



First Edition

A QUARTERLY PUBLICATION OF THE FIRST CHRISTIAN CHURCH

Spring 2016

In the beginning

“You will seek Me and find Me when you search for Me with all your heart.”

Mark Wingate is a guy in our church who is a wonderful husband, dad, friend, and by trade, a very accomplished engineer. Well, just by nature of who he is and the profession he’s chosen, Mark is a researcher. Often challenging himself when a question arises or something *seems* to be a certain way, he’s the kind of guy

who asks, “Why?” or “Why not?” Such is the case when he began to think about the question, “Why is a rocket booster, used to launch Discovery rockets into space, the size it is?” Now you and I might say, “So what?” Not Mark—he needed an answer! Here’s what he found.

The engineers who designed the solid rocket boosters (SRB’s) may have preferred to make them a bit larger, but the SRB’s had to be shipped by train from the factory to the launch site. Well, the railroad from factory to launch site runs through a tunnel in the mountains and the SRB’s had to fit through that tunnel. The tunnel is slightly wider than a railroad track, and the railroad track is about as wide as two horses behinds! What?! Well, let’s go back to the beginning.

The US standard railroad gauge (distance between the rails) is 4 feet, 8 ½ inches. Now why was that gauge used? Because that’s the way they built them in England, and the US railroads were built by English ex-patriots. But why build them like that? Because the people who built the English tramways used the same jigs and tools used for building wagons, which used that wheel spacing. Well, why did the wagons use that odd wheel spacing? Because of the spacing of the old wheel ruts. Well, who built the old rutted roads? They were originally built by imperial Rome for their legions; ergo, everyone had to match the original ruts made by wheels of Roman chariots for fear of destroying their wagons. And since the chariots were made for

imperial Rome, they were all alike in size and spacing. Thus the answer to our original question. The US standard railroad gauge of 4 feet 8 ½ inches derives from the original specs for an imperial Roman army chariot. So—a major design feature of what is arguably the world’s most advanced transportation system was originally determined by the width of two horses. Amazing!

The reason I share this is not so much the *information*, but rather the *importance of researching why we do what we do*. And that extends to our faith. Ergo, as Easter and the impending spring give us a prelude to summer, I’d like to challenge each of you, as I challenge myself, to ask two questions: “What is it I truly believe?” and “Why do I believe it?” I.e., can I back up *what* and *why* I believe? Now obviously the place to begin is the Bible. But to help round out your research, I’d like to recommend some books for your spring and summer reading that I hope will not only enhance your research but provide you with resources that will bring you enjoyment as you answer questions of our faith.

Here are a few solid resources: *Jesus Through Middle Eastern Eyes* and *The Prodigal* (Ken Bailey), *Absolute Surrender* and *The Indwelling Spirit* (Andrew Murray), *Mere Christianity* (C.S. Lewis), *More Than a Carpenter* (Josh McDowell), and *What’s So Amazing about Grace?* (Phil Yancey). Many are in our church library! Enjoy!

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

Inside this issue

- *In the beginning*
- *Celebrate Easter Sunday!*
- *Valentine’s Party big success!*
- *Men’s Choir begins second season*
- *Annual Meeting date changed*
- *Library news*
- *Back lot gets facelift*
- *Keeping up with our church family*

Rev. Thom Christian, Pastor

PO Box 681 (83 North Main)
Wolfeboro NH 03894
569-4272 voice, 603-569-7943 Fax
firstchristianwboro.org
firstchristian@myfairpoint.net

Sunday Worship
8:30 and 10 AM

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

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

First Edition

is published quarterly.
Articles and photos for the summer issue, to be published in June 2016, are due in the church office by May 23rd.

Come celebrate Christ's resurrection
with our Pastor, Worship Team,
and church family on

Easter Sunday!

March 27th, 2016

Easter Sunrise, 6 AM, Wolfeboro Inn dock
Refreshments, 6:30 AM
Worship Services, 8:30 and 10 AM



*The moon, the stars, they wept;
The morning sun was dead.
The Savior of the world was fallen.
His body on the cross, His blood poured out for us;
The weight of every curse upon Him.
One final breath He gave as Heaven looked away;
The Son of God was laid in darkness.
A battle in the grave, the war on death was waged,
The power of hell forever broken.
The ground began to shake,
The stone was rolled away.
His perfect love could not be overcome.
Now death, where is your sting?
Our resurrected King has rendered you defeated!
**Forever He is glorified.
Forever He is lifted high.
Forever He is risen. He is alive!***

--Brian Johnson, Christa Black Gifford, Gabriel Wilson,
Jenn Johnson, Joel Taylor, Kari Job

Valentine Party big success!

A dazzling display of sweet treats, fresh fruit, tea, and punch welcomed the twenty-four guests who attended the ninth annual Valentine Dessert Party hosted by Bette Frazier at her home. And a cozy fire crackling on the hearth took the edge off a frigid day! The afternoon included great fellowship among the women, meeting new friends and enjoying a special reconnection with long-time friends. The ladies each received a party favor of a lovely lavender heart sachet to take home with them.



Men's Choir begins second season

An enthusiastic group of men showed up after the 10 AM service on Sunday, February 7th, to kick off a new season of Men's Choir ministry! Rehearsals are scheduled for the first Sunday of the month, from February through November, with four performances planned throughout the year. The choir welcomes men of all ages and varying abilities. For more information, contact Dave Harubin or Dave Snell.

Annual Meeting date changed

A special meeting of the congregation was held on Sunday, January 3rd, for the purpose of amending our By-Laws to read that the date of our annual business meeting "shall be no earlier than January 1st nor later than June 1st." (The By-Laws had previously read "...no earlier than January 1st nor later than March 1st.") The date range was changed so that the meeting could be held later in the spring after our "snow birds" have returned. All in attendance were in favor of the motion to make the change. Consequently, this year's Annual Meeting will be held on May 1st.

✓ Check it Out! Library News

Winter is gently morphing into spring, and many changes are taking place all around us. So it is with our church library. Many new books and DVDs have been added to the shelves. In addition, there is no more need to grope around in the darkness looking for just the right thing for you to watch or read. New ceiling fixtures have been installed which shed new light on all subjects!

Make use of our library! If you have a special request or a suggestion for improvement, please let me know.

■ Ali Nelson



Back lot gets facelift!

Many thanks to the efforts of Nathaniel Edmunds and his crew, the back property of the church has been cleared of brush and wild undergrowth. With the coming of warmer weather, the property will be cleaner, fresher, and more useable and beneficial to all of us.



*"The happiness
of your life
depends upon
the quality
of your
thoughts."*

■ Just a thought to pass on,
submitted by Marge Dahle

Spring forward!

Daylight Savings Time begins March 13th. Be sure to set your clocks one hour *ahead* on Saturday night, the 12th. And enjoy the extra daylight!

Keeping up with our church family!

Testimony Night enjoyed by all who attended

“Getting to know who we are in Christ” is the purpose of the newly organized third-Sunday-of-the-month testimony night. The first such night was held on February

21st. A good group was on hand to enjoy hearing the faith stories of Kate Edmunds, Bob Batson, and Sue Christian. If you are interested in sharing your

testimony with our church family, please contact Sue Christian. As Kate Edmunds so graciously stated, “If I can do this, anyone can do it!”



FIRST CHRISTIAN CHURCH
PO Box 681
Wolfeboro NH 03894