



## The Family Postman

January 2018

A loving community building up followers of Jesus, sharing Christ everywhere we go.

### Who Do You Know?

We've all heard the expression: "It doesn't matter what you know. It's who you know that counts." This phrase is certainly applicable here in Massachusetts where many in local and state government officials have been found guilty of providing jobs, and all kinds of political favors, to individuals not based on merit, but based on having a personal relationship with them.

This expression most often has a very negative connotation, as it is not only illegal in government and employment, it just doesn't seem fair to us to grant people favored status based on relationship rather than on merit.

But, this is exactly what God does with us. It is impossible for us to achieve an acceptable status before God on our own merit. He sent his son to pay for our sins so that we could be accepted on the merit of Jesus. We are reconciled to God not by what we do, or what we know, but on the basis of who we know. As Jesus himself said: "And this is eternal life, that they know you the only true God, and Jesus Christ whom you have sent." (John 17:3)

There is also another expression that relates to this truth of knowing another person. Have you ever used the phrase: "You really don't know a person until..."? Or, "I thought I knew this person until this happened." Actually, many of us have even said this about ourselves. Something to the effect of: "I thought I knew myself, but I never thought I would have done what I did."

Knowing Jesus Christ is the basis on which we are saved. But, knowing him is not a one-time event. Surrendering our lives to Jesus as our Lord and Savior is

only the beginning of the process of knowing him. As I understand it, getting to know the God of all creation, the infinite God in all his majesty and wonder is going to take all of eternity. What an exciting thought to consider we can grow in understanding, appreciation and intimacy with God forever!

But, growing in knowledge of someone does not occur automatically. It takes intentionality and effort. Just as we see in our own family and friendship relationships, if we do not put in the time and effort we can “grow apart” rather than “grow together”.

That is why Paul uses such emphatic language in Philippians chapter 3. He says: “I consider everything a loss compared to the surpassing greatness of knowing Christ Jesus my Lord,...I want to know Christ,...I press on to take hold of that for which Christ Jesus took hold of me. I press on toward the goal...All of us who are mature should take such a view of things.”

As we begin a new calendar year, a time in which many people resolve to “do better” this year. Let’s remember it’s not as much what we do, or what we know that is the foundation of our Christian life. It’s who we know, not what we know, that matters. Let’s resolve together to help each other know our Lord and Savior more intimately this year.

“Now we see but a poor reflection as in a mirror; then we shall see face to face. Now I know in part; then I shall know fully, even as I am fully known.” 1Co 13:12

~Steve Cox

Director of Adult Ministries

stevecox [at] comcast.net



## **Upcoming Speakers:**

January 7: Richard Moskos

January 14: Scott Ball

January 21: Mark Schofield

January 28: Dave Doré

## Back on Schedule...

We hope you had a blessed Christmas and New Year's holidays with friends & family!

All Sunday School and Adult Bible Fellowships will be back to meeting at 9 AM starting this Sunday (Jan. 7).

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## Fellowship Kids



Sunday School resumes this Sunday, January 7 (9 AM).



Kids Club resumes on Tuesday, January 9 (6:30 – 8:00).  
Open to kids age 4 – grade 5!



### HOW CAN YOU HELP?

We are looking for extra help with our Kids Club and Nursery programs. See Jess Silva for more information. We'd love to have you join the team!

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## Narnia News\*

How bad are things in Narnia. Key team leaders have been expelled from Narnia. An American pastor is still in prison. The call for bloody vengeance on coup plotters has reached a frightening level. A journalist has publicly urged the government to begin assassinating accused plotters who live overseas.

Still, God's kingdom moves forward. Refugees are turning to Christ in unprecedented numbers. Fellowships for these new converts are springing up everywhere. These fellowships include not only close neighbors, but also, refugees from across Africa. People are losing hope in a government that is increasingly authoritarian. They all need hope. We know the only real source of abiding hope.

Pray for those who continue to share the love, joy and peace that can only come from Jesus.

Pray for Mike and Joann and their team as they actively share their faith. Pray for "Mark" and other new believers, as they endure intense pressure from family, friends, and employers. Pray for a thriving Narnia fellowship in every city. Pray for boldness.

~David Doré

*\*Narnia! Our partner workers in a Middle Eastern country have requested that we use code words in order to protect workers and national believers from harsh persecution in this Muslim dominated society.*

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# Men's Night Out

January 12, 2018

**Friday  
January 12  
7-10 PM**

**FELLOWSHIP  
DINNER  
WORSHIP  
SPEAKER**

To be held at the  
Halifax Country Club  
Route 106  
Halifax, MA

## **MENU**

Lasagna,  
Meatballs, Rolls,  
Salad, Coffee &  
Drinks, Dessert



**Guest Speaker: Dr. Paul Friesen, Home Improvement Ministries**

Only Dr. Paul Friesen will be with us on Friday night, but Drs. Paul & Virginia Friesen have been involved in Family Ministries for over 38 years through family camps, church staff positions, speaking, consulting, and writing. They regularly speak at conferences locally, in the US and inter-nationally and have an ongoing ministry with several professional athletic teams. They both have Doctorates in Marriage and Family Therapy from Gordon-Conwell. Paul is a former Chaplain to the Patriots and spent 9 years as the Men's Ministry Leader at Grace Chapel. They have authored several books. Dr. Friesen has authored several books, including Letters to My Daughters, So You Want to Marry My Daughter? and Before You Save The Date. Paul & Virginia have co-written two couple-and-small-group marriage guides. Their greatest joy in life is knowing that their children are walking in the Truth.

### PRICING

\$15.00 Per Person ~ \$12.00 Per Teen  
**Group Rate:** \$12.00 per person with  
10 or more pre-paid men.

**\$20 at the door, if not pre-registered**

Must Pre-Register by mail or internet by  
**January 10, 2018** to get group discount

### REGISTRATION

Make Checks Payable to:

**ICMN**

50 Oliver Street, Suite 210  
North Easton, MA 02356

### FOR MORE INFO

**Alan Siegel**

508-238-0406

Alan@siegelfinancial.com

**Peter Rice**

508-238-8861

Peter@icmn.us

Cancellations - Due to inclement weather, check the [www.ICMN.us](http://www.ICMN.us) website or listen to WSMA 90.5 FM.  
Check [www.ICMN.us](http://www.ICMN.us) for our Cancellation & Refund Policy.

Register at: [WWW.ICMN.US](http://WWW.ICMN.US)



[mensnighouthalifax](https://www.facebook.com/mensnighouthalifax)

## He Said...She Said – The Marriage Forum

Wow, it seems like we just did the December Family Postman. Now the January Family Postman is due. It has been a busy time. Patty has been spending many, many hours in her fundraising efforts as a board member of the Festival of Trees.

Hopefully, many of you guys went to the “FOT”. By God’s grace, a large amount of money was raised for some very deserving charities. Kudos Patty. Also, it was an event that exposed the residents of Easton and the surrounding communities to an atmosphere of celebration as we entered the Advent season.



Looking forward to what God is preparing for 2018, Patty and I just met with Ernie Anderson and Steve Cox to start planning for the Honoring Marriage Weekend February 17 & 18. Like last year, we will be hosting an Honoring Marriage Banquet at the Chateau on Saturday, February 17th. (Details to follow.)

Patty and Terry Disbrow will be facilitating an interactive marriage community ABF for wives starting January 28th at 9:00 in Room 2 downstairs. They will be looking at Linda Dillow’s book, What’s It Like to Be Married To Me?. I, Doug, and Eric Disbrow, will be facilitating an interactive community for husbands where we drill down on the specifics of being “tenderhearted servant leaders”.

One of the exciting things Patty and I plan for the New Year is times away together. Our first time away will be for several days in January at the most romantic spot we have discovered in New England, which is the Christmas Farm Inn in Jackson, NH. For us, facilitating MarriageCare and writing the Family Postman helps keep us be accountable for making deposits in our own marriage and serving as “models” (II Thess. 3:9) for others to follow. It is difficult to give to others what we do not have.

For any couple that is interested in our January MarriageCare husband and wife communities, please contact Patty at (508) 944-3652 (wives) or Doug at (508) 944-5053 (husbands). Also, again, please make plans to attend the Honoring Marriage Banquet on February 17th. It was so much fun last year. We are looking forward to making it even better this year with skits, a comedy video, and testimonies. And like last year we will be planning interactive activities for the couples at each table. In addition, we will enjoy a marvelous meal in a beautiful setting. A great way to encourage husbands and wives to give to each other in ways that only a husband and wife can.

~Doug and Patty

patricia.grogan52 [at] gmail.com

dgrogan [at] bmgwc.com

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# Lydia of Philippi

"One of those listening to us was a woman named Lydia, a dealer in purple cloth, from the city of Thyatira, who was a worshiper of God. The Lord opened her heart to respond to Paul's message. When she and her household were baptized, she invited us to her home. "If you consider me to be a believer in the Lord." she said, "come and stay at my house." And she persuaded us." Acts 16: 14-15 NIV

Generosity is one of our core values. Lydia's hospitality was only the start of her generosity towards Paul's ministry. We know that she made her money from selling purple cloth. She feared God, even though she was a Gentile. And her heart was ready to embrace the Gospel. This was an amazing invitation to Paul and his team. She welcomed Paul, Silas, Timothy and Luke, and maybe more. By the end of Acts 16, her home was identified as the house fellowship in Philippi. Her conversion brought an incredible transformation and led to the first fellowship in Europe. May we all be so open to hear and respond to the Holy Spirit.

~David Doré

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## Inclement Weather: Reminder

Services are not normally cancelled due to inclement weather, but if you wake up to stormy weather, the decision for Regular Services, Delayed Start, or No Church will be posted online at [thefellowshiponline.org](http://thefellowshiponline.org) and on the church answering machine. If the decision to cancel or delay services is made, this will be posted on WCVB Channel 5 and on [www.thebostonchannel.com](http://www.thebostonchannel.com). Weekly kids & youth program cancellations will be posted as early on the day of the activity as possible.

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## Deadline for February 2018 Postman: January 24

Contact the church office,  
info [at] thefellowshiponline.org, 508-238-1226

## Prayer Chain

Contact Dave DiFalco,  
davejdifalco [at] gmail.com, or 774-259-6637

## For updates to The Fellowship website:

Contact Jeff Silva,  
jeff.silva.d [at] gmail.com