



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

Freedom Rings

Newsletter

November/December 2016



Pastors Ramblings!

One of my favorite Psalms is the one that served as our focus in mid-October – Psalm 121. It's fairly well-known, and is included in a section called "ascent songs." These were sung as the people of Israel returned from the Babylonian Captivity. As they approached the city of Jerusalem, they remembered the Temple on Mt. Zion and how that had been such a fortress of their faith. Now, after years of suffering, they came to their beloved city which was devastated at the hands of foreign invaders. But, even as they looked on the ruins, they could turn to their faith and say: "I lift up my eyes to

the hills – from where will my help come? My help comes from the Lord, who made heaven and earth."

As we look at the world around us, we perhaps don't observe the same scenes as those ancient Israelites, but we are aware of tragedy and devastation in the world. In case we get too optimistic, our politicians remind us, along with the news media, of how bad things can be. The recent hurricane in Haiti, the behavior and actions of our two Presidential candidates, as well as the current drug crisis and terrorist activities, remind us of the times in which we live. However, our faith in an active and loving God gives us the impetus to move on. We do the best we can in the situation in which we find ourselves, confident that "the Lord keeps our going out and coming in." The people of Israel had a giant task ahead of them – rebuilding their city and establishing order in their land – but they were confident that "the Lord who kept them would neither slumber nor sleep" in the pursuit of justice and compassion.

As followers of Christ, we have a responsibility to serve and witness the presence of our Lord in the world. As we approach the holiday season, we have ample opportunities to do that. Consider baking or serving at our Thanksgiving dinner, give an extra donation to a charity organization responding to the Haiti crisis or whatever other tragedy occurs, vote on election day even if you have trouble determining a worthy candidate, purchase a gift for a child on our Christmas tree, visit or call

one of our 'shut-ins' or someone in a nursing home, reach out to a neighbor or someone you haven't seen in a while – there are any number of actions we can take to make the world a better place, and one which restores faith in an active and loving God. The Lord has left it in our hands, and be assured that God will give us the help and hope we need.

God bless each of you, and may the Lord keep your going out and coming in from this time on and forevermore! Pastor Larry



President's Message

We are coming to summer's end and, so far, we are having a glorious fall season with fantastic colors and warm days in which to do a little leaf peeping!

What a wonderful world HE has given us!

Our annual church picnic, to close out the season, was very well attended. We had great food and time for relaxing and enjoying the conversation and company of others. Thanks to all who helped make this such a special day.

A quick update on Mary Hockmeyer...since moving to Maine, Mary continues to be in our thoughts and prayers as she recuperates from 2 hip surgeries and physical therapy. I hope many of you will continue to send cheer and cards her way. I'm sure we will be seeing Mary in the spring, if not sooner!

The Nominating Committee is in "hot pursuit" of members willing to fill a few open seats on various committees. This is not a really huge time commitment because many committees meet only a few times a year, but it is a necessary function of the

church's efficiency. Please give this some serious thought and if interested contact Dean Robertson @ 539-8617.

We are embarking on one of the busiest times of the year for most of us....The Holidays! Preparation is already underway for "Ring in the Holidays" on Nov. 19, followed by our most anticipated Thanksgiving Dinner, which, in the spirit of giving, continues to be free and open to all. Remember, this can only continue each year with your help, so please watch for the sign-up sheets in the Fellowship room and help in any way you can.

This is also a most joyous time of year as we await the birth of Jesus, and then celebrate all His birth means to us as Christians with a special Christmas Eve Service.

Let us not forget that this time of year can also be a depressing and lonely time for many, and that we continue to reach out to those less fortunate and needier than ourselves in the way Jesus has taught us.

I've been reading various Spiritual Quotes, hoping to end my message with something meaningful for us to take into the New Year and I think the following just might "fit the bill"....

I don't think that God says "Go to church and pray all day and everything will be fine." No. For me God says, "Go out and make the changes that need to be made, and I'll be there to help you."

Elvia Alvarado

Have a Blessed Holiday Season and a Happy and Healthy New Year

Be seeing you 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.

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 Deacons have been meeting on the first Thursday of each month.

We have discussed visitations to many of the shut-ins in Freedom and several people at various nursing homes.

If you know anybody who would like to have a visit or needs assistance please feel free to contact the Deacons.

We have also been assisting the Ushers and greeting people after church services.

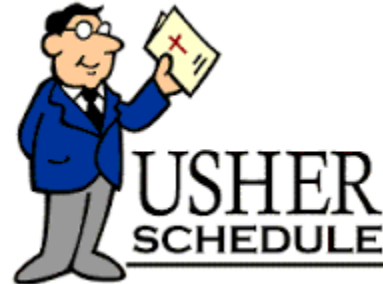
The Deacons have a fairly large supply of medical equipment that we will loan out to anyone in need.

The purpose of the Deacons is to provide help. If you know of anyone or have any questions or

suggestions, please contact Neal Boyle at 539-7791. I will be glad to provide any assistance that is needed.

You may also contact Patty, the church secretary at 539-6484.

Neal Boyle, Deacon Chairman



A NOTE FROM THE USHERS

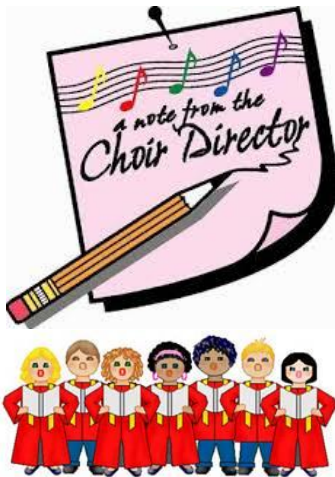
We are in need of ushers. If you are interested, or if you are currently an usher and no longer wish to serve for your specified month, either because of health issues or other concerns, please call Mark McKinley at 539-6577. Please know that your faithful service continues to be deeply appreciated and 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', Harold 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, 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, Ginny Lanoue, Pauline Leclerc, Carol LeGault, John Manley, Jean Marshall, Mary Mayhew, Carol Melvidas, Frank Meserve, Judy Michaels, Bill Nason, Pat & Roger Olson, DeMott Post, Jeannie Rogers, Jen Scales, 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.



NEWS FROM THE CHOIR DIRECTOR

It always feels like a new school year when choir rehearsals resume in September. I even sharpened all of the #2 pencils! It's so good to be singing together again. We're glad to have soprano, Katy Jones come back to sing as well. The number of singers on Sunday morning is sometimes as many as 11 and sometimes as few as 5 but with God's help we are always ready to sing joyfully. I appreciate that our choir members are so faithful in attending on Tuesdays and Sundays. I always welcome new singers to the group. You are welcome to just come on a Tuesday night at 7 PM and just try it out. No audition required!

We will be having our traditional children's Christmas pageant on December 24th at 7 PM.

The one and only rehearsal for this will be on that same day at 10 AM. Mary and Joseph were travelers, only visiting Bethlehem on the night of our Savior's birth. All children who will be in Freedom on that night will be welcome to participate in the pageant whether they are local residents or only visiting. Contact me, Carolyn Olzerowicz, for more information at colzerowicz@gmail.com or at (603)569-5711.



The church finances are in good shape and progressing on schedule. We are very slightly behind our predictions for the year end in pledges, but we expect to make that up in fundraising efforts. Thanks to everyone for continuing to meet their pledge and for attending and working on our various fundraising events.

Carol Porter

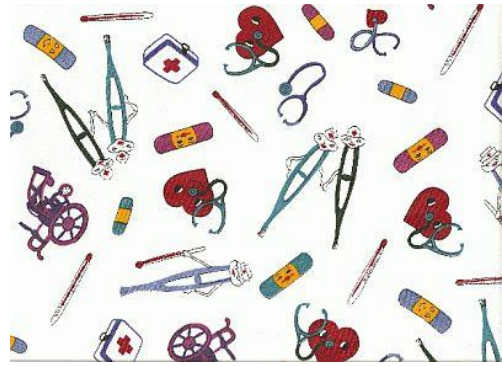


There are no urgent "red flags" to report for Church operations. Overall Church expenses were \$6,800 higher than income as of October 18, 2016. As we get closer to the end of 2016, we will be considering our giving for 2017. At the same time it would be helpful to review where we stand on our 2016

Respectfully submitted,
Paul J. Olzerowicz, Treasurer



Dan Spear, Trustee



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	



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 work continues, we are getting a steady stream of people needing food. The volunteers who help each week are great. Doris and Paul

continue to lug food and shop and keep us supplied. Bob continues to struggle with the computer program and refine the reports. We are planning on giving away Thanksgiving and Christmas bags for a special meal. The food Bank in Manchester is supplying 60 turkeys free for each event. Doris and Paul will go get them the day before because we do not have freezer room for them. Other than that, things go along well in this important ministry.

Bob Bossdorf, Co-Director – Freedom Food Pantry



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

LADIES GUILD



The Ladies Guild meets Mondays from 9am to 2pm to sew and make quilts. 275 quilts were given to RSVP, No. Conway, NH by the end of June 2016. RSVP distributed the quilts to Memorial Hospital and Nursing Home. Sales are held in the church during the summer and fall to raise money to replenish fabric and quilt batting supplies, also to donate to the Church's Budget, Pastor's Discretionary Fund and Church Building Fund.



Fourteen of the First Christian Church of Freedom Ladies Guild members met to learn how to make the Wonky Star Quilt. Thanks to Roberta Davidson for teaching us and for her patience! These will be on display at the Freedom Rings in the Holidays Fair on Nov. 18 and 19! This group is always open to new

techniques! If you are interested in quilting, join us on Mondays from 9 am - 2 pm. — with Barbara McHugh, Peg Nichols, Karen Olszewski, Myrtle Macleod, Martha Perreault, Roberta Davidson, Mary Luke, Claire Tracey, Judy Fuller, Nancy Wogman and Nancy Bossi.

Last chance to purchase your raffle tickets for the 2016 Ladies Guild Raffle Quilt. Tickets are \$1 each or 6 for \$5. Such a deal! And you could be this year's winner on Nov. 20! See Nancy Wogman, Myrtle MacLeod or Karen Olszewski after church or at the Ladies Guild Freedom Rings in the Holidays Fair on Nov. 18 & 19.



SOUP'S ON!

The Minestrone soup packages are ready for you in the Fellowship Room today and are \$3.00 a package, same as last year. There is a red envelope in the basket to put in 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.



We will, as always, have our Christmas Service on Christmas Eve at 7pm. Because Christmas is on a Sunday this year, there will be no Sunday service.



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

It's a holy, happy season!

I can't believe I've been here a little over a year. It's been a wonderful time. I would like to thank who ever left flowers on my desk after

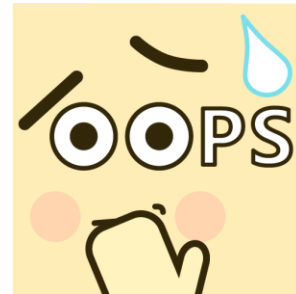
my surgery. Your kindness is so very much appreciated.

Happy Thanksgiving and Merry Christmas to all.

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



SMARTEST PEOPLE IN THE WORLD


A doctor, a lawyer, a little boy and a priest were out for a Sunday afternoon flight on a small private plane. Suddenly, the plane developed engine trouble. In spite of the best efforts of the pilot, the plane started to go down. Finally, the pilot grabbed a parachute, yelled to the passengers that they had better jump, and then he bailed out. Unfortunately, there were only three parachutes remaining. The doctor grabbed one and said "I'm a doctor, I save lives, so I must live," and jumped out. The lawyer then said, "I'm a lawyer and lawyers are the smartest people in the world. I deserve to live." He also grabbed a parachute and jumped.

The priest looked at the little boy and said, "My son, I've lived a long and full life. You are young and have your whole life ahead of you. Take the last parachute and live in peace." The little boy handed the parachute back to the priest and said, "Not to worry, Father. The 'smartest man in the world' just took off with my back pack."

November 2016

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
		1	2	3 9AM Deacons Meeting 10am Book Club	4	5 10am Food Pantry
6 9am Choir 10am Sunday Service	7 9am Ladies Guild	8 10am Bible Study at Calumet	9	10 10am Book Club 6-8pm Heritage Commission Meeting	11	12 10am Food Pantry
13 9am Choir 10am Sunday Service Stewardship Presentation	14 9am Ladies Guild	15 10am Bible Study at Calumet 7pm Choir	16	17 10am Book Club	18	19 10am Food Pantry RING IN THE HOLIDAYS!
20 9am Choir 10am Sunday Service	21 9am Ladies Guild	22 10am Bible Study at Calumet 7pm Choir	23	24  THANKSGIVING 12pm Thanksgiving Dinner at the Town Hall	25	26 10am Food Pantry
27 9am Choir 10am Sunday Service	28 9am Ladies Guild	29 10am Bible Study at Calumet 7pm Choir	30			

December 2016

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
				1	2	3 10am Food Pantry
4 9am Choir 10am Sunday Service ANNUAL MEETING	5 9am Ladies Guild	6 10am Bible Study at Calumet 7pm Choir	7	8 10am Book Club	9	10 10am Food Pantry
11 9am Choir 10am Sunday Service	12 9am Ladies Guild	12 10am Bible Study at Calumet 7pm Choir	14	15 10am Book Club	16	17 10am Food Pantry
18 9am Choir 10am Sunday Service	19 9am Ladies Guild	20 10am Bible Study at Calumet 7pm Choir	21 FIRST DAY OF WINTER Brrrrrrrr!	22 10am Book Club	23	24 10am Food Pantry 7pm Christmas Eve Service
25	26	27	28	29	30	31
 CHRISTMAS No Sunday Service	9am Ladies Guild	10am Bible Study at Calumet 7pm Choir		10am Book Club		

The First Christian Church of Freedom

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www.FirstChristianChurchofFreedom.org

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Pastor Lawrence N. Wogman