



## Prayer Requests:

*"Pray for one another"*

- James 5:16 -

- Diane Cote - diagnosed with kidney disease & dealing with many other health issues
- Randy Cote - struggling with burdens of life
- Paul & Sandy Gagnon - Paul: at Greenwood Center in Sanford & doing well; Sandy: now home and doing well; re-gaining her strength
- Baron Hicken (Nancy's brother) - fell recently and severely fractured his pelvis; in a lot of pain and needs assistance get up & down or walk
- Nate & Rebecca Hios - pray for the Kittery work
- Susana Kazel - made it to Florida safe & sound; busy getting settled in; thanks for your prayers
- Jim Miller - suffering with lower back pain
- David Murphy (Sandy's brother) - inoperable prostate cancer; also has diabetes
- Chris Nick (George's brother) - had a serious stroke recently and is severely debilitated
- Ernie Perry - dealing with COPD issues
- Robert (Shirley's Dad) - serious heart condition; problems with excessive fluid retention
- Wayne Sampson - recently diagnosed with gallstones & fatty liver; also suffering from lower back pain and ongoing anxiety attacks
- Mark Schmidt (Terry & Betty's son) - serving in the USAF, now deployed to Qatar
- Henry Terrill - suffering with lower back pain due to bulging disks pressing on nerves; undergoing a regimen of epidural steroid injections which are reducing the pain; thanks for prayers
- Karlee Wells - various health issues; dealing with PTSD, TBI, severe migraines and chronic pain; also legal issues for health compensation
- Peter Wolenty - ongoing heart problems
- Please pray for the success of current negotiations on a good & affordable piece of land in Kennebunk where we, with God's help, will be able to build our future meeting place
- Please pray for those not with us today

## Pain & Suffering

Proverbs 20:30 says, "Blows that hurt cleanse away evil, as do stripes (blows, strokes, beatings) the inner depths of the heart." The *Today's English Version* reads this way: "Sometimes it takes a painful experience to make us change our ways." To verify the truth of this passage, one needs look no further than Israel of old—especially in the Book of Judges. Time after time, God's chosen people observed the oft repeated cycle of rest, rebellion, retribution, repentance and restoration.

After a period of living in obedience to God, Israel would again become complacent, do evil in the sight of the Lord, forsake Him and serve false gods. This sinful condition could last many years. To get their attention, God would have no choice but to allow them to be conquered by their enemies and exist in a sorrowful state of brutal bondage and severe oppression. God used this pain and suffering to cause the children of Israel to turn back to Him. Having exhausted all of their options, with nowhere else to turn, they finally turned to God.

Yes, sometimes God uses pain and suffering to reprimand, reprove and rebuke his erring children. God disciplines us because, like Israel, we often go astray and need to be brought back to our senses and return to Him. Therefore, "do not despise the chastening of the LORD, nor be discouraged when you are rebuked by Him" (Heb 12:5).

However, pain and suffering in one's life does not always imply sin, disobedience or wrongdoing. This is true in some cases, but not all. The three friends of Job made the mistake of attributing his misery and misfortune to some unconfessed sin. Sometimes, God allows adversity, pain and suffering into our lives in order to refine, purify, and perfect our faith.

"Though now, for a little while, you have been grieved by various trials, that the genuineness of your faith, being much more precious than gold that perishes, though it is tested by fire, may be

found to praise, honor, and glory at the revelation of Jesus Christ" (1 Pet 1:6-7). Adversity, pain and suffering are often used by God to prove that our faith is real.

After all, the Author of our salvation was made perfect through sufferings (Heb 2:10), and "though He was a Son, yet He learned obedience by the things which He suffered" (Heb 5:8). Jesus taught, "A disciple is not above his teacher, nor a servant above his master" (Mt 10:24). If it was necessary for our Lord to suffer in order for Him to fulfill God's purpose, then it is necessary for us to suffer also.

Adversity, pain and suffering cause us to mature in Christ and serves to strengthen our faith (Rom 5:3-5; Jas 1:2-4). So, "rejoice to the extent that you partake of Christ's sufferings, that when His glory is revealed, you may also be glad with exceeding joy! (1 Pet 4:13). — **Terry Schmidt** ✍

**"Sirs, what must I do to be saved?"**

**- Acts 16:30 -**

**Hear the Gospel** - John 6:44-45; Rom 10:14,17

**Believe** [trust in] God - John 3:16; 8:24; Ac 16:31  
Heb 11:6

**Repent** of sins - Luke 13:1-5; Acts 2:38; 3:19; 17:30

**Confess** Christ - Mt 10:32-33; Ac 8:36-37;  
Rom 10:8-10

**Be baptized** - Mk 16:16; Ac 2:38; 8:36; 22:16;  
1 Pet 3:21


**Be faithful** unto death - Mt 7:21; 10:22; Heb 5:9;  
Rev 2:10

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😊 **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. Have a great week!





**Ladies' Corner**  
*Nursing Home Visit:* Wednesday, July 19th, Kennebunk Nursing Home at 9:30 followed by lunch and fellowship at *Perfectos* in Kennebunk.

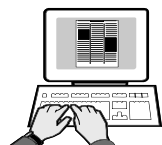
## ANNOUNCEMENTS:

- **Congregational Meeting:** Sunday, July 30, after services



## July Birthdays

16th - Pat Miller  
 24th - Diane Cote  
 29th - Shirley Boucher



## Visits to Our Web Page

Last 7 days: 

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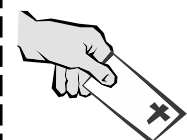
Last 30 days: 

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*During His earthly ministry, Jesus continuously helped multitudes of people, yet He never allowed Himself to become hurried or haggard. How? He nurtured His connection with God regularly through time spent in prayer. How is it with you? Do you take time – do you make time – to be alone with God in order to experience His fellowship, strength, guidance and fulfillment? (see Matthew 14:23)*

# SNACKS!

July 16: Diane  
 July 23: Nancy



Numbers for 7/9/17

Attendance - 26  
 Contribution - \$445.

# Order of Worship

## July 16, 2017

*"Oh come, let us sing to the LORD! Let us shout joyfully to the Rock of our salvation. Let us come before His presence with thanksgiving; let us shout joyfully to Him with psalms . . . Oh come, let us worship!"*

- Psalm 95:1-2, 6 -

Song Leader: *Paul Cote*

Song

Opening Prayer: *Jason Kennedy*

Song

Scripture Reading: *George Nick*  
 ~ Judges 4:1-10 ~

Song

The Lord's Supper:  
*Wayne Sampson & Ernie Perry*

Contribution

Song

Sermon: *Terry Schmidt*  
 "Deborah — Devout, Decisive, Dutiful"

Song

Announcements & Closing Prayer:  
*Erik Grabowski*

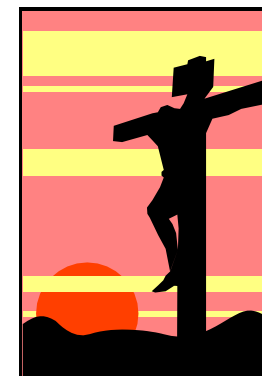
Alternate/fill-in: *Jim Miller*

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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 -

## July 16, 2017

## Sunday Assembly Times:

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

## Wednesday Assembly:

7:00 — Bible Study

Phone: 207-229-4174  
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