

Courage to Try Something New

I had a girlfriend in college who was a Christian in name only but didn't take the Lord seriously. She told me, "You have that gift of faith; I don't." I told her faith is not a gift; it's a daily decision to follow the one who is the gift. Back to John 3:16... *"God so loved the world that he gave his one and only Son, that whosoever believes in him will not perish."* Who is the gift there? Not belief, but the Son. Faith is our response. She wasn't buying it. We finally went our separate ways.

Even when you know something is not working, it's easier to stay stuck and sad than to change. Not just in dating, but most of all with the Lord. We endlessly believe in our own capacity to figure everything out. Jesus' beatitudes in Luke say the poor, hungry, weeping, and excluded are the most blessed. Why? Because those with the most problems usually get to the end of themselves the quickest and thus wake up to realize the answer is not in them but in HIM.

Jesus had the greatest success in reaching people who were the most desperate and therefore most aware of their need for new life. The barriers to faith are pride and fear. We want to appear "together" and like "we've got it going on." We don't like that disorienting feeling of living a whole new way. We pause at the starting line of faith thinking, "What if this doesn't work?" If you are desperate you leap over all such barriers.

Faith is not a battle with God but a battle within us. You make the barrier or you move it. Jesus said, *"Behold I stand at the door and knock"* (Rev. 3:20). It's our choice on whether we open the door to our heart. Aren't you tired of talking warily to the Lord through the screen door, as if he were a door-to-door salesman? He is the royal answer to your deepest need, the fulfillment of your greatest hopes. And there he is right in front of you. Are you a Christian in name only? Do you have the courage to try something new?

Mark

"Thanksgiving Catch-Up Sunday" Collection is November 19th.

AND "12-Hours of Prayer" is Nov. 18th: On the Saturday right before our "Catch-up Sunday Collection," we link our prayers in 1-hour shifts from 6AM to 6PM; you choose the time you want to come in to pray. If you truly believe in prayer, sign up on the bulletin board.

"Bring Your Friend Sunday," Nov. 19th

You are the LINK

Ladies "Harvest of Praise": sign up for this special Saturday Morning, Nov. 11th.

"Sonshine Wednesday" Continues: This **experimental after-school program for children**, grades K to 5th continues **Nov. 1, 8, 15**. It starts at 3:15 PM, and includes snack time, reading & story time, homework time, activities, dinner & then our usual Bible Class. Parents will pick-up at 7:15. Questions? See Karen.

Note: NEW 6:30 Wed PM time (3 weeks left) To accommodate our "Sonshine Wednesday" kids.

Youth Group Friday: Nov. 3 meet at the church building 7PM for pool & Foos ball.

Parents: We love seeing our kids enjoying our church family, however, we've been having trouble with kids playing unattended after services. Please remind your children that, for safety reasons, no minor is supposed to be unattended in any classroom, at any time! Thanks!

Haircuts for Missions: will be on Nov. 11 from Noon to 6PM. Please sign-up.

Virgin Islands Help: Kim Azille has set-up an Amazon registry that she created for **relief to the Virgin Islands** (including Dominica) Once purchased, check to send to recipient (*sent to her brother Kevin* who will then ship them by boat from Miami). **Here is the link you need:** www.amazon.com/gp/registry/wishlist/2528ZLVKTKDDH/ref=cm_sw_em_r_d_awwlg_Y034zbHW0DM9M_wb

Our Condolences to the Schuehler Family in the passing of Pat Schuehler. Ted & Pat were members here for many years before moving to the Pitman area where they attended Pitman Road. Pat was a dear Christian lady.

Today's Worship Leaders

Worship Leader: Dave Cook

Welcome & Scripture: Scott Schoener (Psalm 68:1-6)

Opening Prayer: Jack Swinehart

Lord's Supper: Bret Goen, Rich Fabi, Dan Swinehart, Ben Churchill

Scripture Before Message: Tim Davis (Eph. 6:10-13)

Announcements & Closing Prayer: Tony Jr.

Nursery Chris Ann & Elizabeth Next Week: Nawana & Elaine

Orange: Cleaning Team Nov. 1-4 **Tony & Fay** coordinate

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

Howard Mansdoerfer (609) 790-9969

Contribution \$2,839

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

15-Minutes Daily with GOD: 19

Collingswood Church of Christ

Church Website: www.ccc123.org

300 White Horse Pike

Collingswood, NJ 08107

October 29, 2017

Vol. XVIII No. 41

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

Sonshine Wednesday

God blesses us
with children!