



Prayer Requests:

"Pray for one another"

- James 5:16 -

- Josiah Carelse & Family - working with the Lord's church in Cape Town, South Africa
- Diane Cote - severe infection necessitated the amputation of her right leg above the knee; previously, her left leg was amputated to the knee; will be scheduled for rehab; prayers are appreciated as she makes this difficult change
- Leslie Denbow - left knee needs replacement surgery; experiencing nerve pain in right foot
- Filomena Derecho (Cathy's mother in the Philippines) - numerous health issues
- Retha Flack (Terry & Betty's Christian friend) - 2 blockages in heart; currently undergoing tests
- Richard Miles (Kathleen's nephew) - undergoing chemo & radiation to combat a rare sarcoma
- Brent Newton - suffered a minor stroke on 8/18; now home recovering and doing well
- Wayne Sampson - femoral bypass surgery on 11/18 to bypass an 8-inch blockage in his right leg went well; now home recuperating
- Henry Terrill - radiation treatments for prostate cancer are completed; being re-evaluated soon
- Karolyn Terrill - strength for daily routines and keeping her cooperative spirit with staff
- Hurricane Victims - prayers for those affected by the devastation brought on by these storms; many have lost everything, including loved ones
- Please pray for our nation (1 Timothy 2:1-3)
- Please pray for those not with us today — the sick & suffering and those who are spiritually weak & struggling

*"I have called upon Thee, for Thou wilt hear me,
O God: incline Thine ear unto me
and hear my speech."*

(Psalm 17:6)

Speck Inspectors

The story is told of a visiting Army General who, while inspecting a military base, noticed an unbuttoned flap on the shirt of a lowly Private. Unwilling to let such an offense pass, and in order to impress upon others the need for strict adherence to policy, the General called the Private to attention before many onlookers. Standing right in front of him, and with all the authority he could muster, the General bellowed: "Private! Button the flap on the shirt pocket NOW!" The Private replied with great embarrassment, "Right now Sir, in front of everybody?" "Right HERE...right NOW, soldier!" blasted the imposing General. At that moment the Private, with hands visibly shaking, reached out and carefully fastened the unbuttoned flap on the General's shirt!

How easy it often is for us to see the flaws in others but not in ourselves! Jesus noted this tendency in Matthew 7:3-5 – "Why do you look at the speck in your brother's eye, but do not consider the plank in your own eye? Or how can you say to your brother, 'Let me remove the speck out of your eye'; and, look, a plank is in your own eye? Hypocrite! First remove the plank from your own eye; and then you will see clearly to remove the speck out of your brother's eye."

We get a distinct mental picture with the hyperbole (*a gross exaggeration for rhetorical effect*) Jesus uses here. Here's a person with flawed vision who can hardly see (impaired by the large plank in his eye), attempting to remove a tiny speck from his brother's eye. This is hypocritical because he is behaving as though he can see perfectly! "The judgment Jesus is particularly condemning here is our efforts to make all conform to our standards of perfection" [*The International Bible Commentary*]. Or, to put the intended message another way, clean up your own backyard before attempting to renovate the neighborhood!

This judgmental attitude can lead to a critical, fault-finding spirit which is completely contrary to the Christian spirit. "Do not speak evil of (*talk against; defame; backbite; slander*) one another, brethren" (Jas 4:11). "Do not grumble against one another, brethren, lest you be condemned" (Jas 5:9). To "grumble against" literally means "to

groan or murmur" and has been translated as complain, slander and criticize.

In fact, the inspired apostle Paul instructs that we should "speak evil of no one, [but] be peaceable, gentle, showing all humility to all men" (Titus 3:2). The phrase "speak evil of" is the Greek word *blasphemeo*, from which we get our English word "blaspheme." This powerful, penetrating word means "to vilify, speak reproachfully or disrespectfully, defame, rail against, revile, insult, abuse."

While we may fail in this area once in a while, this is not the behavior Christians should identify with, nor be guilty of consistently demonstrating. "Therefore, let us not judge (*criticize or condemn*) one another anymore, but rather resolve this, not to put a stumbling block or a cause to fall in our brother's way (Rom 14:13). — **Terry Schmidt** ✍



**"Sirs, what must I do
to be saved?"**

- Acts 16:30 -

Hear the Gospel - John 6:44-45; Rom 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; Rev 2:10

☺ **Welcome Visitors** ☺

We are glad you have come to worship with us today. We want you to know that you are welcome. Please don't hesitate to ask if you have questions or if we can help you in any way. Also, please fill out a visitor's card before you depart.

Have a great week! ☺



Grant Soper — December 2nd
 Terry Schmidt — December 9th
 Brandon Kennedy — December 16th
 Catherine Cuvellier — December 28th



Terry & Betty — December 6th
 Mike & Donna — December 28th

Potluck Next Sunday!

“...food which God created to be received with thanksgiving by those who believe and know the truth.” — 1 Timothy 4:3

Visits to Our Web Page

Last Week: 6,759
 This Month: 356



SNACKS!

Dec 1: Jan
 Dec 8: Paula

Attendance & Contribution

for November 24, 2024

Attendance — 22
 Contribution — \$585

Order of Worship

December 1, 2024

“Let the word of Christ dwell in you richly in all wisdom; teaching and admonishing one another in psalms and hymns and spiritual songs, singing with grace in your hearts to the Lord.”

- Colossians 3:16 -

Song Leader: Terry Schmidt

Song—19

Opening Prayer: George Cuvellier

Song—190

Scripture Reading: Louis Bureau
 ~ 1 Corinthians 12:12-14; 18-20 ~

Song—28

The Lord’s Supper
 Jim Miller (lead) & David Larrabee

Song—652

Sermon: Terry Schmidt
 “Harmful Hindrances to Church Growth”

Song—644

Announcements & Closing Prayer
 Jason Kennedy

Alternates: Mike Doucette/ Wayne Sampson

~~~~~  
 Lord’s Supper Prep: Betty Schmidt

# Southern Maine Church of Christ

159 Alfred Road, P.O. Box 344  
 West Kennebunk, ME 04094



*We love Him, because He first loved us.*  
 - 1 John 4:19 -

## December 1, 2024

### Meeting on the Lord’s Day:

9:30 am — Bible Class  
 10:30 am — Worship

*“Let us consider one another in order to stir up love and good works, not forsaking the assembling of ourselves together, as is the manner of some, but exhorting one another, and so much the more as you see the Day approaching.”*

- Hebrews 10:24-25 -

Phone: 207-229-4174

Email: [tls654b@twc.com](mailto:tls654b@twc.com)

Website: [www.southernmainecofc.com](http://www.southernmainecofc.com)