

NEW Shoes for Our Kids

This weekend I had the honor of participating in a special family event, the "Quinceañera" for our Nina Gonzalez. This is a celebration in Latino culture of the transition from childhood to womanhood. As part of this milestone the girl's father removes his daughter's childish sneakers and puts on her feet the new shoes of a grown woman. Here are some typical words spoken on this occasion:

"These shoes symbolize your daily walk. When you were a little girl, your mom and dad would take you where *they* wanted. You did not decide where or when you would go. Today they have given you a most important responsibility. You are now accountable to God for each step that you take. Remember that God is always watching your steps. What joy you will feel if when the Lord comes, you can say, 'I have considered my ways and have turned my steps to your statutes' (Psalm 119:59)."

It's easy to celebrate our growing children's victories. It is very hard to release them to adulthood and watch them suffer the normal ups and downs of life. To shield them from that is to keep them from maturing. They must learn that apart from their parents, God is with them personally.

Someday mom and dad will not be around. Parents, it must never be about us. We point our children to the Lord who loves them more than we do. He cares for them more completely than we are capable. He knows what is best for them in ways we cannot begin to imagine.

At the "Quinceañera" Nina's father, Adrian, knelt down to put new shoes on his daughter. In that moment, watching a strong man kneel in service to his daughter, I was given a sacred glimpse of fatherhood... a reflection of our Heavenly Father's love for us. It is a strong love that does not always rescue, but equips us with the new shoes we need to walk with him and grow strong.

Mark

PRAISE GOD! Young West Was BAPTIZED Into Christ: on Wednesday Night! We watched as one more precious soul was added to God's fold. He and Donna live at 6301 Coventry Way, Mount Laurel, NJ 08054, 862-216-9139, msreed71@gmail.com

"Winterfest Dinner", Sunday, Oct. 2nd @ 5:00
Please sign-up by TODAY to join us for a great evening of Mexican food and fellowship. Donations will help our teens attend the Christian Youth Rally in Tennessee this winter.

- Do you have any Mexican-themed items for decorations that we could borrow? See Kristin Ceraso.
- Any donations of summer garden tomatoes, peppers, etc. would also be gladly accepted!

KFC & Middle School Youth Group is meeting after service **TODAY** for lunch & to make decorations for the Winterfest Dinner. Please arrange to be picked up by 2pm.

Do YOU have a LIFE Group yet?

Remember that every Sunday there is an **After-Worship LIFE Group** that meets right after morning worship in the Teen Room. If you want to check it out, just stay around. There are several other LIFE Groups as well; pick up a list on the yellow paper in the slots in the lobby.

We are Serving the "New Visions" Homeless Breakfast Tues., Sept. 27th. We will be cooking and serving breakfast to those in need. *We need cooks and servers*, so see Brenda Collier for how YOU can help. "New Visions" is at 555 Atlantic Ave, Camden. Meet at church at 8:30 if you need a ride.

Cathedral Kitchen: September 29th 3:30-5:30

EDP TOMORROW: Elders, Deacons & Preacher Meeting: Monday, Sept. 26th at the Powers' home.

Back by popular demand is our 2nd Annual Church Bowling Night:

on Sunday, October 16 at 5 PM at the Pinsetter's Lanes in Merchantville. Please sign-up for a lane on the bulletin board. All ages are welcome. Come & bowl or just come & watch the fun. More information to come.

Area Wide Autumn Sing Along: will be at Pitman Road Church of Christ. Join them for this time of singing & honoring God on **Sat., Oct. 8**, 6-8 PM. Refreshments 6-6:30. Child Care provided. See bulletin board for details.

Area Wide Ladies Retreat at Camp Manatawny:
Title: "Girl, Are You the Eternal Flame." on Sept. 30th - Oct. 1st. Sign-up on line at www.manatawny.org Cost is \$44.

Anne Pollack: is now at Virtua Health & Rehabilitation Center at Berlin to help get her walking again. Location: 100 Long a Coming Ln, Berlin, NJ 08009. 856-322-3678

Today's Worship Leaders

Worship Leader: Dave Williams

Welcome & Scripture: Josh Henderson (Psalm 27:1-5)

Opening Prayer: Howard Mansdoerfer

Lord's Supper: Lee Graves, Bill Ceraso, Kevin Finn, Jiony Colon

Scripture Before Message: Ben Churchill (Romans 6:5-10)

Announcements & Closing Prayer: Tony Ceraso Jr.

Nursery: Laura & Elaine Next Week: Alexia & Jaela

Green Cleaning Team: Sept. 28-Oct. 1 **Hardee** 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 Last wk.revised Contrib.\$2,818

Chet Churchill (609) 560-7179 **Contribution..... \$2,743**

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

Worship Total..... 117

Bible Class..... 79

Wed..... 41

LIFE Groups..... 64

15-Minutes Daily with GOD: 35

Collingswood Church of Christ

Church Website: www.ccc123.org

300 White Horse Pike

Collingswood, NJ 08107

September 25, 2016

Vol. XVIII No. 39

“Now faith is being **sure** of what we hope for and **certain** of what we do not see.” (Hebrews 11:1)



THEREFORE, IF ANYONE IS IN CHRIST, HE IS A NEW CREATION; THE OLD HAS GONE, THE NEW HAS COME!

2 CORINTHIANS 5:17



Young West is a NEW MAN in Christ!