



First Edition

A QUARTERLY PUBLICATION OF THE FIRST CHRISTIAN CHURCH

Spring 2014

The Newness of Spring

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Sunday Worship
 8:30 and 10 AM

Church Office Hours
 9 AM to 12 Noon Mon-Thurs

Church Council
 Rick Hawes (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, are due in the
 church office by May 27th.

OK, so who stole January and February? Now I'm not complaining about these two months just seeming to "scoot" by, and it's not like they didn't bring their share of cold and snow. But somehow it's hard to believe we are looking at March and very possibly the crocuses that will be pushing through the snow with the hope of spring in their budding stems. I love spring, and I love the hope that it brings.

With that in mind, I am also very excited about how our church has come through the winter and all the hopes of newness in front of us. We have a new Council who is already hard at work and will soon be presenting new goals. We have new Bible studies popping up to touch areas we haven't touched in the past, and so many more new and exciting things to look forward to, while at the same time not forgetting who we are and Whose we are.

With that as a backdrop, I'd like to challenge all of us to do something "new," as well, that being to look at our own lives and the life of our church and ask the question, "What do we need to do to bring a freshness—a newness—into the way we are living as Christians and as a church?" By that I mean, are we going to be a "business as usual" church or a church that says to God that, from here on out, we are going to be open to whatever newness He wants to do in us and through us?

Now, don't mishear this challenge. It's not that we aren't already doing many good things. Actually, I am so very blessed by what so many

of you do for God's glory, and the way you serve in our church and in the surrounding communities. What I am saying is that spring might be a good time to look at ourselves afresh and ask God, "OK, what do You need me to do to draw closer to You, to be more responsive to You, and to be sure that I'm honoring You in humility and transparency of heart?" And as you're asking Him for those things, don't forget to ask Him for the strength through the power of His Spirit to discern His will so you can do His will.

And as you're asking for things, go head, get on a roll, and ask Him for love, joy, peace, gentleness, kindness, goodness, patience, faithfulness, and self-control. You see, His Holy Spirit is the Comforter, the Helper, the Guide, and the very presence of God living in you. You see, that's the great promise of God in prayer. We ask the God of gifts in prayer, and He gives us the Giver. We ask God for supply, and He gives us the source. We ask God for money, and He doesn't just give us cash, He gives us the bank!

So please know as we look to the newness of spring with confidence, we can look to newness in our lives with the same confidence—that we have a God that not only makes all things new, but will also see it through until the day we meet Him, and then some.

So go ahead and get excited about newness, and go ahead and get excited about spring.

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

Please join us for our

Resurrection Sunday Services!

Sunrise Service 6:30 AM

*(across the street at Wolfeboro Inn's dock,
followed by hot coffee, juice, and refreshments
back at the church)*

Easter Worship 8:30 and 10 AM

(followed by fellowship hour and refreshments)



Presented by:
Our Pastor
Young Instrumentalists
Sunday School Children
Worship Team

Women enjoy Valentine Dessert delicacies and fellowship!

Twenty-one ladies enjoyed the 7th Annual Valentines Dessert party hosted by Bette Frazier at her home on Saturday, February 15th, after a snow storm the day before warranted a postponement. The guests ranged in age from young Hannah Pacsay, Midge Levesque's granddaughter, to young-at-heart Blanche Grant, who arrived with her daughter Joan LeClair.

Guests enjoyed a variety of sweets, punch, and a handmade bookmark party favor. The leftover goodies were brought to church for coffee hour the next day. Thanks to the Sunday School children, Bette brought home empty plates!

Guests included: (back row) Diane Van Brunt, Ann Caspar, Lynda Jagemann, Susan Bennett, Karen Heidebrink, Jan Putney, Jean Adkins, Marge Voedisch, and Joan Blackwood, (middle row) Dorothy Schlobohm, Blanche Grant, Lois Bittiger, Donna Batson, and Anne Pierce, and (front row) Bette Frazier, Abigail and Traci Van Brunt. Missing when the photo was taken were Hannah Pacsay, Midge Levesque, Kay Hudson and photographer Nancy Black.



Teen Challenge coming to FCC

On Sunday, March 9th, you are invited to come and be blessed by the ministry of Teen Challenge Manchester. Young people whose lives have been dramatically rescued through this amazing program will be sharing their testimonies and music at both the 8:30 and 10 AM services.



College scholarship applications available

First Christian Church "Pay-It-Forward" College Scholarship applications are available in the church office beginning March 2nd. Qualifying applicants will have shown First Christian to be their home church through attendance and involvement in a variety of ministries available through FCC. The deadline to turn in completed applications is May 1, 2014. The scholarship will be awarded in June, and the amount varies.

An informational session is available to youth and their parents on March 9th, at 11 AM, in the Sunday School classroom. This is an opportunity for those who are interested in applying for the scholarship this year, or in the future. If you have any questions, please contact Bette Frazier, Chairman, or Beverly Funk or Fred Stephens, committee members.

"Mom to Mom" begins at FCC

Led by Stacey Farley and Kate Edmunds, this group, which welcomes moms of all ages, kicked off their first meeting on February 19th. A great group of moms attended and enjoyed the inspiration, challenge, sharing of ideas, fellowship, and refreshments. If you are a mom and would like to be a part of this group, they meet the first and third Wednesdays of the month from 9:30 to 11:30 AM, at First Christian Church.

"Free the Children" fundraiser huge blessing!

Thank you all for your great response to the "Free the Children" fundraiser. Although the final count is not yet in, you have given over \$3100 (147 pounds of coins, bills and checks), which will be a great blessing to children in desperate need.



Spring Forward!

Be sure to set your clocks ahead on Saturday night, March 8th. Daylight Savings Time begins March 9th!



Missionaries home briefly

Missionaries Ed and Janelle Graham, along with their year-and-a-half old son Edward, are home briefly from their ministry with Campus Crusade for Christ in order to resolve visa issues. They will be back for furlough in June. This is their son's first visit to the United States, where he has met many family members and new friends. Be sure to take advantage of this opportunity to get to know the Grahams!



Getting to know one another

Marge Dahle and her husband Frank have attended First Christian Church for nine years. They are the parents of two grown daughters, and they have three grandsons. Marge has written hundreds of poems, and she is a member of the Poetry Society of New Hampshire as well as The National Society of Arts and Letters, NJ Chapter. She is a published author, and she initiated, edited, and contributed to the book Neighbors to the Winter Camp (a history of Mendham, New Jersey). She also worked on two film projects for PBS: one entitled "Hard Winter" (a historical drama of an eighteen century community at war), and the other entitled "John Trumbull: Patriot Artist of the American Revolution" (based on the book by the same title by Dr. Irma Jaffy).

SPRINGTIME JOY

This cool breezy
Morning hour when
Sunlight searches for
Springtime's green.

The day awakens to
Dew-fresh sparkle
Silver light and
Golden sheen.

Brooks are running
Cold and clear
Chirps and flutter
Fill the air.

Buds still shy
Hide quietly
To soon burst forth
For all to see.

Awake to Joy
The Day has come
With Gifts from God
For everyone.

▪ Marge Dahle



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