



# First Edition

A QUARTERLY PUBLICATION OF THE FIRST CHRISTIAN CHURCH

Fall 2016

## Total Commitment, Implicit Trust, Obedient Service

“Total commitment, implicit trust, obedient service!” *This* is the theme I challenge each of us to learn, embrace, and live out!

Why???

Well, over this summer I have encouraged each of you to read the book *In His Steps* by Charles Sheldon, in preparation for my fall/winter sermon series by the same name. And in that book Sheldon asks one key question: “What would Jesus do?” Yet to answer that question, I have placed the responsibility upon myself to teach throughout the year, “What did Jesus do?”, so that we will be better able to understand what Jesus would do.

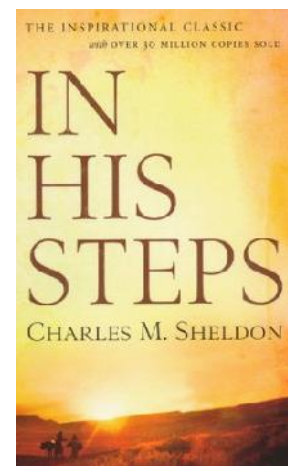
Now that is a tall order for us individually and corporately, yet it will make all the difference in the world both in our personal lives (our commitment to, and our walk with God), and corporately (how our church will truly live out its commission to be the echo of Jesus both in our town and in our world).

I truly believe that if each of us will make a total commitment to God, implicitly trust in His providential care and guidance (in all circumstances), and begin to live out that commitment in obedient service in our families, jobs, classrooms, and society, that we will begin to see ourselves authentically echoing the heart of God to our world. I also believe that as we do this, we will see ourselves living out His commission with joy and authenticity and realize, maybe for the first time, that this is no longer something we just read about in the Bible, but rather who we are!

So, yes, this is a “tall order” but, in knowing each of you, I believe an

order that we can fill—to God’s glory, and for our good!

■ *Til next time, I remain,  
Unworthy, but His, Thom*



Copies of the book are available in the church library.

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**Sunday Worship**  
8:30 and 10 AM

**Church Office Hours**  
Mon-Thurs, 9 AM to 12 Noon

**Church Council**  
Kevin Van Brunt (Chair),  
Dianne Chase, Gerry Levesque,  
Mike Lewis, Jim Savage,  
Pastor Thom Christian (ex-officio)

### First Edition

is published quarterly.  
Articles and photos for the winter issue, to be published in December 2016, are due in the church office by November 20<sup>th</sup>.

### SUNDAY NIGHT HYMN SING

**October 16th  
6 PM**

- *Come sing your favorite hymns!*
- *Enjoy or present special music!*
- *Fellowship with your brothers and sisters in Christ!*

*Presented by the FCC Worship Team*

Come and celebrate

# Sunday School

and

# Youth Group

# Kick-off!

## SUNDAY SCHOOL

*begins again on Sunday, September 11<sup>th</sup>.  
We'll be studying the parables of Jesus!*



## YOUTH GROUP

*kicks off the season on  
Thursday, September 22<sup>nd</sup>, from 6 to 8 PM,  
at Camp Sentinel,  
with a BBQ, games, and a campfire!*



**THERE'S SOMETHING FOR  
KIDS OF ALL AGES!**

## Great Bible study opportunities!

**"POWER THOUGHTS"** is a women's Bible study that currently meets at 10 AM on Tuesdays, and will continue through October 4<sup>th</sup>. Great inspiration for ladies!

**"FREEDOM FROM OFFENSE:"** Jesus said offenses will come (Luke 17:1). Like a thief in the night, offense can rob you of God's best for your life. In this study we will learn why the enemy wants us to be offended and how to protect our hearts. This study will begin on Tuesday, September 6<sup>th</sup>, at 9 AM, at the church, and will continue every Tuesday morning through October 3<sup>rd</sup>, for a five-week study. Outlines will be provided by Sam Davis.

**THE WOMEN'S BIBLE STUDY** resumes on Tuesday, September 13<sup>th</sup>, with a DVD-based study of *Romans: The Letter that Changed the World*. In the first century AD, the Roman Empire had a huge effect on the countries that surrounded the Mediterranean Sea. But, Rome was not the only imprint on that land. From Israel came a letter that would have an impact on Rome and all of its territories, and its influence would extend all the way down to today. Led by Jan Hawes, this study will meet on Tuesdays, 1:30 to 3 PM, in the Fellowship Hall.

**"RELATIONAL APOLOGETICS,"** a study based on the book by Michael Sherrard, will be facilitated by Len and Patricia Johnson at their home (37 Sewall Road). How can I effectively communicate what I believe about God in a culture that largely rejects God's truth? The study will meet at 6 PM on Tuesdays, starting September 13<sup>th</sup>.

**THE MEN'S BIBLE STUDY** welcomes men of all ages. Beginning on September 17, the study will meet on Saturdays at 7:30 AM, and will be led by George LeClair.

**THE THURSDAY BIBLE STUDY** will begin on September 22<sup>nd</sup>, at 3 PM, and will be led by George LeClair. The epistle to the Romans is considered by many as Paul's Magnus opus—the greatest of his epistles. We'll use the Book of Romans as a springboard to explore many of Paul's other letters. So bring your Bible and dig in with us!

**"MOM TO MOM,"** begins on Wednesday, October 5<sup>th</sup>. The group meets on the first and third Wednesdays of the month at 9:30 AM, and they welcome moms, aunts, and grandmothers of all ages and experiences. This study is led by Stacey Farley and Kate Edmunds.

**THE SERMON SERIES SMALL GROUP**, which meets at the home of Fred and Bev Funk, who lead the study, follows the Sunday morning sermon outlines, with added thought-provoking questions and great discussion! The group meets on Thursday evenings from 7:00 to 8:30.

## Library news

Much has been happening in the library this summer! The walls and shelves are sporting bright paint, and new ceiling fixtures are shedding much needed light on all subjects. In addition, we have added many new books as well as DVDs. Many thanks to all who made this happen!

There is also ample time to borrow the book, *IN HIS STEPS* by Charles Sheldon. Pastor Thom will begin a sermon series this autumn based on the question, "What would Jesus do?" In his book Sheldon addresses this topic by relating how certain people in a fictional church respond to that question.

If there is anyone who has a request for a book or DVD which you feel would be a good addition to our church library, please let me know. We especially need some suggestions for new materials that will appeal to our teenagers as well as our young moms.

*Ali Nelson*



Prepping the church library

## Men's Choir to sing once more this season

The Men's Choir is continuing their monthly rehearsals immediately following the 10 AM Sunday worship service. Although they usually practice on the first Sunday of the month, in September they will meet on the second Sunday—September 11<sup>th</sup>—due to the Labor Day holiday on the first weekend. They'll be preparing for a special song on the Sunday before Thanksgiving. Men of all singing abilities are welcome! If you have any questions, please see Dave Harubin or Dave Snell.

## Get your knit on!

Compassionate Knitters will kick off the new season on Thursday, September 8, from 1-2:30, at the home of Beverly Funk in Alton (call Bev at 875-4805 if you need directions). We're looking for new members to join us in knitting and crocheting various items to donate locally, nationally, and globally! And we have plenty of yarn and needles to get you started on a project! We would be happy to teach you to knit or crochet if you'd like to learn. We meet on the second Thursday of the month from September to May for fellowship and fun! But you do not have to attend our monthly meetings to be a part of our group. Please contact Heather Wingate (859-1274 or [wingte1@tds.net](mailto:wingte1@tds.net)) for more information. We hope to see you on the 8<sup>th</sup>!



## Missions Motion is on the move!

In early August, Missions Motion provided 30 "goody bags" to the Wolfeboro Inn employees, much to their delight, to show them how Jesus can brighten their day. They also sent cards and journals to New Life Home for Women and Children in Manchester to encourage the workers there, who strive so hard for the women and children who receive their help.

Mark your calendars! On Wednesday, October 5<sup>th</sup>, from 9 AM to 3 PM, Missions Motion will be getting together a team to go do some jobs at New Life Home, and you can help! We are hoping to bring with us much-needed paper goods for this important ministry. You'll soon see a box in the foyer in which to place paper towels, napkins, and bath tissue. Your contributions will be much appreciated and will go toward a very deserving ministry that assists abused women and their children. Thank you so much for your donations!



Volunteers provide goody bags for Wolfeboro Inn employees



New Life Home in Manchester



# Getting to know our church family

## *Meet Michele McLean*

Warmest congratulations are extended to Michele McLean, who was baptized in Lake Winnepesaukee by Pastor Thom Christian on August 14<sup>th</sup>.



Michele became a member of First Christian Church this past spring. She is also the owner of a local business called "Kelli's Kreations," which offers beautiful, custom made gifts and novelties.

We are so blessed to have Michele as part of our church family.



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