# THE MANCHESTER CHURCH OF CHRIST "WE ARE HERE & WE CARE" JULY 21, 2013



Many cars are now coming equipped with **GPS**– **GLOBAL POSITIONING SYSTEM**—that allows one to obtain directions to nearly anywhere from nearly anywhere. These systems are even being used on golf courses to determine more accurately

the distance to the hole from the position of the ball in the fairway (or rough, as the case may be)! These systems are especially useful when driving in an unfamiliar area to prevent getting lost, and for providing security in emergency situations.

Applying these principles in another area, we must realize that God has provided us with a **GPS**—**GOSPEL PLAN OF SALVATION!** It provides us with clear directions on how to get from where we are *(lost in sin)* to where we want/need to be *(saved).* It provides security in emergency situations (prayer/asking God's wisdom in a given situation, James 1:5–8). Frequent consultation will alert us to those times when we are in danger of straying from the correct course and provide information and motivation to help us get back "on course."

Application of the various parts of God's GPS would include:

**MATTHEW**—**JOHN--**The life, teachings, death, and resurrection of Jesus.

**ACTS**—How to navigate from being lost to being saved through obedience to God's **GPS** 

**ROMANS—JUDE**—How to "stay the course" and safely reach our intended destination

**REVELATION**—Pictures of the blessings awaiting us as we navigate our way through the myriads of "alternate routes" or "detours" placed by our enemy who will stop at nothing to prevent our reaching the goal (see especially chapters 21 and 22).

## GOD'S GPS-- DON'T LIVE LIFE WITHOUT IT!



~Ken Burton, minister Mt Home church of Christ

### Notes from the Elders:

While the church building was burglarized this past week, we continue our work for the Lord undaunted. It may be a difficult road for a bit but we will do what we can as God asks of us. It's just stuff that we lost; praise be to Him who gives us everything we truly need! Meditate on Romans 12:14 and pray that those who stole from us one day accept Christ as their savior. Have a great week!



We are so pleased that you have joined us for worship this morning. If you are visiting, we hope that you will feel warmly welcomed by our church family. Our prayer is that you may be encouraged and uplifted as we worship together. Please join us downstairs after worship for some coffee and fellowship, followed by bible classes for all ages. Following our bible classes, we would love for you to join us for our potluck lunch!

### **Our Ministers:**

Park Linscomb 540-0287 Preston Cottrell 518-5800

### Our Elders:

Charles Burdette 622-4878 Barry Fogal 487-2387 Larry Glass 887-1741 Gerry Millette 497-3105 Mike Moser 429-9487

### Our Deacons:

Tony Casella- Finance Doug Paul- Education Stuart Peacock- Worship Pete Steffensen- Maintenance

### **Outreach & Benevolence/Pantry-**

Dave Skerry

### Elders' Link: July

Mike Moser 429-9487 <u>michaelmoser@comcast.net</u> Barry Fogal 487-2387 bfogal@comcast.net If you have any concerns that the elders should be aware of, or need to speak with them, please contact Mike or Charles this month. But if we walk in the light, as he is in the light, we have fellowship with one another, and the blood of Jesus his Son cleanses us from all sin.~ 1 John 1:7

# **Our Family**

Manchester Family Retreat Aug 23-25 Make plans now to join the church family for a weekend of spiritual refreshment and fun fellowship! Registration coming soon.



# Give Away Day!

The trailer is here and filling up quickly! If you have items to donate, please let Dave know. We will have scheduled collection days in September. If you are donating clothing and have them in plastic bags, please make sure they are labeled clearly as to gender and size.

Volunteers will be needed during the next several weeks to organize and get ready for our big day!

# News & Important Dates:

	VBS (volunteers still needed!)
Aug 17:	Ladies Retreat Planning meeting
Aug 23-25:	Manchester Family Retreat
Aug 30:	Outreach & Service meeting
Sept 6-8:	Teen Retreat
Sept 12-14:	Ladies Retreat
Sept 19-21:	Mens Retreat
<b>Oct 5</b> :	Give Away Day
Oct 11-12:	Gospel Meeting

**PLEASE NOTE**: If you ordinarily receive "Nuz from Suz" email updates and did NOT receive the test email, please let Susie know and provide your email address. Thanks!

# Family Needs:

Solunteers are needed to take the Lord's supper to shut ins. There is a sign up sheet posted in the foyer.

**Lawn mowing:** a sign-up sheet has been posted in the foyer. If you are able, sign up for

one week this summer to mow the church yard.

Moving help needed July 27th @ 10:00 and also on August 3rd. Please see Dave Skerry.



# Prayer Requests:



- WORK Marie Levesque, Jonah Peacock job needed; Gary Chase's job adjustment; Justin Chase-difficult work situation.
- **PRAISE** -- Nikki Devoe was baptized while at Ganderbrook; Candy Chase has a new job.
- PERSONAL STRUGGLES Mark Brown & his daughter Emma; Cory Roukey faith and guidance; Jim Kenison; Blessing Kavari and baby Christopher (friends of Anne Davis)
- HEALING & COMFORT --Deniza Chase-car accident; Algie Beard; Kerstin Dumas; Darlene Chamberlain-surgery 7/29; Kathy Feuerhelm's brother; Melissa Therrien's dad; Lynn Millette; Jim Kenison; Peggy Mailloux; Del Flowers, Marlaine's stepfather; Linda Linscomb's sister Sharon; Linda Tetrault; Dave Seguin; Linda Carroll's daughter & family; David Black-in rehab; Rick Gelinas - chemo; Linda Paulhealing from rotator cuff surgery; John Matthew-pain & treatment; Patty Stafford
- SITUATIONS-- Pray for the campers and staff at Gander Brook.

\*If you have updates to prayer requests, please call the office or let Susie know.



I think we'd all agree that we all need to grow in Christ. Failure to grow spiritually is a situation just as lifethreatening as failure to grow physically. We know that we should; the question is "How?"

We could talk about the usual key ingredients to spiritual growth: Bible study, prayer, service, and church attendance. However, while they are important, there are other things that we can and should do to move beyond the fundamentals. The Hebrews writer encourages us this way: "Therefore let us leave the elementary teachings about Christ and go on to maturity, not laying again the foundation of repentance from acts that lead to death, and of faith in God, instruction about baptisms, the laying on of hands, the resurrection of the dead, and eternal judgment. And God permitting, we will do so." Hebrews 6:1-3, NIV.

#### CULTIVATE WISDOM AND DISCERNMENT

An entire book of the Bible is devoted to nothing but wisdom and discernment, the book of Proverbs. Another biblical book, Ecclesiastes, teaches the subject a lot, too. And the stories of the Old Testament are not just there to entertain us or give us fodder for trivia challenges; Paul explains that "These things happened to them as examples and were written down as warnings for us, on whom the fulfillment of the ages has come." 1 Corinthians 10:11, NIV. Wisdom and discernment are absolutely crucial to Christian growth—and even survival. You see, it's easy to recognize basic black and white moral issues: murder, theft, or adultery. But the sorts of things that come our way are often a little more difficult to recognize, aren't quite so "cut and dried" for us.

How does one cultivate wisdom and discernment? Reading the Proverbs for what they really mean would be a start, of course. Giving thought to Old Testament stories and how they apply in modern times would be another good start. But it's also worth asking questions we aren't used to asking of moral decisions, like "Could this cause someone else (another Christian, my spouse, my kids, or even a non-Christian) to stumble?", "What consequences will this (e.g., a job offer, a relationship, entertainment, or things to participate in with others) have on my spirituality?", or "What effect or influence might this (e.g., a deed, an attitude, encouragement or discouragement) have on the church, or its reputation, or my fellow Christians?" And sometimes we can gain such wisdom and discernment through asking older, wiser Christians why they do or do not do certain things-you might be really benefited by their experience, their thought processes, and reflections on life.

#### ENGAGE IN HONEST INTROSPECTION

When babies come into the world, they need baby food —virtually predigested. But when we get old, they are expected to digest their own. Likewise, babies never take their own temperatures or evaluate what's wrong; they just feel pain, hunger, and cranky. Parents and doctors diagnose and treat the kids with or without their approval. However, when we grow up, we're expected pay attention to such things and seek out the appropriate treatments. Less mature Christians may depend on preachers, elders, or other brothers to help them with their spiritual health diagnosis and treatment. But more mature Christians are expected to be more introspective, examine their spiritual health, and apply the proper "treatment". This might lead to a change in a job (just as if our physical health were harmed by what we do for a living), or to a change in Bible study, or to more prayer, or to obtaining a mature brother or sister to confide in, etc. Jesus once told a rich young ruler that he needed to sell all he had and give it to the poor and then follow Him (Luke 18:18ff). Sometimes the (honest) examinations are hard to take; sometimes the treatment is even more difficult; but our spiritual lives, our eternal souls, are on the line.

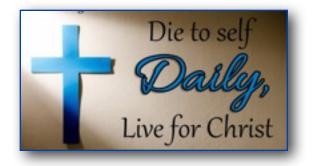
#### A WILLINGNESS TO CHANGE GOD'S WAY

We all know how things work in the physical world: young people in their teens and 20s are often all about change, something new, and experimentation. By the time you enter your 30s and 40s natural inclinations are that you've found a groove that works for you and you make changes pretty much only as necessary. By the time, people have reached 50 or 60 (or more) they tend to become fairly change-averse.

After a certain number of years as a Christian, there are temptations to "get comfortable" with our level of Christian maturity, to get set in our ways, and to think that we have "arrived". But mature Christianity presses on. The apostle Paul, as mature as he was, never considered himself to have arrived: "Brothers, I do not consider myself yet to have taken hold of it. But one thing I do: Forgetting what is behind and straining towards what is ahead, I press on towards the goal to win the prize for which God has called me heavenwards in Christ Jesus." Philippians 3:13, 14, NIV. Discipleship is a daily taking up the cross to follow Jesus (Luke 9:23); which means that it is a daily dying to self; a daily coursecorrection; a daily increase in things like virtue, knowledge, self-control, perseverance, godliness, brotherly kindness, and love (2 Peter 1:5-11); and a daily submission to Jesus' teachings and example. In other words, for our whole liveswhether physically older or spiritually older-we need to have a daily attitude of willingness to change into what the Lord wants.

We sing a hymn "I'm pressing on the upward way; new heights I'm gaining everyday..." Let's make sure that we live the song, not just sing it.

Park Linscomb



# THE MANCHESTER CHURCH OF CHRIST "WE ARE HERE & WE CARE" JULY 21, 2013

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
21 Happy Birthday Veronica Caron <b>3rd Sunday</b> Potluck	22 Happy Birthday Becky Moser	23	24 Happy Anniversary Rick & Karen Dugre	25 Happy Birthday John Scarlett	26 Happy Birthday Peter Steffensen	27 Elder/Deacon meeting 9:00 Gander Brook Wk 5
28 Happy Anniversary Peter & Barb Steffensen	29 Happy Birthday Steve Roukey	30	31 Happy Birthday Gary Diaz, Mark Dumas & Park Linscomb 5th Wed singing	AUG I	2 Happy Birthday Carol Eskel Happy Anniversary Scott & Terri Apgar	3 Happy Birthday Cecelia Skerry & Dick Potter <b>Gander Brook Wk 6</b>
4 Happy Anniversary Larry & Vickie Glass	5 Monday Night for the Master	6 Happy Birthday Tom Carroll	7 Happy Birthday Jen Devoe & Jamie Hazelton	8	9	10 Elder/Preacher Meeting 8:30
11	I 2 Happy Birthday Heather King Happy Anniversary Adam & Deb D.	I3 cation Bible Scho	14 Happy Birthday Mary Jane Lorant <b>Dol</b>	15	16	17 Happy Birthday David Paul Happy Anniversary Park & Linda Linscomb Ladies Retreat planning 10:00



Weekly Chill- Tuesday at 7:00



*Welcome back* from the Dominican to Preston, Alana, Logan & Destiny! We're so proud of the way you served!

## The Manchester church of Christ

603.623.5559 mht church@comcast.net

Secretary office hours: Monday-Friday 9:00-1:00

## **Our Worship Services**

Sunday AM: 9:30 Bible Class: 11:00 Sunday PM: 6:00 (3rd Sunday congregational potluck @ noon) Small Groups:

West Side: 5:30 at the Pauls' - Christian Ethics. Merrimack: 5:30 at the Peacocks'-youth studies Concord: 5:30 at the Wilsons' Wednesday PM Devotional/Bible Classes: 7:00



W	July 28	WORSHIP LEADERS		
ORSHIP SCHEDULE	Mark Brown	Songs		
	Tony Casella	Closing Prayer		
	James Casella	Scripture		
	Gary Diaz	Lord's supper		
	George Abood	Worship Tech		
	Rick Gordon	Coordinator		
	Barry Fogal	Call to Worship		
	Park L.	Songs pm		
	July 24- Doug Paul	Wed Songs		
	July 24– Preston C	Wed Devotional		

### Statistics

Sunday morning attendance:....117 Sunday morning contribution:..\$3,578.80 Weekly budget.....\$3800.00

Contact David Skerry with Benevolence/Pantry needs.