

# THE BULLETIN

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## What Were They Thinking?

Have you ever read a story in the paper or heard something on the news that made you think *What were they thinking?* It happens to me sometimes, when I'm reading through the Bible, too. Occasionally, I can't help but read the stories and wonder, "*What were they thinking?*" Although the following "quotes" are mostly only fictional, they reflect something of what must have been going on in the minds of these Bible characters...

- "*The fruit looks really good to eat.*" — Adam and Eve
- "*Rain? What's rain? Fine, Noah, let it rain. See if we care!*" — Noah's pre-flood generation
- "*No one will ever know that we held some of our contribution back. They'll all think we gave it all!*" — Ananias and Sapphira
- "*It's just one Jewish carpenter. Crucifying Him for the stability of the Roman hold on Judea is a small price to pay*" — Pilate
- "*Look at these foolish Jews sending out a kid to fight Goliath!*" — the Philistines
- "*One little one-night-stand won't make any difference; no one will ever know.*" — David regarding Bathsheba
- "*It's just a few little tweaks in the system. God will still be worshipped and I'll stabilize my kingdom.*" — Jeroboam
- "*Naomi's right, I've got to think about myself now; she's on her way out anyway.*" — Orpah, Ruth's sister-in-law and Naomi's daughter-in-law
- "*No one will ever know I stole a few trinkets from Jericho.*" — Achan
- "*Moses doesn't know what he's doing. He's pulling all his leadership right out of a hat; God's not really with him anymore; my judgment is just as good, if not better. We want to go back to Egypt anyway!*" — Korah, just before being swallowed alive by the earth
- "*Those Canaanites are giants, their cities are impregnable! There's absolutely no way we can possibly conquer this 'Promised Land'!*" — the 10 spies who brought a bad report to Israel
- "*What difference will it make if we bring Baal worship into Israel. Hey, one religion is as good as another; one god is as good as another. It's all the same.*" — King Ahab

The outcomes of these various "thoughts" that I've proposed here were pretty obvious from the start. Which underscores the need we have to be careful what we think, because God always wins and Satan always loses; sin destroys and righteousness brings life.

Satan puts all kinds of foolish thoughts into our heads. We need to be guided by God's word, not by worldly wisdom. We definitely don't want to be part of any future heavenly list of "What were they thinking?"

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Wow, this Sunday we will be meeting for the first time in a long time altogether in one service to worship God! This permanent change from two service to one will be a great new chapter in the Lord's church here. I'm getting psyched! Imagine the singing; imagine the fellowship; imagine communion; imagine the enthusiasm! Imagine the longer Bible class time, too! And in conjunction with this important Sunday, the sermon title is "What A Fellowship!", and I'll be talking about the wonderful fellowship of the Lord's wonderful church!



Park Linscomb, our minister

In the evening we have a number of small groups that meet around the great Manchester area, and you're invited to join any one of them. If you're not a regular member of any small group, you'd be very welcome to join us at the church building at 6PM for a devotional, a communion service, and a Bible class. We'll be starting a study of 1 Timothy this Sunday, so come join us with a Bible and maybe a friend — but definitely an open heart for God's word and God's people.

# Our Family

"Therefore encourage one another and build each other up, just as in fact you are doing."  
1 Thessalonians 5:11 NIV

## NOTE FROM THE ELDERS:

### WE ARE CHANGING!

After much discussion, consideration, and prayer, the eldership has decided to combine the worship services to a single service. The start time for the Sunday Worship will be 9:30 AM with Bible Class at 11:00 AM. Our first Sunday on the new schedule will be May 6th. There may be some adjustments that need to be made to seating and meeting times as we start out so we ask for your patience during this transition period. We understand that change can be difficult sometimes but we have learned that there is a consensus that we need to meet all together to help us grow spiritually and encourage one another to love and serve the Lord. Please feel free to provide your feedback concerning this change.

## PRAYER REQUESTS

*For our Ladies Day.*

*The Women at Angie's Place: Strength & perseverance.*

*Tresor DeFrancesco looking for work.*

*Danielle Upton prayers for everything*

*Geneva Baum's Nephew, Glenn, in prison*

*Cindy Longhenry, requests prayers for a personal issue.*

*Jamie, Linda Carroll's daughter: in an unhealthy relationship.*

*Pray that she comes back to a good relationship with God.*

*Jen Devoe: for wisdom, discernment, safety & knowledge as she completes her final semester.*

*Jen Devoe requests prayers for a friend whose marriage is under attack. For wisdom & a return of unity for her family.*

*Nicole Mosier's Grandmother. Moving to an assisted living*

*Dave Jones to have an open heart for God & for Tom as he strives to teach him.*

*Guyana Mission trip*

*Linda Tetrault: Living situation*

*Gerry Millette: post retirement job*

*Mark Brown & his daughter*

*Cory Roukey faith and guidance*

*Brenda, Lee's sister, Court/grandchildren's custody*

*Marie Levesque (job needed)*

*Sharon Abood looking for work.*

### Health

*Penny Ranger has mrsa*

*Pete Steffensen*

*Dick Potter: heart bypass surgery mid May*

*Geneva Baum's sister, Gloria had surgery Monday.*

*Lainie Ball & her son Jayden. Both with health issues.*

*For Brynlee Letendre, brain cancer.*

*Mike Devoe's cousin (sinus cancer.)*

*Nita Hunt has cancer. Her husband, Ray, leads the Guyana mission trip so they will not be able to attend this year.*

*Dwayne Gray, Susie's dad.*

*Jennifer Crain*

*John Matthew Davis*

*Leslie Davis' mom*

*Kathy, Marge Simon's niece, cancer*

*Eileen Wasserstrom*

*Aaron Abood (foot to heal)*

*Barbara, Freda's daughter*

### Thanks

*The Chases thank you all for your many prayers & thank God for the blessing of continuing to raise the children.*

## JOB OPENING

The congregation will have an opening for secretary so we are looking for a responsible person interested in part time work. Contact Glenna or one of the elders.

## NEWS

**New Sister in Christ:** Wendy Hayes was baptized into Christ on Friday. 265 Bridge St., Fl 1, Manchester, NH 03104, 603-660-8230, [whayests@yaho.com](mailto:whayests@yaho.com)

**New directory pages for the Scarletts on the foyer counter.**

**New adult Bible class started April 29.** "Spiritual growth: Formation & Transformation" taught by Paul Mosier.

**Gander Brook:** 2012 registration forms are on the back counter in the foyer Interested in providing camperships? Please give funds to either Tony Casella, Park or Rich Therrien.

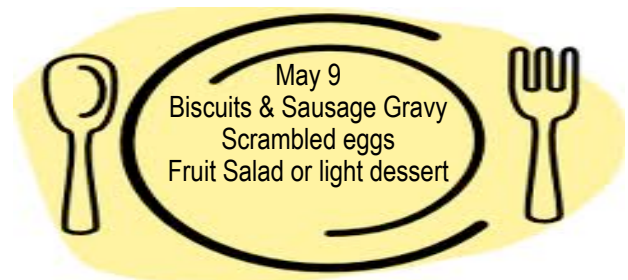
## MARK YOUR CALENDARS

**May 5 Baby Shower** for Kehinde Ogunsuyi. Here at the building from 10-12:30 Contact Barbara Steffensen, Sue Burdette, or Deb Dlutowski to help with food. She is registered at Babies R Us. #48187851

**May 7 Monday Night for the Master 6pm.** Roast Turkey, Stuffing potatoes & gravy, vegetable & dessert

**May 19 Ladies Day HERE!** RSVP to Darby, or Susie if you will attend. Casandra Martin, speaker.

**May 18-20 GB's Center for Christian Leadership** classes for men. More details on bulletin board.



## OPPORTUNITIES to SERVE

•VBS August 13-15

•Furniture needed: Kitchen table, & chairs, sofa, dresser. See David Skerry

•Help with making or clearing Communion trays

•Take trash & recycling to the curb on Wed. evenings.

•Mentor a younger Christian.

•Visit those sick or shut in.

•Cook for a Wednesday night supper.

• Use YOUR talent for God.

•Clip coupons for food pantry items. Place in box on foyer counter or give to Kim Daggett.

•The Pantry could use YOUR help. Bring donations of food Cash donations can be placed in envelopes available behind the seats. Drop them in the collection plate.

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# Are You a Disciple, or Just a Member?

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Yes, I know. Discipleship and membership in the Lord's church are supposed to be the same. Acts 2:47 tells us that the early disciples in Jerusalem from the day of Pentecost were "praising God and having favor with all the people. And the Lord was adding to their number day by day those who were being saved." "Their number" was the church, so yes, discipleship and membership should be the same.

But we also know from a practical point of view that sometimes disciples cool off in their fervor and zeal and "settle in" to become "mere members". Consequently, there are sometimes churches, full of members, only some of which are really disciples. Which category do you think you'd fit in? Although the following list is far from comprehensive, it might serve as a brief self-test (see 2 Corinthians 13:5).

- Disciples say, "Let's go!" when it comes to sharing the Gospel; mere members tend to say, "Come to us."
- Disciples remember poignantly their salvation and Christ's love still compels them; mere members seldom if ever go there anymore.
- Disciples are lovingly and courageously bold in their faith; mere members don't want to rock anyone's boat, look too charismatic, or offend anyone.
- Disciples say, "I'll volunteer to do anything for the Lord or His church!"; mere members says, "Let someone else do it."
- Disciples say, "I'll give sacrificially"; mere members tend to say, "I'll give a little, but not too much."
- Disciples consistently put Jesus and His priorities first; mere members will put Jesus second, if something "more important" comes up.
- Disciples may sin, but immediately repent and work hard at change — no matter how often they've messed up; mere members have sometimes given up on trying to overcome certain weaknesses, simply banking on the Lord's grace to cover it.
- Disciples change and grow; mere members are satisfied to "stand pat" with the status quo.
- Disciples still listen carefully to the Lord; mere members sometimes get their spiritual advice from the world, its celebrities, its philosophies, and its priorities.
- Disciples are hungry and thirsty for righteousness; mere members are satisfied.
- Disciples let no persecution stop them or slow them down; mere members quickly retract and back down when resistance is met.
- Discipleship always gets something out of worship; mere members sometimes do and sometimes don't.

So which category did you tend to be in? The Lord, we are certain, will be coming back one day for His disciples. But will He also be coming for "mere members"? That (Revelation 3:15,16) seems — well — less certain.

Is it possible to return to being a disciple? Gladly, yes! Jesus said, "Those whom I love, I reprove and discipline; therefore be zealous and repent. Behold, I stand at the door and knock; if anyone hears My voice and opens the door, I will come in to him and will dine with him, and he with Me." (Revelation 3:19, 20).

Park Linscomb

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Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
29 Happy Birthday Steven Bell	30	1	2	3 Happy Birthday Matthew Karafelis	4	5 <b>Baby Shower for Kehinde Ogunsuyi 10-12:30</b> Happy Anniversary to Carl & Beth King
6 <b>NEW HOURS Worship: 9:30am, Sunday School: 11am.</b> Happy Birthday Sue Bell	7 <b>Monday Night for the Master 6pm</b> Happy Birthday Patrick & Deb Garven	8 Happy Birthday Kaylee Daggett	9 Happy Birthday Mary Roukey	10 Happy Birthday Nicole Cordaro	11	12
13 Happy Birthday Noelani Hillhouse Casey Peacock	14	15	16 Happy Birthday Marge Simon	17	18	19 <b>LADIES DAY HERE!</b> Registration at 8:30am Ends by 3pm
20 <b>Third Sunday Potluck 5pm Devo led by Merrimack Small Group</b>	21 Happy Anniversary Brandon & Veronika Hombs	22 Happy Birthday Karl Davies	23	24 Happy Anniversary Jim & Darlene Cordaro	25 Happy Anniversary Rick & Sharon Gordon	26 Happy Birthday Veronika Hombs

**The Manchester church of Christ**

603.623.5559 [mht\\_church@comcast.net](mailto:mht_church@comcast.net)

**Elders' Link: May**

Mike Moser 661-6381 [heyymikeymo@comcast.net](mailto:heyymikeymo@comcast.net)

Larry Glass 887-1741 [larrycalling@yahoo.com](mailto:larrycalling@yahoo.com)

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

**Deacons**

- Finance: Tony Casella
- Small Groups: Stuart Peacock
- Education: Doug Paul
- Maintenance: Peter Steffensen

**Our Worship Services**

Sunday AM: 9:30

Bible Class: 11:00

Sunday PM: 6:00

Small Groups:

West Side: 5PM at Doug Paul's house, Hebrews study

Merrimack: 5:30PM, contact Stuart Peacock, youth studies

Wednesday PM Devotional/Bible Classes: 7:00

Contact David Skerry with Benevolence/Pantry needs.



9:30	WORSHIP LEADERS
Brandon Hombs	Songs
Stuart Peacock	Closing Prayer
Mike Moser	Scripture
Fred Hillhouse	Lord's supper
Ken Simon	Coordinator
Mark Evans	Worship Tech
Eve: Mark Evans	Songs
Doug Paul	Wed Songs

**Stats**

Sunday morning attendance:....121  
 Sunday morning contribution.\$4549.84  
 Building Fund contribution.....\$623.85  
 Weekly budget.....\$3800.00  
 Pantry served 2 families this week.