

## Prayer Requests

- ◆ Marescot's - John-Cancer, Keasha-Back.  
Strengthen our union during this time.
- ◆ 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.
- ◆ Wickwar's Family in the Philippines  
Friends Sandra & Heather health & family
- ◆ Glory Parker - Family Health/travel.

### Address For TJ Balsamo

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1<sup>st</sup> BN, DELTA CO, PLT 1010  
PO BOX 16155  
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  
Benovalence.....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 381 *Years I Spent In Vanity***

**Announcements - Shepherd**

**Opening Prayer - Brad Shaw**

**Song 129 *Amazing Grace***

**Song 477 *There Is A Place Of Quiet Rest***

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

**Song 180 *Jesus Is Lord***

**Contribution**

**Song 683 *I Am Mine No More***

**Prayer - Mike Wickwar**

**Song 648 *Stand Up, Stand Up For Jesus***

**Scripture Reading - Lenny Spano**  
*Psalm 139:13-16*

**Lesson - Dennis Godin**

*Who Do You Listen To The Most*

Lesson Text: *Ephesians 4:29*

**Song 851 *I'll Fly Away***

**Closing Prayer - Shepherd**

Song Leader - James Butler

Greeter - Brenda Butler

Communion Prep - Barbara Lemay

**Last Week's Numbers**

**Attendance: 36 Contribution: \$1276.07**

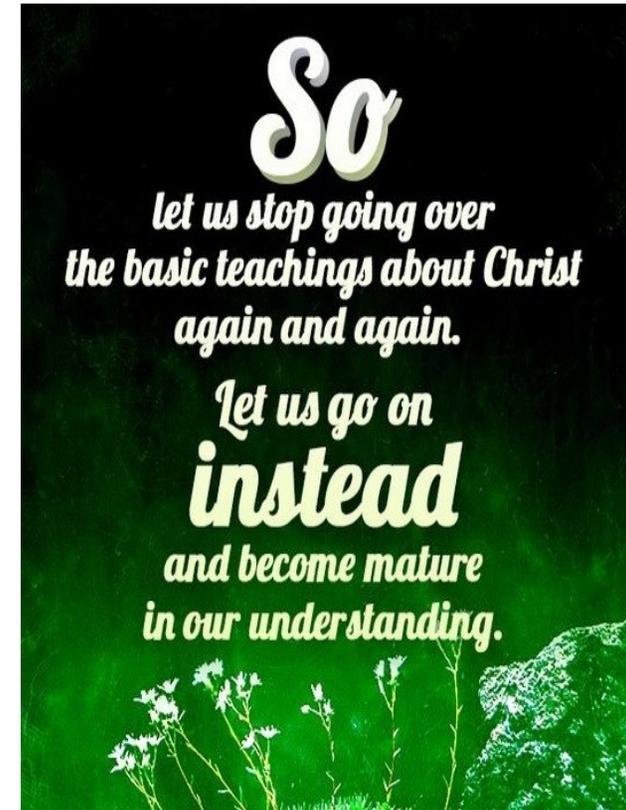
***Preach the Gospel***

***at all times;***

***When Necessary***

***Use Words***

**THE BIDDEFORD  
CHURCH OF CHRIST  
WELCOMES YOU!**



**JANUARY 14, 2018**

**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 1/14**  
**Pot Luck**

**Tuesday 1/16**  
**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

1/19 Maria Wickwar

### Next Week's Service Schedule

**Song Leader - Antonio Balsamo**  
**Opening Prayer - Brad Shaw**  
**Lord's Supper - John Carter, Ruffalo**  
**Lawrance, Jacob Romano**  
**Prayer - Angel Velez**  
**Scripture Reading - James Butler**  
**Greeter - Barbara Lemay**  
**Communion Prep - Jessica Damuth**

**C**hallenging

**H**ard

**A**ggravating

**N**ecessary

**G**utsy

**E**nlightening

## *Change, It's Not Easy*

Last week, I was looking forward to helping set the stage for our new monthly study entitled, *The 15 Invaluable Laws of Growth*: but was unable to because of health reasons. I am grateful for those who stepped up and filled in for me. It turns out, because of weather, we had to postpone

the first class, so I have been given that opportunity once again to set the stage. I begin with this simple fact, "Change, it's not easy." The natural question that would seem to follow is "Why?"

In life, there seems to be three potential areas in which we may find ourselves. See if you agree. First, there is the area of purposed growth (intentional). Here, we earnestly seek to grow in our daily walks with Christ, more about that in a later article. Then, there is what could be called stagnation; that is, showing no activity. Here, we may be going through life as a mere routine, caught up in the ebb and flow of everyday events, with no true goals for growing; simply trying to make it to tomorrow, to another day, only to start all over again. Then, there is atrophy. This is an insightful word that reached deep into me. It means to *gradually decline in effectiveness or vigor due to underuse or neglect*. Wow! If I look back on my years, even as a Christian, I can pinpoint myself in any one of these places at certain times of my life.

I can see why the Lord yearns for us to grow, but change is not always easy. I think of so many bible verses in the word of God that we can read about, where change was difficult. Peter has to be my favorite, because I relate to him so much. Impetuous Peter, so bold in his convictions, said to Jesus, "Even if all are made to stumble because

of You, I will never be made to stumble" (Matthew 26:33). So confident of his position, he was prepared to fight for Jesus, drawing his sword in John 18:10. Yet, just a short while later he would hear the words of Jesus come true as the rooster crowed, vividly exposing Peter's denial of Jesus (Luke 22:61-62). Or how he ushered in the proclamation of the gospel to the Gentiles (Acts 10), only to cower to his fellow Jews, having to be confronted by the apostle Paul in Galatians 2:11ff. Change, spiritual growth, it not easy!

Here is the problem, we are all changing whether we are intentional or not. We are either moving forward, standing still, or going backwards. I know I don't want to go backwards, but in all honesty, I am not always the best gauge of that. Standing still, may be a place where we pause for a moment to regroup, but it is still not where I know God wants me to stay. God wants me to be growing in Christ. Although such change is not easy, it is always beneficial. So, instead of going through life merely growing incidentally, I want to renew a spirit within to do so intentionally. All to the glory of His name, the furthering of His gospel and the growth of His church. Change may benefit me, but it is all about Him.

*Dennis*

### Sermon Notes

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