

# A Little Girl, Hiding

*"You are a chosen people, a royal priesthood, a holy nation, a people belonging to God." - 1 Peter 2:9*

I see a little girl skipping home from school in the late afternoon sun. Her dress is a hand-me-down intended for someone two sizes larger. Her shoes are unpolished, and her socks no longer have elastic around the top. She crosses a barren yard to reach her destination—a small house badly in need of paint and repair.

The walls inside the home are patched with brown butcher paper and paint to conceal where the little girl's father punched holes with his fist. The father frequently stumbles home in the middle of the night, smelling of alcohol, then wakes the little girl with shouts and threats against her mother. Sometimes the little girl hides from her father.

One day the little girl is driven home from a friend's birthday party. She asks to be let out in front of a clean house with a well-manicured lawn. She marches up the driveway and waves good-bye to her friends— but as soon as the car rounds the corner, she turns and walks several blocks to her real home. She's learned to hide her disgrace from others; on the inside, however, she feels ashamed, depressed, and worthless.

God, however, blesses the little girl. Her mother's wisdom and love sustain her. The mother insists that she attend church, where the little girl learns about Jesus and invites Him into her heart and life. When the little girl grows up and goes to college, she falls in love with a man who promises to do his best to make her happy and build her up under God's direction. And he does.

This story is deeply familiar to me because I was that little girl. Children who grow up in homes where they are loved and appreciated, where discipline and accountability are properly balanced with democracy and openness, develop a healthy sense of self-worth that usually carries into adulthood. But those of us who didn't experience this kind of childhood may need an extra dose of understanding from our marital partner. No matter what your spouse's background is, I pray you'll provide that support for the little boy or girl you're married to.   
- **Shirley M Dobson**

**Melissa Hogan and Sam Ken Were Just Married Friday, April 22<sup>nd</sup>!** Keep them in prayer as they begin their new life together.

**Cathedral Kitchen:** Serving dinner to the poor.  
April 26<sup>th</sup>, 3:30-5:30

**VBS: July 17-20.** *We will need to house and feed the team for the 5 days they are with us.*

**Volunteers for May:** Communion Prep. & Sunday Clean-up: **Sandra Mendez**, Donuts: **Juanita Burgess**.  
Nursery: **Debbie, Layla, Jaela, Alexia, Chris Ann, Elaine, Hannah, Elizabeth, Marguerite, Nina**  
• We still need volunteers to bring the **Bagels & set-up** and to do the **Laundry**  
*please sign-up on the bulletin board.*

**Greeters for May:** Dave, Stephanie, Jon Jon, Margaret

**Trip to Play Performance:** Our own **Carl Smith** is performing in the play "*Beauty and the Beast*" in the starring role as the "Prince/Beast". Tony Sr. is coordinating a group to go see his performance on Saturday, May 21<sup>st</sup> 11am at the Gratz College Theatre in Melrose Park, PA. We could carpool from church. Cost is Adults \$14, Child \$12. Group of 15, tickets will be \$8 each. **See Tony Sr. ASAP by Wed., May 4<sup>th</sup>. 856-456-6222**

## **Today's Worship Leaders**

**Worship Leader:** Carl Smith

**Welcome & Scripture:** Bret Goen. (Psalm 150:1-6)

**Opening Prayer:** Dave Cook

**Lord's Supper:** Jack, Josh Henderson, Kevin Finn, Larry

**Scripture Before Message:** Jonathan Powers (Rev. 19:6-10)

**Announcements & Prayer:** Chet Churchill

# Collingswood Church of Christ

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

300 White Horse Pike 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)



**Don't Forget to Sign-Up for Our Camp  
 Manatawny Church Retreat On May 20-22**

**Nursery:** Tina & Hoa Next Week- Debbie & Layla  
**Blue Cleaning Team:** April 27-30

**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** ..... 124  
**Bible Class** ..... 73  
**Wed. PM.**.....50  
**L.I.F.E. Groups** .....55

**Contribution..... \$2,547**  
**Budget Goal** .....\$4,260

Howard Mansdoerfer (609) 790-9969