

## Part 3: Going Back in Order to Go Forward

A life-giving truth flows from belief in the God of the Bible. You are not a chip of debris floating through meaningless time. You are created, you are loved, and you have a story! That story does not have to be pretty to be valid. It can and often does include deep trouble and discouragement. But the story is not finished, our God is with us, and we know the final happy end. That end is so glorious that the boundaries of this short life are insufficient to contain it.

The Bible itself is a story of God breaking through time and space to reestablish a relationship with his creation. That's you, friend. Within God's book you find a story not so much about himself, but a God-breathed collection of stories of people and their struggle to connect or disconnect with their Maker. The Bible does not defend or explain God's existence but it assumes it as obvious.

Look at the story of Adam and Eve, Abraham, Jacob, Joseph, Moses, Job, Esther, Ruth, Peter, and Paul. Look at the story of God's people in slavery in Egypt and how God set them free. From the book of "Acts" onward the church has been telling and retelling the story of Jesus. Look at how God's people at each historical hinge retell their story again and again. We are late-comers but we ourselves have become part of this bigger story. You are not insignificant. You are part of a story that stretches from the beginning of time to its end.

The Lord is not out to erase your past, but to rewrite your future. The un-spun naked truth that the Bible records of its heroes means that you don't have to hide your past either. You are loved, and if you are in Christ you are forgiven and on the way to eternal life. Your past is your story. It is to be used for good, to be told. Don't be afraid to look at your past. Jesus has you firmly in his grasp.

*Mark*

**EHS Small Groups and Week #3 !**

1. **Small Groups** Lesson #3 is today. If you don't have a Small Group see Fay Ceraso.
2. Day-by-Day **Devotionals** this week is Monday, day 11 through Friday, day 15.
3. **Read Chapter 6** this week.

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**Today: Children's Church Meeting** A short meeting after Worship will be held for those involved or who want to be involved in this great ministry to our children.

***Y'all Come to Our  
Rootin-Tootin Chow-Down, Oct. 17<sup>th</sup>***

Otherwise known as  
*"Winterfest Youth Fundraising Dinner"—*

We are doing a Western Theme with prizes for the man and woman with the best outfits. Please join us for this great evening and **donate** what you will for the dinner to help our teens go on their Winterfest Youth Rally trip in February. This national Rally is a great blessing to our Youth!

**Please sign-up if you are coming.**

**College Care Packages:** Thanks to everyone for your generous contributions for the care packages and prayers for our college students. AND... **Thank you Val** for organizing our Care Packages to our College Students every year.

**Haircuts for Missions:** *FRIDAY*, Oct. 16<sup>th</sup>, 9am—6pm. Please sign-up on the bulletin board!

**New Visions Homeless Meal—We Need Your**

**Help:** We are scheduled to *prepare and serve breakfast* at New Visions homeless shelter, **Monday, October 19<sup>th</sup>**. We need help with food donation, preparation, and serving. Becky and Brenda are coordinating.

**Our Food Pantry is in Need of Supplies:** Tuna, chunky soups, cans of spaghetti and meatballs, stews and any other canned meals, cereal, Pop Tarts, etc. Please place them in the basket below the bulletin board in the Lobby. Thanks!

**Our SPECIAL COLLECTION Sunday is Nov. 22<sup>nd</sup>**  
Please start praying about how you can contribute.

**Please Help Keep Our Auditorium Clean:** by cleaning-up your area as you leave, including drinks.

**Today's Worship Leaders**

**Worship Leader:** Carl Smith

**Welcome & Scripture:** Josh Henderson (Psalm 126:1-6)

**Opening Prayer:** Tony Ceraso Sr.

**Lord's Supper:** Bret Goen, Rick Boyle, Henry Duncan, Thanh Ly

**Scripture Before Message:** Jeremy Cook (3 John 2-5)

**Announcements & Prayer:** Rick Boyle

**Greeters:** John Corbett, Dave Cook, Sue Gill

**Nursery:** Chris Ann & Elizabeth Next Week- Norma & Steph

**Blue Cleaning Team:** Oct. 14-17

**OUTREACH/MINISTRY**

Mark Finn – Preacher

Church Office- (856) 854-0197

**ELDERS:**

Rick Boyle (856) 986-4876

Tony Ceraso, Jr. (856) 278-6276

Bret Goen (856) 996-5267

Chet Churchill (609) 560-7179

Howard Mansdoerfer (609) 790-9969

**Worship** ..... 141

**Bible Class** ..... 88

**Wed PM**..... 45

**L.I.F.E Groups** ..... 90

**Contribution** ..... **\$5,405**

**Budget Goal** ..... \$4,260

**Daily Bible Readers: 35**

Collingswood Church of Christ

Church Website: [www.ccc123.org](http://www.ccc123.org)

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“Now faith is being **sure** of what we hope for and **certain** of what we do not see.” (Hebrews 11:1)

