



## Prayer Requests:

*"Pray for one another"*

- James 5:16 -

- Diane Cote - diagnosed with kidney disease
- Randy Cote - (Paul & Diane's son) - struggling with the demands and burdens of life
- Paul & Sandy Gaqnon - Paul: now residing at Greenwood Center in Sanford & making the necessary adjustments; dealing with an e-coli infection; Sandy: now home on a new treatment regimen; prayers for strength & healing
- Erik & Janice Grabowski - grieving the death of Erik's grandmother and the loss of their dog
- Nate & Rebecca Hios - pray for the Kittery work
- Lyric (Jim & Pat's 6 year old grandson) - had emergency appendix surgery w/ complications; prayers for quick & complete healing
- David Murphy (Sandy's brother) - inoperable prostate cancer
- George & Caren Nick - ongoing family struggles
- Ernie Perry - dealing with COPD issues
- Jerry Prestridge - serving in Afghanistan
- Kathy Rader - prayers for her and her mom
- Robert (Shirley's Dad) - serious heart condition
- Wayne Sampson - issues with lower back pain; suffering from ongoing anxiety attacks
- Terry Schmidt - suffering with bad cold and flu
- Karlee Wells - various health issues; dealing with severe migraines and chronic pain
- Kim Willey - struggling with bi-polar disorder and proper adjustment of meds
- Blake Williams - personal & family struggles
- Peter Wolenty - ongoing heart problems; thankful for your prayers
- Please pray for our nation (1 Timothy 2:1-3)
- Please pray that we might find a suitable and affordable permanent meeting place
- Please pray for those not with us today

*"The prayer of the upright is His delight...He hears the prayer of the righteous"* - Proverbs 15:8 & 29



## Don't Confuse Me with the Facts!

Teaching the Gospel is not always easy. How often do we meet a person with an attitude that shouts "Don't confuse me with the facts, my mind is made up!" In other words, "It does not matter whether or not what you say is true, I am going to believe and do what I want." You could point to many Scriptures; you could provide examples from the New Testament; you could quote the very words of Jesus, yet such a person will remain unmoved. Such an attitude would be almost humorous if it were not so sad. We need to understand the world has always had such people in it and learn not to be discouraged.

For 120 years Noah preached repentance to a wicked world and warned of the impending Flood. For 120 years people slapped their hands over their ears whenever they saw Noah coming down the road. But then came the day when God shut the door of the ark and the rain drops began to fall. The only ones who were saved were those who had spent 120 years with a hammer and saw in their hands, instead of their hands over their ears.

Jeremiah is known as the "weeping prophet" to us today and for good reason. His mission was very similar to Noah's and his audience was just as stubborn. For about 40 years, Jeremiah preached to the rebellious people of God to repent or face the wrath of God. Jeremiah had good reason to cry because his audience not only refused to listen to him but also, instead of putting their hands over their ears, they made fists and put them in Jeremiah's face.

Jeremiah was declared a dangerous fanatic; beaten and put in stocks; his writings were burned by a king; he was called a traitor, beaten again and thrown in a dungeon; he was thrown into a cistern where he sank up to his armpits in mud; and finally he was carried off to Egypt. It is amazing what great lengths people went to not hear Jeremiah.

Even the Son of God who spoke with all the power and truth of Deity faced people whose attitude expressed, "Don't confuse me with the facts" There were those who refused to listen to Christ; others mocked Him; one occasion a mob tried to throw Him over a cliff and another time some tried to stone Him. The prejudiced against Jesus and His message grew to the point that to silence Him, His critics crucified Him.

Christians learn not to become discouraged, but also learn an important lesson on dull ears and closed eyes. Disciples should be aware of the danger plugging their own ears, shutting their eyes and closing their minds to God's Word.

Christians can "turn away their ears from the truth" (2 Tim. 4:4) and become just as stubborn and prejudiced and even more so than those in the world (See, 1 Tim. 4:1-3; 2 Tim. 4:1-4; Titus 1:13-16). If there is anything worse than a person of the world with their fingers in their ears, it's a professed Christian with their fingers in their ears.

The proper attitude for the Christian is to "Prove all things; hold fast to that which is good," (1 Thes. 5:21), studying to show thyself approved, (2 Tim. 2:15), and "examining the Scriptures daily, to see whether these things (are) so" (Acts 17:11). The Christian with the proper attitude towards others and the truth has his fingers turning the pages of his Bible instead of being stuck in his ears! — *Wayne Greeson*



## 😊 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 — will be Tuesday, January 17 at the Kennebunk Nursing Home at 9:30 followed by lunch and fellowship at Perfectos in Kennebunk.

Biddeford Ladies Day — Saturday, March 18 from 9 am to 2 pm. Speaker: Peggy Coulter. Theme: 'Filled Up and Poured Out'



## January Birthdays

26th - Susana Kazel



## ANNOUNCEMENTS:

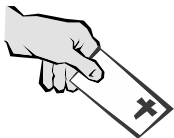
- Pot Luck Fellowship: Today, after services

## A Lesson from the Birds

"Behold the fowls of the air: for they sow not, neither do they reap, nor gather into barns; yet your heavenly Father feeds them. Are you not much better than they?" (Mt 6:26) We can learn much from these birds. They fully trust their Creator. What about us? We must choose each day to place our lives before Him, trusting in His good and perfect care for us. When we trust him with our worry and pain, we can stop trying to control our lives. When we trust him with the timing of our lives, we can relax and live under His protection. Slow down and yield your life to him. When we allow God to lead, our lives fall into place. When we try to control things, our lives fall apart.

## SNACKS!

January 8: Terry K  
January 15: Jan



Numbers for 1/1/17

Attendance - 19  
Contribution - \$307.

# Order of Worship

## January 8, 2017

*"I will praise You, O LORD, with my whole heart; I will tell of all Your marvelous works. I will be glad and rejoice in You; I will sing praise to Your name, O Most High."*

— Psalm 9:1-2 —

Song Leader: *Paul Cote*

Song

Opening Prayer: *Jim Miller*

Song

Scripture Reading: *Erik Grabowski*

Song

The Lord's Supper:

*Wayne Sampson & Ernie Perry*

Contribution

Song

Sermon

Song

Announcements & Closing Prayer:  
*George Nick*

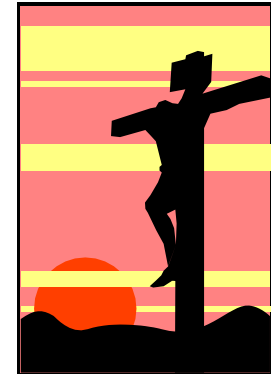
Alternate/fill-in: *Jason Kennedy*

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Lord's Supper Prep: *Pat Miller*

# Southern Maine Church of Christ

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

## January 8, 2017

## Sunday Assembly Times:

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

## Wednesday Assembly:

7:00 — Bible Study

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