

# THE BULLETIN

## PERSISTENCE

*The heights by great men reached and kept, were not attained by sudden flight,*

*but they while their companions slept, were toiling upward in the night.*

Longfellow: *The Ladder of St. Augustine*

Most of us have heard the old country adage which states, "A big shot is nothing more than a little shot who kept on shooting." The worthiness and commonality of such a statement is forever posted in a Proverb from the Bible. "*For a just man falleth seven times and riseth up again*" (Proverbs 24:16) The lessons in this concise statement are manifold. First of all, it's not exclusively the self-willed man who falls. The just, or righteous, falls also. The overriding difference in the two men is their outlook on life. The earthy man will give up quicker than one who has his hope settled in the Master of oceans and skies. So, the righteous man falls, but he gets up and tries again. His will to accomplish whatever goals he has set for himself is sufficient to spur him on, even in the face of a disappointing fall. ...There are multiple things to be gleaned from this short Proverb. (1) The consideration here is of a "just" man. (2) Although he is righteous (just), he is subject to falling, just like other men. (3) The man falls, and falls -- for seven times. (Being righteous does not guarantee success every time!) (4) Although down for seven times, the inspired writer says he "riseth up again." he is persistent!

Some people suffer more than others in life and its trials. The real truth is that man has a choice as to how he will face his trials and disillusionments. One of the best assessments of man's fortune was made by Job. He said, "*Man that is born of woman is of few days,*

*and full of trouble. He cometh forth as a flower, and is cut down: He fleeth also as a shadow and continueth not*" (Job 14:1)

According to Biblical record, Job did not fall upon the ground and begin a never-ending complaint against God. Instead, the Bible says of this righteous man, "*In all this, Job sinned not, nor charged God foolishly*" (1:22) Did you ever hear someone say, as they faced some tragedy, "Why does God place such trials on me?" The truth is, God set nature in order at the 'beginning' and He does not step in and rearrange the natural course of things to suit Himself, or anyone. "*...God cannot be tempted by evil, neither tempteth He any man: But every man is tempted, when he is drawn away of his own lusts, and enticed*" (James 1:13-14).

Peter gives a proper course to follow when things don't go the way we would like them to go. "*Yet if any man suffer as a Christian, let him not be ashamed: but let him glorify God on this behalf*" (1 Peter 4:16) I take this to mean that one should be persistent in facing the trials of life, and the inevitable troubles which are sure to come. Don't just try once, or twice, but be persistent in right doing. Why should I, or any man quit? "*For our light affliction, which is but for a moment, worketh for us a far more exceeding and eternal weight of glory...for the things which are not seen are eternal*" (2 Cor. 4:17-18) "*And when the Chief Shepherd shall appear, ye shall receive a crown of glory that fadeth not away*" (1 Pet. 5:4) Sounds like something for which a fellow should be **persistent**, doesn't it? The God of Heaven be thanked!

Bob Howton,  
edited to fit this space

### Manchester Church of Christ

66 Mammoth Rd.

Manchester, NH 03109

603.623.5559

[mht\\_church@comcast.net](mailto:mht_church@comcast.net)

[www.mhtcoc.org](http://www.mhtcoc.org)

### Elder's Link: June

Duane Coss 424-9152

[drcoss@myfairpoint.net](mailto:drcoss@myfairpoint.net)

Barry Fogal 487-2387

[bfogal@comcast.net](mailto: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.

This Sunday is the fourth Sunday of the month, the elders' pulpit Sunday. Look forward to a good, uplifting lesson from one of our shepherds.

Sunday evening's devotional and Bible study at the building will be lead by Preston.

I'll be at Gander Brook this Sunday and most of the week (although I plan on being here for Wednesday evening). It's Work and Worship Week (WWW), and I've been asked to speak twice in the week in the evening (Tuesday and Thursday).



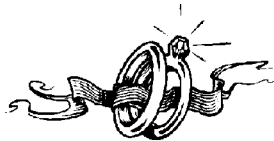
If you've never been to WWW, it is a week-long effort to get the camp ready for the regular season of Gander Brook's ministry to children, ages 8-18. The mornings are set aside for work projects, the afternoons are set aside for R&R, and the evening is set aside for a period of worship and a word of encouragement. The cost is minimal, what you'd spend on groceries for the week. The theme for the week is "*Worship Him in...*", and for the Tuesday lesson, I've been asked to bring a lesson entitled "*Worship Him in Song*". Thursday's lesson will be "*Worship Him in Communion*". Come join us!

# 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 June...

**Bridal shower** Just a reminder that the wedding shower for Nicole Hillhouse will be on Friday, June 25<sup>th</sup> at 6:30pm, here at the building. Please see Caroline Apgar or Noelani Hillhouse with any questions or to RSVP.



**Sand sculptures** Anyone who wants to go to Hampton Beach on Saturday, June 26<sup>th</sup>, please contact the Hillhouses. They are planning to go see the sand sculptures. We can meet at the building at 2:30 and come back later that evening. Bring money for supper and entertainment.

**Reminder** Next Wednesday is a song night. We will be devoting our usual Bible class time to singing praises to our almighty God.

## What else?

**Graduation party** The Cordaro's are inviting the congregation to join them in celebrating Stephanie's graduation from Pepperdine University. It will be held at the Cordaro's home on Saturday, July 3<sup>rd</sup> from 12-3. Food will be provided.

## This and that...

**Directory update**  
Micah & Darlene Houtz  
5 Dakota Dr. Unit 1  
Fremont, NH 03044  
686-3542 (Micah)  
275-4243 (Darlene)  
[mlhoutz@gmail.com](mailto:mlhoutz@gmail.com)  
[dar47879@yahoo.com](mailto:dar47879@yahoo.com)

**Thank you note** There is a thank you note from Jackie Stanglin and her family posted on the bulletin board in the foyer.

**Worthy cause** A lot of kids would like to go to Gander Brook, but can't afford it. Gander Brook's policy is to never turn down a child for one week, but at \$275/week that sometimes puts quite a financial burden

on the camp. However, church members at Manchester have often helped out with "campership" donations. If you'd like to help a child to experience Gander Brook through such a "campership", please see Mike Moser our treasurer.



**Attention men** The service schedule for July through September can be found on the bulletin board in the back of the auditorium.

**Gander Brook** Registration forms for Work & Worship week and the general camping weeks can be found in the foyer.

## Worship Leaders

**Sunday, June 27, 8:30AM**  
Songs .....Brandon H.  
Closing Prayer .....Tony C.  
Scripture .....Mark C.  
Lord's Supper ..... Ken B.  
Coordinator .....Doug P.

**Sunday, June 27, 11:00AM**  
Songs .....Paul M.  
Closing Prayer .....Rick G.

Scripture .....Gary D.  
Lord's Supper .....Pete S.  
Coordinator .....Ken S.

**Sunday, June 27, 6:00PM**  
Songs.....Ken B.

**Wednesday, June 30, 7:00PM**  
Songs.....Stuart P.

## Prayer Concerns

**Health:** Doreen Lee, Duane Coss, Barry Fogal, Peggy Mailloux, Pete Steffensen, Penny Ranger, Manley Jones  
**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

## FORMER ATHEIST, ANTONY FLEW, DIES AT 87

For many years, Antony Flew reigned as arguably the most able defender of atheism in the world. In fact, the subheading of one of Flew's last books described him as "the world's most notorious atheist" (Flew and Varghese, 2007). Flew's monumental paper "Theology and Falsification," which he "first presented at a 1950 meeting of the Oxford University Socratic Club chaired by C.S. Lewis, became the most widely reprinted philosophical publication of the last century" (2007, pp. vii-viii, emp. added). He authored more than 30 books, including his now-famous *The Presumption of Atheism* ("Antony Flew...", 2010).

In spite of his atheistic teaching and writings, Flew rocked the atheistic community in 2004 when he announced that he had changed his mind (see Miller, 2004). He concluded that enough evidence had accrued to prove that some type of intelligent designer must be behind the origin of the Universe. In his book, *There Is a God*, co-written with Roy Varghese, Flew wrote:

The leaders of science over the last hundred years, along with some of today's most influential scientists, have built a philosophically compelling vision of a rational universe that sprang from a divine Mind. As it happens, this is the particular view of the world that I now find to be the soundest philosophical explanation of the multitude of phenomena encountered by scientists and laypeople alike (2007, p. 91).

Of course, the atheistic

community did not appreciate his "conversion." Some prominent atheists accused him of being senile and attempted to downplay his book, claiming that he did not write much of it, but simply put his name on the material Roy Varghese wrote. Flew responded by explaining that he was not senile, and that the evidence for a divine Mind was inescapable.

Flew's courageous decision to defy the atheistic community and admit that the evidence demands a divine Creator is commendable. His bravery brought to light the fact that the "advocates of tolerance were not themselves very tolerant. And, apparently, religious zealots don't have a monopoly on dogmatism, incivility, fanaticism, and paranoia" (2007, p. viii). Flew experienced the ugly reality that creationists endure on a regular basis: those who believe in a Creator are persecuted for standing for the truth.

In spite of Flew's bravery, his position failed to follow all the evidence to its logical conclusion. Flew, unfortunately, held a deistic belief in a divine Creator "who takes no interest in human affairs" ("Antony Flew...", 2010). He did not follow his quest for truth to the end of the path that would have led to the acceptance of Christianity (see Butt and Lyons, 2006).

On April 8, 2010, Antony Flew died at the age of 87 after fighting a long illness ("Antony Flew...", 2010). He will be remembered for the writing he did in favor of atheism, and his courageous stand late in his life against that false philosophy. His life should remind

us all that standing for the truth, in the face of fierce opposition, is the admirable course to take. His life should also encourage us not to stop at a mere belief in a Creator, but to invest our lives completely in the pursuit of identifying that Creator's will for our lives (see Lyons and Butt, n.d.).

[NOTE: For more information, see the 1976 Warren-Flew Debate]

### REFERENCES

"Anthony Flew, Once a Prominent Atheist, Dies at 87" (2010), April 14, [http://news.yahoo.com/s/ap/20100414/ap\\_on\\_re\\_eu/eu\\_britain\\_obit\\_flew](http://news.yahoo.com/s/ap/20100414/ap_on_re_eu/eu_britain_obit_flew).

Butt, Kyle and Eric Lyons (2006), *Behold! The Lamb of God: Exploring the Historicity, Deity, and Personality of Christ* (Montgomery, AL: Apologetics Press).

Flew, Antony and Roy Varghese (2007), *There Is a God: How the World's Most Notorious Atheist Changed His Mind* (New York: Harper Collins).

Lyons, Eric and Kyle Butt (2010), *Receiving the Gift of Salvation* (Montgomery, AL: Apologetics Press), [http://www.apologeticspress.org/pdfs/e-books\\_pdf/Receiving%20the%20Gift%20of%20Salvation.pdf](http://www.apologeticspress.org/pdfs/e-books_pdf/Receiving%20the%20Gift%20of%20Salvation.pdf).

Miller, Dave (2004), "Atheist Finally 'Sobers Up,'" <http://www.apologeticspress.org/articles/2662>.

Our Congregational Calendar						
Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
20 Happy Birthday: Jeff Moser  Happy Anniversary: Kris & Missy Duer	21 Happy Birthday: Nicole Devoe	22	23 Bible class 7pm	24 Happy Birthday: Jon Lamarine  Happy Anniversary: Wes & Wendy Plybon	25 Happy Birthday: Adam Dlutowski  Happy Anniversary: Don & Chris Dion	26  Teen girl brunch with Alana 11:00
27 Happy Birthday: Glenna Evans	28	29 Happy Birthday: Jakob Owen	30 Singing night 7pm	1  Happy Anniversary: Gerry & Lynn Millette	2 Happy Birthday: Carol Eskel	3 Happy Birthday: Natalia Hombs  Happy Anniversary: Steve & Mary Roukey

*Teen News*

- Teen girls...There will be a brunch to get to know Alana at Linda Paul's on Saturday, June 26th beginning at 11a.m.

Our Statistics	
Sunday Morning Worship (combined)	No count
Contribution	\$3598.25

*The Manchester church of Christ*

*66 Mammoth Rd.*

*Manchester, NH 03109*