



PITMAN ROAD

CHURCH OF CHRIST

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VBS...I'll Give You 12 Good Reasons!



In 2015, something that has always happened here every year did not happen... we did not have Vacation Bible School! Why? Involvement had been down for several years before, there was no visiting TIME team available, and our teens already had a TIME Team trip to Minnesota planned. So, with many other activi-

ties and events on the church calendar, the leadership felt that it was a good time to give our members a break. The summer arrived, and suddenly, we all felt a huge hole in our summer plans!

Last year, we resumed VBS, but tried something different. We called on our own members, both adults and teens, to coordinate and facilitate our Vacation Bible School program for our children. It was a great success, and this year we will do it again.

But across the country, VBS programs are on the decline. A recent Barna Group study shows a decline of 13 percent. In 1997, 81 percent of churches in the U.S. held VBS; in 2012, that number declined to 68 percent.

Fortunately, we came together to reinvigorate our VBS program. But we will need to continue to put an emphasis on involvement by our members to keep it going. Here are twelve reasons (adapted from an article in the *Gospel Advocate*, and personalized for our congregation) to make Vacation Bible School an important part of what we do here at Pitman Road.

1. ***It is another way to teach our children the Bible.*** VBS can be a fun and engaging way to make the Bible come to life. We can do so much more in VBS than during traditional Bible classes on Sunday morning or Wednesday night.
2. ***It is an opportunity to share Jesus with our children.*** The gospel has the power to change lives. VBS is a great time to talk one on one with a young person about making Jesus real in their life.
3. ***It is an occasion to be with, and get to know the children in our congregation.*** Our young people are terrific! VBS gives us a chance to spend time with them, influence them, and be rejuvenated by them. They encourage, edify, and lift *us* up! If we want the church to grow, we need to invest in our children with our time and talents.
4. ***It gives our children something to do, and an opportunity to get together.*** There are very few biblically based activities for our children, or programs where our children are with adults who we trust with our children's spiritual welfare. VBS also helps to make church a fun place for children—a place they love, enjoy, and want to experience.

5. ***It's a way for our children to be with their friends or children from other congregations.*** We have a "freeway" congregation—our members don't necessarily live near one another. During VBS, it gives our children extended time to spend together. It's a good opportunity to invite area congregations to our VBS, and then return the favor by attending theirs.

6. ***It's a chance to help our children mature in the faith.*** Even when our children have already become Christians, attending VBS can strengthen their faith and prepare them to share their faith with others.

7. ***VBS is not just for children.*** We know this at Pitman Road! Every year, we invite engaging guest speakers for our adults and teens, providing a time of enrichment and an opportunity to re-energize. This year, one of our favorite speakers, **Patrick Mead**, will be here!

8. ***It's an opportunity to build unity in the church.*** There's probably some way, large or small, for all of us to work together to support VBS. Whether you teach, decorate, provide admin support and registration, bring cookies, set up snacks, clean up, invite guests, or something else, you can be a valuable member of the team. Working together is rewarding and unifying!

9. ***It's a great community outreach program.*** There used to be great competition around here between our children to see who could bring the most friends to VBS! Please encourage your children to invite friends. You too! We have flyers at the Welcome Center for you to hand out.

10. ***It's a powerful evangelistic tool.*** When we bring guests, or when visitors from our community attend, there is great opportunity to offer Bible studies to those who have become more curious about what God's Word has to say.

11. ***It is an opportunity to find and develop new talent within the congregation.*** It's amazing how many talented people surface during VBS. People who do not normally get involved with children's ministry have a chance to get their feet wet without committing to teaching for a whole quarter. Also, there are other ways during VBS to get involved and spend time with our children that don't come up during the rest of the year.

12. ***VBS can be taken on the road and become a tremendous mission effort.*** We've seen this first hand as our own teens have gone on many TIME (Teens In Mission Experience) Trips, both locally, and in many states, and even on Native American reservations. It's a great training ground for our young people.

We hope to see YOU at our VBS on July 9-12!

NEW ADULT BIBLE CLASSES BEGIN TODAY!
See the bulletin boards at the entrances for classes and locations.

Our Mission

Meet others where they are and together be transformed into the image of Christ.

From Daniel's Den

Ugly Face

It was not a big ugly mark on my face when I first saw it. It was only a little, barely noticeable discoloration near the bridge of my nose! I noticed it when I stopped wearing glasses. So, I went to the dermatologist and she said, "I want to take a biopsy of one place on your head and this one place on your face," pointing to two different spots. One spot turned out to be nothing serious, but the other spot, the one near the bridge of my nose, she ultimately diagnosed as skin cancer. Or, if you want the official diagnosis she called it "invasive basal cell carcinoma."

Well, the procedure left my face looking like a casualty of war. Or just as bad, it left me looking like I'd been in a boxing match with "Smokin' Joe Frazier," and I lost! My left eye was swollen shut, it was black and blue, and I had an incision about 3 inches long!

But, this too shall pass! The wound will heal, God willing; and my face will once again look...well, not necessarily handsome, but it will look like my face again! I am claiming 2 Corinthians 4:16...***For this momentary, light affliction is producing in me an eternal weight of glory far beyond all comparison.***

Ugliness happens. Stuff happens. As Derrick Busch reminds us from time to time, "We're all messed up!" And I might add, some of us are "really messed up." My face is really messed up at this moment. So messed up that I decided not to meet and greet visitors last Sunday. And, I've decided not to do any hospital visitation this week to avoid infection.

But, this "light affliction" is nothing to compare to the "eternal weight of glory, far beyond all comparison." It's all about perspective. You have affliction. I have affliction. Some of us, to be sure, have more affliction than others. But, God's word assures us that any affliction we suffer here is intended to produce in me an eternal weight of glory far beyond all comparison.

-Heaven Will Surely Be Worth It All, ***Dan the Preacherman***



Dan Cooper
aka
"Dan, Dan,
the Preacherman"

For this momentary, light affliction is producing in me an eternal weight of glory far beyond all comparison.

-2 Corinthians 4:16



Carlos Isaziga
twitter @carlosisaziga

We all have different talents and abilities and the Lord would love for you to use them to help those far from God to know Him.

Carlos' Corner

20 WAYS TO GET INVOLVED AT PITMAN ROAD CHURCH

Are you looking for some ways to get more involved at Pitman Road? Well, here's a list of some out of the ordinary things you could do but that would make a big difference.

1. Escort first time parents and kids to their classrooms.
2. Lead a small group of teenagers.
3. Hand out bulletins as people enter the auditorium.
4. Wear a neon vest and help park cars when there is bad weather.
5. Work from home to prepare craft projects for children.
6. Be part of the security team.
7. Help create audio and video content on the web.
8. Go through some tech training and work on the tech team.
9. Take pictures at special events.
10. Provide snacks and drinks for other volunteers.
11. Pray for the church service during the church service.
12. Rock babies during the church service so parents can go to church.
13. Volunteer for the up coming VBS.
14. Teach or volunteer in our Sunday morning Children's Ministry.
15. Help guests feel welcome by serving in the Sunday morning refreshment ministry.
16. Volunteer to set up and clean up at fellowship events.
17. Bake bread for the Welcome Ministry.
18. Pull weeds in our landscape beds.
19. Invite a visitor to lunch.
20. Bring out the trash.

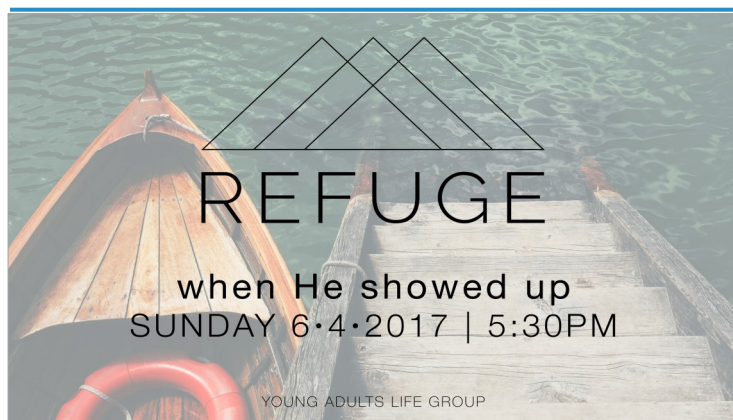
Are you uniquely skilled or passionate about any of these things? Do any of these things sound interesting to you? We all have different talents and abilities and the Lord would love for you to use them to help those far from God to know Him.

"For by the grace given me I say to every one of you: Do not think of yourself more highly than you ought, but rather think of yourself with sober judgment, in accordance with the faith God has distributed to each of you. For just as each of us has one body with many members, and these members do not all have the same function, so in Christ we, though many, form one body, and each member belongs to all the others."

-Romans 12: 3-5

Grace & truth, **Carlos**

TONIGHT! Everyone is Welcome!



Can you think of a time in your life when you could feel God moving? Is there a time He showed up for you? At tonight's REFUGE, you will have an opportunity to share your stories. We can't wait to hear what you have to share!

As always, come as you are, and all are welcome! There will be coffee, cookies, and other refreshments and time to catch up with one another at 5:30, and the praise and sharing time will begin at 6:30. We'd love to see you there!

An Update from India

Nomoshkar Church! (Hello in Bengali)

I hope everyone has been well at home! India has been amazing, and I can hardly believe time has flown by so quickly.

This past week our team finally met with Durbar (the sex workers collaborative we'll be working with), and orientation at Durbar has been more challenging than I had expected or prepared for. In Kolkata, the poverty and homelessness are great. The lack of social knowledge outside of India is limited, and there is a clear divide between the "haves" and the "have nots." It's been inspiring to witness how an agency of sex workers have come together to better and support themselves despite their circumstances, and even more inspiring to learn how our perceptions of sex work is different from how they see their work.

Despite this overwhelmingness, some other pretty amazing things have happened. Your love and support has inspired me to share my journey with Christ, and I've spoken of how wonderful Pitman has been with the other students in my group. These intimate conversations have sparked an interest and curiosity in some, and lead us in conversations about how the great God's love is. Others have even asked me to sing some of the songs and hymns we sing at Refuge. It's amazing how so many have opened their hearts.

I've also met a family that lives in another part of Kolkata. They've been very kind but I've struggled in our interactions, because they live on the street. Collectively, their family comprises of three generations, and there's about 10 or more children. I've grown quite fond of them, and I try to visit them as frequently as possible. When I see them, we usually share lunch. I'm hoping they will share their story with me in time, so I can share their amazing hearts with you.

I plan on writing more about my orientation at Durbar, and the work I'll be doing more specifically during the remainder of time I'm here. So, please keep in touch at andeanabarefield.wixsite.com/withbarelove. I'll see you all soon!

With love, **Andreana**

Be a Part of VBS Success!

Come to the volunteer training session on Saturday, June 10, from 9:30 to 11:30 am in the chapel. Teach a Bible lesson, lead games, prepare snacks, lead a crew, register children, or build sets and decorations. All talents and abilities are needed!

The VBS decorating crew will be working on Wednesday evenings from 7pm to 8pm in the Family Life Center from June 7 through July 5. Helpers welcome!



**American
Red Cross**

**THIS Friday,
June 9
2:00 - 7:00 pm**

"Give the Gift of Life" at our semi-annual blood drive. Appointments are preferred, but not required.

Sign up at the Welcome Center
or go to www.redcrossblood.org
and enter "Pitman Road"
in the "Find a Blood Drive" search box.



**NEXT SUNDAY
JUNE 11 at 12:30 pm
in the CHAPEL
Something new for us!**

On THE DAY OF PENTECOST, an international audience heard, each in their native languages, Jesus' disciples proclaim a message miraculously enabled by the Holy Spirit.

We will celebrate the day of Pentecost in Acts 2 through Bible reading and singing in many languages. The celebration will be followed by a light lunch and time of discussion.

We are also seeking volunteers to read 2-3 verses of Acts 2 in another language, and singers interested in learning some new songs in advance.

Please RSVP/sign up at the Welcome Center, or contact:

Bethany Schneider 856-264-9485, Jay Schneider 856-449-9656

Please invite someone! Invitation flyers are available at the Welcome Center for you to hand out.

Join us for
A Baby Shower Tea Party
in honor of
Brenda Busch

Sunday, July 16, 2017 at Noon

Please RSVP to Jackie Fenton • horatiofenton@comcast.net
or Melody Davis • tmdaviszoo@comcast.net

If you would like to bring food to the shower,
please contact Melody Davis for menu information.

Is it a boy?... Is it a girl?...

Brenda and Derrick choose to be surprised!

Brenda is registered at Buy Buy Baby and Target

*Bring an unwrapped package of diapers
and be entered into a raffle!*

Our Schedule

Sunday

9:00 am Bible Classes
10:00 am Worship

Wednesday

7:00 pm Bible Classes

Office Hours

Tuesday - Friday
8:00 am - 5:00 pm

Last Week

Bible Class	87
Worship	217
LIFE Groups	NA
Wednesday	5th Wednesday
Contribution	\$6,168
Weekly Goal	\$10,412

This Week's Prayer Requests

The monthly prayer list of long-term, ongoing prayer requests for June is now available as an insert in this week's bulletin, also next to the bulletin in the lobby, and will be sent out via email. New, urgent, and immediate prayer requests will appear in the bulletin. If you do not see your recent, ongoing, prayer request here, it was moved to the ongoing list.

Praise: John Grillo is exceeding all expectation in his rehabilitation. He was able to walk with his prosthesis assisted only by canes! He isn't able to do this at home on his own yet, but he has great hope for the future!

Prayers Requested:

John Goodman is experiencing some undefined health issues; doctors thought it was pulmonary edema, but it is not, and they are baffled. Please pray for a diagnosis.

Nancy Smith has returned to Eagle View Health and Rehab. She is receiving therapy to help her regain strength and walk. She is still weak and sometimes confused.

Harry Steward is in Manor Care recovering from breathing problems.

Frank Sheehan is experiencing more pain than expected as he recovers at home from spinal surgery; he is scheduled for lung surgery on June 14.

Barbara Robinson will have to have several more procedures for bulging discs and sciatica.

Ministers

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..... dothompson@comcast.net

Elder on Call for June: Brian Holden

Serving Us Today

Nursery	Robin Steward
Kids For Christ	Carla Clements
Jr. Worship	Brian Mansdoerfer
Greeters: Front Entrance	Derrick & Brenda Busch
Greeters: Back Entrance	Corny & Phyllis Walker
Information Center	Mary Collier
Ushers	Lee Collier & Adam Cirquoni
Shepherd's Call	Garth Hutchinson
Song Leader	Dwight Thompson
Communion	Harold Pearl

Find Us on Social Media:

 @pitmanroadcoc  www.facebook.com/pitmanroadchurchofchrist  @pitmanroadchurch

Thank You



A very loud shout out of thanks goes to all those who helped make our annual Memorial Day Picnic a success! Special thanks to **Tony & Stephanie DeStefano** and **Larry & Lisa Peterson** for coordinating the event and working hard to make it a great day. We also thank the

master grill cooks, **Anthony DeStefano**, **Tim Davis**, and **Ray Holmes**, for the countless burgers and dogs they grilled for many hungry people! Thank you to **Logan Davis**, **Zack**, **Wesley**, **Clay**, and **Luke Olley** for help setting up the FLC as well as assisting at the grills. Thank you to **Hope Destefano**, **Diamandi Roots**, and **Harriet Wensel** for working in the kitchen. Thank you **Brian Mansdoerfer** for helping with the tents. Thank you to **Ray Wilson** for being on set up and clean up duty. And thank you to **John and Brenda Peoples** for hanging in there to the very end of clean up time...Brenda even mopped the floor! And thanks to the many who pitched in along the way. Our fellowship activities don't happen by themselves, they take a whole crew!

Area Wide Event

The North Clinton Avenue Church of Christ, at 411 N. Clinton Ave., Trenton, NJ, invites you to their **Spring Gospel Meeting**. On Saturday, June 10 at 3:00 pm, there will be a concert, **"Celebrating the Sound of Acapella."** On Sunday, June 11: Sunday School at 9:45 am, Worship at 11:00 am & 3:00 pm. Monday, June 12 - Thursday, June 15: Gospel Meeting at 7:30 pm. The theme for the series is **"And Jesus Said..." -Matthew 5:2**. The guest speaker will be **Bro. David Williams** of the Kings Church of Christ, Brooklyn, NY. For more information, contact the North Clinton Ave. church at 609-393-1907.

You are invited to the West Atco Youth in Action Skating Party

Sunday, June 25 at 4:00-6:00 pm

Deptford Skating Center

510 Deptford Ave.
Westville, NJ 08093



\$10 per person includes skating and Funzone
\$4.65 + tax for skate rental
\$3.00 for pizza and soda combo

For information and tickets please call 856-753-3790.