

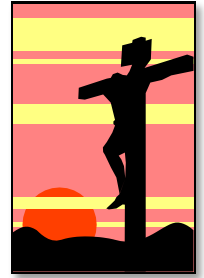
# Southern Maine Church of Christ

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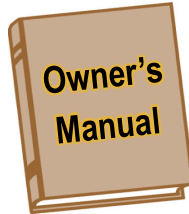
**May 17, 2020**



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

## Our Creator Knows Best!

**I**n the early 1950's, the U.S. Navy was working on the *USS Albacore*, an advanced experimental submarine that would be the forerunner of all future submarine designs. The engines for this craft would need to be lighter than traditional diesels and smaller to save on limited space. The answer seemed to be found in the innovative General Motors Electro-Motive 16-338 diesel engine. This light-weight, high-speed diesel was unique in that it featured a vertical crankshaft with 4 banks of 4 cylinders stacked upon each other in an "X" configuration. This small "pancake" diesel promised about the same performance as the larger, heavier engines.



However, GM had explicitly specified that a special oil be used for this unconventional design. But the Navy chose not to use this recommended lubricant. Thinking they knew best, they substituted a less expensive oil that was used Navy-wide. This was a grave mistake! Use of this non-compatible lubricant caused a myriad of problems, including premature wear, main seal leakage, and component failures—resulting in constant breakdowns. The problematic diesels were so unreliable that they were removed from three of the then new *Tang* class subs and replaced with traditional diesels. These spare engines were cannibalized for parts to keep the *Albacore* running for almost 20 years.

The designer and manufacturer of this product had specified a particular oil be used. The operators of the product disregarded this clear instruction and chose to substitute a sub-standard, non-compatible lubricant, resulting in engine inefficiency, constant breakdowns and ultimate failure. The moral of the story? The designer/maker knows best! (*or*, consult the owner's manual!).

Although man often refuses to accept and acknowledge the fact, Almighty God—our designer and creator—knows what is best for us. "And the LORD God formed man of the dust of the ground, and breathed into his nostrils the breath of life; and man became a living soul" (Gen 2:7). The Bible affirms that God created us. He made us in His image, according to His likeness (Gen 1:26). Therefore, He knows us intimately—inside and out! (Ps 103:13-14; Ps 139). And, because He is the One who created us and knows us better than we know ourselves, He knows what is best for us. We may disagree with God and think we know better than He does, but the harsh reality is . . . we do not!

"There is a way which *seems* right to a man, but its end is the way of death" (Prov 14:12; 16:25). The inspired wise man also said, "He who trusts in his own heart is a fool!" (Prov 28:26). We were not meant to go-it-alone and do-it-ourselves apart from God. "O LORD, I know that way of man is not in himself; it is not in man who walks to direct his own steps" (Jer 10:23).

In other words, we need God! Man's way brings trouble, disappointment and pain. We were created to worship God, be in fellowship with Him, and seek His strength, help and guidance in every area of our lives (Prov 3:5-6). Through the perfect sacrifice of Jesus, God has made this possible (Rom 5:6-10; 1 Tim 2:3-6; 1 Pet 2:24-25).

Our Creator knows best! So, when sin gets in the way and things aren't working right—consult the *inspired owner's manual!* — **Terry Schmidt** ✍



## Our Deepest Sympathy

Our sincerest condolences are extended to our sister **Glenda and family** as she mourns the death of her aunt Beverly, who passed away on May 4th. May God's steadfast presence and tender compassion provide strength and comfort to these dear ones during this difficult time of grief and loss. ☩

## "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; Rev 2:10

*"Nor is there salvation in any other, for there is no other name under heaven given among men by which we must be saved."*

- Acts 4:12 -



## Prayer Requests:

*"Pray for one another"*

- James 5:16 -

- Billie Jo (Pat Miller's daughter) - recently suffered a nervous breakdown
- Brother Josiah Carelse & family - working with the Lord's church in Cape Town, South Africa
- Corona Pandemic - its effect and overall impact on our lives, the nation and the world
- Diane Cote - kidney disease; various health concerns
- Filomena Derecho (Cathy's mother in the Philippines) - numerous health issues
- Reyderick Derecho (Cathy's nephew) - permanently disabled and in need of prayer
- Bill Ferrigno (friend of Terry S) - recently diagnosed with lymphatic cancer
- Sandy Gagnon - now at Brigham & Women's hospital in Boston due to an infection and a possible bowel restriction; prayers needed and appreciated
- Glenda's aunts in California:
  - Mary Lou - kidney failure; now on dialysis
  - Sandra - recent shoulder surgery
- Janice Grabowski - large growth on left side of her neck causing pain; also lost her job due to the covid-19 virus
- Connie Henderson - diagnosed with a fast-growing ovarian cancer; recently completed 3 rounds of chemotherapy; chemo is working; white & red blood cells are in a normal range with cancer cells decreasing; this will most likely be followed by major surgery to physically remove the remaining cancer
- Leah (Glenda's daughter) - ovarian cancer
- Debbie McGarey (mother-in-law of Terry & Betty's daughter, Becky) - stage 4 throat cancer; also recently fell and broke her hip
- Pat Miller - being treated for diverticulitis
- George Nick - family issues & concerns
- Ernie Perry - dealing with COPD issues
- Norman Roy - back home now, but in severe pain; pain meds being administered intravenously; prayers needed for him and his family as his health declines
- Wayne Sampson - recovering from surgery on right shoulder & a torn right bicep tendon; suffering with severe bursitis hip pain; a recent cortisone shot has brought some needed pain relief; also experiencing ongoing anxiety attacks
- Please pray for our nation - (1 Timothy 2:1-3)
- Please pray that we might find a suitable and affordable permanent meeting place

*"Pray without ceasing."* — 1 Thessalonians 5:17

## News & Notes:

- ⇒ Brother Paul Bullock will be at the building on Sunday morning at 9:30 for Bible study and 10:30 for those who may desire to worship and partake of the Lord's Supper.
- ⇒ This week's sermon **"Be Ye Perfect"** can be viewed by going to our web page at: [www.southernmainecofc.com/](http://www.southernmainecofc.com/) Click on "Sermons." There are also other sermons available for you to view.



Our sister **Betty Schmidt** observed a birthday yesterday. We hope your special day was enjoyable and memorable! ☺

Paul Cote — May 30th



**George & Catherine — May 31st**

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