Dear friends,

Another season has come to us with its own beauty and the attending challenges of contrast. The nor’eastern that blew through last week left us with an amazing and beautiful landscape of snow-laden trees, hillside and mountaintops. It also meant days without the comforts of power for many homes. It required some long hours of toil in dangerous conditions for those who work for utility companies and for those who keep the roadways open for travel. Every season has its share of good and not-so-good.

I think it is so for this Season that we call Christmas. Isaiah prophesied some 750 years before the birth of Jesus these words,

“The people who walked in darkness have seen a great light; Those who dwelt in the land of the shadow of death, upon them a light has shined. For unto us a Child is born, Unto us a Son is given; And the government will be upon His shoulder. And His name will be called Wonderful, Counselor, Mighty God, Everlasting Father, Prince of Peace. Isaiah 9:2,6 (NKJV)

It’s in this Season that we celebrate the birth of Jesus, the true Light who has come into the world. However, His Light shines today in a dark and sin-sick world, not because of His birth, but because of His death and resurrection. His Light shines in and through the lives of those who have received the grace poured out at the cross.

May the people who walk in darkness see the great Light of Jesus in you this Season! And may the Light of Jesus in you shine upon those who dwell in the land of the shadow of death!

On behalf of the men and families that we serve with you, “thank you” for your faith-filled support. You’ve helped to make this year the best year yet for some very special men and their families who also once walked in darkness!

MERRY CHRISTMAS from all of us at Covered Bridge!
Pastor Steve & Lorie Clark
We have a new resident in St Johnsbury! Her name is “Lilly”. She’s a purebred English Cocker Spaniel on loan to us from Kirby Mountain Kennels in East Burke. Kennel owner John Hayes is a long time Covered Bridge Board Member and generous contributor of his time, talent and treasure to the men of Covered Bridge. I’m not sure whether we have adopted Lilly or she has adopted us! John is training us to train Lilly and in John’s words the men are doing way better than he expected. God has revealed a lot about His unconditional love and acceptance through Lilly. In the photo with Lilly are Dan & James.

Hi, my name is Dan. I arrived here at Covered Bridge on October 14th. Throughout the past 20 years my life hasn’t been so great. Most of it I was in and out of jail—a lot of drinking and partying. I’ve been in a lot of car wrecks as well. One in which I lost my right leg and broke many bones. But I have a beautiful daughter named Natalia.

The staff here at Covered Bridge have been very kind, caring and understanding. It was here I’ve found God and accepted Jesus in my heart and as my savior. And now I have a better purpose in life than the one I lived in the past.
A Merry & Blessed Christmas to You from the homes of Covered Bridge in St Johnsbury & Irasburg
Merry Christmas and abundant blessings to you and yours in the New Year!