



December 20, 2015

Volume 31, Issue 51

# PITMAN ROAD

CHURCH OF CHRIST

500 Pitman Road  
Sewell, NJ 08080  
856-589-1500

[www.pitmanroadcoc.com](http://www.pitmanroadcoc.com)

## Merry Christmas

We're glad you're here!

### Special Christmas Sunday Program

9:30 am: Coffee, Tea, Munchkins  
in the Family Life Center

10:00 am: Worship Service- Grace Was Born in a Manger

11:00 am: Encore performance of  
HIStory- a musical production

11:45 am: Refreshments served in the Family Life Center



*We have a gift for you!*

*Please stop by our Information Center and pick up a  
2016 pocket calendar.*

#### Our Vision

A place where God's love is experienced, known, and shared by all.

# From Daniel's Den

## Grace Was Born in a Manger in Bethlehem

I am thrilled to experience the love, joy and grace that seems to be a bit more obvious at this time of the year. I only wish this love, joy and grace continued throughout the other 11 months of the year! In his convicting book, "What's So Amazing About Grace?" Philip Yancey observes, "Christians in general are not doing such a good job of dispensing grace." And, I think he's right! We could do a much better job as "grace dispensers."

In the same way that our Heavenly Father dispenses grace and forgiveness to us, He calls us to dispense grace and forgiveness to others. But, we find it hard to forgive. Forgiveness is not natural. Our natural self says to "get even." Natural self says to "hold a grudge." Natural self says to "settle the account." Jesus says, forgive, extend grace.

Three pragmatic reasons why we should forgive:

1. "Forgiveness alone can halt the cycle of blame and pain, breaking the chain of un-grace." Martin Luther wrote, "Think of all the squabbles Adam and Eve must have had in the course of their 900 years." He went on to say, Eve would accuse Adam of eating the fruit and Adam would retort, "You gave it to me." (p. 95)
2. Forgiveness can "loosen the stranglehold of guilt in the perpetrator."
3. "Forgiveness breaks the cycle of blame and loosens the stranglehold of guilt." (p. 104) "Forgiveness—undeserved, unearned—can cut the cords and let the oppressive burden of guilt roll away." That is precisely what Jesus did when, even after Peter's repeated denials before the crucifixion; after the resurrections, Jesus said to him. "Feed my sheep!" (pp. 96-104)

"The world can do anything that the church can do except one thing: it cannot show grace."

God, help me to be a gracious Preacherman, **Dan**



**Dan Cooper**  
aka  
"Dan, Dan,  
the Preacherman"

In the same way that our Heavenly Father dispenses grace and forgiveness to us, He calls us to dispense grace and forgiveness to others.



**Merle (Glynn) Durham**  
Visitation Minister

## A Few Moments with Merle

### The Power of One

Often we are overwhelmed by a sense of personal insignificance. We feel a sense of complete uselessness believing, "I am just one...and what can I do?"

Understand God can use you if you will let Him. Helen Keller said, "I am only one, I cannot do everything, but I can still do something; and because I cannot do everything, I will not refuse to do something that I can do."

Throughout scripture, we find example after example of the power of one.

Remember the story about the little boy instrumental in feeding the 5,000? It is not based on one's ability, but one's availability. God uses those who make themselves available to Him. He will use you, if you make yourselves available to Him. That is the key.

Debby and I have been blessed this week, and especially on Wednesday, by a host of people who love us and care about us who let God use them to make a difference in our lives.

A phone call. A text. A prayer. An hour of "presence" at the doctor's office. "That's not much," you say? But for one who is anxious about a possible cancer diagnosis, it means everything. Comforting. Encouraging. Supportive.

Those of you who let God use you, what a blessing you are. To me. To Debby, To so many others who you serve in whatever way you can. Thank you!

**-Merle (Glynn)**

God uses those who make themselves available to Him.



Please join us again this Thursday!

CELEBRATE

Christmas

with PITMAN ROAD CHURCH OF CHRIST

Christmas Eve Service!

December 24<sup>th</sup> at 7:00 pm

Light refreshments served at 6:00 pm

Brass Ensemble at 6:45 pm



### Schedule Changes for December Holidays

#### Wednesday, December 23rd:

**No** Wednesday Night Meal.

**No** regular Wednesday meeting or classes.

#### Thursday, December 24th and Friday, December 25th:

The church office will be **closed** for Christmas holiday.

#### Wednesday, December 30th:

**No** Wednesday Night Meal.

**No** regular Wednesday meeting or classes.

#### Thursday, December 31st and Friday, January 1st:

The church office will be **closed** for New Year holiday.

PLEASE JOIN US TO CELEBRATE

Katheryn Steffy's

Baby Shower

AS WE WELCOME

Truett Kent Steffy

SUNDAY, JANUARY 10, 2016

NOON

AT THE HOME OF

GINA ISAZIGA

476 SALTER COURT

GLASSBORO, NJ 08028

PLEASE BRING FINGER FOODS

RSVP 850-814-5373

BY JANUARY 7TH

REGISTERED AT:

TARGET AND BABY'S-R-US

## End of Year Gifts

Several have recently made "end of the year" gifts to our Expansion/Capital Improvement Fund. This is a great way to honor or memorialize a friend or family member. If you would like to make an end of the year donation, there are forms available in the church foyer. Also, this is a great time to help us "close the budget gap" with end of the year donations. Several individuals have indicated that they are planning to do that. May their giving inspire others to give generously. That is what Paul did with the church in Corinth. He used one church, one set of Christians, to inspire another church, and another set of Christians (2 Cor. 8-9).

## Men's Prayer Time Over the Holidays



While some who normally attend our men's prayer times will be traveling and/or with families, other men will have extra time off, why not take advantage of extra time off to pray with other brothers. We meet in the Conference Room at the church building.

### Prayer Schedule

Tuesdays at 10:00 AM (Meeting on Dec. 22 & 29)

Fridays at 6:45 AM (Not meeting on Dec. 25 & Jan. 1)

Saturday at 8:00 AM (Meeting on Dec. 26 & Jan. 2)

## Man to Men

Our new Sunday morning men's Bible class, **Man to Men**, has moved into the Chapel because we needed more space. Some of our older, more experienced brothers will share what they have learned on their Christian walk that may be of benefit to other brothers in Christ. Dan shared four observations/insights the last two weeks, and Horatio Fenton will be sharing his insights the next two Sundays. Men, get out of bed, get yourself where God would want you to be. Get yourself to the church on time to hear Horatio sharing his wisdom and insights. Join us for coffee and bagels from 8:30 to 8:55 the next two Sundays, then join us for this new class at 9:00 AM promptly.

## Winterfest!

To Teens & Parent of Teens: Winterfest money is due on December 16th or 20th. Please give the payment to Tim.

To our Church Family. If you are interested in supporting or partially supporting a teen for Winterfest please see Tim. The cost for Winterfest is \$165.00



**Our next Family Promise Host Week is January 17th-24th.**

**WE NEED OUR MEMBERS TO HELP MAKE THIS A SUCCESSFUL WEEK FOR OUR GUESTS!**

Many volunteer positions are still open.

Please see the clipboards in the foyer to sign up for open slots.

If you have any questions, please contact Mary Collier at 215-888-0646.

For your future planning, here are the dates for the rest of the Host Weeks for 2016. Please mark your calendars now!

April 17th-24th  
July 10th-17th  
October 16th-23rd

## Ministry Opportunity!



The **Bread of Life Ministry** is an important way that we welcome our visitors. **Mary Collier** is looking for individuals who will commit for one month out of each

year to either bake bread or hand out bread at the end of the worship service. (You don't have to commit to both, but you can if you'd like to!) Please sign up at the Information Center. If you have questions, please feel free to contact Mary at 215-888-0646.



## Response to the Invitation

**Barbara Robinson** responded to the invitation this past Sunday, asking the church to pray for her, as she is in intense pain with sciatica issues that have been on-going, as well as a severe pain in her side. Between these two issues, she needed a walker to get around on Sunday. Please pray for her, and her on-going pain, but also pray for her as she is the primary care giver for her dad.

**Derek Davis** also came forward to request prayers for grace in difficult family relationships.

**Desmond Morris** responded to the invitation on Sunday, December 6; he asked for prayers that he would have the grace to forgive himself.

## Thank You for Blessing Us!

To You Our Church Family,

We were overwhelmed by your presence at the luncheon held for us on November 29th. Your words of affection, affirmation, and appreciation humbled our hearts. We have been members of this congregation since 1972 and chose you, our church family, to become the most important focal point in our lives. Many of you and others who have gone on before us have helped us raise and train our three sons. It has been a blessing and an honor to serve you. We will forever hold each of you in our hearts and prayers.

*-Melva and Tom*

## Free Used Car

Do you need a car? One of our families is willing to donate a 1997 Mercedes to any person/family who needs one. Please call the office if you or someone you know is in need. Members of our congregation will be given the first opportunity to respond, then others are invited. This car does need a little work. "First come, first served."

**MERRY  
CHRISTMAS**

AND A HAPPY NEW YEAR!

*From the Office Staff at  
Pitman Road  
Church of Christ*

## This Week's Prayer Requests

**Praises:** We are thankful for all the work that our children, their parents, and Diana Hutchinson have put into the musical production "HIStory."

### Prayers Requested:

**Rachel Stetser** will have mastectomy surgery on January 29th.

**Glynn Durham** has been diagnosed with stomach cancer. After some additional testing, surgery will be scheduled.

**Barbara Perry** has been in the hospital most of this past week, she is awaiting test results.

**Monet Darisow**, Lucy Fair's granddaughter, severe case of lupus.

**Edith Ott**, JoAnn Ruhland's mother, 93 years old, in hospice care, and not doing well.

**Emily Penn**, 28 year old coworker of Tina Broyles, has been diagnosed with non-Hodgkin's lymphoma.

**Carmen Ostroff**, sister of Gloria Meyerson, recovering from bypass surgery.

**Alana Peterson**, recovering well from surgery.

**Joanne Darah** requests our continued prayers for her recovery. She is improving slowly.

**Marty Harrison**, Linda Prenger's sister, just diagnosed with cancer.

**Constantine Bailey**, Jackie Fenton's dad, was released from the hospital to go home. He has prostate cancer and kidney failure.

**Gwen Phillip**, chemo treatments.

**Larry Point**, Parkinson's Disease.

**Gladys Isaziga**, Carlos' mom, chemotherapy.

**Charles Busch**, moved out of ICU, slowly improving.

**William Bartley**, prayers for post-concussion syndrome.

**Debbie Contravo** requests prayers for her health, finances, and family.

**April Sykes** sustained a concussion after a bad fall and is not able to work at this time.

**Yvette Kenner**, severe back pain.

**Lynne Sbaraglia**, recovering from an auto accident.

**Trudy Michael**, stage 4 uterine cancer.

**Nancy Calabro**, numerous health concerns.

### Military:

**Andrew Holden** at West Point.

**Doug Peterson III**, deployed with Air Force

### Expecting:

**Tim and Paige Holmes**, January

**Tyler and Katherine Steffy**, January

### Engaged:

**Sean Fenton & Rebekah Lucien**, April 16, 2016

**Mallory Perine & Brandon Keeks**, September 17, 2016

### Traveling:

**Paul Stanford**

## Our Ministers

### Evangelist

**Dan Cooper**.....dcooper@coChrist.org

### Minister

**Carlos Isaziga** .....cisaziga@coChrist.org

### Visitation Minister

**Glynn Durham** .....gdurham1@coChrist.org

## Office Staff

**Dottie Grillo**..... dgrillo@coChrist.org

**Annette Perine** ..... annette.perine@gmail.com

## Our Elders

**Mike Broyles**..... mbroyles777@gmail.com

**Horatio Fenton** ..... HoratioFenton@comcast.net

**Greg Krinks** ..... 856-881-2039, hm  
..... Greg.Linda.Krinks@gmail.com

**Mike Lazar** .....teacher.engineer@comcast.net

**Dave Perine** ..... davidt.perine@comcast.net

**Larry Point**..... 856-769-0836  
..... lawrencepoint@helmerlegal.com

**Dwight Thompson** ..... 609-561-8561, hm  
..... 609-287-0109, cell  
..... DOTHompson@comcast.net

## Our Deacons

**Bud Britton**..... Grounds Maintenance

**Derrick Busch** ..... Young Adults

**Tim Davis** ..... Teens

**Tony DeStefano** ..... Body Life & Fellowship

**Matt Downing** ..... Worship

**Glynn Durham** ..... LIFE Groups

**Darren Fields** ..... Greeters Ministry

**Brian Holden** ..... Special Activities; Body Life

**Garth Hutchinson** ..... Local Evangelism

**Larry Kellum, Jr.** ..... Caring & Sharing

**Brian Mansdoerfer** .Building Maintenance; Jr. Worship

**Chuck Olley** ..... Teens

**Aaron Pearl** ..... Youth

**John Peoples** ..... New Member Involvement

**Steve Pierre-Jacques** .....  
..... Audio Visual; Information Technology; Website

**Jay Schneider** ..... Serving Our Seniors

**Carl Steiner** ..... World Evangelism

**Manny Vander Vennen** .....  
..... Church Directory, Kids for Christ

## Sunday Schedule

9:00 AM Bible Classes

10:00 AM Worship

## Wednesday Night Schedule

5:30-6:30 PM Meal

7:00-7:45 PM Bible Classes

7:45 PM Fellowship

## Last Week

Bible Class	152
Worship	237
LIFE Groups	135
Wednesday	68
Contribution	\$8,572.00
Fiscal YTD Goal	\$253,440.00
Contribution YTD	\$241,425.00
Under Budget	(\$12,015.00)

## Serving Us Today

Nursery	Elinda Hunter
Kids For Christ	Tina Broyles
Jr. Worship	Brian Mansdoerfer
Hall Monitor: Bible Class	<b>Volunteer Needed</b>
Hall Monitor: Worship	<b>Volunteer Needed</b>
Greeters: Front Entrance	Derrick & Brenda Busch
Greeters: Back Entrance	Anthony & Gwen Phillip
Ushers	Glynn Durham & Nafeez Kleineweber
Information Center	Debby Durham
Shepherd's Call	Mike Lazar
Song Leader	Dwight Thompson
Communion	Waverly Hale

## L.I.F.E. Group Locations Today

Group	Location	Contact
Brook Besor	Not Meeting	
Circle of Sisters	Prenger's, Tuesday at 7PM	856-689-7932
Convenience Group	HIStory at 11 AM	
Hammonton Group	HIStory at 11 AM	
Men's Bible Study	Not meeting.	
Paracletes	HIStory at 11 AM	
Silver Linings	Cooper's at 1PM	856-589-4197
Solid Gold	HIStory at 11 AM	
Teens	HIStory at 11 AM	
Vineland	HIStory at 11 AM	
Women in the Word	Church Bldg., Tues.at 9:45AM	856-589-1500
Young Adults	HIStory at 11 AM	

## Wednesday Night Meal

Cook: **NO MEAL THIS WEEK**

Menu:

## Elder on Call:

November/December: Larry Point



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