

THE BULLETIN

“HAVEN’T GOT TIME”

Opportunity tapped at a door

With a chance for the person within;
He rapped till his fingers were sore,
And muttered, “Come on, let me in!
Here is something I know you can do,
Here’s a hill that you can climb.”
But the person inside very quickly replied
“OLD FELLOW, I HAVEN’T GOT THE TIME!”

Opportunity wandered along

In search of a man who would rise.
He said to the indolent throng,
“Here’s a chance for the fellow who tries.”
But each of them said with a smile,
“I wish I could do it, but I’m
Very busy today, and I’m sorry to say
That I REALLY HAVEN’T GOT THE TIME.”

At last opportunity came to a man

Who was burdened with cares,
And said, “I know offer the same
Opportunity that has been theirs.
Here’s a duty that ought to be done.
It’s a chance if you’e got time to take it.
Said the man with a grin, “Come along, pass it in!
I’LL EITHER FIND THE TIME OR I’LL MAKE IT.”

Of all the EXCUSES there are by which

This old world is accursed,
This one, “haven’t got the time” is by far the worst.”
A delusion it is—and a snare;
If the habit is yours, you should shake it,
For if you want to do what is offered to you,
YOU’LL EITHER FIND THE TIME,
OR YOU’LL MAKE IT!

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 WORTHLESS RELIGION

A religion...

that does nothing,

that gives nothing,

that costs nothing,

that suffers nothing,

...is worth nothing.

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.



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?

Next Leadership Training: March 21. A special series of monthly classes learn more about leading in the worship. Our focus will be leading the Lord's supper 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 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.

The church's financial needs continue as usual, despite the Sunday cancellations that have been necessary due to our recent spate of big snow storms. Please "make up" your regular contribution, so that we can continue to meet our financial obligations.

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 14, Ladies' Day in Biddeford ME, see bulletin board for details.
- March 28, Ladies Day in Roxbury MA, see bulletin board 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, by email, if possible.

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, Darlene Cordaro and staff at the death of a worker, the staff of the Concord Target who lost a co-worker to death

Leadership: Ministers, Elders, Deacons, Teachers, Parents

Our Statistics for the week from February 15, 2015

Sunday morning worship	snow
Wednesday evening Bible classes	70
Contribution	snow
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: ZACCHEUS' HOUSE

Jesus was on His final approach to Jerusalem and He was passing through the city of Jericho. His fame by this point had already spread far and wide, but in addition to this just outside of Jericho he had just given sight to a blind man named Bartimaeus. So now there was quite a crowd that was accompanying Jesus as He walked through town; it must have resembled a minor parade, because people were lining the streets to catch a glimpse of Jesus—including a man named Zaccheus.

Zaccheus was not the most popular man in town. He was a tax collector, and not just a tax collector, a chief tax collector. And not just a chief tax collector, a rich, chief tax collector. So, nobody was going to make a place for him along the "parade" route, and that was a problem, because Zaccheus was short. For some folks that would have been enough reason just to go home; but Zaccheus had heard about Jesus, the controversial, miracle-working rabbi. Perhaps he had even heard about some of the powerful, wonderful, and convicting things that He had taught. And now Jesus was in his own home town. How could he pass up this opportunity to see Him? So, Zaccheus climbed a tree to get a view of Jesus—and a view is all someone like him (a sinner is what everyone in town called him) could really hope for. Others in town perhaps hoped to touch Him, some others might have hoped for a healing (like Bartimaeus), others might have attempted to engage Him in conversation, some might have held hope that He would accept an invitation to dine with Him; but Zaccheus' expectations were lower, all he wanted was a view.

But then just as Jesus was passing by the sycamore-fig tree Zaccheus was in, Jesus looked up, looked right at the rich, chief tax collector and called his name, "Zaccheus, hurry and come down, for today I must stay at your house."

"Wh-what?" Zaccheus must have thought. "Really? Did He really say *my* name? No way!" He may have almost fallen out of the tree as he hurried getting down with an ear-to-ear smile on his face.

But then the grumbling began, and Zaccheus quickly realized how this great honor to himself was turning out to be a great dishonor to Jesus— "He has gone to be the guest of a man who is a sinner." (Luke 19:7). Now, Zaccheus may have initially thought of refusing Jesus' opportunity, but what he does say is pretty impressive, Luke 19:8, "Zaccheus stopped and said to the Lord, 'Behold, Lord, half of my possessions I will give to the

poor, and if I have defrauded anyone of anything, I will give back four times as much.'"

This is impressive not just because it is repentance, but because it is radical, enthusiastic repentance. Perhaps the taxes levied by the Romans, that Zaccheus had contracted to collect, had impoverished some of his neighbors; Zaccheus voluntarily pledged to give half of his own legitimately earned wealth to the poor. And if there had been any fraud in his collection (the word "if" is interesting here), he again voluntarily pledged to do better than the law even required: (Leviticus 6:5) "or anything about which he swore falsely; he shall make restitution for it in full and add to it one-fifth more. He shall give it to the one to whom it belongs on the day he presents his guilt offering." Zaccheus wouldn't repay them a mere 120%, but 400%! And none of this was required by Jesus as a condition to come to his house; it was all volunteered from joy.

Jesus is impressed. He declares that salvation had come to Zaccheus' house and He declares him to be a true spiritual son of Abraham. And I think that there is something to be learned by us here about being sons of Abraham—the enthusiasm that should accompany repentance.

The Lord, of course, calls for our repentance; but the response that we often give him is something less than enthusiasm—maybe a lot less—maybe something more like grudging compliance. We repent sometimes, only because Jesus requires it. So, rather than gain the joy of the new life in Jesus, we settle for mere grudging compliance to requirements. No doubt it is because we enjoy the sin too much, blind our eyes to the death that it brings, and fail to see the joy and life-giving benefit of committed discipleship to Jesus.

But what if we followed Zaccheus' example—really enthusiastically repented of our sins. What would our lives be like? What would the church be like? What would worship be like? What would the church's numbers be like? What would your family be like? So, what's keeping us from doing it?

Going to Zaccheus' house was a surprise to everyone who heard and saw it that day, including Zaccheus himself. What was really surprising, however, was the heart-felt, eager, ardent, fervent, passionate, zealous, excited, committed, and earnest response to Jesus' invitation. Complete, nothing-held-back repentance. Go on, surprise your world today!

Park Linscomb

Our Congregational Calendar for February 22 though March 7

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
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 & Bethany Girling BD Conway Youth Rally	28 Conway Youth Rally
1 Worship 9:30 Bible class 11am Conway Youth Rally	2 Monday Night for the Master 6PM	3	4 Bible class 7PM	5	6	7 Harding students arrive!

Bible Reading Schedule for this Week			SERVICE	SUNDAY, FEB 22	WEDNESDAY, FEB 25
Sun	Feb 22	Exodus 16-18	<i>Call to worship</i>	Gerry Millette	
Mon	Feb 23	Matthew 18	<i>Songleading</i>	Steve Johnson	Doug Paul
Tue	Feb 24	Exodus 19-20	<i>Scripture reading</i>	Justin Silva	
Wed	Feb 25	Exodus 21	<i>Communion</i>	John Osceola	
Thur	Feb 26	Exodus 22	<i>Devo thought</i>		Gerry Millette
Fri	Feb 27	Matthew 19	<i>Closing prayer</i>	Stuart Peacock	
Sat	Feb 28	Exodus 23-24	<i>Coordinator</i>	Stuart Peacock	
			<i>Tech</i>	Barry Fogal	



The Conway church of Christ is announcing its annual youth rally, to be held February 27 through March 1. 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!

Friday March 6th will be a teen devo at the King's house. It will start around 6:30. We will be working on a service project for the Harding Students.

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