

THE BULLETIN

IT'S TIME TO SING



We finally have received the CDs from the Praise and Harmony Workshop coming up in October. There are about 30 copies that we received from Acappella Ministries. These have 2 CDs, one is Keith Lancaster and other singers singing about 25 songs, but the other CD (vocalist training disc) is for use in learning parts of these same songs.

When you listen to this CD, try listening on a stereo system that allows you to listen to left or right — or if lis-

tening with headphones, take off one side or the other — to better isolate the part you're trying to learn.

What a great Sunday evening we had the other evening! We included a devotional and communion service and then transitioned into a singing class. We did a brief segment on a little "Singing 101" (how to sing well and musical notation) and we then (after warming up a little) dived into learning a new song. Be sure to join us this Sunday at 6PM at the church building; we're asking all the small groups to suspend their meetings for a few weeks, so that everyone can join us at the building.

This Sunday we'll be studying the story of Naaman from the book of 2 Kings. It is an interesting story that has a lot of great applications to Christian living. Bring a Bible and something to take notes with; I think you'll be glad you did. As noted above, Sunday evening small groups are being asked to suspend their meetings for the next several weeks in



favor of a devotional and singing class at the building at 6PM in preparation for the Praise and Harmony Workshop by Keith Lancaster on October 17. The CDs are available now, and you're encouraged to pick one up and begin listening and learning these inspirational songs. Our God is worthy of our best worship; we as God's children need encouragement to fight the good fight; so, join us as we work at improving our worship in song.

The Manchester church of Christ
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Elders' Link: September

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 Larry Glass 887-1741
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If you have any concerns that the elders should be aware of, or need to speak 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 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 September ...

The Labor Day cookout will be held at the Potter's home on Monday, September 6th. There is a sign-up sheet posted on the bulletin board in the foyer. Please sign up so the Potters know how many people will be attending and what food you will be bringing.

The GB Labor Day Encampment is Labor Day weekend from Friday through Monday. Here's an opportunity to visit and associated with other Christians from around New England. There's a poster in the foyer for more info.

The Manchester Teen Retreat is September 10-12 at Gander Brook. The cost is \$30 per teen (more specifics later). This is our annual kick-off of our youth program for the year. See Preston with any questions.

What else?

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

The Keith Lancaster singing workshop is coming in October. We have received the CDs with songs that he would like us to be learning. So, we will suspend our usual Sunday night small groups and we'll share a devotional / communion service and a singing class. It'll be great fun and uplifting.

Ladies weekend of prayer The Greater Springfield church of Christ is hosting a weekend prayer retreat at Timothy Hill Christian camp on October 8-10th. More details to come.

This and that...

Prayer request Penny Ranger is requesting prayers for her dad who

is in the hospital with pneumonia.

Evaluation forms There is a box in the foyer labeled VBS evaluation. Please fill out an evaluation survey even if you did not participate in VBS this year. Your comments are much appreciated.

Wednesday evening meals will begin again on September 22. Menu and sign-up sheet will be posted soon.

Food Drive The sign-up sheet on the bulletin board in the foyer still has several food items that are needed. 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.....Ken B.
Closing Prayer.....Karl D.
Scripture.....Doug P.
Lord's Supper.....Larry G.
Coordinator.....Ken B.

11:00

Songs.....Gary D.
Closing Prayer.....Pete S.
Scripture.....David S.
Lord's Supper.....Rick G.
Coordinator.....Ken S.

PM Songs.....Mark E.

Wed songs.....Doug 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

THE ATHLETIC CHRISTIAN, PART 2

The Cloud of Witnesses

"Therefore, since we have so great a cloud of witnesses surrounding us, let us also lay aside every encumbrance and the sin which so easily entangles us, and let us run with endurance the race that is set before us," (Hebrews 12:1, NASB)

Sporting events always have their audiences, we love to watch "the thrill of victory... and the agony of defeat... the human drama of athletic competition..." — as ABC's Wide World of Sports used to say. And those audiences are pretty much the same, regardless of the sport. They contain young people, excited and enthused with the adrenaline of competition, who are still engaged in sports, looking for successful moves strategies; and they contain older, former competitors, retired from the arena of competition, but usually full of hard-won wisdom and skills gained from numerous games played and opponents faced. They fill the air with cheers and encouragement (including the ever-popular, "Come on! You can do better than that!") for their team and the occasional groans for muffed plays.

The book of Hebrews, after listing (chapter 11) faith's "Hall of Fame" (Hall of Faith?), challenges the reader — for encouragement's sake — to see, at least metaphorically, the unseen stadium that surrounds our own arena of (spiritual) competition. Our audience, our cloud of witnesses, is the "Hall of Faith". Now, it would appear from the rest of Scripture that the dead are not aware of what might or might not be happening here below on earth; but the important point

here is less about a literal, spiritual audience watching us, as much as it is about imagining what the faithful saints who've gone before us would say to us, if they could. What would they say?

How Abraham would cheer on those who are weary from waiting for answer to prayer or for fulfillment of promises. Can't you just hear him? "Go, go, go the distance. Don't quit!"

I wonder how loud David would be shouting, when a Christian man or woman is tempted sexually. "Oh no. Don't go there! Look the other way; change the channel. Come on, now; self-control!"

I suspect Elijah would sound a little like an old, seasoned coach as he observes any of us that might be ready to quit, because it just seems too hard. "Aw, come on. You think that's hard?! I've done 'pity parties' and they don't do any good. Suck it up, get busy; it's the hard that makes it great!"

Or the widow who gave her only two cents — can you imagine what she'd be saying as the collection plate gets passed around? "Yea, score! High fives all around!" Or perhaps sometimes, there would just a groan from her for muffing a chance to be generous or sacrificial or when someone is just plain miserly.

Would Paul himself not stand up in anticipation (like we do just as hitter strokes a high fly ball in the 9th inning that would win the game), when the chance to speak a word for Jesus comes up or the opportunity to invite someone to church pops up unexpectedly?

Would he, like Carlton Fisk in the 1975 World Series against the Reds, be jumping and frantically waving the ball fair — as we summon the courage to say something?

See how that motivates?

Of course, much could also be said about another segment of the audience that watches us. These aren't those retired from the competition, who've finished the course, but the younger observers. They're still competing and looking for the successful skills, strategies, and moves that will win the crown of life. What do they see; what do they say?

Do they say (think), "Really? Seriously? TV? Hobbies? That's the best way to invest your time to grow spiritually? You *look* strong and spiritually healthy. Well, OK." Do they say (think), "Hmm, I thought that was wrong." Or do they say, "Wow, I'm glad I watched how that's done, I would have naturally done it differently and gotten beaten bad by the Satan."

What is the audience saying? Are they cheering, holding their breathe, or groaning at your performance on the spiritual field of competition.

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>
29	30 Happy Birthday: Randall Chaffin	31 Happy Birthday: Ken Bell Glen Lauzon	1 Bible class 7pm Happy Birthday: Corey Roukey	2	3	4 Happy Birthday: Judy Perreault
5 Happy Birthday: Frank Perreault	6 Happy Anniver- sary: Randy & Candy Chase Kris & Jolene Karafelis	7	8 Bible class 7pm	9	10 Happy Birthday: David Bell Happy Anniver- sary: Mark & Kerstin Dumas	11

Stats

Sunday morning attendance.....No count
Sunday morning contribution.....\$2123.50
Weekly budget.....\$3710.00

Thought Food –

A Sunday school teacher asked, “Johnny, do you think Noah did a lot of fishing when he was on the ark?” “No,” replied Johnny. “How could he, with just two worms?”

Teen Stuff

Teen Retreat: Friday, Sept. 10 – Sunday, Sept. 12 @ Gander Brook Camp. This will be a special event for anyone in the youth group. Not only will there be food, games, and devotionals, but we will also establish the theme for this next year. It also marks the first event of seventh graders in the youth group. You do not want to miss it! Plan to leave Manchester about 4:30 PM on Friday and return early afternoon on Sunday. The weekend will cost \$30 primarily covering food expenses. Bring \$ for dinner on the road on Friday. More details will be coming soon.

Edgewood Youth Rally: Mark your calendars for the first youth rally of the school year in Mansfield, MA on Oct. 1-3. Parents, please consider chaperoning this event.

The church of Christ
 66 Mammoth Rd.
 Manchester NH 03109