

# THE BULLETIN

## 3...2... 1... SPRING BREAK CAMPAIGN

This coming week will be an exciting one. The Spring Break Campaign Team from Harding University will be here. They're being led by our own Zach Daggett and David Bell. They'll be a busy, busy group, hitting the ground running and barely stopping to occasionally catch their breath.

They'll arrive Friday evening but will be traveling early Saturday morning to Augusta ME to assist with "Super Saturday" a youth and adult gathering of central ME congregations and brethren.

Sunday, the men of the campaign team will lead us in worship. Zach Daggett will do the preaching and the other young men of the team will lead singing, prayer, the Lord's Table, and Scripture reading. That afternoon they'd like to enjoy our company (and food) in a Fellowship Luncheon followed by some games and activities.

Other events of their week include:

**Monday:** service projects for the home bound, brochure distribution

at SNHU, and MNFM

**Tuesday:** service projects for the elderly and home bound and meeting with the 20-somethings

**Wednesday:** Singing at nursing homes and Bible classes

**Thursday:** "March Madness 3 on 3 tourney"

**Friday:** Day off in Boston and dinner and devo at the Jones' home in Bow

**Saturday:** off to help in a youth rally in Natick MA

**Sunday:** back to Searcy

But this is a special appeal to YOU to participate in as many of these things as you can. You'll find the energy and enthusiasm of these young people contagious and you'll discover that "fellowship" is much more than eating. Fellowship of the Lord's work, fellowship in worship, in sharing, and in encouragement — all are invigorating, refreshing, and motivational. You'll be really, really glad you did.

Zach Daggett (as announced above) will be preaching for us this Sunday morning, and the rest of the young men of the Harding University Spring Break Team will be filling in at the other worship leader spots.

Next Sunday, Park will continue his series on marriage. This installment of the series will be offering sound psychological counsel — "tips", if you will — for healthy, happy marriages (sound because it is backed by God's



word). Bring a friend. By the way, these lessons are being posted on the church's website for future reference, in case you miss one or more in this series, or you'd like a friend to hear them.

Speaking of the website, have you checked it out lately? We've had a redesign done and it looks great. The preacher's part has a lot of information that you or others might find useful. Check it out.

### Manchester Church of Christ

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603.623.5559

[mht\\_church@comcast.net](mailto:mht_church@comcast.net)

[www.mhtcoc.org](http://www.mhtcoc.org)

### Elder's Link: March

Lee Davis - 547-8876

[leeadavis73@comcast.net](mailto:leeadavis73@comcast.net)

Larry Glass - 887-1741

[larrycalling@yahoo.com](mailto:larrycalling@yahoo.com)

If you have any concerns that the elders should be aware of, or need to speak to with them, please contact Lee or Larry this month.

### Our Worship Services

Sunday AM: 8:30 & 11:00

Bible Class: 10:00

Sunday PM: 6:00

### Small Groups:

West Side Small Group: 6:15PM at Doug Paul's

Merrimack Small Group: 5:30PM contact Stuart Peacock

Wednesday PM Devotional/Bible Classes: 7:00

News Items? Please submit before 11AM each Tuesday.

# Our Family

“So then you are no longer strangers and aliens, but you are fellow citizens with the saints, and are of God’s household,”  
Ephesians 2: 19, NAS95.

**Coming up in March...**

*MNFM* We will be meeting next Monday, March 8th. Dinner will be served at 6pm followed by prayer time, visiting and writing cards of encouragement. Please join us.

**What else?**

*New England church growth conference* will be held on March 13th at the church of Christ in Manchester, CT. A brochure is posted on the bulletin board in the foyer.

*Supper and Sing* The Biddeford church of Christ is hosting a “supper and sing” on Saturday, March 13<sup>th</sup> from 4-7 pm. See the flyer on the bulletin board in the foyer for their address and other information.

*Save the Dates...* Biddeford Ladies Day-- March 27<sup>th</sup>. Ladies Day in Roxbury, MA on March 27<sup>th</sup>. More details to come. The Conway church of Christ will be hosting a Ladies weekend April 9th-11<sup>th</sup> with speaker

Becky Blackmon. See the flyer on the bulletin board in the foyer.

**This and that...**

*Help needed* Men are needed to take the Lord’s supper to the shut-ins. The sign-up sheet is on the bulletin board in the foyer.

*Clothing drive* Food for Children is partnering with UNH in a clothing drive. There is a clear plastic tub in the foyer to place any clothing (adult or child) you may wish to donate.

*Good News!* Our newly designed website has gone live. If you are on the internet, stop by [www.mhtcoc.org](http://www.mhtcoc.org) and see what we have done. If you have any comments or questions or would like to update any content, please see Tony Casella.

*FYI* As part of our new focus on web outreach, we have started a couple of new blogs to try and help connect people to the word of God. Check them out!

**Manchester Church of Christ Bible Study**

This is a general bible study and commentary blog and can be found at <http://mhtchurchstudy.blogspot.com>

**MHT Servants**

This is a bible study blog of the ladies from the Manchester NH Church of Christ and is at <http://mhtservants.blogspot.com>

*Wednesday night suppers* Make sure to sign up on the list on the bulletin board in the back of the auditorium if you plan to attend.

**Wednesday Night Menu**

sausage gravy with biscuits  
scrambled eggs  
fruit salad  
dessert

**Worship Leaders**

**Sunday, March 7, 8:30AM**  
Songs .....Brandon H.  
Closing Prayer .....Mike M.  
Scripture .....Mark C.  
Lord’s Supper ..... Jim C  
Coordinator .....Doug P.

Scripture .....Pete S.  
Lord’s Supper .....Gary D.  
Coordinator .....Ken S.

**Sunday, March 7, 6:00PM**  
Songs.....Mark E.

**Sunday, March 7, 11:00AM**  
Songs .....Paul M.  
Closing Prayer .....Rich T.

**Wednesday, March 10, 7:00PM**  
Songs.....Doug P.

**Prayer Concerns**

**Health:** Doreen Lee, Duane Coss, Pat Arel, Bill Waisnor, Deniza Chase’s niece, Penny Ranger, Manley Jones, Michael Anderson’s brother  
**Leadership:** Ministers, Elders, Deacons  
**Evangelism:** Bible studies in progress, our website, MNFM, food pantry, Give Away Day contacts  
**Return to the Lord:** Brethren who have forsaken the assembly

# WHAT'S THE BIG DEAL ABOUT SIN?

PARK LINSOMB

Although not everyone will necessarily ask this question quite this way, there are a number of people, young and old, who will ask this, or a version of this question of me from time to time. Their view of sin is that it is basically just a mistake, small vices, no big deal. Sin, in their view, is certainly not serious enough an issue to merit hell! And all the “hand-wringing” by us Bible-banger types is really nothing more than hysterical religiosity -- sound and fury, signifying nothing. But is it mere sound and fury signifying nothing? Or are there solid reasons for the hand-wringing?

Well, sin is, first of all, disobedience to God. That definition may be news to some. Occasionally, I run into people who believe that sin is merely violating some man-made moral traditions or rules of “the church” or some unsmiling, ivory-towered clergyman bent on ruling the world with his capricious codes of conduct. But that is not so; sin is the choice we sometimes make to disobey the benevolent Creator. Although some sinful men prefer to reframe their deeds as freedom’s exercise, the truth is far uglier and horrific. It is staring in the face of love, benevolence, care, patience, and life and spitting in His eye — spitting in the eye of the One with the power to create and power to destroy, the power to save and the power to condemn to an eternal Hell. What was Adam and Eve thinking? What are we thinking, when we choose to sin? Who do we think we are? Are we stronger than God? Are we suicidal; masochistic; fools? The stupid impudence of sin is nothing less than stunning, when we stop and think about it for even a moment.

Sin is also harmful to others. Oh yes, I’ve heard all the vacuous arguments before about how some sins really don’t harm anyone — lust, covetousness, and what consenting adults might do in privacy. This is just so wrong! These are the same people who complain to God so loudly later about the senseless pain and suffering that they and others have to endure, while God sits idly by. What harm is sin to others? Much! Many of you may have heard of the “butterfly effect”. Although it is most often used in the world of meteorology — the observation that an event as seemingly insignificant as the flapping of a butterfly’s wings might create a disturbance (even if very small at first) that, in the chaotic motion of the atmosphere, may possibly lead to a huge storm in a distant place — it is the perfect explanation of how our small, seemingly insignificant, sinful deeds do indeed lead to great consequences. It is the multiplied little sins of this world — those little “white” ones — that have helped create the massive evil of the world. But even the one in the Garden of Eden, a mere bite of a forbidden fruit (how serious could that be?), is the reason for death, decay, and broken fellowship with God in this world. That one little sin was the beginning of sorrow, tears, sickness, sadness, pain, and grief.

Sin is also harmful to you personally. I won’t dwell on this point too much here, because it is so self evident. We are all quite aware of how badly we mess ourselves up with our sins; we toss and turn in bed in a bad conscience over them at night. We make new year resolutions to improve ourselves, because we are dissatisfied with what we’ve become. We

remember who we used to be in our innocence, and wonder whatever became of that little boy or girl. Sin has scarred and gnarled the conscience and character of everyone. Sin does indeed harm us.

Sin jeopardizes your soul. The consequence of spitting in the face of the Creator is separation from Him, the very source of life itself, the source of light and goodness and benevolence. And if we remain unredeemed — Jesus came and died and rose again to redeem us — we get separated from all that is good, right, light, kind forever. That is Hell. Some folks complain that this world is Hell, and sure enough their lives are (because of sin) pretty lacking in goodness; but even so there is good in their lives from God, who causes His sun to shine on the evil and the good. Prison is a place even more bereft of goodness, surrounded by criminals, violence, and evil; but even so, there is still a modicum of order by means of the prison’s rules and guards. Hell will be worse, because there will be no goodness, no light, no right, no protection, no grace, no blessing — nothing but being completely surrounded by the sin and evil we thought to be so harmless.

What’s the big deal about sin? We’ve really only touched the hem of the garment in this short bulletin article, but the bottom line is that it is a very big deal indeed.

Our Congregational Calendar						
Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
28 Elder Pulpit	1 Happy Anniversary: Tom & Eva Blackman	2	3 Bible class 7pm	4	5 Harding campaigners arrive	6 Happy Birthday: Jonah Peacock
7	8 MNFM Happy Birthday: Rick Lee	9	10 Bible class 7pm Happy Birthday: Lindsay Allen Liz Cryan Isabella Franklin	11 March Madness tournament Happy Birthday: Abigail Duer	12 Bonfire	13 Natick Youth Rally Happy Birthday: James Casella

Teen News	
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Our Statistics	
Sunday Morning Worship (combined)	No count
Contribution	\$3217.25

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The Manchester church of Christ  
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 Manchester, NH 03109