



First Edition

A QUARTERLY PUBLICATION OF THE FIRST CHRISTIAN CHURCH

Winter 2016-'17

Do You Hear What I Hear?

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 Mon-Thurs, 9 AM to 12 Noon

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 Dianne Chase, Gerry Levesque,
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 Pastor Thom Christian (ex-officio)

First Edition

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 spring issue, to be published
 in March 2017, are due in the
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As you can probably guess from the title of my article, the Christmas song, "Do You Hear What I Hear?" has been on my mind!

Now it's not that I'm particularly fond of the tune, but moreso, I've been intrigued by the question it asks right off the bat, "Do you hear what I hear?" It was that word "hear" that literally jumped out, grabbed me, and wouldn't let me go, and so I did a word study on it and found that there are four stages of hearing: We naturally hear *audibly*, some hear with the ability to *understand*, some are *moved* by what they hear, yet some hear and their lives are forever *changed*. This prompted a question in me that I needed to address and that I'd like to pose to you to see if it has the effect: "How do **you** hear?" – particularly when it comes to the Word of God and how we are to act upon it.

By that I mean, do we simply *hear* because we happen to be in the vicinity but really have no interest? Do we *hear* and then study to better understand what's being relayed? Do we *hear* and are emotionally moved, but that's as far as it goes? Or when we *hear* are we moved to act upon what's been relayed to the point that our lives are changed and then we become change agents on behalf of God to others?

Now I don't know about you, but those were some pretty direct questions that I needed to pose to myself and answer honestly! You see, I—and I suspect we—truly want to know God and to honor

Him in a very real and authentic way. Yet if that is going to happen, we need to hear God with the intention of doing what He is calling us to do, and to be what He is calling us to be.

Now I could extend this article with a bunch more words, but let me cut to the chase. Will you join me as we move through the Christmas season and into the new year and together, really make a conscious effort to **hear** God's direction for our individual lives as well as for our church, that we might e clear and authentic lights for Him and to others in 2017? I hope so!! For when we do, we will surely bless the heart of God and the hearts of those we meet—for His glory and our good!

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



You're invited! Please join us!



"Do You Hear What I Hear?"

Christmas Eve Candlelight Services

Saturday, December 24th

4:00 and 5:30 PM

(Prelude 20 minutes prior to services)

**First Christian Church
83 North Main Street, Wolfeboro**

While the world sleeps, do you hear the quiet of a hillside bathed in the light of a million stars? And then, without warning, the silence of centuries is broken by an angelic cry, "Do not be afraid! I bring you good news of great joy!" *Do you hear what I hear?*

You're invited to join with the First Christian Church family on Christmas Eve in a joyous celebration that includes Christmas favorites old and new, beautiful instrumental and vocal specials, a poignant message by our Pastor, and the traditional lighting of candles.

From the Christian Education Department

Greetings FCC Families,

The Sunday school classes have been busy learning the parables of JESUS. Our curriculum is called the "Kid's Travel Guide to the Parables of Jesus." The lessons focus on the parable of the yeast (Matt. 13:33), the parable of the talents (Matt. 25:14), the parable of the prodigal son (Luke 15:11), the parable of the lost sheep (Matt. 18:10), the parable of the vineyard laborers (Matt. 20:1), the parable of the mustard seed (Matt. 13:31), the parable of the unmerciful servant (Matt. 18), the parable of the rich young farmer (Luke 12:13), the parable of the sower (Mark 4), the parable of the tower builder (Luke 14:25), the parable of the feast that the invited guests refused to attend (Luke 14:12), the parable of the persistent widow (Luke 18) and, lastly, the parable of the good Samaritan (Luke 10:25).

We were able to put together 14 shoe boxes to send with our church's collection to Samaritan's Purse, Operation Christmas Child. We spent several weeks collecting items, including jump ropes, crayons, markers, clay, toothpaste and brushes, stuffed animals, towels and soap, matchbox cars, pencils, marbles and many more items. We had several monetary donations from members of the church and one from outside the church who heard of what we were doing and wanted to participate. We are grateful to be able to help support a cause that ministers to children all over the world.

The Sunday school classes continue to collect money to send to the local food bank; our goal is \$50! It is a blessing to see young kids bring in their dimes, quarters and dollar bills each week so that they can help feed those who are less fortunate. We strive to teach the importance of missions giving locally and abroad.

Blessings and Merry Christmas!

Traci Van Brunt and the Sunday School Team

Men's Choir completes second season

The Men's Choir just completed their second "season" of beautiful music ministry. Their repertoire is growing, as they have added four new pieces this year. Much gratitude goes to all the guys who participated and to Dave Snell and Dave Harubin for their capable leadership! The Men's Choir will take a break for two months and will resume rehearsals on the first Sunday of February.



Valentine Dessert

The annual ladies' Valentine Dessert, hosted by Bette Frazier at her home on Spruce Road in Wolfeboro, will take place on Tuesday, February 14th, 2017, at 1 PM. Be watching for a sign-up list in the fellowship hall!



Shop for Christmas!

Looking for the perfect gift for that special someone? Well, on Monday, December 5th, from 4 to 7 PM at the church, you may find not only that special gift but also help free a girl from slavery and build circles of protection and hope around at-risk girls and women by purchasing handmade items from Women At Risk International. Sue Christian will have many beautiful items on display that evening for you to purchase. Don't miss this special opportunity to double your impact and be a blessing not only to your loved one, but also to needy women and girls around the world.



One service on holiday Sundays

Mark your calendars! On Christmas Day and New Year's Day—both of which fall on Sundays this year—we will have **just one worship service—at 9 AM.**

Merry Christmas and Happy New Year to you and your loved ones!

Let's go Christmas Caroling!

Would you like to shine the light of Christ in our community and brighten the Christmas of those who are home-bound? You are invited to go Christmas caroling with your friends at First Christian Church, on Saturday, December 17th. We'll meet at the church at 5 PM to practice and organize, and then go out from there.

A sign-up sheet is located on the table in the foyer. If you have any questions, please contact Lisa Caramanis.



CAROLING

Thank you for giving!

Thank you so much for helping to brighten Christmas for needy children around the world! First Christian gave 99 shoe boxes filled with gifts for Operation Christmas Child. Thank you for your generosity!



Getting to know our church family

Make new friends at Dinner for Eight

A great way to get to know others here at First Christian is to participate in Dinner for Eight. This program occurs twice per year—once in the fall/early winter season, and once in late winter/early spring.

Nancy and Bernie Anderson, who live on an island in the summer, ferried their guests across on a boat and then enjoyed a wonderful time of food and fellowship.

So, no matter where you live, open your heart, and you'll find it filled with wonderful fellowship, friendship, and blessing!



Photos by Bernie Anderson

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