

# THE BULLETIN

## CHRISTIANS, CHICKENS, AND CARS

Recently a man remarked, "I'm a Christian, but I'm not the church going type. If I thought sitting in a church building for an hour a week would make me a Christian, I would not go into the garage for fear of turning into a car." Brilliant deduction! George Bailey has said and we agree, "sitting in a church house one hour a week will no more make one a Christian than sitting in a chicken house will make him a chicken."

You see it's like this. A person or object is identified by characteristics. Having four wheels does not identify an automobile; there are wagons and tractors and trailers with four wheels. And having two feet does not identify a fowl as a chicken; there are ducks and whooping cranes and cockatoos who also have two feet. Sitting in a church house does not identify one as a Christian; unsaved people often do so to learn how to be saved and we have heard that there are hypocrites who do it regularly.

But it is a characteristic of automobiles that they have four wheels; chickens do have two feet, and Christians do worship God faithfully. We would no more call a man who does not worship God a

Christian than we would call a ten-wheeled truck a car or a four footed lizard a chicken. There is just no such creature as a Christian who does not worship God!

Our Savior said, "If you continue in My word, then you are My disciples indeed" (Jn 8:31). In regard to the Lord's Supper He commanded, "This do in remembrance of Me" (I Cor. 11:24), and the disciples (Christians) "came together" upon the first day of the week to observe the Lord's Supper in His memory, as He said (Acts 20) and Christians still do.

Can you imagine a person claiming to be a Christian who will not even keep the memorial supper as the dying Savior asked? Hardly!

The early Christians enjoyed many other meetings than those upon the first day of the week for the Lord's Supper. (See Acts 5:42; 12:12; I Cor 14) The word of the Lord says "Forsaking not the assembling of ourselves together as the manner of some is" (Heb. 10:25). Is he a Christian who proudly flaunts these commands? No more than automobiles have two feet and chickens have four wheels.

Mack Lyon

### The Greatest Man

He had no earthly servants, yet they called Him Master.

He had no degree, yet they called Him Teacher.

He had no medicines, yet they called Him Healer.



He had no army, yet kings feared Him.

He won no military battles, yet He conquered the world.

He committed no crime, yet they crucified Him.

He was buried in a tomb, yet He lives.

#### The Manchester church of Christ

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

#### Elders' Link: August

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 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 house

Merrimack Small Group:

5:30PM, contact Stuart

Peacock

Wednesday PM Devotional/Bible Classes: 7:00

# OUR FAMILY

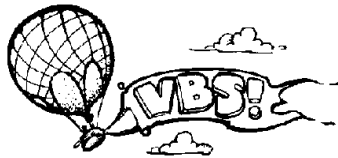
## NEWS TO USE

"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 August...

**MNFM** will be meeting next Monday, August 2<sup>nd</sup>. Dinner of ham, potatoes, vegetables, bread and dessert will be served at 6pm followed by prayer time, visiting and writing cards of encouragement. Please join us.

**Body & soul workshop** will be meeting on Sunday, August 8th at 1pm.



VBS is not that far away now, a little over 2 weeks. So it is time to spring into action! There is a list of various needed items posted on the bulletin board in the foyer. We are also in need of lots of cookies. Please check with Park to see what other ways you may be able to help make VBS a success.

### What else?

**Singing and fellowship**  
The Keene church of Christ invite us to join them on Sunday, August 13<sup>th</sup> at 2pm for an afternoon of singing and fellowship. See the flyer on the bulletin board for further details.

### This and that...

**Update on Doreen** She was able to go home last week and is requesting some meals. See Sharon Gordon or Marge Simon if you are able to help.

## SPECIAL NEED:

**Financial need** There have been some problems with the water system at Gander Brook the past couple of weeks and the cost for repairs

will be over \$6000. Please see Mike Moser if you are able to help meet this financial need.

**GB Retreats** Registration forms for the Men's and Ladies retreats are available on the table in the foyer. They are also available online at [www.ganderbrook.org/retreats.cfm](http://www.ganderbrook.org/retreats.cfm)

**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.

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

### Worship Leaders

#### 8:30

Songs.....Brandon H.  
Closing Prayer.....Karl D.  
Scripture.....Mark C.  
Lord's Supper.....Jim C.  
Coordinator.....Ken B.

#### 11:00

Songs.....Paul M.  
Closing Prayer.....Rich T.  
Scripture.....Pete S.  
Lord's Supper.....Gary D.  
Coordinator.....Rick G.

**PM Songs**.....Mark E.

**Wed 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

# IDOLS DU JOUR

Idols have never been just a problem of poor, superstitious men of darkened understanding in the dim and ancient past. It remains a problem even today and not just in remotest Africa, Asia, or south Pacific islands. Idolatry is rampant in sophisticated New York City, Los Angeles, Boston, and Manchester NH!

Idolatry, you see, is not just carved image worship like you might see among pagan religions (which are, incidentally also right in our own backyards today, too!) Idolatry is placing anything above God. Deuteronomy 6:15 notes that our God is a jealous God and is angered by any competition for our affection, loyalty, or love. Colossians 3:5 says that greed is idolatry; the idol being money. Consequently, idolatry doesn't have to have an image; it is anything placed in God's place. And our world is full of it and always has been, whether it was a pagan religion or inverted priorities; it is sad and disturbing, but it is the way of the world (Rom. 1:18-32).

But what is sadder and more disturbing is the idolatry that tries to creep into the Lord's church. Subtly, secretly, and relentlessly we are challenged and seduced by our flesh, by our culture, by our feelings, by our peers, by our egos to place some things above God. Oh no, we don't bow down to them and compose hymns of praise (except in the case

of celebrities and sex), but we place them above the Lord just as surely as if we did. We make them idols by obeying them first, by putting God's priorities under other things on our "To do" lists, by postponing (we hate to cancel) things for the Lord because we can always get around to that later, by longing to do other things while we find ourselves serving God.

Money is an easy idol to name, because it has been an idol for millennia, but there are other idols specific to our age and our culture (idols du jour) that we must pay attention to:

**FUN** What, are you against fun? No, no more than I am against money. But our culture, and especially among our youth, has raised fun to the level of a god. "Aw, I don't want to do that; it's not any fun." Sound familiar? And fun is fine, unless we start looking to skip church in favor of our fun, unless we can't wait until services are over so we can have some fun, or unless we have to have fun in the middle of a time that should be committed to worshipping our Creator and Savior. Do we resist going visiting because it isn't fun? Do we volunteer for this or that in the Lord's church because it is fun?

**SUCCESS/WINNING** God gives success and victory to our efforts all the time, but they can become our idols, too, if we don't take care. When integrity, ethics, or doing unto others as we'd have them do unto us gets swept away

in the pursuit of success, it has become an idol. When fairness, good sportsmanship, and relationships are sacrificed for victory's sake, God has been given second place.

**QUALITY OF LIFE** The Lord has given us many blessings, so He's not opposed to a good quality of life. But when we begin to embrace euthanasia, abortion, suicide and eugenics in the cause of "quality of life", we have placed something else above God's standard, and thus above God himself.

**MY WAY** When our feelings, opinions, methods, scruples, and preferences are raised to the level of doctrine, morals, or creed; when my way must be followed over every other way to the detriment of relationships, fellowship, and peace; when we must rule or we will ruin; we have elevated ourselves to the pedestal of the idol and displaced God as Lord. Doctrines, morals, and creeds are God's prerogatives, and relationships, fellowship, and peace are things that God prioritizes above oneself. And "if and man destroys the temple of God (the church), God will destroy him" (1 Cor. 3:17).

We must let God be God; let His way be our way; let God alone be Lord, or sadly, we will be turned away as idolaters (who me?) on that last great day.

Park Linscomb

***Our Congregational Calendar***

<i>Sunday</i>	<i>Monday</i>	<i>Tuesday</i>	<i>Wednesday</i>	<i>Thursday</i>	<i>Friday</i>	<i>Saturday</i>
25	26 Happy Birthday: Pete Steffensen	27	28 Happy Anniver- sary: Pete & Barbara Steffensen	29 Happy Birthday: Steve Roukey Bevin Sheehan	30	31 <b>Gander Brook Week 5</b> Happy Birthday: Gary Diaz Mark Dumas Park Linscomb
1 Happy Birthday: Eva Blackman	2 <b>Monday Night for the Master 6pm</b> Happy Birthday: Leslie Davis Happy Anniver- sary: Scott & Terri Apgar	3 Happy Birthday: Dick Potter Cecilia Skerry	4 Happy Anniver- sary: Larry & Vickie Glass	5 Happy Anniver- sary: Mark & Glenna Evans	6 Happy Birthday: Tom Carroll	7 <b>Gander Brook Week 6</b> Happy Birthday: Jen Devoe Jamie Hazelton

*Stats*

Sunday morning attendance.....No count  
 Sunday morning contribution.....\$6375.00  
 Weekly budget.....\$3710.00

*Thought Food -*

*Teen Stuff*

The church of Christ  
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