

THE BULLETIN

BUT, I SAID NOTHING

Last week's article discussed the numerous times when it is appropriate, wise, discretionary, and Christian to 'bite your tongue'. But, just as with any coin, there is a reverse side. In the 1700s, Irish statesman Edmund Burke stated, "The only thing necessary for the triumph of evil is for good men to do nothing." Certainly, we're not in favor of the triumph of evil, so let's ascertain when we **MUST** speak up.

First, to spread the gospel of Christ throughout the world, WE MUST SPEAK UP!!! When Christ commanded his disciples to '*Go therefore and make disciples of all the nations, ...teaching them to observe all things that I have commanded you ...*' (Matt. 28:19-20), it wasn't just a suggestion. And it wasn't just for them. While Paul travelled the known world preaching to total strangers, fulfilling this command can just as easily begin with us approaching our next-door neighbor, but we must follow Christ's command.

Second, to defend the cause of Christ and God's word, WE MUST SPEAK UP!!! In today's world of political correctness, evolution, abortion, and the homosexual agenda, Peter gave us this call to action - '*... always be ready to give a defense to everyone who asks you a reason for the hope that is in you, with meekness and fear.*' (1Pet. 3:15) The answers are all in God's book but we must accept them, believe them, and show them to people.

Third, because many of our friends and family are LOST, WE MUST SPEAK UP!!! How can we face judgment knowing that we are letting these loved ones feel good about themselves all the way to the gates of hell just so they won't dislike or reject us. As Paul wrote to his brethren, '*Have I therefore become your enemy because I tell you the truth?*' (Gal. 4:16).

Fourth, because to keep quiet can be sinful, WE MUST SPEAK UP!!! James, the converted brother of Christ, summarized things very succinctly - '*Therefore, to him who knows to do good and does not do it, to him it is sin.*' (Jas. 4:17) While we usually associate this with our "actions", it applies just as equally to what we do or don't say.

Fifth, because we don't want to spend forever in eternal torment, WE MUST SPEAK UP!!! John wrote in Rev. 21:8, '*But ????????, unbelieving, abominable, murderers, sexually immoral, sorcerers, idolaters, and all liars shall have their part in the lake which burns with fire and brimstone, which is the second death.*' And what horrendous, grievous sin did I remove from the list and represent with the question marks? - "**the cowardly**"!!! Those too ashamed or afraid to speak up and stand up for God are condemning themselves by their inaction.

'Watch, stand fast in the faith, be brave, be strong. Let all that you do be done with love.' 1Cor. 16:13-14

Phil Gould

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:

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 clearer vision,
greater purpose, a more positive
outlook, and renewed strength,
rest assured that your prayer
has been answered.



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?

- **MAY 13** - MOTHER'S DINNER
- **MAY 13** - LADIES DAY - Fall River, MA, 840 Rock St.
- **MAY 28** - TEEN SENIOR APPRECIATION LUNCH - grilling For lunch
- **JUNE 5** - MNFM
- **JUNE 16-17** - NE States Men's Retreat

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.



ALL MOMS &
GRANDMAS
COME TO DINNER,
MAY 13 @ 5:30PM

HELP NEEDED!

Grounds:

SPRING WORK DAY, MAY 20.

There will be things for all ages to help with, so it can be a great family time. Will is preparing a list of specific things 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 10, No one is currently signed up to make supper.

Lord's Supper To Shut Ins:

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

Pantry:

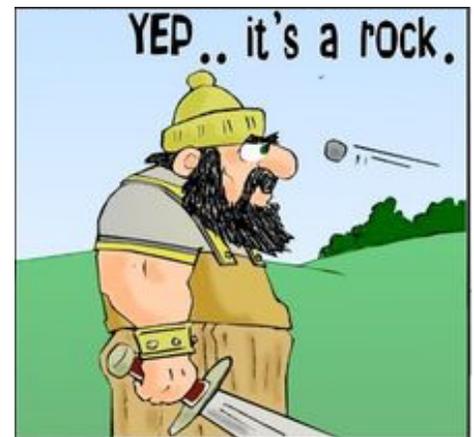
Those willing to participate on Wed. evenings between 6:30 & 7:00pm or Sunday between 8:30 & 9:30am, please drop a text or email to D Skerry. Thank you to Darlene for expressing a desire to join this work.

THANK YOU

- To all who helped and participated in the Men's Day
- To our teachers and helpers
- To those willing to serve in service

PRAYER

New Prayer Concerns: for the selection of additional elders, Lynn & Gerry Millette, Linda Linscomb, Jean Anocibar. Additional Prayer Requests and details are on the WORSHIP INSERT.



Goliath was always known for his keen eye for detail.

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 5 TO SPIRITUAL GROWTH - THEY BEGAN SELLING THEIR PROPERTY & POSSESSIONS, AND WERE SHARING THEM...

Getting involved in the work of the Lord!

This is the last of a series of articles focused on personal spiritual growth, not just for new Christians, but for Christians of every “age”. We’ve used Acts 2:42-47 as a template for growth and have, therefore, given thought to devoting ourselves to the apostles’ teachings, devotion to prayer, devotion to fellowship, and devotion to worship assemblies. The last thing we’ll look at in this series is phrased this way:

“And all those who had believed were together and had all things in common; and they began selling their property and possessions and were sharing them with all, as anyone might have need.” Acts 2:44, 45, NAS95.

On the face of it, you might think that we’re about to talk about benevolent acts as an avenue for growth, and you’d be partially right. What these benevolent acts amount to in a broader sense is involvement in the Lord’s work; involvement really helps us to grow.

It needs to be both individual and together work.

It needs to be part of the Lord’s mission for us. Although there are plenty of “mission statements” among churches these days, there’s one mission statement to which we really need pay attention, Jesus’. Where is it found? In the New Testament; let me list the parts of that mission statement for you.

- Give glory to God (e.g., Eph. 3:21)...this is sort of an “umbrella commission”
- Share the Gospel (e.g., Matt. 28:18-20)
- Assemble for worship (e.g., Heb. 10:24-26)
- Teach (e.g., Eph. 4:11,12)
- Fellowship (e.g., Acts 2:42-47)

- Benevolence (e.g., Gal. 6:10)

So here are a number of broad areas in the church’s God-given commissions that you could get involved in. You don’t need to be a leader in any of them, but getting involved is crucial.

Why? Spiritual involvement is like exercise with the physical body; the more we exercise our faith (obedience to the Lord’s commands), the stronger our faith gets. The more we participate with other Christians in the Lord’s word, the stronger our fellowship and love grows. The more we make efforts at teaching God’s word, the more we learn and internalize God’s word. The more we encourage each other in worship or private conversation, the more we find to be encouraged about ourselves. The more we work with others on different projects, the more we learn how to do it, the more our talents grow, and the more capable we are to lead others. The more we give in benevolent help, the more we realize the blessedness of giving and the more our faith in our faithful God’s provision to us grows. The more we are involved, the more we grow

Sadly, most of the religious world has sold the world on the idea that the limit of religious involvement can probably end with weekly or even occasional attendance at one of their worship services. When new New Testament Christians buy that “bill of goods”, they find their growth terribly stunted. Older Christians may find their spiritual strength and stature decreasing and growing weaker. Little or no involvement leaves us weak and struggling.

Get involved and grow.

Park Linscomb



UPCOMING EVENTS

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

Mother's Dinner: Our first Mother's Dinner will be May 13th at 5:30pm. 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. We will have a cookout! The entire congregation is encouraged to attend.

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!

Wanted! We are looking for someone who is willing to and able to paint the face picture board from last year for VBS. If you are interested please talk to Mark.

VBS Work Days: Be on the lookout for VBS work days. There will be quite a few hopefully as we get ready for VBS. Kas will be making a list of things to do if you would like to get a head start on the projects.

Campership Coin Jars: It is that time of year! We have coin jars for anyone who wants to collect their loose change! It helped us send extra kids to camp last year from our church!

Food for Thought...

"Train up a child in the way he should go; even when he is old he will not depart from it." -Proverbs 22:6

Normally when we talk about this text we are talking to parents who are raising kids. I want to ask you as a teenager to look at it, though. Do you ever feel lost? Not sure what to do in a hard situation? Luckily for us there is something that can help us make those decisions... the thinking ability and the teachings from our parents.

When parents take the time to teach their children what really matters in life and pass along wisdom, it gives them the tools they need to face the future. Parents can be one of the biggest sources of knowledge that you have. When you are stuck in a situation you can think back to the wisdom that was passed down to help make a decision.

The fact is, though, even when we become old we often look back to the teachings and experiences that were passed down to us. You might not be old yet but take comfort in the teachings of your parents and learn from them.~Mark

Thought Provoking Question
When was the last time you talked to a parent or grandparent?

Family Bible Reading and Congregational Calendar for May 7 - May 13

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
7 - Mark 9 9:30am Worship 11am - Bible Class 6pm - Evening Worship	8 - Num. 32	9 - Num. 33 Mary Roukey - BD	10 - Num. 34 6pm - Wednesday supper 7pm - Bible Class	11 - Num. 35-36	12 - Mark 10	13 - Duet. 1-3 Angela Beard - BD Casey Peacock - BD Phil Gould - BD