

THE BULLETIN

A GANDER BROOK UPDATE

Gander Brook is almost ready for its season of campers. I'm (Park) currently at Work and Worship Week, a time when those who love Gander Brook Christian Camp and have the opportunity come fix up, clean up, and patch up the camp from the ravages of winter in Maine. And currently I am glad to report that the camp is shaping up quite nicely.

The regular children's camping season begins this Saturday. Shawn Daggett has generously consented to come direct the camp again — what a great director he has been for the past several years! James Clark is also returning to camp as assistant director and he and Shawn make an outstanding team. The counseling staff is absolutely awesome: every year the recruiting committee with Shawn as a secondary filter works hard at hiring the very best — mature, spiritual, and fun to be with — staff anywhere, and this year I think we "hit a homerun"! They are great bunch — you ought to hear them sing!!

You're going to love the waterfront this year. One of the new

and notable things at camp this year is a giant inflatable slide at the waterfront. You've gotta see this thing to believe it! And it has been tested by camper-age young folks already and has gotten a "5 star rating". We also have a couple of sailboats this year to supplement our "fleet" of lake crafts — canoes.

Of course, there's still a rifle range, archery, paintball, soccer, softball, capture the flag, ultimate frisbee, basketball, volleyball, and the eternally popular four-square activities that are also part of camp. If you haven't registered yet, there are still openings in all weeks.

And if you know how much a Christian camp experience can help young people, but you don't have any children to send, you could possibly provide a full or partial campership (\$275/week). Your help would be a wonderful investment in a young person's spiritual life.

Gander Brook Christian Camp is "Camping with a Mission — Faith, Fun, and Friendship".

Manchester Church of Christ

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www.mhtcoc.org

Elder's Link: July

Lee Davis 547-8876

ladnlad@comcast.net

Larry Glass 887-1741

larrycalling@yahoo.com

If you have any concerns that the elders should be aware of, or need to speak to with them, please contact Lee or Larry 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.

Thanks to Preston for filling in the pulpit this Sunday morning. I hear it was great; I also hear it was short! Hey, Preston, don't make me look bad now! :) All kidding aside, it's really great to have Preston (and Alana) working with us; they're doing a great job.

This Sunday I'll be back and we'll be looking at the reliability of God's word. When God makes promises, when God tells us the truth about things, He doesn't speak like humans speak; it happens, it's true. And when we realize it, it makes huge differences in



our lives. Come see what I mean this Sunday — and bring a friend.

This Sunday evening we'll have a brief devotional and communion service for those who couldn't make the Sunday morning assembly, and then we'll launch off on a study entitled "Taking Sin Seriously". If you don't have a regular small group to gather with on Sunday evenings, come join us at the building at 6PM. I think you'll be glad you did.

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 July...

Graduation party The Cordaro's are inviting the congregation to join them in celebrating Stepanie's graduation from Pepperdine University. A party will be held at the Cordaro's home on Saturday, July 3rd from 12-3. Food will be provided.

Fellowship luncheon Adam and Debbie Dlutowski will be moving to Pennsylvania mid July . So...we would like to send them off with a fellowship luncheon this coming Sunday, July 4th after second service. Any questions, please see Sharon Gordon or Marge Simon. (See additional announcement below)

Body & soul workshop will be meeting on Sunday, July 11th at 1pm.

MNFM Due to the holiday, Monday Night for the Master will be postponed till the second Monday of the month, July 12th.

What else?

Help needed Adam & Deb will need

help loading their u-haul truck on Tuesday, July 13th after 12pm. Please let them know if you will be available to help or if you know of someone who could use a dining room set or couch.

This and that...

Food Drive There is a sign up sheet on the bulletin board in the foyer listing items we need to resupply the food pantry. Please take a look to see how you can help this important ministry.

Cards of encouragement If you would like to send a card to Jewell Tait's friend who was recently diagnosed with jaw cancer, her address is as follows:
Jean Poleatewich
36 Hickory Lane
Bedford, NH 03110

Prayer requests Darlene and Alan Chamberlain would like to request prayers for their brother, Mark who has been diagnosed with stomach cancer and their nephew, Jason who is having neck pain.

Directory update Phone #s for Cottrells: **Home** 518-5800

Preston 867-8035
Alana 867-8031

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.

Worship Leaders	
Sunday, July 4, 8:30AM	ScripturePete S.
SongsKen B.	Lord's SupperGary D.
Closing PrayerDoug P.	CoordinatorKen S.
ScriptureMike M.	
Lord's Supper Karl D.	Sunday, July 4, 6:00PM
CoordinatorKen B.	Songs.....Ken B.
Sunday, July 4, 11:00AM	Wednesday, July 7, 7:00PM
SongsRick G.	Songs.....Stuart P.
Closing PrayerRich T.	

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

ALL THE DEVIL'S APPLES HAVE WORMS

We do not know what kind of fruit the devil offered Eve in Eden. Perhaps it was a peach or a plum or a pomegranate. It could have been a mango or a fig. She might have tasted a pear or a grapefruit. The *los freseros* strawberry pickers of California seem to think it was a strawberry (although they don't grow on trees). They call strawberries *la fruta del diablo* which means "the fruit of the devil." (It could be because they spend ten hours a day in the hot sun, bent at the waist, picking those little red berries we enjoy from the supermarket.)

Or it could have been a Red Delicious apple that Eve saw that was "good for food, and that it was pleasant to the eyes, and a tree to be desired to make one wise." She ate the fruit "and gave also unto her husband with her; and he did eat" (Genesis 3:6)

Whatever it was, it was defective. That "apple" had a worm in it. Satan promised her freedom, but she found incarceration. He implied that she would be like God, but she could not even stand any more in His presence. She thought her life would improve, but afterward she spent her time hiding in the bushes. Life went downhill fast after that first bite of sin.

Today the devil has lots of choices in his fruit stand, but every last piece has a worm. Every bite is spiritual poison.

Sin as a poisonous fruit. It is interesting that the first sin involved fruit. Fruit is one of the most widely found ideas in the Bible. It is used in both positive and negative senses. Jesus taught, "For every tree is known by his own fruit" (Lk. 6:44). The blessed man of Psalm 1 is famously compared to "a tree planted by the rivers of water, that bringeth forth his fruit in his season" (1:3). Children are referred to as the "fruit of the womb" (Ps. 127:3). Jesus is the vine that brings forth much fruit (Jn. 15:5). The Lord's supper has the "fruit of the vine" (Lk 22:18). We are urged to possess the "fruit of the Spirit" (Gal. 5:22-23). The last chapter of the Bible says that heaven will have fruit. In fact "the tree of life" is identified as having twelve differing

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kinds of fruit – which it bears for one month at a time (Rev. 22:2).

Fruit can also refer to sin (Ps. 21:10). Solomon warned his son of the "bad apples" whose fruit the Lord would eventually pluck: *Then shall they call upon me, but I will not answer; they shall seek me early, but they shall not find me: for that they hated knowledge, and did not choose the fear of the Lord: they would none of my counsel: they despised all my reproof. Therefore shall they eat of the fruit of their own way, and be filled with their own devices (Prov. 1:28-31).* In the same vein, let's compare sin to wormy fruit, yea, fruit poisonous to the soul.

Sin poisons the mind. I don't know if worms are poison or not. It is unlikely that you would die from eating one, but you would definitely feel sick. On the other hand, there is no doubt that sin is poison. "The soul that sinneth, it shall die" (Ezek. 18:20). "The wages of sin is death" (Rom. 6:23). In the end sin "bringeth forth death" (Jms. 1:15). All unforgiven sinners will experience the second death (Rev. 21:8).

ABC Evening News reported on an unusual work of modern art-- a shotgun affixed to a chair. The art is to be viewed by sitting in the chair and looking directly down the gun barrel. The gun is loaded and set on a time to fire at an undetermined moment within the next hundred years. The amazing thing is that people wait in line to sit and stare down that barrel! They all know the gun could go off at point-blank range at any moment, but they gamble that the fatal blast won't happen during their minute in the chair. Yes, it was a foolhardy, yet many people who would not dream of sitting in that chair live a lifetime gambling that they can get away with sin. They eat poison fruit and think they'll never get sick. Foolishly, they ignore the risk until the inevitable self-destruction.

Sin sickens. If you took a bite of an apple only to look down to find half a worm left in the apple, you'd feel sick. Sin sickens those who stop to reflect on their actions. Sin cost Samson his self-respect (Judges 16:25). How did that prodigal son feel about himself when he smelled of pigs?

(Lk. 15:14-16).

Our sins may never land us in a pigpen, but they do put us into disgrace. We don't feel good about ourselves when we have been eating forbidden fruit. Those who have abortions, for instance, often have long periods of depression. Criminals and prostitutes can come to loathe themselves. "Regular" sinners have trouble with guilt too. Young people who cheat on tests, tell lies, and mistreat others don't think well of themselves when the lights go out and the head hits the pillow. Many who commit sexual sin go home and take a long shower to try to feel clean (but it does not work). Drug users try to hide their habit from others. Those who get drunk are often ashamed of their embarrassing or criminal behavior. Many young people have trouble looking at themselves in the mirror because they are sick of who they have become. You see, if you eat the devil's apple, you'll be sick.

Thankfully, God has the medicine that cures a sin-sick soul. He can remove the smell of the hogs and the bitter taste of sin. The blood of His Son is a cure-all for sin and guilt. Paul promises, "There is therefore now no condemnation to them which are in Christ Jesus, who walk not after the flesh, but after the Spirit" (Rom. 8:1). Have you quit eating wormy apples and "tasted the good word of God"? (Heb. 6:5). If not, "O taste and see that the Lord is good" (Ps. 34:8).

Sin disgusts others. If others saw you take that bite of half apple, half worm, everyone there would be disgusted. Your popularity would plummet. Sin also disgusts right thinking people. It divides and renders a person lonely. When Adam and Eve ate the forbidden fruit, one of the first results was a feeling of loneliness and separation from God. Samson must have felt isolated in that Gaza prison. Sin will certainly divide a teen from his God (Isa. 59:1-2) and his divine purpose (Gal. 5:17-23; Rom. 7:18-25), but it may also divide him from his family (Gen. 19) and from his brothers and sisters (2 Thes. 3:6). The ungodly will not be able to hold up their heads in the judgment (Ps. 1:5).

Our Congregational Calendar						
Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
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
4	5 Happy Birthday: Missy Duer Karen Dugre	6 Happy Anniversary: Barry & Melanie Fogal	7 Bible class 7pm	8 Happy Anniversary: Bob & Carol Eskel	9	10

<p><i>Teen News</i></p> <p>July 6th: Devotional/ service project 5-7:30</p> <p>July 13: Hangout/Devotional 6:30</p>
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Our Statistics	
Sunday Morning Worship (combined)	No count
Contribution	\$4161.75

The Manchester church of Christ

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