

Freedom Rings

Newsletter March/April



Tastors Ramblings! Happy Lent!

That title doesn't sound right! Several years ago we were in the Netherlands visiting a son who was there for a semester of study. It was February, and pre-lent. Now, in Europe this is 'Carnival' time, and they really know how to celebrate. There were 'oompah' bands that came in from the countryside, lots of drinking that went on, and all kinds of outfits that people wore. For the nights leading up to Ash Wednesday, the festivities became louder and wilder. Broken glass on the sidewalks and fireworks in the skies were all part of the

observance. Then, Wednesday morning all was quiet. The streets were being cleaned by sweeping machines, workers were busy tidying everything up, and the whole atmosphere had changed. It was a new season – Lent.

Lent has typically been marked with solemnity and seriousness. It is a 40 day period(not counting Sundays) leading up to the crucifixion of Jesus on Good Friday. Lent wasn't observed in the early church, but became a season later as a way of preparing people joining the church. They would often be baptized at the Easter Vigil. Today, the Church sometimes has special services and focuses on the events leading to the sacrifice of Jesus on the cross. So, it has become a time of repentance, meditation, and devotion.

While our 'modern' society has fallen away from the older traditions, it still can be a meaningful time within a congregation. You can maybe remember 'giving up' chocolates or sweets for Lent, or going to extra services. It's been suggested that we do something 'extra' giving additional service or time to a favorite project or organization. People might also take time to read a devotional or visit a shut-in or support a cause. The entire month of March and half the month of April is in Lent, and hopefully, we'll utilize this season to deepen our faith and honor its meaning. As always, we encourage you to join our weekly observances of worship as we all continue to live within this world God has provided. As in the past, we'll begin with

an Ash Wednesday Service on March 1st at 7 p.m. There will be the 'imposition of ashes' for those who desire it, as a reminder of our human nature and need for almighty God to direct our life. We hope you'll come and share in the observance of Lent.

God bless you and keep you safe! Pastor Larry

much appreciated in the offices, as well as by the women of the quilting guild. We'll also be able to 'pull them' on these cold nights and save a bit on the heating bills. In any case, we appreciate these 2 'anonymous' gifts provided by two special members of First Christian Church of Freedom.



We were reminded that eternal life is not lived out in this setting with the passing of Howard Bouve. Howard was a long-time member of First Christian, and has a history of participation within our community. We extend our sympathies to Sylvia and their family, while remembering that those who die in the Lord receive the comforting gift of salvation in the everlasting arms of a loving God. May he rest in peace.





New Pew and New Shades

Have you noticed? A pew is up beside the pulpit, but is not new at all. One of our skillful members took the 'side pews' we removed from the front, re-worked and re-built it, had a cushion made, and gave it back to the church. It turned out beautifully, and is a wonderful addition to our front area. The shades in the fellowship halls and offices were provided by another member who engaged the Northern Blinds to take measurements and give us an estimate for the 8 windows in the back part of the church. After we received it, this person generously decided to pay for them. They are



Trustees Report

The trustees are busy working on the floors of the church. They have received estimates for rugs in the sanctuary, the fellowship and Davidson rooms. However, before doing anything, we had to take a look at the ceiling in the sanctuary which is still in process. There is also the issue of painting the pews and trimwork. We did find that the sanctuary rug was installed in 1970, so it's due. The other rugs were probably installed in 1987 when the second unit was built.



Tresident'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 summery 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



Mission Outreach Committee

There's a new committee in town, or rather, in our church. We've talked about forming a mission committee which would reach beyond our community to provide service and funds to help those in need. We've had 2 meetings at church, trying to determine what would be the scope of such a Life committee. There are 7 people involved so far: Steve and Diana Thurston, Ellie Stokes, Sarah Millette, Bonnie McCue, Barbara Buffery, and myself. We have talked about several 'causes' that our church might be interested in supporting, as well as 'service projects' we might take on. In the past our church has been involved in the Heiffer Project, in OCC Christmas Gifts, and Life Bridge to name a few. This committee would decide on a focus, and then seek to educate the congregation. Hopefully, people would contribute and/or help to raise funds. We are still discussing how to best do this, and if anyone would like to get involved, please speak to one of the members or come to our meeting. Our next gathering will be Wed., April 5th at 10:30 am in the Davidson Room.



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: <u>B</u>asic <u>I</u>nstructions <u>B</u>efore <u>L</u>eaving <u>E</u>arth!"

Anonymous



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.



Velma Hormell announced her retirement from the choir recently and while we wish to acknowledge and thank her for her many years with this group, it is practically impossible to do so, since words are not sufficient. Velma joined the choir in the 40's, though she didn't give me an exact date. Through the years she has sung with at least 6 choir directors, has met to make policy, hiring, purchasing, and performance decisions, and has supported the choir through thick and thin, when there were very few members and when there were many. It's hard to find a more loyal and constant person in all her church endeavors than Velma, but her support for the choir has been special. Thanks, Velma, and join us again anytime.

Peg Scully



FYI
Seven earth-sized expo-planets discovered!
Wooohooo!



We received some wonderful letters from our scholarship recipients this spring and several have been shared at Council. Freedom students are doing a terrific job adjusting to college life and excelling at their studies. They do us proud!

We are getting close to the next round of applications for this year. Once we receive them from Kennett High School, we can begin the process anew.

There will be applications available later on in the church office for local students not enrolled at Kennett who will be furthering their studies at an accredited school. Stay tuned for further announcements.

Jane Hartnett, Scholarship Committee



Choir singers wanted. There is always room for more singers. No audition required. Rehearsals are on Tuesday nights at 7. Come join us!



Louise Anderson, Nathaniel & Carolyn Anderson, Kathy Avery, Tarryn Balch, Phil Beckwith, Jim Blake, Ellie Bossdorf, the family of Howard Bouve', Kevin Boynton, Kathy Brownrigg, Harold Brown Jr., Carolyn Clancy, Celia Costa, Elise Crommett, Connie Dockham, Frank Cunio, Sally Downey, Robert Elliott, Delores Ellis, Joanne Fuller, Janet Gallagher, Jane Garnsey, Michael Gaudette's sister-in-law, Linnie Giles, Cynthia Granahan, 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, Marci Sharp, Kathleen Sherin, Dick Stosez, Mike Sudak, 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

There are no "red flags" to report in 2017. Church expenses are \$3,200 higher than income, typical for this time of year and therefore no concerns. The financial secretary's report tells us that we are doing as expected for the first 6 weeks of 2017.

The parsonage has a new six month tenant.

The Capital Fund received a couple of very large donations in January 2017 and is doing better. We still need thousands to be able to replace our Church furnace and floor covering. More to come on this from our Capital Campaign committee.

Church and other Fund investments continued to perform well in January 2017. 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, and a Church officer, or member of the Finance Committee.

Respectfully submitted,

Paul J. Olzerowicz, Treasurer



Report of the Financial Secretary

As of February 15, 2017, collections are \$6,421 for pledge and regular contributions and \$749 for loose plate contributions. This compares to the full year budgets of \$69,500 and \$4,500 respectively. Total year-to-date collections are approximately equal to those for the same period last year.

Carol Porter 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 'associate congregation. It's called 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 HIGHLIGHTS OF 2016

The Freedom Food Pantry had a very busy year. We received 9,699 pounds of food from the NH Food Bank in Manchester, 4,410 pounds of donated food from Walmart in N. Conway and

231 cases of food from the USDA Department of Agriculture. We also had local donations from various supporters.

Our volunteers offered 3,471 hours of volunteer time to pick up multiple food deliveries, buy local food items and operate the Pantry on Saturday mornings. Many of these hours were spent driving to the Tramway Plaza, Tri-Cap, Valuland, Hannaford, Walmart and Dollar Tree for needed items. All of these trips require unloading and stocking of the food pantry shelves which are located in the basement of the First Christian Church. The Church generously provides the Pantry with the storage space, heat/electricity and office supplies as needed. We can always use volunteers to assist with these specific tasks. Doris and Paul are usually the people who carry out these tasks but they welcome additional help.

In 2016 the Pantry served 534 families and served 11, 214 meals to those in need from Freedom, Effingham, and Ossipee. We also provided 36 Thanksgiving meals with 61 turkeys and 38 Christmas meals with 38 turkeys and 38 hams. The turkeys were available free of charge from the NH Food Bank, the Radio Food Drive in North Conway and Mr. Ernie Day of Swett Hill in Freedom. Freezer storage space was provided by Abbott & Staples and Camp Calumet. Valuland also gave us 108 corned beef briskets after St. Patrick's Day and some local folks brought their extra eggs and produce for the benefit of our clients, who were most appreciative.

Thank you for all the support from various individuals and organizations. A big thank you to all of the Pantry volunteers for their help each Saturday. A special thank you to Dallas Fuller USDA Coordinator and former treasurer; Nancy Bossi treasurer; Judy Blake correspondence secretary and Bob Bossdorf, codirector.

Doris Sirois, co-director Freedom Food Pantry



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.

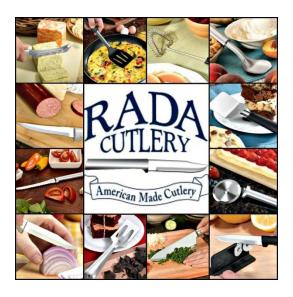


LADIES GUILD

We have been meeting steadily since the first of the year (weather permitting!)

18 quilts were delivered to Memorial Hospital

on Feb 21. We happily await the return of our "snowbirds".



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



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.



FROM THE CHURCH SECRETARY

Blink and it's Spring; let the flowers bloom!

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



A CAT GOES TO HEAVEN

A cat dies and goes to Heaven. God meets him at the gate and says, 'you have been a good cat all of these years. Anything you desire is yours, all you have to do is ask.' The cat says, 'Well, I lived all my life with a poor family on a farm and had to sleep on hardwood floors.' God says, 'Say no more.' And instantly, a fluffy pillow appears.

A few days later, 6 mice are killed in a tragic accident and they go to Heaven. God meets them at the gate with the same offer that He made the cat. The mice said, 'All our lives we've had to run. Cats, dogs and even women with

brooms have chased us. If we could only have a pair of roller skates, we wouldn't have to run anymore.' God said, 'Say no more.' And instantly each mouse is fitted with a beautiful pair of tiny roller skates.

About a week later, God decides to check and see how the cat is doing. The cat is sound asleep on his new pillow. God gently wakes him and asks, 'How are you doing? Are you happy here?' The cat yawns and stretches and says 'Oh, I've never been happier in my life. And those Meals on Wheels you've been sending over are the best!'

COME, CELEBRATE HOLY WEEK!



Maundy Thursday, April 13th at 7 p.m.

The anniversary of the Institution of the Lord's Supper. We'll have a service of Holy Communion as we remember Jesus gathering with the disciples on the night of his betrayal. It's a meaningful service, which ends with the stripping of the altar, representing the abandonment of the disciples after the betrayal by Judas.



Our hymns, prayers, sermon, choir anthem, and lessons all reflect the crux of our faith. Be sure to join us for this wonderful worship service, as well as the ones leading up to it

Good Friday, April 14th at Noon

This marks the time of Jesus' crucifixion. We'll spend that hour contemplating the meaning of that event, and how it intersects with our life today. Why did the Son of God have to die? What does it mean to us and our faith?



Easter Sunrise Service, April 16th at 7 am

This is a celebration of the Resurrection of Jesus at the Pavilion on Loon Lake. This is the climactic event of Jesus' life, and a joyous celebration of what he has done for us. It's usually cold, though it comes a bit later this year. It's a beautiful way to remember God's gift to us.



Service of the Resurrection, April 16th at 10 am

This is the time our congregation gathers to honor the Risen Christ and give thanks for God's great plan of salvation for all believers.

SAVE THE DATES:



Ash Wednesday Service - March 1, 2017

at 7 pm.



St. Patrick's Day

Luncheon – March 19, 2017 – to benefit the summer music camp.



Breakfast Easter Sunday Breakfast -

April 16, 2017, 8am at Freedom Town Hall.



Annual Women's Retreat - May

13, 2017 - from 8:45am - 2 pm.

Once again we'll be joining the members of Nativity Lutheran for a Women's Retreat to be held on Saturday, May 13, 2017 from 8:45 a.m.-2 p.m. The Retreat will be held at Camp Calumet and include lunch. The cost is \$15/person.

We'll be focusing on our Baptism and what it means to us today. So join us and take time for yourself! You won't be disappointed!



Church Directory Photos Coming in June

Mark your calendars for Wednesday, June 28. That's the day that Lifetouch Church Directories will be coming to First Christian to take photos for a new directory. The previous one was done in 2011, 6 years ago.

This is a great opportunity to showcase our ministries and to reach out to the community. Photos will be taken of our members, but will also be open to those in the Freedom community. And, if you have family members that would like their photos taken, that can be arranged as well. You can even have your pets in the photos.

You'll be hearing more in the months to come, but for now, mark your calendar.



Moses and the Freedom Fanatics

First Christian Church of Freedom Summer Theater Camp Registration Form July 24th-28th, 2017

Age

Child's Name

Name of Parent or GuardianPhone # during camp hours	
Mailing Address E-mail address phone # phone # Phone # Child's physician phone #	
E-mail address	
Alternate contact in case of emergency phone # Allergies or Food intolerances? Medical conditions we should know about? phone # Child's physician phone #	
Allergies or Food intolerances? Medical conditions we should know about? phone # phone #	
Medical conditions we should know about? phone # phone #	
Child's physician phone #	
Insurance information	
Do we have your permission to obtain medical treatment in case of an emergency	y?
Signature of parent or legal guardian	
Clothing size (for costumes)	
Do we have your permission to use camp photos that include your child on our Churc In the local newspaper? Initials	rch Websi

A rehearsal CD will be mailed to you as registration forms are received. Please learn the songs as best you can before camp begins. This way we will have more time to learn movement, block scenes and work on acting. For additional information call Carolyn Olzerowicz at (603) 569-5711 or email at colzerowicz@gmail.com. Church office phone # is (603) 539-6484.

Please return this form as soon as possible along with \$15 cash or check made out to FCCF, memo Theater Camp to:

The First Christian Church of Freedom PO Box 502 Freedom, NH 03836

March 2017

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
			1 7pm Ash Wednesday Service	2 9AM Deacons Meeting 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
Daylight Savings 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 St. Patrick's Day Luncheon	9am Ladies Guild First Day of Spring	21 10am Bible Study at Calumet 7pm Choir	22	23 10am Book Club	24	25 10am Food Pantry
26	27	28	29	30	31	
9am Choir 10am Sunday Service	9am Ladies Guild	10am Bible Study at Calumet 7pm Choir		10am Book Club		

April 2017

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

The First Christian Church of Freedom

12 Elm Street, Freedom, NH 03836 603-539-6484

Email: Fcc1858@yahoo.com

www.FirstChristianChurchofFreedom.org

Like us on Facebook!

Pastor Lawrence N. Wogman