

# THE BULLETIN

## CHRISTMAS MEANS...

*'For unto us a child is born, unto us a son is given; and the government shall be upon his shoulder, and his name shall be called Wonderful, Counsellor, Mighty God, Everlasting Father, Prince of Peace.'* Isa. 9.6



*'...she brought forth a son; and he called his name Jesus.'* Matt. 1:25

## The Manchester church of Christ

66 Mammoth Rd.  
Manchester NH 03109 603.623.5559  
[mht\\_church@comcast.net](mailto:mht_church@comcast.net)  
[mhtchurch.org](http://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:

Finance - Tony Casella  
Education - Doug Paul  
Building & Grounds - Will Hamel / Pete Steffensen  
Benevolence & Outreach - David Skerry

### Regularly Scheduled Services

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

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May Peace be your gift at  
Christmas and your  
blessing all year through!

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# Family News

“So then, while we have opportunity, let us do good to all people, and especially to those who are of the household of the faith.”  
Galatians 6:10, 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?

### SEARCH FOR NEW ELDERS

• **ELDER SEARCH:** The Elders announced they would like to search for additional elders to join them in shepherding the flock here. The elders will soon announce the process for nominating men as elders. Please be praying for spiritually sound, good and caring men to be added to the eldership.

## HELP NEEDED

### Snow Removal / Ground Care

**A signup sheet is posted for Snow Removal** (maybe you get lucky and it doesn't snow your week!!!) Bring the kids to work as a family and serve the Lord together.

Volunteers are needed beginning, **now**.

### Wednesday Night Supper:

This is a grand opportunity for **you** to “step up to the plate” (pun intended) and serve the church. *If you are willing to help* please tell Kathy, Park or Mark or call the church office. **Lord's Supper To Shut Ins:**

Volunteers are needed beginning, **now**.

## OTHER NOTES

- **WEDDING ANNIVERSARY - This is a surprise for them, so please keep the secret.**

Charles & Sue Burdette celebrate 50 yrs of marriage on Dec. 30. Their children have asked that we help 'shower them with love' by sending wishes to them. These need to be sent by Dec. 15 to Dan & Carissa Burdette, 809 Bayou Vista Dr., Marion, RA 72364.

**COME & GO RECEPTION** FOR David & Kristin Paul, Dec. 30 At The Paul's.

On **Dec. 25** there will be one worship service at 10am, no Bible class or evening service.

## TRAVEL

Many of our number will be traveling over the next

few weeks and need prayers for safe travel.

## THANK YOU

- To our teachers who prepare their classes and share God's word.
- Thank you to all who made things & were a part of the celebration of Dick's life, also for the help clearing the walkways & stairs.
- Thank you to each of you who participated in the Giving Tree. What a wonderful way to help our family during this season.
- Thank you to Mark & Ann for hosting the teen Christmas party last night.
- Thank you for the generosity you are showing for Mandy Hazelton's request.

## PRAYER

**NEW PRAYER CONCERNS:** for the selection of additional elders, for the Potter family, in their loss, for Thom & Deb Forestburg, Gage Dumas, John Mathew & Anni Davis Kathy's niece, Olivia.



ADDITIONAL PRAYER REQUESTS are on the back page of the Worship Insert

# *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.

## CHRISTIAN LEADERSHIP, PART 3

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The last two articles we’ve considered the Bible’s teaching about leadership. These considerations are different from worldly, secular exercises of leadership. Christian leadership begins with the motivations of service, the knowledge of how to follow, and the Christian attitude of humility. It goes on to lead from the front, lead by example, and finds ways to not just correct but to coax and encourage. But there’s more...

**Christian leadership self-sacrificially considers the needs of others weaker than itself**, especially when human opinions, personal desires, and traditions are at stake. Worldly leadership tends to think only about itself; it seldom thinks about how easily tripped-up weaker folks might be—people like children, newer Christians, and outsiders. Both 1 Corinthians 8-10 and Romans 14 & 15 teach a kind of leadership that practices self-denial, when it comes to matters of opinion, in favor of the weaker brother. In these passages Paul called on more mature men (leaders) to refrain from what they wanted to do (eat meat or drink wine), if it caused a weaker brother to stumble. Jesus’ own life, of course, provides us with the perfect example of it—a life of self-sacrifice on behalf of those who were confused, tempted, fallen, and in need of grace and instruction. Christian leaders, though always faithful in matters of doctrine, consider the good of the weaker brethren in matters of opinion and judgment.

**Christian leadership teaches, corrects, and interacts** (with great patience and instruction). Leadership, being the exercise of influence in the lives of others, naturally is a great deal about instruction—not just about letting the world watch me (as if I were the center of everyone’s attention). Worldly leadership merely commands imperially; it has no interest in changing the other person’s life for the better, but rather is interested in having the other person comply to his desires. Such “leadership” in the church doesn’t result in real change, only in getting one’s way. Christian leadership, however, uses the teachings of Jesus Himself (Matthew 28:20), correcting (both pointing out of what is being lived wrongly and teaching of what is right—2 Tim. 3:16), and interaction (showing the other person how through “hands on” demonstrations of example). And Christian leadership does this with great patience, because, of course, nobody “gets it” the first time...or sometimes even the 100th time. Christian leaders actively instruct with patience.

**Christian leadership is willing to stand alone with God.** One of the painful realities of Christian leadership is that there will be times in which the world (and sometimes even brethren) will disagree with the Lord about teachings/doctrine/truth. In such circumstances it is tempting to “go along to get along”, “go with the flow”, call it an opinion, and “follow the popular trend”. But the Lord’s kingdom has never been a democracy; it has always been a monarchy with leaders below the throne who are charged with carrying out the will of the King of kings. And sometimes that means standing “alone” (visibly, at least). The prophets of the Old Testament often did, Jesus often did, and the apostles did. Modern Christian leaders must, too.

Christian leadership isn’t easy, it isn’t intuitive, and it runs counter to what we have seen among most leaders in our lives—but it is critically important to the health and well being of the Lord’s church. In Jeremiah 23:1ff we find the LORD taking to task the foolish and selfish leaders of Israel (priests, princes, and prophets), whose actions had led Judah to its destruction—which helps us understand that God does hold leaders (of every variety) to account for his leadership. What kind of leader are you?



## UPCOMING EVENTS

Calendar for December can be found in the foyer.

- This afternoon we are delivering Giving Tree items. If you would like to be involved with this please see Mark.
- The Giving Tree is located in the back of the foyer. We have one last task to help Mandy Hazelton with her students. If you want to give money today we are accepting those or if you want to purchase clothing or an item please bring them back by Wednesday Night.
- Thursday Night (22) we are meeting at 6:15 to head to Nashua to join their youth group with Steve Mezzapelle for a Christmas Party. We plan to return by 9:30 the latest.

### Food for Thought...

"Does the same spring pour forth from the same opening both fresh and salt water? Can a fig tree, my brothers, bear olives, or a grapevine produce figs?..." James 3:11-12

In the beginning of this chapter we see a lot of talk about the mouth. In all of this talk we find out some key information. Verse 5 tells us how small the tongue is but what great things it can do. Verse 6 mentions fire and yet we are still talking about the tongue. We continue on and come upon these two questions in verses 11 and 12. How can fresh and salt water come out of the same opening?

If we didn't read the context of the passage then we would fail to see how this question is relevant. It makes us think about the things we say. Is it possible for both salt and fresh water to come from the same

opening? No. Even at the end of verse 12 we can see it as he writes "Neither can a salt pond yield fresh water."

How can we speak both things that go against God and then turn around and worship Him from the same mouth? This is a struggle for a lot of people. Even the people who you look up to the most struggle with this in one way or another. It is important for us to watch what we say. The things we say can also reveal the intentions and shape of our hearts.

Part of walking the Christian walk is also talking it as well. We are just like the spring of water. We need to remember that what we say can affect the way we worship God and that the mouth we use daily is the same one that worships God.

Mark

*Thinking it over...*

**Love God, Love Others, Love Yourself**

### Family Bible Reading and Congregational Calendar for Dec 18- Dec 24

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
<b>18 - Rev. 15</b> 9:30am Worship 11am - Bible Class 6pm - Evening Worship Ryan & Robyn Mackey - Anniv	<b>19 - Zephaniah 1-3</b>	<b>20 - Rev. 16</b>  Benji Peacock - BD	<b>21 - Haggai 1-2</b>  7pm - Bible Class	<b>22 - Rev. 17</b>	<b>23 - Zechariah 1-4</b>  Rich Therrien -BD	<b>24 - Rev 18</b>