

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
17 Fellowship Luncheon Happy Anniversary Park & Linda	18 Memorial Service for Algie Beard 1:00	19	20	21	22  All Church Retreat	23 Happy Anniversary Dave & Cecilia
24 Happy Anniversary Rich & Marlane Wilson Happy Birthday Jackie Ferris	25 Happy Anniversary John & Mary Scarlett Happy Birthday Jordan Ferris	26	27 Happy Birthday Darlene Chamberlain	28	29 Ladies Fun Day @ Clough State Park GAD Planning Meeting 6:00 @ Skerry's	30
31 Happy Birthday Ken Bell	Sept 1 Labor Day Picnic	2	3	4 Happy Anniversary Will & Kathy Hamel	5 Teen Retreat	6 Happy Anniversary Randy & Candy Chase; Jolene & Kris Karafelis
7	8	9 Family Prayer Night	10 Happy Anniversary Mark & Kerstin Dumas	11 Ladies Retreat	12 Happy Birthday Sasha Hombs & Marlane Wilson	13



We are so pleased that you have joined us for worship this morning. If you are visiting, we hope that you will feel warmly welcomed by our church family. Our prayer is that you may be encouraged and uplifted as we worship together. Please join us downstairs after worship for some coffee and fellowship, followed by bible classes for all ages.

Toil and Trouble...

In the day-to-day experiences of life, we have opportunities to learn to be like Jesus, to choose to be patient, to be considerate, to help others, to pray. On the job and in our homes, Jesus has something to say about what we do.

What about the trials and difficulties of life? We wish they'd go away, but Jesus never promised that. Instead, he promised us problems: "In this world you will have trouble" ([John 16:33](#)). "No servant is greater than his master. If they persecuted me, they will persecute you also" ([John 15:20](#)).

God uses our difficulties as opportunities for us to learn. Even Jesus had to experience troubles. "Although he was a son, he learned obedience from what he suffered" ([Hebrews 5:8](#)). If even Jesus had to learn through suffering, we can expect it to be part of our training program, too.



We will experience problems in life whether or not we follow Jesus. Our choice is not whether to have problems, but whether we learn from those problems. Do we react to them the way Jesus would, or do we become bitter and seek revenge? We learn more about love when we love people who are hard to love; we learn more about forgiveness when people sin against us. Our character is shaped more like Jesus not so much in good times, but in difficult times.

We do not always understand why God allows people to suffer. We may not see any good in it, or any lesson to learn. But God assures us that "in all things God works for the good of those who love him, who have been called according to his purpose" ([Romans 8:28](#)). We may not know how—we just have to trust him.

Whatever the trial, we can at least be assured of this: "Our present sufferings are not worth comparing with the glory that will be revealed in us" ([Romans 8:18](#)). We can be confident, even in our trials, that God has something wonderful planned for us. Our trials are only temporary, but the glory will last forever!
~Michael Morrison

Our Minister:
Park Linscomb 540-0287

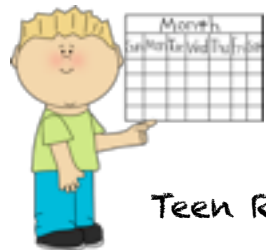
Our Elders:
Barry Fogal 487-2387
Larry Glass 887-1741
Gerry Millette 497-3105
Mike Moser 429-9487

Our Deacons:
Tony Casella- Finance
Fred Hillhouse- Facilities
Doug Paul- Education
Stuart Peacock- Worship
Pete Steffensen- Facilities
David Skerry- Benevolence & Outreach

Elders' Link: August
Mike Moser 429-9487
michaelmoser@comcast.net
Barry Fogal 487-2387

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

TEENS



TUESDAY-chill 7:00-8:00 @ the Skerrys'

Teen Retreat- Sept 5-7

Thanks to all who helped with VBS. You guys ROCK!



WORSHIP SCHEDULE

August 24	WORSHIP LEADERS
Stuart Peacock	Songs
Fred Hillhouse	Closing Prayer
Rich Wilson	Scripture
John Osceola	Lord's Supper
Rich Therrien	Worship Tech
Ken Simon	Coordinator
Barry Fogal	Call to Worship
Park L. or Steve J.	Songs pm
Aug 20- Doug Paul	Wed Songs
Aug 20- Mike Moser	Wed Devotional

Statistics

Sunday morning attendance:...~120
Sunday morning contribution:...\$2302.80
Weekly budget:.....\$3800.00
Pantry Served 2 Families this week.



The Manchester church of Christ
603.623.5559 mht_church@comcast.net

Our Worship Services

Sunday AM: 9:30
Bible Class: 11:00
Sunday PM: 6:00 (3rd Sunday congregational potluck @ noon)
Small Groups:

West Side: 5:30 at the Pauls' - Study of Acts.
Merrimack: 5:30 - youth studies @ Peacocks'
Concord: 5:30 at the Wilsons'
Wednesday PM Devotional/Bible Classes: 7:00

Contact David Skerry with Benevolence/Pantry needs.

Our Family

"I have told you these things, so that in me you may have peace. In this world you will have trouble. But take heart! I have overcome the world." ~John 16:33

A HUGE THANK YOU to all of our VBS volunteers! You are all AMAZING and very much appreciated!



News & Important Dates:

- TODAY:** 3rd Sunday Fellowship at noon
- Aug 18:** Memorial service for Algie Beard 1:00 Concord Church of Christ building
- August 22-24:** Manchester Family Retreat Gander Brook
- August 29:** GAD Kick Off planning meeting. 6:00 @ Skerry's
- Sept 1:** Church Labor Day Picnic at the Potters
- Sept 8:** Monday Night for the Master
- Sept 11-13:** Ladies Retreat
- Sept 18-20:** Men's Retreat
- Oct 4:** Give Away Day

Please Pray...

- ENCOURAGEMENT— for our college students; for Jean Cadet to come to know the Lord; Please pray for John Lamaraine and his work with NEON. There are many exciting events coming up and he is hoping for success. See John or Margery Hillhouse for details.
- NEEDS EMPLOYMENT—Jim Kenison, Yann Lecat
- PRAISE—Jen Devoe has a new job!
- HEALING -- Deb Dlutowski: Gary Chase; Mary Jane; David Black; Angela Beard; Rita Jones; James McLaughlin; Peggy Mailloux; Linda Tetrault; Dwaine Gray
- CANCER TREATMENTS-- Gary Cottrell, Curtis Winstead, Gina Jonston, Lynn Millette, Dave Seguin, David Lovering, John Matthew-experimental chemo; Barbara Ann (Margery's cousin), Truman Gist; Jeff Blackmon
- OUTREACH-- VBS, FriendSpeak, GAD contacts, Bible studies in progress, food pantry.

**If you have updates to prayer requests, please call the office or let Susie know.*

FOR THE LADIES....

July Service Project: The Moore Center. Donations of Items for baskets (kitchen, bath, bed). See Wendy if you have questions.

Aug 15: Fun Night 1950's Ice Cream Bash 6:00 @ Wendy's

Aug 26: Fund Day @ Clough State Park

Sept 11-13: Ladies' Retreat at Gander Brook



Who Are We, And What Are We About?



A youth minister that a few of our old-timers will remember, Reid Moon, was fairly famous for his questions that seemed to come right out of left field—that would make you think a little deeper. One of his more famous questions was supposed to be asked while looking in a mirror, "Who am I, and what am I about?" The right answers to this double question can make a huge difference in the life of an individual Christian, because it refocuses and clarifies our true identities and purpose.

And if it helps us individually, it will help us collectively as a church. Let's ponder this thought starting with who we are.

Or rather who we aren't. Looks can be deceiving, of course, and this is the reason we must even ask the first question at all. For example, although the church is a group of friendly people, we are not a social club. Social clubs are for the expressed purpose of forming social circles and giving opportunities to socialize and make friends. They may have a few hoops to jump through, a special handshake to learn, and a secret to be in on, but these are primarily for the purpose of weeding out people "who just wouldn't fit in". If the church sees itself as a social club, it misses God's vision by a mile and will miss God's whole purpose for its existence. And although we do good things, we're not a philanthropic society. Such groups raise money and help people or causes, so that they can feel good about themselves. And yes, such groups have certain value to society, but the church is much, much more, doing things for a much different, a much higher, reason than "the good of society" or to feel good about themselves.

We are the Bride of Christ. Here is the original rags to riches story, told in several spots throughout the Bible (Ezekiel 16, Ezekiel 23, Hosea 1, Ephesians 5:22ff, Revelation 21:1,2). We may look like just any other group of people, but we are the very Bride of Christ! Though at one point we were common, unremarkable, and even enemies; now we are chosen, covenanted, holy, loved, protected, special, and exalted.

We are the saved (Acts 2:47). At one point we were lost, doomed, and the certain objects of God's wrath and justice; but now we have been rescued by a most gracious Savior. Rescued from the certain doom of justice, from slavery to sin, from sure disaster for our souls. Yes, we may still look a mess with eyes of the flesh—sin takes its toll and still tries to claw at us—but don't be fooled, we are the saved, the rescued, from sin and death.

We are the new Israel, God's people. Israel was described as the apple of God's eye (Zechariah 2:8)—holy, chosen, and treasured. With such privilege, however, went great responsibility, too. Now, the church has become the new Israel (e.g., Romans 2:28,29). God once said this about Israel, (Isaiah 52:13, 14) "Behold, My

servant will prosper, He will be high and lifted up and greatly exalted. Just as many were astonished at you, My people, So His appearance was marred more than any man And His form more than the sons of men." That is to say, we may not look like "the nation of God", the "kingdom of God", but that's exactly who we are! Conquering, mighty, and led by the King of Kings and Lord of Lords!

We are priests of God (1 Peter 2:5). This description speaks of both great privilege (no one approaches God as a priest without God's designation) and responsibility. As a church we offer up offerings of praise and living sacrifices of our lives, and we mediate between God and mankind with the Gospel. We may look like a bunch of "laymen", we may feel like "laymen", but the reality is, we are priests of God Most High.

We are the body of Christ. Christ's resurrection body ascended from the Mt. of Olives 10 days before Pentecost approximately AD 30, He still has a body that remains here on this earth—us! What does Jesus look like? Us. A light to the lost; an example of obedience and love; and unified people melded into one body giving glory to God in all its deeds and perseverance. Granted, we may look a bit bedraggled from a human perspective, we may be misfiring as a body sometimes, but as long as we are connected with the Head, Christ—listening and obeying—we are His body.

We are the family or household of God (1 Timothy 3:15). Yes, I know, we don't look like we're related: short-tall, willowy-rotund, black-white, upper-class—lower-class, GED-doctorates, brown-eyed—blue-eyed, native-born—from-away. As Paul put it, (1 Corinthians 1:26) "For consider your calling, brethren, that there were not many wise according to the flesh, not many mighty, not many noble"—but we are family. And not just any family, God's family. Covenanted, heirs, beloved, and even disciplined as sons.

So look in the mirror again, church. What you see is not exactly what we are, unless you're looking in the mirror of God's word. We are so much more than the eyes of flesh perceive, more than our fleeting feelings sense. And that realization is transformative, for then we can accomplish the commissions God has given to us. More on the commissions next week.

Park Linscomb

