

THE BULLETIN

LIVE LIFE HEROICALLY

In the midst of bewildering misfortunes, it is well to remember that every mountain must have its valley, every oasis its desert, every rainbow its storm, and every day its night.

But never has an oak tree grown without weathering the storm. Life's lessons are never learned without heroic self-discipline. This is the acid test of character. Nothing is gained by brooding. Poise and happiness are lost if we worry about life rather than living it heroically.

Anonymous

The Manchester church of Christ

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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

A Little Thoughtful Humor

- A farmer increased egg production by putting up this sign in his hen house: "An egg a day keeps Colonel Sanders away."
- The preacher had just closed his final sermon in a Gospel meeting, and one teary-eyed, appreciative lady came by, clasped his hand, and said, "I want you to know I have really enjoyed every sermon; they were like water to a drowning man."

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.

Mark Casella has been selected by the shepherds as a candidate to be the next Youth and Family minister for the church here in Manchester. Please give it some thought and prayer and let any of the shepherds know by Wednesday, February 4th if you have any issues with Mark taking on this role. Mark stated that if you would like to contact him directly with any questions or concerns or would just like to say hi, his email address is mcasella@harding.edu.

Host a teen event...

Our teens need you and your help. We need folks interested in spiritually uplifting our youth in devotionals, and folks interested in, well, having fun! There is a signup sheet going around that you could volunteer your home or time or food. Here's a special way to make connections with these young disciples. Signup and serve!



Monday Night for the Master, Our monthly evening of service together is next Monday, February 1, starting at 6pm with a meal and then a variety of projects that range from cards, to visits, to maintenance projects, to benevolent work, to prayer hour. And the real bonus is that we get a chance to do it together! If you haven't come before, treat yourself to this wonderful evening of food, service, and fellowship.



Next Leadership Training: February 21. A special series of monthly classes learn more about leading in the worship. Our focus will be leading public

prayer this month. We'll start at 10am and go to 12pm each time —donuts provided. 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.

Looking down the road, mark your calendars...

- March 7-14, Harding Spring Break Mission Team

- March 27, the church here hosts Lifeline Screening
- April 24-26, the Manchester Youth Rally (ours)
- May 1-3, the New England Lectures in Taunton MA
- June 28-July 4, Gander Brook Work and Worship Week



Prayer List:

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

The Harding Spring Break Team, coming in March

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 22-29, 2015	
Sunday morning worship	130
Wednesday evening Bible classes	c.85
Contribution	\$2837.11
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.

FOLLOWING JESUS TO UNEXPECTED PLACES: SAMARIA AND SAMARITANS

The essence of discipleship is following the Master. As disciples, we follow and observe and imitate. A few weeks ago I proposed that, in occasional bulletin articles, we consider a few of the surprising places that Jesus went—and didn't go. And one of those surprising places that Jesus went was Samaria (John 4).

Once again, because we're familiar enough with this story, we might be tempted to say something like, "Well, yeah, of course, Jesus visited with the Gentiles, the outsiders, those significantly below His station in life. That's one of the things that I love about Jesus!" But, this being an article about being disciples to Him, the question to us is "Are we following Him?"

And in asking whether or not we are following Jesus into strange surroundings, I'm not just asking if we ever go places outside of our comfort zones, to the homes of the down and out, the poor, or the foreigner. Are we *doing* what Jesus *did*?

Samaria and Samaritans were considered by most Jews as people and a region to best be avoided. Most Jews traveling from Galilee in the north of Judea to Jerusalem in the south of Judea would deliberately detour around Samaria which was located between Galilee and Jerusalem. And while Samaritans worshipped the same God, followed a very similar law, worshipped God in a very similar way; they were rejected as unclean by most devout Jews. Oddly enough, however, Jesus' disciples found themselves coming back from the region around Jerusalem right through—of all places—Samaria.

While resting at Jacob's well, waiting for the apostles to come back from town with food, He started a conversation with a Samaritan—and more than just a Samaritan, a Samaritan woman. From the point of view of most Jewish men, this was well beneath His station in life. But He didn't just talk to a Samaritan woman, He talked to a Samaritan woman of probably questionable virtue. She'd had 5 husbands and was currently living with a man not her husband. She seems to have had a reputation, too, because of the timing of her coming to get water—noontime, not morning like most women did—probably to avoid the disapproving looks of the other townswomen. But Jesus initiated a conversation with her, "Give Me a drink." Would we have initiated a conversation—at all? Do we initiate conversations with

strangers, people different from us, people with potentially questionable values. Or do we just tell ourselves that we have nothing in common with this person, and that they will have no interest in talking with us, let alone have any interest in a spiritual conversation?

Even the Samaritan woman was shocked, (John 4:9) "...How is it that You, being a Jew, ask me for a drink since I am a Samaritan woman?" Her tone might even have carried a little bit of resentment in it. An answer like that might have shut many of us down, ended the conversation immediately; but not Jesus.

Jesus, instead, turned what had begun as a simple request for some physical water for a weary traveler into something spiritual, "If you *knew* the gift of God, and *who* it is who says to you, 'Give Me a drink,' you would have asked *Him* and *He* would have given *you* living water" (v. 10). Bet she didn't see that one coming! Nor did she anticipate Jesus' surprising sign to her (telling her about her personal life, vvs. 15-19) that He was the Messiah (vvs. 25,26). Using Jesus' example, the disciple of Jesus will also find natural ways of turning ordinary conversations into extraordinary conversations. The world around us is filled with potential segues into spiritual conversations—if only we'll follow Jesus. How easy is a conversation about who'll win the Super Bowl turned into who you think will win in the end? Or talk of health turned to the perfect health of the resurrection body? Or the complaints about mistreatment we get from others is turned into how God will avenge every sin?

Even Jesus' disciples didn't see this one coming (v. 27). They only saw the woman leave her water pot, running toward town and returning to the well with the men of the town to listen to Jesus. "How," they must have been asking themselves (and Jesus afterward), "did a pit stop for lunch in Sychar turn into an evangelistic harvest of despised Samaritans?"

Discipleship is about more than merely going where the Master goes, but also about *doing* what the Master *does*. Let's follow Him to surprising places, to start up conversations with surprising people, and turn ordinary conversations into unexpected and extraordinary sowing of the seed.

Park Linscomb

Our Congregational Calendar for January 18—31

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
1 Worship 9:30 Bible class 11am	2 MNFM 6pm Mike Moser BD	3	4 Bible class 7PM	5	6	7
8 Worship 9:30 Bible class 11am	9	10	11 Bible class 7PM	12 Mike Girling BD	13 Steve Johnson BD	14 Valentine's Day Teen devo at the Linscomb home, 6:00pm

Bible Reading Schedule for this Week		
Sunday	Feb 1	Matthew 11
Monday	Feb 2	Genesis 41-42
Tuesday	Feb 3	Matthew 12
Wednesday	Feb 4	Genesis 43-44
Thursday	Feb 5	Genesis 45-46
Friday	Feb 6	Genesis 47-48
Saturday	Feb 7	Mathew 13

SERVICE	SUNDAY, FEB 2	WEDNESDAY, FEB 4
<i>Call to worship</i>	Gerry Millette	
<i>Songleading</i>	Doug Paul	Stuart Peacock
<i>Scripture reading</i>	Sam Bellamy	
<i>Communion</i>	Karl Davies	
<i>Devo thought</i>		Dave Skerry
<i>Closing prayer</i>	Dave Skerry	
<i>Coordinator</i>	Stuart Peacock	
<i>Tech</i>	Rich Therrien	



Our next gathering will be at the Linscomb home, Feb. 14, a Saturday, at 6PM It will be a devo; don't miss it.

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.

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