

Mom's \$5,000 Sewing Machine

This is the year my mom needed to downsize, so with her permission we had a sale of the things she no longer wanted or needed. Among them was her Singer Sewing Machine from the earliest years of her marriage. It was the "fancy stitching model" and cost in inflation adjusted dollars the equivalent of \$5,050! Why so much? Once, before all our clothes were mostly made by the poor on the other side of the world, clothing was very expensive. It was worth the savings for families to make some of their own clothes, thus the investment in a sewing machine. How much did this incredible, still completely functioning machine sell for today? Somebody bought it for \$58.

Growing up I didn't feel poor, but until I was a teenager, I had patches on the knees of my jeans. It wasn't fashion. Clothes cost a lot and we wore them out rough-housing, playing ball, and climbing trees. Until a few years ago, people used to patch clothes. One of Jesus' stories from everyday life talked about sewing a patch and how the condition of the cloth had to match or it would tear away.

The virtuoso performance for any home-grown seamstress was making a quilt. My great-grandmother Mammy Hagan said when she got a new dress, she'd wear it on Sundays. When it got too worn for Sundays, she would use it for every day. When it got too worn for that she'd sleep in it. When it got too worn out for that, she'd make aprons out of it. When it got too worn for that, she'd use it for rags. But the better parts were cut into scraps and sewn into an incredible geometric pattern for a bed spread to keep your family warm at night. These became works of art.

Being thankful in your life is a lot like a quilt. You may have just a few scraps that are worth saving. There are light and dark pieces, parts colorful and bland. But stitched together they form a brilliant pattern. The challenge for us is the same as the quilt maker. To see the beauty of the big picture.

"Rejoice always, pray continually, give thanks in all circumstances; for this is God's will for you in Christ Jesus." (1 Thess. 5:16-18)

Mark



Children's Day Sunday, December 6th:

***Kids, BUILD your own
Gingerbread House
after church!***

10:30 AM – Children's Church

11:45 AM – Gingerbread House

Right here at Collingswood Church of Christ

This is a ton of fun!

You and your kids are invited.

Call the church if you have questions at 856-854-0197 or 856-858-5926. Let us know if you need help making the cardboard base.

Get the instructions and pattern in the lobby.
(Members, please sign-up to bring candy.)

Want to learn more about being a part of
Collingswood Church of Christ ?

Well... Come to our NEW Member's Class
December 10th right after Worship in the "Teen Room."
This brief, no-obligation class includes refreshments.
Talk to us!

**Thanks on Wednesday! This week we are
back to meeting at 7PM, so join us for our
"Thankfulness Service" this week.**

Feed the Homeless: at Cathedral Kitchen Nov. 28th.

Youth Group Friday: Nov. 24th meet at the church building for ice skating. See Sharlotte for details.

Our "Christmas Party" is Dec. 17th, 6 PM

The theme is: "*In the Meadow We Can Build a Snowman.*"
A sign-up sheet will soon be posted.

In Need of Prayers: **Laura Francoeur's** surgery is this Tuesday. Also, health concerns of **Vinod** Nitla who is in Virtua Voorhees Hospital. Also our shut-ins: **Velma** Perdue, **Anne** Pollack, **Josephine** Young, Margaret's dad, **Richard**, Tate's mother, **Linda**.

Today's Worship Leaders

Worship Leader: Dave Williams

Welcome & Scripture: Scott S. (Psalm 100:1-5)

Opening Prayer: Bret Goen

Lord's Supper: Darren McEntire, Tony Sr., Tony Jr., Hardee

Scripture Before Message: Ed Jr. (Psalm 95:1-6)

Announcements & Closing Prayer: Rick Boyle

Nursery Stephanie & Norma Next Week: April & Jaela

Red: Cleaning Team Nov. 22-25 **Lillian**

OUTREACH/MINISTRY

Mark Finn – Minister

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

Worship 116

Bible Class..... 53

Wednesday PM..... 50

Contribution\$3,114

Budget Goal\$4,260

15-Minutes Daily with GOD: 26

Collingswood Church of Christ

Church Website: 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)

