



First Christian Church of Freedom

THE CHURCH IN THE VILLAGE / ESTABLISHED IN 1858

Newsletter
May 2016

Freedom Rings



Pastors Corner

GOD WINS!

During the Easter season, the first scripture reading each week was from the book of Revelation. If you've ever had a chance to read the last book of the Bible, you may have been puzzled by its bizarre imagery. It is addressed to the churches in 7 cities of Asia Minor. The book is written in 'code' language because its alleged writer, John, was a prisoner on the island of Patmos. In order to get it by the guards, he couldn't be obvious in what he wrote. In actuality, it is meant to be an inspiring vision of the end times. The passages we read each week were pictures of

what heaven is like as John is invited into the very presence of almighty God.

The people John was writing to were undergoing persecution, probably under the Roman emperor, Domitian. He was a merciless ruler, and thought nothing of torturing those who didn't submit to his rule. So, the Christians needed some words of encouragement, and John tried to reassure them through this vision of the end-times. The book of Revelation has served the church well over the centuries as a source of inspiration and hope.

We certainly have not experienced the world of these early Christians, however, we do have our trials and tribulations. Thank heaven, the church, as a body in America, has not been endangered or persecuted. There are places where the Christians are certainly in suffering. We think of the Mid East, especially where ISIS is in control. There are countries in Africa, as well as Communist countries where Christians are not allowed to openly practice their faith. Our biggest threat is apathy and the secular society in which we live. We also battle with health issues which sometimes limits our participation in faith communities and often causes us to question our faith. The book of Revelations has a very simple message as we face such crises, and that is - God wins! It acknowledges the evil in the world, and there is a mighty battle between the monstrous forces of bad and the pure force of good. But, in the end, it is good, or God, who defeats the worst of the world. The conclusion is that beautiful passage: "I saw a new heaven and a new earth ... God's home is now with His people. God will live with them, and they will be His own... God will wipe all tears from their eyes and there will be no more death, suffering, crying, or pain. These things of the past are gone forever. Then the One sitting on the throne said: I am making all things new." (Revelation 21:3-5) Take these words to heart! See you in church.

Pastor

President's

Message

Spring is slowly making its appearance along with many of our "Snow Birds" and both are a very welcome sight! Since our last newsletter our Lenten Season offered many opportunities for reflection and prayer. We held a Seder Supper this year on Maundy Thursday, a slight departure from previous years. It was a prayerful and meaningful look into the past as we celebrated Jesus's Last Supper. All that attended found it to be a very spiritual evening. The service on Good Friday allowed for much reflection and a time of solace as we reflected on the Crucifixion of Jesus. Finally we opened our Easter day with a Sunrise Service at Loon Lake followed by a wonderful breakfast. A very special thanks to all who helped make it a success. A glorious Easter service followed as we celebrated the Risen Christ, in scripture and in song. Our Choir was superb!

As the summer approaches we are in the planning stages of many activities, such as, plays, concerts, etc. Watch the bulletin and church web site for updates. It will be as busy or relaxing as you want to make it; there will be something for everyone! We are blessed to have such a vibrant congregation. So let's all have some fun this summer!!

Looking forward to greeting all our "Snow Birds" as they return home once again.

I will be seeing you all in church and around town.

Sandy Boyle
President, Church Council



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.

Graduation Brunch on June 15



Once again the Christian Education Committee will be sponsoring a Graduation Brunch on June 15 at 9 am to honor the graduating 6th graders from

Freedom Elementary School. This has become a tradition that both church members and the students enjoy.

The students will be treated to a delicious brunch featuring bagels, muffins, orange juice, eggs, etc.

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.



It's that time of year again! The applications have arrived from Kennett, plus one received at the office. They always seem to arrive the first day of my vacation, so any novel I am currently involved with goes on the back burner! The applications are really well done this year. We have 74 of them to consider, including 10 from Freedom - so many worthy candidates, it will be difficult to choose. The committee will be meeting soon to review them.

This year's committee members are Pastor Larry, Sandy Boyle, Velma Hormell, Paul Olzerowicz, Judy Robertson, and Dan Spear. I look forward to meeting with them. Everyone brings thoughtful and caring insight to the discussion.

Jane Hartnett, Chair
Scholarship Committee



Intergenerational Christian Education News

At First Christian, there are activities for all ages when it comes to Christian Education. Our Faith Journey never ends and we are committed to providing a firm foundation for our youth and opportunities for all ages to continue that journey.

We are planning our **Annual Strawberry Festival to be held on July 10** immediately after church. Those proceeds will be used to offset Music Camp expenses. Additionally, the Christian Ed. Committee voted to again hold in June, the **Graduation Brunch** for the 6th grade students at Freedom Elementary School.

We continue to offer **Sunday School** each week for any children that might be in attendance. We thank Pet Plunges, Carol McIntire, Heidi Paulding and Nancy Wogman for preparing lessons. If you know of children in the community or if you have grandchildren that are visiting, please encourage them to come to Sunday School.

Adult opportunities for education abound at First Christian. The Thursday book group meets at 10 a.m. at FCC. That group is led by David Avery and Bob Bossdorf. If you are interested in Bible Study, then join Pastor Larry at Camp Calumet on Tuesdays at 10 a.m. That group explores the lessons for the upcoming Sunday.

There will be a **Christian Ed meeting on May 25th** at 2pm at the First Christian Church.



Successful Workday

First Christian Church had a 'great' workday in April with 15 or so showing up to get the grounds all cleaned up. We thank Charlie Bojus for use of his truck in getting much of the leaves and brush to the land-fill, and also picking up the mulch that was spread around the church. We also appreciated 'Fuzzy' Martin coming on Friday to do his share. We will plan another day to do the 'inside' work, but we should be set until the Fall.



Report of the Financial Secretary

As of the 15th of April, the weekly offerings combined with the few fund raising events thus far show we are about 32% of the budgeted amount for 2016. This indicates we are on pace to meet our budget projections for 2016.

Carol Porter



A note from your head ushers

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 contact one of the Head Ushers (Mark McKinley 539-6577 or Judy Blake 539-5453). 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 or Jim. Thank you



PRAYER LIST

Louise Anderson, Nathaniel & Carolyn Anderson, Kathy Avery, Tarryn Balch, Gerry Barnickle's niece, Phil Beckwith, Howard Bouve', Chris Boynton, Kathy Brownrigg, Harold Brown Jr., Carolyn Clancy, Priscilla Collette, Jason Crawford, Pauline Crawford, Sarah Dayton, Florence Dellecese, Craig Devine, Sally Downey, Irene Eichler, Jane Garnsey, Michael Gaudette's sister-in-law, Linnie Giles, Kathleen Helfrich, Karen Hopkins, Glenn Hormell, Norma Johnson's brother, cousin and sister, Phyllis Kenison, Elmer Killam, Ginny Lanoue, Gerry Littlefield, Jean Marshall, The Nephew of Fuzzy Martin, Carol Melvidas, Frank Meserve, Bill Nason, Barbara & Sebastian Piccolo, DeMott Post, Jen Scales, Kathleen Sherin, Dan Spear, Dick Stosez, Mike Sudak, Michael Sweeney, Jim Tracey, Cheryl Vitum, Katya Wurth 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.



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.



Our Church Family

ARE YOU INTERESTED IN JOINING OUR FAMILY AND BECOMING A CHURCH MEMBER?

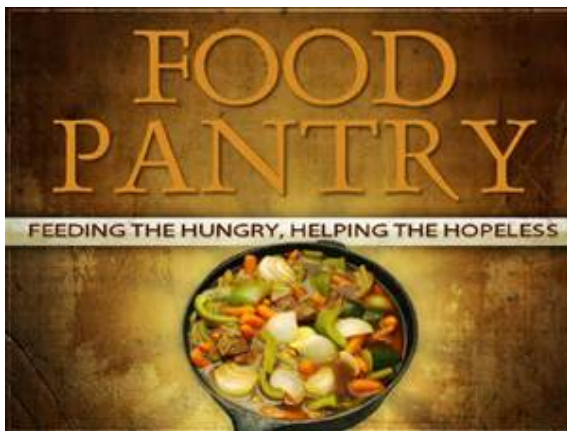
When you're a member of a church, it means you've made a commitment to your faith. You have said "I'm a follower of Jesus Christ and a member of a Christian community." It also helps from the church's point of view to know who can be counted on to continue the church.

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. The number of people using the Food Pantry has been all over the ballpark! We have had as many as 16 families and as few as 6. Volunteers continue to be there whatever the need. Thanks to all who volunteer and or support us in so many other ways. We have completed the inputting of 146 families and are now able to track people on the computer. The next several issues are using it to check people in, and find someone else to step into my place when I join that great cloud of witnesses! As we use the program more, we will be able to generate all kinds of reports which will be helpful to us. Again, thanks to everyone who supports the Food Pantry in so many ways. As always Doris and Paul lead the charge! Also thanks to the Bossi's for their aid in getting food down from Wal-Mart and the Food Bank deliveries. Some of our snow birds are back and we welcome them. If you are looking for something to do, come and see what goes on every Saturday 10-12.

Bob Bossdorf, Co-Director Food Pantry



FROM THE CHURCH SECRETARY

Spring has sprung!

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

Sincerely,
Patty Dumas



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 Hormell



The Ossipee Concerned Citizens, Inc. is requesting your help in filling the need for volunteers to deliver Meals on Wheels to the home-bound in Ossipee, Effingham and Freedom. The meals routes take an hour or more to complete. If you are interested, please contact Bob Bossdorf. They are also in need of people to join the Board. If interested call OCC at 539-6851. Thank you for your help.



Fun to Know Church History with Bob Smart June 10, 2016 7 p.m.

The Membership Committee is pleased to invite friends and members to church on **Friday evening, June 10th, for a talk on "fun to know" pieces of church history.** This date was chosen because it is so close to June 12th, when in 1858 the first nine members of our non-denominational church signed their agreement to become a church body that would not let a sense of separate "denominationalism" interfere with the "Christian cause." Their belief was that all Christians should worship as the family of God, united as brothers and sisters in Christ. That initial date has quite an historic intent attached to it, and so we will gather during **this** first week of June to acknowledge that founding sentiment while hearing of some other bits of our religious heritage here in Freedom!

Our Historian, Bob Smart, will tell us of the time when the FCCOF congregation decided to build their

first church building in 1867 and then add on the original Fellowship Hall in 1978 and the second Fellowship Hall (Davidson Room) in 1987. The 'whys' and the 'wherefores', the 'who', 'how', and the 'whoas!' are all interesting facts involved in this process. The old observation that "it takes a village" was never more appropriate than when applied to the team effort necessary in the past to make our Fellowship and our Davidson Rooms part of the architectural space that we enjoy today. Many of the people involved in these projects have passed on; several remain active in our midst to this day. Bob will talk a bit, then field some questions. Refreshments will be served.

Come share an hour of facts and fellowship with us from **7-8 p.m.** If you're interested, people should enter the church through the side door accessed by the driveway. This talk will be through the interior door to the left, in the Davidson Room. If anyone needs to use the walkway ramp to the church's front steps and the chair inside to get up the steps from the Sanctuary to the Fellowship Rooms, please call the church office. Someone will be happy to greet you at the front door and escort you to the area where the talk will be given. Any questions, please call Gale Morris (539-5449) or the church office (539-6484).

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:

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

LADIES GUILD



The Guild has been very busy during the winter months. Meetings were held whenever weather permitted. To date 207 quilts have been delivered to RSVP.

New Members, Marty Perrault and Annie-Rae Marques, have been welcomed. Also, Judy Fuller has been welcomed back.

The "snowbirds" have returned. The Guild is getting ready to send another batch of quilts to RSVP as well as preparing for Rubber Ducky Day, which will be our first sale of the year.

A TRUE STORY JUST FOR LAUGHS!



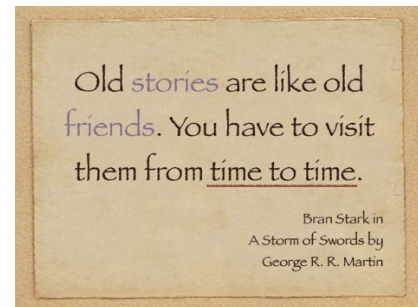
The pastor of a church had a kitten that climbed up a tree in his backyard and then was afraid to come down. The pastor coaxed, offered warm milk, etc. The kitty would not come down. The tree was not sturdy enough to climb, so the pastor decided that if he tied a rope to his car and pulled it until the tree bent down, he could then reach up and get the kitten. That's what he did, all the while checking his progress in the car. The then figured if he went just a little bit further, the tree would be bent sufficiently for him to reach the kitten. But as he moved the car a little further forward, the rope broke. The tree went 'boing' and the kitten instantly sailed through the air - out of sight.

The pastor felt terrible. He walked all over the neighborhood asking people if they'd seen a little kitten. Nobody had seen a stray kitten. So he prayed,

"Lord, I just commit this kitten to your keeping", and went on about his business.

A few days later, he was at the grocery store and met one of his church members. He happened to look into her shopping cart and was amazed to see cat food. This woman was a cat hater and everyone knew it, so he asked her "Why are you buying cat food when you hate cats so much?" She replied, "You won't believe this," and then told him how her little girl had been begging her for a cat, but she kept refusing. Then a few days before, the child had begged again, so the Mom finally told her "Well, if God gives you a cat, I'll let you keep it". She told the pastor, "I watched my child go out in the yard, get on her knees and ask God for a cat. And really, Pastor, you won't believe this, but I saw it with my own eyes. A kitten suddenly came flying out of the blue sky, with its paws outspread, and landed right in front of her".

Never underestimate the Power of God and His unique sense of humor!



FREEDOM HISTORICAL SOCIETY AUGUST PRESS RELEASE

CONTACT: Nancy Essex - 603-301-1073
NBSX@aol.com

FREEDOM HISTORICAL SOCIETY PRESENTS "OLD TIME STORIES FROM THE VALLEY"

Please join the Freedom Historical Society on May 18th when Gloria (Boucher) Aspinall of Madison, NH, presents her program, "Old Time Stories from the Valley." Ms. Aspinall dynamically regales her audiences with historic stories of people, places, and events of the Mount Washington Valley. Historic events related include stories of logging camps, historic hotels, and local characters. She brings props to share such as carvings which were carved in her grandfather's portable logging camp on the Kancamaugas Highway; photos; tools used to make hammocks, fish nets, etc.; small stools with caning made in the logging camp; and many other artifacts.

Currently serving as one of the White Mountain National Forest's historical volunteer interpreters at the Russell-Colbath Historic House in Passaconaway, NH, Ms. Aspinall is often praised by visitors who have enjoyed her presentation as well as her enthusiastic "presence". She is known for skillfully tailoring her informational programs to different cultures, ages, and interests.

Please join us for this unique presentation on Wednesday, May 18th at 7PM at Freedom's Town Hall, located on Elm Street. There is no charge for the

program, and the public is welcome. Refreshments will be provided.

For additional information, please call 603-301-1073.

Elijah!

God's Faithful Prophet

Announcing the 11th Annual:

**First Christian Church of Freedom
Children's Summer Theater Camp**



**Monday, July 25th - Friday, July 29th
10 AM - 3 PM
At the Freedom Elementary School**

The children will spend the week acting, singing, and dancing. There will be plenty of time for crafts and play as well. By Friday afternoon they will be ready to perform this year's play, "Elijah! God's Faithful Prophet," a comic retelling of the Biblical story of Elijah and the contest against the prophets of Baal on Mt. Carmel. This is always a fun and rewarding week for everyone. The children should bring a lunch with beverage and an afternoon snack each day. The cost is \$15 for the week. Scholarships are available. Registration by July 20th will ensure that there will be costumes and supplies enough for everyone. Children must be at least 8 years of age.

For further information contact Carolyn Olzerowicz at (603)569-5711 or at colzerowicz@gmail.com. Registration forms are available at The First Christian Church of Freedom at 12 Elm St., Freedom; phone # (603) 539-6484 or on our website, firstchristianchurchoffreedom.org.

Performances at the Freedom Elementary School

Friday, July 29th at 2:30 PM, &
Sunday, July 31st at 10:00 AM
At the FCCF Old Home Week
Worship Service

Freedom Old Home Week Parade

Saturday, July 30th at 9:30 AM
Camp participants will board the camp
float at the Freedom Elementary School.

Elijah!

First Christian Church of Freedom

Summer Theater Camp

July 25th-29th, 2016

Registration Form

Child's Name _____

Name of Parent or Guardian _____

Home phone # _____ Phone # during camp hours _____

Mailing Address _____

E-mail address _____

Alternate contact in case of emergency _____ phone # _____

Allergies or Food intolerances? _____

Medical conditions we should know about? _____

Child's physician _____ phone # _____

Insurance information _____

Do we have your permission to obtain medical treatment in case of an emergency? _____

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 Church Website? _____ Initials _____

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

JUNE 2016

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
			1 Walking Group 8am	2 Deacons Meeting 9am Book Club 10am	2	2 Food Pantry 10 – 12pm
5 Choir 9am Sunday Service 10am	6 Ladies Guild 9am	7 Bible Study at Calumet 10am Choir 7pm	8 Walking Group 8am	9 Book Club 10am	10 Fun to Know Church History 7pm	11 Food Pantry 10 – 12pm
12 Choir 9am Sunday Service 10am	13 Ladies Guild 9am	14 Bible Study at Calumet 10am Choir 7pm	15 Walking Group 8am 6 th Grade Graduation Council Meeting 7pm	16 Book Club 10am	17	18 Food Pantry 10 – 12pm
19 Father's Day Choir 9am Sunday Service 10am	20 Ladies Guild 9am	21 Bible Study at Calumet 10am Choir 7pm	22 Walking Group 8am	23 Book Club 10am	24	25 Food Pantry 10 – 12pm Rubber Ducky Day, Masons & Book Sale 10am
26 Choir 9am Sunday Service 10am	27 Ladies Guild 9am	28 Bible Study at Calumet 10am Choir 7pm	29 Walking Group 8am	30 Book Club 10am		

The First Christian Church of Freedom

12 Elm Street, Freedom, NH 03836

603-539-6484

www.FirstChristianChurchofFreedom.org

Like us on Facebook!

Pastor Lawrence N. Wogman