

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
24 Happy Anniversary Rich & Marlene Wilson Happy Birthday Jackie Ferris	25 Happy Anniversary John & Mary Scarlett Happy Birthday Jordan Ferris	26	27 Happy Birthday Darlene Chamberlain Special Budget meeting w/ Elders, No adult classes	28	29 Ladies Fun Day @ Clough State Park GAD Planning Meeting 6:00 @ Skerry's	30
31 Happy Birthday Ken Bell	Sept 1 PICNIC 	2	3	4 Happy Anniversary Will & Kathy Hamel	5 Teen Retreat	6 Happy Anniversary Randy & Candy Chase; Jolene & Kris Karafelis Ladies Brunch
7	8 MNFM/Family Prayer Night	9	10 Happy Anniversary Mark & Kerstin Dumas	11 Ladies Retreat	12 Happy Birthday Sasha Hombs & Marlene Wilson	13 Elder/Preacher meeting
14 Happy Birthday Mary Jane Parker	15	16	17	18 Mens Retreat	19 Ladies Western Fun Night	20 Happy Birthday Kehinde Ogunyuyi & Wendy Lecat

Special Announcement From the Elders:

Next **Wednesday August 27**, the elders would like to meet with the church to discuss some budget matters. It is very important that as many members as possible attend this meeting. There will be no adult classes on that night. We will be talking about the Building Fund, Hiring a replacement for Preston, and other budget matters. The elders request your prayers for that meeting.

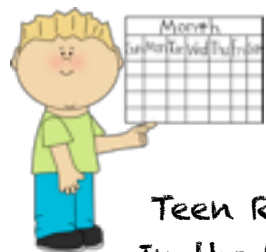
Also, the church leaders will be having a retreat to plan the future course of how to fulfill the Great Commission in Manchester and the surrounding communities. This retreat will occur sometime in late Sept. or early Oct. We will be setting goals for 2015 and we will be trying to devise a strategic plan for the next five years and the next ten years from now.

The leaders ask for your prayers for the church and for our efforts. Almost as important, we solicit your ideas for what you would like to see the church accomplish next year, in the next five years and in the next ten years. We ask that you be specific and give suggestions regarding how we might accomplish the recommended goals.



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.

TEENS



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

Teen Retreat- Sept 5-7: "Living In the World, but not Of the World" Register TODAY!

WORSHIP SCHEDULE

Aug 31	WORSHIP LEADERS
Steve Johnson	Songs
Brandon Hombs	Closing Prayer
Justin Silva	Scripture
Karl Davies	Lord's Supper
Barry Fogal	Worship Tech
Rich Therrien	Coordinator
Park Linscomb	Call to Worship
Park L. or Steve J.	Songs pm
Aug 27- Stuart	Wed Songs
Aug 27-Park	Wed Devotional



NOTES FROM THE ELDERS:

Easy to say, hard to do...how often do we say that to ourselves and others? Don't let that be an excuse not to live the Christian life as best you can. Remember "I can do all things through him who strengthens me." (Philippians 4:13). Do not be afraid and remember Jesus, He is always the answer. Have a blessed 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.



Statistics

Sunday morning attendance:...129
Sunday morning contribution:...\$4041.00
Weekly budget.....\$3800.00
Pantry Served 4 Families this week.

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.

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



Volunteers
and Donations
Wanted

Give Away Day helpers and donations are needed!

Collection days are each Saturday in September from 9:00-11:00 am. Volunteers are

needed to receive and sort. Trucks and muscle are needed to pick up large donated items. Sign up in the foyer!

Ask friends, neighbors and family for donations of items in GOOD used condition.



News & Important Dates:

August 29: GAD Kick Off planning meeting. 6:00 @ Skerry's

Sept 1: Church Labor Day Picnic at the Potters. Sign up in the foyer!

Sept 5-7: Teen Retreat

Sept 8: Monday Night for the Master/ Prayer Night

Sept 11-13: Ladies Retreat

Sept 18-20: Men's Retreat

Oct 4: Give Away Day

FOR THE LADIES....

August Service Project: "Animal Rescue League of NH"

Aug 26: Fund Day @ Clough State Park

Sept 6: Ladies Brunch celebrating Grandparents 11:30

Sept 11-13: Ladies' Retreat at Gander Brook

Sept 19: Fun Night: Western theme 6:00

Sept 30: Fund Day Odiorne Point State Park



Please Pray...

- ☀ ENCOURAGEMENT— for our college students; for Jean Cadet to come to know the Lord; for students and teachers returning to school.
- ☀ NEEDS EMPLOYMENT—Jim Kenison, Yann Lecat
- ☀ PRAISE—
- ☀ 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.



Who Are We, and What Are We About? (part 2)



Last week in this space I reflected on an important question for the church (not just individual Christians) to think about: "Who are we and what are we about?" We looked at Scripture to get a glimpse of who the Bible says that we are in the eyes of God, which can be the start of some big changes. We are not a social club; we are not a philanthropic society (do-gooders), despite the fact that the world often sees us this way—and sadly, sometimes it is the way we see ourselves. Instead we are told that they Lord see us as the bride of Christ, the saved, the new Israel, priests of God, the body of Christ, and the family of God! Great kings sometimes have long lists of titles that boast of his glory and power, but they are only boasts. But the Lord's church has a list of titles that are even more glorious, plus we have been given them by God Himself!

This week, however, let's look at what we, this august group of people, are supposed to be about. What is our mission?

Evangelism—This essentially the sharing of the Good News, as commanded, commissioned, by Jesus in places like Matt. 28:18-20. This commission is effectively carried out by individual Christians, but it can and should also be carried out by a motivated, unified, focused effort of the church, too. This is why *together* we hold Gospel Meetings on occasion, *together* hold a VBS, *together* underwrite a web site with lots of good information on it, *together* sometimes have a Bring Your Neighbor Day, *together* fund the printing of brochures, *together* we hand our literature in neighborhoods, etc. And this commission for the church has even broader application, too, to sharing the Gospel at points outside of our community—sometimes in our own region, sometimes overseas—and so we contribute money sometimes, and sometimes contribute time and effort in short-term mission work. What are we about? We are about the supremely important work of telling the saving message of Jesus to the lost multitudes, near and far. There could be no nobler, no higher commission than this, which Jesus our Lord Himself also had as His supreme priority (Luke 19:10).

Teach and equip—Yet, there are other important commissions for the church, too, and teaching and equipping its members is one of them. The commission of Matt. 28:18-20 was to teach, baptize, and teach again. Learning is a crucial part of being a disciple, and to learn, teaching must be done. Leadership of the church is specifically charged with teaching and equipping the members of the church "until we all attain to the unity of the faith, and of the knowledge of the Son of God, to a mature man, to the measure of the stature which belongs to the fullness of Christ. As a result, we are no longer to be children, tossed here and there by waves and carried about by every wind of doctrine, by the trickery of men, by craftiness in deceitful scheming; but speaking the truth in love, we are to grow up in all aspects into Him who is the head, even Christ, from whom the whole body, being fitted and held together by what every joint supplies, according to the proper working of each individual part, causes the growth of the body for the building up of itself in love." (Ephesians 4:13-16). And is not teaching opinion, traditions, theology, politics, philosophy, the latest fad, a discussion on the latest social trends, or feelings that will do this; it must be the word of God, the Bible. Therefore, *together* we have organized Bible

classes that are not mere "Sunday schools", *together* we teach the recently baptized the fundamentals of the faith, and *together* require a "thus saith the Lord" in all our preaching, teaching, and discussion. To remain faithful and obedient to the Lord, the Lord's people must know what He has said. We have a commission to teach and equip.

Benevolence—Jesus often fed hungry multitudes, healed their sick, cast out demons, and while He always left people better off spiritually, He often also left them better off physically. The church, taking its cue from the Lord, was active in benevolence from its earliest days—many "...began selling their property and possessions and were sharing them with all, as anyone might have need." (Acts 2:45). And Paul urged the Galatian churches to continue to do the same, (Galatians 6:10) "So then, while we have opportunity, let us do good to all people, and especially to those who are of the household of the faith." It is a part of letting our light shine in a dark world. And therefore, we have an active pantry in which we *together* pool our resources to be able to help people in need, and *together* we offer a Give Away Day as a church to provide the community around us with things that they can use. The Lord continues even today to bless people with the material things that they need; sometimes it is through His great providence, but other times it is through His church as it fulfills this commission.

Worship—Beyond question, the Lord is worthy of worship and praise of His glory and grace. Paul wrote, (Ephesians 3:21) "to [God] be the glory in the church and in Christ Jesus to all generations forever and ever. Amen." God can and should be glorified by the church in many ways, but one of the most obvious is in assembled worship (1 Cor. 14; Heb. 10:25,26; Acts 20:7; and many others). Its purpose is two-fold: to praise, thank, and glorify God, because He is worthy; and to build up, teach, strengthen, and encourage one another in our discipleship. And it should be done, not a as a perfunctory act, but as with all the heart, soul, mind, and strength, and to the best of our ability.

Fellowship—Lastly, the church has a commission to build up, enrich, and bind closely the fellowship of the saved. Over and again we find New Testament commands to love one another, to heal any breaches in fellowship, to unite, to commune together, to work together, to suffer together, to rejoice together, and be fitted together as a body. This is, sadly, one of the church's more neglected commissions sometimes, since we think that it will just naturally happen. But fellowship and unity are not natural. The divided world, divided families, and even splintered friendships stand as solemn witnesses of how unnatural real fellowship is; and how something as formal as a commission to fulfill is really needed.

Commissions are not options. They are definitions of our purpose and meaning as God's people. They are high and holy callings that transform us into the very hands and heart of the Lord Himself. Let us live up not only to who God has said we are, but what He has commissioned us to do! To do so turned the world upside down once (Acts 17:6) and it can do it again. Let's shake things up!

~Park Linscomb