

## Prayer Requests

- ◆ Marescot's - John-Cancer, Keasha-Back.
- ◆ TJ Balsamo off to Marine Boot Camp.
- ◆ Mary McVivar Erik's friend kidney disease
- ◆ Linda Barnes - Health Issues
- ◆ Brenda Butler prayers for self and family.
- ◆ Marion Goodwin - Health issues.
- ◆ Wayne Sampson -Surgery for circulation.
- ◆ Maria Wickwar Family at Uncle's passing
- ◆ Glory Parker - Family Health/travel.

### Address For TJ Balsamo

RCT BALSAMO, ANTONIO L  
3<sup>rd</sup> BN, LIMA CO, PLT 3012  
PO BOX 16345  
MCRD PARRIS ISLAND, SC 29905-6345

### Elders

Brad Shaw (207)878-4124  
Tony Lemay (207)651-3369  
Dennis Godin (207)651-3588

### Deacons

John Carter (207)229-8516  
Matt Sampson (207)251-3030

### Ministry Leaders & Staff

Education...Antonio Balsamo...(207)286-0514  
Worship.....Abe Damuth.....(207)608-1784  
Grounds.....Mark Foley.....(207)284-3816  
Building .....Joe Romano.....(207)281-3929  
Fellowship....Matt Sampson...(207)251-3030  
Finance.....John Carter.....(207)229-8516  
Benovelance.....JohnCarter.....(207)229-8516  
Secretary.....Mike Wickwar.....(207)432-2272

### Ladies Ministry

Debbie Godin (207)286-4821  
Barbara Lemay (207)850-0084

## Order of Worship

**Song ??? Unknown**

**Announcements** - Shepherd

**Opening Prayer** - Brad Shaw

**Song ??? Unknown**

**Song ??? Unknown**

**Lord's Supper** - Joe Romano, Antonio Balsamo, Clifford Parker

**Song ??? Unknown**

**Contribution**

**Song ??? Unknown**

**Prayer** - Matthew Sampson

**Song ??? Unknown**

**Scripture Reading** - Lenny Spano

*Isaiah 9:6-7*

**Lesson** - Dennis Godin

*The Abundant Gift*

Lesson Text: *John 10:10*

**Song ??? Unknown**

**Closing Prayer** - Shepherd

Song Leader - Robert Balsamo  
Greeter - Brenda Butler  
Communion Prep - Barbara Lemay

**Last Week's Numbers**

**Attendance: 46 Contribution: \$1061.00**

*Preach the Gospel  
at all times;  
When Necessary  
Use Words*

## THE BIDDEFORD CHURCH OF CHRIST WELCOMES YOU!

Jesus Christ is...  
the brightness of  
His glory.

Heb. 1:3



The law  
is only a  
shadow of  
the good  
things that  
are coming...



...not the realities themselves.  
Hebrews 10:1

**DECEMBER 17, 2017**

**Biddeford Church of Christ**

266 Pool Street, Biddeford ME 04005

Biddefordchurchofchrist.com

(207)284-7123

## Welcome Visitors

We here at the Biddeford Church of Christ pray your visit with us today is enjoyable and uplifting. Please stay around after services so that we can get to know you better. We all strive to put Christ first in our lives and make the Bible our principle guide for living.

### This Week's Events

**Today 12/17**  
**Life Groups**

**Tuesday 12/19**  
**Bible Study**

#### New Email

Tony Lemay [alemay@metrocast.net](mailto:alemay@metrocast.net)  
Barbara Lemay [ablemay@metrocast.net](mailto:ablemay@metrocast.net)

### January - Financial University

Birthdays  
12/30 Mark Foley

### Next Week's Service Schedule

**Song Leader - James Butler**  
**Opening Prayer - Mike Wickwar**  
**Lord's Supper John Carter, Rufilo Lawrance, Erik Cote**  
**Prayer - Joe Romano**  
**Scripture Reading Sunday**  
**Greeter - Barbara Lemay**  
**Communion Prep - Jessica Damuth**

## The Abundant Gift

With the Christmas Holiday upon us, so is the time of giving and receiving gifts. Last week's Yankee Swap was so much fun, as both the giving, and the "receiving" of gifts took place. As I thought about this tradition, I was reminded of a saying which goes like this, "Don't look a gift horse in the mouth." When someone would give another a horse for free, it was seen as ungrateful if the one receiving the gift looked in the horse's mouth to determine its age; thus, it's value. Although I understand this idea, there are times when grasping the value of a gift is equally important to the receiver and is intended to be understood by the giver.

*I have come that they may have life, and that they may have it abundantly.*

*John 10:10*

As Jesus walked among His creation, including God's chosen at the time, Israel, few grasped the reality of the gift that was before them; a gift that came initially wrapped in "swaddling cloths" (Luke 2:7, 12), whose name would be Immanuel, meaning "God with us" (Matthew 1:23), and soon to be placed "on the tree" (1<sup>st</sup> Peter 2:24), not under it. It was He who proclaimed to sinful man that the gift of abundant life could be theirs. If there was ever a time to define a word, this is it. Abundant means exceeding some number or measure or rank or need. The example of the thief (this represents the false Messiahs and religious leaders who were leading people astray), which Jesus uses in John 10:7-10, seeks only the interests of himself: unlike Jesus, whose interest is in His sheep. This abundant life has within it

the understanding of salvation and confidence (v9) for those who abided in the Good Shepherd.

Just a few days ago I was fumbling through some of my things and came across a watch given to me by my oldest son several years ago. Inscribed on one side were these words, "Forever in Christ." It reminded me of so many things, but mostly this. Wherever life has you, no matter what circumstance you may be in, if you are IN CHRIST, you have abundant life! This is what empowered Stephen to utter the words, "Lord, do not charge them with this sin," as they hurled stones at him and killed him (Acts 7:60). It is the same awareness of this abundant life that empowered the persecuted church that was scattered, to go "everywhere preaching the word" (Acts 8:4). It is the same amazing gift that gives us cause to "always be ready to give a defense to everyone who asks you a reason for the hope that is IN YOU" (1<sup>st</sup> Peter 3:15). Thank you, God, for the amazing, abundant gift of life that is found in no other one than Christ Your only begotten Son!

*Dennis*

### Sermon Notes

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