

“Dad, Mom, WHY Is the World This Way?”

ONCE there was a beautiful garden where all was at peace. Each new day was a sun-drenched joy, every sunset evening a relished rest. God was right there in a completely free and loving relationship. Contentment. Completion. Work and play. Time nor money nor health was a worry. There was no hurry. Everything was right and good and fitting. There was man and woman and no baggage. It was all good. There was love and oneness.

One day into this paradise there came a rasping yet soothing voice asking a simple question: **“Did God really say...?”** The question could have been taken to the Heavenly Father, and with love, patiently answered. Instead a conversation with evil began, a give and take, point and counterpoint. An attempt to reason with madness. Instead of turning away, the thin-end of a wedge was welcomed. The wedge was hammered and split **us apart from paradise, from God, from each other... and we were holding the hammer.**

God’s judgment came. Following his judgment came his mercy. It would take something other than man to solve this deep continual choice of failure. The arc of redemption would **take thousands of years and cost him everything but God’s love is strong enough to bridge any gap.**

To this day, some people take God at his Word in trust that he is loving and good. Many others walk away from him muttering the same words that separated us from everything good: **“Did God really say...?”**

Paradise was not forever lost. God deeply loves Adam, Eve and all their children. He made a way for us to return to him and to that place. Paradise? It’s coming. Meantime, this life is a test and here’s the question: To whom will you listen?

Mark

“New Visions” Soup Kitchen- May 16th:

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.

Benevolence: is in need of some canned meats & tuna. There is a basket in the hallway to put them in. Any donations or money to buy the food is greatly appreciated. Thanks, Nelson

Please Keep These Folks in Your Prayers:

Health Concerns: Anne Pollack, Velma Perdue, Josephine Young, (Matt Lawson’s mother)

Jr. & Sr. High Youth Groups: Sign-up

- 1. Rock Climbing This Afternoon:** please have your **parents sign a waiver**, located on the Teen Bulletin Board and **bring your signed waiver with you.** Be back at church by 4PM if you need a ride to Elite Climbing. We are scheduled to start climbing at 4:30 if you want to meet us there.
- 2. Hannah & Elizabeth’s Play:** **join** the Senior High Group in seeing their play on **May 19th** at Baptist Regional in Haddon Heights. More details on cost and time will come.

Sr. Youth Group: Sign-up today after church!

1. Friday, May 12th, 7PM meet in the church basement for dinner and a Mother's Day service project.
2. Saturday, May 13th, **Logan's Concert** at Haddonfield High.

A Big VBS Planning Meeting: May 28th, right after Worship Service. Those people who have volunteered to help with VBS, and those who want to help, please come.

Our Church Retreat May 19-21: Come join us for a weekend of fun. Choose what you want to do. Go hiking, play games, including softball, eat, just sit and talk, and much more. See Tony Ceraso Jr. with questions.

Today's Worship Leaders

Worship Leader: Dave Williams

Welcome & Scripture: Josh Henderson (Psalm 41:1-4)

Opening Prayer: Howard Mansdoerfer

Lord's Supper: Chet Churchill, Carl Smith, Tim Jones, Ed Francoeur

Scripture Before Message: Jiony Gonzalez (Rom. 14:7-12)

Announcements & Closing Prayer: Rick Boyle

Nursery: Marguerite & Jaela Next Week: Laura & Elaine

Red Cleaning Team May 10-13 **Lillian** 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
Chet Churchill (609) 560-7179
Howard Mansdoerfer (609) 790-9969

Worship Total 114
Bible Class..... 85
Wed. PM..... 29

Contribution \$2,871
Budget Goal\$4,260

Collingswood Church of

Church Website: www.ccc123.org

300 White Horse Pike
May 7, 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)



Thank you Lord, for
our Church Family

