

# THE BULLETIN

## Why Go To Church?

If you're spiritually alive, you're going to love this! If you're spiritually dead, you won't want to read it. If you're spiritually curious, there is still hope!

A church goer wrote a letter to the editor of a newspaper & complained that it made no sense to go to church every Sunday. 'I've gone for 30 years now,' he wrote, '& in that time I have heard something like 3,000 sermons, but for the life of me, I can't remember a single one of them. So, I think I'm wasting my time & the preachers are wasting theirs by giving sermons at all.'

This started a real controversy in the 'Letters to the Editor' column. Much to the delight of the editor, it went on for weeks until someone wrote this clincher:

'I've been married for 30 years now. In that time my wife has cooked some 32,000 meals. But, for the life of me, I cannot recall the entire menu for a single one of those meals. But I do know this: They all nourished me & gave me the strength I needed to do my work. If my wife had not given me these meals, I would be physically dead today. Likewise, if I had not gone to church for nourishment, I would be spiritually dead today!'

When you are DOWN to nothing, God is UP to something! Faith sees the invisible, believes the incredible & receives the impossible! Thank God for our physical & our spiritual nourishment! When Satan is knocking at your door, simply say, 'Jesus, could you get that for me?'

IF YOU CANNOT SEE GOD IN ALL,  
YOU CANNOT SEE GOD AT ALL !

**B. I. B. L. E.** simply means: **B**asic **I**nstructions **B**efore  
**L**eaving **E**arth!

When you *carry* "the Bible", Satan has a head ache; when you *open* it, he collapses; when he sees you *reading* it, he loses his strength; & when you *stand* on the Word of God, Satan can't hurt you!

Anonymous

## The Manchester church of Christ

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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



A growing church is  
evangelistic. It must be  
zealous to win lost people to

Christ



# 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 would like to thank all who submitted names for additional elders.

## OTHER NEWS

- **Today** at 2pm there is a baby shower for Ann Casella at Beth King's house - 3 Blevens Dr., Manchester.
- Please watch your children, the bathrooms are not a place to play.
- **Sunday, Jan. 29**, after Bible classes there will be a follow-up session for World Bible School during lunch. Pizza will be provided. If you'd like to bring a dessert, that would be great.



## THANK YOU

- To all who continue to help keep the walks & stairs cleared.
- To all who are helping maintain the carpet by not bringing food and drink into the auditorium.

## HELP NEEDED

**Snow Removal - A signup sheet is posted for Snow Removal.** Thank you to those who have signed up. Bring the kids to work and serve the Lord as a family. To this point a few have come by to check and clear walks and steps. Even if you aren't signed up and can come and check, it could be a help to those who are clearing. There are shovels, a snowblower, and ice melt in the shed here.

### 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. This is a fun opportunity to get to know each other better and make memories. **Jan 18** - Freda is making pulled pork sandwiches, cold slaw dessert. There is a sign-up

sheet in the back of the auditorium.

### Lord's Supper To Shut Ins:

Volunteers are needed, **now**. Please talk with Doug Paul about this.

## UPDATE - MOBILE DIRECTORY

An update to the login process may affect mobile apps. With this upgrade some members may be automatically logged out and will need to log back in. If you requested a passcode and don't remember it, you can quickly request a new one. Please remember, **if a member's email address was changed in the directory, you will need to use that new email address to login.** You can no longer use the old email address. If a member is having trouble re-logging into the directory, be sure to check how the email is listed in the directory.

## PRAYER

**NEW PRAYER CONCERNS:** for the selection of additional elders, Pedro Lebron's mother, Will Hamel, and the Silva's, Eskel, Therrien & Potter families.



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.

## THE INVITATION

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Sunday I preached about the part of worship known as the sermon. One aspect of the sermon, not touched on, was the invitation. I thought I'd finish the sermon here in the bulletin on a subject that is hardly ever discussed, the invitation.

A trend in sermons over the last several years has been to drop the invitation. The reasons given are several: 1) modern folks don't publicly respond to a sermon anymore, 2) it's not a requirement of Scripture, and 3) it's a tradition that's left over from the tent-meeting revivals that's no longer relevant today. Some of this (not all) has come from a denominational trend that has tried to make the modern sermon into a 'feel good' speech.

Whatever the modern reasons and rationales for skipping the invitation, there is still a strong case to be made for sermons to include them in the sermon.

First invitations are not just old-fashioned traditions. The point of sermons in both Old and New Testaments was to call men to immediate repentance, a change of heart and behavior from sin to obedience toward God—often in a public forum. The prophets' messages were calls to repentance (Isaiah 1:18-20; Hosea 14:1, 2; Amos 5:14, 15; and more). John the Baptist's messages were all about repentance (Mark 1:4,5). Jesus' messages were calls to change lives (Matthew 13:43; Matthew 7:24ff; Luke 16:19ff; and many, many more). The apostles' messages included public calls for repentance (Acts 2:38-41; Acts 3:17-26; and many others). And the letter to the Hebrews, which calls itself a sermon (a “word of exhortation” Hebrews 13:22) to be read aloud to various congregations, contains no less than four (Hebrews 3:12ff; 6:4ff; 10:26ff; and 12:25ff). An invitation is both Biblical and natural.

But what is an invitation for? The short answer is that invitations are appeals to men and women to respond to God's call to repent and change. Sermons are not about opinions, politics, academic proposals, or trivia; they are declarations of sober, spiritual truth from the Lord Himself (see 2 Timothy 4:1ff). And although some of such messages encourage to persevere in faith, others “reprove and rebuke”. The apostle Paul's letters (which could be considered a variety of sermon) often contained both. The “reprove and rebuke” sort are logically intended to prompt the

response of repentance. A sermon of pure encouragement may not need an invitation (e.g., Revelation 2:8-11); but when sermons point out error, a call to change naturally happens (e.g., Revelation 3:14-22). But one may ask, “Why is there a call for the response to be public?” First of all, not every response to the invitation will be public; the hope of every Gospel preacher is that the whole assembly will grow and change from the sermon given. Speaking directly to the question, however, the invitation is not as much a call for a **public** response—although there are reasons for public responses—as it is a call for an **immediate** response. Immediacy of repentance is a continual theme in Scripture (e.g., Heb. 3:7,13,15 and 4:7), and the dangers against putting it off is crystalized in the story found in Acts 24:24,25 in which Felix tells Paul, “Go away for the present, and when I find time I will summon you.”

OK, so who should respond to an invitation? Well, in theory almost everyone, but if you're asking who should come forward, it would be: 1) People who want to place faith in Jesus and obey Him in baptism, thus becoming Christians. 2) Wayward Christians, whose public deeds have brought a dishonor to the name of Christ and His church; public sins should be publicly acknowledged and repented of. Or 3) disciples of Christ asking the congregation for its prayers, so that they can overcome in their struggles against temptations, trials, or sin.

Lastly, how should I construct an invitation? This latter question is for those who may sometimes preach or present devotional messages and feel awkward at the offering of an invitation at the end. There is no official construction for an invitation, although there does seem to be a traditional formula. Knowing 1) what your message has been (encouragement or correction), 2) who your audience is (Christians, the lost, or a combination), 3) what the Scriptures in your message are calling for, and 4) who they should respond to should help in developing an effective invitation.

Truth is not merely to be preached and heard, it is to be done. This is the reason for an invitation in a sermon. In an invitation, we are called upon to do what was preached.



## UPCOMING EVENTS

Calendars for January and February can be found in the foyer.

- January 15h is our teen lunch day with a commercial shoot. Please bring 5 dollars for pizza! We will shoot at least one commercial and end by 3pm.
- Sunday Night Children's class is studying Old Testament Heroes.
- Teen Game Night will be on January 20th from 7-9. Bring a snack or a game to play.
- Chill will be Tuesday the 24th from 7-8 at Mark and Ann's. Come and chill. That's all you have to do.
- Youth Rally Forms are in the Foyer! Please grab one and return it by the 8th at the latest!

## **Food for Thought...**

Ephesians 4:31-32 "Let all bitterness and wrath and anger and clamor and slander be put away from you, along with all malice. Be kind to one another, tenderhearted, forgiving one another, as God in Christ forgave you."

Paul puts this important wisdom at the end of chapter 4 in the middle of this section about the New life. We read about how He is calling the Ephesians to live lives that are not like the Gentiles. Right before he gets into walking in love, Paul encourages us to be kind to one another, tenderhearted, and forgiving. This is something that all of us can work on. These actions of love effects us whether it is with friends, family, or anyone else that we run into.

The words of verse 31 are all

ones we are tempted to do in our lives. People make us mad, hurt our feelings, and upset us. A lot of times we want to respond with anger and wrath or hold onto the grudge for a long time. But this isn't the example that God gave us was.

When we are dealing with people and the different emotions we feel daily, it is important to remember the example that Christ gave us. We might want to hurt someone for hurting us or respond in bitterness but the example is what Christ gave us. It is important for us to try and act as Christ would. Imagine the change in our lives if we would try this. Not only that but imagine the impact we could have on the other people involved when we act as Christ would.

Simply put. Respond as Christ would and love others. They deserve it to. - Mark

### *Thought Provoking Question*

*How are you using your time to get closer to God?*

There are pamphlets in the foyer, '**A Daily Walk with God**,' that you can take and keep in your Bible for reading through in 1 year.

## **Family Bible Reading and Congregational Calendar for Jan 15- Jan 21**

<b>Sunday</b>	<b>Monday</b>	<b>Tuesday</b>	<b>Wednesday</b>	<b>Thursday</b>	<b>Friday</b>	<b>Saturday</b>
<b>15- Gen. 20-21</b> 9:30am Worship 11am - Bible Class 6pm - Evening Worship Steve Jones - BD	<b>16 - Gen. 22</b>	<b>17 - Gen. 23-24</b>  Jaxon Karafelis - BD	<b>18- Matt. 7</b>  6pm - Wednesday supper 7pm - Bible Class	<b>19 - Gen. 25-26</b>  Logan Bergeron - BD Susie Peacock - BD	<b>20 - Matt. 8</b>  Doug & Linda Paul - Annv	<b>21 - Gen. 27-28</b>