

# THE BULLETIN

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## The Bear in the Cave

There is an old story about a man crossing a pasture and he happened to arouse the attention of a large bull which charged him. The man, running for his life and hotly pursued by the bull, ran for a small cave in the hillside some distance away. He could almost feel the bull's breath on his back as he dived into the cave.

Almost instantly, however, he popped out of the cave whereupon the bull charged him again, and he dived back into the cave. This occurred several times before a bumble bee began circling the bull's head calling attention to his own welfare. The man, seeing the bull's attention diverted, darted out of the cave, ran to a fence a hundred yards away and fell across it onto the ground, gasping for breath.

A farmer who had been watching the incident said, "Friend, why in the name of common sense didn't you stay in the cave where you were safe?" The man replied while panting deeply, "Man, you should have seen the size of that bear in the cave."



Besides being humorous, this story contains a moral for us. Quite often, we, like the farmer, stand watching the actions of others and are prone to condemn and criticize. Actually, if we could see the "Bear n the cave" that they have to deal with we might understand why they do what they do. Perhaps we would do as badly or worse. Let's try to be long suffering.

author unknown

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This Sunday I'll be teaching at Gander Brook's Center for Christian Leadership. Preston will fill the pulpit, while I'm gone. His sermon topic will be...

This Sunday evening is a unified evening, in which all the small groups will be coming together at 5PM for a fellowship meal and devotional/Bible study at 6PM. The



Park Linscomb, our minister

Merrimack small group will lead us in our devotional and Bible study. If you attend one of our small groups, be sure and come to the building this Sunday evening. If you don't usually come to a small group, come to this evening's meal and devotional this Sunday. I know you'll be really glad you did.

# 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

Many of you may have heard that there have been discussions about how best to improve our facilities. Many ideas have been floated about doing targeted renovations here. Everything is in the planning stage and nothing is settled on. We are trying to find our way to best expand our facilities to serve the Lord here in Manchester, including doing some aggressive fundraising for the brand new building we have plans for. If anyone has any ideas about the building program, please see any of the elders or deacons.

## Prayer Requests

- ▶ For Darby Coss & her family. Her Dad died last week.
- ▶ For our Ladies Day.
- ▶ For the growth & unity of our congregation
- ▶ For greater influence on our non Christian family members
- ▶ For Gary Chase looking for work
- ▶ Melissa Mullins' mother
- ▶ 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 Emma
- ▶ Cory Roukey faith and guidance
- ▶ Brenda, Lee's sister, Court/grandchildren's custody
- ▶ Marie Levesque (job needed)
- ▶ Sharon Abood looking for work.

## Health

- ▶ Diane, Duane's sister, in her last days of a battle with cancer.
- ▶ Penny Ranger has mrsa, improving Dr appt tomorrow. Needs DR approval for new wheelchair.
- ▶ Pete Steffensen
- ▶ Dick Potter: heart bypass surgery Monday went well
- ▶ Geneva Baum's sister, Gloria, being moved to rehab
- ▶ Lainie Ball & her son Jayden. Both with health issues.
- ▶ For Brynlee Letendre, brain cancer.
- ▶ Mike Devoe's cousin (sinus cancer.)
- ▶ Nita Hunt: cancer. Husband, Ray, has led the Guyana mission trip Dwaine 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 Ogunsuyi's thank the congregation for their generosity shown with their baby shower. See Bulletin board for note.
- ▶ Peggy Mailloux is thankful to learn that her balance issues are caused by an inner ear issue that can be treated!

## Teens

Fuse tomorrow night at 7pm at the Peacocks. Bring snacks.  
See Teen News letter for more info.

## News

**Welcome** to Abigail Krivak. She just moved here to work at the Merrimack outlet mall. Her contact info is: 30 Sentinel Court, Apt 104, manchester, NH, 03103. Phone 724-234-7595, [alk2208@gmail.com](mailto:alk2208@gmail.com)

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

**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 19** Ladies day here 8:30-3pm.

**May 19** Singing small group 6pm Dinner 7pm singing at Evans. rsvp for dinner

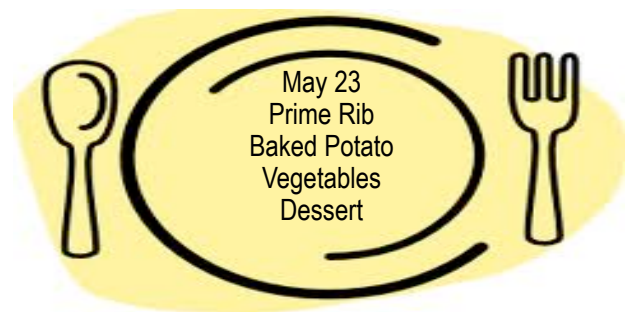
**May 23 Last Wednesday Night supper of the year.**

**June 9** Family Favorite Cook Off hosted by the church of Christ in Roxbury 11-4 See bulletin board for more info & entry forms.

**June 16** Singles Workshop at church of Christ in Milton. "Fit for the Master's Use." See bulletin board for more info

**August 4** is the wedding of Carolyn Apgar & Mark Lowery. Please see invitation on the bulletin board & rsvp to Terri.

**August 13-15** Vacation Bible School



## Opportunities to Serve

- **VBS August 13-15**
- 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.
- 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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# Happiness is Dysfunction Junction in Your Rearview Mirror part 1

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The word dysfunction comes from “dys” meaning *skewed, messed up, or bad*; and the word “function” comes from the word meaning *to work as designed*. Thus, the word dysfunctional describes something that is working badly or not working as designed. It’s used especially in the psychological world of people or marriages of families that seem to do everything wrong, while expecting things to work out alright. The bad news is that it is a description of what has been going on since the fall of mankind, and we all own a piece of it — some more than others. But dysfunctionality is not what Jesus has in mind for us; indeed being His disciple means leaving “Dysfunction Junction” behind.

Paul wrote (Ephesians 2:10), “For we are His workmanship, created in Christ Jesus for good works, which God prepared beforehand so that we would walk in them.” You, your marriage, and your family were never meant to be dysfunctional; you are God’s workmanship in Christ and God doesn’t make dysfunctional junk. When we let Jesus take the lead, a transformational thing happens to even the most dysfunctional lives. In the next few bulletin articles here I’d like to talk about practical things to focus on to leave “Dysfunction Junction” behind. The first of those things is to listen to Jesus, not your emotions.

Although emotions are part of being human, and even a part of the image of God, they must never rule us. Leading with one’s emotions is the single greatest contributor to dysfunctional living. The world around us is full of its justifications for it: “I just really **felt** like this was the best thing for me”, “I’m being true to myself and following my heart”, “I just couldn’t...”, “I couldn’t be a hypocrite; I had to say what I felt”, and much more. And our society has normalized dysfunction so such a degree these days that no one even tries to challenge these foolish excuses

for foolish behavior — like outbursts of profanity, disrespect, rebellion, emotional “meltdowns”, sinful sexual behavior, substance abuse, quitting, and more. Galatians 5:20 logs a few in its list of deeds of the flesh: “idolatry, sorcery, enmities, strife, jealousy, outbursts of anger, disputes, dissensions, factions.” Debby Boone, years ago, persuaded us with what could be considered the heartfelt anthem of dysfunctional living, “It can’t be wrong, when it **feels** so right”. Following such a delusion will only and always land you in *downtown* “Dysfunction Junction”.

On the other hand, listening to Jesus puts Dysfunction Junction in the rearview mirror. On the mount of transfiguration, in the presence of a transfigured Jesus, Peter, James, and John heard God’s voice coming out of a bright cloud that hovered over them (Luke 9:35). “...This is My Son, My Chosen One; listen to Him!” Note God didn’t say, “Listen to logic”, “Listen to psychology”, “Listen to Oprah”, “Listen to your heart.” He said, “Listen to Him (My Son).” Too often we are disciples of our lusts, our desires, our anger, and our emotions — not of Jesus. Such low “discipleship” always leads us to do destructive, damaging, dysfunctional things. We’ll never have a “Norman Rockwell” family or life by following our emotions, by lying and cheating, by quitting, by angry outbursts, by drinking and drugging, or having my way all the time. Jesus shows us the way to good, righteous, holy, godly, and wise things. It is then that we can and should follow with emotion and zeal. His way makes us into what God has in mind for our personal lives, marriages, and families — making us into His highest quality workmanship.

Leave “Dysfunction Junction” behind. Listen to and obey Jesus.

Park Linscomb

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Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
13 Happy Birthday Noelani Hillhouse Casey Peacock	14	15	16 Happy Birthday Marge Simon	17	18 <b>Dessert with Casandra</b> 7pm Ladies Classroom GBCCL @ GB	19 <b>LADIES DAY HERE!</b> Registration at 8:30am Ends by 3pm <b>Singing Small Group at Evan's 7pm</b> GBCCL @ GB
20 <b>Third Sunday Potluck 5pm Devo led by Merrimack Small Group</b> GBCCL @ GB	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
27 Happy Birthday Rick Gordon	28 Happy Birthday Mandy Hazelton	29	30 Fifth Wednesday Singing Happy Birthday Faith Hazelton	31	1	2
3 Happy Birthday Walter Franklin	4 Happy Birthday to Tony Casella & Algie Beard Happy Anniversary to Stuart & Susie Peacock	5	6 Happy Birthday to James Karafelis, Doug Paul & Mary Scarlett	7 Happy Anniversary Zane & Kim Daggett	8 Happy Birthday to Nancy Kerrins & Beth King	9

**The Manchester church of Christ**

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

**Elders' Link: May**

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

9:30	WORSHIP LEADERS
Mark Evans	<b>Songs</b>
Fred Hillhouse	<b>Closing Prayer</b>
Doug Paul	<b>Scripture</b>
Karl Davies	<b>Lord's supper</b>
Stuart Peacock	<b>Coordinator</b>
Glenna Evans	<b>Worship Tech</b>
Eve: Mark Evans	<b>Songs</b>
May 23: Stuart Peacock	<b>Wed Songs</b>

<b>Stats</b>
Sunday morning attendance:....115
Sunday morning contribution.\$3038.00
Weekly budget.....\$3800.00
Pantry served 1 family this week.