

THE BULLETIN

BIG PLANS

Eleven students from Harding University, led by our own Zach Daggett and David Bell will be coming up to Manchester during their Spring Break (March 5 through 14) to contribute to the work of the Kingdom in Manchester and New England. They have a lot of great things planned to do when they come — help our shut-ins, encourage our teens and 20-somethings, do a little outreach in our community, and get to know what Yankee Christians and churches are like in their natural habitat. :-) Can we count on YOU to help us out?

First, we need a few homes to offer their hospitality for March 5 through 14. We need to house 7 college women and 4 college men. If you could offer your home and hospitality, please let Park (or someone he'll designate) know as soon as possible.

Second, provide us with some names of people who could use some help around their homes — people from church or neighbors or people you just know. Give your suggestions (with names and phone numbers) to me, also — I'll be the one with a clipboard trying to keep everything straight :-).

Third, are you up to a little fun

- Join us for a Sunday afternoon of food and games on March 7 — sort of a fellowship luncheon with an extra measure of good times.
- College age and 20-something folks, these Harding folks would love to get together with you for some fun and a devotional on the evening of Tuesday, March 9.
- Join in a little March Madness with a basketball, 3v3 tourney; and you are encouraged to invite friends, coworkers, or family members to join you at the YMCA on March 11 from 5PM to 7:30PM. It'll be a lot of fun — and a way to introduce your friends to the fact that Christians are actually nice people. :-)

And by the way, teens, they're going to be going both to youth rallies in Augusta ME (March 6 — a one day rally) and Natick MA (March 13 — also a one day rally). And you're welcome to come along, if you'd like.

Manchester Church of Christ

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www.mhtcoc.org

Elder's Link: February

Duane Coss - 424-9152

drcoss@myfairpoint.net

Barry Fogal - 487-2387

bfogal@comcast.net

If you have any concerns that the elders should be aware of, or need to speak to with them, please contact Duane or Barry this month.

Our Worship Services

Sunday AM: 8:30 & 11:00

Bible Class: 10:00

Sunday PM: 6:00

Small Groups:

West Side Small Group: 6:15PM at Doug Paul's

Merrimack Small Group: 5:30PM contact Stuart Peacock

Wednesday PM Devotional/Bible Classes: 7:00

News Items? Please submit before 11AM each Tuesday.

So, have you seen the TV promo for the new reality show, *Marriage Ref?* Married couples with some issues (admittedly a little oddball) apparently get coaching from (of all people) Hollywood celebrities. Now, *there's* a source of marital wisdom — the *Inquirer* tells me so.

The foregoing remarks were made, of course, very "tongue in cheek", but where is the best source of marital advice? Without question it is the word of God. For the past couple of weeks we've been



studying the "marriage manual of manuals", the Bible, and this Sunday we'll continue our study with what the Bible says about romance, affection, and sex.

And, finally, believe it or not, this Sunday is the third Sunday of the month already, which means that we'll all be meeting in small groups in homes for Bible study and devotionals on Sunday evening. Make an effort to join one of these groups for study, fellowship, and (oh, yeah) usually a little something to eat.

Our Family

“So then you are no longer strangers and aliens, but you are fellow citizens with the saints, and are of God’s household,”
Ephesians 2: 19, NAS95.

Coming up in February...

Singing small group will be meeting at the Evans' house on Friday, February 19th. Dinner begins at 6pm and singing at 7pm. Please RSVP to Mark or Glenna if you will be there for dinner.

Our new website is going live soon! We have contracted with Bethany Prevatt to design, develop, and maintain a new website for our congregation. She has been hard at work and is just about finished and we hope to go live with it February 24th. Stay tuned for more details later. If you have any questions, please see Tony Casella, our newly appointed deacon in charge of technology.

What else?

New England church growth conference will be held on March 13, 2010 at the church of Christ in Manchester, CT. A brochure is posted on the bulletin board in the foyer.

Save the Dates... Biddeford Ladies Day-- March 27th. Ladies Day in Roxbury, MA on March 27th. More details to come. The Conway church of Christ will be hosting a Ladies weekend April 9th-11th with speaker Becky Blackmon. See the flyer on the bulletin board in the foyer.

This and that...

Note of thanks “Dear Friends in Christ, We are so appreciative of your love and kindness towards us. We were overcome by all the 'sweets' you provided. Thanks again for your love for mom and us. In Christ, Sue Burdette and family”

Prayer request Linda Paul has been diagnosed with sleep apnea and has been 'banned' from driving till at least March 9th when she sees the doctor again. She is requesting prayers for peace as she feels confined at home.

Can you help?? To help cut expenses, Darlene and Alan are looking to carpool to worship/Bible class with others living in the Concord area. If you can help, please call them at 715-1150. They will help with gas money and tolls.

Notes of encouragement

Brett Anderson
SOTF 3/3
APO AE 09354

Wednesday night suppers Make sure to sign up on the list on the bulletin board in the back of the auditorium if you plan to attend.

Wednesday Night Menu

Beef pot roast
carrots, onions, potatoes
bread
dessert

Worship Leaders

<p>Sunday, Feb 21, 8:30AM SongsDoug P. Closing PrayerKarl D. ScriptureJim C. Lord’s Supper Stuart P. CoordinatorKen B.</p> <p>Sunday, Feb 21, 11:00AM SongsRick G. Closing PrayerRich T.</p>	<p>ScriptureGary D. Lord’s SupperPete S. CoordinatorRick G.</p> <p>Sunday, Feb 21, 6:00PM Songs.....Third Sunday</p> <p>Wednesday, Feb 24, 7:00PM Songs.....Mark C.</p>
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Prayer Concerns

Health: Doreen Lee, Duane Coss, Pat Arel, Bill Waisnor, Deniza Chase’s niece, Penny Ranger, Manley Jones, Michael Anderson’s brother
Leadership: Ministers, Elders, Deacons
Evangelism: Bible studies in progress, our website, MNFM, food pantry, Give Away Day contacts
Return to the Lord: Brethren who have forsaken the assembly

MUSIC IN WORSHIP

The following article appeared in the bulletin of the Manchester CT church of Christ in two parts, over the weeks of January 24 and January 31, written by their pulpit minister, Arnie Holmes, who is also a good friend of mine. I thought it was a great little series that might help you as you try to answer the questions of those who ask why we don't use instruments of music in our worship services. — Enjoy! Brotherly, Park.

I am often asked why we do not use instrumental music in our worship services. People want to know, “Did the first century Christians use instruments in their worship of God?” If so, where is the evidence? If not, why did they refrain from the use of instruments?

What is meant when it is stated that the churches of Christ use only a cappella music? The phrase a cappella derives from a Latin expression, which, by way of Italian, means “in the style of the church” or “as is done in the church.” It reflects the historical reality that instrumental music in Christian worship was not practiced in the Christian movement for many centuries and that the rather late introduction of it constitutes an innovation void of New Testament authority.

Dr. Everett Ferguson, one of the premier historians of church history, has noted that the non-use

of the instrument in worship was the “majority tradition of Christian history” until comparatively recent times. Between 1708 and 1722, Joseph Bingham, an Anglican cleric, produced his ten-volume work entitled, *The Antiquities of the Christian Church* regarding the use of instrumental music in church worship, he writes,

“Music in churches is as ancient as the apostles; but instrumental music not so; for it is generally agreed by learned men, that the use of organs came into the church since the time of Thomas Aquinas; around 1250 A.D. For he in his *Sums* has these words, ‘Our church does not use mechanical instruments, as harps and psalteries, to praise God withal...’”

...In their massive, twelve volume *Encyclopedia of Biblical, Theological, and Ecclesiastical Literature* by John McClintock and James Strong, they noted:

“The Greeks as well as the Jews were wont to use instruments as accompaniments in their sacred songs. The converts to Christianity accordingly must have been familiar with this mode of singing; yet it is generally believed that the primitive Christians failed to adopt the use of instrumental music in their

religious worship.”

These scholars further noted that: “the general introduction of instrumental music can certainly not be assigned to a date earlier than the 5th and 6th centuries A.D.”

These scholars also observed that the early reformers such as Martin Luther and John Calvin protested against the use of instruments in worship. The same could be said of Adam Clarke and Charles Spurgeon, men who were leaders of their respective religious movements. In 1965 James W. McKinnon prepared a dissertation at Columbia University on *The Church Fathers and Instruments*. In this exhaustive document, McKinnon contended that “early Christian music was vocal” and that there was a “patristic (the church fathers) polemic against instruments.”

The truth is that there is no authority in the New Testament for the use of instrumental music in Christian worship. If we were to introduce instrumental music into our worship, we would be going beyond what the Bible teaches.

Our Congregational Calendar						
Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
14	15 Happy Birthday: Linda McCarthy	16	17 Bible class 7pm Happy Birthday: Bradley Chandler Klaryssa Ortega	18 Happy Birthday: Jason Therrien	19 Singing small group 6pm	20
21 Happy Birthday: Brandon Hombs	22	23	24 Bible class 7pm Happy Birthday: Destiny Chase	25	26	27 Happy Birthday: Candy Chase

Teen News	
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Our Statistics	
Sunday Morning Worship (combined)	No count
Contribution	\$2896.05

The Manchester church of Christ
 66 Mammoth Rd.
 Manchester, NH 03109