

Americans in the American Age

IT'S SOBERING TO GOOGLE a listing of the great empires of history. Huge lands taken, peoples subjugated, leaders proclaiming themselves divine, and each at their height believing they were the final chapter of history. King Nebuchadnezzar was one such proud man of a proud nation. God sent him on a humbling journey through mental illness to remind this king that he was only a man. The king repented:

Daniel 4:34-35 I, Nebuchadnezzar, raised my eyes toward heaven, and my sanity was restored. Then I praised the Most High; I honored and glorified him who lives forever. His dominion is an eternal dominion; his kingdom endures from generation to generation. All the peoples of the earth are regarded as nothing. He does as he pleases with the powers of heaven and the peoples of the earth. No one can hold back his hand or say to him: "What have you done?"

I feel tremendously blessed to be an American and to see some of the good we have done in the world and some noble ideals we have exported. Yet as I read my Bible and peruse the pages of history I realize what a young nation we are. Though established in 1776, our ascendancy to world power occurred in 1945, within the lifetimes of many of our living citizens.

God is an old hand at managing nations. He loves all people in every nation of his world. He loves people enough to remind them who is the Sovereign above all nations and peoples. If America goes too far off course, he will correct us too. Count on it. It's a lesson the world has had to learn over and over again.

In our time we have ongoing discussions about being sure we are on "the right side of history." Sounds good to me as long as we let God define what is right. Man has certainly done a poor job of defining it and history is littered with examples.

What will future historians and archeologists say of our nation? I pray they will note a humble return to the Sovereign God of all nations for that is our only hope.

Mark

Men's & Ladies Bible Classes Start Today!

Youth Group: May 8th from 7-9 at Dave & Bibi Williams' home.

Ladies Day at Camden: Saturday, May 9th Camden Church is having a Ladies Day "Breaking the Chains" (what holds you captive from giving your all to God). Vivian will be one of the speakers. There will be a carpool leaving from the church parking area at 8AM. It goes from 8:15 AM to 2:00 PM. Breakfast & Lunch will be served. A flier is posted.

Haircuts for Missions is May 9th. Please sign-up!

Money Card for Maggie & Vinod for Baby Von!

Sharlotte Swinehart is collecting money for a gift card from the Collingswood Church. She will collect until May 19th.

Our Church Retreat is May 15-17 sign-ups are on the bulletin board. There are still plenty of Bunks in the Retreat Center. Please check it out! Questions? Ask Karen about food or Tony Jr. about other details.

If You Are Working or Plan to Work with the Children or Teens, Background Checks need to be completed. Please see Donna Mansdoerfer.

VBS Sign-ups Are on the Bulletin Board:

VBS is July 12-15th. "*Camp Kilimanjaro*" is an expedition through the book of Proverbs. There are still openings for Teachers, Teen Volunteers, Crafts, Drama and Music. Please help to spread God's Word through this Ministry! See Laura, Hoa or Carl.

Cook Out at the building on May 24th
Right after Worship. Sign-up to bring food items.

Thank You, Feeders of the Homeless! Thanks Becky, for organizing the meal and cooking, Margaret for cooking all veggies, and all who gave & SERVED!

Trailblazers Alert: TRAILBLAZERS are alive and well. Yes we will be having a Chinese Luncheon on June 7th. *Questions? See Tony Sr.*

May Volunteers are: Communion Prep, Sunday Clean-up, & Laundry: **Sandra Mendez**, Nursery: **Karen, Chris H., Pam, Elaine, Lillian, Sarah P. Tina, Nina, Chris Ann, & Hannah.**

May Volunteers Needed: for Bagels & Set-up, Bringing Donuts, Wednesday coffee clean-up. Please sign-up on the bulletin board.

Today's Worship Leaders

Worship Leader: Dave Cook

Welcome & Scripture: Josh Henderson (Psalm 107:25-31)

Opening Prayer: Carl Smith

Lord's Supper: Rick Boyle, Rich Fabi, Chet Churchill, Kevin Finn

Scripture Reading: Logan McEntire (1 Peter 5:8-11)

Closing Prayer & Announcements: Tony Ceraso Jr.

Nursery: Chris H. & Karen Next Week- **Pam & Elaine**

Red Cleaning Team: May 6-9 **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 Total..... 120

Bible Class 76

Wed PM 40

L.I.F.E. Groups 26

Contribution \$2,957

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

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)

