

The Greatest Hope for Change

What has been the most potent weapon Satan has used to destroy people? We might guess one of the routine temptations that break God's protective commandments. But many wise Christians hold that our opponent's most effective poison has been simple *discouragement*; to just get you to quit trying.

Christ's answer to "What's the use?" is another question, "Where is your faith?" (Luke 8:25). He's not shaming you, he's calling you!

In the media you will be bombarded with discouraging statistics about change. Like, "Only 8 percent of people who set New Year's resolutions actually achieve their aims." But what you are not told is, "People who make New Year's resolutions are *10 times* more likely to achieve goals than people who don't bother to make resolutions at all" (*The Week*, 1/13/17, p. 18, emphasis mine). Did you know that of all those who successfully quit smoking, the great majority failed repeatedly but continued to try?

Tomorrow is a new year. Christian, you have a choice to give up before 2018 has even started, or to go at it again. Our most common mistake is not that we set goals but we set unrealistic ones. My advice: consult the Lord first, then set an achievable goal. If you will consult your heavenly "Coach" every day, opening his Word, praying and listening to him, seeking him with all your heart—friend, that's most of the battle.

We have just finished celebrating God's greatest gift in sending us his Son, born in a manger. God's second greatest gift is your next year of life. He is keeping the clock running. He believes your life is worth continuing. He has not lost hope in you. The voices of discouragement are from the enemy, not from your Lord.

Remember his words: "*Do not let your hearts be troubled and do not be afraid*" (John 14:27). "*Then neither do I condemn you.... Go now and leave your life of sin*" (John 8:11). "*My burden is light*" (Matt. 11:30). "*Don't be afraid; just believe*" (Mark 5:36). "*I am with you always*" (Matt 28:20).

Mark

"January Month of Prayer & Fasting" Begins TOMORROW! The Calendar is Posted!

Just put your anonymous check-mark on the day you will fast & pray for the church. This is how we start the New Year!

WELCOME to our NEW Members: Justin & Clare Taylor!

This newlywed couple has been attending here regularly. He is from Baton Rouge, LA and has been stationed here in the Coast Guard. She is from Mississippi and was raised in the church. Their info: 3600 Gateway Drive, Apt. 103, Philadelphia, PA 19145. Justin 601-551-6746, jtaylor6746@yahoo.com, Clare 601-660-3038, clareclark20@gmail.com.

The Nursery: is now in the Cradle Roll room across from the Ladies Room.

Next Year's Monthly Volunteer List is Up!

Please sign-up to help in some way for a month.

Haircuts for Missions: January 13th

Youth Group: Our next meeting is **Jan. 12th** at the building to go to Chic-Fil-A for dinner...7pm-9pm. Bring \$.

Today's Worship Leaders

Worship Leader: Dave Cook

Welcome & Scripture: Scott Schoener (Ezek. 36:25-27)

Opening Prayer: Howard Mansdoerfer

Lord's Supper: Bret Goen, Tony Jr., Gerry Hogan, Hardee

Scripture Before Message: Ben Churchill (Phil. 3:13-14)

Announcements & Closing Prayer: Tony Ceraso Jr.

Greeters: Rich Fabi, Jonathan Cook, Sandie Fabi, Pat Connelly

Nursery Brenda & Norma Next Week: Marguerite & Jaela
Purple: Cleaning Team Jan. 3-6 Becky Coordinates

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 125

Bible Class..... 62

Contribution \$4,184

Budget Goal \$4,260

Daily Bible Readers: 25



Tony, Sr. in his 70's
went skydiving for
the first time last year.

How is fear holding
you back from an
adventurous 2018?

Collingswood Church of Christ

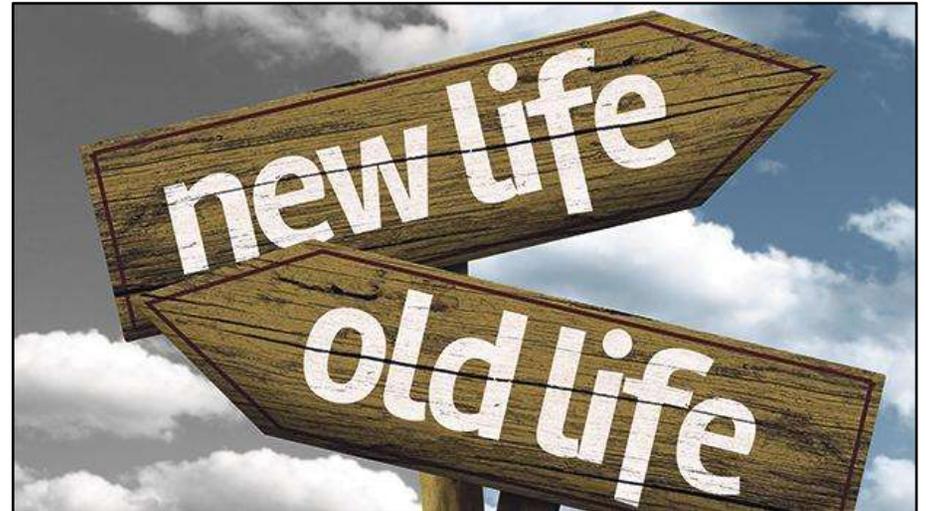
Church Website: www.ccc123.org

300 White Horse Pike
December 31, 2017

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)

**Christ gave us hope not only
in his arrival back THEN,
but in his presence right NOW:
“The Year of Our Lord” 2018!**



**IN CHRIST, it truly IS a
Happy New Year!**