

January 15, 2017 Volume 33, Issue 03

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Just

Today we kick off our 2017 focus, believing that focusing on Jesus will bring a life of a life of deeper meaning, stronger faith, and closeness with God like never before.

From Daniel's Den

Dan's 2017 Resolutions...

Resolutions do not work! If they did, I'd weigh 600 pounds less than I weigh, because every year for the last 30 years, I have resolved to lose 20 pounds! Still, this is a perfect time to refocus and re-commit.

- 1. A commitment to move beyond the inward drift in our church. It does not take long for a church to lose its outward focus.
- 2. A commitment to renew my attitude. Ministering to a church is tough. Church members can be critical and demanding. But God has called us to serve in the messiness of life and people. We all can use renewal of our attitude toward others and towards our life situation.
- 3. A commitment to become a more grateful leader. It can be natural to focus on the negative, the naysayers, and nitpickers. But I need to turn to prayer and ask for supernatural help in focusing on all the blessings. A review of Philippians 4:8 is due.
- 4. **A commitment to be a leader of greater faith and courage.** Again, this commitment cannot be realized in my strength and power. But I can do all things through Christ who strengthens me.
- 5. A commitment to be the leader who realizes my family is my first line of ministry. We seek not to fall into the trap of putting family in opposition to church. 1 Tim. 3:5 is a clear reminder that my family is my first line of ministry. I can't be blessed in the totality of my ministry if I am lacking there.
- 6. **A commitment to clear the church of clutter and activities.** By clutter, I mean all the ways we keep our members busy. We are often expecting our members to participate in so many activities that we implicitly discourage them from caring for their families, their health, and their ministries.
- 7. **A commitment to be an Acts 6:4 leader.** If I am not giving focused attention to prayer and the ministry of the Word, I need to get out of ministry. Ministry has become human-powered rather than Godcentered.
- 8. A commitment to center on Jesus Christ. Jesus says that the wise person centers on His word and is building on a solid foundation. The foolish person does not hear His words, and is building on sand (Matt. 7:24-27).

Adapted and borrowed from Dr. Thom Rainer

-Dan Cooper



Dan Cooper aka "Dan, Dan, the Preacherman"

This is a perfect time to refocus and re-commit.



Merle (Glynn) Durham Visitation Minister

A Few Moments with Merle

Bad News...

No one likes to get bad news: You get a letter from the bank that says, "Your bank account is overdrawn." The doctor gives the results of tests: "It's cancer." Your Boss says, "I'm sorry, but we are going to have to let you go." "My husband left me last week, and I don't know what I am going to do." Your battery dies and you just cancelled AAA... ETC.

Bad news. Nothing looks good at this point. You don't know what to do or where to turn.

So you weep. You share your heart with a Christian friend, and he/she weeps with you.

And you pray. But not just to anyone. You pray to your God:

- ...to Elohim, the Creator of Heaven and Earth.
- ...to El Roi, the God Who Sees
- ...to Jehovah-Rapha, the Lord Who Heals
- ...to Jehovah-Jireh, the Lord Will Provide
- ...to Jehovah-Shalom, the Lord is Peace

You know your God is the only One who can make a difference. You know He can provide a good outcome. You know He loves you and cares for you.

And so you continue to pray. With tears.

In your heart you know you are not alone. You feel comforted. You know it is going to be okay. Your God is with you. He has promised never to leave you or abandon you.

You know your God is the only One who can make a difference.

Thank You for Your Generosity



Carla and I would like to thank our church family for participating in the Adopt-a-Family program at the Eleanor Corbett House, a shelter for women and families. As usual, you went above and beyond buying presents for the three adopted families and contributing monetary donations for the Christmas stockings. The shelter could not believe the amount of presents we delivered on December 14th.

A very big THANK YOU goes out to our **teens and Tim & Melody Davis** for organizing a Christmas party for all the parents and children from the shelter on December 17th. A delicious meal was served, games were played and a good time was had by

all. Our hearts were touched watching our teens interact with the families and making them feel welcomed.

We'd also like to thank **Charles Peterson**, **Derek Davis and Garth Hutchinson** for providing transportation to and from the shelter.

All the families commented on what a good time they had and some even mentioned visiting Pitman. Again, thank you so very much. Your generosity touched the hearts of many.

Leza Davis & Carla Clements

Women's Ministry Embark Branch Coordinators

Bus Trip Money Due

For those who are signed up, the money for the bus trip to see *Jonah* at Sight & Sound Theater is due by February 5th. The date of the show is May 20th. The cost is \$98 for adults, \$84 for teens (13-17), and \$64 for children (4-12). The cost includes bus, show, and dinner at



Shady Maple restaurant. Checks should be made out to Pitman Road Church of Christ, please note "Jonah" on the memo line. Money should be given to Brian Holden or put in his mailbox in Dottie's office. If you signed up for the trip but no longer plan to go, please contact Brian Holden and let him know as soon as possible because there are people on standby. PLEASE TURN YOUR MONEY IN BY THE DUE DATE. For additional information please contact Brian Holden at (H) 856-881-6792 (C) 856-759-2542 or e-mail: bcholden94@hotmail.com.



VBS 2017 - Mark Your Calendars!



Patrick Mead Senior Minister Fourth Ave. Church of Christ, Franklin, TN

We are very excited to announce that our Vacation Bible School/Community Enrichment Series 2017 will be held Sunday, July 9th through Wednesday, July 12! Yes, we are returning to the original Sunday-Wednesday format. Our VBS team is beginning to prepare our children's program. More details are to come, and the team will be looking for volunteers to help with the progam. For adults, we are also very excited to announce that Patrick Mead will be our guest speaker! He is well known to many in our congregation, as he is our most frequent guest VBS speaker. If you have not yet had a chance to hear Patrick

speak, you are in for a rich and enlightening message!

Please mark your calendars now because you don't want to miss this! Keep your eyes and ears peeled for more information as it becomes available.







Our Schedule Sunday 9:00 am Bible Classes 10:00 am Worship Wednesday 5:30 pm Meal 7:00 pm Bible Classes Office Hours Tuesday - Friday 8:00 am - 5:00 pm

Last Week	
Bible Class	NA
Worship	151
LIFE Groups	NA
Wednesday	70
Contribution	\$6,934
Fiscal YTD Goal	\$291,536.00
Contribution YTD	\$255,612.00
Budget Deficit	(\$35,924.00)

Kathy Ashton
Robin Stewart
Brian Mansdoerfer
Garth & Diana Hutchinson
Brian & Cindy Holden
Mary Collier & Doryann Seitz
Waverly Hale & Austin Hale
John Peoples
Dwight Thompson
Ron Dargan

Elder on Call for January and February: Mike Broyles

LIFE Group	Location	Contact
Ageless	Cooper's at noon	856-589-4197
Beginning Anew	Church Bldg. at noon	856-589-1500
Brook Besor	Durham's, Thursday at 7pm	856-589-2280
Circle of Sisters	Sbaraglia's Monday at 7pm	856-419-0544
E.H.S.	Church Bldg. rm B4 at noon	856-589-1500
Family of Teens	Church Bldg. FLC at noon	856-589-1500
Hammonton	Broyles' at 5pm	609-561-8532
Men's Bible Study	Church Bldg., Monday at 7pm	856-217-3956
Solid Gold	Lazar's @ 6pm	
Teens	Church Bldg. FLC at noon	856-589-1500
Vineland	H. Pearl's at 6pm	856-839-0051
Women in the Word	Church Bldg. Tuesday at 9:45 am	856-589-1500
Young Adults	Church Bldg. rm B2 at noon	609-226-4031
Young Married	Call or text for time & location	856-899-9466

Wednesday Night Meal: Rigatoni w/ sausage on the side
Cooks: Harriet, Judi, JoAnn

This Week's Prayer Requests

<u>Praise:</u> Giving thanks that Dan's cataract surgery was successful and resulted in 20/20 vision in his left eye! Surgery on right eye next week.

Prayers Requested:

John Grillo has completed three surgeries on his leg. Cancer was found but was contained in the leg and has not spread. As long as all goes well, John will be moved to Manor Care, as early as today, for an extended period of rehabilitation. Please pray for strengthening of the bone to be able to bear weight, and for pain relief.

Mary Collier will be having surgery on her back on January 23. **Glynn Durham**, recovering from chemo, will resume treatment in 2 weeks.

Geraldine Jones, Barbara Robinson's cousin, lung cancer, lesions on the brain, and paralyzed on one side.

Barby Jo Crema, recovering from a full day of treatment at Wills Eye Hospital.

Jim and Clare Hightower are requesting prayers for Clare's nephew, **Brian**, many physical limitations; bacterial pneumonia, on both a respirator and a feeding tube in the Intensive Care Unit.

Beverly Steiner, continues to recover from hip replacement surgery.

New Birth!



Imani Shorter was immersed into Christ on Thursday, January 5th! Imani began visiting Pitman Road earlier in 2016 with Keon Kleineweber. She made a decision to take her next step to meet Jesus after a Young Adult LIFE Group meeting. She and Keon began studying the Bible with Carlos over the summer, which led to her next step of baptism! Congratulations Imani! Welcome to the family of God!

ANNUAL CORPORATE MEETING

As a nonprofit organization, recognized by the state of New Jersey as a tax exempt corporation, the state of NJ mandates that we meet annually. That being the case, our elders have selected the first Sunday of each February as the date for our annual meeting. Please consider this your written notification of our church's annual meeting, traditionally held on Super Bowl Sunday each year. If you are an active member of the Pitman Road Church of Christ, and in good standing, please consider yourself informed and invited of the Pitman Church of Christ's annual corporate meeting, this year on Feb. 5, immediately after morning worship assembly.





