



Freedom Rings

First Christian Church of Freedom

Combining Traditional and Contemporary Faith Communities

Newsletter

October/November



Pastor's Corner

I came across this article from a friend's newsletter. There was no mention of the person who wrote it, but I thought it contained a wonderful message, especially as we face the dark days of winter.

"A 92 year old, petite, well-poised and proud man, who is fully dressed each morning by 8 o'clock, with his hair neatly combed and shaved perfectly, even though he's legally blind, moved into a nursing home today. His wife of 70 years recently passed away, making the move necessary.

After many hours of waiting patiently in the lobby of the nursing home, he smiled sweetly when told his room was ready. As he maneuvered his walker to the elevator, I provided a visual description of his tiny room, including the eyelet sheets that had been hung on his window. "I love it," he stated with the enthusiasm of an 8 year old who had just been presented with a new puppy.

"Mr. Jones, you haven't even seen the room, how can you be so positive?" "That doesn't have anything to do with it," he replied. "Happiness is something you decide ahead of time. Whether I like my room or not doesn't depend on how the furniture is arranged, it's

how I arrange my mind. I already decided to love it. It's a decision I make every morning when I wake up. I have a choice: I can spend the day in bed recounting the difficulty I have with the parts of my body that no longer work, or I can get out of bed and be thankful for the ones that do."

"Each day is a gift, and as long as my eyes open I'll focus on the new day and all the happy memories I've stored away, just for this time in my life. Old age is like a bank account, you withdraw from what you've put in. So, my advice to you would be to deposit a lot of happiness in the bank account of memories. Thanks for your part in filling my Memory bank."

What a great attitude! If we could just look on the 'bright side' and 'arrange our minds' accordingly. God has given us our lives and desires us to live meaningful and purpose-filled lives. God has blessed us with the things we need and constantly gives us opportunities to be involved in satisfying endeavors. We pray that each of us will be grateful for what God has given us.

As a follow-up to those thoughts, we are members of a church community that seeks to convey God's love through its ministry. On Nov. 16th, we've invited Knute Ogren to speak at our service. Knute has preached all over New England about the importance of sharing what we have. A luncheon will follow, funded by Thrivent Financial, with a short presentation on our budget. This is not one of those 'boring, pressure-filled stewardship' presentations that we all used to dread. It will rather be relaxed, humorous and enjoyable. So, come and plan to stay on that Sunday.

HOSPITAL EQUIPMENT AVAILABLE

How often have you needed a walker or crutches or even a wheelchair for a short time, but didn't want to buy one? The church has accumulated several pieces of equipment, and would like to make it available to anyone who has a need. There are other places that offer the same service, but they're a distance away. We are presently storing items in the parsonage barn, and would love to get them in

circulation. Speak to the Pastor, church secretary, or a deacon in you would like to borrow anything we have.

REMEMBER THE 5 SIMPLE RULES TO BE
HAPPY

Free your heart from hatred
Free your mind from worries
Live simply
Give more
Expect less

the President's message

It has been awhile since the church Newsletter has come out. During the summer we saw many summer people in church and also many new faces. Some of the new people are now attending church on a regular basis. We welcome you. I try to meet and welcome the new people and also try to get name tags for them.

In August the "fund raising committee" put on a BBQ Lunch during the Freedom Community Club's craft fair at the elementary school. We sold hamburgers, hot dogs, chips, soda and about 40 sausages, with onions and peppers donated by John and Maryann Hogan. The church realized about \$400 for our efforts. A big thank you those few who helped out.

In early September, the Membership Committee hosted our annual church picnic at the Davidson Property in Freedom. Thanks to the committee and all the members who brought salads and desserts. A special thank you to Barry and LuAnn Rollins for letting us use their grill for cooking at this event for the hotdogs and hamburgers and the BBQ in August.

I am pleased to announce that Pat Bojus is back in the church office after her surgery. How can we ever thank LuAnn Rollins for filling in as church secretary for the last month.

She jumped right in and the office ran business as usual. Thank you, LuAnn.

We are still reminding members to contribute to the Capital Campaign Fund, as we still have to replace \$48K that we borrowed for church improvements. If each member could send an extra \$200 for three years, we could just about retire our debt. Many thanks to all who have supported this fund. We voted to spend the money at the annual meeting a couple of years ago.

We are beginning to think about the Annual Meeting. This year it will be held on December 7 at the close of the church service. We are hoping that someone will step forward and be our new Financial Secretary. Nadine Chapman has had the job for a couple of years and during that time she has implemented many changes, having installed FlockBase software to our computer system. This new system has improved the procedures for handling our money and recording contributions. Many thanks to Nadine for all the time she has devoted to the church.

See you in Church.

Dean Robertson, President



DEACONS REPORT

The Deacons, after a two month summer break, resumed their monthly meetings in September at Camp Calumet, followed by a meeting in October at the same venue. We are very thankful to the Camp for the use of a quiet meeting room and a wonderful buffet luncheon!

Visitation schedules have been set up for these two months. Many of the names on the Prayer List have remained there for quite a long time without anyone knowing which names should

be removed. The Deacons discussed this and decided that when a name is put on the list the contact person's name and phone number will be recorded so that Pastor Larry, the Deacons, and the Church Secretary (and others) will be able to check on the person's status.

At the request of the Stokes family the Deacons assisted in the funeral service for Emery, welcoming guests and ushering them to their seats. It was a lovely service and a marvelous tribute to a member of our Church. Emery was truly a remarkable husband, father, grandfather and friend to many – and a man committed to helping those in need. The family, all ages, shared their memories of Em, as did several of his friends. The grandchildren spoke of the special times they spent with him and one of his granddaughters played a lovely rendition of “Amazing Grace” on her flute. We will all remember Emery at the Old Home Week Parades driving one of his antique cars, assisted by his son David! The Deacons, Church members and the community send their love and blessings to Ellie and her family.

In October there was a celebration of the life of Sally Schenker. It was a wonderful tribute to an amazing lady known as the “Lilac Lady” for her beautiful gardens – with over 100 different lilacs, the largest collection in the state. She will be missed by members of the Church and the community.

We were saddened to hear of Peter Adam's death. He and his wife Heidi spent winters in the south and had recently moved to Center Conway for the summers – we hope to see her in Freedom next summer.

The Deacons are thankful for their opportunity to assist Pastor Larry in the spiritual matters of the church, and to assist church members in any way possible. We are all blessed to have the First Christian Church of Freedom a part of our lives.

Respectively submitted by Mary Hockmeyer

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

Quote from Henry Ward Beecher



Treasurer's Report

All 2014 FCCF bills received have been paid. Through September 15, 2014 Church expenses are about \$4,100 more than income. The new church office computer combined with higher insurance premiums explain why expenses have outpaced income collections. This situation should clear up by the end of the year as year end donations will exceed year end expenses. While the new computer is a one-time expense, the rising insurance premiums are of concern. I have spoken with our insurance agent and am collecting cost saving ideas and will propose them to the Finance Committee to control insurance premiums for 2014 and going forward. 2014 overall church spending is projected to be slightly under budget even with the new office computer. 2014 revenue is expected to come in on budget.

I have begun the 2015 budgeting process. If you are responsible for any church spending, please provide me with your 2015 budget proposals soon so I can get them approved by the Finance Committee and presented to the Council.

The church has resumed paying expenses for the parsonage (rear porch, electric, oil and grounds maintenance). The parsonage fund is still in a deficit from major roof and front porch repairs made two years ago. The deficit will grow until a new tenant is found.

Investment returns for the second quarter of 2014 were 3.47% (13.88% annualized).

Purchases made at the beginning of the second quarter in energy infrastructure and other equities provided the strong results. Additional portfolio rebalancing will be discussed with the Finance Committee in the coming weeks.

Please feel free to contact our Treasurer, Paul Olzerowicz for more information.

Respectively submitted,
Paul Olzerowicz, Treasurer

Financial Secretary's Report

As of October 12, year-to-date collections for pledge, special year-end gifts, loose plate, and holiday offerings are \$54,646, or 68% of our total year budget of \$79,300. This compares to 55% for the same period in 2013. Full year collections are expected to meet budget providing that special year-end gifts and prepaid 2015 pledges come in as projected.

Pledge Numbers & Envelopes

Use of pledge numbers and envelopes to identify and track contributions has a long history. *However, their use will be optional in 2015.* If your offering is through personal check, you need not use an envelope. You're required to use one only when your offering is in cash. Place checks into the plate face down, or folded, if you are concerned about others taking notice. And once it's in the plate, there are processes in place that protect the confidentiality of contribution information. Many families have already moved away from envelopes and so we are consolidating numbers in an effort to reduce our order for new ones. This means that families requesting envelopes will likely see their pledge number change for the coming year.

Directory of Members & Friends

The Church intends to publish an updated directory of members and friends, and an

effort is underway to collect any changes, additions, and deletions that are necessary. We maintain name, address, alternate address with estimated departure and return dates, telephone, and email. Please notify the office (603-539-6484 or fccf@yahoo.com) if you have any changes or wish to be removed from the list. You can also indicate if you don't want your information published. There will also be a working copy of the list in the fellowship room until November 10 on which you can write in changes.

Calling Volunteers

The Church Financial Secretary position needs to be filled beginning December 1. Over the past two years, Nadine Chapman has done the job to streamline the way in which church contributions are processed and recorded. Everything is now in place for someone new to take over what amounts to a "turn key operation."

The Financial Secretary holds responsibility for processing church collections from plate offerings, fundraising activities and other donations with an absolute respect for confidentiality. The job requires, on average, 1-2 hours of work each week for tasks that include: count and verify collections each Sunday (working with a partner), update computer records using standardized procedures, prepare and make the bank deposit, and make a weekly report to the Treasurer of monies received. The level of effort is greater from time to time for other responsibilities such as initiating the annual pledge process, preparation of tax reports to contributors, and reconciling with the Treasurer's accounts. In addition, the Financial Secretary sits on the church council and the finance committee where input on income projections, budgets, and other church matters are essential. All procedures are fully documented and Nadine will be available for questions during the transition.

Here is your chance to support a vital piece of church operation, much of it from home.

Modest computer skills are necessary and attention to detail an asset. You will have the use of the church laptop computer.

Contact Paul Olzerowicz, Roland Millette, or Sandy Boyle.

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.



PARSONAGE: Screens and windows have been ordered from Paradigm Windows. Two windows were broken and several screens were too damaged to repair. There are a few more screens which we can repair in the winter. Mike Gaudette has completed the repairs in the parsonage and rebuilt the potting shed. Dan Spear acquired a door for the potting shed which was used to replace the old door.

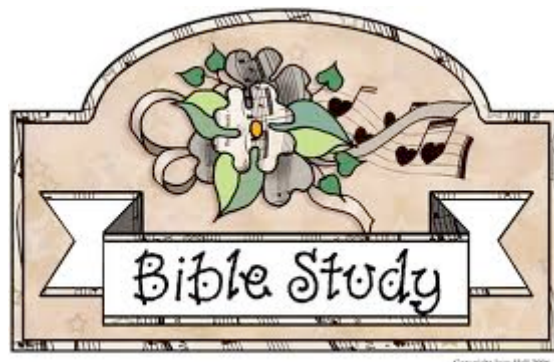
Mike Jones has been called to clean the furnaces in the church and the parsonage.

PARSONAGE BARN: Great strides have occurred at the barn to get it cleaned out. OCC has taken five or six truckloads for their sale. They are temporarily being stored in Mary Hockmeyer's barn. Many, many truckloads of scrap steel have been taken to the recycling facility. Dan has sold dozens of bikes to bike shops and loads of trash have gone to the dump. Many people have donated muscle,

sweat and tears to clean out the barn – THANK YOU !!

Mark McKinley has painted the hand railings at the front of the church.

Charlie Bojus, Chairperson



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.

The Friday book group is reading No god but God: The Origins, Evolution, and Future of Islam by Reza Aslan. Recently there was an editorial piece by Reza Aslan in The Conway Sun. On October 31, we shall be looking at the third chapter entitled "The City of the Prophet: The First Muslims." It is about Medina which is the equivalent of the early church for Christians. Muslims strive to be like Medina. Like the early church it is a matter of interpretation. In this chapter Reza Aslan looks at the role of women and brings it up to the modern times as Islam tries to deal with that issue just like Christian churches try to deal with that issue.

Probably the first week in November we shall be looking at chapter 4 "Fight in the Way of God: The Meaning of Jihad." Jihad is basically a struggle with faith. It has been interpreted differently by various factions inside Islam. You might say it is similar to the struggle within Christianity over what is

orthodox and who is a heretic. How do we treat those we regard as “heretics” and those outside our interpretation of “faith?” Come join the discussion on Fridays at 10:00 a.m.

David Avery

Breakfast at Calumet

The Tuesday Bible Study Group will be meeting for Breakfast at Camp Calumet on Tuesday, Nov. 18 at 9 am. The cost is \$8.00. We will be joining the Bible Study from Nativity Lutheran on that day. There is a sign-up sheet in the Davidson Room.

Christian Education

The children’s ministry has continued throughout the summer for ages 3- 6th grade and will continue each Sunday during the year. The curriculum is Bible-based and offers children the opportunity to grow in faith, work on crafts and have a healthy snack. We will be using the Heartshaper materials. Additionally, new Bible-based puzzles were purchased. Thanks to Pet Plunges, Carol McIntire, Chris Boynton, Heidi Paulding and Nancy Wogman for teaching.

We have received a \$250 grant from Thrivent Financial to fund our intergenerational Advent Project to be held on November 30.

Rev. Larry Wogman continues to lead a weekly Bible Study on Tuesdays at 10 a.m. in the Conference Center at Camp Calumet. That Bible Study is held year-round. Thanks to David Avery for filling in for Pastor Larry while he was on vacation.

On Fridays, at 10 a.m. in the Fall adults will continue reading a Christian Book. This study is led by Rev. David Avery and Rev. Dr. Bob Bossdorf.

Intergenerational Advent Project

We will be making Advent Birch Logs on Nov. 30. This will be a family event. Each family can make a log together after the service. So join us after church. We’ll also have a special Advent Coffee Hour that day to mark the beginning of the Advent/Christmas Season.



Calling All Angels, Shepherds, Sheep, etc!

All children are invited to participate in the annual Christmas Pageant. The one and only rehearsal will be on Christmas Eve, Wednesday, December 24th at 10 AM. At that time we will choose roles, give out costumes, and practice all parts. The pageant will be the centerpiece of the Candlelight Christmas Eve Service at 7 PM. You can contact me, Carolyn Olzerowicz, at colzerowicz@gmail.com or at (603)569-5711 for further information.



The Music and Worship Committee would like to ask the congregation if anyone is interested in organizing the flowers for our Christmas Eve Service. This involves taking the orders for poinsettias, collecting the money, making sure to get the donors' words of dedication they wish to have printed, purchasing the plants and arranging them in the stands under the cross in the church for December 24th.

We hope that, with an early alert for this cherished holiday "offering" of time and effort, people will volunteer by getting in touch with the church secretary or members of the committee: Peg Scully, Chairperson or Velma Hormell, David Avery, Sylvia Bouve' or Gale Morris. Many thanks to any or all who wish to be involved in a specific, seasonal service to First Christian Church: our "Project Poinsettia"!

To the Members and Friends of First Christian Church: Thank you for your participation in the appreciation luncheon held for Linnie and me. It was a lovely affair and the 'Above and Beyond' award and guest book will remind me of your support. Thanks to all who worked to prepare the event, to those who attended and those who sent cards.

I am blessed to have grown up in this church and be able to work for its continuing service to the Glory of God. It is rewarding to feel the love and support you give. My humble and sincere thanks.

Velma

Charlie and I both would like to thank all of you who kept me in your prayers, sent cards and food and stopped by for a visit. I am on the mend but as all of you know who have experienced a knee replacement, it is a project! I am working hard at physical therapy and also swimming and will be glad when the rehab is over and it feels good!

I am very grateful to LuAnn Rollins who filled in for me and did such a great job! I really did not think it would take this long to recover.

I have said it before and I will say it again, I am so grateful for my church family and I feel so blessed.

Pat

"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, Larry & Ann Foss, Gordon C. Gladden, Scott Hayman, Dale Johnson and family, George Kendall, Phyllis Kenison, Elmer Killam, Nancy Koza, Elizabeth Landry, Laura Leddy, Brenda Libby, Louise Lipson, Parker MacInnis, Elise Mancini, Carol Melvitas, Frank Meserve, Bill Nelson, Kelly Nelson, Mindy Olson, Roger Olson, Sean Palumbo, Mary Piper, Ed Roberts, Kathleen Sherin, David Sell, Virginia Sprague, Sue Stamm, Michele Stoddard, 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 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 Food Pantry was blessed to receive several significant food donations recently from the following organizations: Greater Ossipee Rotary Club, Leuthi Peterson Camp, Danforth Bay Camping Resort (55+ group) and Camp Calumet. Cash donations were also included by Rotary and Calumet. We thank each of them for these timely gifts, which will be put to good use as we approach the holiday season. Numbers are creeping up as families budget for home heating costs, and our Thanksgiving Dinner Sign-up Sheet is already on page 2!



We continue to receive food from USDA every other month, and purchase regularly from the NH Food Bank as food is available. Much is purchased elsewhere however, as items are very limited at the Food Bank. We are deeply grateful for donations received on Food Pantry Sundays and at all other times. These gifts of compassion and concern are what keep us going and able to provide for those struggling day by day.

We have been lucky in recent months to have the assistance of several youth volunteers, whose job it is to either work the lift or transport grocery bags to clients' vehicles - usually both! Some of these kids are referred by the court system to provide community service for some infraction - some are simply earning extra credit through their school. All are wonderful, polite, engaging (sometimes funny) and an enormous help. If you are a young person, or know one who might be interested in helping out on Saturday mornings, please call Doris Sirois (539-5453).

Our deep condolences to Ellie and Bob Bossdorf on the untimely passing of Bob's daughter, Julie Paris. We keep them both, their families, and especially Julie's three children, in our hearts and prayers and wish them peace in the days ahead.

Judy Blake

Ladies Guild

During the past year, ending June 30th, 100 quilts were made and delivered to RSVP. On Monday, October 20th the Guild voted to donate \$1800 to the General Fund of the Church, \$500 to the Building Fund, and \$500 to the Pastor's Discretionary Fund. The Guild had successful quilt and craft sales during the summer and we look forward to our final sale of the year "Freedom Rings in the Holidays" which will take place on Friday evening November 21st and Saturday November 22nd. The winning ticket for the 2014 raffle quilt "Around Town" will be drawn following the worship service on November 23rd. Raffle tickets are available by contacting any Guild member.

The Guild was saddened by the passing of longtime members Sally Schenker and Lucille Manley. The Guild hosted the luncheon following Sally's funeral on October 6th. Lucille had lived in Kentucky for the past several years. Members attended Lucille's Memorial Service and the open house hosted by John and Sylvia Manley on October 3rd.

The Ladies Guild meets every Monday between 9 am and 2 pm. Attendance varies between 10 and 15 members – with several using sewing machines, while others may be tying quilts and sewing on labels. Please join us whether you can sew or not. You may quilt, tie some quilts, or sew on labels.

Bring your lunch, we break for lunch at noon and share around the big table

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.

The following people served on the committee this year: Louise Anderson, John Hogan, Velma Hormell, Paul Olzerowicz, Pastor Larry Wogman and Jane Hartnett. A huge thank you goes out to all the committee members for their diligence in this important task.

Jane Hartnett, Chairperson

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.

Keep this extremely well-made cutlery in mind for Christmas gifts and you would be supporting the church at the same time.

Velma Hormell



Fund Raising

Membership Committee

It has been a very busy summer for the Membership Committee. We continue to greet our visitors and welcome them to our morning Worship with a loaf of freshly baked bread.

In July the Ladies attended a Broadway Concert at the Kingswood Arts Center in Wolfeboro. August was a very busy month with dinner and plays. We attended "Hello Dolly" at the Interlakes Theater, "The Sound of

Music" at the Eastern Slope Playhouse and an Agatha Christie play at the Barnstormers. The men enjoyed a Sea Dogs vs. Fisher Cats baseball game in Portland.

AND

Our summer activities concluded on September 7th with our annual Picnic, held at George Davidson's Camp.

The name tag project is ongoing. Please let a member of the Membership Committee know if you need a tag!!

On November 23rd the Membership Committee will be hosting a Newcomers Luncheon after the worship service. Anyone who is interested in joining the church is welcome to join us in the Davidson Room at the rear of the Sanctuary to learn more about what the church has to offer. Pastor Larry and a representative from each committee will be there to answer any questions you may have. If you are interested and want more information please join us.



The December calendar is a work in progress. As you are most likely aware, this is a very busy little church with many events taking place. We have decided to include the December calendar with the Thanksgiving letter so that it will be up to date. So watch for it to arrive in the mail soon.

