

# THE BULLETIN

“...For even sinners do the same.” (Luke 6:33)

## What's the Difference??

Between the skeptic, who does not believe the Bible, and the negligent Christian, who never studies it? (Hosea 4:6)

Between the atheists, who have dealings with religion, and a Christian, whose faith has no works (James 2:26)

Between the atheist, who supports no church, and the member, who will not support the Lord's church (Malachi 3:8)

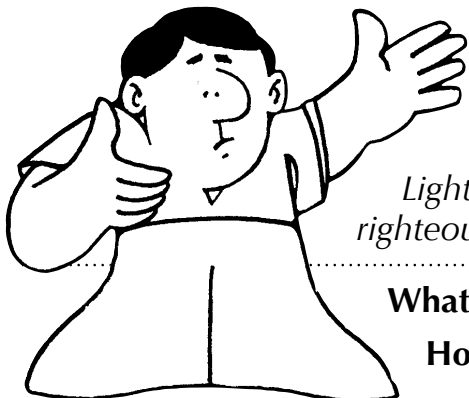
Between the unbeliever, who won't come to Bible class, and the Christian, who "can't" (1 Timothy 4:13)

Between the infidel, who will not worship, and the Christian, who neglects worship and fellowship? (Psalm 122:1)

Between the atheist, who has no faith to share, and the Christian, who will not share His faith (Mark 16:15,16)

Between the apathetic stranger, you pass on the street, and a Christian, who shows no love? (1 John 3:18)

Between a man of the world, and a person in the church who lives like a man of the world? (Romans 12:2)



**Ephesians 5:8, 9** *“for you were formerly darkness, but now you are Light in the Lord; walk as children of Light (for the fruit of the Light consists in all goodness and righteousness and truth),”*

**What's the difference???**

**How do you measure up?**

## The Manchester church of Christ

66 Mammoth Rd.  
Manchester NH 03109  
603.623.5559

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

[mhtchurch.org](http://mhtchurch.org)

### Our Minister:

Park Linscomb 540-0287

### Our Elders:

Barry Fogal 487-2387

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: October

Gerry Millette 479-3105

[taekwondom@comcast.net](mailto:taekwondom@comcast.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 Gerry or Barry this month.

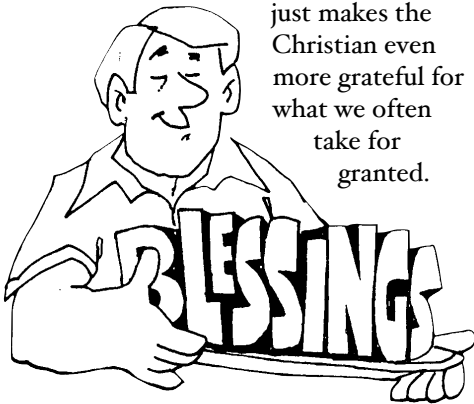
# Our Family News

"So then you are no longer strangers and aliens, but you are fellow citizens with the saints, and are of God's household," Ephesians 2:19, NAS95.

**If you're a visitor to our church, welcome!** If you have questions, we welcome them; please don't hesitate to ask Park Linscomb our minister (the really tall guy) or any other church member.

**Well, what an eventful Thanksgiving many of us had;** power outages, cable outages for many. But the giving of thanks can't be dampened by a little

inconvenience; it just makes the Christian even more grateful for what we often take for granted.



**Now that the winter weather has come,** it's time to start thinking about doing our part to make sure the church building sidewalks etc. are properly shoveled and sanded. When you see the sign-up sheet, please volunteer to do your part.

**A Congregational Meeting** has been tentatively scheduled for this Wednesday, December 3. The elders are hoping to have as many of the congregation present as possible. Please make the effort to be here on Wednesday at 7; *it's important.*

**The Adult Christmas Party**



will be Saturday, December 13 at the Skerry's home (55 Dove Lane) from 5-9pm. This is one of the best gatherings of the year. A Yankee Swap will be part of the festivities; so bring a gift not to exceed \$10. Make plans to come and enjoy the fellowship, the fun, the food, and the Christian love.



**The Teen Christmas Party** is going to be planned this Sunday morning. If you're a teen, the parent of a teen, or if you're just interested in the teen program, you are invited and urged to listen to the announcements this Sunday to find out the where and when of the meeting.

**Christmas Eve** is on Wednesday this year. Ask a friend, a relative, a member who hasn't come lately, a neighbor to come to church with you this Christmas Eve.

It will be a wonderful evening to share!

**Monday Night for the Master** will be Monday (of course), December 1—that's tomorrow!

Come get involved in some of the work of the Lord's church. Titus 3:14 says, "Our people must also learn to engage in good deeds to meet pressing needs, so that they will not be unfruitful."

**Next Sunday,** Park will be preaching for the church in Natick MA and brother Gary Diaz will be our speaker.

**Prayer List:**

*Evangelism:* Bible studies in progress, our website, MNFM, food pantry, brethren who are not attending

*Our traveling brethren*

*Those in need of better health:*

Natalie Cleavitt, Louise Linscomb, Peggy Mailloux, Curtis Winstead, Jean Cadet, Lynn Millette, Mary Jane, Dave Seguin, Barbara Ann, David Lovering

*Struggles:* Deb Dlutowski, Gary Chase Jr., Linda Tetrault, Jim Kenison.

*Leadership:* Minister, Elders, Deacons, Teachers, Parents



Our Statistics for the week from November 17-23, 2014	
Sunday morning worship	123
Wednesday evening Bible classes	c.80
Contribution	\$2751.30
Budget	\$3800

# A Word of Encouragement

"For this reason we must pay much closer attention to what we have heard, so that we do not drift away from it." Hebrews 2:1, NAS95.

"...BUT WHAT DOES THE BIBLE SAY ABOUT THAT?"

## LEADERSHIP IN THE CHURCH

The religious world around us has preferred a single man at the top of a congregation and a general pyramidal organizational over all associated congregations, since the days of Constantine, emperor of the Roman Empire. It has the apparent advantages of efficiency, decisiveness, and unity—one leader to set the course, make the decisions, and to hold the group and the organization together. And not only has the denominational world adopted this model, but even some brethren (having become frustrated with elderships) lean this direction. But as in all questions about the church and discipleship to Jesus, the most important question is always, "What does the Bible say about that?"

The first century church, led and taught by the apostles, appointed elders over each congregation. The earliest reference to Christian elders is Acts 11:29, 30 "And in the proportion that any of the disciples had means, each of them determined to send a contribution for the relief of the brethren living in Judea. And this they did, sending it in charge of Barnabas and Saul to the elders [of Jerusalem]." And as Paul and Barnabas returned through churches that they had established in the early part of their first missionary journey they appointed elders—Acts 14:23 "When they had appointed elders for them in every church, having prayed with fasting, they commended them to the Lord in whom they had believed." And when Paul wrote Timothy in Ephesus, he gave specific instructions and commands about the appointment of elders and deacons (1 Timothy 3:1ff). The pattern of the early church was local elders over the local churches (Acts 20:28 and Titus 1:5). Their work was to oversee the church's spiritual needs: encourage the members, correct the straying, keep faithful to the pattern, bind up the wounded, etc. (Acts 20:27-38). And they would be responsible to the Lord for this stewardship.

However, as the church entered into the second century, there were some churches that began to recognize one elder as being more prominent or more influential than the rest and they began to ascribe to him the title of bishop. This began innocently enough at first, no one appears to have really intended to change the biblical pattern; but before long these "bishops" began meeting regionally to discuss congregational and doctrinal matters; and among these bishops one bishop

often became recognized as more influential, the origin of the archbishop. By the time of Constantine and his legalization of Christianity (AD 313), the church was beginning to adopt the the pyramidal form of the Catholic Church. This led historically in time to the declaration of the first universal bishop of the Catholic Church, the Pope, AD 606, Boniface III. And Protestant and Reform churches have yet to break away from this general organizational pattern.

But the biblical pattern has not changed. The command to appoint elders in every city remains just as valid today as it was in the first century. Biblical organization requires that if there are men, who are qualified according to Scripture (1 Timothy 3:1ff and Titus 1:5ff), they should be appointed—no ifs, ands, or buts about it. It is not a biblical option. To do less is to unscripturally organized, neglect the command of the Lord, and be disobedient.


Now, of course, not every church has qualified men to assume the ministry of an elder, and until that time comes evangelists or missionaries are often the default setting—since they are already spiritual leaders and have often been responsible for establishing the congregation in the beginning. You might call this being "scripturally unorganized". Often, in 21st century America, the business of the churches is conducted in a democratic style with a "business meeting" of the men of the church, until qualified men arise in the church.

Often, after elders have been appointed, deacons are also appointed. Their qualification can be found in both Acts 6 and 1 Timothy 3:8ff. While the elders are tasked with the responsibility of overseeing the spiritual needs of the flock, the deacons are given the job of seeing to the physical needs of the church.

Regardless of how appealing the world's model of organization might be, we must always resist the temptation to be "...like all the nations," (1 Sam. 8:5). Over the long stretch of centuries, the pyramid structure of the denominations has not led to truth, unity, or Heaven. Like all worldly wisdom, it is fatally flawed. Let us always listen carefully to the eternal command and wisdom of the Lord.

Park Linscomb

Our Congregational Calendar for November 30 through December 13						
Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
30 Worship 9:30 Bible class 11am PM Small groups	1 Monday Night for the Master	2	3 Congregational Meeting (tentative)	4	5	6 GB end of 3 <sup>rd</sup> week and start of 4 <sup>th</sup> week
7 Worship 9:30 Bible class 11am PM Small groups	8	9	10 Bible class 7PM	11	12	13 Adult Christmas Party at the Skerry home



Are you aware of the Christmas Party meeting happening after this Sunday. Keep an ear open for the where and when. It's gonna be a great time of sharing.

The church in Nashua has requested some babysitting help for their adult Christmas party on Dec. 7. If you're available to help, get in contact with Becky Moser.

Look for future details for planning our annual Youth Rally. We need to begin planning it really soon!

SERVICE	SUNDAY, NOV. 30	WEDNESDAY, DEC. 3
<i>Call to worship</i>	Gerry Millette	
<i>Songleading</i>	Steve Johnson	Stewart Peacock
<i>Scripture reading</i>	Sam Bellamy	
<i>Communion</i>	Freddie Hillhouse	
<i>Devo thought</i>		David Skerry
<i>Closing prayer</i>	Brandon Hombs	
<i>Coordinator</i>	Stuart Peacock	

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