

When Is It Time?

When should a child or young person be baptized? That can be a tough call. Most of us know when it's too young. On the other hand, sometimes the openness of a young person's heart closes and they never come to Christ—that's when we realize we might have waited too long.

Last Sunday, Emily Ross at age 9 was baptized into Christ. This had been her desire at age 6 but by all accounts this was probably too young. Then Emily has persisted for 3 years. Finally turning 9 this month she asked again for her parents and the church to help her obey the Gospel. One of our Elders, Tony Jr., studied with her and made sure she basically understood what she was committing to. After her baptism Emily said, "This is like my birthday present from Jesus!" I would say in Emily's case she was ready.

It would be easy if the Bible gave us a specific age for baptism but it does not. We don't want to make a mockery of faith by baptizing 4-year-olds. The scriptures hold that coming to Christ is a response to the Gospel: the death, burial, and resurrection of Christ. This involves understanding, belief, and a sense of personal sin that leads to repentance.

As a parent I deeply understand why the practice of infant baptism got started. The culture of this world is so powerfully depraved and the souls of our children so precious, it's clear why in misguided love we would try to make this decision for them. But in their little world, the questions, "Do you love mommy, do you want ice cream, and do you want to be baptized," will all be answered Yes.

Then there is the other side. Parents who said No at first and the young person never pursued it again. That's what makes this such a tough call. Over time I've tried to err more on the side of going younger if the desire is there. Only God knows what's in a young person's heart. Parents, preachers, teachers, and friends try to help. Lord, help us make the right call!

Mark

Emily Ross was Baptized Last Sunday! Emily has long wanted to be baptized.

Children's Church Will Re-Start Today

Hurricane Relief for Houston: Today is the last day we will be collecting the money to send down to Byron Fike (a past VBS speaker) who preaches at Clear Lake Church of Christ in Houston. They have been on the front lines helping victims in their community recover. Give any donations to **Nelson Nuñez** or one of our Elders and we will send a combined check from our church.

Next Sunday: Winterfest Dinner

Winterfest fellowship and fundraising dinner is next Sunday, Sept. 24th @ 5:00. **Please sign up by today** on the bulletin board to **join us** for an evening of delicious food and fellowship. Donations will help our teens attend the Christian youth rally in Tennessee in Feb. We are having several kinds of chili, mac & cheese, baked potatoes, salad, rolls and cupcakes. **Come see the terrific culinary skills of our teens.**

➤ **Attention All Teens** attending Winterfest please meet next Sunday the 24th immediately after church in the kitchen to help cook for our Winterfest dinner.

LIFE Groups are RE-STARTING: this season as we reconnect and learn with our brothers and sisters to GROW in our faith!

Cathedral Kitchen: Sept. 28th See Vivian if you can help!

College Care Packages: This year we are sending our College Students gift cards. Please sign-up to bring in gift cards to the students you choose, and put them in an envelope labeled for that student by Oct. 1st & give them to Fay or Donna to mail. Thanks!

Elders-Deacons-Preacher Meeting – Oct. 16th @ 6:30: Deacons, save the date and join us—it's always GREAT to get our leadership together! **Dinner is included.**

The Food Pantry Needs Restocking: This week, if you can, please bring in cans of chunky soup with meat in them and put them in the big basket in the foyer. Thank you very much!

Today's Worship Leaders

Worship Leader: Dave Williams

Welcome & Scripture: Tony Ceraso Jr. (Psalm 63:1-5)

Opening Prayer: Jack Swinehart

Lord's Supper: Henry Duncan, Tony Sr., Josh Henderson, Logan

Scripture Before Message: Ed Francoeur Jr. (1 Cor. 6:9-11)

Announcements & Closing Prayer: Rick Boyle

Greeters: Rick Boyle, John Corbett, Wini Boyle, Lillian Nuñez

Nursery: Kim A. & Fay Next Week: Hoa & Thaleena

Pink: Cleaning Team Sept. 20-23 **Howard & Donna** 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

Chet Churchill (609) 560-7179

Howard Mansdoerfer (609) 790-9969

Worship 109

Bible Class 80

Wednesday PM 32

Contribution \$4,434

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

15-Minutes Daily with GOD: 23

Collingswood Church of Christ

Church Website: www.ccc123.org

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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)

Emily: "This is like my birthday present from Jesus!"