

Prayer Requests:

"Pray for one another" — James 5:16

- Alix Brucker (Janice's 14 year old nephew) - drug addiction worsening; needs prayers
- Diane Cote - dealing with chronic pain
- Paul & Sandy Gagnon - various health concerns; Paul: doing reasonably well at present Sandy: dealing with ongoing lymphodema
- Jean Gortot - suffering with advanced cancer
- Erik Grabowski - requests prayers to find a new job; one that will be a good fit and pay the bills
- Janice Grabowski - suffering from vertigo
- Mary (Paula's mom) - large inoperative tumor in her liver; undergoing two more infusion treatments on 1/28 and 2/18 with hopes of shrinking or dissolving the tumor
- David Murphy (Sandy's brother) - inoperable prostate cancer; a cancerous tumor recently found in his nose may lead to reconstruction surgery; also suffers with diabetes
- Lyndon Myers (Susana's son) - non-aggressive strain of prostate cancer; surgery in March
- George & Caren Nick - "Prayers of thanks that we're finally on the mend and also that our family will love the Lord with our entire beings and honor Him with all our resources."
- Ernie Perry - right shoulder is healing well; now undergoing 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 - dealing with chronic pain and complications from a head injury, including severe migraines
- Blake Williams - personal & family struggles
- Peter Wolenty (Sandy's brother-in law) - has been diagnosed with colon cancer; currently undergoing radiation treatments
- Please pray for those not with us today

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

Struggles, Discouragement & Prayer

When reading through the Bible, one quickly discovers that even the "heroes of faith" often had struggles with their faith. After seeing the prosperity of the wicked, Asaph confessed that he had almost lost his faith (Psalm 73:1-2). And Elijah, the great prophet of God, became so discouraged that he prayed he might die, asking God to take his life (1 Kings 19:4). Many more instances could be cited, which speaks to the fact that, when you and I become discouraged in our Christian walk, we are in good company.

Discouragement means "to deprive of confidence, hope, or spirit; to take away the will to persist or prevail" (*American Heritage Dictionary*). Because we are human, even those striving to please God and live a godly life will encounter difficulties, problems, and trials in their lives. Our tendency is to appeal to God for an explanation as to why we are struggling and suffering. But the fact is, God owes us no explanation. He may give one, but then again He may not. God is not bound by our demands or expectations. Job really did not receive an explanation as to why he experienced such great loss and subsequently endured such intense suffering.

The hard truth is, when it comes to struggle and suffering, there is often no rhyme or reason as to the cause or whether or not these things are justified. There are also no concrete formulas to follow in their prevention or elimination. Because we are hurting without really knowing the reason why, and because we do not get the answers we seek in prayer, we can become disheartened in our walk of faith. God's silence is unsettling and confusing, causing doubts, seemingly making matters worse. During these troublesome times, perhaps the best thing we could do is cease striving, be still, and let God be God (Psalm 46:10).

Rather than simply being a means to obtain the answers we seek, prayer is designed to create and maintain intimacy between us and God. In prayer we connect with the mind of God which serves to bring our thoughts and attitudes into harmony with His will.

Through prayer, we draw near to God. Time spent in prayer and fellowship with God allows us to experience His strength, help, comfort, and peace (Phil 4:6-7). While we may not always receive answers as to why we are suffering, through time spent in prayer, God works to restore our soul and deepen our faith (Psalm 23; James 1:2-4).

As we learn from many of God's faithful servants, periods of discouragement are a normal part of the disciple's life. However, when left unattended, it can lead to despair, despondency and depression, which can be debilitating. Maintaining fellowship with God through times of intimate prayer helps to align our thinking and check discouragement. This helps take the focus off of ourselves and our circumstances, and place our trust in God. Like Jesus, we will grow to be able to say, "Not *my* will, but *Yours* be done" (Luke 22:42). When that happens, things will begin to change (Psalm 46:1; 121:1-2; Rom 8:28-39; Eph 3:20-21).

— Terry Schmidt ✍



WORSHIP ASSIGNMENTS FOR FEBRUARY

Song Leader: Nate Hios
Opening Prayer: Paul Cote
Scripture Reading: Erik Grabowski
Lord's Supper:
 George Nick & Jason Kennedy
Announcements/Prayer: Wayne Sampson
Lord's Supper Prep: Betty Schmidt

😊 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 before you depart.



Ladies' Corner

Nursing Home: The next nursing home visit will be Wednesday, February 17, 2016 at 9:30 am.

Ladies Movie Night: February 20 at Terry Kennedy's house from 5 to 9.



February Birthdays

9th – Ryan Mackey

18th – Teal Baldasaro



SNACKS!

Jan 31: Jan
Feb 7: Betty

ANNOUNCEMENTS:

- **Next Men's Business Meeting:** Feb 7th, after services
- **Next Pot Luck Fellowship:** Feb 14th, after services



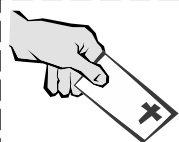
Saturday, Feb 6th
at the building

Time: 6 to 9 pm

Bring finger foods & of course, dessert.

If you have a special game you would like to play, please bring it. And, please be sure to invite your family and friends! The more the merrier! ☺

Those who allow God to provide in His way and in His time will always be satisfied.



Numbers for 1/24/15

Attendance - 26

Contribution - \$652.

Order of Worship

January 31, 2016

"Oh come, let us sing to the LORD! Let us come before His presence with thanksgiving. Oh come, let us worship and bow down; let us kneel before the LORD our maker."

~ Psalm 95:1-2 & 6 ~

Song Leader: *Paul Cote*

Song

Opening Prayer: *Erik Grabowski*

Song

Scripture Reading: *Jason Kennedy*

~ Psalm 6:1-7 ~

Song

The Lord's Supper:

Nate Hios & Wayne Sampson

Contribution

Song

Sermon: *Terry Schmidt*

"God, Where Are You?"

Song

Announcements & Closing Prayer:

George Nick

~~~~~

Lord's Supper Prep: *Terry Kennedy*

## 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 -*

**January 31, 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@zwi.net](mailto:tls654b@zwi.net)