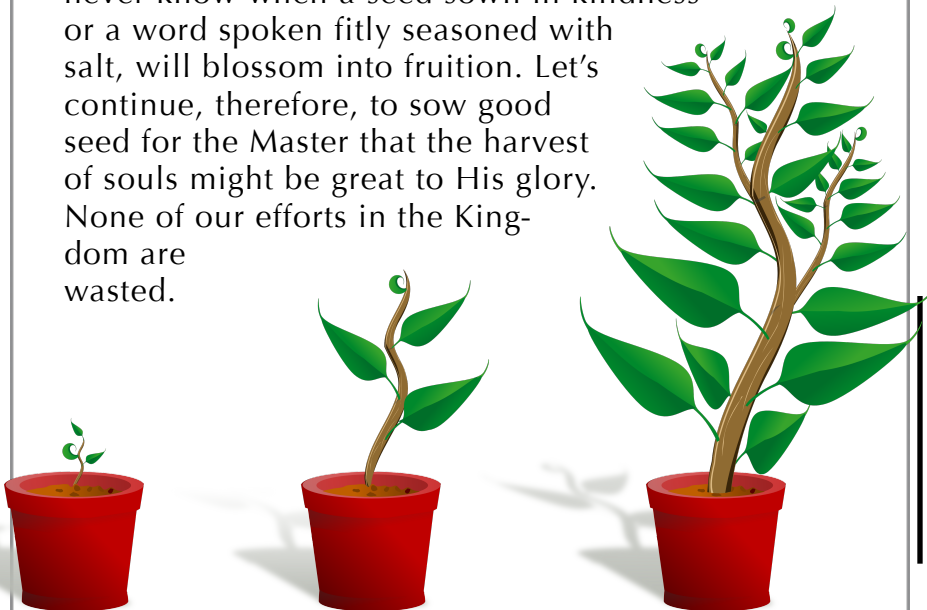


THE BULLETIN

NOT WASTED

A young woman, who was a great lover of flowers, had set out a rare vine at the base of a stone wall. It grew vigorously, but it did not bloom. Day after day she cultivated it, watered it, and tried in every way to coax it into bloom. One day, as she stood disappointedly before it, her invalid friend, whose back lot adjoined her own, called over and said, "you can't imagine how much I have been enjoying the bloom of that vine you planted." The owner looked, and on the other side of the wall was a mass of blooms. The vine had crept through the crevices and flowered luxuriantly on the other side.

Sometimes in our own lives we are tempted to give up in our labors for the kingdom, because it seems as if we are getting nowhere; we are reaping no harvest for all our labor. It is then that we ought to remember the words of Paul inspired by God, "I planted, Apollos watered, but God was causing the growth." Though Paul perhaps didn't see many fruits of his labors in some places, he always kept in mind that none of his labor in the Lord was in vain. We never know when a seed sown in kindness or a word spoken fitly seasoned with salt, will blossom into fruition. Let's continue, therefore, to sow good seed for the Master that the harvest of souls might be great to His glory. None of our efforts in the Kingdom are wasted.



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
Mark Casella (501) 388-1687

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



"The first call to Christian service is the best one to answer."



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.

Today is Fellowship Luncheon—bring a little something to share and enjoy the time of fellowship.

Phil Gould is speaking today. He has been part of our Men's Leadership Training Classes and at the last session, Park asked him to share his lesson with the church. **Next Sunday, Mark Casella** will be in the pulpit.

Vacation Bible School— August 17-19. It's all about Creation this year. Here are things you need to know...

- **Ongoing needs** are newspapers, milk, juice cartons, and unmatched socks. There are boxes for both under coat rack.
- **Advertising:** need someone to take the lead with this, per-

haps someone who can't help during the day.

- **Teens**, your help is needed for VBS. Help our new associate minister organize this year's VBS. Please check with Mark, Linda, Kerstin, Barbara S., and Freda about ways you can help.

GANDER BROOK INFO...

- **Canteen and Laundry** is in need of some volunteers for the 4th week (July 25-Aug 1). Call the office for more info on this
- **Camperships** for kids in our congregation needing help can be made by contacting Tony Casella, our church treasurer. If you are needing a campership, please also contact Tony.

Parents of Teens, there are a lot of things being planned by our new associate minister for our young people. Check the back of the bulletin for details.

Lifeline Screening will be hosted by the church here again in September. Life Line Screening is a

leading provider of community-based preventive health screenings. They'll be here 9/10/2015.

Some health updates: Peggy Mailloux fell down the stairs, Sunday. Nothing was broken, but she is sore and bruised.

Prayers, notes and visits would be appreciated....Brian Day has continued pain in his legs.... Debbie Garven's daughter is still being monitored for blood clots... Tamara Silva's mystery illness turns out to be Lyme disease.

Job Needed - Jessica Revelle, one of the leaders with this year's Harding group is still looking for a job. Jessica WANTS to come to this area to live and work. If anyone knows of a job, please let Park or the church office know.

Prayer List:

Good Works: Bible studies in progress, Gander Brook's season, the Men's Leadership

Training, our website, MNFM, food pantry, Penny Ranger's evangelistic efforts online

Health: Lynn Millette, Louise Linscomb, Brian Day, Peggy Mailloux, Penny's niece Chelsea, Mary Jane Parker, Dave Sequin, Gary Chase Jr., Natalie Cleavitt, David Lovering, Linda Tetrault, John Matthew, Rich Therrien's brother-in-law

Struggles: Randy Stevens, Mark Brown & Emma, Jim Kenison, Brethren who have forsaken the assembly.

Leadership: Ministers, Elders, Deacons, Teachers, Parents



WHAT'S HAPPENING?

Date	Activity	Where
July 19	All church Potluck	Ch. Bldg.
July 26 - 7pm-7am	Lock-in	Ch. Bldg.
Aug. 10 - 6pm	MNFM	Ch. Bldg.
Aug. 17 - 19	VBS	Ch. Bldg.
Aug. 22 - 7 - 9pm	Teen Devo	Mark & Ann's house
Sept. 5 - 7	Family Camp	Gander Brook
Sept. 7 - 11am, eat about 12:30	Labor Day potluck picnic	the Potter's home
Sept. 11 - 13	Teen Retreat	Gander Brook
Sept. 10	LifeLine Screening	Ch. Bldg.

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.

HOW TO UNDERSTAND THE BIBLE...

The Bible is the complete information source for the Christian faith (2 Tim. 3:16,17). It reveals God's eternal truth to us about spiritual reality, and it is the basis on which Christian unity can be found. But when some religious leaders are asked why there are divisions despite using the same book, the answer is often, "It's all a matter of interpretation."

But is it true that people can't understand language the same? And if so, why in the world are you even reading this article? No! Understanding the Bible, just like understanding a text book, a novel, or even an ordinary conversation isn't rocket science. We do it all the time. In this short space, let me list a few of the most important tools we use everyday to understand signs, contracts, everyday chats—and the Bible.

CONTEXT. Understanding words, sentences, and phrases always depend a lot on the context of a conversation or situation. So also with the Bible. If you want to understand a verse, you need to know what came before and what came after. Some of the biggest mistakes men make in Bible interpretation come from not paying attention to context.

BACKGROUND HISTORY. Part of the context principle, it can be very important to understanding Scripture. For instance, to understand Gospel stories that include Samaritans it's important to know Jewish/Samaritan history—full of prejudice and resentment. To understand why the Roman governor Pilate caved-in to Jewish pressure to crucify Jesus, learn the political history between them (the career-ruining mistakes Pilate made, that the Jews used against him).

UNDERSTANDING METAPHORS. Metaphors are powerful ways of getting across important teachings and meanings. But they're only useful, if you understand the metaphor. To understand the parable of the sower, for example, the reader needs to understand a little about ancient farming methods. To understand Daniel and Revelation, it's useful to know what horns, beasts, and certain numbers meant to the Jews of the day.

TYPE OF LITERATURE. Different sorts of literature are interpreted differently. No one reads a newspaper like poetry. No one reads a letter like you'd read a proverb. Each kind of literature is supposed to be read differently. Poetry uses symbols and metaphors to communicate ideas. History is understood as what literally happened. Law is understood as what is expected of us. Read the books of God's word according to their literary kinds.

LET THE BIBLE INTERPRET ITSELF. Here's one of the easiest, but most overlooked, principles of Biblical interpretation; if you read the whole book, it often explains itself. God, the real author of the Bible, knows better than anyone what He means—so, let Him interpret His own words. We expect

journalists and novelists to explain difficult things in their writings, why wouldn't God do the same?

HARMONY. This is related to letting the Bible interpret itself. To really understand what the Lord is saying we must take into account the *sum* of the Bible and not be satisfied with just *some* of it. Critics of the Bible are quick to allege contradictions, making their arguments by majoring on *some* verses rather than the *sum* of God's word. Some Bible teachers emphasize one set of scriptures, while ignoring others related to the same subject—yielding only a partial truth: amounting to a lie. An especially crucial mistake on the subject of salvation. Harmonize passages, get the whole story, and understand what God is saying.

DIRECT COMMAND. Such statements leave "no ifs, ands, or buts" to the hearers. These are absolute expectations, not soft suggestions. When God gives one of these, the hearer is expected to simply obey. Consequences follow for failure to comply. Context will, of course, come into play, so that we'll know who has been commanded and who is therefore expected to obey. But understanding the Bible alike means understanding the expectations of a direct command.

APPROVED EXAMPLES. These can teach and command, also, by providing Bible-endorsed actions or precedents by godly men and women. We "watch" and follow these examples, knowing that they are deeds or practices approved by God, leading to eternal life.

NECESSARY INFERENCE. It's a fancy name, but the explanation is not so complicated. When, for example, the Lord said, "Go..." He included or inferred that those who go should also raise the support to travel (by whatever means are available), evangelize (through preaching, teaching, brochures, newspapers, door-knocking, etc.), and support their families.

SILENCE. Although silence doesn't always teach, it does especially when a specific command is being given. When God specifically commanded a cappella singing, for instance, His silence on all other sorts of music in worship eliminated all the other varieties of music. So also with bread and wine for the Lord's Supper (eliminating steak and water), preaching the Word in worship (eliminating politics), and being baptized in the name of the Father, Son, and Holy Spirit (eliminating Buddha or Mohammed).

The fancy name for all this is "hermeneutics" and you might think from the name that it's tough, academic stuff; but it is something we do everyday. You *can* understand the Bible, and we can *all* understand the Bible alike. Let's use our common sense and the principles above and come to know the Lord better.

Our Congregational Calendar for July 19 through August 1

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
19 Worship 9:30 Bible class 11am Fellowship Lunch	20 Cayden Silva & Logan Hazelton BD Third week of children's camping at Gander Brook	21	22 Bible class 7PM Becky Moser BD	23	24 Rick & Karen Dugre's anniv.	25
26 Worship 9:30 Bible class 11am Teen Lock-In	27 Fourth week of children's camping at Gander Brook	28	29 Bible class 7PM	30	31 Park's BD	August 1

Bible Reading Schedule for this Week			Date	7/19	7/22
Sun	July 19	1 Samuel 18	Call to Worship	Barry Fogal	
Mon	July 20	Luke 11	Song Leader	Stuart Peacock	Doug Paul
Tue	July 21	1 Samuel 19-20	Scripture	Justin Silva	
Wed	July 22	1 Samuel 21-22	Lord's Supper	Gary Diaz	
Thur	July 23	1 Samuel 23-24	Closing Prayer	Dave Skerry	
Fri	July 24	Luke 12	Coordinator	Ken Simon	
Sat	July 25	1 Samuel 25	Worship Tech	Rich Therrien	
			Devo		Fred Hillhouse



Teen Lock in will at the building on July 26th at 7:30 pm till 7 am. We would love to have as many teens there as possible! If you are a young adult or parent that wants to help with the Lock in, please contact Mark.

VBS Aug 16-19- Teens we can use your help! Please mark your calendars.

The calendar is slowly starting to fill up, please keep an eye out in the Bulletin for updates and so you can plan to be at events with us! When they are planned, I will try to let you know about them as soon as possible! This makes it easier for everyone to plan their calendars and gives everyone a better opportunity to be at events. As you may have heard there will be calendars coming out for approximately 3-4 months at a time. I will figure out the most efficient way for me to show events and then relay calendars out to you soon! July is half over and August soon approaching so September might be when you start seeing calendars planned out farther. But for now please check your bulletin and the emails sent out from the church during the week to stay up to date!

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