

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
14 Congregational meeting 11:00 Teen Christmas Party 4-7:00	15	16 Happy Birthday Julie Casella	17 Happy Birthday Gage Dumas	18	19	20 Happy Birthday Benji Peacock
21 3rd Sunday Fellowship 	22	23 Happy Birthday Rich Therrien	24	25 Happy Birthday Tyler Apgar 	26 Happy Birthday Eric Apgar	27 Happy Birthday Alan Chamberlain & Jolene Karafelis Elder/Deacon Meeting
28	29 Happy Birthday Joanne Hazelton	30	31	Jan 1 2015 Happy Birthday Linda Paul	2	3

Peace on Earth and Goodwill to Men



In the nativity stories, we often hear the words of the angels who said, "Glory to God in the highest, peace on earth and goodwill to men" (Lk 2:14). Nearly every modern translation reads something like, "Glory to God in the highest, and peace on earth among those whom his favor rests (or - "with whom God is pleased)." Nearly all translations have a similar reading, including the ASV, NASB, RSV, NRSV, NIV, God's Word, ESV, CSB, NCV, CEV, and the list goes on.

I went to my Greek text, and here is what I found. In the most woodenly

literal translation, it says,

"Glory in highest (heaven) to God, and upon earth peace in men of goodwill/favor."

This is not talking about peace on earth in general, but peace among men of God's favor. In fact, Jesus himself said, "Do not think that I came to bring peace on the earth; I did not come to bring peace, but a sword" (Mt 10:34). The peace of God cannot come to the wicked in their wickedness or to the unbeliever in the faithlessness. The peace of God comes only in Christ. Jesus also said that the "worry of the world" can cause a man to become unfruitful even though he initially had responded to the word of God in faith (Mt 13:22). There is worry in the world not the peace of God.

Jesus said, "Peace I leave with you; My peace I give to you; not as the world gives do I give to you. Do not let your heart be troubled, nor let it be fearful (Jn 14:27)." The peace, or the "shalom" of God is something that can only come from our Lord Jesus. It is not the shallow, "cessation of hostilities" that the world pretends to give. It is not found in the deceitfulness of riches. It is found in a strong committed faith. God said that he who believes will not be troubled or disturbed (Is 28:16). This is the peace that surpasses understanding (Phil 4:7). This is the peace that guards our hearts and minds in Christ Jesus.

There was a song I can remember singing while growing up. The words to the refrain are, "There is peace in the time of trouble. There is peace in the midst of the storm. There is peace, though the world be raging, in the shelter of his arms"

God reminds us, ". . . in quietness and trust is your strength" (Is 30:15). Peace enables us to be still and know that the Lord is God. This is why Christians are typically so much better at handling tragedies that would disillusion the most positive of people. This is where Christians get the strength to serve and be compassionate in the most harshest and dangerous of conditions. Even though there can never be complete peace on earth without God, Christians as salt and light are able to be the peacemakers even in the midst of being persecuted for righteousness' sake (Mt 5:9-11). Christians can through example, prayer, service, and evangelism bring greater peace into the world in the midst of its trouble. ~John Telgren

WORSHIP SCHEDULE

Dec 21	WORSHIP LEADERS
Stuart Peacock	Songs
Fred Hillhouse	Closing Prayer
Justin Silva	Scripture
Gary Diaz	Lord's Supper
Susie Peacock	Worship Tech
Stuart Peacock	Coordinator
Barry Fogal	Call to Worship
3rd Sunday fellowship	Songs pm
Dec 17-Stuart	Wed Songs
Dec 17-Park	Wed Devotional

Statistics

Sunday morning attendance:...115
 Sunday morning contribution:...\$2462.02
 Weekly budget.....\$3800.00
 Pantry Served 2 Families this week.

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Christmas party.

TODAY! from 4:00-7:00 @ the Apgars. We will have a Yankee Swap (\$7.00 and under). Bring drinks and snacks. Bring \$6.00 for supper and a project we will be doing. If you need carpool, we must know this morning!

Jan 4 Youth Rally Planning @ noon

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 @ Apgars
 Building: 6 pm, The book of Revelation
 Wednesday PM Devotional/Bible Classes: 7:00

Contact David Skerry with Benevolence/Pantry needs.



NOTES FROM YOUR SHEPHERDS:

In this season of gifts, remember the one that truly matters above all: "For God so loved the world, that he gave his only Son, that whoever believes in him should not perish but have eternal life." (John 3:16). God loves you and wants you to be with Him. Thank you Father!

Our Minister:

Park Linscomb 540-0287

Our Shepherds:

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

Shepherds' Link: December

Mike Moser 429-9487
heymikeymo@comcast.net
 Barry Fogal 326-8004
barryfogal@me.com

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

Our Family

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

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.



News & Important Dates

Congregational Meeting Dec 14th—We will discuss the mission of the body here in Manchester during our class time. **All adult classes will meet in the auditorium.**

Christmas Eve falls on Wednesday this year. We will have a special worship that evening so invite your friends and family to join us!

New Years Eve falls on a 5th Wednesday this year—singing Wednesday. Some have suggested that perhaps those who would like could stay and enjoy games, snacks, conversation, perhaps a movie, and midnight devotional. Interested?

Wednesday evening dinners: If you'd like to serve the church by planning and cooking this weekly meal, there's a volunteer list in the foyer.

PLANNING AHEAD:

2015 Youth Rally— There will be a Pizza and Planning session on Sunday January 4th at noon. If you are interested in helping to plan our youth rally, please come! You don't have to be a teen or even a parent of a teen to participate! Bring \$4.00 to cover lunch.

A Harding Spring Break Mission group will be returning to serve with us March 7-14! This is always a very encouraging and exciting time for our church family, so please be in prayer for the students who choose to spend their spring break serving! More info will be shared as it becomes available.

Are you interested in learning about events at other congregations in New England? Check out:

necentralbulletinboard.wordpress.com

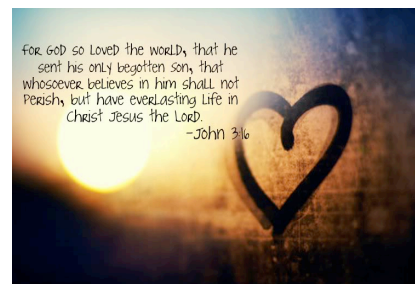
We've received several "Thank You" notes from our college students for the gift cards that we sent them. It means so much to them that their church family thinks of them and supports them! Keep them in your prayers as finals and Christmas travel approaches.



Please Pray...

- ☀ ENCOURAGEMENT— for our shepherds, deacons, teachers, and preacher; the sick in health and in spirit.
- ☀ NEEDS EMPLOYMENT—Candy Chase, Jim Kenison, Yann Lecat
- ☀ HEALING— Louise Linscomb, Annabeth Hickman, Natalie Cleavitt, Deb Dlutowski; Gary Chase; Mary Jane; David Black; Angela Beard; Rita Jones; James McLaughlin; Chrissy Mclaughlin; Peggy Mailloux; Linda Tetrault; Brian Day; Casandra Martin; John Matthew; David Paul
- ☀ CANCER TREATMENTS—Curtis Winstead, Gina Jonston, Lynn Millette, Dave Seguin, David Lovering, John Matthew; Barbara Ann (Margery's cousin); Jeff Blackmon
- ☀ OUTREACH—for Jean Cadet to come to know the Lord; Bible studies in progress, food pantry; Friendspeak.

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



"...BUT WHAT DOES THE BIBLE SAY ABOUT THAT?" Who Is a Member of the Church?



On the surface of it, the question may seem simple and easy enough, but with the change of view in the world of the church being more like a club than God's Kingdom, there is often times a bit of confusion. As a result, it is good for us to think about and review what the Bible has to say about it from time to time.

The church is the Lord's Kingdom (Col. 1:13). He is Sovereign over it, and it is He who has the last and authoritative word on all matters that have to do with His Kingdom. He has defined the borders. It is He who definitively can declare someone a citizen, or not. It is His commands and decrees that must be "posted" and obeyed. And while there are occasional pretenders to the throne, it is Jesus who sits and deserves to sit on the throne. So, let's see what the King has said.

The church is the Saved (Acts 2:47)

We might first notice that His Kingdom is composed of those who are saved. Of course, there are plenty of people who claim salvation, but not everyone who wants citizenship is really a citizen. A citizen of the Kingdom of Heaven is a believer in Jesus (John 3:16); and here we're not just talking about an opinion holder, but someone who let's his or her belief change and effect life (James 2:19,20). This belief should naturally move one to actually change the course of his or her life, dying to sin and living God's way (Acts 2:38). Such a belief and repentant heart will also naturally lead to a confession (perhaps we could metaphorically speak of it as a sort of pledge of allegiance) that Jesus (and no one else) is Lord and King of our lives (Romans 10:9,10). And since we have repented of sinful deeds, we also become obedient in submitting to baptism in water in the name of Jesus for the purpose of washing away our sins (Matt. 28:19; Acts 2:38; Acts 22:16; Romans 6:1-6; and many more). The new kind of life that lays ahead is simple discipleship to Jesus (Matt. 16:24 and many others), which will produce righteousness and

the fruit of the Spirit. Such men and women are considered by the Lord and His pattern to be saved. And those who are saved are added by the Lord, the King of the Kingdom Himself, to His church (Acts 2:47).

One might say, again metaphorically, that we receive "papers" declaring our citizenship, the Holy Spirit. The Spirit is spoken of as a seal (Eph. 1:13) proclaiming to Whom we belong (see also 2 Tim. 2:19).

Not only is it the right of the King to declare whatever stipulations He desires about citizenship, but indeed He has earned every bit of the privilege, and then some, by dying on the

Non-citizens need to be encouraged to draw nearer and encouraged to be "born again" into this Kingdom...

cross to even make our citizenship—and even better than this, our inheritance in Heaven—even possible. No one else has the right to set the rules, and no one has the right to change, tweak, or deny what the King of kings has set as the parameters of citizenship to His Kingdom.

Such citizens owe sure allegiance and true faith to the King and His laws. Indeed, citizens of the Kingdom have the responsibility to declare (Matthew 28:18-20) and defend (1 Cor. 5:13; 2 Cor. 10:3-6) the borders of this Kingdom.

Non-citizens need to be encouraged to draw nearer and encouraged to be "born again" into this Kingdom, but never given a place of leadership or be "led on" to believe that they have become citizens, when they have not gone through the "naturalization" process.

The church isn't a club, it is a Kingdom, the only kingdom that will survive ultimate destruction of the heavens and earth. It is an eternal kingdom, Whose great King has set the borders of His Kingdom and described clearly for us who may become its citizen.

Where's your citizenship?

Park Linscomb