

# There is No "Instant Karma"

Wisdom is a gift of God and it is not instant. Right now I can place an online order and have the item delivered this same day. Our entertainment is "on demand." If I like a song I can download it instantly. If I'm hungry I can have any type of food delivered within an hour. Having conditioned myself with this kind of expectation, how can I deal with the long, long, longings of prayer? Not well.

Abraham waited 25 years for his promised son, Isaac. Christ waited 30 years before beginning his ministry. Moses spent 40 years as a shepherd in the desert before leading Israel out of slavery. How long have you been praying to God for your heart's desire?

If I'm wasting 15 hours a week that could be regained by a godly focus, would I be willing to trade 5 hours of that for prayer and come out 10 hours ahead? If I skipped church to save time and spent one evening a week at a nightclub or bar and picked up an addiction that took years to overcome, have I really saved time? If I was twice as smart and had twice the money and I waste half of that in sin, am I any better than if I had half the brains, half the dollars and lived righteously? If I rush to the end of my life and end up in the wrong place, have I been more effective than if I slowed down and arrived at the right place? Is it better to slog through a self-inflicted problem or just avoid it altogether?

Pray, my friend. Pray. Give it the same focus you give those other things in your life you really care about. For a moment, let's set aside the whole question of whether I get the answer to prayer that I want. Prayer purifies. It focuses. It disencumbers. If life is measured in time, it is time-giving and thus life-giving. Prayer doesn't glitter like the world does. It has no celebrity spokesmen, no sponsors. Proverbs pictures wisdom as a person calling out to everyone on the streets, but no

one is listening. How little we have changed. Even if I can get my pizza and TV show on demand.

**LADIES:** Our retreat is This Week, April 7-9! Be sure to see Bibi at the registration table for information and to settle up.

**"Bring-A-Friend" Easter Sunday!**  
**Yes, people are looking for a place to worship in 2 weeks, so invite them to come along!**

**Egg Hunt for Our Children:** We have all of the plastic eggs, but we need bags of wrapped Easter candy for the eggs. Please sign-up and place candy donations in the baskets in our lobby.

**Men's Breakfast Friday, April 14<sup>th</sup>, 6:55-8:15 at Adelpia in Deptford:** featuring an incredible breakfast meal and Good Friday guest speaker. \$20. Adelpia Restaurant, 1750 Clements Bridge Road, Deptford. Mark has tickets; let him know if you are going.

**Our "Good Friday Service" is 5:00 PM, April 14<sup>th</sup>**

**Youth Group:** Meets here at the building Saturday, April 8<sup>th</sup> for games and snacks.

**Missions "Family Movie Night" is APRIL 15:** Join us in *supporting our Nina's July mission trip to Nicaragua!* We will be showing a family friendly movie with an Easter theme. **Come join us** in our Fellowship Hall (even in your PJs if you want!), bring your favorite pillow or blanket. We will have popcorn

and drinks for the movie and some food and snacks for a small donation.

**April 30<sup>th</sup> We Will Have Our Fellowship Meal:**

Group 1 will be in charge of set-up and clean-up.

**Haircuts for Missions Is Postponed (not April 8<sup>th</sup>)**

**Our Church Retreat Sign-up Sheets are posted:**

**May 19-21** are the dates! Join us for this weekend of fun.

**"New Visions" Soup Kitchen- May 16<sup>th</sup>:**

We are collecting much needed supplies for our next day of service. The shelter needs these items: trial size shampoo, conditioner, soap, lotion, feminine care products, toothbrushes. If you happen upon large industrial cookware such as stockpots or frying pans, please consider donating them. The pans don't have to be new, just in good condition.

**Prayers:** young Timothy Marr, age 4, as he recovers from his surgery, Anne Pollack, Velma Purdue.

**Today's Worship Leaders**

**Worship Leader:** Dave Williams

**Welcome & Scripture:** Tony Ceraso Jr. (Psalm 40:6-11)

**Opening Prayer:** Jack Swinehart

**Lord's Supper:** Tim Jones, Larry DeSimone, Lee, John Corbett

**Scripture Before Message:** Gerry Hogan (Rom.13:8-10)

**Announcements & Closing Prayer:** Rick Boyle

**Nursery:** Norma & Jaela Next Week: Marguerite & Layla

**Blue Cleaning Team** April 5-8

**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

**Worship Total ..... 132**

**Bible Class ..... 90**

**Wed. PM..... 40**

**Contribution 3/19 ...\$2,983**

**Contribution 3/26 ...\$3,447**

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

Chet Churchill (609) 560-7179

Howard Mansdoerfer (609) 790-9969

# Collingswood Church of Christ

Church Website: [www.ccc123.org](http://www.ccc123.org)

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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)



The church of the future?

No. The church of NOW!

