

THE BULLETIN

I SAID NOTHING

Robert Benchley once remarked, 'Drawing on my fine command of language, I said nothing.' No matter how great your vocabulary maybe, sometimes, the right thing to say is nothing.

First, if you cannot speak with purity, the best thing that you can say, no matter how large your vocabulary may be, is nothing. We read, *'Let no corrupting talk come out of your mouths, but only such as is good for building up, as fits the occasion, that it may give grace to those who hear.'* (Eph. 4:29).

Second, if you cannot speak with sweetness, the best thing that you can say, no matter how rich your vocabulary may be, is nothing. We read, *'Let all bitterness and wrath and anger and clamor and slander be put away from you, along with all malice. 32Be kind to one another, tenderhearted, forgiving one another, as God in Christ forgave you.'* (Eph. 4:31-32).

Third, if you cannot speak with grace, the best things that you can say, no matter how extensive your vocabulary may be, is nothing. Paul wrote, *'Let your speech always be gracious, seasoned with salt, so that you may know how you ought to answer each person'* (Col. 4:6)

Fourth, if you cannot speak with self-control, the best thing that you can say, no matter how full your vocabulary, is nothing. We read, *'But now you must put them all away: anger, wrath, malice, slander, and obscene talk from your mouth.'* (Col. 3:8).

Fifth, if you cannot speak with truthfulness, the best thing that you can say, no matter how huge your vocabulary may be, is nothing. We read, *'Do not lie to one another, seeing that you have put off the old self with its practices'* (Col. 3:9).

Sixth, if you cannot speak with love, the best thing to say, no matter how big your vocabulary may be, is nothing. Paul wrote, *'Rather, speaking the truth in love, we are to grow up in every way into him who is the head, into Christ'* (Eph. 4:15).

Obviously, I could go on and on. However, I believe that you get my point. Let's make sure that what we say is what is needed. If it isn't, the best thing we can do is to say nothing.

Wade Webster

The Manchester church of Christ

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Our Ministers:

Park Linscomb 540-0287
Mark Casella (501) 388-1687

Our Elders:

Barry Fogal 487-2387
Gerry Millette 497-3105

Our Deacons:

Benevolence & Outreach -
David Skerry
Building & Grounds - Will
Hamel / Pete Steffensen
Education - Doug Paul

Worship Time:

Sun. Worship - 9:30am
Bible Class - 11:00am
Sun. Evening - 6:00pm
Wed. Bible Class - 7:00pm



If you rise with an abiding sense
of peace in spite of the great
problems that beset your life,
God has answered by preparing
you to confront the difficulties



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?

COMING EVENTS

- **MAY 7** - SPRING SING, Springfield, VT Church of Christ
- **MAY 13** - MOTHER'S DINNER
- **MAY 13** - LADIES DAY - Fall River, MA, 840 Rock St.
- **MAY 28** - TEEN SENIOR APPRECIATION LUNCH - grilling For lunch

OTHER NEWS

• **VBS IS COMING - June 26 - 28** - This year's Theme is "Standing on the Promises" We will be looking for lots of volunteers and church help to make this possible! VBS is June 26, 27, and 28. Invite your friends and your neighbors! Please make an effort to be at VBS during the VBS days. We can use as many people as possible! .

• **GANDER BROOK REGISTRATION**
There are paper registration forms, in the foyer. Online registration forms will be available soon.

• **GANDER BROOK WORK & WORSHIP WEEK** -June 25.

• **GANDER BROOK CAMP SESSIONS** begin July 1.

MAY 6
MEN'S DAY
'TAKE COURAGE DO NOT FEAR'
8:30AM - 2:30PM
BREAKFAST & LUNCH PROVIDED



ALL MOMS & GRANDMAS
COME TO DINNER,
MAY 13
NO COOKING OR CLEAN UP!

HELP NEEDED!

Grounds:

SPRING WORK DAY, MAY 20.



There will be things for all ages to help with, so a great family time. Will is preparing a list of specific things that need to be done. There is a sign-up sheet in the foyer for weekly grounds upkeep.

Wednesday Night Supper:

This is a grand opportunity for **you** to "step up to the plate" and serve. *If you are willing to help* please sign up at tin the back. This is an opportunity for fellowship and learning more about one another.

May 3, supper will be turkey dinner, veggie, salad and dessert from Freda's kitchen

Lord's Supper To Shut Ins:

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

Pantry:

Those willing to participate on Wed. evenings between 6:30 & 7:00pm or Sunday between 8:30 & 9:30am, please drop a text or email to D Skerry. Thank you to Darlene for expressing a desire to join this work.

THANK YOU

- To our teachers and helpers
- To those who help keep our building clean
- Thanks for the plant left in the office

PRAYER

New Prayer Concerns: for the selection of additional elders, Lynn & Gerry Millette, Linda Linscomb, Chantal Girard, Louise Linscomb and David Paul. Additional Prayer Requests and details are on the WORSHIP INSERT.



A Word of 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.

KEY 4 TO SPIRITUAL GROWTH-DEVOTED TO...BREAKING BREAD...PRAISING GOD

Over the last few weeks we've been looking at spiritual growth strategies not only for new Christians but for all Christians. To do this, we've taken the examples of the very first Christians and the things they did as found in Acts 2:42-47. We've already given thought to their devotion to the apostles' teachings, their devotion to prayer, and their devotion to the fellowship; but we're not finished yet. These early Christians also devoted themselves to the "breaking of bread" and "praising God". This phrase "breaking of bread" was a common first century Christian way of referring to what we call communion or the Lord's Supper. As we put "breaking of bread" together with "praising God" it becomes clear that the first Christians of Acts 2 gave attention to regularly worshipping God together.

Growing Christians today, whether new or "seasoned", likewise need to develop and practice a habit of regular worship attendance. Why? Well, let's give some thought to what assembled worship is for. When we do, I think it will become clearer how much of an advantage coming to church is to our spiritual life.

Our assemblies include singing and God's word tells us that our hymns are not only to praise the Lord, but also "teach and admonish one another" (Col. 3:16). Singing in worship, when we pay attention, teaches us things we need to know, reminds us of things we need to remember, and encourages us to continue on through trying times. The song you sing, regardless of how good or bad you think you are at it, encourages us all.

Our assemblies include preaching. Paul reminded Timothy of the importance of the preaching to the church, when he wrote, "Preach the Word; be prepared in season and out of season; correct, rebuke and encourage--with great patience and careful instruction. For the time will come when men will not put up with sound doctrine. Instead, to suit their own desires, they will gather around them a great number of teachers to say what their itching ears want to hear." (2 Timothy 4:2, 3). The purpose of preaching is to instruct the church in the truth and encourage us all to be faithful to the Lord.

Our assemblies include communion. This is a central part of our assemblies on the Lord's Day and it is a key to spiritual growth, because it is not only a time of reflection and meditation on what the Lord has done to redeem us (1 Cor. 11:17ff), but is also a time of to remember that we are in fellowship and are not in this thing alone (1 Cor. 10:16,17). Your participation in communion reminds me that I am your brother and that you are mine, because of our common Savior.

Our assemblies include prayer, and although my personal prayer is effective, the prayer of the whole church is said to be especially effective (Acts 4:31). In prayer together, we share in bringing our concerns, our requests, our thanksgivings, and our praise together to God.

Our assemblies are also about giving. Giving together with the rest of the church, once again, helps build camaraderie, fellowship, and communion through common participation in the work of the church.

Lastly, our assemblies are about fellowship and common encouragement. The Hebrew writer tells us, "Let us hold fast the confession of our hope without wavering, for He who promised is faithful; and let us consider how to stimulate one another to love and good deeds, not forsaking our own assembling together, as is the habit of some, but encouraging one another; and all the more as you see the day drawing near." (Hebrews 10:23-25).

Strengthening, encouragement, support, knowledge, help reminders, etc. are all part of how we are helped through the assembly. Clearly, there is a scriptural cause and effect relationship between strong attendance and strong Christianity; it is not a coincidence. It is not so much that stronger Christians go to all the worship services and Bible studies of the church, as much as it is that Christians that go to all the worship services and Bible studies of the church become stronger.

Park Linscomb



UPCOMING EVENTS

Calendars through May are in the foyer. Grab one today!

MNFM: Will be May 1st from 6-8. Come out and enjoy some food and fellowship followed by some service opportunities.

May Devotional: Our May Devotional will be Friday May, 5th from 7-9 at the Mackey's house! Bring a snack or a drink as well as a game! If you need a ride please let Mark or Ann know by Wednesday the 3rd. We will meet at the church at 6:10.

Mother's Dinner: Our first Mother's Dinner will be May 13th. We **need your help!** If you are a teen please

contact Mark to find out how you can help out. There is a sign up sheet in the foyer to get a count. We want to treat our Mothers to a special night! This is open to the congregation. We hope you and your family come out to celebrate the Mom and Grandma of your life! Teens will be making Chicken Alfredo, Salad, and bread.

Chill: May 22nd is our chill night from 7-8 at Mark and Ann's House. Come chill and relax.

Senior Appreciation Lunch: Is around the corner. Please plan on staying for lunch May 28th.

Youth/Parent Meeting: Right after Bible Class on June 4th we will have a fairly quick meeting with the youth group and parents. This shouldn't take more than 15-20 minutes and concentrate on the summer schedule and expectations for students moving forward.

Teen Event Ideas: Teens! If you have ideas for events you would like to see done this year please write them down on a piece of paper and turn it into Mark or Ann. This will help us plan for the year.

VBS: This year's Theme is "**Standing on the Promises**" We will need lots of volunteers and church help to make this possible! VBS is June 26, 27, and 28. Invite your friends and your neighbors! Please make an effort to be at VBS during the VBS days. We can use as many people as possible!

Food for Thought...

"But you, beloved, building yourselves up in your most holy faith and praying in the Holy Spirit, keep yourselves in the love of God, waiting for the mercy of our Lord Jesus Christ that leads to eternal life."

Jude 1:20-21

Pray in the power of the Holy Spirit.

"Yours, O Lord, is the greatness and the power and the glory and the victory and the majesty, for all that is in the heavens and in earth is yours. Yours is the kingdom, O Lord, and you are exalted as head above all."

1 Chronicles 29:11

We adore the you as the One who is over all things.

"Jesus said to her, "I am the resurrection and the life. Whoever believes in me, though he die, yet shall he live, and everyone who lives and believes in me shall never die. Do you believe this?"

John 11:25-26

I am the Resurrection and the Life.

"He will swallow up death forever; and the Lord God will wipe away tears from all faces, and the reproach of his people he will take away from all the earth, for the Lord has spoken."

Isaiah 25:8

He will swallow up death forever.

Dive into God's Word this week.~Mark

Thought Provoking Question
Are you into God's word on a daily basis?

Family Bible Reading and Congregational Calendar for Apr. 30- May 6

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
30 - Mark 7 9:30am Worship 11am - Bible Class 6pm - Evening Worship	1 - Num. 23-24	2 - Num. 25-26 Matthew Karafelis - BD Wendy Plybon - BD	3 - Num. 27-28 6pm - Wednesday supper 7pm - Bible Class Joh Parker - BD	4 - Mark 8	5 - Num. 29-30 Beth & Carl King - Anniv	6 - Num. 31 Sue Bell - BD