



## Why Should We Celebrate Black History Month?



*This article is adapted from thewitnessbcc.com, written by Jemar Tisby, and published on January 31, 2018.*

February is Black History Month. While not everyone agrees Black History Month is a good thing, there are several reasons why I think it's appropriate to celebrate this occasion.

**The History of Black History Month:** Briefly, the advent of Black History Month originally began as Negro History Week in 1926, during the second week of February because it coincided with the birthdates of Frederick Douglass and Abraham Lincoln. Carter G. Woodson, a Harvard-trained historian is credited with the creation of Negro History Week.

In 1976, President Gerald R. Ford expanded it to a month. He said the country needed to "seize the opportunity to honor the too-often neglected accomplishments of black Americans in every area of endeavor throughout our history."

**Objections to Black History Month:** Black History Month has been the subject of criticism from both Blacks and people of other races. Some argue it is unfair to devote an entire month to a single group of people. Others contend that we should celebrate Black history throughout the entire year. Setting aside only one month, they say, gives people license to neglect this past for the other 11 months.

I believe some good can come from devoting a season to remembering a people who have made priceless deposits into the account of our nation's history. **Here are five reasons why we should celebrate Black History Month:**

**1. It Honors the Historic Leaders of the Black Community:** I lived in Jackson, Mississippi, the site of many significant events in Black History. I once heard Myrlie Evers, wife of slain Civil Rights leader Medgar Evers, speak at the Governor's Prayer Luncheon. It's common to see James Meredith, the first African American student at Ole Miss, around town. Heroes like these deserve to be honored for the sacrifice and suffering they endured for the sake of racial equality. Black History Month gives us pause to remember their stories, and commemorate their achievements.

**2. It Helps Us to Be Better Stewards of the Privileges We've Gained:** Several years spent teaching middle school students impaled me with the reality that if we don't tell the old, old stories, then the next generation will forget them. It pained me to have to explain the significance of the Harlem Renaissance and the Tuskegee Airmen to children who had never learned of such events, and the men and women who took part in them.

My students and so many others (including me) take for granted

the rights that many people before them sweated, bled, and died to secure. Apart from an awareness of the past, we can never appreciate the blessings we enjoy in the present.

**3. It Provides an Opportunity to Highlight the Best of Black History & Culture:** All too often, only the most negative aspects of African American culture and communities get highlighted. We hear about the poverty rates, incarceration rates, and high school dropout rates. We are daily subject to unfair stereotypes and assumptions from a culture that is, in some aspects, still learning to accept us.

Black History Month provides the chance to focus on different aspects of our narrative as African Americans. We can applaud Madam C.J. Walker as the first self-made female millionaire in the U.S. We can let our eyes flit across the poetry of Phyllis Wheatley, the first African American poet and woman to publish a book. We can groove to jazz and blues music composed by the likes of Miles Davis and Robert Johnson. Black History Month spurs us to seek out and lift up the best in African American accomplishments.

**4. Celebrating Creates Awareness for All People:** In my 8th grade history textbook, little more than a page was devoted to the Civil Rights Movement. I remember my shock as a Christian to learn about the formation of the African Methodist Episcopal (A.M.E.) Church, because in all my years in churches and Christian schools, no one had ever mentioned it.

It seems that apart from an intentional effort, Black history is often lost in the mists of time. When we observe Black History Month, we give citizens of all races the opportunity to learn about a past and people of which they may have little awareness.



Tuskegee Airmen

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## Our Mission

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

# From Daniel's Den

## How do you respond when people ask you for money?

If you are like me, it depends who is asking, and why they are asking! Is that the way it is for you? Who is asking, why do they need money, and where are they going?

Spring break is a big thing on college and university campuses in this country. More often than not, when we see stories of spring break vacations for college kids, we're watching a bunch of rowdy young adults acting out, half naked, and totally drunk on some beach in Florida or Mexico. Right?

So imagine how thrilled I was last week when Katherine and I received a letter from one of our congregation's college students (who attends a Christian university) asking us to donate money for his spring break mission trip. Yes, you read it right! Spend a spring break serving! He is planning to spend his spring break on a mission trip with other college students! He is going to Kayenta, Arizona, which is part of the Navajo Nation. He says, "I will be sharing my faith with the people in Kayenta." How could we say no?

There are so many reasons that I love Christian colleges and universities. Opportunities in the classrooms, opportunities on campus, and wonderful opportunities for our young adults to become involved in mission work in different parts of the country and different parts of the world. Not only does our church want to "Make a Difference" right here in South Jersey, we are also thrilled to see our young adults determined to "Make a Difference" when they head off to pursue higher education.

So did we send a check? You bet we did! And next time you want to go on a mission trip, send us a letter asking for our financial support, and we will do what we can to help you. I believe in the "Great Commission" (Matt. 28:18-20), and if I cannot "go," I want to help "send."

*-Dan the Preaching, Teaching, and Sending, Preacherman*



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

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**Derrick Busch**  
Minister

By His own will  
and purpose,  
God gave the  
ultimate gift...

## We're All A Mess

### Brief Devotional Thoughts...

Our God is an Awesome God! By His own will and purpose, God sought and rescued you and me from the powers and control of the kingdom of darkness with a love that transforms the heart (Romans 5:8, Colossians 1:13, 1 John 4:19). By His own will and purpose, God has blessed believers in Jesus Christ with the confirmation above all confirmations: the indwelling Holy Spirit that confirms that we belong to the Lord and that we are heirs of God and fellow-heirs with Christ (Romans 8:9, Romans 8:15-17). By His will and purpose, our awesome God has set us free from the fear of death as we wholeheartedly abide and rest in Christ's finished work (Hebrews 2:14-15, 1 Corinthians 15:55-57). By His own will and purpose, God has allowed believers in Jesus Christ to trade-in every anxiety, and replaces them with the peace of God and much more as we surrender ourselves to God in earnest prayer with requests that are wrapped in thanksgiving (Philippians 4:6-7). By His own will and purpose, God gave the ultimate gift and met the ultimate need of all mankind by sending His one and only Son to redeem mankind and give us eternal life (John 3:16). REJOICE!

As I think about God's loving rescue, the confirmation of the Holy Spirit, the freedom from the fear of death, the freedom from all anxieties, and the gift of eternal life, I can only sing, "Our God is an Awesome God." What thoughts come to your mind as you meditate on these truths?

*-Derrick*

## Black History Month ...continued from page 1

### 5. Celebrating Reminds Us All that Black History Is OUR History:

It pains me to see people overlooking Black History Month because Black history (just like Hispanic, Asian, European, and Native history) belongs to ALL of us — black and white, men and women, young and old. The impact African Americans have made on this country is part of our collective consciousness. Contemplating Black History draws people of every race into the grand and diverse story of this nation.

### Why Christians in Particular Should Celebrate Black History Month:

As a believer, I see racial and ethnic diversity as an expression of God's manifold beauty. No single race or its culture can comprehensively display the infinite glory of God's image, so he gave us our differences to help us appreciate his splendor

from various perspectives.

God's common and special grace even work themselves out in the providential movement of a particular race's culture and history. We can look back on the brightest and darkest moments of our past and see God at work. He's weaving an intricate tapestry of events that climax in the life, death, and resurrection of Jesus Christ.

And one day Christ will return. And on that day, we will all look back at the history — not just of a single race, but of people from every nation, tribe, and tongue — and see that our Creator had a plan all along. He is writing a story that points to his glory, and in the new creation, his people won't have a month set aside to remember his greatness. We'll have all eternity.





## \$10,000 Matching Gifts Challenge

This exciting news just confirmed...

Three families are offering a matching gifts challenge to help us reduce the mortgage debt on our church building. Between now and June

30, all memorial/honor gifts given to our Capital Fund will be doubled and used to pay down the mortgage.



The challenge is being extended to us by three different families, each connected to us in a different way. One family is currently members of our congregation, another family is former members of our congregation, and the third family is neither; they have watched and been blessed by our church for years.

All memorial/honor donations received from now until June 30 will be matched **dollar for dollar**. If we collect the entire \$10,000, we can reduce our mortgage by an additional \$20,000!

I am so excited about this unique opportunity. If you would like to honor or to memorialize a friend or family member, simply use one of our forms provided at the Welcome Center; drop it in the collection plate or give it to Dottie. No gift is too small. Everyone can do something to help us reduce our debt, and at the same time extend honor to someone. The family of the person memorialized, or the person/people you honor will receive a letter informing them of the donation in their name. This makes a great birthday or anniversary gift (especially for people "who have everything"), and helps our church at the same time! **-Dan**

## Give Us Some Good News!

**Briana Peoples** was part of a team from Williamstown High School that won 2nd Place in the NJ DECA Regional Conference in the Instructional Area/Business Services Marketing. They will be moving on to the state level competition!



**Steve Musso** celebrated his 85th birthday last Sunday! **Happy Birthday Steve!** Steve will be staying a Lincoln Specialty Care for the foreseeable future; please see the prayer list for his contact info if you would like to send him a birthday card or encouraging note.

Valentine's Day was the perfect day for the engagement of **Keon Kleinweber and Imani Shorter**. We haven't heard news of a wedding date yet, but in the meantime, keep this sweet young couple in your prayers as they prepare to begin their life together. **Congratulations Keon and Imani!**



## THIS SATURDAY!!!



Women's

*Movie* Matinee  
and Ministry Meeting

Saturday, February 24

Join us for an afternoon of fellowship!

**12:30 - 1:30 pm Women's Ministry Meeting (Chapel)** All women are welcome to attend. Please come and share your dreams and visions for our Pitman Road Women's Ministry

**1:30 - 2:00 pm Fellowship, Popcorn and Snacks (Lobby)**

**2:00 - 4:00 pm Movie: *Wonder* (Auditorium)**

**Bring a Friend! The movie and snacks are FREE and the fellowship will be PRICELESS!**

## NEXT SUNDAY!



Prayer Groups and Prayer Partners are forming soon for a 3-month journey in March, April, May 2018

Please join us for an informational meeting (no obligation) on

**Sunday, February 25**, in the Chapel, immediately after the worship service.

### Testimony of Brenda Busch:

"I can't say enough about the blessings that come from praying together with other sisters in Christ! Praying together gives me the opportunity to grow in love for my sisters by sharing their burdens and having them share in mine. It helps me to understand just how much we all have in common, and allows me to both extend and receive the love and grace of God. It also encourages me when I see God's answers to prayer in my own life and in the lives of my sisters."

Questions? Please contact:

**Brenda Busch:** 646-258-5031 or **Diana Hutchinson:** 856-381-9095

## Children's Ministry Workers Needed

You can make a difference in the lives of young children here at Pitman Road. Help them meet Jesus, move into family and learn to make their own difference by teaching a Sunday morning Bible class. Curriculum and teaching resources are provided. You can support our families with babies and toddlers by volunteering to supervise playtime in the nursery during the Sunday morning service. Bible class teachers are needed for spring quarter and nursery attendants are needed immediately in February. Please contact **Robin Steward** at 856-264-9003 or [robinsteward2002@yahoo.com](mailto:robinsteward2002@yahoo.com) to work in this fun and rewarding ministry.



## Our Schedule

### Sunday

9:00 am Bible Classes  
10:00 am Worship

### Wednesday

7:00 pm Bible Classes

### Office Hours

Tuesday - Friday  
8:30 am - 4:30 pm

## Last Week

Bible Class	129
Worship	199
LIFE Groups	122
Wednesday	41

## This Week's Prayer Requests

**Praise:** As of last Sunday, Matthew, the young man Julie Church requested prayer for, was out of his coma, sitting up and talking to visitors. Julie says, "Praise God, and continue to pray for him to overcome his addictions and to make wise choices."

**Sunday Morning Response:** Also a praise, **Jonathan Steward** wanted to thank the congregation for their prayers for his dad, **Harry Steward**, who is now back at home after several weeks in a rehabilitation hospital.

### Prayers:

**For those traveling to and from Winterfest this weekend.**

**Anita O'Hara** recovering from cataract surgery.

**Jacob Theis**, surgery went very well, the surgeon was able to do the less invasive surgery.

**Dwight Thompson** chemotherapy.

**John Goodman** is recovering from shoulder surgery.

**Ray Holmes**, radiation treatment for prostate cancer ongoing.

**Nancy Smith**, in rehab at Cumberland Manor.

**Steve Musso**, in Lincoln Specialty Care (room #128), 1640 South Lincoln Ave., Vineland, NJ 08361. His phone number is: 856-692-8080.

## Ministers

**Dan Cooper**, Evangelist ..... dcooper@cochrist.org  
..... 856-589-4197  
**Derrick Busch**, Minister ..... dbusch@cochrist.org  
..... 267-303-4877

## Office Staff

**Dottie Grillo** ..... dgrillo@cochrist.org  
**Annette Perine** ..... annette.perine@gmail.com

## Elders

**Mike Broyles** ..... mbroyles777@gmail.com  
**Horatio Fenton** ..... horatofenton@comcast.net  
**Brian Holden** ..... bcholden94@hotmail.com  
**Garth Hutchinson** ..... 609-414-2606  
..... grth.hutchinson@gmail.com  
**Mike Lazar** ..... teacher.engineer@comcast.net  
**John Peoples** ..... 609-617-7451  
**Dave Perine** ..... davidt.perine@comcast.net  
**Dwight Thompson** ..... 609-561-8561-home, 609-287-0109-cell  
..... dothompson@comcast.net

**Elder on Call for February: Dwight Thompson**

## Serving Us Today

Nursery	Judi Campbell
Kids For Christ	Manny Vander Vennen
Jr. Worship	Brian Mansdoerfer/Harry Ake
Greeters: Front Entrance	Larry Peterson & Joe Marshall
Greeters: Back Entrance	Frank & Sandy Sheehan
Information Center	Mary Collier
Ushers	Lee Collier & Harold Pearl
Shepherd's Call	Horatio Fenton
Song Leader	Garth Hutchinson
Communion	Harry Ake

LIFE Group	Location	Contact
Ageless	Cooper's at noon	856-589-4197
Brook Besor	Durham's Tuesday at 7 pm	856-589-2280
Circle of Sisters	Sbaraglia's Monday at 7 pm	856-419-0544
Cornerstone	Church Bldg. rm B2 at noon	609-226-4031
Hammonton	TBA	
Life Challenges	Church Bldg. rm B4 at noon	267-303-4877
Men's Bible Study	Church Bldg. Monday at 7 pm	856-217-3956
Solid Gold	Church Bldg. at noon	856-449-9656
Teens	<b>AT WINTERFEST</b>	610-476-9057
Vineland	H. Pearl's at 6 pm	856-839-0051
Women in the Word	Church Bldg. FLC, Tues. 9:45 am	856-981-9754
Young Married	TBA	

**Secret Sister Revealing Party**  
**Saturday, March 3 at 1:00**  
**at the home of**  
**Mary Lea Thompson**



If you are interested in being a Secret Sister this year, please let me know and I will give you a questionnaire to fill out.

Please bring your favorite finger food to the party!

If you are unable to attend the party, please be sure that your gift is given to me or to Mary Lea, so that you are "revealed" to your Secret Sister along with everyone else.

Thank you to all her participated this year and I am looking forward to the new year! Each and everyone one of you is a blessing to me. Love you all, **Dottie**

## Camden Church of Christ Anniversary

**The Camden Church of Christ**  
**lovingly invites you to attend their**  
**35th Anniversary & Homecoming Celebration**  
**on Sunday, March 4, 2018.**

We have been serving the Camden community with the Gospel since the fall of 1982. God has continued to strengthen us for the mission here in Camden and we are moving forward to fulfill His vision. We want to celebrating His grace, deliverance, and provision in keeping our congregation for the past 35 years.

On Sunday March 4, we will conduct our morning worship service at 11:15 am, lunch will be served at 1:30 pm, and our celebration program is at 3:30 pm. Our guest Evangelist for the day will be Minister Chris Turner of the Sunset Road Church of Christ in Burlington NJ. Our guest Psalmist will be Kontrell Tyler, formerly the Minister of Music at the Harlem Church of Christ in Harlem, NY. We will also have several praise groups in attendance to lift our hearts in song.

Our address is 818 N. 27th Street, Camden, NJ 08105; on the corner of 27th & Garfield across from VETS Middle School. There is ample street parking along 27th Street and adjoining side streets.

## Find Us on Social Media:

@pitmanroadcoc www.facebook.com/pitmanroadchurchofchrist @pitmanroadchurch