

BULLETIN

The Four Rules Of Church Growth

The 30-Second Rule. Most guests will make a judgment about us during the first 30 seconds after they enter. Greet people at the doors with a hand-shake, a smile, and 'we are glad you came!'

The Front Door Rule. Many people need help to find a seat in the auditorium or their classes. If they find it difficult to locate a seat or class, they may choose not to return.

The Ten Foot Rule. Greet any person with who you are not familiar who comes within ten feet of you. Make eye contact and be friendly.

The Five Minute Rule. Take the first five minutes after services to seek out guests and greet them, encourage them to come to Bible class. Invite them to return and thank them for coming.

~via the Manchester church of Christ

The Manchester Church of Christ

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Our Minister:

Park Linscomb 540-0287

Our Elders:

Barry Fogal 487-2387

Gerry Millette 497-3105

Our Deacons:

Benevolence - David Skerry

Building & Grounds - Will

Hamel / Peter Steffensen

Education - Doug Paul

Worship Time:

Sun. Worship - 9:30AM

Bible Class - 11:00AM

Sun. Evening - 6:00PM

Wed. Bible Class - 7:00PM

✠

Dear Lord,

Give me patience in matters both great and small. You have been patient with me, Lord; help me be loving, patient, and kind to my family and friends, today and always.

Amen

✠

Family Events

"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 are a visitor to our church, welcome! If you have questions, we welcome them; please do not hesitate to ask Park Linscomb, our minister, the really tall guy, or any other church member.



Snow Removal and Grounds

- The snow is here! There is a sign up sheet in the foyer for snow removal.
- We need everyone's help to keep things tended as it gives a caring impression to those around...if we care about the building, we must also care about their souls.



- **CONGREGATIONAL MEETING in Jan.** Watch for the date and time. Your input is valued.
- **JAN. 28** - Teen Planning Session - (grades 7-12) from 12-2PM. Pizza will be furnished.
- **JAN. 31** - 5TH WEDNESDAY SINGING.
- **MAR. 24** - BIDDEFORD LADIES' DAY.
- **APR. 6-8** - CONWAY'S LADIES' WEEKEND.
- **APR. 13-15** - MANCHESTER, NH YOUTH RALLY.

There are many in our congregation that quietly and consistently clear sidewalks, take communion to shut-ins, and minister through mail. Each of you brings glory to God and thank you. Below are some areas that still need some help. Prayerfully consider how you and your family might help.

Teachers

- If you are going to be out of town, please let Doug Paul know so your class can be covered.
- There is a need for a teacher for the Junior High class on Sunday morning.

Reminder

After fellowship time when the classroom doors close the noise and discussions in the fellowship hall need to cease or move to another part of the building.

Lord's Supper to Shut-ins

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

Cancellations

Watch your email for news of cancellations of planned events.

Wed. Night Supper

Jan. 24 - Rich Therrien will make sausage gravy/biscuits & scrambled eggs. There are slots to fill on the sign-up sheet in the foyer to cook Wednesday Night Supper.

Once you sign up, call the church office if you want someone to cook with. Plan your menu and call the church office by Tuesday so it can be posted in the bulletin.

Pantry:

The pantry is thankful for all donations. Please check expiration dates to be sure the food is still safe. "By this everyone will know that you are my disciples, if you love one another." John 13:35

Other Notes

We need a couple of people to be in a rotation to help get communion and coffee ready on Sunday mornings. Call the church office to sign up to help.

Family Bible Reading, Birthday and Congregational Calendar for Jan. 21- Jan. 27

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
21 - Gen. 27-28	22 - Gen. 29	23 - Gen. 30	24 - Matt. 9 ----- Wednesday Night Supper @6pm	25 - Gen. 31 Chris Yancey - BD	26 - Gen. 32-33	27 - Gen. 34-35 Dayne Dumas - BD

Youth & Family News



UPCOMING EVENTS

Be on the lookout for future events. If you lead or help with an event, please talk with one of our elders and check with the church office to see that the date is free and then PLEASE volunteer!

JAN. 28 - TEEN PLANNING SESSION from 12 -2PM. Pizza will be ordered and 2018 activities discussed. If there are questions, check with the Mackey's.

CONGREGATIONAL MEETING - Input is needed from all, that means the Youth, also. Please watch for the notice and plan to attend and share your input.

FEB. 23-25 - CONWAY YOUTH RALLY - Forms will be on the Youth Board. Registrations and fees are due by Feb. 10. There is a need for chaperones.

APR. 13-15 - MANCHESTER, NH YOUTH RALLY - watch for details.

**Weekly
Contribution**
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Question of the Week

How do you view the obstacles in your path?

The Obstacle In Our Path

In ancient times, a king had a boulder placed on a roadway. Then he hid and watched to see if anyone would remove the huge rock. Some of the king's wealthiest merchants and courtiers came by and simply walked around it. Many loudly blamed the king for not keeping the roads clear, but no one did anything about getting the stone out of the way.

Then a peasant came along carrying a load of vegetables. Upon approaching the boulder, the peasant laid down his burden and tried to move the stone to the side of the road. After much pushing and straining, he finally succeeded.

After the peasant picked up his load of vegetables, he noticed a purse lying in the road where the boulder had been. The purse contained many gold coins and a note from the king indicating that the gold was for the person who removed the boulder from the roadway. The peasant learned what many of us never understand.

Every obstacle presents an opportunity to improve our condition.

A Parting 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.

Overcoming Tough Sins, Part 2 What's Going on in Your Mind?

A couple of weeks ago I began a series of bulletin articles on things that could help us to overcome tough sins. We started with bad company corrupting good morals (or intentions). Hopefully we've worked on changing the people and kind of entertainment that we "associate with" that influence us in a worldly way.

Another thing that is helpful is learning to "change the channel" of our hearts and minds. Jesus warned us, (Matthew 15:19) "*For out of the heart come evil thoughts, murders, adulteries, fornications, thefts, false witness, slanders.*" In other words, what we think about and dwell on will come out in our words and deeds. So, if we want to stop certain kinds of words or deeds, we need to think different things—or put another way, "change the channel".

A lot of people have never even considered that they could change what they're thinking, but it is not only possible, it is required of the Christian. Romans 12:2 says "*And do not be conformed to this world, but be transformed **by the renewing of your mind**, so that you may prove what the will of God is, that which is good and acceptable and perfect.*" So, how do we do this?

First, we should go back to the "bad company corrupts good morals" principle, because changing the channel is going to be hard, if there are others who want to keep our minds on the wrong channel. But secondly, if we want to be less critical of others, we need to stop dwelling on the negative, what's not quite "right", and what happens to irritate me. If we want to be more active in the Lord's service; we need to stop telling ourselves that others will do it, that we're not talented enough, that there are other more fun or interesting or less challenging things that we could do instead. If we want to be better at attendance, we need to stop thinking that we need our rest, that church isn't all that important, or that

church is a lesser priority than other things. Hopefully you get the drift of what we must stop.

But how do we do that? The more we think about **not** thinking about "X", the more we think about it! It just becomes a vicious circle, right?

Successfully changing the channel must include more than stopping certain kinds of thinking, it also includes starting the right thing to think about. Psychologists sometimes put it this way, "To stop thinking about a brown cow, start thinking about a purple horse." To use the illustrations above, if we want to be less critical of others, we need to start **thinking** about all the positive we can about others. Start small and you'll find increasing things to think positive about others. If we want to be more active in the Lord's service, start **thinking** about all the things that need to be done around the church and for the Lord's kingdom. Rely in faith on the Lord to stretch you beyond what you think you can do; and be humble enough to ask for help, when you need it. If you want to be a better attender, **think** of how important attendance is to your soul, how great the fellowship is, how important the Lord says it is, what you can do to encourage others, and how pleased the Lord will be with your presence and worship.

Changing the channel of our minds will take some time and planning and effort until new patterns and habits are formed, but it is one of the most effective way to overcome tough sins. Change how you think, renew your mind, and you'll change your world!!

Persevere on those good resolutions, brother and sister! With the Lord's wisdom, with the Spirit's strength, with the church's encouragement, and with your focused will to follow Jesus, you will overcome!

Park Linscomb