
THE BULLETIN

PERSONAL EVANGELISM

Someone had enough concern for your soul to talk with you about Christ, the church, and the needs of your soul. Because we love the souls of others and because we want to be personally a part of Christ's work, we will be involved in personal evangelism. And you have probably been thinking of ways to share what you have learned. And you even know various people that you want to lead to Christ. Stoke this desire the rest of your life.

But two things may likely frustrate you. First, some of the people you try to teach will seem uninterested. Second, you may be frustrated because you feel you do not know enough about the Bible to be able to teach others. Two things: 1) Don't give up quickly on anyone. Be patient and try by your good example and kind approach to cause others to be interested in the Gospel. And 2) while you cannot teach what you do not know, you can share with others the truth you have already learned. Don't hesitate because you are afraid you cannot answer all questions. Tell people you will have to get the answers you do not know. You'll personally learn a lot this way.

But how? Here are a few suggestions.

First, every Christian can invite others to attend classes and worship. This is a very effective means of bringing people to Christ. We should all be involved every week in urging people to come.

Second, if you do have someone you want to teach but do not feel capable, you should arrange for a more mature Christian to go with you.

Third, read Col. 4:5,6. The idea of having "speech always with grace, seasoned with salt" points to the need for talking to others with kindness and thoughtfulness. Our mission is not to win arguments, but to win souls. We do not show people the truth to make ourselves look smart. A true soul winner will be patient and kind. There must be but one purpose—to uphold the truth and to save a lost soul.

Fourth, read 1 Peter 3:15. We are to be prepared to answer people by knowing the Scriptures. Knowing the Bible better for yourself will prepare you to answer the questions of others. It will take time and effort for you to become skilled in the use of the Scriptures, but in the meantime you can share what you already know.

edited and adapted from an article
by David Pharr

The Manchester church of Christ

66 Mammoth Rd.
Manchester NH 03109
603.623.5559
mht_church@comcast.net
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

Elder Notes: God loves us all and showed us how much through Jesus (John 3:16-17). He wants us to love him with all our heart, soul and mind and love others as much as ourselves (Matthew 22:36-40). May God bless us this week as we seek to live by faith, reach out in hope, and reach up in love (Galatians 5:5-6).

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 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.



Summary of the Congregational meeting:

Given the financial facts, the elders had at first reported that we would not be able hire an associate minister this year. However, a new possibility has arisen, in which we might be able have an associate minister for the use of the brick house parsonage. The elders will be conducting an interview of such a candidate soon.

There was discussion of what might be done to recover a substantial loan. The congregation opted to pursue some legal action through a lawyer in CT.

Lastly, the elders reported on the brick house parsonage itself; because of a furnace malfunction, the pipes in the house burst. Insurance will cover both the plumbing and repair of all water damage with a \$500 deductible.

Special prayer requests: Darlene Chamberlain requests prayers for her job hunt



for a second job. The pay from her current employment is not enough to pay the bills

Linda Paul requested prayers for Cassey, a young woman who used to attend church here who is suffering addiction problems and all the other criminal activity that often goes along with it.

Summary of the Youth Rally Planning Meeting:

- *Theme:* Hunger Games
 - *Date:* April 24-26
 - *General oversight:* Mike M. and Kara D.
 - *Speaker liaison:* Susie P.
 - *Decorations:* Kass D., Sam B.
 - *Advertising:* Rich T., Heather K., Deniza C., Casey J.
 - *Housing:* Linda P., Cecilia S., Marlaine W.
 - *Registration:* Linda L., Lisa M., Becky M.
 - *Commercials:* Stuart P., Logan H., Thad W.
 - *Food:* Kim D., LeighEllen L., Kathy F., David B.
 - *Scheduling:* Mike M., Kara D., Heather K.
 - *Activities:* Susie P., Faith H., Becky M., Benji P.
 - *Devotionals:* Stuart P., Sam., Benji P.
 - *Technology:* Park L., Jason T.
 - *Photography:* Dave S., Melanie F.
- Next Leadership Training:**
February 21. A special series of

monthly classes learn more about leading in the worship. We'll start at 10am and go to 12pm each time. Older brother, invite a younger brother to come with you!

The Conway youth rally... 1/27 — 3/1. Their theme is "First Ascent". The cost will be \$28 for teens/\$12 for chaperones. More info? Contact Terri Apgar or Susie Peacock.

Prayer List:

Evangelism: Bible studies in progress, our website, MNFM, food pantry, Brethren who have forsaken the assembly

Our college students who'll be returning to school soon

Health: Anthony Davis, Natalie Cleavitt, Louise Linscomb, Peggy Mailloux, Curtis Winstead, Jean Cadet, Lynn Millette, Mary Jane, Dave Seguin, Barbara Ann, David Lovering, Gary Chase Jr., Linda Tetrault, Jim Kenison, Brian Day, John Matthew, Jamie Hazelton

Struggles: Mark Brown & Emma, Linda Tetrault, Jim Kenison.

Leadership: Ministers, Elders, Deacons, Teachers, Parents

Our Statistics for the week from January 8-14, 2015

| | |
|---------------------------------|--------|
| Sunday morning worship | 130 |
| Wednesday evening Bible classes | 90 |
| Contribution | \$4359 |
| Budget | \$2300 |

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.

ARE YOU REALLY LIVING?

There has always been a desire among mankind to fully embrace life and all that it has to offer. I can remember when I was younger and considerably more naive, I would proclaim my eagerness to "suck out all the marrow out of life"¹, by saying that "I'd try anything once". How little I knew of the hooks and barbs, of the poisons, or of the multiple paths to destruction native to so many of the world's offerings. Thankfully, I had watchful Christian parents during the years that I was most vulnerable; and thankfully I started taking God's word and wisdom more seriously before I could "sample" some of the world's more serious sins. Not everyone is so blessed.

Yes, I said, "blessed". You see, while much sin looks like "really living", its thrills and raptures are quite short lived; and you are usually left with a bad memory or an embarrassing episode in your life, always a marred conscience, often a craving for the next "experience" (aka, a "fix"), and occasionally a life once full of bright prospects now permanently altered and less bright. "Thresholds" are crossed that cannot be uncrossed, things are seen that cannot be unseen, and a new temptation (now lurking in the back of your mind that wasn't there before) cannot be easily ignored. I know not only because God's word has been pointing it out since the story of Adam and Eve, but also because I have observed through 40 years of how "really living" quickly becomes addiction, derailment, depression, destruction, and/or sharp pain for those we love most and want to hurt least.

It comes in all sorts of forms. Sometimes it's sexual sin (in any of its many forms); sometimes it's the euphoria of drink or drugs; sometimes it's thrill of theft or violence, vengeance, or law breaking. It has been known to come looking as "cool" or prestige or status. For others, it's thrill or fun. And for still others, power, wealth, or intellectual superiority.



The alleged wisdom of "trying anything once" was the question at the heart of Solomon's book of Ecclesiastes. Solomon was given the power and the means to find any possible fulfillment in the any of the experiences and pursuits in smorgasbord of life. By his own admission, he tried it all. Biblical history, in fact, backs up his claim by noting that at the end of Solomon's reign, he had filled Jerusalem with idolatry and the many corruptions of foreign, false religions. It's thought that Ecclesiastes was written toward the end of Solomon's life as he reflected on his grand experiment of "trying everything once". His assessment and conclusion was famously, "Vanity, vanity, all is vanity and striving after wind." It seems that only in the end did he discover real meaning and real life, "Fear God and keep His commandments".

But Solomon was too late. Too late to save the united kingdom of Israel from God's judgment of division. Too late to put the nation back on the right track. Too late to be a better father. Too late to have—with all the intelligence, wisdom, influence, wealth, and power at his command—been an incredibly powerful influence for God and for good to the nations all around him. Too late to undo all the harm, all the corruption, all the sin, and all the destruction.

Instead of seeking to embrace life by "trying anything once", we're much wiser to embrace the Author of life, God. By doing so, we embrace abundant life, solid life, life indeed—rather than vanity.

Park Linscomb

¹ *Thoreau, who is quoted here, ironically meant that he wanted to trim the extraneous to understand real life, rather than to try everything.*

Our Congregational Calendar for January 18—31

| Sunday | Monday | Tuesday | Wednesday | Thursday | Friday | Saturday |
|---|--------|---------|-----------------------|----------|--------|----------------------------|
| 18 Worship 9:30 Bible class 11am Fellowship luncheon | 19 | 20 | 21 Bible class 7PM | 22 | 23 | 24 Elder/deacon meeting |
| 25 Worship 9:30 Bible class 11am Fellowship luncheon | 26 | 27 | 28 Bible class 7PM | 29 | 30 | 31 |

| Bible Reading Schedule for this Week | | |
|--------------------------------------|---------|---------------|
| Sunday | Jan. 18 | Matthew 7 |
| Monday | Jan. 19 | Genesis 25,26 |
| Tuesday | Jan. 20 | Matthew 8 |
| Wednesday | Jan. 21 | Genesis 27,28 |
| Thursday | Jan. 22 | Genesis 29 |
| Friday | Jan. 23 | Genesis 30 |
| Saturday | Jan. 24 | Matthew 9 |

| SERVICE | SUNDAY, JAN. 11 | WEDNESDAY, JAN. 14 |
|--------------------------|-----------------|--------------------|
| <i>Call to worship</i> | Barry Fogal | |
| <i>Songleading</i> | Stuart Peacock | Steve Johnson |
| <i>Scripture reading</i> | Justin Silva | |
| <i>Communion</i> | John Osceola | |
| <i>Devo thought</i> | | Gerry Millette |
| <i>Closing prayer</i> | Fred Hillhouse | |
| <i>Coordinator</i> | Rich Therrien | |
| <i>Tech</i> | Susie Peacock | |



The Conway church of Christ is announcing its annual youth rally, to be held February 27 through March 1. Their speaker will be Tibor Siklosi and Jake Keefer from Ohio Valley University will lead singing. A singing group from Boston, "Revive", will also be there. Their theme is "First Ascent" The cost will be \$28 for teens/\$12 for chaperones—and we will need chaperones. Wanna go? Contact Terri Apgar or Susie Peacock.

What a great meeting we had to organize our youth rally! **Now**, let's roll up our sleeves and "get 'er done."

The Manchester church of Christ
66 Mammoth Rd.
Manchester NH 03109