



My New Life In Christ

In the beginning...

As a child, my parents, particularly my mother, would take our family to church. We attended a Catholic church, Our Lady of Immaculate Conception, in Brookhaven, PA. I also went there for Sunday school and parochial school for first grade.

Although we went to church, neither church nor God were really part of our lives. When I was ten, we moved, and never again attended church as a family. Shortly after the move, my parents divorced. I was about 12 years old at that time. When I was about 14, I moved in with my father and his girlfriend. She was a convert to Judaism. She would make arguments against Christianity, which made me uncomfortable, and I, not knowing the Bible, could not refute her. She and my father would take me to Friday night service at the synagogue. I never liked it, nor did I think I should go as I was not a Jew. Even then I knew that Jesus was Lord, and that the Bible was true. After a few years, the trips to the synagogue faded away.

For a long time, I was living in sin. So much sin. I was wandering through life with no moral compass, no direction, no hope, living a life of pain, sadness, loneliness and misery. It was a very bleak existence.

In the 2000's, I started to get smarter. I no longer put myself into situations that would cause me to get into obvious trouble. But I still struggled within myself and with my destructive behaviors. It was at this point in my life that I first felt God's love for me.

One night I was trying to sleep, but was having very violent thoughts. I was never really a violent person, so these thoughts disturbed me a great deal. I could not get them out of my head on my own. Out of desperation, and with an open heart, I pleaded, "God, please help me! I do not want to think like this!" Quicker than the speed of light, all of those evil thoughts were replaced by loving and tender thoughts; more tender and loving than I had ever had. It was at that moment that I knew that God was real and that He loved me, despite everything I had done to ruin my life.

However, I still could not overcome my self-destructive behavior, and continued to wander through my life.

It was not until my son was born that I realized I could not go on like this. I had to make changes and begin to overcome my struggles for my son. Unfortunately, his mother could not overcome her own struggles (and is still struggling to this day.) At this point, I started to attend church again. I hoped to raise my son around good people and find peace in our family. But I did not embrace the church, attend regularly, or pick up a Bible. We continued to have major problems as a family.

A few years later, in 2014, after my daughter was born, my children's mother and I separated completely. This was when I finally

turned to the Bible. I wanted to find the peace that I knew only God offered.

My coworker at the time, Tim McBride, told me about the Pitman Road Church of Christ. Our first visit to the church was for "Trunk or Treat." The following spring, in 2015, I attended a worship service here for the first time. I continued to attend sporadically, never coming in early, or staying late. Then there was a three-month period of time that I did not attend worship or read my Bible at all. I realized that I had to get back to church!

I began to bring my children here with me around August of 2016. At our second visit as a family, we were introduced to "Kids for Christ." Finding out about the focus on children, teens, and family encouraged us to attend much more regularly.

On "Super Bowl Sunday" of this year, two new members were introduced to the congregation. One had been attending for three months, and the other for nine months. I sat there and thought to myself, "Hey, I've been coming to this church of a lot longer than that, so why am I not a member?" I made the effort to find out what it means to become a member of this church, and realized that it takes a lot more than just showing up on Sundays!

When I made the decision to be baptized, I committed myself 110%. I committed to go "all in" and turn from sin, drop bad habits, and study the Bible, so that I could become a true and kind Christian. That's what I believe to be God's plan for me right now...study the Word, and be kind. "To do something nice for somebody every day" is what I heard while praying. As part of that plan, I intend to attend church as much as possible and help in any way I am needed. I intend to raise my children according to God's Word, pray with them, and read the Bible with them, so that they know the peace and love that Jesus has for us.

I feel the changes that the Lord has made in my life and I am thankful. Not only do I want to be a better man, I want to be known as a man of Christ. I want to continue to grow as a Christian in my knowledge, understanding, and works.

I realize that there is a daily battle for my soul, and I want to be always walking with Jesus.

- Mark Frock, April 26, 2017



Our Mission

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

From Daniel's Den

"Surrounded by a Great Crowd of Witnesses..."

Better days start now! Hebrews 12:1-2, urges Christians to be faithful because of Jesus, and because of those who have gone before. For me personally, better days start when I remember that I am not alone on this journey we call life. That entire list of "faith heroes" in Hebrews 11 is shared to encourage those of us still in the battle! The writer lists them to encourage us to keep on! To that list of Old Testament "faith heroes," I add will the names of some of my modern day "cloud of witnesses:"

Glynn Durham is in my cloud of witnesses! Glynn's life urges me to finish strong and faithful, no matter what!

My mom is in my cloud of witnesses, a hospitable preacher's wife, a teacher, and a servant-hearted, faithful follower of Jesus Christ for over 60 years.

Jerry Daniel, a preacher, archaeologist, teacher, and scholar, is in my cloud of witnesses!

Mary Lewis, wife of Noah, a devoted wife, committed mother, and faithful servant is in my cloud of witnesses!

Erla Olney, one of my "church moms" when I was growing up in Vermont, who opened her home to countless strangers and drove dozens of neighborhood kids to Sunday School is in my cloud of witnesses.

Neale Pryor, the first person I knew who had a near photographic memory, who made the Bible come alive when he taught Bible classes at Harding University, is in my cloud of witnesses.

Marshall Keeble, the legendary African American preacher whom I first heard preach when I was in high school, stirred my soul and introduced me to a style of preaching I had never heard before, is in my cloud of witnesses!

(Not sure why these names came to me in this order, but these are some of my modern day faith heroes. Who would you list among your "cloud of witnesses?")

Dan the Faithful Preacherman



Dan Cooper
aka
"Dan, Dan,
the Preacherman"

For me
personally,
better days
start when I
remember that
I am not alone
on this journey
we call life.

The Glynn Durham Outreach/Evangelism Fund

Glynn Durham was many good, wonderful, and beautiful things. He was a student of God's Word, a chaplain, a counselor, a church planter, a preacher, a LIFE Group leader and coordinator, and a teacher. If you knew him, you know all those words and phrases above describe him. And, you could likely add another half dozen words to describe him. As much as he was any of those things, he was an evangelist...a spreader of good news. Until his final days, he was spreading the good news. In recognition of that passion for the lost, the family has established a fund to continue outreach efforts right here in South Jersey. What better way to honor Glynn!

As of this moment, upwards of \$2,400 has been donated and is set aside to honor this "great commission" request. It is still early, and we expect more to come in as good people seek a way to honor this fallen soldier of the Cross. Contributions have so far ranged from \$25 to \$250. No amount is too small. And certainly the more that is given, the more will be used to spread the most wonderful story ever told.

You might ask, "What exactly will the money be used for?" The desire of the family is for the money to be used to equip a young worker who will be tasked to carry on Glynn's mission to spread the gospel in Southern New Jersey. The exact nature of that person's role and the timing are yet to be determined. We want to stress that this money will not go into a general fund or capital improvement fund; 100% of whatever is given will be used to carry on Glynn's passion for spreading the good news of Jesus, especially here in South Jersey.

If you would like to contribute a financial gift in memory of Glynn, please designate **Glynn Durham Outreach/Evangelism Fund** on the memo line of your check. If you are a long distance friend of Glynn's, or of our church, and you feel moved to contribute, please mail your check to Pitman Road Church of Christ, 500 Pitman Road, Sewell, NJ 08080. **-Dan Cooper**

TONIGHT!

REFUGE
being a Christian
in the workplace
WITH DAVE PERINE
SUNDAY 5.7.2017
5:30 - 7:30
YOUNG ADULTS LIFE GROUP

Please join us for a night of community, singing, and our speaker, **Dave Perine**, who will share his experience as a Christian in the workplace, and how God has blessed him in his career. We hope you will come and hear how Dave lives out his faith in the high powered business environment of Lower Manhattan among a diverse group of people from many different ethnic and religious backgrounds. There will also be a Q & A time with Dave following his talk. **Come as you are!** We have coffee and snacks too!

Women's Friendship Friday

THIS FRIDAY, MAY 12 • PAINT NIGHT • 7:00 - 9:00 PM



By popular request, we will be doing our own version of "Painting with a Twist." Many of our ladies painted together last summer in Pitman, but we will do it in our own building with a special guest teacher. Everyone will leave with their own painting - YES, you really can paint!!

7:00 pm: Snacks and Fellowship

7:30 pm sharp: Let the Painting Begin

8:30 pm: A Short Devotional and Prayer

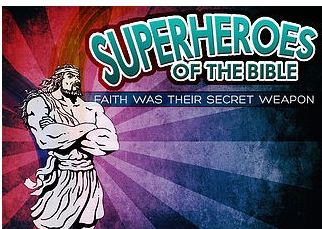
Please SIGN UP if you plan to attend - we must have a count in order to purchase supplies. A donation of \$5.00 to cover expenses is requested when you sign up. Plan to come and enjoy yourself, bring a friend, or bring Mom for an early celebration of Mother's Day! Sign up this Sunday in the Welcome Center.

****Note**** If you signed up for the original date of April 21, you are now signed up for May 12. If you need to make a change, please see us in the foyer or email Janet at janet.betts@ajj.com.

Janet Betts & Donna Mychajlowycz - Women's Embrace Ministry

Family Camp at Mantawny

Registration is open for Family Camp on May 26-28, 2017. This year's theme is *Superheroes of the Bible*.



Family Camp is a great way to introduce young children to the camp experience, as well as a way for families to relax and enjoy camp together. The Pearls and Vander Vennen's attend every year! If you have questions about it, feel free to contact Aaron Pearl.

Cost:

- \$100 Includes summer cabin lodging, all meals and activities for up to 4 family members. (Upgraded lodging is available for an additional cost during registration)
- \$20 for each additional family member ages 5 and older.
- Children 4 & younger: Free
- A deposit of \$50 (non-refundable) is required with your registration. The remaining balance must be paid in full by May 19, 2017
- Go to www.manatawny.org to register!

Summer Camp Open House

May 27, 2017 10:00 am to 4:00 pm

Can't make it to Family Camp? Want to introduce your child to Camp Manatawny, or do you just want to know more about it? Do you know someone else who may be interested in camp?

There is no better way to prepare yourself and your camper for their summer experience at Camp Manatawny than to take a tour of camp and learn about the programs that will change your child's life. During your visit, our camp staff will answer any questions, and show you how camp will open up a whole new world for your child. Our Open House is free and open to the public. No reservations required. Rain or shine.

Everyone attending will receive a chance to win a full week of camp for Free!

If you're unable to make it to the open house, please call 610-689-0173 to arrange a tour.

Feeding the Hungry in Trenton

THIS Saturday,

May 13 • 10 am - 2 pm

Sign-up at the Welcome Center!

Only \$75.00 is still needed to cover the cost of this meal. If you are willing to contribute, please note "Trenton Meal" on your check; drop it in the collection plate, or give it to Dottie.

ONE MORE WAY TO ASSIST WITH THE TRENTON MEAL

THIS MONTH: A van driver is needed to transport our team to and from Trenton. If you are able to do this, please contact Larry Kellum, Jr. at 609-970-3016.



Bring Your Own
Craft Day

Saturday, May 27, 2017

Noon to 5:00 PM

in the Family Life Center

Snacks are provided!

Hope to see you there!



MARK YOUR CALENDAR!

Annual Pitman Road

Memorial Day Church Picnic

Sunday, May 28
after the worship service

Join us for a cook-out here at our church building! Invite your friends! More details to follow!

- Each member/family attending is asked to bring hamburgers or hot dogs, enough for you and your family plus a little extra for guests.
- Each member/family is also asked to bring a traditional "picnic" side dish.
- Beverages and buns will be provided by the church.
- Desserts will be provided by elders' and deacons' wives.
- Any hot dishes should be preheated.
- **Questions? See Tony or Stephanie DeStefano.**

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	110
Worship	177
LIFE Groups	84
Wednesday	54
Contribution	\$8,599
Weekly Goal	\$10,412

This Week's Prayer Requests

Praise: The Community Yard Sale and Health Fair last weekend introduced our church to many new people!

Prayers Requested:

Laura Ross, fell in the parking lot prior to Bible class last week and suffered a severe ankle sprain and broken bones in her foot, surgery likely. She will have to miss a dream vacation that was planned for next week.

Matthew, 6 mo. old great nephew of Kelly Spencer, head injury.

Richard Ford, grandfather of Mark Frock's children, has been diagnosed with lung cancer.

Kim Martin, Diana Ford's future daughter-in-law, surgery for double mastectomy and removal of ovaries.

Jeremy Fortner, friend of Brian Mansdoerfer, stage 4 colon cancer.

Harry Steward was released from the hospital and is home recovering.

Barbara Robinson, recovering from procedure on back & neck. Please pray for pain relief and complete healing.

Dorothy Sussman, Teresa Point Sussman's mother-in-law, was admitted to the hospital with cardiac concerns.

Natasha Gboleweefaa, Carolyn Dargan's niece, lost her unborn child well into the pregnancy. This is especially hard for the family as Natasha's father/Carolyn's brother passed away earlier in the month.

Judith Knox, Cathy McClelland's mother-in-law, in hospice.

Evelyn Kates, Tammy Cerquoni's sister-in-law, is having many health issues and is being tested for MS. Prayers are requested for the doctors to be able to get an accurate diagnosis and the

Ministers

Dan Cooper, Evangelist dcooper@cochrist.org
..... 856-589-4197

Carlos Isaziga, Minister cisaziga@cochrist.org

Glynn Durham, Visitation Minister poppydurham@gmail.com

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 May and June: Brian Holden

Serving Us Today

Nursery	Lynne Sbaraglia
Kids For Christ	Jenn Pearl
Jr. Worship	Brian Mansdoerfer
Greeters: Front Entrance	Steve & Jayne DePrince
Greeters: Back Entrance	Lee & Mary Collier
Information Center	Mary Lea Thompson
Ushers	Mike Lazar & Jonathan Hooley
Shepherd's Call	John Peoples
Song Leader	Dwight Thompson
Communion	Derrick Busch

LIFE Group	Location	Contact
Ageless	Mychajlowycz's at noon	908-294-4056
Beginning Anew	Church Bldg. at noon	856-589-1500
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	TBA	609-561-8532
Men's Bible Study	Spring/Summer Hiatus	
Paracletes	Greenfields Assi't Lvg. at 2 pm	856-449-9656
Solid Gold	Britton's at 6pm	856-340-5423
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	REFUGE	609-226-4031
Young Married	Call or text for time & location	856-899-9466

Wednesday Night Meal: Baked Chicken, Collards, Potato Salad

Cooks: Lucy Fair

Thank You!

Doryann Seitz wishes to thank the church family for the many cards, phone calls, and meals during her first weeks of recovery from major surgery. It was such an outpouring of love in action, Doryann and Charlie can't thank you enough. May God bless all of you!

New Contact Information

Linda Prenger wants to hear from us! So please take note of her new address, and drop her a line now and again.
45 Westwood Way, Washington, WV 26181

IMPORTANT INFORMATION

SPRING
cleaning

The coat room in our lobby will be cleaned out soon. PLEASE check to see if you have coats, jackets, or any other belongings in there, including in the Lost and Found box. Also please re-

move any ministry items you may have stored in there.

You have until May 21 to do this. After that date, the coat room/lost and found will be cleaned out, and items will be donated or discarded, as appropriate. If you have items stored in there, and need a place to store them, see the office staff, and we will assist you.