

# THE BULLETIN

## Remember in Prayer

Please continue to keep the Lee family in your prayers and thoughts. Being strong proponents of God's willingness and ability to answer our prayers — the Lee family still needs our support and prayers. And please drop them a card, letting them know of your prayers for them. Sometimes we merely pray for folks in the privacy of our "closets", but there is great comfort (especially to the Lee family) in knowing that people are remembering them in prayer.

Please also stay diligent in praying for others in our congregation who are suffering the pains of disease or difficulty (Barry Fogal, Duane Coss, Penny Ranger, Pete Steffensen, and Lindsay Garrison to name just a few). It can sometimes be hard to be diligent and faithful in prayer for long term prayer needs, but let's stand faithful in behalf of our brethren who need God's power, intervention, and comfort. Prayer is effective! God listens and acts in our best interests!

This Sunday's sermon we're going to aim to build up our faith through looking at some of the evidences God has left us to demonstrate His existence. In a world where God is often a big question mark in the minds of many, the Christian can know what he believes. If you have a friend who may be struggling with this, bring him or her along; they just might find the answer they've been looking for.

James 5:13-18 "Is anyone among you suffering? Then he must pray. Is anyone cheerful? He is to sing praises. Is anyone among you sick? Then he must call for the elders of the church and they are to pray over him, anointing him with oil in the name of the Lord; and the prayer offered in faith will restore the one who is sick, and the Lord will raise him up, and if he has committed sins, they will be forgiven him. Therefore, confess your sins to one another, and pray for one another so that you may be healed. The effective prayer of a righteous man can accomplish much. Elijah was a man with a nature like ours, and he prayed earnestly that it would not rain, and it did not rain on the earth for three years and six months. Then he prayed again, and the sky poured rain and the earth produced its fruit."

Park



### The Manchester church of Christ

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603.623.5559

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

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

### Elders' Link: October

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 with them, please contact Duane or Barry this month.*

### Deacons

#### Benevolence & Finance

Mike Moser & Tony Casella

**Small Groups:** Stuart Peacock

**Education:** Doug Paul

**Maintenance:** Peter Steffensen

### Our Worship Services

Sunday AM: 8:30 & 11:00

Bible Class: 10:00

Sunday PM: 6:00

Small Groups:

West Side: 6:15PM at Doug

Paul's house

Merrimack: 5:30PM, contact

Stuart Peacock

Wednesday PM Devotional/Bible

Classes: 7:00

This Sunday evening there'll be devotional at the building which will include a communion service for those who couldn't make the morning services. Following that there'll be a Bible class on Deuteronomy — you'll find it more interesting than you might imagine. We're going to be looking for application to the Christian.

# OUR FAMILY

## NEWS TO USE

“Therefore encourage one another and build each other up, just as in fact you are doing.”

1 Thessalonians 5:11 NIV

### Coming up...

*Fifth Sunday:* special contribution for building fund.

*Monday Night for the Master:* November 1, 6pm American Bean Bake, Turkey soup, salad, biscuits, Sweet potato pie.

*Daylight saving time:* Fall back, 2 am, November 7.

*Singing Small Group:* November 19 at the Evan's.

*Christmas Party:* At the Glass's home, December 4.

*Conway Youth Rally:* February 25-27, 2011

*Conway Ladies weekend:* April 1-3, 2011

### Service opportunities

*Crafts for charity:* Anyone interested in making crafts for charity? Come to the building on Friday, October 29 at 6pm to discuss projects and charities to focus on. See Wendy for more details.

*Volunteers are needed to help*

move John, this Saturday, Oct 30, 8am at the church building.

### What Else?

*Directory pictures:* Send a jpg image you already have to [mht\\_church@comcast.net](mailto:mht_church@comcast.net).

*Ladies class* A fellowship group meets at 10am, Tuesdays. For more info contact Jewell Tait.

If you borrowed the extension cord from the hall closet, please return ASAP. “Your Humble Janitor”

### Additional Prayer concerns...

*Rick Lee* and the kids, Victoria, Brittany and Brandon

*Rick* for work; he has Bachelor's, & management experience

*Jen Devoe:* her mom's arm to heal; her sister found a breast lump; her friend Sheila-comfort and peace.

*Penny Ranger:* Healing from

bad cough & fever; Her father had surgery Monday to remove stomach blockage; waiting for recovery before lung biopsy.

*Lucille Levesque:* Her niece, still critical but improving; peace for the niece's siblings; wisdom for tough decisions about Niece's health care.

*Linda Paul:* Extreme pain from nerve damage caused by shingles. For safe travels.

### Thanks...

To all those who cooked meals for the Lees and Linda Paul.

Wednesday Night Menu for Nov 3  
 Creole Tomato soup  
 Jambalaya (rice, sausage, chicken, tomatoes)  
 Ratatouille (zucchini, tomatoes, eggplant, etc)  
 Bread  
 Pumpkin bread pudding

### Worship Leaders

#### 8:30

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

#### 11:00

Songs.....Paul M.  
 Closing Prayer.....Rick T.  
 Scripture.....Pete S.  
 Lord's Supper.....Gary D.  
 Coordinator.....Rick G.  
**PM Songs**.....Mark E.  
**Wed song (next wk)**...Mark E.

### Prayer Concerns

**Health:** Duane Coss, Barry Fogal, Pete Steffensen, Penny Ranger, Manley Jones, Lindsay Garison.  
**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

## Adding to Your Faith...Knowledge 2 Peter 1:5-7

Over the last couple of weeks we've been giving thought in this part of the bulletin to Peter's inspired encouragement to Christians to grow, found in 2 Peter 1:5-11 — "add to your faith..." We've looked at diligence and moral excellence already, and the next step in his exhortation is knowledge.

Now these days knowledge in the religious world is not necessarily in fashion. "Spirituality" is all the rage in popular culture, feeling the "spirit" is the goal of the worshipper, and creating a transcendent experience is the priority of many religious organizations. Adding knowledge is generally much, much farther down the priority list. But is minimizing knowledge the way to authentic, God-pleasing, redeeming Christianity?

Knowledge has always been important to God. Do you remember the passages out of Hosea (4:6) — "My people are destroyed for lack of knowledge. Because you have rejected knowledge, I also will reject you from being My priest. Since you have forgotten the law of your God, I also will forget your children"? There's nothing about being destroyed for lack of a transcendent experience in this passage or anywhere else. And yet, is God just all about being "big brained" — forget about the heart? By no means! And as a matter of fact, let's look at this passage a little more closely.

This idea of knowledge is about more than just head stuff. Knowledge in the Scripture is oftentimes used as in "Adam knew his wife Eve and they had a son" — relationship knowledge. This is in fact the major emphasis of the word in the prophecy of Hosea; that's why the book starts out with a relationship parable from Hosea's personal life. Knowledge is about knowing, really know-

ing, in a relationship sort of way, the Lord. Emotion, relationship, and a sense of covenant (in the truest and deepest sense of the concept) are all part of this biblical idea of growing in knowledge.

But did you notice in the Hosea 4:6 passage that it ended with a reference to what we might call "head-knowledge", too? He said, "Since you have forgotten the law of your God, I also will forget your children." Forgetting the "law of your God" is a rebuke about Israel's not learning and not knowing what God has said, what the Scripture teaches. Instead, they did their own thing. Indeed, sometimes it was complete departure and worship of Baal, but at other times it was the infamous "sin of Jeroboam" in which God was being worshipped after Israel's preferred fashion (including images to represent God, altars under every green tree, a priesthood from other than the family of Aaron, and "alternate" high holy days). This offended God and He accused them of not knowing Him. To illustrate, nothing will break a romantic moment faster than uttering someone else's name in the midst of an intimate encounter. In other words, if you want to know someone relationally; you need to know their name, eye color, preferences, etc., too. If we want to know God relationally, we need to know His word.

You see relational knowledge of God is, oddly enough — odd to our modern minds, anyway — founded on teachings about God. We're used to compartmentalizing knowledge and relationship, but in spiritual matters these things are interdependent.

Without knowledge we do not — we cannot — know the truth about spiritual reality; we cannot know (if you know what I mean) God's "eye color" or preferences. It is through the Scriptures, with all its stories and commands, that we find out about God's

nature — His holiness, His justice, His mercy, His patience, His loyalty and faithfulness, and His willingness to "pull the trigger" on punishment on the sinful. We find out about His expectation of obedience, how He defines love, and what is necessary for us to be in covenant with Him.

Without biblical knowledge all we have is a lot of spiritual passion that is destined to be dissipated by every wind of doctrine and channeled to the wrong paths. Check out the status of the more fashionably liberal denominations in Christendom, who stand for very little (some have actually embraced homosexuality, goddess theology, and "white magic") and are experiencing a rapid decline in numbers and involvement (see for example *The Empty Pew*, Thomas C. Reeves and the latest Barna surveys).

Without biblical knowledge we — just like ancient Israel — soon begin to displease God. We start to work harder at pleasing ourselves in worship (what we like), and tell ourselves that if we please ourselves, surely we are pleasing God, too.

On the other hand, when you are "diligent to present yourself approved to God as a workman who does not need to be ashamed, accurately handling the word of truth." (2 Timothy 2:15) you know how to answer the Tempter (see Matt. 4:1-11), how to please God in worship, which pattern is God's and how to follow it (1 Tim. 1:13,14), how to endure the suffering and persecutions that come our way (2 Cor. 12:9,10), and what unseen things we should be seeing (2 Cor. 4:18) — and more.

We must add to our faith biblical knowledge, which in turn will add to our relational knowledge with the Lord. Study! Learn! Know!

***Our Congregational Calendar***

<i>Sunday</i>	<i>Monday</i>	<i>Tuesday</i>	<i>Wednesday</i>	<i>Thursday</i>	<i>Friday</i>	<i>Saturday</i>
24 Happy Birthday: Jon Potter Jr.	25	26	27	28	29 <b>Crafts for charity</b> 6pm	30 Happy Birthday: Tom Jones
31 Happy Birthday: Jon Potter Jr.	1 <b>Monday Night for the Master</b> 6pm Happy Birthday: Heidi Huddles- ton	2	3 Happy Birthday: Michael Devoe	4 Happy Birthday: Liam Mattox	5	6 Happy Birthday: Deniza Chase

*Stats*

*Sunday morning attendance*.....No count  
*Sunday morning contribution*.....\$2972.25  
*Weekly budget*.....\$3710.00

*Thought Food –*

“Do not be wise in your own eyes;  
 Fear the LORD and turn away from evil.  
 It will be healing to your body  
 and refreshment to your bones.”  
 Proverbs 3:7-8 NASB

*Teen Stuff*

**Manchester/Wallingford, CT Youth Rally:** Nov. 12-14. If you are interested in going, please see Preston.  
 We have many other activities going on. Please stay tuned for more information. If you are interested in helping out with the teen ministry in any way, please see Preston. Opportunities include: hosting an event, preparing a meal, writing notes of encouragement, driving to/from events, and many other ways. Consider getting involved. We would love to have your talents!

The church of Christ  
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