

Prayer Requests

- ◆ Lisa Sampson Mom's Neice Dawn suicide.
- ◆ Joey Godin - Serious stomach issues.
- ◆ Mike's Friend Sandra Heart Issues.
- ◆ Mike Wickwar Dad Fred health.
- ◆ Marescot extended family health/financial.
- ◆ Gabriele Little Husband-Ill, Brother-ALS.
- ◆ Lisa Carter's Friends-Jenn(Breast Cancer), Jayne(Life Struggles, Cardiac Issues)
- ◆ Mary McVicar Erik's friend kidney disease
- ◆ Linda Barnes Ongoing Health Issues.
- ◆ Marion Goodwin health her and husband.
- ◆ Brad Shaw - Surgery recovery.
- ◆ Godin Family Debbie friend Carol-heart Dennis sister in law Alzheimer's
- ◆ Spiritual and Physical well being of the church and all its members.

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
Youth.....Angel Velez.....(207)730-9889
Worship.....Abe Damuth.....(207)608-1784
BuildingJoe Romano.....(207)281-3929
GroundsLenny Spano.....(207)569-8800
Fellowship....Matt Sampson...(207)251-3030
Finance.....John Carter.....(207)229-8516
Benevolence..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 - Elder

Song ??? Unknown

Reading 1 - Genesis 41:17-40
Angel Velez

Song ??? Unknown

Lord's Supper - Joe Romano, David Lawrance, Lenny Spano

Song ??? Unknown

Contribution

Song ??? Unknown

Reading 2 - Ephesians 6:1-20
Matthew Sampson

Song ??? Unknown

Prayer - John Carter

Reading 3 - 1 Corinthians 15-56 - 16:14
Abraham Damuth

Song ??? Unknown

Closing Prayer - Shepherd

Song Leader - Robert Balsamo

Greeter - Jessica Damuth

Communion Prep - Brenda Butler

Last Week's Numbers

Attendance: 42 Contribution: 1488.09

Live the Gospel at all times;

When opportunity is there...

Preach It!

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



MARCH 24, 2019

Biddeford Church of Christ

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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 3/24

Scripture Reading Sunday

Tuesday 3/26

Singing

Sunday 3/31

Guest Speaker

Birthdays

Angel Velez 3/24

Gavin Sampson 3/24

Contact Angel Velez

***To participate in our new
Community Outreach Project***

Next Week's Service Schedule

Song Leader - James Butler

Opening Prayer - Brad Shaw

**Lord's Supper - Angel Velez, Clifford
Parker, TJ Balsamo**

Prayer - Mike Wickwar

Scripture Reading - Ruffalo Lawrence

Greeter - Brenda Horowitz

Communion Prep - Deborah Godin

Planning Ahead

I was asked by Abe to write an article for scripture reading Sunday that focused on the idea of planning ahead. Over the years, I have learned (and still am learning) the important role of planning ahead. Planning limits the number of times you have to go back to the building supply store to complete a project. Planning allows you to be better prepared for vacation time, enabling you to enjoy things more. Of course, you can't plan for every possible event nor should you, but you can try and be as prepared as possible to help minimize the unexpected. In my world, my frustration often arises because of those very things; that is, those unexpected things that show themselves because I didn't take the time to...you guessed it...plan ahead. Well, Abe has chosen some text that speak to this idea, so let's consider them.

First, we find ourselves back in Genesis 41:17-40, looking at the life of Joseph. Up to this point, he has been sold by his brothers into Egyptian slavery, enduring some unfortunate events. With God guiding his steps, he rises to great importance, only to be thrown into prison because of false accusations. While in prison, Joseph interprets the dreams of a butler and baker, which set the stage for him to interpret the dream of Pharaoh. It is here that this idea of planning ahead comes into view. Pharaoh's dream revealed that in the years to come, Egypt would experience great bounty, followed by dreadful famine. Joseph then advised Pharaoh to "select a discerning and wise man, and set him over the land of Egypt" (v33). During the time of plenty, "let them gather" and "store up" some of what the bounty (v35). The reason for this planning was simple, it was so "the land may not perish during the famine" (v36). This foresight not only helps Egypt, but it also played a role in God's redemptive plan during this time in history. Planning helps us prepare for the unforeseen events of life, enabling us to be ready when and if they come. Such planning can not only help each of us, but it could help those around us as well.

Second, we find ourselves focusing on Ephesians 6:1-20 and begin to draw our attention to spiritual readiness and the role that planning needs to play. We are exhorted to "put on the whole armor of God" (v11). If there is a place where I could be more attentive to planning ahead, it would be in this area. Frequently during our daily lives, we are confronted with "the wiles of the devil" (v11) who is on a mission to seek "whom he may devour" (1st Peter 5:8). When we plan ahead for possible battles, it is then that we are best equipped to "stand against" Satan's efforts. This spiritual battle is one often fought in the mind, which is one good reason for us to plan ahead. Paul's exhortation to bring "every thought into captivity to the obedi-

ence of Christ" (2nd Corinthians 10:5) suggests that we have prepared in advance and thus are ready to do so. Every war ever fought in history and won, I suspect, was the result, in part, of planning ahead.

Finally, the last area to consider is the most challenging of all and is found in 1st Corinthians 15:56-16:14. After sharing with the church in Corinth about the wonderful, victorious hope of the gospel, he speaks to them about planning ahead when it comes to their giving. Why is the subject of giving so taboo? I actually know why, at least for me. I see it as my money all too often, when I should see me as a steward of God's blessings. With these blessings, God wants me to plan ahead when it comes to giving. God calls us to "lay something aside, storing up as he may prosper" (v2). Of course, the attitude is equally important, for we are not to give "grudgingly or of necessity" (2nd Corinthians 9:7). I wonder, do you think if we planned ahead, prayerfully, concerning our giving, that such an attitude is far less likely to reveal itself? Also, if we did take the time to plan, do you think our giving may increase? I know in my world, such an approach has always helped me in this area of my walk.

So, when was the last time you took the time to plan any part of your spiritual journey? I would love to say I have this well in hand, but I don't. Even so, I can say that when I seek to plan ahead and ready myself for the steps I will need to take as God directs me, I am better able to take them. Maybe there is some planning needed in your life. It is never too late to start. Have a blessed day.

Dennis

Sermon Notes
