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# THE BULLETIN

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## “BITS ON LOVE”

Love sees through a telescope—not a microscope

Hate is a prolonged form of suicide.

Some people give and forgive. Others get and forget.

The best gifts are tied with heartstrings.

We like someone “because”. We love someone “although”.

A mistake at least proves that somebody stopped talking long enough to do something.

To learn and never be filled is wisdom; to teach and never be weary is love.

Ceremonies are different in every country, but true politeness is everywhere the same.

### The Manchester church of Christ

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Manchester NH 03109  
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[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

#### Healthy Church Dos and Don'ts

- *Don't just come to the service—worship*
- *Don't hurry away—speak and be spoken to*
- *Don't dodge the preacher—show yourself friendly.*
- *Don't whisper to others—listen to the teacher.*
- *Don't just sit back and appreciate the singing—join in and sing yourself.*
- *Don't sit on the back seat—try the front seats.*
- *Don't continue to dwell on physical things—set your mind on things above.*

# 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.



**This Sunday** is fellowship luncheon. Please stay and eat and visit!

**The Harding University Spring Break Group** is coming March 7-14. Philip Baird and Jessica Revelle from last year will be among them. And we need host families to house these great young people! **Beth King** will be our housing coordinator, so if you're interested in keeping some of these young people, please see Beth soon. **Also**, such a hard working army (and we'll be working 'em hard) will need fuel (food). Any cooks want to volunteer?

**The shepherds** have some interest in Mark Casella as a candidate for our associate minister. If you have anything you'd like to add to their consideration on this matter, please contact one of the elders.

**Monday Night for the Master**, Our monthly evening of service together has been cancelled twice due to snow

storms. It is re-scheduled for tomorrow night, 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!

**Looking down the road, mark your calendars...**

- March 7-14, Harding Spring Break Mission Team
- March 13,14— the New England Church Growth Conference in Manchester CT. (see poster in foyer for details).



- 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

**Announcements** for the bulletin should come to Park, he is the writer of the bulletin these days. All errors are his. :)

## 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 February 8, 2015

Sunday morning worship	snow
Wednesday evening Bible classes	72
Contribution	snow
Budget	\$2300

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# A Word of Encouragement

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"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.

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## FOLLOWING JESUS TO UNEXPECTED PLACES: A PHARISEE'S HOUSE

Of course on the one hand, Jesus might have been expected to enjoy the hospitality of religiously minded people. It seems like they would be natural friends and allies. On the other hand, almost anyone who knows much about the life of Jesus knows how often He criticized the Pharisees, and how bitterly they criticized Him for refusing to follow the traditions that they so highly revered. So, when Jesus accepted the invitation of Simon the Pharisee to dinner (Luke 7:36-50), it is a bit surprising; you just know that an aggressive religious discussion is about to break out. And who wants that?

Things start off poorly. The ordinary niceties of hospitality, the common demonstrations of respect for a guest, are completely overlooked. Not only was there no one to wash Jesus' feet, there was not even a basin of water offered, so that Jesus could wash His own. No kiss of greeting (hand shaking) was offered. No oil for the head of the Guest was provided. All indications seem to be that Simon's invitation was little more than a perfunctory religious obligation of hospitality to a traveling rabbi. But then...

A woman quietly came into Simon's house, having heard that Jesus was there. She was a sinner, probably a prostitute, and she had heard that Jesus was dining at Simon's. She doesn't introduce herself to Him; she just weeps on His feet behind Him, enough that wiping the tears off His feet with her long hair seems to be enough to wash them. She kisses His feet, and then taking an alabaster vial of perfume she anoints them. And here's where the aggressive religious discussion breaks out.

Simon doesn't say a word, but he thinks to himself, *If this man were a prophet He would know who and what sort of person this woman is who is touching Him, that she is a sinner.* But thoughts are as open to Jesus as speaking them out loud, so Jesus responds with a simple parable about appreciation—Luke 7:41, 42 "A moneylender had two debtors: one owed five hundred denarii, and the other fifty. When they were unable to repay, he graciously forgave them both. So which of them will love him more?" It was a simple question and Simon easily

answered it—to his own detriment. Of course the one who was forgiven the most would love the most. Oops! Simon just ratted himself out.

There's something for us to chew on here, too. The parable and its question were prompted by the drastic contrast of Simon's lack of ordinary respect due a common human guest and the lavish and moving shows of love and respect given by the sinful woman. Jesus' point was that Simon clearly appreciated Him little, while the woman clearly loved and appreciated Him much. Love and appreciation, as we all know, are always demonstrated by respect and acts of love. Simon didn't realize how sinful and how much in need of forgiveness that he was; the woman, on the other hand, knew all too well how desperately she needed forgiveness of sin—and it showed.

Questions:

- Are you nearer to being like the woman or Simon?
- Is your worship—is your Christianity—a minimal, perfunctory offer of service; or is it a loving, passionate, respect-filled, eagerly obedient outgrowth of appreciation?
- Does our casualness, our lack of attentiveness, our minimalist offer of service in worship and discipleship betray something we'd like to deny? Perhaps, that we sometimes forget how much we've been forgiven and how much we still depend on His grace?
- Have there been too few tears and too many hohums?
- Has there been too little broken-heartedness and too much "I've got it covered"?
- Has there been too little wiping Jesus' feet with our hair and too much wiping our consciences with excuses?
- Have you offered the Lord too many table scraps and not enough vials of perfume?

You see while we thought we were following Jesus into Simon's house, we were actually following Him into a place of self-evaluation.

Surprise!

Park Linscomb

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## Our Congregational Calendar for February 15-28

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
15 Worship 9:30 Bible class 11am Fellowship Luncheon	16	17	18 Bible class 7PM Jason Therrien BD	19	20	21 Leadership Training 10am to noon
22 Worship 9:30 Bible class 11am Rosemary Johnson's BD	23	24 Destiny Chase's BD	25 Bible class 7PM	26	27 Candy Chase BD Levi Girling BD Bethany Girling BD	28 Leadership Training 10am to noon

Bible Reading Schedule for this Week			SERVICE	SUNDAY, FEB 15	WEDNESDAY, FEB 18
Sun	Feb 15	Matthew 15	<i>Call to worship</i>	Park Linscomb	
Mon	Feb 16	Exodus 9-10	<i>Songleading</i>	Stuart Peacock	Stuart Peacock
Tues	Feb 17	Exodus 11	<i>Scripture reading</i>	Rich Wilson	
Wed	Feb 18	Exodus 12-13	<i>Communion</i>	Rich Therrien	
Thu	Feb 19	Matthew 16	<i>Devo thought</i>		Park Linscomb
Fri	Feb 20	Exodus 14-15	<i>Closing prayer</i>	Fred Hillhouse	
Sat	Feb 21	Matthew 17	<i>Coordinator</i>	Ken Simon	
			<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.

Are you getting excited about the Harding Spring Break Group coming. Philip Baird and Jessica Revelle from last year will be among them!

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