

Marriage: Dead or Alive?

THERE IS NO YARD WORK. Today everything looks dead: bare branches, brown leaves, frozen ground. In a few months, by God's design, it will irresistibly, powerfully begin to spring forth. Despite appearances there is LIFE there, waiting just below the surface.

At our marriage seminar last weekend, we watched a Christian marriage counselor talk with a couple who had lost hope. He said, "Do you believe God raised Christ from the dead? Yes? Good. So you're telling me you believe God can raise a dead man, but that he cannot heal your marriage?!" For Christians there is always hope.

Our Elder, Tony Jr., has a favorite scripture about our homes in Psalm 127. *"Unless the LORD builds the house, its builders labor in vain."* We certainly scramble to try to fix our families, but it doesn't last unless the LORD is working in it. Human alliances, agendas, grievances, sin, and fleeting feelings are too flimsy a foundation. We hope "love" will fix it but we reach our limits and it's not something you can put on the grocery list.

Do I believe in love? Absolutely! As long as we're talking about love as God showed us in Christ. He defined it in 1 Corinthians 13. It's not the fleeting feeling that flits away when things get tough. I enjoy romance as much as the next person, but I know it won't sustain.

Jesus said his kingdom is like a tiny mustard seed that grows into a large tree. Your marriage, your home, is a living thing. God who gave us life, who gives resurrection life, will also give life to your dormant marriage. Damaged trees have a stubborn way of coming back to life. Winter lawns will green up. New leaves will unfurl. New life will emerge in your marriage. But it must be God's doing. Get close to him. Let him build your house, starting with *you*.

Where do you start? Here's a clue: ***Philippians 2:1-15.***

Mark

Fellowship Meal NEXT Sunday, February 15th.

We will have delicious soups and sandwiches to warm you up!

Sign-up to bring food.

Group 3 will set-up, serve and clean-up.

Just a "Reminder" THIS coming Saturday is VALENTINE'S DAY ☺

Ladies Retreat—Sign Up Today

Our Retreat is April 17th—19th. Sign-up in the lobby. Questions? See Becky.

Youth Group: Meet at the Francoeur's from 7-9 PM Saturday, February 14th, for a *"Devo & Desserts."*

(Last week's total for "Pack your Lunch " donations: \$652.25)

Haircuts for Missions: February 14th Please sign-up. Thank you for all your support through the years!

Cathedral Kitchen Meal for Homeless: Volunteer to serve a meal at the Cathedral Kitchen in Camden. Next date is Thursday, February 26th. ***See Vivian to help.*** We leave from the church parking lot at 3:00PM.

New Visions Homeless Lunch: We are serving on Saturday Feb. 21st, 11:00-1:00. Their new address is 555 Atlantic Ave., Camden, NJ. *If you want a ride we will leave from the church at 10:45.*

A Ladies & Girls Tea is Sat., Feb. 28th at 1:00 PM:

Meet in the Fellowship Hall. **See Veronica for info.**

Mark Your Calendars for Our CHURCH RETREAT:

at Camp Manatawny on **May 15th –17th.** Come relax!

Women of Faith: PITMAN is hosting a simulcast event for women called ***Unwrap the BIBLE*** on Saturday, March 14, 8:30AM – 5:00PM. Cost is \$15 & includes an all-Day Broadcast, Light Breakfast & Lunch. Childcare is available. Registration opens today. 856-589-1500

Our Food Pantry: *THANKS TO ALL WHO HAVE BROUGHT ITEMS IN!* We are always giving out food, so anytime you can put any non-perishable food items in the "Pantry Basket" in the hallway it is appreciated.

Today's Worship Leaders

Worship Leader: Gerry Hogan

Opening Prayer: Carl Smith

Welcome & Scripture: Chet Churchill (Psalm 101:1-3)

Lord's Supper: Jess Nitla, Tony Ceraso Jr., John Derricott, Logan

Scripture Reading: John Corbett (1 Peter 1:22-25)

Closing Prayer & Announcements: Rick Boyle

Nursery: Bibi & Lillian Next Week- Chris H. & Margaret

Blue Cleaning Team Feb. 11-14

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 128

Bible Class 70

Wed PM..... 44

L.I.F.E. Groups 36

Contribution \$5,818

Budget Goal \$4,260

Daily Bible Readers: 37

Collingswood Church of Christ

Church Website: 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)

