



Prayer Requests:

"Pray for one another"

- James 5:16 -

- Robbie Andrews (preacher in Lineville, AL) - experiencing extremely poor vision due to retinal inflammation; undergoing an intensive treatment which may be improving his vision
- Louis Bureau - injured left shoulder at work; underwent a successful surgery on June 15th; wearing a shoulder brace & still quite painful
- Josiah Carelse & Family - working with the Lord's church in Cape Town, South Africa
- Cleary's (Sampson's neighbors) - John is at SMHC suffering with Cephalitis virus; his wife Ceciela fell in parking lot with many injuries
- Diane Cote - left leg amputated up to the knee due to a progression of gangrene as a result of diabetes; will be fitted with a prosthesis and undergo prosthetic rehab in the near future
- Filomena Derecho (Cathy's mother in the Philippines) - numerous health issues
- Reyderick Derecho - permanently disabled
- Linda Gloman - colon cancer was detected in a recent colonoscopy; laparoscopic surgery on 8/10 was successful, with additional cancer found in only 1 lymph node; chemotherapy is needed, but Dr. says cancer is "totally curable"
- Wayne Sampson - ongoing anxiety attacks
- Molly Urghart (mother of Wayne & Jan's granddaughter, River) - condition re-evaluated to stage 4 esophageal cancer; now undergoing aggressive chemotherapy; prayers needed
- Please pray for our nation (1 Timothy 2:1-3)
- Please pray for those not with us today — the sick & suffering and those who are spiritually weak & struggling

"The eyes of the Lord are over the righteous, and His ears are open unto their prayers."

~ 1 Peter 3:12 ~

The Futility of a Life Without God



In the 1973 movie *Papillon* (starring Steve McQueen), Papillon, a safe cracker by trade, is convicted of murder, sentenced to life in prison, and sent to a labor camp in French Guiana. After years of hard labor and extremely harsh treatment, Papillon has a dream where he is standing before what seems to be a judge and jury in the middle of a desert. The judge says: "Yours is the most terrible crime a human being can commit—I accuse you of a wasted life!" To which Papillon sadly replies, "Guilty." When one examines their life towards the end of their days, perhaps there is nothing more sorrowful or more regrettable than that of the painful memory of many squandered opportunities and wasted potential (Mt 25:14-30; Gal 6:10; Eph 5:15-17; Col 4:5).

Solomon, the inspired Preacher of Ecclesiastes, observed: "Then I looked on all the works that my hands had done and on the labor in which I had toiled; and indeed, all was vanity and grasping for the wind. There was no profit under the sun" (Ecc 2:11). All was *vanity*! This word in the Hebrew literally means "emptiness." It represents that which is transitory, like a breath or a vapor, which does not (and cannot) satisfy, having no real meaning or lasting significance. Solomon's problem in the Book of Ecclesiastes is how to find real meaning and true fulfillment apart from God. His conclusion? This pointless pursuit is an effort in futility, in which "there was no *profit* under the sun." This simply means that there is absolutely no real benefit to be had, nor advantage to be gained in living a life without God.

The Scriptures plainly teach that those who are not in Christ (2 Cor 5:17; Gal 3:27; Eph 1:3) are "dead in trespasses and sins" (Eph 2:1), walking "in the futility of their mind, having their understanding darkened, being alienated from the life of God, because of the ignorance that is in them, because of the hardening of their heart" (Eph 4:17-18). For these lost souls, you & I must pray (Mt 9:37-38), and endeavor to teach "in humility correcting those

who are in opposition, if God perhaps will grant them repentance, so that they may know the truth" (Lk 19:10; 2 Tim 2:25).

In contrast, Solomon's conclusion at the end of Ecclesiastes points to a life which is satisfying, meaningful and rewarding. "Let us hear the conclusion of the matter: Fear God and keep His commandments, for this is the whole duty of man" (Ecc 12:13). Jesus said in John 10:10, "I have come that they may have life, and that they may have it more abundantly." Jesus speaks of a life devoted to God. This epitomizes the absolute fullness of life. It is a life of spiritual vitality that is real and genuine, active and vigorous, and that will last for all eternity. This is a life which is abundant in both quality and quantity. It is a superior, extraordinary, fulfilling life which fully surpasses the common, ordinary, futile life of those who do not know God.

Perhaps David, in speaking of our gracious God, put it best: "You will show me the path of life; in Your presence is fulness of joy; at Your right hand are pleasures forevermore!" (Psalm 16:11). Amen! — **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; Rev 2:10

☺ **Welcome Visitors!** ☺

We are glad you have come to worship with us and 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. Also, please fill out one of our visitor's cards before you depart. Have a great week!

NEW ADDRESS

Diane Cote
c/o Paul Gagnon
9 Linda Avenue
Arundel, ME 04046



The Day of Judgment

The thought of judgment is not a subject many like to talk about today. However, the Day of judgment is a biblical subject. There shall come a day when God "will judge the world in righteousness" (Acts 17:31). The modern world we live in is always changing. But two things which will never change are death and judgment (Heb 9:27). Everyone is going to die. Everyone is going to be judged. And each individual will be judged on a personal basis (2 Cor 5:10). On that great Day, each of us must give an account of ourselves to God (Rom 14:12). The cursed wicked shall be condemned "into everlasting punishment, but the righteous into eternal life" (Mt 25:41, 46).

Are you ready for that day?

Visits to Our Web Page

Last Week: 12,636

This Month: 27,706



SNACKS!

Aug 20: Terry K

Aug 27: Jan

Attendance & Contribution

for August 13, 2023

Attendance — 15

Contribution — \$262

Order of Worship

August 20, 2023

*"From the rising of the sun to
its going down, the LORD's
name is to be praised!"*

📖 - Psalm 113:3- 📖

Song Leader: *Terry Schmidt*

Song—477

Opening Prayer: *Louis Bureau*

Song—661

Scripture Reading: *Wayne Sampson*
- Ecclesiastes 11:9 -

Song—28

The Lord's Supper
Jason Kennedy & George Cuvellier

Song—421

Sermon: *Terry Schmidt*
"Yesterday When I Was Young"

Song—654

Announcements & Closing Prayer
Jim Miller

Lord's Supper Prep: *Jan*

Southern Maine Church of Christ

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

August 20, 2023

Meeting on the Lord's Day:

9:30 am — Bible Class

10:30 am — Worship

*"Let us consider one another in order
to stir up love and good works, not
forsaking the assembling of ourselves
together, as is the manner of some, but
exhorting one another, and so much the
more as you see the Day approaching."*

- Hebrews 10:24-25 -

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