

Prayer Requests

- ◆ Mike Wickwar his brother's health issues; Sandra - heart surgery, Bob - Cancer.
- ◆ Keasha Marescot Mom Barbara - Dementia
- ◆ Joey Godin stomach issues
- ◆ Gabby Little personal & family health issue
- ◆ Brad & Brenda health & healing, Move
- ◆ Linda Barnes Ongoing Health Issues
- ◆ Marion Goodwin Ongoing health issues
- ◆ Godin Family health, SIL Alzheimers
- ◆ Mary McVicar chronic kidney disease
- ◆ Glory Parker family health, traveling
- ◆ Lisa Carter's Friends Jenn & Jayne battling health and life issues
- ◆ Sampson Family health & family healing
- ◆ Our Congregation

Elders

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...John Carter.....(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 26 *God Moves In A Mysterious Way*

Announcements Angel Velez

Opening Prayer: Shepherd

Song 214 *Have You Seen Jesus My Lord*

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

Lord's Supper: Angel Velez, Erik Cote,
James Butler

Song 312 *Old Rugged Cross*

Contribution

Song 395 *Follow Me*

Prayer: Matthew Sampson

Song 528 *I Know That My Redeemer Lives*

Scripture Reading: Rufilo Lawrance
Text: Philippians 3:2-6

Lesson: Dennis Godin

Water Under the Bridge

Lesson Text: *Philippians 3:13*

Song 552 *Have Thine Own Way*

Closing Prayer: Tony Lemay

Song Leader: Antonio Balsamo

Greeter: Brenda Butler

Communion Prep: Jessica Damuth

Last Week's Numbers:

Attendance: 40

Contribution: \$1,417.00

***Live the Gospel at all times;
When opportunity is there...
Share then hope you have!***

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



Lamentations 3:22-23 ESV

SEPTEMBER 1, 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 9/1
Life Groups

Tuesday 9/3
Bible Study

Sunday 9/8
PotLuck

Mark Your Calendar

Gospel Meeting with Brent Newton

Of Jefferson City, Missouri (9/8 - 9/11)

"Life After Death"

At Southern Maine Church of Christ

Next Week's Service Schedule

Song Leader - Robert Balsamo
Opening Prayer - Shepherd
Lord's Supper - John Carter, Lenny Spano, David Lawrance
Prayer - Joe Romano
Scripture Reading - TJ Balsamo
Greeter - Jessica Damuth
Communion Prep - Brenda Butler

Water Under The Bridge

I am sure you have heard it before, or better yet, maybe even said it, "That's all water under the bridge." I want to deviate from the topic for this year and speak about the profound power of the past. It has been said, "if you wish to live in the present, you have to work through your past." The word "past" is compelling; most of the time, we understand it to be something distant. The sentence you just read is history, the past, buried within the recesses of your mind for possible use in the future. Okay, I don't want to get all philosophical on you. My point is simple, what happened in the past, whether years ago or just a minute ago, can impact us whether we realize it or not.

Brethren, I do not count myself to have apprehended; but one thing I do, forgetting those things which are behind and reaching forward to those things which are ahead...

Philippians 3:13

In this verse from the apostle Paul, two words stand out that gives some insight into how one might work through their past so that they can live in the present and be excited about the future. First, there is this idea of forgetting. The ETRV says, "I forget the things that are past." Water under the bridge... right? The word means the sense of neglecting, no longer caring. Pat Harrell gives us insight by explaining the opposite of forgetting, "To remember something was to lift it out of the dead past and to thereby make it a dynamic force in the present." In his book entitled, Learning to Love, Willard Tate talks about something called self-talk. He writes, "Whatever the mind attends to, it considers; whatever the mind does not attend to, it dismisses; whatever the mind attends to continually, believes; and whatever the mind believes, it eventually does." The NKJV of Proverbs 23:7 says, "For as he thinks in his heart, so is he." Paul's history cluttered with the arrogance of a law keeper (Philippians 3:3-6), perpetrated horrible acts against the early church (Acts 7 & 8). What sort of self-talk could he have used to remind himself of the dreadful things he

did. What kind of self-talk do you use?

What is interesting about the Greek word translated forgetting is that it is a present participle; which means, forgetting is a process. What can help us in that process is found in the next word I want to consider; that is, reaching. This word carries with it the idea of to stretch out to or towards. Listen to the ETRV, "I try as hard as I can to reach the goal that is before me." God is revealing to us through Paul that this forgetting and reaching takes concerted effort and time. Pat Harrell makes this powerful comment on this, "Paul was in effect, refusing to permit the past to dominate the present. Forgetting the past, he orientates himself to the future." With what was Paul occupying his mind? What was he reaching so hard to attain? "I press toward the goal for the prize of the upward call of God in Christ Jesus" (Philippians 3:14).

With Paul's past littered with sufficient reasons to suffocate his newfound life (and hope) in Christ, you can imagine what his self-talk could have been? But he refused to be held captive to that past. It was water under the bridge. What do you reach for most often when it comes to identifying yourself? What thoughts echo through the recesses of your mind? Have the turbulent waters of your past made it under the bridge?

Heavenly Father, we thank You for your patience with us as we strive towards one day being with You. Help us, empower us to forget the past that seeks to keep us in bondage and release us to be all that we can be for You. Amen.

Dennis

Sermon Notes
