

Joseph's Journey: Mistreated, Not Defeated

FAMILY DOESN'T always treat you right. Favoritism, sibling rivalry, competition, manipulation, deception; they are all there in Joseph's family. We might doubt that God could or would work through such a mess. Or maybe God would work in a Bible family, but not our family. Remember that while Joseph was experiencing his problems he had no guarantee that things were going to work out. Whether he was treated well or badly, Joseph steadily did what was right. It didn't matter what others around him were doing. His concern when being seduced by Potiphar's wife, was that this would be a "sin against God." His changeless integrity led him to literally run from sin. (Genesis 37-47)

Life doesn't always treat you right. False accusation and imprisonment might be enough to make you want to fold. Obviously Joseph was discouraged in that jail. He was forgotten, but not by God. He had more faith than self-pity.

God does treat you right. In time Joseph was not only blessed, but became a blessing. He saved Egypt. He saved his family. He was vindicated. But that was at the end. For large stretches of life it looked like Joseph had lost. His story is compressed into a few dramatic chapters, but it took a lifetime to play out. It took years before Joseph could declare through joyous tears to his brothers who had previously betrayed him, "*Don't be afraid. Am I in the place of God? You intended to harm me, but GOD intended it for good to accomplish what is now being done, the saving of many lives*" (Gen. 50:19-20).

Joseph wasn't in denial. People had treated him badly. God had treated him right. Joseph knew he had been used by God to bless others. His heart was full, his joy complete.

Mark

Today Howard, Tony & Bret Will Bring Us the Message: "From the Heart of Our Elders"

Haircuts for Missions: Saturday, August 13th.

Sunday, August 21st, Farewell Luncheon for Juanita Burgess: Anyone interested in *pitching in funds towards the cost* of the food, please see Donna Mansdoerfer. We are getting specific foods that Juanita likes.

The Camp Manatawny Men's Retreat, "Full Throttle Men," is coming soon. We will again *rent* a van and take the men up on **Saturday morning, September 10** and it will be an all-day event.

- Men you can refer to the Manatawny.org website for more details and to pre-pay and sign-up if you would like. There is also information on the bulletin board.

The Jr. and Sr. High Kids: at 7PM on Wednesday nights, the class will meet across White Horse Pike under the big tree. If it rains, they will meet in the basement here at the church building.

Josephine Young, Who Many of Us Remember: has moved and has a new Phone number and would really like the ones of us who know her to call. She is Matt Lawson's Mom. Phone: 1-561-465-5710. We will have her address later.

Are You Keeping Up With Our Scripture Memorization Schedule? In August our verses to memorize are Matthew 7:1-6. If you misplaced your color 2016 booklet with the verses, there are some on the cabinet in the lobby.

Sarah Gafgen Has a Show Coming Up: See the "Events" bulletin board to check it out.

Today's Worship Leaders

Worship Leader: Dave Williams

Welcome & Scripture: Bret Goen (Psalm 22:1-11)

Opening Prayer: Tim Jones

Lord's Supper: Chet, John Derricott, Larry DeSimone, Jay Morris

Scripture Before Message: Ed Francoeur Jr. (Rom. 2:6-11)

Announcements & Closing Prayer: Rick Boyle

Greeters: Dave Cook, Jack Swinehart, Sue Gill, Debbie Powers

Nursery: Chris Ann & Laura Next Week: Hoa & Layla

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..... 118

Bible Class 84

Wed..... 49

Contribution \$2,036

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

Collingswood Church of Christ

Church Website: www.ccc123.org

300 White Horse Pike

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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)

