

# THE BULLETIN

## ***Our Worldly Culture Needs the Gospel***

*“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.” (Rom. 12:2)*

The cultural challenges of our time are growing stronger each year. Faithful Christians often wonder how this nation’s morals and values could change so quickly. Many no longer value the life of the unborn or the sanctity of biblical marriage. Those who love sin soon forget God and despise those who bring right and wrong into the light (John 3:19-20).

Many have bought into the skepticism widely publicized in the media, assuming there are no reasons to believe in God, creation, the resurrection of Jesus, or the Scriptures. While 75 percent of Americans claim to be Christians, active church attendance has declined from 41 percent to 38 percent. More than 43 percent, however are unchurched and have not attended church this year except for a wedding or funeral.

How do we evangelize this secular world? No doubt we will fail to reach some (Luke 8:12), but there are good and honest hearts among others (Luke 8:15). The word of Christ still builds faith in those who will listen (Rom. 10:17). The cross will still draw people to Christ (John 12:32). We must preach a true message of hope and love, focusing on the Lord Jesus.

We must also live pure and holy lives before the world (1 Pet. 1:13-16). We must be potent as salt and light to our world (Matt. 5:13-16), revealing the love of Jesus to a world in need.

To persuade people, we must teach what God wills and give reasons to follow the Lord. It is not enough to state facts, we must help people see why morality is better than immorality, why love is better than indifference, and why faith is better than unbelief.

Phil Sanders

## **The Manchester church of Christ**

66 Mammoth Rd.  
Manchester NH 03109  
603.623.5559  
[mht\\_church@comcast.net](mailto:mht_church@comcast.net)  
[mhtchurch.org](http://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 - 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



**I need the church. I shall be loyal  
in my attendance, generous in my  
gifts, kind in my criticism, creative  
in my suggestion, & loving in my  
attitudes.**



# 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.



- **AUG. 7** - MNFM - 6-8PM
- **SEPT. 4** - LABOR DAY PICNIC AT FREDA'S
- **SEPT. 11** - MNFM - 6-8 PM

## FALL EVENTS

- **SEPT. 8-10** - TEEN RETREAT
- **SEPT. 14-16** - LADIES RETREAT
- **SEPT. 21-23** - MEN'S RETREAT
- **OCT. 31** - TRUNK OR TREAT
- **NOV. 3-5** - GOSPEL MEETING



**GANDER BROOK CAMBERSHIP CANS** need to be returned. Due to the overwhelming generosity, we were able to send all our kids to camp with this money.

### Gander Brook Camp Sessions:

- **SESSION 5 - JULY 29 - AUG. 4**
- **SESSION 6 - AUG. 5 - 11**

**GB DORM PROJECT** - The church here has been associated with and enjoyed Gander Brook for years. We all know how much the camp has meant to kids and adults alike. But now Gander Brook has a challenge before it; our dorm really needs

replacement. Replacement will cost \$450k, and already over \$150k has been given. Now we need help especially from the churches and Christians of New England. One-time gifts are appreciated, but a monthly pledge from now through Dec. 31, 2018 may be more manageable.

Imagine a year 'round facility for congregational retreats in late October, youth weekends January, deeper Bible study classes in February, or leadership classes in March! Imagine Gander Brook's hiking trails turned into cross country skiing trails or snow shoe paths—or even our waterfront turned into a skating area.

Please consider helping us. There are brochures in the foyer, complete with a tear-off section, if you should decide to provide a monthly pledge toward this great project, or go to [www.ganderbrook.org/retreat-house](http://www.ganderbrook.org/retreat-house).



### Grounds Clean Up

Help keep our grounds looking nice and inviting. The sign-up sheet is in the foyer. Please sign up your family for a week.

There are new locks on the sheds. If you need the combination, please check with Will Hamel.

### Lord's Supper to shut-in

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

### Pantry:

Those willing to participate at the pantry either on Wed. evenings or Sunday mornings, please drop a text or email to Dave Skerry.

## 50<sup>TH</sup> ANNIVERSARY

*Larry & Vickie Glass celebrate their 50<sup>th</sup> anniversary*  
*Friday, Aug. 4 from 5-9pm*  
*North Perry Village Hall*  
*4499 Lockwood Rd North,*  
*Perry, OH 44081*

*RSVP to Melanie Koppel by July 25 at*  
*440-983-7027 or*  
*[melianekoppel68@gmail.com](mailto:melianekoppel68@gmail.com)*

*No Gifts, Cards appreciated*

*Larry & Vickie Glass*  
*2455 Antioch Rd.*  
*Perry, OH 44081*

## FALL MEETING

Nov. 3-5, David Rollert, the minister at Tilton, will conduct our Gospel meeting. Begin to think & pray about the meeting and who you will invite.

## PRAYERS

### New Prayer Concerns:

for Barbara Lovering's son, Mark, for the safe travel of all returning from and going to Gander Brook each week, the continued health of many who have been in our prayers, for our elders & ministers and all our families. 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.

## BROTHERLY LOVE

The church is described in the Bible as the family or “household” of God (Eph. 2:19). In this household, God is the Father, Jesus Christ is the elder brother, and Christians are the children of God. We have experienced the new birth (Jn.3:3-5). Upon our obedience to the gospel, God adopted us into his heavenly family (Eph. 1:5). To be in this family is a blessing that springs from the love of God (1 Jn. 3:1). In this family, Christians are brothers and sisters in Christ. This relationship is supposed to be a loving relationship. Consider Peter’s words: “Seeing you have purified your soul in obeying the truth through the Spirit unto unfeigned love of the brethren, see that ye love one another with a pure heart fervently” (1 Pet. 1:22). The English phrase “love of the brethren” is one word in the Greek language (*philadelphos*) and is the word from which we get the word “Philadelphia” which means *brotherly love*.

Most of the time when we discuss love, we talk about *agape* love. *Agape* love is the supreme form of love that one can demonstrate for another. It is the love that God demonstrated toward us (1 Jn. 4:19). We, however, do not discuss the subject of brotherly love very often. Brotherly love is mentioned seven times in the New Testament: “Be kindly affectioned one to another with brotherly love” (Rom. 2:10). “But as touching brotherly love ye have no need that I write unto you: for ye yourselves are taught of God to love one another” (1 Thess. 4:9). “Seeing ye have purified your souls in obeying the truth through the Spirit unto unfeigned love of the brethren see that ye love one another with a pure heart fervently” (1 Pet. 1:22). “Finally, be ye all of one mind, having compassion one of another, love as brethren, be pitiful, be courteous” (1 Pet. 3:8). “And to godliness brotherly kindness; and to brotherly kindness charity” (2 Pet. 1:7). “Let brotherly love continue” (Heb. 13:1). With this many exhortations for us to show brotherly love, it is imperative for us to understand and practice it.

Brotherly love is simply defined as “fraternal love.” Thayer says that it is the “love of brothers and sisters.” He also says “...in the NT love which Christians cherish for for each other as brethren.” what unites Christians as a family is the precious blood of Christ. The bond that they share should be closer than the ties of human blood. The bond should be closer than the blood that binds races and cultures together. It is a spiritual relationship that excels all others. In this relationship, there is a deep fondness that brothers and sisters share with each other.

The words of 1 Pet. 1:22 set forth three elements of brotherly love. He tells us that brotherly love should be *unfeigned*. Unfeigned means ‘undissembled, without hypocrisy, sincere.’ An unfeigned love is the same at all times. It does not display itself one way to a person’s face and another way behind the person’s back. It does not wish a person well outwardly when in the background one is plotting and scheming the individual’s demise.

Second, brotherly love is *pure*. Strong defines the word as “clean.” Some people love others out of corrupt motives. They love in order to see what they can get out of another. Their love appears to be genuine, but the heart displaying the actions is corrupt. When the corrupt heart gets what it wants, the love ceases.

Third, brotherly love is *fervent*. The word “fervently” means “intently.” it is love that is “on fire.” Its warmth and caring can be easily felt by the one loved. The person who is loved will almost think that this love is too much. The one who loves fervently can never love enough and their love just keeps giving and giving and giving.

Brotherly love is also a love that involves man’s affections. In other words, the feeling of man are contained in this love. “Be ye kindly affectioned one to another with brotherly love” (Rom. 12:10). This love hurts for others. This love rejoices with others. This love has compassion on others. It is a love that will pour out tears on behalf of another. It is not a love that is cold and stand-offish. The person who is loved is drawn toward the deep affections expressed by his brother or sister in Christ.

The importance of brotherly love is found in 2 Peter 1. Peter lists brotherly love as one of the Christian graces. “And beside this, giving all diligence, add to your faith virtue; to to virtue; knowledge; and to knowledge temperance; and to temperance patience; and to patience godliness; to to godliness brotherly kindness; and the brotherly kindness charity” (2 Pet. 1:5-7). Read Peter’s words several times. The blessings of the Christian graces, including brotherly love, are enormous and astounding. The Hebrew penman wrote: “Let brotherly love continue” (Heb. 13:1). Amen! Brotherly love among Christians will help us to heal our divisions. Brotherly love will give us a support system that will always be available to us. Brotherly love will draw those in the world to the body of Christ the world will try to say: “Look at how they love one another!” Yes, brothers and sisters in Christ, LET BROTHERLY LOVE CONTINUE!

Adapted, Victor M. Eskew - Fulton County Gospel News

*“The one who loves fervently can never love enough...”*





## UPCOMING EVENTS

Calendars for August will be in the foyer shortly.

**Children's Movie Night :** Thanks to those who came out for movie night!

**Campership Jars:** If you have a camper ship jar please start bringing them back! This helped us send kids to camp this summer!

**Camp!** Camp is in full swing! If you can make it to a week please do!

**Fall Retreat:** Fall is coming soon! School is coming soon! That also means the Fall Teen Retreat is coming soon! The dates are Sept. 8-10.

### From the Youth Minister...

#### Why we need more Bible in Youth Ministry

It was through personal, inductive Bible study that I learned to really love God's word. But when I look at the church around me, I don't see much emphasis on Bible study in youth ministries. We're encouraged to read our Bible, of course; but what the Christian culture gives us is one lesson after another on "issues," and very little encouragement to study the Scriptures in depth.

But we teens need Bible study — more than we even realize. Here are four reasons I believe ministers, teachers, youth leaders, and Christian parents need to encourage and exhort us to study the Bible, & teach us how to do it.

#### 1. We desperately need the truth.

No one argues that Christian teens today are facing a massive onslaught of temptation and opposition, perhaps

even more so than previous generations. Chances are the youth in your church are dealing with all kinds of issues — from depression to peer pressure to the LGBT agenda to uncertainty about what lies beyond graduation. Now, more than ever, we need the truth of God's word as our rock and anchor. Only the Bible gives us what we need to sift through the lies; to stand strong in the face of trials; to live lives that are focused on Christ and his glory, and even to make this goal a priority.

2. We need to see these truths for ourselves. It's also no secret that we learn more and remember better when we enter into the process of discovery for ourselves. I've benefited hugely from the teaching of my parents, my ministers, and many others — but my greatest joy in God's word has been in the truths I discovered on my own. There's something about the process of discovery that makes the thing discovered so much more valuable. You hold it closer, and treasure it more highly.

Teens need this experience of discovery in the Bible. Middle and high school are often a time of searching, of discovery, and of wonder. We don't just want to be told something; we want to find it for ourselves. So, teach us to search the Scriptures, and give us the tools to do it.

#### 3. We need to be challenged.

Luke 2:52 records that "Jesus increased in wisdom and in stature and in favor with God and man." By age 12, he was learned enough that he could hold and educated conversation with the religious

leaders. Teens today are rarely encouraged in deep, life-transforming study of the Bible, or in literate conversations about it. They are encouraged to read it but that can't be the end. They are definitely capable of thinking deeply and wrestling with tough topics, so hold us to a higher standard. Challenge us, give us something to reach for.

The teen years are a time of habit development. If we begin now to form the habit of Bible study, we'll be equipped with a solid foundation when we finally leave the authority of our parents, teachers, and youth leaders.

#### 4. We need the fellowship.

At the start of his first epistle, the apostle John explained his reason for writing. "That which we have seen and heard we proclaim also to you, so that you too may have fellowship with us; and indeed our fellowship is with the Father and with his Son Jesus Christ" ([1 John 1:3](#)).

The basis of all true fellowship is God's word. Do you want unity in your youth group? Let your teens come together around the Bible; when there's something deeper in common than school, sports teams, or music preferences, fellowship becomes much deeper, more lasting, and more impactful for both us and the larger community of faith. - Forester

**Note from Mark** - Forester is a young adult who wrote the piece after observing multitudes of youth groups and students. This provides a young person's perspective, that many may not understand.

### Thought Provoking Question What are you doing to spread the light today?

#### Family Bible Reading and Congregational Calendar for July 23- July 29

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
23 - I Sam. 23-24 9:30am Worship 11am - Bible Class 6pm - Evening Worship	24 - Luke 12  Rick & Karen Dugre - Anniv	25 - I Sam. 25  Mary Jane & John Parker - Anniv. Peter Steffensen - BD	26 - I Sam. 26-27 7pm - Bible Class	27 - I Sam. 28-29	28 - Luke 13  Peter & Barbara Steffensen - Anniv	29 - I Sam. 30-31  Gander Brook - Session 5 Steven Roukey - BD