



## Prayer Requests:

*"Pray for one another"*

- James 5:16 -

- Josiah Carelse & Family - working with the Lord's church in Cape Town, South Africa
- Corona Pandemic - its effect & overall impact on our lives, the nation and the world
- Diane Cote - pulled a muscle in her left calf and is wearing an air-cast; ongoing health concerns
- Paul Cote - cancerous tumor removed from his frontal lobe; recent MRI revealed radiation & chemotherapy are working & have shrunk the remaining mass; a future MRI will determine status of the cancer; keep the prayers coming
- Filomena Derecho (Cathy's mother in the Philippines) - numerous health issues
- Reyderick Derecho - permanently disabled
- Janice Grabowski - suffering from chronic pancreatitis & fibromyalgia
- Family of Connie Henderson - mourning the loss of their loved one
- Leah (Glenda's daughter) - ovarian cancer
- Ernie Perry - arthritic back pain and COPD
- Norman Roy - prayers needed for him & his family as his condition worsens
- Wayne Sampson - experiencing bursitis and arthritis pain, with ongoing anxiety attacks
- Paul Small (Paul Cote's cousin) - has stomach cancer
- Erik Wuelper - has pancreatic cancer
- Please pray that we might find a suitable and affordable permanent meeting place
- Please pray for our nation (1 Timothy 2:1-3)
- Please pray for those not with us today

### **Give Thanks to God...**

*For each new morning with its light,  
For rest and shelter of the night,  
For health and food, for love and friends,  
For everything Thy goodness sends.*

## 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 refers to that which is fleeting and transitory, and 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 contradict God and 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: *continued —* ➡

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; Col 2:9-10) and will never achieve the full and abundant life promised by Jesus (John 10:10).

To the Christian, life is not empty, meaningless and futile. "For we are His workmanship, created in Christ Jesus for good works, which God prepared beforehand that we should walk in them" (Eph 2:10). We have been saved by Jesus and are heaven-bound—blessed to do God's will—faithfully serving His high and noble purpose in our lives! — **Terry Schmidt** ✍



## Our Deepest Sympathy

Our sincerest condolences are extended to the Lord's church and the family of Connie Henderson as they mourn the death of their loved one, who passed away on Tuesday, July 13th. May God's steadfast presence and tender compassion provide strength & comfort to these dear ones during this difficult time of grief and loss. †

### **WORSHIP ASSIGNMENTS for AUGUST**

*Preaching:* Terry Schmidt

*Song Leader:* Terry Schmidt

*Opening Prayer:* Erik Grabowski

*Scripture Reading:* Wayne Sampson

*Lord's Supper:*

Jason Kennedy & Ernie Perry

*Announcements & Closing Prayer:*  
Jim Miller

*Alternate:* George Cuvellier

*Lord's Supper Prep:* Pat Miller



August 14th - Wayne Sampson  
August 22nd - Ernie Perry



Paul & Diane — August 3rd



### Points to Ponder

*"A thorough knowledge of the Bible is worth more than a college education."* — Theodore Roosevelt

### Visits to Our Web Page

Last Week: 4,304  
This Month: 41,940



# SNACKS!

July 25: Pat  
Aug 1: Cathy

### Attendance & Contribution for July 18, 2021

Attendance — 17  
Contribution — \$289.

## Order of Worship

July 25, 2021

*"While I live I will praise the LORD;  
I will sing praises to my God  
while I have my being."*

- Psalm 146:2 -

Song Leader: Terry Schmidt

Song—59

Opening Prayer: Jason Kennedy

Song—127

Scripture Reading: Jim Miller  
~ Ecclesiastes 1:1-11 ~

Song—316

The Lord's Supper:  
George Cuvellier & Ernie Perry

Song—209

Sermon: Terry Schmidt  
"Is Life Worth Living?"

Song—336

Announcements & Closing Prayer:  
Wayne Sampson

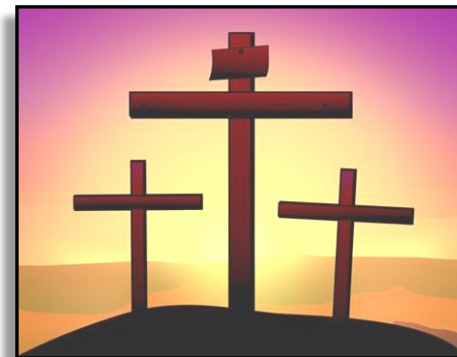
Alternate: Jim Miller

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Lord's Supper Prep: Betty Schmidt

## 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 25, 2021

### 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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