



First Edition

A QUARTERLY PUBLICATION OF THE FIRST CHRISTIAN CHURCH

Winter 2017-'18

The Fullness of Time!

Inside this issue

- *The Fullness of Time*
- *Christmas Eve Services*
- *New members received*
- *Library News*
- *Bible Study Corner*
- *Annual Meeting in February*
- *Thank you for giving!*
- *Scholarship recipient*
- *Let's go caroling!*
- *Men's Choir winds up season*
- *Keeping up with our church family*

Rev. Thom Christian, Pastor

PO Box 681 (83 North Main Street)
 Wolfeboro NH 03894
 603-569-4272 (Voice), 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
 Patricia Johnson, Gerry Levesque,
 Mike Lewis, Jim Savage,
 Pastor Thom Christian (ex-officio)

First Edition

is published quarterly.
 Articles and photos for the
 spring issue, to be published
 in March 2018, are due in the
 church office by February 18th.

Heaven's light flashed against the darkness; a guided star left its socket, curious kings their thrones, and shepherds their pastures! Men's spirits soared as if lifted by eagles' wings, while all the hosts of heaven joined in a hallelujah chorus to announce the appearance of history's brightest hour! It was the fullness of time, and the highest hopes of both God and man met in a manger in Bethlehem!

Do you believe that, really? Now I think I'm safe to say that we love the many carols that harken this season to us, like "decking the halls," and "jingle-belling," not to mention Bing Crosby's "White Christmas" or Perry Como's "Home for the Holidays." But, do you hear what I hear? Really? Do you truly *understand* and *believe* to the depths of your soul that *God*, in the person of *Jesus*, and through the power of His *Spirit* came to this earth for you? I hope so, because that is what the celebration of Christmas is all about—that God loves you! There is nothing you can do to make Him love you more, and nothing you can do to make Him love you less. He loves you, period!

Now the reason I share this and ask if you understand and believe that Jesus came for you is that if you are going to be fully effective for Him and what He'll want to do through and about you in the upcoming year, it will be paramount for you to realize who *you* are in *Him*—a child of the King, an *heir* of His kingdom.

And so I want to encourage you as you look to the new year and all the potential it will bring, to know who you are in Jesus, by the power of His Spirit, to live each day of 2018 for the glory of God!

Merry Christmas, and a very Happy New Year!

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



But when the fulness of time had come, God sent His Son, born of a woman... to buy freedom for us... so that He could adopt us as His very own children."

—Galatians 4:4-5—

YOU'RE INVITED! PLEASE JOIN US!

Believe in Christmas!



Christmas Eve Candlelight Services

**Sunday, December 24th
4:00 and 5:30 PM**

(Christmas prelude 20 minutes prior to services)

**First Christian Church
83 North Main Street**

Deeply embedded in the story of Christmas is a word that takes us from simply hearing about the birth of Christ to allowing our lives to be transformed by His love. It is with an expectant heart that we believe. Believe in Christmas Past! Believe in Christmas Present! Believe in Christmas Future! With this belief we find hope and peace through the Son that God sent down to earth.

One service on Christmas Eve morning!

On Sunday, December 24th—Christmas Eve—there will be just **one** morning worship service—at 10 AM. Please join us again that evening, at either 4 or 5:30 PM, for our Christmas Eve Candlelight Services!

New members received

On Sunday, October 8th, the First Christian Church was blessed to receive new members. These included Lisa Caramanis, Andy and Nancy Mako, Helen Mako, Bill and Patty Tarbox, and Kate and John Wilder. A warm welcome is extended to all of these dear folks.

LIBRARY NEWS

All throughout the summer and autumn we have been adding lots of new books and DVDs to our library. With the expansion of materials, we have seen more and more folks taking advantage of our collection. Check-out is simple: Sign the sheet in the binder inside the library with your name, date, and the names of your selections. When you return the materials, place them in the plastic bin on the table. PLEASE do not put anything back on the shelves. There is a place in the binder to write the date when items are returned.

We are always looking for suggestions for new books and DVDs. If there is something that you feel would enhance our library shelves, please let me know.

▪ *Ali Nelson*



Bible Study Corner

Regular reading of God's word is *essential* to our Christian life. Yet, many people have not begun to cultivate this important habit. Understandably, the Holy Bible *is* a challenge that requires us to overcome our intimidation of its thin pages, small print, and unfamiliar style. But, to avoid the challenge is to miss out on God's Word speaking directly to you in a loving relationship that shapes your life.

I've often heard people say that they don't know how to begin (but wish they did!). My offer is to meet with you—personally, or in a small group—for an hour or so to explore:

- What's between the two covers,
- How to navigate through the "books,"
- How to look up Bible verses,
- Study aides in your own Bible.

Please call Jan Hawes (569-0327), or email jan.hawes47@gmail.com.

▪ *Jan Hawes*

Annual Meeting to take place February 4th

The Annual Business Meeting of our church is scheduled this coming year for February 4th, 2018. This is a very important meeting, and all members and friends of First Christian Church are urged to be in attendance, as we review 2017, approve a budget for 2018, elect officers for the coming year, and discuss other necessary business. The meeting will follow a light luncheon after the 10 AM service. Be sure to mark this very important meeting on your calendar!

Thank you for supporting our soldiers!

Thank you for your generous donations, used to fill thirty local soldiers' Christmas gift boxes. The overflowing flat rate boxes will be mailed to soldiers both domestically and abroad. A small artificial Christmas tree, handknit stocking, Christmas cards, gift-wrapped paperback books, socks, Girl Scout cookies, and a variety of food and toiletry items will surely bring a smile to our NH soldiers, no matter where they celebrate Christmas. What a blessing!

▪ *Bette Frazier*

Generosity blesses many children!

Deep gratitude is extended to all who were part of Operation Christmas Child. Your nearly 90 gift boxes, monetary gifts, and prayers will help to spread the message of Jesus to many hurting and needy children around the world. May God bless each of you! Merry Christmas!

▪ *Jane Cook*



Scholarship recipient enjoying college

Tucker Van Brunt, who received the First Christian Church Pay-It-Forward Scholarship this year, recently wrote to the Scholarship Committee expressing how he is enjoying college (he attends Gordon College in Massachusetts) and believes he has made a good decision to be a biology major with a concentration in pre-med. He visited Harvard with his Bio Club and also helps to tend a new experimental garden with one of his biology professors. He is very grateful for the support of his home church. Tucker thanks us and said he would appreciate prayer for the school year to continue to be smooth and for his studies to be successful.

▪ *Beverly Funk*

Let's go caroling!

You're invited to an all-church Christmas caroling night on Sunday, December 3rd. We'll meet at the church at 5:30 PM. Be sure to dress warm! Join us as we share Christmas joy with our community!



Men's Choir closes out 2017 season

A beautiful offertory entitled "To God Be the Glory" provided a fitting culmination of the Men's Choir season on the Sunday before Thanksgiving. Many thanks go to Dave Harubin and Dave Snell for their leadership and to all of our men who have participated in this wonderful ministry! We'll begin the 2018 season in February!

Keeping up with our church family

Serving in our nursing home ministry

First Christian Church continues to be involved in reaching out to area nursing home residents. On the third Sunday of the month, there is a ministry to the residents of Genesis/Wolfeboro Bay, and on the fifth Sunday of the month to the residents of Mountain View Nursing Home in Ossipee.



Many in our church family participate through singing, sharing inspirational readings, and visiting with and encouraging the residents.



FIRST CHRISTIAN CHURCH
PO Box 681
Wolfeboro NH 03894
