



First Christian Church of Freedom
THE CHURCH IN THE VILLAGE / ESTABLISHED IN 1858

Freedom Rings

Newsletter
November/December 2016



Pastors Ramblings!

"Wise-men still seek the Lord"

This popular 'bumper sticker' sounds a rallying cry for the season of Epiphany. Beginning on January 6 with the arrival of the wise-men or 'magi' at the manger, the next weeks prior to Lent (March 1) are all about the revealing of Jesus. With his baptism on the first Sunday and climaxing with the transfiguration on the last, the identity of the 'Christ' becomes clearer, and his mission of teaching and healing shows itself in specific ways. These reviews of Jesus' life are meant to be an inspiration for the Church to grow in its faith and follow his example. This seems like an excellent way to enter the new year making our religion relevant and practical.

So, how do we accomplish it? It seems that the wise-men had some hope and confidence that their efforts would make a difference. Why would they risk a long, uncomfortable journey to a foreign land following a bright star unless they had some prior knowledge or experience that it would be legitimate? What a waste of time and resources if they went all that way for nothing. However, in their seeking, they found. Like so many others effected by the 'good news', we don't know what happened after their encounter, other than returning home, but we would assume that their faith was affirmed and their lives were changed.

I believe we are in a similar circumstance in that we have some hope and confidence that our efforts in seeking Jesus will lead to the

same results – our faith will be affirmed and our lives will be changed. As we make the effort to worship God because of our prior knowledge and experience of who God is and what God has done, we are inspired to return to our lives determined to spread the ‘good news’ that a savior has come to bring healing and hope. We are a people with a purpose, and having received mercy and strength from our learning about Jesus, we are sent to spread the ‘good news’ through witness and service. Whether witnessing by our worship with the community on Sunday morning or praying at breakfast on Monday morning, whether serving at the food pantry on Saturday or helping a neighbor shovel their driveway on Tuesday, we are seeking the Lord by our thoughts and actions.



As we continue in this ‘Epiphany Season’, let us make an effort ‘to show’ the identity of Jesus by the ways we witness and serve each day. May God bless and keep you in the true faith of Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord! See you in church. Pastor Larry



Pastoral Acts: Funeral on December 29th for Ivernia V. Thompson who died on December 21st. She was the wife of George, and had been confined to a wheelchair for a few years. We extend our condolences to George and family at their loss and are grateful for her life, knowing that she has been received into the Kingdom promised by our Lord and Savior, Jesus Christ.



Many thanks to all who contributed to our Christmas observance this year, especially to Bob Smart and helpers who set up the Manger Scene outside, the Deacons who helped decorate the sanctuary, those who provided 60 gifts for needy children of the Ossipee area as well as Dean Robertson for getting them to OCC for distribution, Gale Morris for making sure flowers were in place. We’re also appreciative to Carolyn Olzerowicz for the wonderful music and the beautiful pageant on Christmas Eve. It’s part of her job, but she goes over and beyond to provide a meaningful experience for us all.



Church closings are not unusual here in New Hampshire. If the weather is bad – icy or snowy – chances are high that we will not meet. Number one, we have an older membership and we don’t want anyone to slip or have a mishap, and secondly, we only have on-street parking, and roads may not get cleared in time for the service. So, if there is a question, don’t take a chance, or call the Pastor, church president (Sandy Boyle), or a deacon. It may be on WMUR in Manchester, or at our web site, or Facebook. We also hope to get it on our church phone answering machine.



President's Message

I hope you all enjoyed a happy and peaceful Christmas. Those of us who were fortunate enough to attend the Christmas Eve Service enjoyed a very special Christmas Pageant put on by some of our children and parents, as well as the singing of many well-known Christmas carols. The choir gave an exceptional arrangement of beautiful songs, with some superb solos, and ended with the "candlelight" singing of Silent Night...a very moving welcome to baby Jesus.

We held our Annual Meeting on Dec. 4, 2016. I will try my best to give you a short summary of what occurred during this meeting. Starting with the Treasurer, Paul Olzerowicz reported that at the present time we are in good shape financially; our Financial Secretary, Carol Porter reported that we have slightly exceeded our 2016 pledges and that we have, as of 11/20/2016, more pledges than in 2016. That is wonderful news and we are grateful to all who have pledged so far. Thank you.

We have filled almost all of the vacant seats in the various committees, Deacons, Trustees, etc.

The Council has voted to begin a Capital Campaign for the purpose of raising funds for three large expense items: the furnace, carpeting in the church and fellowship hall, and the organ. We will be kept informed as to how to proceed when details are completed. Stay tuned.

We are, once again, embarking on a New Year and I am so pleased to see how our congregation has grown over this past year...we must be doing something right and may it continue as the New Year progresses. I am looking forward to this New Year with faith and optimism.

Let us never forget those less fortunate than ourselves and lend a hand whenever you see a need, be it physical or emotional.

I will close with a quote you may have seen in the weekly bulletin over the past couple of months. I remember how surprised I was when I saw who the person was that I was quoting, we never know where an inspiration may come from.

"Service to others is the rent you pay for your room here on earth" Mohammed Ali

HAPPY NEW YEAR,
Sandy Boyle Church Council President



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.

BIBLE STUDY



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.

"B. I. B. L. E. simply means: Basic Instructions Before Leaving Earth!"

Anonymous



The year 2016 has been a busy one for the Deacons. We lost some long time members because their terms were up. The new members have filled in extremely well.

Some of the more important duties are: assisting Pastor Larry as needed, and preparing and serving Communion.

Some of our other duties include: assisting the ushers as needed, visiting shut-ins at home, in nursing homes and hospitals. We are also responsible for preparing the church for the Christmas Holidays and lending out medical equipment.

If you know of anyone who needs a walker, bathroom equipment or other medical devices, there is a good chance that we will be able to provide one by contacting the church at 539-6484.

The Deacons hope all of you had a joyous and healthy holiday season.

Neal Boyle, Deacon Chairman



A NOTE FROM THE USHERS

We are in need of ushers. If you are interested, or 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 call Mark McKinley at 539-6577 or Henry Granahan at 539-5295. 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. Thank you.



Louise Anderson, Nathaniel & Carolyn Anderson, Kathy Avery, Tarryn Balch, Phil Beckwith, Jim Blake, Howard Bouve', Kevin Boynton, Kathy Brownrigg, Harold Brown Jr., Carolyn Clancy, Priscilla Collette, Celia Costa, Jason Crawford, Pauline Crawford, Elise Crommett, Sarah Dayton, Florence Dellecese, Connie Dockham, Sally Downey, Irene Eichler, Robert Elliott, Delores Ellis, Joanne Fuller, Jane Garnsey, Michael Gaudette's sister-in-law, Linnie Giles, Eileen Gunkel, Mary Hockmeyer, Karen Hopkins, Glenn Hormell, Dave Johnson, Phyllis Kenison, Elmer Killam, Pauline Leclerc, Jean Marshall, Mary Mayhew, Carol Melvidas, Frank Meserve, Judy Michaels, Bill Nason, Peter Nichols, Pat & Roger Olson, DeMott Post, Jeannie Rogers, Kim Rose, Jen Scales, Marci

Sharp, Kathleen Sherin, Dick Stosez, Mike Sudak, the family of Ivy Thompson, Marc Thurrell, Cheryl Vitum, Joy Anna Winslow and all our country's military personnel and their families.

To ensure your **prayer request** is added to the list, **please write the information down** and place it in the offering plate, Patty's mail slot or on her desk. Thank you.



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, or the Church at 539-6484.

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



TREASURER'S REPORT

The Church ended 2016 in the black with a small surplus once year-end pledges and Christmas collections were included. The accounts will be finalized as year-end statements are received and Council reports generated. There are no

urgent "red flags" to report for Church operations.

The Church furnace is working properly, but its age has caused Council to ask the Trustees to consider a plan for replacement. You will be hearing more about this and other capital projects in the coming months.

Church and other Fund investments performed well in 2016. As year-end investment statements come in, the fund accounts will be reconciled and finalized. Investments are securely held at Vanguard and TD Ameritrade.

If you have any questions about any financial matters of the Church, please do not hesitate to speak with me, any Church officer or member of the Finance Committee.

Respectfully submitted,

Paul J. Olzerowicz, Treasurer



Tithes and offerings

Report of the Financial Secretary

Thank you to all who took the time to return pledge cards. It is not too late to consider a pledge for 2017. If you wish to make one, there are some pledge cards on the table near the mailboxes in the Davidson room. Please help yourself and return them to my mailbox in the church office. Thank you!

If you had weekly envelopes in the past or requested them this year, I placed them in your mailbox in the Davidson Room. Some people have returned the envelopes I issued, as they are no longer using them. If you decide you do not want your envelopes, you can return them to Patty Dumas in the church office.

Respectively Submitted by Carol Porter,
Financial Secretary



ARE YOU INTERESTED IN JOINING OUR FAMILY AND 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 need goes on, we have had as many as 18 families and as few as 2. We gave out numerous Thanksgiving and Christmas "Baskets" that had a Turkey, Ham and all the fixings. Doris-Paul and all the other faithful volunteers continue to do a great job. One of our faithful volunteers, George Thompson, lost his wife, Ivernia, on December 21st. We offer our sincere condolences at this difficult time. To add to the misery, the funeral was in the middle of the blizzard on Thursday, Dec. 29th. We continue to need your help with donations of food. Remember the first Sunday of every month you are asked to bring a non-perishable food item and leave it in the box on the right side looking toward the altar in the back of the church. Walmart and other stores like Hannaford continue to help us out and we use cash donations to buy primarily meat and other things needed, unless the cash comes with a specific request for an item or cause (children's toys, meat, etc.). The computer program is up and running and the numbers continue to come out right making reporting to USDA etc., easier for Dallas. Great ministry, great community, keep it up.

Bob Bossdorf, Co-Director (Doris Sirois-Co-Director)



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 Hormel



SOUP'S ON!

There are Minestrone soup packages still available for you in the Fellowship Room at \$3.00 a package. The snowy, icy and bone chilling weather will be with us for a few months more. There is a red envelope in the basket to leave the money. Thank you for supporting this project.

ENJOY



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.



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 that, during an emergency, either personal or weather related, someone knows where you are. Any questions.....call Lee Allison at 539-6429 or the Sheriff directly at 539-2284.



FROM THE CHURCH SECRETARY

Such a pretty time of year, but so treacherous! Please be careful out there in the snow and ice.

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

Sincerely,

Patty Dumas



TWO LITTLE BOYS

A couple had two little boys, ages 8 and 10, who were excessively mischievous. The two were always getting into trouble and their parents could be assured that if any mischief occurred in their town their two young sons were in some way involved.

The parents were at their wits end as to what to do about their sons' behavior. The mother had heard that a clergyman in town had been successful in disciplining children in the past, so she asked her husband if he thought they should send the boys to speak with the clergyman. The husband said, 'We might as well. We need to do something before I really lose my temper!'

The clergyman agreed to speak with the boys, but asked to see them individually. The 8 year old went to meet with him first. The clergyman sat the boy down and asked him sternly, '**Where is God?**' The boy made no response, so the clergyman repeated the question in an even sterner tone, '**Where is God?**' Again the boy made no attempt to answer. So the clergyman raised his voice even more and shook his finger in the boy's face, '**WHERE IS GOD?**'

At that the boy bolted from the room and ran directly home, slamming himself in the closet. His older brother followed him into the closet and asked what had happened. The younger brother replied, 'We are in BIG trouble this time. God is missing and **they think we did it.**'



January 2017

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
1	2	3 10am Bible Study at Calumet 7pm Choir	4	5 9AM Deacons Meeting	6	7 10am Food Pantry
8 9am Choir 10am Sunday Service	9 9am Ladies Guild	10 10am Bible Study at Calumet 7pm Choir	11	12 10am Book Club 6-8pm Heritage Commission Meeting	13	14 10am Food Pantry
15 9am Choir 10am Sunday Service	16 9am Ladies Guild	17 10am Bible Study at Calumet 7pm Choir	18 7pm Council Meeting	19 10am Book Club	20	21 10am Food Pantry
22 9am Choir 10am Sunday Service	23 9am Ladies Guild	24 10am Bible Study at Calumet 7pm Choir	25	26 10am Book Club	27	28 10am Food Pantry
29	30	31				
9am Choir 10am Sunday Service	9am Ladies Guild	10am Bible Study at Calumet 7pm Choir				

February 2017

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
			1	2 10am Book Club	3	4 10am Food Pantry
5 9am Choir 10am Sunday Service	6 9am Ladies Guild	7 10am Bible Study at Calumet 7pm Choir	8	9 10am Book Club	10	11 10am Food Pantry
12 9am Choir 10am Sunday Service	13 9am Ladies Guild	14 10am Bible Study at Calumet 7pm Choir	15 7pm Council Meeting	16 10am Book Club	17	18 10am Food Pantry
19 9am Choir 10am Sunday Service	20 9am Ladies Guild	21 10am Bible Study at Calumet 7pm Choir	22	23 10am Book Club	24	25 10am Food Pantry
26 9am Choir 10am Sunday Service	27 9am Ladies Guild	28 10am Bible Study at Calumet 7pm Choir				

The First Christian Church of Freedom

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www.FirstChristianChurchofFreedom.org

Like us on Facebook!

Pastor Lawrence N. Wogman

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