



First Edition

A QUARTERLY PUBLICATION OF THE FIRST CHRISTIAN CHURCH

Spring 2015

Happy Spring and Easter!

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

Church Council
 Mike Lewis (Chair), Dianne Chase,
 Nathaniel Edmunds, Jim Savage,
 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, are due in the
 church office by May 18th.

Spring? Spring? Did somebody say “spring?” As I sit in my study the snow has once again started to come down. This winter, it seems like it is *always* “starting to come down,” leaving many in a bleak sort of mood—particularly those who are housebound—and wondering if spring will *ever* arrive!

With that as a backdrop, I got to thinking, “I wonder if that’s how Jesus’ disciples felt following His crucifixion on Good Friday.” By that I mean, even though they were in Jerusalem, where it never snows, I’ll bet it felt like the deepest winter for Jesus’ disciples. Think about it, only a week prior, after three years of research and development, Jesus was heading to Jerusalem to take the “company” public. So I’m sure Jesus’ *employees*—i.e. His disciples—felt certain their stock was about to soar!

But then the bubble burst! On the eve of the big rollout, Christ’s forecasts had turned amazingly depressing. Now Jesus was talking about suffering and dying and redemption of a very different kind than His disciples had expected. And having heard this, some of His followers immediately cashed in their options and left while they still could. Many new investors who had hailed the company on Palm Sunday now turned against Christ. And the vultures on the ruling council who had been so critical for so long now went in for the kill. Ergo, the company broke up—Jesus was crucified; the lights went out. And the desperation can be heard in the words of Cleopas in Luke 24:21: “We had *hoped* that He was the one who was going to redeem Israel.”

But...but little did Cleopas realize that the One to whom he spoke those words was indeed the risen Christ! Yes, Jesus was alive, the company was back up and running, and he, his friend, and the many other disciples back in Jerusalem that had remained true were now to be the senior district sales representatives and distributors of Jesus’ message—that His company was not established to give His investors “the good life” but rather “the life that that is good!”

Here’s some more good news! Each of us is offered a “buy-in” to His company! And if you do, you’ll not simply be given *common* stocks but *preferred* stocks, and the same district sales representative and distributor position as those first disciples! So, how do you “buy in?” I’m glad you asked. Simply invite the CEO—Jesus—into your life. Tell Him you’re leaving all the other companies behind and that you have signed a contract to stay with Him for eternity! Does it seem too good to be true? Buy in, and I promise you it will be *too good*, but it will also be *true*! But heck, don’t take my word for it. Listen to *His own words*: “Whoever comes to Me I will never drive away...for My Father’s will is that everyone who looks to the Son [invests in Him] and believes in Him, shall have eternal life, and I will raise that person up at the last day” (John 65:37, 40).

Have a great spring, and a very happy Easter!

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

You're invited to join us for our

Easter Services

Sunday, April 5, 2015

† Sunrise Service

(6 AM, Wolfeboro Inn's dock)

† Juice, Hot Coffee, and Pastries

(6:30 AM, at the church)

† Easter Worship

(8:30 and 10:00 AM, at the church, with refreshments between services and an instrumental prelude starting 15 minutes prior to worship)

AT THE CROSS
(LOVE RAN RED)



On Easter we'll be reminded of what Jesus endured and how He suffered for us. At the cross love ran red as He poured out the ultimate sacrifice to give us life and freedom. And then we'll celebrate His glorious resurrection! The truth that death has died and love has won will be echoing through the halls of our church through beautiful music and a powerful message. Please join us on Easter for this joyous celebration!

Valentine's Day Dessert

Twenty-one women attended the 8th Annual Valentine Dessert party hosted by Bette Frazier on a snowy Valentine's Day at her home. Guests, who ranged in age from 30 to 97, were greeted by Richard, who assisted with parking, and grandson Samuel, who passed out nametags. Fireside conversation provided a cozy setting as women enjoyed fresh fruit, heart shaped cookies, peanut butter bonbons, trifles, decorated cupcakes, baklava, and more, along with tea and punch. Each attendee received a framed pink heart with the inscription inside which read, "When my arms can't reach people who are close to my heart....I always hug them with my prayers." This annual event is a fun way for women to meet new friends and get better acquainted with those whom we don't know very well. It is a happy celebration of the love we share for our Lord and for one another as sisters in Christ.



FCCers compete in Triathlon

Several FCCers competed in the Abenaki Winter Triathlon on February 21st, snow-shoeing up and down the ski hill, cross-country skiing 2.78 miles, and ice skating 1 mile, which was 10 laps in the Pop Whalen Ice Arena. Sue Christian did a fantastic job, coming in third in her age group, with a time around 54 minutes. At the same time, the Fraziers entered the race as a family team, and came in third, with a time around 1:04. Richard snow-shoed, Bette cross-country skied, and Samuel completed the race ice skating. Another couple from FCC, Paul and Christina Stacey, also did a great job! Everyone had a lot of fun, despite the cold morning, and enjoyed cheering for one another.



Check out our updated entry!

Our church's side entry off the parking lot has a great new look! The last week of February was the targeted date to finish the subgrade and pour the new floor, with the renovations scheduled to take place the following weeks, including new stairs, a new door and window, new lighting, a new heater, a tile floor, and a new outside overhang with light. We hope that this update will make a more welcoming entry for all who use it!

Nathaniel Edmunds

Wisdom of the Word

In John 15:4, Jesus said, "Remain in me, and I will remain in you," and in John 15:10, "If you obey my commands, you will remain in my love, just as I have obeyed my Father's commands and remain in his love." Our assignment as mature children of God is to train ourselves by the constant use of God's Word in our own lives ["remaining in"] and to present it to others by our words and deeds.

Our training includes being prepared so we are able to distinguish good from evil [right from wrong]. Mature Christians make Bible reading a high priority, because it is in God's Word that we find an understanding of good and evil. God says, "Thou shalt not" many times in His Word, but the commands and ways to do good, to live righteously, and to be Christlike far outnumber the "Thou shalt nots" (excerpt from Hebrews: Covenant of Faith, Part 1, p. 64).

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 wished they did!). I was one of those people many years ago. Please allow me the privilege of helping you begin. 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
- the study aides in your own Bible.

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

Getting to know our church family

It's a dark and stormy night when the phone rings at the Poole home at 2 AM. Both Jim and Dolly know they'll be packing their bags, because they are needed somewhere in the USA, and they are ready.

Jim is an insurance adjuster. After a major flood, fire, or earthquake, the damage is great, and Jim is needed to help. Dolly is his support. The time they are away could be days or weeks.

Jim and Dolly had lived in Holliston, Massachusetts, and also had a cottage in Wolfeboro for weekends, but they sold both and bought a larger home here as

their family grew. They now have three married children, twelve grandchildren, and three great-grandchildren.

Jim enjoys boating and fishing, working around their house, and spending time with family. Dolly enjoys people and helping others. Her warmth is comforting and welcome. She is there for Jim at the end of the day.

I admit I tried to reach Jim and Dolly by phone to finish this article, but there was no answer. I'd bet Jim is busy examining caved-in roofs, flooded cellars, crushed vehicles—and doing all of this

knee-deep in snow. Dolly is waiting for him at day's end.

▪ by Norma Pilkington

New members to be received

If you have received Jesus as the Savior and Lord of your life and you would like to unite with First Christian Church in membership, you're invited to let Pastor Thom know of your desire, and to attend a class on Sunday, March 29th, following the 10 AM service. New members will be received on Sunday, April 12th.



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