

Trashing the Church is Love?

JESUS LOVES his church. As I have come to love Jesus more, so has my love for the church grown. Through history the church has been an easy target of derision, some of it deserved. But it is a very persistent target, because so far it has outlasted all its critics. It has also survived every nation and political movement that has tried to eradicate it. The future will be the same. Scripture assures us that it will be here until Christ returns when it will be presented to him as his bride.

Just as a husband will defend the honor of his wife, Christ will defend the honor of his church. I have heard people who wouldn't think of saying something against Jesus, mercilessly, with withering disdain, talk trash about the church. I don't think the Lord will stand for that. I wouldn't want Jesus for an enemy. Would you?

"Husbands, love your wives, just as Christ loved the church and gave himself up for her to make her holy, cleansing her by the washing with water through the word, and to present her to himself as a radiant church... holy and blameless" (Ephesians 5:25-27).

Christ knows the church needed cleaning up, so he did. He is still cleaning. Can we leave that to him? He will get the job done. His church is going to be presented to him holy and blameless. I've heard people say they are so hard on the church because they actually love the church. Sounds to me like one of those spousal abusers who say their real motive is love. I'm not buying it. *"Out of the abundance of the heart, the mouth speaks"* (Luke 6:45). I have witnessed critics of the church end up recipients of its kindness in their hour of need. The church's reflex is love.

Churches have problems just like families do but in both cases we try to work things out. You don't give up in families. You can't give up on the church either. If the church is the group that's going to heaven as Christ's bride and I separate myself from the church, where does that leave me? Stay among the saved. Help us be better. Not by heaping more criticism, but by stepping up to help, out of a motive of sincere love.

Mark

"COOKOUT" TODAY, 12:00 Noon: Our FIRST cookout of SPRING will be right here in our Fellowship Hall. **Hospitality Team 2 will be in charge** of serving and cleaning-up.

Save the Date: Bridal Shower for Elisha Wall is June 4th, Next Saturday, 9:30 AM – 11:00 AM.

Attention, Men, Save the Date: Sunday, **June 5th,** you are invited to join the guys to take **Kamal Wall**, Elisha's husband, out to lunch after Worship.

Our "SUMMER Teaching Quarter" STARTS on Wednesday & Sunday: *Please be on time* for the classes so you can learn all of the lesson the teachers have prepared for you and your children.

Juanita Thompson has temporarily moved to Texas due to health problems, to spend time with her cousin, Sandra Hayes. If you want to write, her address is: 8015 Dockal Road, Houston, TX 77028 (phone: 713-633-3514).

High School Graduation Celebration for Renée Powers June 12th: Everyone is invited to stay for cake and refreshments after Worship on June 12th to celebrate Renée and wish her well in college. She is our only Senior this year. **Congratulations, Renée!**

We NEED Volunteers for June To:

1. Prepare the Communion
 2. Clean-up bagels/donuts after Sunday Worship
- If you can volunteer to do one of these jobs, please sign-up on the bulletin board.

Today's Worship Leaders

Worship Leader: Gerry Hogan

Welcome & Scripture: Scott Schoener (Psalm 5:11-12)

Opening Prayer: Nelson Nuñez

Lord's Supper: Dan Swinehart, Jess Nitla, Rick, Logan McEntire

Scripture Before Message: Henry Duncan (Rev. 21:10-15)

Announcements & Prayer: Rick Boyle

Thank You Volunteers for June: Bring Donuts: **Sue Gill**, Bring Bagels and set-up: **Nawana**, Clean-up on Wed. Night & Laundry: **Wini**, Nursery: **Kristin, Margaret, Laura, Norma, Brenda, Tina, Hoa, Layla**

Haircuts for Missions: Will be on June 11th

Has anyone seen the church laundry bag? The church laundry bag and kitchen towels are missing. If you come upon them, please put them in the kitchen. Thank you!

The Church Food Pantry Needs RE-Stocking: Cans of Chunky- soup, Spam, Tuna, low-sodium canned goods, powdered milk, Spaghetti & Meatballs, Cereal, Oatmeal, Breakfast-bars, and other non-perishables. Put in basket in hallway, please.

Nursery: Nina & Hannah Next Week: Kristin & Margaret

Red Cleaning Team: June 1-4. **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..... 133

Worship here..... 83

Worship (camp) 50

Bible Class..... 23

Wed. PM.....59

Contribution \$515

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

Daily Bible Readers: 23

Collingswood Church of Christ

Church Website: www.ccc123.org

300 White Horse Pike

May 29, 2016

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)

