

# BIDDEFORD CHURCH OF CHRIST

266 POOL STREET - P.O. BOX 331 - BIDDEFORD, ME 04005


MARCH 4, 2018

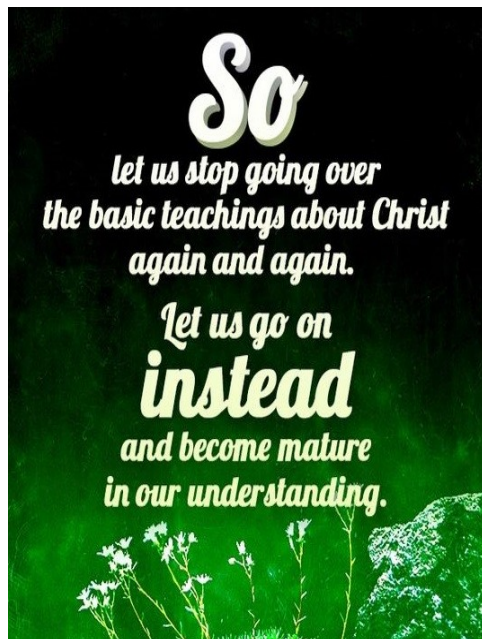
## NOT ALWAYS A STRAIGHT LINE ARTICLE BY DENNIS GODIN

As we move forward this year, seeking to encourage growth on a variety of levels, I am aware of the concern that such efforts could minimize the gospel and water things down to merely a “self-help” type of spirituality. Yet, as God’s word reminds us, there is a continuous need for us to give “all diligence” to adding to our faith (2<sup>nd</sup> Peter 1:5). I have been giving this a lot of thought lately, as I look at myself and the journey I am on, along with all of you. I have concluded, that the road we must travel is not always a straight line.


*But he spoke more vehemently,  
“If I have to die with You,  
I will not deny You!” And they  
all said likewise.*

*Mark 14:31*

 When it comes to one’s walk with Christ, we would like to see onward and upward maturity. But the bible reminds us so often that such a view is unrealistic. I believe the story of Peter is one of those reminders on how easy it is to have high expectations, only to falter in our follow through. More importantly, I believe his story shows us how much God yearns for us to get back up. It is about redemption! Not only the saving of a soul, but the saving of a life meant to bring God glory. So, let me ask you a question, “How



many of you, like me, have made absolute promises to change?” Peter’s was even supported by a noble effort to defend his Lord, drawing his sword as they came to arrest Jesus (John 18:10). Yet, soon after, he is seen denying the One he was just a short while before, so willing to die for. Spiritual growth, that inner transformation which God so desires, is not a straight line for most, if not all.

 As the years would pass by, the growth of Peter is one to learn from. He learned that his mission would include preaching to the Gentiles (Acts 10) and would defend that act before his fellow Jewish Christians (Acts 15). But, for whatever the reason, he became fearful of “those who were of the circumcision” (Galatians 2:12), resulting in him influencing others in a not so good fashion. The apostle Paul had to confront him because of his actions (Galatians 2:14). No doubt,

## SCHEDULE OF ASSEMBLIES

**SUNDAY**  
**BIBLE CLASS 9:30A.M.**

**WORSHIP 10:45 A.M.**

**MID-WEEK STUDY**

**TUESDAY 7-8 P.M.**  
**(BIDDEFORD)**

### 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  
Fin./Benev. - John Carter  
(207)229-8516  
Fellowship - Matt Sampson  
(207)251-3030  
Secretary - Mike Wickwar  
(207) 432-2272

### Ladies Ministry

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

# BIDDEFORD CHURCH OF CHRIST

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## AS EACH PART DOES ITS WORK

How important is encouragement to you? Note someone you have not seen in worship lately and give them a call or send them a card. Who knows, your words of encouragement could make an eternal difference.

**"Sirs, what must I do to be saved?" - Acts 16:30**

**Hear** the Gospel - John 6:44-45; Romans 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; 10:22; Heb 5:9; Rev 2:10

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*"Salvation is found in no one else, for there is no other name under heaven given to men by which we must be saved."*

~ Acts 4:12 ~

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### *Ladies Corner*

Our next Ladies meeting will be during the congregational breakfast on March 10th.

**Ladies Day is March 24!!!**

Thank You,  
*Debbie and Barbara*

Last Week's Numbers:

Attendance: 32    Contribution: \$ 636

### NOT ALWAYS A STRAIGHT LINE (CONTINUED)

there was need for repentance; that is, a change in direction.

Why say all of this? How many of us use failure to give up? Spiritual growth is not defined by a straight line that reflects a constant upward trend. Real spiritual growth has peaks and valleys, ups and downs. God is the God of both peaks and valleys, ups and downs. Consider the Mark 16:1-7, when the women who came to anoint the body of Jesus after His death, were startled by an angel. The angel told the women, "But go, tell His disciples-and Peter- that He is going before you into Galilee; there you will see Him, as He said to you" (Mark 16:7). Only days ago, Peter was distraught, in a deep valley, weeping "bitterly" (Luke 22:62) over his failure. Jesus was there to reach out to him, to help lift him out, if he wanted.

Jesus had plans for Peter and He has plans for each one of us. The road to spiritual growth is seldom, if ever, a straight line. There will be times where godly sorrow will be needed and repentance exhibited. There will be times when moving upward seems almost impossible. Our Jesus is Lord over all those areas of life and is willing to help guide us through it all. The only question we might need to answer is this, "Are we willing to travel the road before us, with all its peaks and valleys?" Thank You Lord for being so patient with us, and empower us, Lord, to travel intentionally homeward.

*Dennis*

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## ANNOUNCEMENTS

**We're on Facebook**– Biddeford church of Christ is on Facebook! There is a profile, which is public, and there is a closed group, for current Biddeford church family only, where we can share photos, prayer requests, announcements, etc. The public cannot see posts in the BCOC FB group. Only members can.

**Men Leading in Worship** - The men who serve in worship are asked to meet in the cry room or, if it is in use, a classroom promptly at 10:30 to confirm assignments and go to God in prayer.

**Building Lights** - If you are the last person leaving the building, please be sure to turn off all the lights, check that all windows are shut, and the doors are locked.

**Bulletin /- Prayer List** - If you have a prayer request or an announcement for the bulletin, please contact Mike Wickwar at 432-2272 or email him at mickwick@yahoo.com by Friday of each week. Anything given after Friday may not make it into that Sunday's bulletin.

**Reminder:** Please turn off your cell phone or place it on vibrate during Bible study and worship.

**We care what you think** - If you have any questions, concerns, or suggestions, feel free to write them down on a piece of paper, then sign it and place it in the box. We will get back to you as soon as possible. Thanks for your help.

**Monthly Bulletins**– One per family, please. If you would like another copy, you can find it on our website, biddefordchurchofchrist.com. You can also listen to sermons on the website.

**Updating the Prayer List** - Please review the prayer list. If there is a prayer request initiated by you, it is important you contact Mike Wickwar with updates. Thank you.

**Upcoming Events** - Please check your calendars

**Life Groups**– March 4th and March 18th.

**Congregational Breakfast** - March 10th at 8:30 am.

**Pot Luck** - March 11th

**Singing Nights** - Tuesday March 27th (7 p.m. Biddeford)

**Happy Birthday!**

John Carter	March 1
Bradford Shaw	March 12
Angel Velez	March 24
Gavin Sampson	March 24

**Happy Anniversary!**

Joe & Laura Romano	March 2
Stephen & Glory Parker	March 17

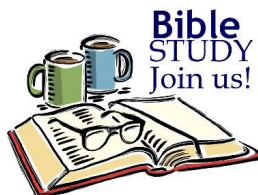
### Address For TJ Balsamo

RCT BALSAMO, ANTONIO L  
1st RTBN, ALPHA CO, PLT 1021  
PO BOX 16125  
MCRD PARRIS ISLAND, SC 29905

***Preach The Gospel at all Times;  
When Necessary Use Words!!!***

MID-WEEK BIBLE CLASSES

Biddeford  
Tuesdays  
7:00-8:00 p.m.



YOUR ATTENDANCE WOULD BE SUCH AN ENCOURAGEMENT!

## ORDER OF WORSHIP FOR TODAY

**Song 555 *Seek Ye First***

**Announcements**—Shepherd

**Opening Prayer** - John Carter

**Song 226 *O Thou Fount Of Every Blessing***

**Song 334 *Tis Midnight, And On Olive's Brow***

**Lord's Supper** - Angel Velez, Erik Cote,  
Rufilo Lawrance

**Song 381 *Years I Spent In Vanity***

**Contribution**

**Song 418 *Breathe On Me, Breath Of God***

**Prayer** - Mike Wickwar

**Song 464 *Because He Lives***

**Scripture Reading** - Lenny Spano  
Psalm 30:1-4

**Lesson** - Dennis Godin

**Not Always A Straight Line**

Lesson Text: Mark 14:31

**Song 429 *Oh, To Be Like Thee***

**Closing Prayer**—Shepherd



Song Leader: Antonio Balsamo

Greeter: Jessica Damuth

Communion Prep: Brenda Butler

### NEXT WEEK'S SERVICE SCHEDULE:

**Song Leader** - Robert Balsamo

**Opening Prayer** - Brad Shaw

**Lord's Supper** - Joe Romano, James  
Butler, Clifford Parker

**Prayer** - Matthew Sampson

**Scripture Reading** - Abraham Damuth

**Greeter** - Gabriele Little

**Communion Prep** - Barbara Lemay

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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.

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WE'RE ON THE WEB!

[WWW.BIDDEFORDCHURCHOFCHRIST.COM](http://WWW.BIDDEFORDCHURCHOFCHRIST.COM)

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