



Freedom Rings

First Christian Church of Freedom

Combining Traditional and Contemporary Faith Communities



Newsletter May and June 2015

PASTOR'S CORNER

WHAT'S AHEAD!

As our thoughts turn toward summer, the church year changes its emphasis. Back in December, we began our journey of Jesus' life with prophecies of his coming. Following his birth and baptism, the lessons spoke of his life and ministry. The climax of his story came in Holy Week, with the crucifixion, death, and resurrection. The closing of Jesus' earthly life comes in his appearances and some of the significant monologues of his last days.

With the ascension of Jesus and the giving of the Holy Spirit, the season of Pentecost begins. The teachings of Jesus become the focus as the Spirit leads us to consider how to live the Christian life. Through parables and miracles we're led to understand what it means to be a follower and practitioner of the faith. Some of these lessons are easy and obvious, but many are more complicated and almost impossible to do. Thankfully, God is aware of our shortcomings and frailties, and is merciful and forgiving. We could never live up to the ideal Christian man or woman, but we are to try. When we fall short, we pray for God's understanding. When we succeed, we give God thanks. Most of the time, we're struggling, trying to do our best.

Christian living is a wonderful way of life. It provides an ethic and a pattern that is compassionate and considerate of others. We try to be tolerant and accepting of divergent points of view. As we listen and meditate on Jesus' teachings and stories, we gain insight into God's plan for us. Each one of us has a set of encounters where choices and decisions have to be made. Not all are clear-cut, and often we have to determine what is best for the other person in the long run, and how can I be the most helpful to a given situation. It may not be convenient or easy, but by applying our beliefs and understanding, with the support and counsel of prayer, a good decision can come about. Every day there are challenges before us—regarding health, human rights, relationships, the future, etc. Some are obvious, many are complicated. Through the simple stories of the Bible, we are aided in leading a life that God intended for us. Sit back and take in the wisdom offered through the Word, and then, apply it!

May God bless us in the days ahead. Hope to see everyone in church!

Pastor Larry



HELLO SPRING and WELCOME BACK to all our "Snowbirds".

There are plans afoot for a busy summer and fall. There will be plays, concerts, fellowship dinners, etc. over the coming months. The town will be all abuzz, of course, with Old Home Week and the Craft Fair, and let's not forget, the Fireman's Lobster Fest. There will be something for everyone.

The Lenten season began on Ash Wednesday, and included several opportunities for periods of quiet reflection and self-examination, through words, as well as song. This most solemn period in the church year culminated in a most Glorious Easter Sunday. The sanctuary was filled with spectacular floral arrangements. The choir members donned their new robes and sang beautifully. Pastor Larry's Easter message was one of Hope and Love in the Risen Christ. As we continue on our spiritual journey, let us remember the teachings of Jesus and give of ourselves

and talents, as best we can, to reach out to those in need.

Our coordinated Community Outreach with the Freedom Community Club has proven to be a success during this very long winter and it will continue as long as there is a need. If any of you returning "Snowbirds" would like to drive those in need of rides to various doctor appointments, shopping, etc. please let me or Pat know.

.The church debt, while it is slowly diminishing, continues to be an ongoing issue. We welcome any and all contributions that you can make through the year to help decrease this financial burden.

I do have some very good news to share with all of you. First, we have found a new Financial Secretary, Carol Porter. Carol and her husband Dave are new members of the church, and Carol is eager to work with Nadine to "learn the ropes". We are delighted to welcome Carol to the church council.

Secondly, the new church web site is nearing completion. I had a small preview and it seems easy to navigate and it's very informative. I believe, those of you who are computer literate, will be quite pleased and will find it up to date in all the church happenings from month to month. We will, of course, continue to list all the church happenings in the weekly bulletin for those who do not use the computer.

I'm aware that I'm dating myself here, but I hope you all enjoy these "wonderful lazy, hazy, crazy days of summer".

Be seeing you around town.

Sandy Boyle, President



Financial Secretary's Report

As of April 22, 2015, collections are \$26,136 for pledge and regular contributions and \$1,108 for loose plate contributions. This compares to the full year budgets of \$61,000 and \$6,000 respectively. Total year-to-date collections are ahead of the same period last year due to the timing of several large individual donations.

Individuals from the Thrivent Financial for Lutherans community recently directed \$317 in Thrivent Choice dollars to FCCF.

Nadine 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.



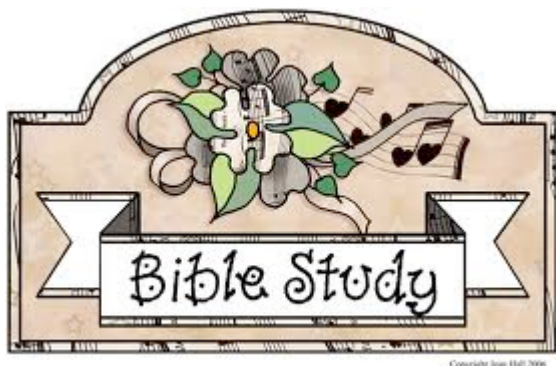
Ice on the roof has caused a few minor leaks and will be taken care of when the weather warms up. Next winter the snow will be removed from the roof of the Fellowship Room after every storm so there will

not be such a build-up of snow, and will prevent this from happening again. The snow and ice were very difficult to deal with due to very low temperature and wind.

Spring cleanup is scheduled for May 23 at 9 am (I was hoping to get it done before the black flies arrive, however no such luck). We need all the help we can get. This cleanup is for the inside also, so bring your glass cleaner and dust cleaning equipment.

Dan is back as a Trustee due to the resignation of Alan Grant. Thank you for your service Alan and thank you Dan for agreeing to come back.

Charlie Bojus



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 has finished the book *Being Mortal* by Atul Gawande. The group is currently taking a break but stay tuned; they will be choosing a new book. Come and join in the conversation.

David Avery



Christian Education News

Sunday School will continue throughout the summer months. If you have children, friends, grandchildren that would like to come, we'd love to have them! It is held during the church service. Children leave with the teacher during the pulpit hymn. Children from age 3 through 6th grade are welcome.

The Intergenerational Projects for this summer will be a **Berry Shortcake Festival on Sunday, July 12** after the service. The proceeds will be donated to our summer Music/Theater Camp.

Adult Education is alive and well at First Christian! The **Book Group** is not meeting right now, but watch for updates on a new book. The group meets on Fridays, 10 am 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 and begins at 10 am. Both of these options are open to FCC members and friends. Just plan to drop in at any time.

The committee also is beginning to plan for **the Annual 6th Grade Graduation Brunch on June 17**. Children that will be graduating from Freedom Elementary School are invited.

From **July 27 - August 2 the Music Camp** will be held. Registration forms are available at the church office. Children age 8 through high school are welcome. The cost is only \$15/child for the week. This year's production is "Oh Jonah".

Nancy Wogman



Prayer List

Marion Barnes, Rev. Bob Bossdorf, Priscilla Collette, Pauline Crawford, Jeannette DeAngelis, 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, 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.

**HAPPY
FATHER'S
Day!**



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

Again, our thanks go to all the volunteers, those who provide food and money to keep us going. The need continues and we anticipate that it will increase in the near future with all the anticipated cuts in services at the state and federal levels. One piece of good news is that through the Food Bank in Manchester, we have been linked to the Walmart in North Conway and are receiving food from them on a regular basis. Our first pick-up started on April 23 rd. Freedom Food Pantry was the first of four pantries to receive the supercenters donation.

Bob Bossdorf, Co-Director



Ladies Guild

The Guild has been busy making quilts for RSVP and delivered another 14 to them last week. This, despite the weather over the past couple of months which has forced us to cancel several meetings. We look forward to our "snow-birds" returning and welcome anyone who is interested in quilting to join us. We meet Mondays from 9 am til 2 pm in the fellowship hall. Bring a bag lunch and join us! We do have fun and make lovely quilts which are given to RSVP for distribution at Memorial Hospital for newborns, and to Merriman House as

well. This is a great way to help others, have a lot of fun, and learn new quilting techniques.

Peg Nichols



Scholarship Committee

The members of the committee have received scholarship applications for the George T. Davidson, Jr. Scholarship to review. They will be meeting soon to discuss them and choose the recipients who will receive the scholarships.

Jane Hartnett



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.

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

Velma Hormell

Membership Committee

The Membership Committee discussed going out for a few fellowship dinners this year at our January meeting. I have made reservations at the Lobster Trap restaurant in North Conway for Thursday, May 28 at 6 pm. The first week in May did not give us enough time for sign up, the second week there is Community Club and the fundraiser for Herb Burroughs, then on to Memorial week!!! So, I went with the last week in May.

Mark your calendars! Our committee is hosting. Carol will make the announcement in church and she has the sign up sheet. Let me know if there are any concerns.

LuAnn Rollins

Fund Raiser for Herb & Bonnie

On Thursday, May 14th, at 6 pm, there will be a dinner at Calumet to benefit Herb and Bonnie Burroughs.

Herb has been diagnosed with ALS (Lou Gehrig's Disease) and he faces difficult challenges both physically and financially. **The fund raising dinner will cost \$30 per person**, to include Chef Wade's short ribs, salmon, asparagus, baked potatoes, salad, dessert and coffee.

There will be music, raffles for future dinners for 4 in Freedom homes, and some of Bonnie's beautiful photographs of our area as well as a few of Herb's hand-crafted light boxes for purchase.

We thank you all in advance for your care and support for our Freedom friends.

NOTE: The event has been held and was a wonderful success. It was great to see so many people at Calumet to support Bonnie and Herb and the food was absolutely delicious!

Spring is trying desperately to take over from the cold and very snowy winter. The robins are back and I have seen some daffodils popping up here and there. This has been a very difficult winter for many in our church family as well as members of the community.

We are so pleased that Ellie Bossdorf is home and regaining her strength. She has had a very difficult winter but is finally beginning to feel like herself again.

Sarah Olzerowicz fell and injured her back. She is home and still recuperating, working hard with physical therapy. So good to see her back in the choir.

Our prayers go out to Bonnie McCue on the death of her husband, Dave. He went through a lot following a stroke in February and passed away on April 28.

Wendell Packard is home recuperating after being taken to Maine Medical Center and having surgery.

Glen Hormell had a scare and went to the hospital to be checked out. He is home now with orders to take it easy for a few days.

Which reminds me of Charlie Bojus who had his shoulder replaced and has done very well but is slightly frustrated because he can't lift, push or pull. He goes out in the yard and lifts a twig or two and throws it into the woods. He is not allowed to rake.

We were saddened to hear of the death of Frank Seabury. There was a Memorial Service here at the church on May 2. We will miss seeing him out walking with his dog Roxie. Our thoughts go also to the family of Lynn Santner who recently passed away. There was a Memorial Service here on May 9th.

David Buswell, a longtime Freedom resident, passed away recently. He was very active for many years in Old Home Week activities and various other events in the town.

Thank You

I would like to thank everyone who kept me in their prayers, sent numerous get well cards, made visits, and cooked meals for me during my illness and recovery time. I am

humbled by all the attention everyone gave me. FCC is truly a caring "community" and I am fortunate to be a part of that community. Thank you again for all you did.

Ellie Bossdorf

*THANK YOU
to my family for the super
birthday party
they held for me, to friends who helped
and to all who attended and
made it so memorable.
Your presence, cards, plants,
flowers, gifts and love are much
appreciated and the day is one
I will never forget.
I am blessed - you made turning
90 fun!*

*With love,
Velma Hormell*

 *Mother's Day*

This was printed in the previous newsletter, however with it being Mother's Day this month, I just had to print it again.

"Your mother is always with you. She's the whisper of the leaves as you walk down the street. She's the smell of certain foods you remember, flowers you pick, the fragrance of life itself. She's the cool hand on your brow when you're not feeling well. She's your breath in the air on a cold winter's day. She is the sound of rain that lulls you to sleep, the colors of the rainbow; she is Christmas morning. Your mother lives inside your laughter. She's the place you came from, your first home, and she's the map you follow with every step you take. She's your first love, your first

friend, even your first enemy, nothing on earth can separate you - not time, not space, not even death."

Anonymous

Ushers Needed

If you would like to be an usher on Sunday morning, see Mark McKinley or Jim Blake and let them know. Ushering involves getting to church a little early, greeting people as they come in and giving them a bulletin. During the service the ushers collect the offering and then bring it forward to the Pastor. The ushers usually sign up for a month, however if something comes up and you can't make it to church there is never a problem finding someone to fill in for you. This is a great way to meet new people as they arrive and serve the church as well.

Important Dates in May and June

- May 10 Mothers' Day
- May 14 Fund Raiser at Calumet for Herb Burroughs
- May 16 Fishing Derby 9 am
- May 17 Pastor Larry away, Rev. Bossdorf preaching
- May 18 Scholarship Committee 3:30 pm
- May 23 Spring cleanup inside and outside church
- May 20 Council Meeting 7 pm
- May 28 Dinner at the Lobster Trap 6 pm
- June 04 Deacon's Meeting 9 am
- June 17 Brunch for the 6th grade graduating class
at Freedom Elem. School, at the church
- June 17 Council Meeting 7 pm
- June 21 Fathers' Day, first day of summer
- June 27 Rubber Ducky Day
- June 27 Memorial Service for Margery Conrey, 4 pm

