



Freedom Rings

First Christian Church of Freedom

Combining Traditional and Contemporary Faith Communities



Newsletter September 2015

PASTOR'S CORNER

Having finished "Old Home Week" and many other weeks of good weather, we have much to be thankful for. Our worship services, especially the Sunday at the school (200+ and a great performance by the children), have been filled with wonderful music and uplifting spirit. We continue to have many visitors and new residents with whom to share our faith and fellowship. Although some of our official activities are curtailed during the summer, we have managed to have a church sponsored breakfast and barbecue, coffee hours each week, our regular Bible study and adult class, hire a new secretary, and run a music camp with 20 kids. We went to a fantastic 'Best of Broadway' concert, a Sea Dogs game, and an Agatha Christi play along with several dinners out. If that's not enough, most of us have hosted family and friends during the summer.

And so, we're grateful to God that we can participate in all these happenings. Life is good! We are mindful, however, that many have had challenges as well. Some have undergone operations, others are having treatments, and many have experienced the 'aches and pains' of aging. Even then, we can be thankful for the care, the medications, and the therapies that relieve our discomfort and bring a measure of healing.

As we look forward to the Fall, the pace of congregational life may actually slow down a bit. Our worship and studies will continue, meetings start up, and a few other activities will be held (church picnic on 9/13). A few members will be getting ready for

winter trips 'south', and some may be planning autumn vacations. And so, the cycle of life goes on. The seasons come and go, but one thing remains constant - the faithfulness of God! God is our resting place and our rock, the One we depend on and go to in all circumstances. God waits and hopes that you'll come and spend time contemplating your relationship with God the creator, the savior, and the nourisher of life. Come and join us in our pursuit of the true faith.

See you in church! Pastor Larry

President's Message

We are coming to the end of those "wonderful lazy, hazy days of summer". Where on earth does the time go? I hope you are all enjoying these waning days of summer, and are looking forward to capping it off with our church picnic on Sept.13 at the Davidson Camp. Pray for good weather!!

Much has occurred since our last newsletter. We welcomed 6 new members into our church family in July, this makes 19 new members since Dec. We are continuing to grow and this is very exciting.

Our new Financial Secretary, Carol Porter, has taken on her position with much enthusiasm and has things well under control. As many of you know, Pat Bojus, our secretary, is, in her own words, "finally retiring", and after several interviews of prospective applicants, Pastor Larry and the church council welcomes Patty Dumas as our new church secretary. Patty met all criteria and is well qualified. She also possesses a warm and welcoming persona. Patty will be working with Pat for the next couple of weeks, "getting to know the ropes," stop by and welcome her if you get the chance.

These past couple of months have been very busy and full. There were concerts, plays, fellowship dinners and even a baseball game, there was something for everyone! We joined in all of the Old Home Week activities, especially, our church's "Welcome Home" breakfast, as well as, the parade, bingo, the Craft Fair and so much more. We are blessed to live in such a vibrant community with so many wonderful volunteers.

Our Community Outreach Program that we embarked on with the Freedom Community Club this past fall has proven to be an important tool for many in need of rides to doctor appointments, shopping, etc. I'm sure we can all empathize with being shut-in with no family close by to help. Thanks to all who have given of their time in this important endeavor. New drivers are always welcome.

As we look forward to the months ahead, I would like you to keep in mind that "new blood" is needed to keep our church ministry alive and moving forward. There are many opportunities on the various committees that could use whatever talents you may have. If interested in exploring what's available, please contact me.

We are slowly paying down the Capital Campaign Fund, money borrowed and used for church improvements, but still have a long way to go. Whatever you can afford to help decrease this debt will be greatly appreciated.

Lastly, we have a new church website and it is fully functional and up to date, be sure to check it out. Nancy Wogman welcomes your feedback and suggestions. www.firstchristianchurchoffreedom.org

There will be busy days ahead as the holidays grow closer, but let us not forget His mission of reaching out to those who are lonely, disenfranchised and less fortunate than ourselves.

"You May Be the Only Gospel Others Will Ever Read."

Be seeing you around,
Sandy Boyle, President
snboyle1@aol.com

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.

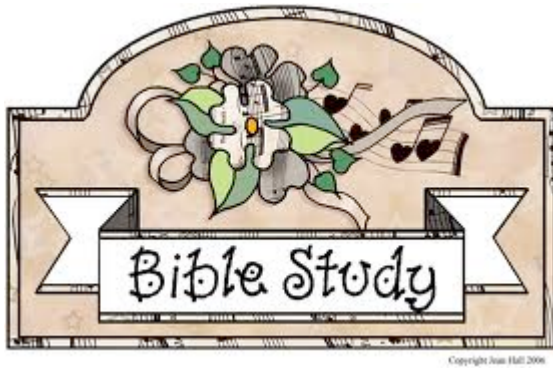
If you have any news you would like to share, please submit it to the church office by the 20th of the month. We would love to hear about your travels and adventures.

BOARD of Trustees' MEETING

The Trustees met on July 7, 2015. Charlie Bojus, Mark McKinley, Roland Millette, Paul Elie, Dan Spear, Sandy Boyle, Dean Robertson and Pastor Larry were in attendance. The following items were discussed and have since been taken care of: the power company was called and has come and removed the covering on the wires attached to the church. The flag pole light has been installed. A new shelter has been built to cover carts used to transport food from the pantry to the recipient's car. A shade in the sanctuary Has been adjusted. The parsonage barn has been cleaned out, steel has been gathered and taken to Tamworth. The church will no longer accept items for sale and the barn will hold music camp props, a very few bikes, and medical equipment to be loaned out when needed.

The following projects will be done this fall and they include repairing the railings in the front of the church where they are separating from the cement, power washing the cement and the back ramp. Staging will be put up and the fans will be cleaned in the sanctuary. The damage to the "dog house" will be repaired, the bottom of the door will be cut and it will be painted and a new roof will be added. The steel edging on the church roof will be removed and then covered with a water shield to extend the edges and clear the steps. The pipe leading to the toilet will be insulated. A railing and gate will be installed around the stair climber in the sanctuary so that a member of the choir can hold on to the railing and safely exit the choir loft. The building inspector was contacted and came to the church to inspect the proposed project and a permit is not required to complete this task.

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 will be starting a new book: *Reading the Bible Again – For the First Time* by Marcus Borg on Thursday, September 3rd at 10 am. If anyone is interest in purchasing the book, let Bob Bossdorf know. Also if you have a copy of the last book studied, please return it to the church. Four books were on the table near the office and they are missing. Thank you. The Friday group will start up again on September 3rd.



Christian Education News

Many thanks to our teachers who continue to teach on a rotating basis. They are Carol McIntire, Petula Plunges, Heide Paulding and Nancy Wogman. New Fall materials have been ordered and they will follow the lessons that are read each Sunday.

On June 17, we hosted the graduating 6th graders for a brunch held at the church. Many thanks to Gail Bizer

for coordinating this event and to Chris Boynton, Carol McIntire, Lucy Kendall, Pastor Wogman, and Nancy Wogman for assisting.

On July 12, we held a Berry Festival to raise funds for our summer music/theater camp. We received a Thrivent Action Team Grant of \$250 to purchase the food and decorations. With donations from the 70 who attended, we received over \$500. Thanks so much everyone!

Sunday School will continue each Sunday. The Adult Book Group is now meeting on Thursdays at 10 a.m. The Bible Study is held at Camp Calumet and is led by Pastor Wogman. Plan to attend if you are able!

Nancy Wogman



News from the Choir Director

The Choir will be taking their “vacation” during August but will resume practice on Tuesday, September 15th at 7 PM. We always welcome new members to our compatible group; no auditions required.

Once again on Old Home Day, August 1, a fantastic performance of “Oh, Jonah” was given by the Freedom Music Camp actors and singers. They learn lines, music and choreography, construct and decorate a float, and give two solid performances....in less than ONE week. How do they do it? I think we know. Pianist Carolyn Olzerowicz, and Director Carlos Martinez work their magic on the talented performers, and volunteers contribute in countless ways to the success of the program.

We would like to thank Carlos Martinez who brings the skills of a master educator to working with our children; Heidi Paulding for her cheerful presence and

for always providing exactly the care that is needed in every situation; Meredith Paulding for working quietly behind the scenes to see that every needful thing gets done; Gale Morris for getting us off to a good start on Monday morning; Nancy Essex for helping with lunch and recess; Bob Smart for assembling and driving our parade float; Winston Morrow for the loan of his trailer for the parade float; Daniel Paulding and family for painting our beautiful parade float; Nancy Wogman for organizing and providing the craft projects; Christopher Martinez for help with setting up the sound system; Mr. Dennis Savilonis and Barbara Wood Hoyt for the hospitality given us at the Freedom Elementary School; and the FCCF Christian Education Committee for their fund raising and spiritual support.

Carolyn Olzerowicz



Prayer List

Marion Barnes, Rev. Bob Bossdorf, Priscilla Collette, Pauline Crawford, Jeannette DeAngelis, Craig Devine, Ramona Fateux, Donald Flanders, Gordon C. Gladden, Dale Johnson and family, George Kendall, Phyllis Kenison, Elmer Killam, Nancy Koza, Elizabeth Landry, Brenda Libby, Louise Lipson, 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, Michele Stoddard, Dick Stosez, Ethel Thomas, Janet Thompson, Clay Wagner, 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.



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

Things remain the same; requests continue to be high, the volunteers are continuing to do a great job. We have only missed one Saturday because of the Old Home Week parade and the congestion in the village. We have served an average of 2400 meals a month

The Pantry received a check in May for \$1,000 from Pat Nute of Madison to enable us to "feed the kids" during the summer when they are not in school. The food in the bags would be similar to the "68 Hours of Hunger" program. Pat Nute also provided another check for \$1,000 in July so that the Pantry can continue to buy special foods for kids during the school year. We certainly appreciate her very generous donations to the Pantry.

We continue to receive donations of food from Walmart and thanks go to Nancy and Mark Bossi who pick up the food and bring it to the Pantry.

We always welcome new volunteers. If you are interested in donating a Saturday morning once a month, we would love to have you.

Ossipee Concerned Citizens

OCC is in need of interested people to join the Board.

Also, drivers are needed for food deliveries to those in need at home (Meals on Wheels). If you are interested please contact Bob Bossdorf or call OCC at 539-6851.



Ladies Guild

The ladies have had a busy and rewarding summer. Sales were held in the church on Rubber Ducky Day and during Old Home Week on the day of the Parade. The Guild also had a table at the Old Home Week Craft Fair at the Freedom Elementary School. To prepare for all these events, the ladies have been meeting regularly on Mondays from 9 am to 2 pm throughout the spring and summer months.

Members continue to make and donate quilts to RSVP which distributes them to the Birthing Center at Memorial Hospital and to nursing homes.

Many quilts, table runners and wall hangings have been made. In addition to items worked on during meetings on Mondays, many items such as potholders, aprons, doll clothes, necklaces, knitted items and other items are made by individuals at home.

The next sale will take place during Freedom Rings in the Holidays when quilts and crafts will again be displayed in the church.

Raffle tickets are being sold for the 2015 queen sized raffle quilt at each event. Tickets may also be purchased at any time before the drawing on November 21, 2015.

Anyone wishing to purchase a baby quilt for a special event or a newborn may do so by contacting a

Guild member or by dropping in on any Monday between 9am and 2 pm.

Through sales and raffles, the Guild is able to raise money to replenish our fabric supply and batting supplies as well as make donations toward church expenses and the Pastor's Discretionary Fund.

As of the end of June 131 quilts have been donated to RSVP with another 47 donated in August.

Myrtle MacLeod



Scholarship Committee

This year the following Kennett High School seniors were awarded George T. Davidson, Jr. scholarships:

Jon Brady
Audrey Davis
Abram Giles
Tanner Wheeler

Melanie Glavin also received a scholarship. She is a student at Husson College, enrolled in the 6 yr. doctorate program.

This summer, the recipients were invited to join us at a worship service and the congregation was delighted to meet several of them. We wish them all well on their chosen paths.

Jane Hartnett
Scholarship Committee Chair



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 would be supporting the church at the same time.

Velma Hormell

Membership

Membership Committee

The Membership Committee has enjoyed a busy summer with about 30 people going out to dinner and enjoying fellowship.

Several plays and concerts and a baseball game were all successful events. Coming up this fall we will host a party after church on September 6th for Pat Bojus, church secretary, who will retire at the end of August. The annual church picnic will be held after church on September 13th at Camp Wakuta. Signup sheets are in the Fellowship Room. An informational meeting for new members will be held on Sunday, September 20th following church. A luncheon will be served. An appreciation reception for Bob Smart will be held on Saturday, October 24th. We are planning a fellowship dinner to be held either in October or November - more details to come.

A new "walking group" will start on Wednesday, August 26th at 8 am. We will meet at the church and all are welcome to join us. Breads

are still being made and distributed to visitors on Sunday morning. Sandy Boyle
LuAnn Rollins



A note from your head ushers

The current Ushering List is being updated and your input is important. 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 Jim 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.



I am finally retiring for the last time at the end of August. If you remember, I worked here for several years when Rev. Bossdorf was here and then left and Sarah Millette took over. When she left it was suggested (by my Thrivent financial advisor) that if I applied and got the job and worked for three more

years, it would help greatly with our retirement. Well, I managed to stay two years but feel that now is the time to leave. I feel that this office really needs a secretary with excellent computer skills going forward and I am not that person. Also, I would like to spend more time with my grandchildren while I am still able to keep up with them.

Patty Dumas will be the new secretary and will start the first week of September. She will be coming in to work with me and to learn how things are done here at the church. Stop in and introduce yourself to her as she will be anxious to meet the members of the church.

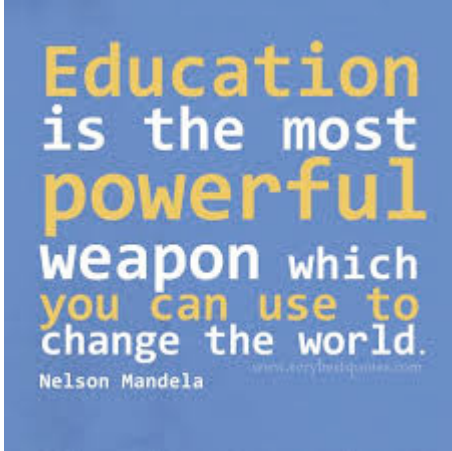
I am not going anywhere; someone asked me if I was leaving the church. Absolutely not! I love this church and the members. I will be volunteering here in the office on special projects and will have more energy to get involved in other things (I hope). Thank you for all your support and thank you to Pastor Larry for being a wonderful "boss".

Pat Bojus

Sarah Millette is going through radiation therapy. If you are able and available to prepare meals, she and Roland would very much appreciate it. There is a sign-up sheet in the Fellowship Room or check this website for details: www.LotsofHelpingHands.org. If you have any questions, call Sandy Boyle 539-7791.



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.



*Children are back to school
this month!*

*Where has the summer
gone.....*

Important Dates for September/October

September 3: Deacons Meeting 9 am

September 6: Appreciation luncheon following
worship for Pat Bojus.

September 12: Memorial Service for Michelle

Ogilvie at 2 pm.

September 13: Church picnic

September 16: Council Meeting 7 pm

September 20: Informational meeting for
perspective new members.

September 27: Pastor Wogman away

October 1: Deacons Meeting 9 am

October 4: Pastor Wogman away

October 11: Pastor Wogman away

October 21: Council Meeting 7 pm

October 24: Appreciation Reception for
Bob Smart

Worship services are at 10 am on Sunday Mornings.
The Choir meets on Tuesday evenings at 7 pm and
before service at 9 am. Bible Study takes place
every Tuesday morning at Camp Calumet at 10:30
am and Book Study meets at the church on
Thursday mornings at 10 am

If you have information for the Office or for Patty,
please leave it for her in her box on Sunday morning.
She will be in the office the same days that I have been but
you will not see her on Sundays. So either call, come in, or
leave her a note. This will be especially important for the
first few months while she is getting to know people and
how things run in this wonderful country church. Leave her
your phone number and she will be happy to call you.
Pat

