



BULLETIN

When Bad Things Happen.....

“Blessed is the man who perseveres under trial, because when he has stood the test, he will receive the crown of life that God has promised to those who love him” (James 1:12)

It's true! Sometimes bad things happen to good people. Joseph was a young man who was cruelly taken from his father's house, sold into slavery and became a house servant to Potiphar. Though the experience must have been difficult, Joseph was faithful to God, and God blessed him. Everything was going well until Potiphar's immoral wife told the lie. It was unfair, unjust and wrong. Joseph didn't deserve such treatment.

Whose fault was it? Joseph's? God's? Oh NO! It was Satan's fault. Satan is the author of immorality and every kind of sin. God designed a perfect garden for man. Satan is the one who destroyed it. Because of him, death, hardship, discouragement and even unfairness entered the world.

Maybe there have been times when life has been unfair to you. Don't blame God. God wants only good for you. He gives good gifts. Blame Satan for the bad things. He is our enemy. He wants to hurt and destroy us all.

I am convinced, if we fight the right enemy, *“...we are more than conquerors through Him who loved us”* (Rom. 8:37).

Adapted from Ken Jones

The Manchester church of Christ

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Our Minister:

Park Linscomb 540-0287

Our Elders:

Barry Fogal 487-2387

Gerry Millette 497-3105

Our Deacons:

Benevolence - David Skerry

Building & Grounds - Will Hamel / Peter Steffensen

Education - Doug Paul

Worship Time:

Sun. Worship - 9:30am

Bible Class - 11:00am

Sun. Evening - 6:00pm

Wed. Bible Class - 7:00pm



Dear Lord, help me remember the importance of prayer. You always hear my prayers, God: let me always pray them!

Amen



Family Events

“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.



- **OCT. 28** - FALL WORK DAY @9am
- **OCT. 31** - TRUNK OR TREAT @6-8PM
- **NOV. 3-5** - GOSPEL MEETING
- **NOV 6** - MNFM @6PM
- **NOV 11** - FAMILY MOVIE NIGHT @6PM
- **NOV 17-19** - YOUTH RALLY, MANCHESTER, CT (CHAPERONES NEEDED!)

FALL MEETING

Nov. 3-5, David Rollert, minister at the Tilton church of Christ, will conduct a meeting - "What is this Gospel that People Talk About?", lessons from 1 Cor. 15. Begin to think about people to invite and pray for them and David.



- Nov 3 - **Fri. PM** - Reporting the Facts of the Good News
- Nov 4 - **Sat. am** (men) - Is it really worth it? A look at a life changed
- Nov 4 - **Sat. pm** - Resurrection? Really? That sounds awfully mystic
- Nov 5 - **Sun. worship** - Unfading victory
- Nov 5 - **Sun. class** - The promise of a better life



Penny is donating all money made from the sale of her cards to the Disaster Relief effort. You can buy the card, \$5/pack. There is a basket of cards in the foyer. Leave your money in the envelope in the basket.



Lord's Supper to shut-in

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

Pantry:

The pantry is thankful for all donations. Please check expiration dates on food & if it's expired, don't bring it. Anyone willing to participate at the pantry either Wed. evening or Sun. morning, please let Dave Skerry know.

Mowing & Grounds

- **Oct. 28 - Fall Work Day.** This is a time to get the building ready for winter & to spruce it up prior to our fall meeting.
- A list of tasks is posted on the board in the foyer. Check it to see what you can help with.
- We need everyone's help to keep things tended. It gives a caring impression to those around...if we care about the building, we must also care about their souls.
- *There is a sign up sheet in the foyer, including snow removal - it's coming!*



To all our teachers & helpers
To the many who have signed up to cook. It's good to have more families involved
To those who take the trash bins out on Wednesday evenings

Wed. Evening Suppers

Supper is every Wednesday @6pm. This week, the Steffensen's are making Chinese Pie, salad & dessert. Dinner is still only \$4/person.

- Please help by signing up in the foyer. There are sign up sheets for:
 - *Are you coming?*
 - *When are you willing to cook?*
- If you've never done this, and would like someone to team with, call the church office .
- Grab a friend, plan your menu and prepare to have fun. Call the church office with your menu by Tuesday so it can be posted.



We will host this on Dec. 7. Watch for additional information & a chance to sign up to help.

Family Bible Reading, Birthday and Congregational Calendar for Oct. 22- Oct. 28

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
22-2 Chrn. 9-10	23- 2 Chrn. 11-12	24-John 11	25-2 Chrn. 13-14 Wed Evening Supper @ 6pm	26- 2 Chrn. 13-14	27-John 12	28-2 Chron. 15-16 Work Day @ 9am
		Jon Potter, Jr. - BD				Diane Beard - BD

Youth & Family News



UPCOMING EVENTS

Be on the lookout for future events. If you want to lead an event, or help, please call the church office to check that the date is free and **PLEASE volunteer!**

Trunk or Treat: Oct. 31 @ 6-8pm. Set up is at 5:30. This has been a good outreach for people around us as well as a fun time for our own families. Dress your trunk & yourselves; come join us for fun.

REMINDER: Store-bought candy

Nov. 11 - Family Movie Night - price of admission - 1 can of chicken per child

Nov. 17-19 - Youth Rally - Manchester, CT - **Need:** chaperones to go. Please call one of the elders or the church office to volunteer.

Weekly
Contribution
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Question of the Week

Is your heart right with
God?

THAT SWEET AROMA

One of my favorite things to come home to is the sweet smell of a delicious meal or dessert that Ann has made. A personal weakness of mine is the smell of chocolate chip cookies. I could eat those all day long if allowed to and didn't have to suffer the consequences of that decision. Someone shared a quote recently that I have always liked, "Your attitude is like the aroma of your heart, if your attitude stinks, it means your heart's not right." If you recognize it you remember it being said by Grant Taylor in 'Facing the Giants'.

I think this quote is something that can serve as a reminder to us all. Our hearts are very important; so important that it is mentioned multiple times throughout scripture. Let's look at a few...

- *"Above all else, guard your heart, for everything you do flows from it." - Proverbs 4:23*
- *"My son, give me your heart and let your eyes delight in my ways." - Proverbs 23:26*
- *"Blessed are the pure in heart, for they will see God." - Matthew 5:8*

These are just a few of the many passages that look at our hearts. Our hearts tell the world about who we are. It tells them what we really believe in; it tells them what we want to do. Our hearts hold our deepest desires. But when our hearts aren't right neither are we. I dare say that our actions will not be right either.

Where are you in your life right now? Do you have a poor attitude towards people, your job, your house, your family, God, or the church? Is your heart truly desiring to be closer to God? One thing I encourage you to do this week is to examine your heart. What is it really saying right now?

I love the smell of those chocolate chip cookies but what smells even better than that is the aroma of a heart who is in the right place. A heart who is truly seeking God and His ways. A heart who is ready and willing to serve God and His people. One who's attitude (heart) smells sweet. What is your aroma today? We would be concerned if a one of our football players came home from practice without showering but smelled really good. We would question if their heart was in practice or if they tried at all. We should question ourselves if your attitude stinks and reveals that our hearts aren't right. So what do you smell like today? Is your aroma sweet like a chocolate chip cookie fresh out of the oven? Or are you smelling more like a wet dog that just played in the mud? We can all take steps to bring our hearts closer to God and to protect it from the world. This week spend time in God's word and take the time to speak to the Lord. Devoting our hearts and minds to the Lord are the best ways to keep it away from the grasp of the world. What can you do to give your heart to the Lord this week and as we walk into the future?

-Mark Casella

A Parting 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.

FAMILY COMMUNICATIONS **THINK BEFORE YOU SPEAK**

Good communication is the foundation of human relationships. When we fall short in communicating with each other misunderstandings happen, emotions (usually the negative ones) are stirred, and ties get strained or broken. In last week’s bulletin article I urged the principle of listening and letting the other person finish talking. This week let’s think about the next step, thinking before speaking.

One of the most common issues in family counseling is “a communication problem”. What people most often mean is that the other person isn’t talking; and true-enough, that is often a problem. But I have also seen a lot of times in which the communication problem wasn’t that the other person wasn’t talking, but that one party was 1) talking way too much and 2) saying all the wrong things.

You see, **not all communication is good communication**. Some people think that good communication is all about saying everything that has ever run through their mind—letting it all hang out, so to speak. Not so. In fact, the word of God strongly disagrees:

*“Do you see a man who is hasty in his words?
There is more hope for a fool than for him.”*
Proverbs 29:20

“When there are many words, transgression is unavoidable, But he who restrains his lips is wise.” Proverbs 10:19

“So also the tongue is a small part of the body, and yet it boasts of great things. See how great a forest is set aflame by such a small fire! And the tongue is a fire, the very world of iniquity; the tongue is set among our members as that which defiles the entire body, and sets on fire the course of our life, and is set on fire by hell.”
James 3:5, 6

Communication is good; but it is only good, when it has been preceded by some thought. A modern proverb puts it, “Engage brain before putting mouth in gear.” Especially in family settings, where we are our most unguarded and vulnerable, it is important to say things to one another that will actually help, not merely the things that we “want to get off our chest”. This applies whether you are a husband, wife, mom, dad, boy, girl, or teen.

We sometimes think that the unwholesome words that Paul calls sin in Ephesians 4:29 is only about swearing or vulgar language, but it applies just as well to family communications. “Wholesome” refers to what is good for health; and we’d do ourselves and our families a favor by asking ourselves (thinking) whether our family communications are health-giving or just venting.

Proverbs 14:1 tells us, “The wise woman builds her house, But the foolish tears it down with her own hands.” While this proverb is addressed to women (who do have greater verbal powers than men), the principle applies across the board to every family member. Thinking before speaking not only helps us avoid tearing down; but it also builds real family closeness.

This sort of communication takes at least four Christian virtues: 1) self-control (not saying everything you’re thinking), 2) love (acting in the best interest of the person and the family), 3) compassion (sensitivity toward the other person’s weaknesses), and 4) courage (to speak the truth in love).

At home, do you think before speaking?

Park Linscomb