

THE BULLETIN

DOES IT MATTER WHAT CHURCH I GO TO?

Our world is very confused about religion these days. It's easy to understand why: it's become "all about me" and what I want. Ask someone about why they go here or there for church and you'll get different answers. It's what fits my "lifestyle". It's about what speaker appeals to me. About what worship services are like. About whether there are people your age or not. But little if any reference to the truth or what God commands. This leaves most thinking that where you go to church has everything to do with what I like or don't like, because it really doesn't matter. But it does matter.

It matters, because not every "church" is the Lord's church. Claiming things doesn't make them so. The Lord has described His church and when one reads Acts 2 a few fundamental things become pretty clear. Forgiveness of sins happens at baptism, forgiveness of sins is the essence of being saved, being saved is the requirement to being added to the Lord's church. Thus, not every group that claims to be the Lord's church are the Lord's church. So, it matters, because you may not really be going to church at all.

It matters, because not every "church" worships God as God has commanded. Let me use an Old Testament example (an appropriate approach for learning—1 Cor. 10:11), King Jeroboam (1 Kings 12) was Jewish (therefore, part of God's people) and he worshipped the God of Israel (good), but he did so through idols, through a different priesthood, with different holy days, and in different places than required. These differences were known in the rest of the Old Testament history as the "sins of Jeroboam". Some groups that have actually been saved (are God's people), are worshipping the Lord (as they should), but are nevertheless not worshipping the Lord as He has commanded (like Jeroboam). Some churches use musical instruments, let women lead in mixed worship, or fail to partake of communion weekly. Pleasing worship makes a difference to God, and it should also make a difference to us. Do you want to worship like a modern Jeroboam? It matters to God.

It matters, because God intends to take only His church to Heaven. Jesus said, Matthew 7:13, 14 "Enter through the narrow gate; for the gate is wide and the way is broad that leads to destruction, and there are many who enter through it. For the gate is small and the way is narrow that leads to life, and there are few who find it." It matters if you want to get to Heaven.

Rather than attending the church of your choice, why not worship with the church of Christ's choice?

The Manchester church of Christ

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mhtchurch.org

Our Ministers:

Park Linscomb 540-0287
Mark Casella (501) 388-1687

Our Elders:

Barry Fogal 487-2387
Gerry Millette 497-3105

Our Deacons:

Tony Casella- Finance
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


GET OUT OF FACEBOOK
AND INTO MY BOOK

-GOD



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.

WHAT'S GOING ON?

July 10 we will have a special guest with us, **Dr. Bruce McLarty**, president of Harding



University. Bruce will be in the area for a conference in Boston and is planning to be with us to worship. Dr. McLarty will be preaching for us that morning. Following worship there'll be a special class for our teens and their parents. If you have a student that may be college bound, Dr. McLarty would be a good person to talk with.



VBS is August 15-17.

"Animal Tales" is our theme. Mark your calendars.

LORD'S SUPPER: There is a need for someone to take the Lord's Supper to the shut ins during the month of July. See Doug Paul.

LAWN MOWING: This building belongs to all members and it takes everyone to keep it up. Right now we need people to sign up and mow the lawn. Bring the children and make it a family service project.

LIFELINE: There will be another lifeline screening here at the building sometime in October. We will need a few people to be greeters for the church.

MINI VBS: July 6 & 13 we will be having mini VBS during class time. Please make sure you kids are here to participate or if they are older to help. See Mark for more info.

Families stay in touch! We will be updating our directory, so when a form is given to you, please fill it out and return it as soon as you can, even if your info hasn't changed. Plus, we'll be taking some updated pictures—so everyone will be able to recognize you.

Family Workshop: This October 21-23 the church here will be hosting a family workshop with Dr. Joe Brumfield from Harding University. This is going to be a great opportunity to sharpen and improve our family skills and will be very worthwhile for visitors. Invite, invite, invite!

Gander Brook Christian Camp
CAMPING WITH A MISSION

Work and Worship Week— this week—family camping, a great way to contribute to Gander Brook, and a great spiritual uplift each evening. This year's speaker is Arnie Holmes.

Gander Brook Regular Camping Season, July 2 — August 13.

NEEDING HELP

- **Gander Brook's director's cabin,** is making progress. If you'd like to help through a contribution, you can do so online or through a check given to Park who'll forward them to GB's treasurer.

PRAYER CORNER:

Dick Potter, Casey Jones, Tamera Silva, David Lovering who is getting worse and for Barbara and she is caring for him and has Parkinsons herself.

CONTINUING REQUESTS:

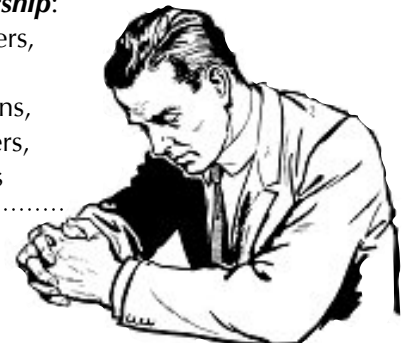
Good Works: current Bible studies, our website, MNFM, food pantry, Penny Ranger's online evangelism

Health: Judy Diaz's neighbors health, David Skerry's brother-in-law (Eddie), Tom Jones, Lynn Millette, Penny's niece Chelsea, Mary Jane Parker, Natalie Cleavitt, David Lovering, Linda Tetrault and her brother Bob, John Matthew and Anni

Struggles: Randy Stevens; Jim Kenison; the spiritually weak.

Leadership:

Ministers,
Elders,
Deacons,
Teachers,
Parents



"Be on the alert, stand firm in the faith, act like men, be strong." 1 Corinthians 16:13, NAS95.

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 MEET THE ENEMY

"I ask that when I am present I need not be bold with the confidence with which I propose to be courageous against some, who regard us as if we walked according to the flesh. For though we walk in the flesh, we do not war according to the flesh, for the weapons of our warfare are not of the flesh, but divinely powerful for the destruction of fortresses. We are destroying speculations and every lofty thing raised up against the knowledge of God, and we are taking every thought captive to the obedience of Christ," 2 Corinthians 10:2-5, NAS95.

Christianity is often compared to warfare in the New Testament. The scripture above and Eph 6:10ff are just a couple of many examples. The enemy is sin, the flesh, and the world. They have every intention of killing us as they have so many down through time. As early as Genesis 4:7 God told Cain, "...sin is crouching at the door; and its desire is for you, but you must master it." We might excuse most of mankind, for not recognizing the conflict; but it is tragic, when Christians fail to recognize the danger and sometimes seem to be more in favor of appeasement than victory.

But we are at war and we must meet the enemy. How do we do this? Here are a few thoughts

Be convicted and loyal! Mercenaries are never very good soldiers, because they no real conviction apart from money and survival. Conversely, citizens are excellent soldiers. They believe in their country; they believe in their cause; and they are willing to pay the ultimate cost in defense of these things. Are you a real citizen of Heaven? Do you really believe in God's righteousness? Are you convicted that the world is lost, that sin is deadly, and that we must do the right thing? Do you swell with pride at the name of Jesus, or do you cringe and change the subject, if His great name should be brought up? Loyalty and conviction (also known as belief) is key to meeting the enemy.

Put on the full armor of God. Only foolhardy soldiers go into battle without full armor. The way things tend to do is that the enemies bullets, arrows, swords,, spears, or sling stones will inevitably find the the unprotected spot of a soldier going into battle. You never go in unprepared. I had a friend in the Vietnam war who went as a conscientious objector and served as a medic. As he went on his first patrol, he thought he'd have the courage of his convictions and carry no weapon or armor other than a helmet. In that first patrol he was introduced to his first fire-fight. The next patrol he went on, he confessed that he must've looked like Pancho Villa—armed to the teeth and armored with anything he could carry. Sometimes our spiritual wounds (sins) are our own fault for having failed to put on armor. Brother, put on the full armor of God.

Don't run, stand firm. Warfare from ancient times to the 1800's involved lining up two opposing armies and letting them go at one another. Usually one side charged, and one side defended. Ephesians 6:11 and other places in the New

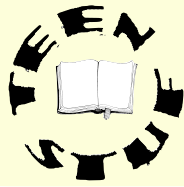
Testament urge us to stand firm—the exact command given by commanders of defending armies. The temptation would be to run, to retreat, to escape the oncoming mortal danger, but the commanders shouted, "Stand firm!!" In daily spiritual battles we may be likewise tempted to run, retreat, and escape the danger of being different. It is tempting to compromise and sometimes even change our position, but the Lord says, "Stand firm!!"

Follow the commander's lead. Joshua, Gideon, and David were great commanders of the Lord's people, because they were willing to jump into the fray and engage the enemy themselves. Our commander Jesus was no "armchair general", and He still commands and leads us. We must follow Him in his example, in His words, in His attitudes, and even in His willingness to sacrifice. And church leaders, this example should speak loudly to all of us, too. Soldiers will naturally follow their commanders into battle; so, lead the way!

Don't discourage others through failure to take your place with God's people. There's a story in the book of Numbers (ch. 32) about the tribes of Israel who eventually became the eastern tribes of Israel. Before they crossed the Jordan they found cities and lands that they really liked and they asked Moses if it would be OK if they settled there. At first Moses was greatly upset, because he thought that these tribes would wanting to back out of attacking Canaan. He warned them against discouraging the entire nation by failing join their brothers in the battle. The rest of the story is that the eastern tribes vowed to cross the Jordan with all of Israel and leave only when Joshua gave them permission. There's a lesson here for us, that when we leave the work to others, it becomes discouragement to them.

We are at war. Not a physical one, but a spiritual one, fought with words, good deeds, and good examples. it is fought despite the contempt others may hold us in, despite the scorn others may heap. We should be loyal and convicted citizens of Heaven, who daily put on the full armor of God, who stand firm against all the lies and temptations that the world throws at us, who follow the Leader's commands, and give only encouragement to one another. With the Lord as our King, victory is absolutely assured!

Park Linscomb



*Chuckster's is THIS Monday June 27th. Please be at the building by 12:15. We will return to the building by 4:30 or so. You will need 15 dollars to pay for your entry plus whatever you want for food and drink. If more people want to come just let us know!

*The Lock In is this Friday July 1st. Meet at the building at 7pm. We will leave for Manchester CT shortly after that. The plan is to return home by noon on Saturday. Please bring snacks in lue of money. There are 3 chaperones and a plan for a safe return trip.

* Mini VBS will be July 6 and July 13. Please bring your child for Bible Class! The teens will be helping to lead the VBS and there will

be Puppets! We are excited for this!

* July 10th is our teen and family lunch. We will be eating at Mr. Mac's right after Bible Class. There may be surprises.

* Our July Movie Night will be July 15th from 7:30-9:45.

* Our Hiking Trip and Mini Golf Days will still be taking place but will probably have to move during their respective weeks. TEENS! Please let Mark know what days work best for you that week.

* Keep your eyes and ears open for more events or for things you would like to do!

Bible Reading Schedule for this Week		
Sunday	June 26	Ephesians 1
Monday	June 27	Isaiah 7-8
Tuesday	June 28	Ephesians 2
Wednesday	June 29	Isaiah 9-10
Thursday	June 30	Ephesians 3
Friday	July 1	Isaiah 11-13
Saturday	July 2	Ephesians 4

Service Schedule for June 26 & June 29		
Call to Worship	Barry Fogal	
Song Leader	Doug Paul	Steve Johnson
Scripture	Dave Skerry	
Lord's Supper	Will Hamel	
Closing Prayer	Mark Casella	
Worship Tech	Rich Therrien	
Coordinator	Ken Simon	
Devo		Fred Hillhouse

Our Congregational Calendar for June 26-July 9

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
26 Worship @ 9:30am Bible class @ 11am Bldg sm grp-- 6pm	27	28	29 Jakob Owen BD 7pm Bible study	30	July 1 Millette anniv	July 2 First week of GB
W o r k a n d W o r s h i p W e e k a t G a n d e r B r o o k						
						Teen Lock-in in Manchester CT
3 Worship @ 9:30am Bible class @ 11am Bldg sm grp-- 6pm	4	5	6 7pm Bible study	7	8	9 2nd week of GB