

Spinning Scenarios versus Winning

MY DESIRE TO CONTROL THE FUTURE involves spinning out scenarios; ways that I want the future to go. Could it be that God has a better way? Faith doesn't mean we know how everything will turn out; it means we trust the one who does know.

Scripture observes that none of us has a "crystal ball": "***Sow your seed in the morning, and at evening let your hands not be idle, for you do not know which will succeed, whether this or that, or whether both will do equally well***" (Eccl. 11:6). We are in the dark about tomorrow.

The Bible's definition of faith aggravates my sinful side: "***Now faith is being sure of what we hope for and certain of what we do not see***" (Hebrews 11:1). I want something more certain. But then, what is more certain in this world than God's long standing faithfulness? Health, finances, and government are not foolproof. There are no 100% guarantees. Even if I say the sunrise, the stars at night, or the seasons are certain, I remember that God is the one who created all of these.

A person of faith is no fool. It can even result from thoughtful calculation. Faith in faith is a deadend. Faith in God is the only sure thing. He stands outside of time, the limitations in this life, and has defeated death.

If I surrender the way I live my life for God's sake, I win. If I keep my life, I lose. My best life is the first option, God's plan. His way is better than my best scenarios because he has all the information.

Christians have long said, "He is no fool who gives up what he cannot keep to gain that which he cannot lose." I choose faith.

Mark

Welcome Today's Guest Speaker: Domingo Reyes from Delaware.

"Women of Faith" Video Presentation: Several of the women went to this yesterday and were very uplifted.

Youth Group is Traveling Home from Winterfest Today! Please pray for a safe trip.

Their next get-together will be Friday Feb. 26 or Sat. Feb. 27. The Ceraso's will be in touch with them.

Cathedral Kitchen: Our date to serve is Feb. 23rd, 3:30-5:30PM. Questions? See Vivian.

Lydia's New Address: 519 Verona Street, Braddock, PA 15104. "She is safe, dry, loved and wanted here." According to Lydia.

Fellowship Meal is Sunday, Feb. 28th

The theme is pasta and Italian dishes! The ***sign-up sheet*** to bring food is posted. Foods like Pasta dishes, meatballs, Caesar Salads and desserts are needed. **Team 4** is in charge of set-up & clean-up.

Movie Outreach "Risen" March 13th: We plan to see a *Sunday afternoon matinee* of this new movie about the resurrection of Jesus at the AMC Loews across from Cherry Hill Mall. "Risen" is about the manhunt that changed the course of human history. It is the story of the Resurrection, as told through the eyes of a non-believer. See the flyer on the bulletin board. Please bring a FRIEND!

Men's Breakfast: Good Friday at 6:55am, at the Crowne Plaza in Cherry Hill. The guest speaker will be Garry Cobb. The tickets are \$20. More details will come.

Camp Manatawny: Now is a good time to start saving to send your child for a week of camp. There are many who go every year from here and love it. The cost for a week is \$325. A discount of \$25 will be given if paid in full by April 30, 2016. There are more discounts possible. Register online by going to **Manatawny.org** and clicking on any **“Register”** button.

Today’s Worship Leaders

Welcome & Scripture: Tate Perazzelli (Psalm 143:1-8)

Opening Prayer: Howard Mansdoerfer

Lord’s Supper: Bill Ceraso, Rich Fabi, Jeff Powers, Hardee

Scripture Before Message: Jess Nitla (Rev. 5:11-14)

Announcements & Prayer: Tony Ceraso Jr.



Nursery: Sandra M. and Elaine Next Week- Brenda & Debbie

Red Cleaning Team: Feb. 24-27 Coordinator: Lillian

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

Worship 131
Bible Class 82
Wed. PM..... 51
LIFE Groups 26

Howard Mansdoerfer (609) 790-9969 **Contr.**..... **\$2,423**
Budget Goal \$4,260

Daily Bible Readers: 37

Collingswood Church of Christ

Church Website: www.ccc123.org

300 White Horse Pike
February 21, 2016

Collingswood, NJ 08107
Vol. XVIII No. 8

