instrumental in getting the budget committees to put funding articles on the town warrants in Freedom, Effingham, and Ossipee. As a result of her efforts, and a good PR push by Doris and friends, the Pantry received not the \$5000 they hoped for, but actually \$8000!! Doris is very persistent when it comes to causes that help those in need in her community.

Doris and her husband Paul work very hard for the Freedom Food Pantry. She has been known to spend hours doing food shopping in Manchester for the pantry, picking up donations from the USDA or arranging for their pickup, and then coming back and helping to get it all organized and arranged for distribution to the folks who really need it.

Doris also finds time to serve as the Assistant Treasurer of the Community Club in Freedom, and meets with the Ladies' Guild at the Freedom Church each week to help make their lovely quilts and lap robes, many of which they donate to RSVP for distribution to nursing homes, day care centers and the Birthing Center at Memorial Hospital.

Between the work at the Food Pantry and the Quilt-making at the Ladies' Guild, Doris has given over 2,600 hours of volunteer time to RSVP in the past five years.

So – all in all, it is safe to say that Doris Sirois certainly deserves the 2014 Quality of Life Award and all of us at First Christian Church in Freedom are very proud and pleased that Doris has received this well-deserved award.



Ladies Guild

The ladies displayed their beautiful quilts on Rubber Ducky Day and were very successful selling items throughout the day. We can now prepare for the next sale on August 2nd during Old Home Week, and continue to make more quilts for RSVP. 20 quilts were delivered to RSVP in North Conway to be distributed to nursing homes and the Birthing Center at Memorial Hospital. On June 11th many of us attended a luncheon to honor volunteers put on by RSVP. Our own Doris Sirois received the Quality of Life Award for all her hard work with the Food Pantry and as a member of the Guild. On June 23rd eight members made a trip to Marden's in Sanford, Maine for a group outing and to purchase fabric and have lunch at Applebee's. We were pleased to welcome four new members. It is very nice to come into the church on a Monday morning and see how many ladies are busily working on quilts, table runners, and pillowcases. It certainly is wonderful compared to three or four at the most that work in the winter months.

Myrtle MacLeod
Guild Secretary

Scholarship Committee

The Scholarship Committee met on May 18th to review the applications received. There were a total of 76. 74 were grade 12 students and two were students currently enrolled in college.

The recipients for this year are David Farinella, Andrew Libby, Abigail Scott, Melanie Glavin, and Philip Mathieu. Pastor Larry presented the Kennett High School scholarship letters on June 12th. Paul Olzerowicz also attended the ceremony.

A huge thank you goes out to all the committee members for their diligence in this important task.

Jane Hartnett, Chairperson
Scholarship Committee

Thank You to Thrivent Financial

FCCF would like to thank church members and Freedom area residents who are Thrivent Financial members and 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 their 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, or hospitalization. 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 are 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 and will be held at the Freedom Elementary School. 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.



Church Picnic

The annual church picnic will be held in September this year. The time just went by so fast that there was not an available Sunday in June. The date will

be September 7th following the worship service. We will enjoy the facilities at Camp Wakuta as we have for many years. Hot dogs, hamburgers and beverages will be provided and there will be a signup sheet for salads and desserts. All are welcome! Bring your fishing pole and/or a game suitable for all ages and enjoy the company of your church family.



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 Pat Bojus 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.

Thank you to everyone who helped in any way to make the Community Club Dinner a success. Whether it was table set-up, preparing dinner, serving, or cleaning up, we appreciate your help. Remember our Bake Sale on the church lawn on Rubber Ducky Race Day (6/28/14). Also check out the Tag Sale at the parsonage barn on 6/27, 28, and 29. We all enjoy a bargain!

Velma Hormell

Membership Committee

The committee has resumed the giving of bread to all new visitors and will continue to do so through November. Please let us know if you have family or friends visiting so that we may welcome them to our church.

There are plans being firmed up to see a couple of plays during July and August. A musical "Hello Dolly" and an Agatha Christie mystery "The Mousetrap"; dates will follow soon. We also hope to have other activities to announce over the coming weeks.....we are open to all suggestions!

The church picnic is going to be held on Sept. 7th, a really fun way to bring the summer to a close. We hope many of you will attend.

The committee would like to compile an email list of all the current members and friends who wish to do so, so that when something is being planned and you are not in church on a given Sunday, you can still be notified via email. Please give Pat Bojus, the church Secretary, permission to compile this list over the summer.

We wish you a safe, healthy, and FUN summer!
The Membership Committee



The **Freedom Police Department**, along with the **Carroll County Sheriff's office**, has a program to help citizens stay in their homes alone. It is called the **Good Morning Program**. At your request, a police officer will come to your home and record any special information about you, especially who to notify in case of an emergency. Your job is to

make a call to the Sheriff's office every morning between the hours of 6 and 10. If a call is not received, the police will call you and if there is no answer, they will come by to check on you. It is simple, non-threatening, a relief to your family and no cost to you. I have signed up and recommend that others make use of this service.

Lee Allison

Summer Music at Camp Calumet

Calumet's Summer Music Series will highlight musical experiences that fit both secular and sacred spaces. On Saturday, reserve a chair at an intimate evening performance followed by some treats in the Conference Center Dining Room by emailing judy@calumet.org (there will be an opportunity to share a small donation at the door). Please invite a friend and come!

Some of the groups performing are:

"Crossfire" – Bluegrass Instruments

"Local Rhapsodies" –flute and piano

"And All That Jazz" – Dixieland instruments

"The Trinity Ethiopian-Eritrean Singers" – variety of instruments

More to be announced for August.

