

THE BULLETIN

Fellowship

Fellowship is more than a church potluck or a Brother's keeper program. Fellowship is sitting in the kitchen with a brother drinking coffee and visiting in the funeral home with your friend of many years, sitting there on the couch, and not saying a word because you know each other so well you don't have to say any words.

Fellowship is taking the new couple out to eat and politely listening with interest while they talk about back home. It's hugs in the foyer and meetings and laughter and tears and lingering in the parking lot for an hour after services. You see fellowship in our standard announcement of "Everyone who took dishes to the Smiths, please pick them up in the foyer. Thanks so much." It's slapping the new daddy on the back and saying, "I hope he looks like his mom," and then uttering a prayer of thanks to God.

Fellowship is love each other and sticking around, even during the bad times, not because you can't go elsewhere, but because you don't want to go elsewhere. Fellowship is loving God and loving those folks down there at church.

selected

This Sunday's sermon will be about the spiritual growth principle of the church — having the same care for one another (1 Cor. 14:24-26). It's so easy to think like the average person in the world — self-centered and careless of the church — but God calls us to think different. Come with a Bible and a friend.



Park Linscomb, our minister

Sunday evenings we have small groups that meet around the greater Manchester area, but there'll be one meeting 6pm-7pm at the church building where we'll have a devotional, a communion service, and a Bible class. Join us.

Our Family

"Therefore encourage one another and build each other up, just as in fact you are doing."
1 Thessalonians 5:11 NIV

NOTE FROM THE ELDERS:

WE ARE CHANGING!

After much discussion, consideration, and prayer, the eldership has decided to combine the worship services to a single service. The start time for the Sunday Worship will be 9:30 AM with Bible Class at 11:00 AM. Our first Sunday on the new schedule will be May 6th. There may be some adjustments that need to be made to seating and meeting times as we start out so we ask for your patience during this transition period. We understand that change can be difficult sometimes but we have learned that there is a consensus that we need to meet all together to help us grow spiritually and encourage one another to love and serve the Lord. Please feel free to provide your feedback concerning this change.

YOUTH RALLY NEEDS

- toiletries, socks, toothbrushes, etc for the homeless
- Shampoo, conditioner, body wash, etc for women
- 1 yard pieces for fleece for blankets (see Linda Paul)
- variety of greeting cards, especially for sick children
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•Youth Rally Goodies

Ice cream and toppings for Friday night
Baked goods (cookies, brownies, cakes, pies) for Saturday meals. Let Kim Daggett know what food you would like to bring.

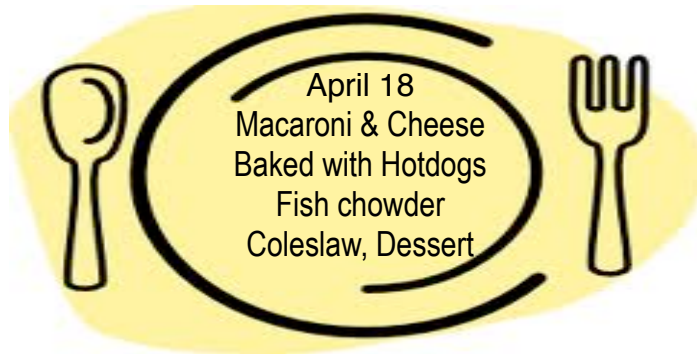
NEWS

New adult Bible class starts April 29. "Spiritual growth: Formation & Transformation" taught by Paul Mosier.

The elders announced last week that **Lee Davis has resigned** as elder due to his long work commute. Please thank him for his many years of service here in Manchester.

Kara Daggett is in a play "Wind in the Willows" 7pm April 13 & 2pm April 14. Location: 45 Myles Drive, Auburn. Free admission!

Heather King is walking with her school for New Horizons. The school goal is to raise \$20,000. See her to donate by April 19th.



MARK YOUR CALENDARS

April 20-22 Manchester Youth Rally

No Sunday School on April 22. If not involved with the Youth Rally, please attend second service on the 22.

April 29, 3-5pm Concord church of Christ singing. Rsvp by April 22

May 5 Baby Shower for Kehinde Ogunsuyi. Here at the building from 10-12:30 Contact Barbara Steffensen, Sue Burdette, or Deb Dlutowski to help with food. She is registered at Babies R Us. #48187851

May 5 Lancaster church of Christ Ladies day with Pam Stewart "Bring about the Joy" **May 6** Bill Stewart will speak during the worship

May 19 Ladies Day HERE! Casandra Martin, speaker.

OPPORTUNITIES to SERVE

- **Help with the Youth Rally Sign up sheets on teen board in foyer.**
- **VBS planning.** Watch for details. Talk to Park if you can help.
- **House visiting students.**
- **Help with making or clearing Communion trays**
- **Take trash & recycling to the curb on Wed. evenings.**
- **Mentor a younger Christian.**
- **Visit those sick or shut in.**
- **Cook for a Wednesday night supper.**
- Use **YOUR** talent for God.
- **Clip coupons for food pantry items.** Place in box on foyer counter or give to Kim Daggett.
- **The Pantry could use YOUR help.** Bring donations of food Cash donations can be placed in envelopes available behind the seats. Drop them in the collection plate during worship service.

Lessons to an Ancient Church Applied to a Modern One

It's not uncommon for modern men to scorn anything from the ancient world — "ancient" sometimes being defined as older than 50 years. But the lessons found in the Bible directed at ancient brothers and sisters still has direct and principled application to folks living in the 21st century. One of those critically important lessons found in Paul's first letter to the Corinthian church is about the unity in the church that must be maintained, even at the sacrifice of personal wants and desires — found in chapters 12-14.

The interdependency of the body of Christ — 1 Cor. 12

The Corinthian church was a very spiritually gifted church. Paul (see Acts 8:1ff) had apparently passed on a number of miraculous gifts for the purpose of edification of the church and evangelism. The problem was that there were some gifts that were considered flashier than others — the ability to "speak in tongues" was one of the more coveted gifts — while others were OK but considered generally to be far more pedestrian and mundane. Those with the gift of tongues were making those who could merely prophesy or heal feel inferior and unimportant; this was part of the division and worldly wisdom that the brethren were still clinging to. So help them transform themselves by the renewing of their minds, he uses the illustration of a body. Every body part (member or organ) is important. Even though some parts are more public and talented, no member's function can be ignored. To do so either makes the whole body sick or crippled, or can even kill the body. So also with the church — every member is necessary, no member should be held in contempt, no gift should be sniffed at. Every gift, whether charismatic or not, was necessary for the proper functioning of the whole.

This is such an important principle for Christians to grasp. You are needed, not just by the church but by the Lord, who put you in the church Himself, gifted in whatever way you are gifted, for a reason. Live up to your purpose, your crucial purpose! The church is interdependent, just like your body. What one does — good or bad — effects us all.

The more excellent way — 1 Cor. 13

Envy, jealousy, pride, division — these are the world's ways. Thinking of the church as a body is a better way. But Paul wanted them to ponder the more excellent way, love. Although this definition from Paul is far from complete and specially fitted to the Corinthian's need, it does give us a great deal of

depth and a great look at how the command needs to be applied to life. And the reason that love was the more excellent way, Paul tells us, is that these gifts were all destined to fade and go away, while love and fellowship would last. These miraculous gifts were never intended to last forever in the church, anymore than scaffolding is intended to remain around a building after it's finished.

These temporary gifts should be symbolic to modern Christians in illustrating the temporary matters that we, too, get sort of hung up on — pride, petty offenses, personal preferences, color of the carpet, and "my way". Such things will not matter in the least in eternity, but the love and fellowship of the church will matter a lot. God is calling upon us, through Paul's letter to the Corinthians, to take the long view — to mature *out of* instant gratification, selfishness, pettiness, and love of temporary things; and mature *toward* concern for the church, Christian service, and love of the eternal.

All for edification — 1 Cor. 14

So much of what was going on in the assembly in Corinth was "all about me" — "Look at my gift, listen to what I can do; who cares about you?" What Paul wanted them to do was consider each other. All things were to be done for building each other up.

Here's an important principle for us — again. Rather than coming to church focused on self, the Christian needs to be focused on our brothers and sisters. The reason why people sometimes feel like they've not gotten anything out of church is that they've put nothing into it — they've served no one, they've edified no one. This is more of this transformational thinking and behavior. The worldly mind comes to church to get, the transformed mind comes to give. The worldly mind leaves empty, the transformed life leaves filled.

As our congregation approaches a few changes in our assembly times and our seating arrangements, it will important for us all to keep the good of the whole congregation in our hearts, just as the Lord has commanded.

Park Linscomb

| Sunday | Monday | Tuesday | Wednesday | Thursday | Friday | Saturday |
|---|---|----------------------------------|-----------|---|---|--|
| 8 EASTER Sing at Villa Crest 2pm Happy Birthday Kerstin Dumas & Carl King | 9 Happy Birthday Kris Karafelis, Eileen Wasserstrom, & Kate Fogal Happy Anniversary Ken & Sue Bell | 10 Happy Birthday Isabelle Houtz | 11 | 12 Happy Birthday Rick Dugre | 13 | 14 Happy Anniversary George & Sharon Abood |
| 15 POTLUCK 5pm Devo by Westside small group Happy Birthday Randy Chase Happy Anniversary Karl & Sue Davies | 16 | 17 Happy Birthday Gerry Millette | 18 | 19 | 20 YOUTH RALLY | 21 YOUTH RALLY |
| 22 YOUTH RALLY Happy Birthday Caroline Apgar Happy Anniversary Tom & Linda Carroll | 23 | 24 | 25 | 26 Happy Birthday Leah Drown & Lee Davis | 27 Happy Anniversary David & Sandy Hazelton | 28 Singing Small Group Happy Birthday George Abood |
| 29 Happy Birthday Steven Bell | 30 | 1 | 2 | 3 Happy Birthday Matthew Karafelis & Wendy Plybon | 4 | 5 Happy Anniversary to Carl & Beth King |

| 8:30 | WORSHIP LEADERS | 11:00 |
|------------------|-----------------------|------------------------|
| Doug Paul | Songs | Mark Brown |
| Tony Casella | Closing Prayer | Dave Skerry |
| Jim Cryan | Scripture | John Oseola |
| Stuart Peacock | Lord's supper | Gary Diaz |
| Doug Paul | Coordinator | Rich Therrien |
| Preston Cottrell | Worship Tech | Barry Fogal |
| Eve: Mark Evans | Songs | Wed 18: Stuart Peacock |

Stats
 Sunday morning attendance:.....140
 Sunday morning contribution.\$3857.58
 Weekly budget.....\$3800.00
 Pantry served 3 families this week.



The Manchester church of Christ
 603.623.5559 mht_church@comcast.net

Elders' Link: April

Barry Fogal 487-2387 bfogal@comcast.net
 Mike Moser 661-6381 heymikeymo@comcast.net
 If you have any concerns that the elders should be aware of, or need to speak with them, please contact Barry or Mike this month.

Deacons

Finance: Tony Casella
 Small Groups: Stuart Peacock
 Education: Doug Paul

Maintenance: Peter Steffensen

Our Worship Services

Sunday AM: 8:30 & 11:00
 Bible Class: 10:00

Starting May 6

Worship at 9:30am & Bible Class at 11am

Sunday PM: 6:00

Small Groups:

West Side: 5PM at Doug Paul's house, Hebrews study
 Merrimack: 5:30PM, contact Stuart Peacock, youth studies

Wednesday PM Devotional/Bible Classes: 7:00

Contact David Skerry with Benevolence/Pantry needs.