

# We Are the Innkeeper

*“The Word became flesh and made his dwelling among us”* (John 1:14). Jesus came for a visit and ended up staying 33 years. That’s an unchangeable fact.

He was not well received. *“He was in the world, and though the world was made through him, the world did not recognize him. He came to that which was his own, but his own did not receive him”* (John 1:10-11).

He wasn’t even allowed a decent place to be born. That was typical of his life. On the verge of his arrival, the innkeeper in Bethlehem turned him away. Did this distracted innkeeper realize he was missing the greatest event since the creation of the world? Some shepherds weren’t thinking about making a dollar. They didn’t have a dollar. All they had was time and faith. In our day both are scarce.

This season is a reminder that we are getting another chance. Not a guarantee, but a chance to undo the decision of the innkeeper. *“Yet to all who did receive him, to those who believed in his name, he gave the right to become children of God— children born not of natural descent, nor of human decision or a husband’s will, but born of God”* (John 1:12-13). Doesn’t matter what biological family you come from. Doesn’t matter what you have or don’t. If you receive him you will be a child of God.

Everyone is created by God, but not everyone is a child of God. Most people did not receive him. If you receive him today, you are in that blessed minority who chose grace. It’s not because of our worthiness or birthright, but God’s doing.

Jesus is at the door. You are the innkeeper. Here’s your choice. What will you do?

*Mark*

## Our Christmas Party is Next Sunday, December 11<sup>th</sup> at 6PM Please plan to join

us for a fun evening. This year’s theme is “A Charlie Brown Christmas.” Come dressed in your favorite Christmas sweater or as one of the Peanuts gang. **Everyone is asked to bring hot or cold hors d’oeuvres and finger foods.** Desserts will be provided. Will there be punch and egg nog? Of course!

### .....**And what about a talent show?**

Well, it wouldn’t be a Collingswood Christmas party without one. **Please sign up for a talent and show us what you’ve got.** We are happy again this year to have our own Carl and Sarah as emcees. Don’t be a scrooge . . . join us!

**Gingerbread Houses will Be Built:** on Sunday, December 18<sup>th</sup> after worship service. Sign-up on the table in the foyer to come and also if you can bring some specific candy decorations. **GET DIRECTIONS IN THE BASKET.**

**Children’s Church:** will be taught by **Hoa Ly** and **Sue Ross**. The subject is **The Gift of Hope.**

**Haircuts for Missions:** will be on December 10<sup>th</sup>. Please sign-up for your spot

**Operation Post Office:** is a chance for our kids (ages 4 – 10) to get to know our older members. Just bring in your **Christmas Cards** for your fellow members here and place them in the box in the lobby. Our children will get them to our members AND this will save your cost of postage! If you want to help, see Dave Williams.

**Notes of Encouragement for Velma, for Lydia:** Cards are in the lobby for you to write an encouraging note and place in the basket. These will be delivered to Velma, Pam’s mother, or Lydia, Jess Nitla’s wife.

## WINTER QUARTER Classes Start TODAY!

### **Sunday 9:30 AM**

Adult Class: December: **Mark Finn**  
Men's & Ladies classes for January & February  
Cradle Roll- **Karen McEntire & Fay Ceraso**  
Preschool through 1<sup>st</sup> – **Brenda Collier**  
2<sup>nd</sup> /3<sup>rd</sup> – **Sandie Fabi**  
4<sup>th</sup> /5<sup>th</sup> – December: **Ella Liebe**  
4<sup>th</sup> /5<sup>th</sup> – January & February: **Stephanie Cook**  
Jr. High- **Chris Ann Ceraso**  
Sr. High School- **Bill Ceraso**

### **Wednesday 7:00 PM**

Cradle Roll – **Darren McEntire**  
Adult Bible Class- December: **Tony Ceraso Jr.**  
Adult Bible Class- January: **Mark Finn**  
Elementary- **Vivian Carter**  
Jr./Sr. High- **Tony & Fay Ceraso**

## Today's Worship Leaders

**Worship Leader:** Gerry Hogan

**Welcome & Scripture:** Tony Ceraso Jr. (Luke 1:30-38)

**Opening Prayer:** Nelson Nuñez

**Lord's Supper:** Tim Jones, Jay Morris, Bret Goen, Logan McEntire

**Scripture Before Message:** Kevin Finn (Matthew 1:21-23)

**Announcements & Closing Prayer:** Rick Boyle

**Greeters:** Tony Sr., Tommy Walker, Donna Mansdoerfer, Sue Gill

**Nursery Pam & Elaine** Next Week: Sandra M. & Nina

**Purple Cleaning Team** Dec. 7-10 **Becky** 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** ..... 138

Bible Class..... 76

Wed. PM ..... 36

**Contribution** ..... **\$4,964**

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

# Collingswood Church of Christ

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

300 White Horse Pike

Collingswood, NJ 08107

December 4, 2016

Vol. XVIII No. 49

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



**BETHLEHEM is a real place. You can visit it to this day. How odd to realize that God stepped into our world in a real place; not just in some made-up story. Bethlehem had no place for Jesus so he was relegated to a manger.**

**Do you have more than just a symbolic place for Jesus in your life? Have you given him a real place to stay? For real?**