



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

Freedom Rings

Newsletter
September/October 2016



Pastors Ramblings!

In my previous life (pre-retirement), this time of year was spent 'gearing up' for the busy Fall season. Vacations were history, and now we were to plan for a return to regular activities. For me that meant an extra service on Sunday morning (8 am, ugh!), an adult class and confirmation instruction for teens, making sure we had Sunday School teachers, meetings of every committee, lining up volunteers for various church tasks, community activities, my gosh, how did it all get done! Well, it all happened because there were many volunteers who helped.

Things are vastly different around here, thank heaven! Besides being part-time, it seems that our busy time has passed (Old Home Week, breakfast and lunch, bake sale, craft fair, animal blessing, etc.). We had an active concluding Sunday to that week with 2 baptisms and communion. We now have a 'lull' of a couple weeks until Labor Day and the Fall

Foliage season. Some will be making plans to 'go South' while the rest of us will 'hunker' down for Winter. Behind all this running about, however, our God continues to bless us with a healthy community life. Oh, there are interruptions and upsets once in a while, but, by and large, we are able to live peaceful and productive lives.

Our prayer is that everyone is able to maintain, and even deepen, their faith. It's been challenging with our current political climate and a number of natural and human-induced tragedies happening, but by listening to the Word and being faithful in prayer, we can deal with whatever comes our way. The Psalms are an excellent source of comfort. In all the writer's struggles, he seems to conclude that all is in God's hands and it is God who will straighten things out. That's what faith is all about. As you enjoy the beauty of nature around us, may God be a part of your thoughts and meditation.

See you in church! Pastor Larry



Small Addition to our Worship Service - "The Assurance of Forgiveness"

This 'assurance' follows our confessional prayer in the service, and is one of the functions of the pastor - to remind us (the congregation), that we are assured of forgiveness because of what Jesus did on the cross. When the pastor (priest or minister)

speaks from the altar, facing the congregation, he/she is reflecting the thoughts of God. In that sense, I am not speaking my thoughts, but what God and the congregation has called me to do. So, it's important that after we have confessed our sin, it is my responsibility to share that God does accept our words, and wants us to know that we are forgiven and now prepared to hear God's Word of love and guidance. We continue the service with the reading of Scripture and sermon that inspire us to continue in our Christian way. Please let the Worship and Music Committee know if this is helpful.



President's Message

This has been a very busy, but fun summer and I can't believe it's coming to a close, soon! We have enjoyed various activities, concerts, plays, OHW offerings and a very well attended Fellowship Dinner. These and other activities will continue into the Fall. If you have not yet taken part in these various activities, I hope you will consider doing so in the future. They help to provide a wonderful source of camaraderie and fellowship within our church community.

Plans are underway for our Annual Picnic on Sept. 11th. Please be on the look-out for sign-up sheets and updates over the next few weeks; this is definitely a fun way to bring the summer to a close; there'll be hamburgers, hotdogs etc.....as well as swimming and games! Come and ENJOY!

We have welcomed many new members over the past several months and some are already "pitching in" in various church activities and we are so appreciative. It is exciting to watch our "small" church continue to grow.

The First Christian Church, the Freedom Community Club and Old Home Week Comm. recently held an Appreciation Day for Mary Hockmeyer, to thank her for her many years of dedicated service to the church, as well as, the Freedom Community as a whole. Mary has

epitomized the message and mission of Christ's teachings in her own subtle way through the years. She will be missed, and we wish her well as she moves on to a new chapter in her life. Come back to visit soon, Mary!!!

There is something I'd like to ask many of you to think about as Fall approaches and it is regarding the need to fill some of our vacant Committee seats. Later in Sept. we are hoping to have an open forum with Committee Chairpersons to describe the purpose and functions of the various committees, and their importance to the running and well-being of a truly functional church.

An area of increased concern is in the Financial area of the church. Our long time Treasurer, Paul Olzerowicz, could use, what he calls a "shadow", someone he can take under his wing, and impart his "financial wisdom" regarding church finances. If, heaven forbid, an illness should occur, we would have an informed backup. Even though I made a "light play" on words, this is becoming a serious concern, and I hope we can find a solution.

Finally, a quick personal thought...I am continually amazed at the unselfish and compassionate outpouring of help and support that our church members so freely express to those in need, within, as well as outside, our church community, and it reminds me of one of my favorite quotes given to me many years ago...

"YOU may be the only GOSPEL others will ever Read"

I am blessed to have found such a vibrant, giving and loving church community.

Let us all continue to reach out to others less fortunate and needy than ourselves in the way Christ has taught us.

Be seeing you in church and around town.

Sandy Boyle, President of Church Council

Thank You

A LETTER OF THANKS

Dear Pastor Larry, Members of the First Christian Church of Freedom and Members of the community;

It was a memorable day for me to be able to share "Appreciation Sunday" with all of you. Freedom is such an amazing and marvelous community and our church is truly a center of caring, cohesiveness

and, simply put, a wonderful Pastor and Congregation. Pastor Larry and all of us have, over the years, in many different ways, created an atmosphere of acceptance and spirituality in our small church in the small town of Freedom. As a member of our church for many years it has been a gradual realization for me, and, I'm sure for others, that we can make a difference in our own ways and in the lives of others through prayer and good will. Many, many thanks to all of you for planning and making this occasion such a special time, one that I will never forget. I miss Freedom and "My Church" but I also cherish the time that I can spend with you. I would be so happy if any and all of you (but not all at once!) could visit Ocean View, Falmouth, Maine - only 1 hour and 15 minutes.

Lots of love and blessings to all,

Mary Hockmeyer



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 10:30 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 continue to meet the first Thursday of every month to discuss those in need of visitation, changes in procedures, etc. It was decided to have one of the Deacons greet people as they go into the Fellowship Room for coffee hour, and this has gone smoothly over the past month.

If someone wishes to be put on the Deacons visitation list or has any questions or suggestions, please feel free to contact Neal Boyle @ 539-7791.

Neal Boyle, Deacon Chairman



The following notes came to Church Members via the Scholarship Committee:

"Dear Church Members,

Thank you very much for the scholarship valuing \$1,000 that you awarded to me. I truly appreciate the help, your generosity goes a long way towards helping me pay for college. I am thankful to be part of the Freedom Community."

Tanner Wheeler

"Dear Scholarship Committee,

We would like to thank you on behalf of our sons, Jesse and Tanner, who are a past and current

beneficiaries of your generosity through college scholarships. We have tried to give the boys an understanding that hard work is its own reward. However, it is extremely gratifying to all of us to have their efforts recognized and rewarded. Additionally, the sense of belonging one receives as being a part of a caring church and community is rewarding in itself.

Please know that we, as parents, are as appreciative as the kids are!"

Most sincerely,
Lisa and Paul Wheeler



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.

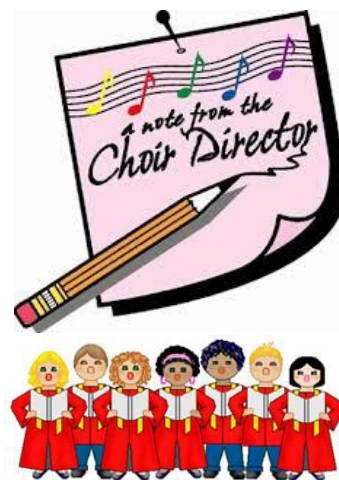


PRAYER LIST

Jay Allison, 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, Jane Garnsey, Michael Gaudette's sister-in-law, Linnie Giles, Alice Haslett, Karen Hopkins, Glenn Hormell, Phyllis Kenison, Elmer Killam, Ginny Lanoue, Pauline Leclerc, Carol LeGault, The Family of Gerry Littlefield, Jean Marshall, Carol Melvidas, Frank Meserve, Bill Nason, Pat & Roger Olson, DeMott Post, Jeannie Rogers, Jen Scales, Marci Sharp, Kathleen Sherin, Dick Stosez, Mike Sudak, Marc Thurrell, Jim Tracey, 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's been an active summer for the Music program at the First Christian Church of Freedom. Our choir continued to rehearse and lead worship right up through the end of July. They offered up two rousing numbers at the Old Home Week Talent Show on August 5th to a very enthusiastic audience. Thank you, choir members! You are hard-working, talented, and lots of fun. I hope you enjoyed your few weeks off in August. You have earned that and more.

17 children participated in the Summer Musical Theater Camp. From what parents and grandparents have been telling me, I believe that it was a rewarding and fun week for everyone involved. I love to watch as the children's individual personalities unfold and grow over the week and

from year to year. Our Old Home Week Worship Service and play performance at the Freedom Elementary School brought out over 200 people to worship and enjoy the event. Thank you to the many people who helped make our camp and worship service possible. Our summer 2017 camp will be July 24th - 28th. I will be sending out registration forms in February or March. I will be glad to send out information to anyone who has a child that might be interested for next year. Let me know!



FREEDOM OLD HOME WEEK PARADE

We are always ready to welcome new singers to our choir. If you would like to sing with us you can simply show up at a rehearsal or contact me, Carolyn Olzerowicz, at (603) 569-5711 or at colzerowicz@gmail.com. Weekly rehearsals will resume on Tuesday, September 13th at 7 PM at the church.



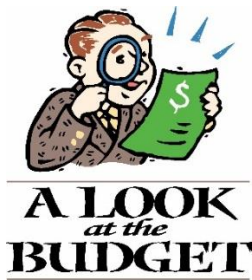
ELIJAH! GOD'S FAITHFUL PROPHET



Tithes and offerings

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



Church finances are stable. 2016 expenses currently exceed income by about \$2,600. This is typical for this time of year and is often made up by year-end giving later in the year. For the year I expect a small surplus as spending will be under budget.

Church investments for the first 6 months of 2016 returned 5.4%. Investments have continued to do well since. The Finance Committee approved rebalancing the portfolio based upon current market conditions.

Looking ahead, there are a few large expenditures coming up. None are required now but we will need to begin a Capital Campaign effort to fund the expenses. Stay tuned for more on this in the coming months. The Capital expenditures are Church/Fellowship Hall floor covering replacement, heating system replacement and Organ replacement.

Treasurer



A NOTE FROM THE TRUSTEES

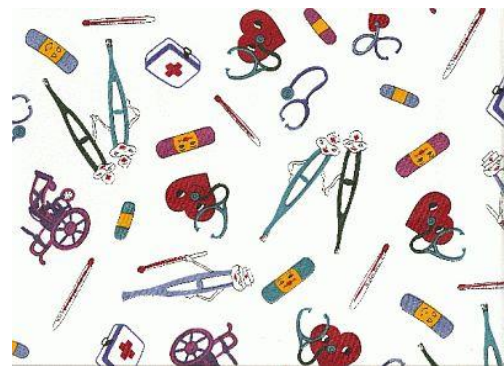
Summer has passed too fast. It is almost time for the schools to get started again. Minor repairs have been made to the church. Sliding doors are fixed thanks to Mark McKinley. A fall clean-up will be scheduled and as many able-bodied people as possible will hopefully show up to help. "Many hands make light work." Hope you have enjoyed your summer.

Dan Spear



As you may know, a term of office on a committee is 3 years. I have served as a Trustee for the past 17 years. I think it is time for me to step aside and give others an opportunity. It has been a great experience. However, I must admit I won't miss the late night calls "the furnace isn't working". Thanks to all of those who have served as Trustees over the years. It has been a great experience for me and I couldn't have done it without your help.

Charlie Bojus



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	



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.



Our Church Family

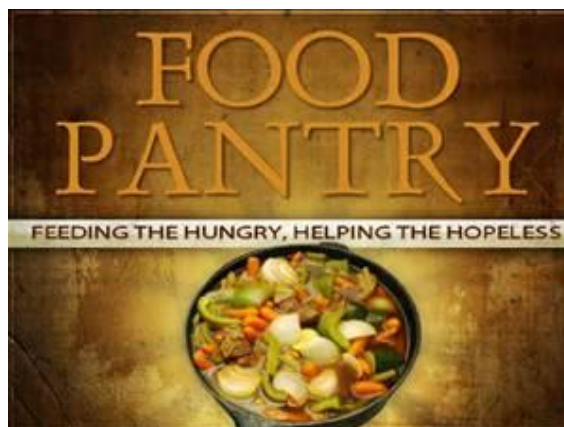
ARE YOU INTERESTED IN JOINING OUR FAMILY AND BECOMING A CHURCH MEMBER?

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 food pantry continues its good work with the help of the whole community and our many volunteers.

We continue to refine the computerization of the food pantry list and hope to be able to get the USDA reports soon.

We did not have food pantry the week of the old home week parade and anticipated a good number the next week, which did not occur. So we are anticipating that crush this weekend. We are exploring the possibility of getting produce from the Carroll County farm if that comes into being. All of the food pantries have to sign on; we are hoping to enlist RSVP in this effort. Other than that nothing new, the need is still there and the ministry goes on. We are still getting food stuffs from Wal-Mart. Again, thanks for your continuing support.

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 Hormell

LADIES GUILD



Ladies Guild meets weekly from 9am to 2pm Monday to sew quilts for RSVP. These quilts are distributed to Memorial Hospital's birthing center as well as the nursing home.

Sales were held on Rubber Ducky Day and also Parade Day. Rubber Ducky Day was very slow, however, Parade Day was a very successful day for Ladies Guild. 275 quilts have been delivered to RSVP by the end of June; a total of 3,646 hours from July 2015 to June 2016 were given to RSVP.

Officers for the year 2016 – 2017 are as follows:

President	Peg Nichols
Vice-President	Nancy Bossi
Treasurer	Doris Sirois
Secretary	Myrtle MacLeod
Asst. Treasurer	Jane Luke
Correspondence	Jane Luke

At Ossipee Valley Fair, Guild members submitted 56 items: 28 First Place ribbons

26 Second Place ribbons

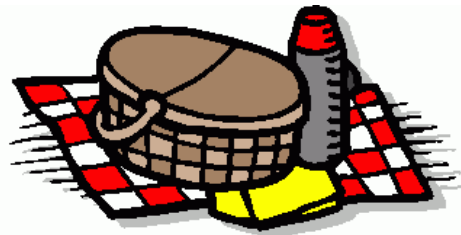
2 Third Place ribbons

Raffle quilt tickets for the 2016 quilt may be purchased from a Guild Member.

If you enjoy sewing/quilting, come and join us on Mondays at 9am. Bring a bag lunch as we break at noon for lunch and updates, etc.

Respectfully submitted

Myrtle MacLeod



Church Picnic

The Annual Church Picnic will be held on September 11th following the worship service. The church will provide hamburgers and hot dogs and there will be a signup sheet for salads and desserts, and also for those who can help set up and clean up. The picnic will be held at George Davidson's camp Wakuta and is always a wonderful time of fun, food, fellowship and relaxation. See any member of the Membership Committee if you have questions or need directions to the camp. All are welcome, save the date and let's have a great turn out!



FROM THE CHURCH SECRETARY

Happy Fall: a beautiful time of year! 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



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.



Something to think about!

A Church goer wrote a letter to the editor of a newspaper and complained that it made no sense to go to church every Sunday. He wrote: "I've gone for 30 years now, and in that time I have heard something like 3,000 sermons, but for the life of me, I can't remember a single one of them. So, I think I'm wasting my time, the preachers and priests are wasting theirs by giving sermons at all". This started a real controversy in the "Letters to the Editor" column. Much to the delight of the editor, it went on for weeks until someone wrote this clincher:

"I've been married for 30 years now. In that time my wife has cooked some 32,000 meals. But, for the life of me, I cannot recall the entire menu for a single one of those meals. But I do know this: They all nourished me and gave me the strength I needed to do my work. If my wife had not given me these meals, I would be physically dead today. Likewise, if I had not gone to church for nourishment, I would be spiritually dead today."



HAVE A WONDERFUL FALL!

September 2016

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
				1 9AM Deacons Meeting 10am Book Club	2	3 10am Food Pantry
4 9am Choir 10am Sunday Service	5 Labor Day 9am Ladies Guild 7pm Line Dancing	6 10am Bible Study at Calumet	7	8 10am Book Club	9	10 10am Food Pantry
11 9am Choir 10am Sunday Service Church Picnic	12 9am Ladies Guild 7pm Line Dancing	13 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 7pm Line Dancing	20 10am Bible Study at Calumet 7pm Choir	21 7pm Council Meeting	22 10am Book Club	23	24 10am Food Pantry
25 9am Choir 10am Sunday Service	26 9am Ladies Guild 7pm Line Dancing	27 10am Bible Study at Calumet 7pm Choir	28	29	30	

October 2016

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
						1 10am Food Pantry
2 9am Choir 10am Sunday Service	3 9am Ladies Guild 7pm Line Dancing	4 10am Bible Study at Calumet 7pm Choir	5	6 10am Book Club	7	8 10am Food Pantry
9 9am Choir 10am Sunday Service	10 Columbus Day 9am Ladies Guild 7pm Line Dancing	11 10am Bible Study at Calumet 7pm Choir	12	13 10am Book Club	14	15 10am Food Pantry
16 9am Choir 10am Sunday Service	17 9am Ladies Guild 7pm Line Dancing	18 10am Bible Study at Calumet 7pm Choir	19 7pm Council Meeting	20 10am Book Club	21	22 10am Food Pantry
23 9am Choir 10am Sunday Service	24 9am Ladies Guild 7pm Line Dancing	25 10am Bible Study at Calumet 7pm Choir	26	27	28	29
30 9am Choir 10am Sunday Service	31 9am Ladies Guild 7pm Line Dancing					

The First Christian Church of Freedom

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Pastor Lawrence N. Wogman