

THE BULLETIN

What is Christian Fellowship?

When you hear the word 'fellowship; what do you think of? Most of us think of hot-dogs, potlucks, parties, and good times! Certainly all of these are true but I also believe that fellowship in the Bible is more than just being 30 steps away from a coffeepot.

Webster gives this definition, 'fellowship is companionship; company; a community of interests, activity; state of being a fellow or associate; a company of equals; comradeship, partnership.' A better understanding can be gained with a review of Paul's terms: *fellow-servants; fellowship; fellow-soldiers; fellow-workers; fellow-citizens; fellow-heirs; fellow-helpers; fellow-laborers; and fellow-prisoners*. In all of these Paul referred to spiritual activities shared jointly by the saints. Christians have a solid partnership with all other members of the church family, and with God and His Son.

For example: those first disciples 'continued steadfastly into the apostle's doctrine and fellowship (Acts 2:42). Paul said the apostles 'gave to me and Barnabas the right hand of fellowship' (Gal 2:). Paul writing to the Philippians Paul stated that he thanks God 'for your fellowship in the gospel' (Phil 1:5). The early Christians became partners in spreading the gospel (Acts 8:4), and in supporting all who did so. To them, fellowship was a shared responsibility. They were laborers together!

Our fellowship together at the Manchester Church of Christ is very valuable to me. I treasure it!. None of us wants to take it lightly. It is more than just a cup of coffee; it is our relationship together in Jesus Christ. It is our working together in the Kingdom of God. It is our shared responsibility to the proclamation of the gospel of Jesus Christ. I love our fellowship together!

Arnie Holmes

The Manchester church of Christ

66 Mammoth Rd.
Manchester NH 03109 603.623.5559
mht_church@comcast.net
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:

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

Regularly Scheduled Services

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

ℳ
Bearing one another's
burdens is different
from bearing
down on them.
ℳ

Our Family

"So then you are no longer strangers and aliens, but you are fellow citizens with the saints, and are of God's household," Ephesians 2:19, 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?



WED NIGHT SUPPER:

The 1st Wed. Night Supper is Sept. 21, Rich Therrien will

be cooking roast, carrots and potatoes. A signup sheet is in the back of the auditorium.

There is a sign-up sheet, to cook, at the back. Cooking for the group is a 'real learning experience', but the fellowship is super! Get a friend, sign up to try and you'll like it. If you are willing to be put on a list of substitutes for last minute emergencies, GREAT.

LAWN MOWING: This building belongs to all members we need people to sign up and mow the lawn. Bring the children and make it a family service project.

MNFM Cooks are needed.

Sign-up sheet in the back of the auditorium.

LORD'S SUPPER to shut-

ins: There is a need for someone to take the Lord's Supper to the shut ins during the month of August & September. There is a sign-up sheet in the back of the auditorium.

NEW - ADDITION TO LIBRARY

We are adding media to the library. There is a case with CDs arranged by topics. Please come use out assets

Family Workshop:

October 21-23 the church will host a family workshop with Dr. Joe Brumfield from Harding University.



Schedule

Friday @ 7pm

20 Qualities Successful Families Have in Common

Saturday @ 8am (men)

What Wives Long For

Saturday @ 12pm (ladies)

Satan's Lies That I Have Believed

Saturday @ 6pm

Decoding Your Spouse's Communication

Sunday @ 9:30am (sermon)

Spiritual Warfare for Today's Christina Family

Sunday @ 11am (Bible Class)

How To Make Your Spouse Crazy About You Again

- We are looking for women to prepare & serve breakfast for the men and some men to prepare & serve lunch for the ladies.
- Park will organize something for the kids during the lunch.

LIFELINE: Life Line Screening, a leading provider of community-based preventive health screenings, will offer their affordable, non-invasive and painless health screenings at Manchester Church of Christ on 10/27/2016. Register for a Wellness Package which includes 4 vascular tests and osteoporosis screening from \$149 (\$139 with our member discount). All five screenings take 60-90 minutes to complete. In order to register for this event and to receive a \$10 discount off any package priced above \$129, please call 1-888-653-6441 or visit WWW.LIFELINESCREENING.COM/COMMUNITY-PARTNERS.

NEW PRAYER CONCERNS:

THE EDGEWOOD CONGREGATION'S SPIRITUAL HEALTH, THOM FOREST-BURG MALACHI NORRIS, LYNN MILLETTE



CONGREGATIONAL PRAYER CONCERNS: MINISTERS, ELDERS, DEACONS, TEACHERS, PARENTS, GANDER BROOK
ADDITIONAL PRAYER REQUESTS ARE ON THE BACK PAGE OF THE WORSHIP INSERT

A Word of Encouragement

“Be on the alert, stand firm in the faith, act like men, be strong.” 1 Corinthians 16:13, NAS95.

A CAPPELLA OBEDIENCE - WHAT HAPPENED?

For the first 1000 years after Jesus came and established His church, all those who claimed the name of Jesus worshipped the Lord in song with voice only. This was not simply a tradition, but rather was it practiced as obedience to the Lord's command on the basis of the meaning of the Greek word used in Scripture—we'd spell the word in English “ado”.

The apostolic church (from the church's beginning to about 100AD) understood the word as meaning vocal singing only. The patristic church (about 100AD to 451AD) understood “ado” the same way, never used instruments, and rebuked the few in this era who attempted to introduce them. It wasn't until about 1000AD that the Roman church began to use instruments. The eastern church (still largely speaking Greek) continues to understand “ado” (to the present day) to mean to sing vocally only. And when the Protestant Reformers (about 1500AD forward) led men out of Roman Catholicism they, studying and understanding the Greek, uniformly rejected instrumental music until about 1800AD. No small wonder, then, that vocal only singing became known as a *cappella* (Latin for “in the manner of the church”).

So what happened? How did we get to the point where churches of Christ, the Greek Orthodox Church, and a few others are the only ones who don't use instruments these days? The attempts at justification have been many.

“*It sounds good*”—There's really only one word needed to refute this reason, “irrelevant”. Because what's pleasing to man is not always pleasing to God. When God declares His command and preference (a *cappella*), the loving disciple gladly just obeys.

“*Instruments were used in the Old Testament*”—Of course; and so were animal sacrifices, food restrictions, Sabbath observance, and other shadows of Mosaic Law. But we are under a new covenant. A famous theologian put it simply, “Musical instruments, in celebrating the praises of God

would be no more suitable than the burning of incense, the lighting up of lamps, or the restoration of the other shadows of the Law.”

“*It's just a tradition*”—Merely calling a *cappella* song in worship a tradition, doesn't make it so; and mis-labeling it as a tradition betrays either a dangerous weakness of Bible knowledge or a straightforward attempt to dismiss a Biblical teaching. *Traditions* are man-made rules, and therefore dismissible. *Commands* (and this is a direct command: Ephesians 5:19 and Colossians 3:16) are God-breathed (2 Timothy 3:16,17), and therefore not dismissible. Singing a *cappella* is the Lord's command, not a tradition.

“*God didn't say we couldn't*”—Specific commands automatically eliminate all other possibilities, and “ado” is a specific kind of singing, eliminating other kinds. Can you imagine how big the Bible would be, if God had to list all the specific things He doesn't want us to do?

“*There are harps in Revelation*”—Yes, but in three of the four places they are mentioned, the references are 1) scenes full of imagery, symbols, and apocalyptic language, and 2) always in Heaven (not earth). The other is in reference to the secular world. Using Revelation to justify instruments in worship in the church is a mishandling of Scripture.

And it is no small matter. It is a fellowship issue. Practically speaking, those who obey the command to sing a *cappella* in worship will have difficulty worshipping in the same assembly with those who are using the instrument. But even beyond this, the Scripture teaches, “*If anyone comes to you and does not bring this teaching, do not receive him into your house, and do not give him a greeting; for the one who gives him a greeting participates in his evil deeds,*” 2 John 1:10, 11.

Jesus said, “*If you love Me, you will keep My commandments.*” John 14:15. Let's love Jesus with our obedience.

Park Linscomb



*October Calendars are out!

*We had a good teen retreat last weekend.

*Oct 8 - tentative bonfire - stay tuned for details

*Oct 16 - Mr. Mac's Lunch after Bible class

*Oct 17 - Chill Night at Mark & Ann's @ 7-8:30pm

*SEE ANNOUNCEMENT SHEETS FOR ADDITIONAL INFORMATION

Upcoming Events

*Sept 21 - Goldenrod's after class,

*Sept 24 - Teen movie/game night - Bring your favorite snack or drink

*Oct 1 - Corn Maze & Deerfield Fair Day. You will need \$20 for the entire day

'When I am afraid, I put my trust in you.'
Psalms 56:3

Bible Reading Schedule for this Week			Sept 18	AM	PM	Sept 21
Sunday	Sep 18	Hebrews 6	Call to Worship	<i>Barry Fogal</i>		
Monday	Sep 19	Jeremiah 48-49	Song Leader	<i>Mark Casella</i>	<i>3rd</i>	<i>Stuart Peacock</i>
Tuesday	Sep 20	Hebrews 7	Scripture	<i>Stuart Peacock</i>		
Wednesday	Sep 21	Jeremiah 50	Lord's Supper	<i>Gary Diaz</i>		
Thursday	Sep 22	Hebrews 8	Closing Prayer	<i>Steve Johnson</i>		
Friday	Sep 23	Jeremiah 51-52	Coordinator	<i>Rich Therrien</i>		
Saturday	Sep 24	Hebrews 9	Worship Tech	<i>George Abood</i>		
			Devo			<i>Phil Gould</i>

Our Congregational Calendar for September 18 - October 1

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
18 Worship @ 9:30am Bible class @ 11am Bldg sm grp-- 6pm Fellowship Lunch -12pm	19	20 Kehinde Ogunsuyi - BD	21 6pm Wed Night Supper 7pm Bible Study Gary Chase - BD	22	23 Caleigh Chaffin - BD Parker Girard - BD	24 Park @ Harding Lectureship through 9/29
25 Worship @ 9:30am Bible class @ 11am Bldg sm grp-- 6pm Leah Yancey - BD	26	27 Sue Davies - BD Chantel Girard - BD Therrien's Anniv	28 6pm - Wed Night Supper 7pm Bible Study	29 Terri Appgar - BD	30	1