

## **Our God Who Brought Us HALF-WAY Will Bring Us ALL THE WAY! *-Half-Way Already on our Mortgage-***

HOW TIME HAS FLOWN and how the LORD has blessed us! When we took out a mortgage to complete our church building, the 25-year commitment seemed to stretch out forever into our future. As in any long journey, the hardest steps were the first. Showing faith doesn't mean there is no fear. Fully realizing what this commitment meant we prayerfully took those first faltering steps.

We were in the middle of the building project we called "*God's Challenge; Our Choice.*" It was 2003 and after our church family gave sacrificially above and beyond our regular weekly collection there was still a considerable gap that had to be financed. When the test came to back up our words with real faith, we chose to step up. By this time a few fair-weather Christians had stopped coming, some waiting till the new building was completed, others never to return. We prayed fervently and had occasion to wonder if we had gone too far. We had not. **God was with us.** The financing fell into place, the building was finished, and we moved in to our new facility in the fall of 2004.

So here we are. Already *half-way* finished! God has been faithful. Since we moved into this facility we've had 87 baptisms! People have moved in, others moved away, but there has continued to be this robust outpost of God's people, a faithful family. Our ministry to the community has been better than ever and that's what it was always about: faithfulness to our mission for Christ. It was never about bricks and boards. The purpose of a "facility" is to facilitate ministry, and that is what the LORD has used it for. Our place is sought out by our community for weddings and funerals. We have a wonderful space for outreach events like VBS. And every week we have visitors and seekers coming through those doors to hear about Jesus. When people come here to worship they have a clean, safe, functional space where they can focus on worshipping God.

In the book of Deuteronomy, Moses near the end of 40 years of wandering gathered the people to renew their covenant with God. He recounted all the years of God's faithfulness and reminded them of the blessings of following the LORD and the curses of turning away. He told the truth when he said God had held up his end of the

deal. He had. And so he has with us. God has been faithful. Will we? That's what he always wanted. Not really to build a building but to build a people. People who truly love him, know him, and serve him. People who are living for eternity, not for the moment. People who serve others and not just themselves. God focused, not self focused. I think he's built some of those people. And those are the people that built this building. And as we continue to build his kingdom, he continues to build us.

Praise God for what he has done! Praise him for what he is doing! Praise him for all that is yet to come! God, it is all from you. We are only offering back what you gave us in the first place. Thank you for loving us and letting us be a part of this work that will never fade away!

*Mark*

**TODAY is the HALF-WAY POINT in paying off our Church Mortgage!** God is FAITHFUL!

**TODAY is Our Baby Shower for Alyssa Finn:** Alyssa's Baby Shower will be right after Worship. ***Lunch*** will be provided. If you have questions, see Kathy Churchill, Bibi Williams, or Katherine Finn

**TODAY "Super Bowl" Parties!** The Francoeurs are hosting in Cherry Hill (231 Belaire Terrace), and the Finns in Collingswood (718 Belmont Ave). Both start around 6:00 PM and are come-and-go. Light snacks will be provided, and bring something if you want! ***Come have some fun!***

**TODAY Youth Group: Feb. 7** there is a birthday party for Kenny Deng 12:45 pm at Holiday Skating Center. See Lynne Deng for details (609) 410-0471

**Deacons Meeting Is Tomorrow: Mon., Feb. 8<sup>th</sup>.** **6:30** for dinner and 7:00-9:00 for the meeting.

**"Women of Faith" Movie Event:** is **Sat., Feb. 20<sup>th</sup>**. We'll meet for lunch at Panera's at 11:30 and then go to the Carmike Cinema (Ritz) for the 12:55 show. Tickets are \$15. Questions? See Becky Finn.

**Haircuts for Missions:** is Sat., Feb. 13<sup>th</sup>. Sign up.

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

**Church Directories Are Being Updated:** Turn in forms to Donna, Fay, or Terri Little **by Feb. 14<sup>th</sup>**. See *Larry* for your picture.

**Youth Group:** "*Dinner and a Movie*" Sat., Feb. 13<sup>th</sup> at the Ceraso's (132 New Jersey Rd, Brooklawn, NJ).

**Today's Worship Leaders**

**Worship Leader:** Gerry Hogan

**Welcome & Scripture:** Bret Goen (Psalm 36:5-10)

**Opening Prayer:** Dave Cook

**Lord's Supper:** Rick Boyle, Lee Graves, Tim Jones, Thanh Ly

**Scripture Before Message:** Ed Francoeur Jr. (Deut. 7:7-9)

**Announcements & Prayer:** Tony Ceraso Jr.

**Nursery: April & Jaela** Next Week- Norma & Layla

**Pink Cleaning Team:** Feb. 10-13 Coord.: Howard & Donna

**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 ..... 138**

Bible Class ..... 74

Wed. PM..... 40

L.I.F.E. Groups ..... 56

**Contr..... \$4,767**

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

**Daily Bible Readers: 21**

Collingswood Church of Christ

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

300 White Horse Pike

Collingswood, NJ 08107

February 7, 2016

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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)



Will bring us ALL THE WAY