

Average Prayers Upend the Day

I PRAY EVERY DAY. I'd like to say that taking a block of time to pray is a thrill a minute. It's not. It's extraordinarily ordinary. It follows the bell curve. A few bad experiences, a few mountain top experiences, and most days somewhere in the middle. It's a discipline I've hit most weeks than not. This goes along with my daily Bible reading: usually a chapter in the Old Testament, a Psalm, a chapter in a Gospel and one in the Letters.

What prayer changes most are the other hours of the day. An awareness of God's presence and being a coworker with him. Letting God's day unfold rather than fighting it. Greater effectiveness and focus. A wise choice of what to do and leave undone. A tendency to focus on people rather than things. A long-range view that rises above the random mood of the day. Courage to have difficult conversations and grace to say an uplifting word of encouragement.

I believe the **Spirit of God goes where invited. Prayer is the invitation.** Sometimes words will pour out, other times there will be silence. Occasional laughter, occasional tears. God handles your issues, disarming your sinful heart thus making you safe to be around others. Your family will notice it the most.

If you are into effective use of time as I am, you will fight daily the guilty feeling that you are wasting valuable time. Without faith in God's effectiveness, you will give in to busyness and spend the week spinning your wheels, getting almost nowhere. I've tried both prayerlessness and prayer and seen the results. That's why I've learned to go the route of prayer each day. It's what Christ did, and I'm learning to trust his example over my whims.

Friend, life is too important not to pray. It's not just your life, but also every life yours touches in a day. That's huge. So find a place, make a time; fold it first thing into your routine.

Mark

"Children's Church" (ages

3-8)

Coming Soon?

Anyone interested in helping or for more information please attend the **MEETING** after

EASTER is Coming Up in 3 Weeks:

Who will you invite? Who will you bring? People are looking for a place to worship on Easter—will you tell them?

Fellowship Meal Luncheon Next Sunday, March 22nd after Worship. Please sign-up to bring food. We are having "Casseroles and Salads." Hospitality Team #4 is in charge of set up and clean up.

LOST AND FOUND: A TABLE IS SET UP DOWN-STAIRS. There are many items, so look and see if you have lost something. There are also many coats on the hangers in the lower closet. We will soon donate these items to Goodwill.

Homeless Meals: VOLUNTEER TO SERVE:

(1) New Visions: this Saturday, March 21st, we leave the church at 9:15 AM. 555 Atlantic Ave, Camden. Questions? See Mark.

(2) Cathedral Kitchen: Next date is Fri., **March 27th.** ***See Vivian to help.*** We leave from the church lot at 3:00 PM.

Youth Group Friday: March 22nd, 7 - 9PM Winterfest Revisited. We will meet here at the building to discuss *"The Best of Winterfest"*.

Can you help Supply Candy for the Kids who come on Easter Sunday? Set it in the basket in the lobby.

Men's Breakfast "Good Friday", April 3, 6:55—8:15 at Crowne Plaza Hotel. A great breakfast meal and former Philadelphia Eagle Cedric Brown will speak. \$18. Crown Plaza Hotel, 2349 Marlton Pike W, Cherry Hill (at Route 70 and Cuthbert Blvd).

Friday, April 3rd, 5:30-6:15 pm Good Friday Worship.
"Level Ground at the Foot of the Cross"

Today's Worship Leaders

Worship Leader: Gerry Hogan

Opening Prayer: Dan Swinehart

Welcome & Scripture Bret Goen (Psalm 103:15-22)

Lord's Supper: Darren McEntire, Scott, Rick Boyle, John Corbett

Scripture Reading: Jiony Colon (1 Peter 3:8-12)

Closing Prayer & Announcements: Chet Churchill

Nursery: Kristin & Karen Next Week- Norma & Margaret

Red Cleaning Team March 18-21 **Lillian** coordinates.

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 126

Bible Class 60

Wed PM..... 42

Contribution **\$4,779**

Budget Goal \$4,260

Collingswood Church of Christ

Church Website: www.ccc123.org

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Collingswood, NJ 08107

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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)



Romans 13:11

“Do this, understanding the present time: The hour has already come for you to **wake up** from your slumber, because our salvation is nearer now than when we first believed.”