

PITMAN ROAD
CHURCH OF CHRIST

February 7, 2021
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500 Pitman Road
Sewell, NJ 08080
856-589-1500

www.pitmanroadcoc.com

PITMAN ROAD POST

Black History Month

Move

Meet

Make

Our Mission

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

PLANNING FOR OUR FUTURE

Around this time last year we were beginning 2020 with little insight into what was about to beset our nation, and how our lives would be turned upside down. The elders had met for our annual planning session in November and spent the following two months in prayer regarding goals we had set for that upcoming year. Though the pandemic has drastically altered movement toward the implementation of these plans, it has not deterred us from continuing to plan and pray for the future of our church family. At this time we want to provide a brief update on the status and progress of five specific plans we made. We are hopeful and excited that 2021 will see these plans partially, if not fully, put into action.

Additional Elders Selection: Thanks you so much for taking part in this process. We have prayed for God to direct our steps through His Holy Spirit. Though the message of the gospel is timeless, the times in which we live and minister are different than any before. Selecting additional elders will add needed shepherding, experience, perspective and ideas as we seek to move God's story forward here at Pitman Road.

Bible Classes: Our Bible class program has been the ministry hardest hit by the impact of COVID-19. The shepherds made the conscious choice that the safety of our members would be the primary factor in anything we planned at our church building, and that we would follow the guidelines enacted by the CDC and state of New Jersey. Like many of you, we want to make an increased number of classes for all ages available at the building as soon as possible. We discuss and plan our "next steps" regularly. Thank you for your patience and understanding. These plans are re-visited on a monthly basis. Our hope is that by sometime during the spring quarter, the health crisis we face will improve and allow us to expand our Bible class ministry.

New Minister: The Selection Committee has continued its task of finding the individual who will serve as our *Intergenerational Minister*; a minister to focus on the spiritual, educational, relational and generational needs of our church family. We have great anticipation to see how God will lead us to someone who will help us deepen our relationships, through serving our families and Children's and Youth programs. Timing for this might be out of our control, but we have a target of September 2021.

Remodeling: This process has already begun! If you have been at the building over the last 6 months, then you have seen the new hallway carpeting and the new large group adult Bible class (formerly the library and B-4). There is more on the way! With God's blessing and your continued faithfulness, we are planning for changes in the décor of our hallways and auditorium. And if all goes well, the installation of basketball hoops in the Family Life Center. Did you know that we already have the "hoops"?

Connect! A Between the Sundays Experience- We are in the discussion stages of developing a plan that will broaden the way we view what a church family does "between the Sundays." This approach will help bring the theme of our pulpit banners to life. *Connect: Family, Jesus, Others.* This message and ministry are consistent with our vision, mission and spiritual growth goals, and have the potential to be more meaningful and impactful to our families and communities.

We hope you will share in the great anticipation we have for what 2021 can hold for our church family. While the pandemic has slowed our progress in these five areas, it cannot quench our spirit at finding new and diversified ways to share the gospel of Jesus. It will take all of us working together. Our nation, communities and church family will come out of the pandemic changed. It is our goal that through God's power, the working of His Holy Spirit, and the hearts of his people, this change will find us better equipped for the plans He has made for us.

Step by Step, He Leads; **Brian, Dave, Garth, John, and Mike**

**THANK
YOU!**

A HEARTFELT "THANK YOU" FROM THE COOPERS

To our church family, Your love and generosity continue to amaze us! The gift you gave us last Sunday will go to something special. (Maybe a new puppy!) We are humbled by your love for us. It has been a joy to serve you for the last 35 years. All of you have a special place in our hearts. - **Dan and Katherine**

A GREAT, BIG "THANKS" FROM THE PEACHERS

The Peacher family gives a great big THANK YOU to our Pitman Road family for our end-of-year/Christmas gift. Your generosity and care for our family is encouraging in dark times. This gift will be of great help purchasing new school computers for our boys. Know that we deeply appreciate the tremendous blessing. We are grateful for all of you, **Joey, Callie, Josiah, Jonah, and Finn**



NOTICE OF 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 Sunday, February 28 as the date for our annual meeting. Please consider this your written notification of our church's annual meeting. If you are an active member of the Pitman Road Church of Christ, and in good standing, please consider yourself informed and invited to the **Pitman Road Church of Christ's annual corporate meeting, Sunday, February 28, immediately after morning worship assembly.**

NOW EVERY MONTH

Craft Day will now be the 4th Saturday of EVERY month, instead of every other month! We will still be socially distanced in the FLC. Please wear a mask.



CONGRATS!

Mary Ellen Walker was baptized into Christ on Thursday, January 21. And, the heater was broken, so this was real commitment! Welcome (officially) to the family, Mary Ellen! We are so very happy for you!



IN LOVING MEMORY

Neil Savastano, brother of Roseann Savastano, passed on to his reward on January 18, 2021.

Amelia Holden, mother of Brian Holden, went to be with the Lord on January 20, 2021.

We send our love, prayers, and comfort to both families at this time.

SECRET SISTER INFORMATION

The Secret Sister's revealing party will be on **Saturday, March 13**, and will be **taking place at the church building** this year due to COVID restrictions.

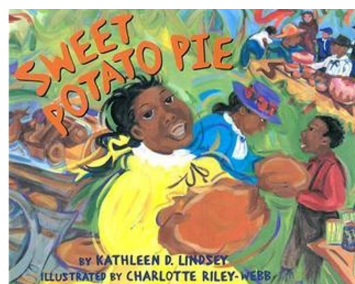
Will you be joining us or continuing as a **Secret Sister?**

If you are interested in becoming a Secret Sister this year, or if you are already one but would like to edit or add to your S.S. form, **PLEASE see Dottie ASAP!**

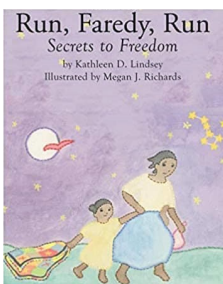
Revealing Party: Saturday, March 13 in the FLC

BLACK HISTORY MONTH: SUPPORT BLACK AUTHORS

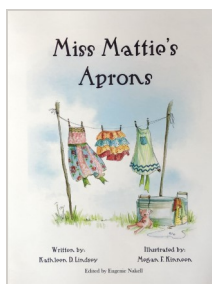
During Black History Month, you can support one of our local members, **Kathleen D. Lindsey**, who is a prolific writer. She will even autograph your books! I have purchased several of them; check them out! (My personal favorite is "Piecing It All Together." It is a sort of autobiography for Kat.) - **Dan**



Sweet Potato Pie
\$9.95



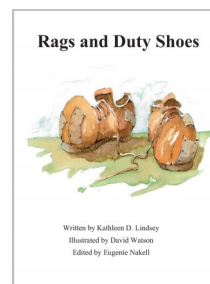
Run Faredy, Run: Secrets to Freedom
\$14.95



Miss Mattie's Aprons
\$14.95



Miss Ladybug's Block Party
\$14.95



Rags and Duty Shoes
\$14.95



Piecing It All Together
\$21.95

NEVER FORGET: BLACK HISTORY SHOULD BE IMPORTANT TO CHRISTIANS



TRINDI G. MITCHELL is a member of the Henry Street Church of Christ in Gadsden, AL. She is a Sunday school teacher, writer and mother of two children.

As Christians, we know that the Holy Bible is our spiritual guide to salvation through Jesus Christ (2 Timothy 3:16; 2 Peter 1:2-3). But it is also a vast, meticulous record-keeping of historical events. From Genesis through Revelation, God always reminds his children that he is the one who has provided for them, delivered them and protected them. In Joshua 4:1-7, God instructs Joshua to appoint a representative from each tribe of Israel to collect 12 stones from the Jordan River. The stones serve as a keepsake to remind Israel's children and future generations how God allowed the Jewish people to cross over on dry ground. The Jewish ancestry of Christ, beginning with Abraham, is carefully outlined in Matthew 1:1-17. Here in the United States, before President Gerald Ford officially recognized Black History Month in 1976, "Negro History Week" was created in 1926 by Carter G. Woodson. The week — and now, month of February — was chosen because Black communities across the nation celebrated the birthdays of President Abraham Lincoln (Feb. 12) and abolitionist/orator Frederick Douglass (Feb. 14). An ongoing topic of debate and discussion is this: How can this country squeeze the oh-so-many recognitions and contributions of Black Americans into the shortest month of the year? My personal answer is simple: You can't! Black history is American history. Our existence, our footprints and our

journey have been woven and intertwined within the fabric of America since we were brought over as slaves from Africa to these shores. As Christians first — and Americans second — we should all be more knowledgeable and celebrate the achievements of Black history makers, both the famous and the unsung. We all are familiar with Martin Luther King Jr., Rosa Parks, John Lewis and Vice President-elect Kamala Harris. But do we know the contributions of Garrett A. Morgan, Roy Wilkins, Dorothy Height or Fannie Lou Hamer? Are members of Churches of Christ aware of gospel preacher Marshall Keeble, who baptized about 40,000 people and helped found Nashville Christian Institute? Or Fred Gray, the civil rights attorney who represented Parks and King? Do we know that Southwestern Christian College in Terrell, Texas, is the only historically Black college funded by Churches of Christ? Knowing our history always has been important to God. Every single Sunday, we take the Lord's Supper to commemorate the death, burial and resurrection of his beloved son, Jesus Christ. As Christians here in America, we also need to be mindful of our country's secular contributors and simultaneously hold fast to Colossians 3:11 — "where there is neither Greek nor Jew, circumcised nor uncircumcised, barbarian, Scythian, slave nor free, but Christ is all and in all."

FOR EVERYTHING
THAT WAS WRITTEN
IN THE PAST WAS
WRITTEN TO TEACH US,
SO THAT THROUGH
THE ENDURANCE
TAUGHT IN THE
SCRIPTURES AND THE
ENCOURAGEMENT
THEY PROVIDE
WE MIGHT
HAVE HOPE.
ROMANS 15:4

Trindi G. Mitchell. "Never Forget" *The Christian Chronicle*, Vol. 78, No. 2, Feb. 2021, pp. 27-28.

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WAYS TO GIVE



In person
at the
worship service.



Via the
easyTithe
mobile app.



On our
website at
pitmanroadcoc.com



Text to Give
Text amount to
856.209.6212

Ministers

- Joey Peacher**, Preaching Minister.....jpeacher@cochrist.org
.....979-599-4590
- Dan Cooper**, Connections Minister.....dcooper@cochrist.org
.....856-589-4197
- Office Staff
- Dottie Grillo** dgrillo@cochrist.org
- Katelyn Ikeorha**.....kikeorha@cochrist.org

Elders

- Mike Broyles**mbroyles777@gmail.com
- Brian Holden**.....bchandle94@hotmail.com
- Garth Hutchinson**.....609-414-2606
.....grth.hutchinson@gmail.com
- John Peoples**.....609-617-7451
- Dave Perine** davidt.perine@comcast.net