

# THE BULLETIN

## MIDNIGHT AND THE PORCUPINE

Dave and his family, on vacation in northern Wisconsin, were sleeping soundly, when their dog Midnight began whining. It was five o'clock in the morning. Dave got up, stumbled to the door, let the dog out, and then stumbled back to bed. About half an hour later he was awakened again, this time by loud thumping from under the cottage—as though someone was hitting the underside of the floor with a board. Dave pulled on some clothes and went out to investigate.

At first Dave didn't see anything, but then Midnight slowly rounded the house toward him. Bending down to the dog, Dave could make out about a dozen quills sticking out of the dog's fur, mostly on the side of his neck and near the back of his head.

Evidently, Midnight had gone after a porcupine under the cottage, gotten nailed with quills from its tail, and the tussle that followed explained the thumping noises on the floor of the cottage.

Stunned, but not in any real pain, Midnight submitted to Dave's handling. But when Dave got the pliers and tried to pull out the quills one at a time, Midnight howled and pulled back. Removing the quills caused excruciating pain and the dog wanted no part of it.

Dave finally took Midnight to a veterinarian in town, who anesthetized Midnight and then surgically removed the quills. The vet explained to Dave that although Midnight felt no pain from the quills, if they were not removed they would eventually work their way further into his body and head and kill him. Although the removal was painful, the only way to save Midnight's life was to remove the quills.

Midnight's ordeal illustrates how we often respond to sin in our lives. Like the quills, bad habits and sinful acts become imbedded in our lives. When confronted with sin (by self, a friend, or the Holy Spirit), we tend to recoil. But we must allow God to perform His radical surgery, or those sins will kill us (James 1:13-15)

Author unknown



## The Manchester church of Christ

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### Our Ministers:

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

### Regularly Scheduled Services

Sunday worship: 9:30am  
Sunday Bible class: 11:00am  
Sunday evening: 6:00pm  
Wednesday Bible class: 7:00pm

  
 WHEN THE GRASS LOOKS  
 GREENER ON THE OTHER SIDE OF  
 THE FENCE, IT MAY BE THAT THEY  
 TAKE BETTER CARE OF IT THERE.



# 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 AND THAT...

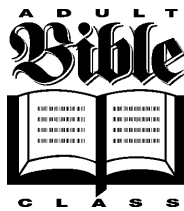
### ADULT BIBLE CLASSES GOING ON NOW...

- Sunday morning in the auditorium, we're studying the book of Acts—this week the latter half of Acts 17.
- Sunday morning ladies' class, which meets in the back classroom is studying the gospel of John.
- Sunday evening at 6pm at the church building, the small group that meets there is studying Romans; currently we're in the second chapter.
- Wednesday evening Bible study is engaged in a great study of Old Testament history; currently we're in 2 Samuel 6.

**DARLENE CHAMBERLAIN** is in the rehab facility connected with Concord Hospital, room 8.

**THE MCKEE FAMILY** are temporarily living in Weare, until they can find more permanent housing. Ryan's surgical recovery has gone well, and he has been able to retain his new employment. The family is very grateful for our prayers and concern.

**MOVING BOXES NEEDED.** the Silva family will be selling their home for health reasons and



need large cardboard boxes for packing. If you have some, bring them to church where Tamara can collect them for use.

### AREA EVENTS COMING SOON...

*There are a great many area events happening that you should know about. Find some things that will encourage your faith and then invite others to come with you.*

- Area Wide Hymn Sing May 1, in Springfield VT.
- The New England Lectureship, May 6-8, in Taunton MA. More info on the foyer bulletin board
- Ladies' Days
  - May 7, in Fall River
  - May 14 Manchester CT.
- A men's day, May 21, at the Concord church;
  - "Iron Sharpens Iron".
  - Park Linscomb and David Rollert will be speakers.

### GANDER BROOK STUFF

- **Work and Worship Week**—Gander Brook needs you. WWW will be held on June 27-July 1 this year. It is a wonderful week of family camping, a great way to contribute to Gander Brook, and features a great spiritual uplift each evening. This year's speaker is Arnie Holmes. Arnie was the preacher for the church in Manchester CT until his recent retirement.
- **Registration for camp** (online and paper) is now open. The online address is...

[ganderbrook.org/online-registration/](http://ganderbrook.org/online-registration/)

- **If you'd like to help rebuild the director's cabin**, the camp has a **webpage where you can contribute online** — [ganderbrook.org/directors-cabin/](http://ganderbrook.org/directors-cabin/). Otherwise, checks can be given to Park who'll forward them to GB's treasurer.
- **Gander Brook is going to be building a new dorm soon**, and likewise needs donations toward that project. Again checks can be given to Park to forward to camp's treasurer.

**WEDNESDAY DINNER:** Tacos and taco soup

### PRAYER CORNER: .

**Good Works:** Bible studies in progress, our website, MNFM, food pantry, Penny Ranger's evangelistic efforts online

**Health:** Tom Jones, Cy Stafford, Deb Dlutowski, Marge Simon, Lynn Millette, Penny's niece Chelsea, Mary Jane Parker, Dave Seguin, Natalie Cleavitt, David Lovering, Linda Tetrault and her brother Bob, John Matthew and Anni

**Struggles:** Penny Ranger's near eastern friend who converted was discovered to be a fraud (Penny's understandably upset); Randy Stevens; Jim Kenison; and finally, brethren who have forsaken the assembly.

**Leadership:** Ministers, Elders, Deacons, Teachers, Parents



# 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.

## CERTAIN ABOUT HIS CALLING AND CHOOSING YOU—GODLINESS

2 Peter 1:6 *“and in your knowledge, self-control, and in your self-control, perseverance, and in your perseverance, godliness,”*

The meaning of the word “church” in Greek is literally “the called out”. And while *ekklesia* (called out) was a common Greek word for any assembly of people, the double meaning was not lost on the first Christians—that they, all Christians, had been called out of the world and into the kingdom of God (see 1 Peter 2:9).

But the challenge for those who are called out is resisting the call of the world back into its ways. There are many cautionary examples in the Bible of those who started well on their “called out” walk, but finished poorly. So, a crucially important question is, “How do we keep our feet on the path of light?”

This is the reason Peter penned by inspiration of God the passage that we’ve been “sitting on” over the past few weeks. The Lord, through Peter, wants to point the way to making “certain about His calling and choosing you”. We’ve discussed diligence, moral excellence, knowledge, self-control, and perseverance. And in this installment of this series, godliness.

The word godliness in Greek is *eusebia*. It’s meaning has to do with reverence, respect, piety toward God, and religious duty; and it may be the virtue held in greatest contempt in our modern, anti-religion, secularist-driven, entertainment-jammed society.

The facet of godliness that we should start with is the practice of treating sacred things as sacred. This would be in contrast with the generally very casual approach to holy things that our egalitarian society loves. A few examples...

- treating God or joking about God, as if He were our “buddy”
- using His name as an expletive
- taking an oath casually in His name
- treating worship times as if one were at a ballgame, a park bench, or a living room
- disparaging the Lord’s church
- being contemptuous of the Bible

One of the great mistakes of our modern era is profaning (making common or ordinary) sacred things. Sacred events, sacred things, sacred times, sacred names are not ordinary; and should be treated as holy (1 Sam. 2:30 / Lev. 10:3 / Heb. 12:28). This is not only a

matter of proper respect for God, but when we treat holy things as common, we’re also led to treating God’s holy commands as mere suggestions. The path to keeping our feet on the path to heaven is found in part in this aspect of godliness, treating holy things as holy—not common.

But godliness would also include regular church attendance. In my sermons and comments about attendance, I often emphasize the benefit that church attendance has to us (Heb. 10:25,26); but in emphasizing one thing, there’s no intention to de-emphasize this important truth—God *should* be worshiped in a corporate, church setting. It is a religious duty, a part of the godliness that we are encouraged to practice, which proclaims appropriate glory to our glorious God. The godly make the time to worship God.

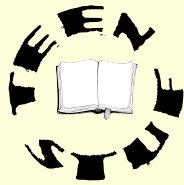
Those practicing godliness would also include a regular time for Bible reading. And when I mention Bible reading, I am including the important but often neglected meditation part, the part that asks, “How does this apply to me?” Psalm 119 is filled with exhortations to read, to think about, and to practice God’s word.

Godliness includes a strong and regular prayer life. A strong prayer habit was part of Daniel’s godliness that gave him spiritual strength and faithfulness in a faraway foreign country. Those who neglect the godly discipline of prayer, do so to their own spiritual disadvantage.

The last aspect of godliness that I’ll mention here is religious service—with the emphasis on the word service. Taking both deliberate time and opportunities as they occur to serve others, encourage the discouraged, feed the hungry clothe the naked, etc. in the name of the Lord. And by the way, this is something different from doing “random acts of kindness” that we see encouraged on bumper stickers. Random acts are those done capriciously (as we feel like it) and usually to make us feel good about ourselves. The good deeds of godliness, however, are done for the glory of God, not capriciously but regularly, without bias, and whether we feel like it or not. Done on principle of God’s never ceasing goodness, grace, and generosity toward us.

Obtain, cultivate, and increase in the virtue of godliness; and watch how deeply you’ll grow.

Park Linscomb



**\*Monday April 25th from 1:30-3:30 we will be at Families in Transition! Meet at the building at 1:30 and we will go from there.**

**\*Progressive dinner will be April 30 from 5-9. Meet at the church building to start. Pick up will be at the Spence's house! The**

cost is 5 dollars to help cover the cost of food. Please let us know by the 27th if you can make it.

**\*Devo is planned for May 7th from 7-9**

**\*We are thankful for each and every one of you! Keep on making time to be with your brothers and sisters during this busy time of year!**

Bible Reading Schedule for this Week		
Sunday	April 24	Psalm 124-125
Monday	April 25	Psalm 126-127
Tuesday	April 26	1 Corinth 10-11
Wednesday	April 27	Psalm 128-129
Thursday	April 28	Psalm 130-131
Friday	April 29	Psalm 132-133
Saturday	April 30	Psalm 134-136

Service Schedule for April 24 and 27		
Call to Worship	Barry Fogal	
Song Leader	Stuart Peacock	Stuart Peacock
Scripture	Mike Moser	
Lord's Supper	Gary Diaz	
Closing Prayer	Fred Hillhouse	
Worship Tech	George Abood	
Coordinator	Ken Simon	
Devo		Mark Casella

### Our Congregational Calendar for April 24—May 7

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
24 Worship @ 9:30am Bible class @ 11am Bldg sm grp-- 6pm	25 Teens at Families in Transition	26	27 6pm dinner 7pm Bible study	28	29	30 Teen Progressive Dinner
May 1 Worship @ 9:30am Bible class @ 11am Bldg sm grp-- 6pm	May 2 MNFM at 6pm	May 3	May 4 6pm dinner 7pm Bible study	May 5	May 6 New England Lectures in Taunton MA	May 7 Ladies' Day in Fall River MA