

Prayer Requests:

"Pray for one another" — James 5:16

- Diane Cote - dealing with chronic pain
- John Donofrio (Betty's brother) - had surgery on 2/19 to remove ulcerated portions of his colon and large intestine; prayers needed for healing & restoration of his health
- Paul & Sandy Gagnon - various health concerns; Paul: having cataract surgery Tuesday 3/8; Sandy: dealing with ongoing lymphodema; also has sores on feet, along with swelling
- Jean Gortot - suffering with advanced cancer
- Mary (Paula's mom) - underwent last infusion treatment on 2/18; having a CAT scan on 3/17 to evaluate progress; pray that the cancerous tumor in her liver will dissolve or at least shrink
- David Murphy (Sandy's brother) - inoperable prostate cancer; a cancerous tumor recently found in nose; begins radiation in March for 33 weeks; also suffers with macular degeneration
- Lyndon Myers (Susana's son) - diagnosed with prostate cancer; surgery scheduled for April 6
- George & Caren Nick - request prayers for Vivian's pregnancy & Angel's life challenges
- Ernie Perry - right shoulder healing; doing PT; also has COPD issues
- Wealthie Perry - various health concerns
- Don Pfeiffer - bladder cancer has returned
- Rebecca Hios' colleague (name undisclosed) - struggling with Lyme disease and anxiety
- Karlee Wells - requests prayers regarding an opportunity for a better position at work
- Joe Wilder (Kathy's uncle) - has throat cancer; given less than 6 months to live; Kathy is going to Tennessee on March 7th to visit him
- Blake Williams - personal & family struggles
- Peter Wolenty (Sandy's brother-in law) - had surgery for an illiostomy on 3/3 that will be reversed in 1-2 months; prayers are requested for his health & healing

"Pray without ceasing." - 1 Thess 5:17



The Futility of Life

Although atheists, agnostics, and nihilists refuse to admit that the Bible is the word of God, they are drawn to the Book of Ecclesiastes because of its repeated claim that "all is vanity!" This word, translated *meaningless* in the NIV, is synonymous with emptiness; futility; frustration and nonsense. Solomon intellectually connects with these ostensibly learned individuals, particularly with the nihilists, as he discusses in detail the apparent absurdity and weariness of life.

Nihilists hold that existence is illusory and meaningless. Theirs is "an extreme form of skepticism that systematically rejects all values and belief in existence" (Collins English Dictionary). They consider life to be absurd and existence void of meaning. These are the folks with bumper stickers saying: "Life is hard, and then you die!" The seemingly negative and pessimistic tone of Ecclesiastes attracts those having comparable attitudes about life.

However, in viewing it this way, these godless ones are missing the real message of this inspired book. In approaching Ecclesiastes, it must be understood that Solomon's problem is how to find personal satisfaction and fulfillment apart from God. He explores all the avenues that modern man exploits in his quest for satisfaction and fulfillment, namely: wisdom (intellectualism), wealth (materialism), pleasure (hedonism), power, prestige, work (career), etc.

While professing to be wise, when man refuses to acknowledge God and worships what is created rather than the Creator, he becomes a fool (Rom 1:21-25). When man seeks to do his own thing in his own way, trouble and disappointment will always result (Proverbs 14:12; 16:25). Like modern man, Solomon's attempts to secure satisfaction and find fulfillment apart from his Creator bring nothing but frustration and disillusionment.

With the experiment ended, Solomon pronounces his findings, "Let us hear the conclusion of the whole matter: Fear God and keep His commandments, for this is the whole duty of man" (Ecc 12:13). God created man in His own image (Gen 1:27) and placed eternity in his heart (Ecc 3:11). Man needs God! Without God, man is incomplete (John 15:5) and will never achieve the full and abundant life promised by Jesus (John 10:10).

For the Christian, life is not empty, meaningless and futile. "For we are God's workmanship, created in Christ Jesus to do good works, which God prepared in advance for us to do" (Eph 2:20). We have been saved by Jesus and are blessed to do God's will, faithfully serving His high and noble purpose in our lives!

— Terry Schmidt ✍

~ UPCOMING EVENTS ~

Biddeford Ladies Day

with Becky Blackmon

Saturday, March 12, 10am-2:15pm

Area Wide Singing

Concord Church of Christ

Sunday, April 10, 3-5 PM



*"When we bend our knees to pray,
God bends His ear to listen."*

😊 Welcome Visitors! 😊

We are glad you have come to worship with us today. We want you to know that you are welcome. Please don't hesitate to ask if you have questions or if we can help you in any way. Please fill out a visitor's card and sign our guest book before you depart. Have a great week!





Ladies' Corner

Biddeford Ladies Day: will be Saturday, Mar 12, 10 am to 2:15 pm with speaker Becky Blackmon. Registration begins at 9 with morning refreshments. Lunch will be served at noon. THEME: Singing in the Rain.

Nursing Home: The next nursing home visit will be Wednesday, March 16, 2016 at 9:30 am.



March Birthdays

6th – Michael Baldasaro
23rd – Sophia Colvin



Happy Anniversary:

Henry & Karolyn Terrill — March 31st

ANNOUNCEMENTS:

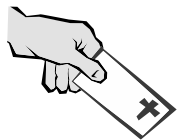
- Men's Business Meeting: Today, after services
- Potluck Fellowship: Next Sunday, March 13th, after services

SNACKS!

Mar 6: Diane
Mar 13: Potluck

POINTS TO PONDER

Let not the hope of perfection hereafter make us content with imperfection now. The work of grace must be abiding in us now or it cannot be perfected then. Let us pray to "be filled with the Spirit," that we may bring forth increasingly the fruits of righteousness. — Author Unknown



Numbers for 2/28/15
Attendance - 27
Contribution - \$570.35.

Order of Worship

March 6, 2016

"Great is the Lord and most worthy of praise; His greatness no one can fathom!"

~ Psalm 145:3 ~

Song Leader: *Nate Hios*

Song

Opening Prayer: *Erik Grabowski*

Song

Scripture Reading: *Paul Cote*
~ Ecclesiastes 1:1-14 ~

Song

The Lord's Supper:
Wayne Sampson & Seth Willey

Contribution

Song

Sermon: *Terry Schmidt*
"Is Life Worth Living?"

Song

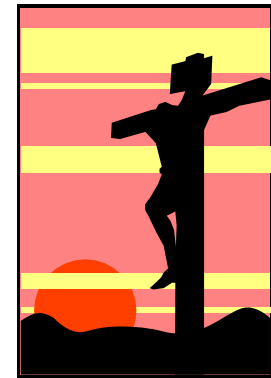
Announcements & Closing Prayer:
Terry Schmidt

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Lord's Supper Prep: *Jan Sampson*

## Southern Maine Church of Christ

159 Alfred Road, P.O. Box 344  
West Kennebunk, ME 04094



*We love Him, because  
He first loved us.  
- 1 John 4:19 -*

**March 6, 2016**

## Sunday Assembly Times:

9:30 am — Bible Class  
10:30 am — Worship  
6:00 — Bible Study

## Wednesday Assembly:

7:00 — Bible Study

Website: [www.sm-cc.org](http://www.sm-cc.org)  
Phone: 207-229-4174  
Email: [tls654b@gwi.net](mailto:tls654b@gwi.net)