



First Edition

A QUARTERLY PUBLICATION OF THE FIRST CHRISTIAN CHURCH

Summer 2013

Fathers and Faithfulness

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Sunday Worship
 8:30 and 10 AM

Church Office Hours
 9 AM to 12 Noon Mon-Thurs

Church Council
 Ken Heidebrink (Chair), Shirley
 Bishop, Natalie Kelloway,
 Gerry Levesque,
 Pastor Thom Christian (ex-officio)

First Edition

is published quarterly.
 Articles and photos for the
 fall issue, to be published
 in September, are due
 in the church office by August 26th.

In 1974 my son Ty was born. No pressure there! However, that same year Harry Chapin released the song, "Cat's in the Cradle." Lots of pressure there—particularly for dads—and it certainly hit home for me. You see, the song is about a father who never had time for his son. And no matter how much the son wanted to be with him and around him and to grow up and be like him, Dad was always too busy to spend time with his son. Well, low and behold, the boy grows up and the lyrics have him telling Dad, "I'd like to spend time with you, but now I'm too busy." So at the end of the song we're left with the empty felling of the father, who will never be able to recapture those days and those precious moments with his son.

Well, if you're like me, that song sends chills down your back, because I've got to believe that one thing all of us as dads want is a strong relationship with our children—a relationship whereby they will want us to be around when we're old, to spend quality time with them and their children. And what greater gift could our child give us than to say to us, "Dad, I love you, and when I grow up I wanna be just like you." Oh, maybe not the same profession, but with the same loving, caring, understanding qualities that they see you display day-by-day as a dad. Now I'm not talking perfection here. But I am talking about a lifestyle that, in spite of our many shortcomings, they will see a godly man who took time to be with them, understand them, lead them, and love them.

Now possibly you might be wondering, "Parenting is so challenging and so critical to my child's future. Where can I turn to give me a guide as to how to be a better parent?" Well, let me suggest the Book of Proverbs. It's located in the Bible just after the Book of Psalms and before the Book of Ecclesiastes. The neat thing about this book is that it has 31 chapters—you could read one each day for a month (it only takes about 3-4 minutes per chapter)—and at the end of the month you would be equipped with knowledge that will last you a lifetime—better still, your child's lifetime! Just imagine your child seeing the beauty of God's wisdom lived out daily in you!

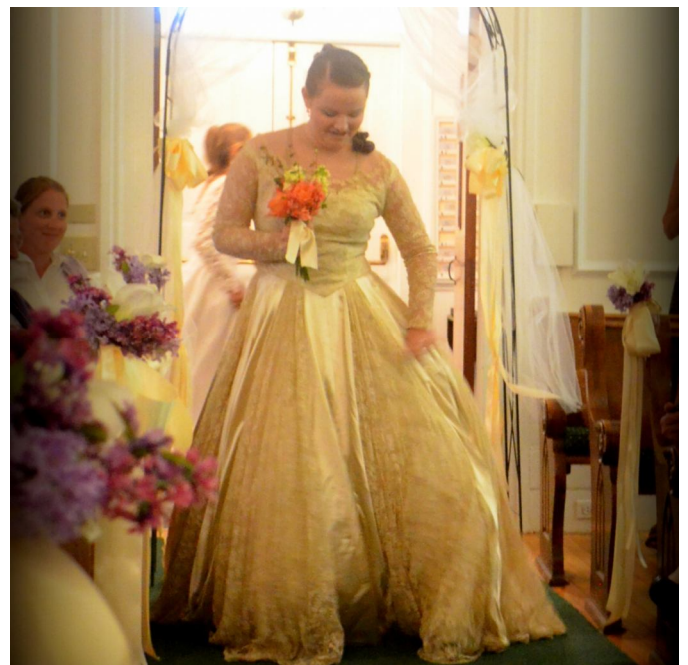
In closing, I want to applaud the dads in our congregation that I continually see modeling Christ's love to their children. I say, "Good on you!" Please join with me as a congregation to keep our fathers in prayer as they seek to model *the* Father's love to their children. Until next month I remain,

▪ *Unworthy, but His,*
 Thom



“Wedding Memories”

The women of First Christian and their friends were treated to a memorable evening on May 10th, presented by our Women’s Ministry. The evening began with an insightful devotional by Sonja Kappes. Then MC Sue Christian introduced each of five lovely girls—Amanda Collins, Shannon Shea, Kaitlyn Kappes, Meg Christian, and Katelyn Beam—as they modeled wedding gowns. Carla Zwahlen played beautiful wedding music for the enjoyment of all. Delicious tea sandwiches and wedding cake were served, following which ladies were invited to peruse an amazing display of wedding memorabilia.



June 2nd is
YoUth SuNdAy!
with
FaMiLy DaY
 following at
Camp Sentinel

★Join us as our youth lead worship and provide special music and drama, as Kevin Van Brunt shares a special message, and as our children's workers, new students, and graduates are recognized and honored!

★Food, fun, and fellowship at Camp Sentinel follow the service!

(DIRECTIONS: Take Bay Street behind the church to Route 109 A. Turn left on 109 A. Follow that until you get to Tufonboro School (about 7-8 miles). Turn right on Ledgehill Road for 3 miles to Route 171. Turn left on Route 171 and go ¼ mile. Look for the Camp Sentinel sign and turn right on Cannan Road. Turn right at the top of the hill into the camp.



New members join FCC family in April

First Christian warmly welcomes its new members, who officially joined the church family on April 21st: Dennis and Kay Basehore, Jon and Susan Beam, Nathaniel and Katelyn Edmunds, Jonathan and Jennifer Haynes, Bradford Kline, Mike and Judy Lewis, Vanessa Urquhart, and Kevin and Traci Van Brunt.

Summer ladies' Bible study

The pages of the Old Testament unfold with riveting tales about real-life people—Esau's impulsive trade of his inheritance, Job's despair at his unexplained suffering, and Abraham's obedient journey to sacrifice Isaac, among them—whose dramatic life stories will enthrall as well as instruct. Our textbooks for this exciting study will include the Bible and *Memorial Scenes from Old Testament Homes*, by Charles Swindoll. Join other women on this 8-week faith journey on Tuesdays this summer at 1 PM, beginning June 4th.

Students enjoy carving class

In addition to helping keep our facilities running smoothly, Gerry Levesque also found time in the past couple of months to teach one of his great passions to several students from our church—wood carving! The kids enjoyed the hands-on classes and made beautiful carvings of their own.



Getting to know one another

Gerry Row is a *friend* in the truest sense of the word. He, like the Good Samaritan, goes out of his way to help those who need it. He does it—small things or big things—without fanfare. When one couple in Wolfeboro was injured and missed getting the local paper, Gerry brought one to them every day! He visits shut-ins, and he shares the plants in his garden. He volunteered at Huggins Hospital for a lot of years, helped at its street fair, delivered Meals on Wheels, provided transportation to those who needed it to doctors, but, most thoughtfully, visited those who were lonesome.

He and his late wife Trudy were the prime movers for the building of a new church in Sudbury, Mass. They chaired the fund-raising, managing, and performing, also working behind the scenes of events such as “Pirates of Penzance.” Gerry was also active

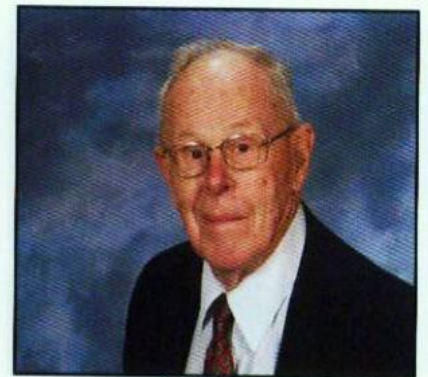
in 4-H, Scouts, and Youth Fellowship.

Gerry was born in Ellington, New York, and attended a one-room schoolhouse. He helped on his family’s farm with the cows, horses, a thousand chickens, and acres of strawberries. He went on to graduate from Cornell University, majoring in chemistry, served in the US Navy, teaching crews to pilot landing craft, then, with his wife and baby son, returned to the East, becoming a plant manager and later vice-president of Compaq in Springfield, Mass., and Netcong, New Jersey. He later managed a factory in Ireland, during which time his children “experienced Europe.”

Trudy and Gerry had a son and three daughters. The family has grown to five grandsons and five granddaughters and ten great grands. It’s a close-knit, loving family.

My husband and I square-danced with Trudy and Gerry, and when my husband died, Gerry volunteered to help me overcome my fear of driving beyond the Wolfeboro area. He never showed his terror but spoke softly as he corrected me—but he must have felt like he was putting his life on the line! He is truly a good *friend*.

▪ *Noa Pilkington*



Gerald Row

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