



PITMAN ROAD

CHURCH OF CHRIST

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Renewing Our Focus for 2017



At the beginning of the year, our ministers and elders introduced this year's focus... **Just Jesus**. In three of the four quarters of the year (taking the summer off) a triad approach was rolled out, following the spiritual growth process we are following here at Pitman Road: **Meet Jesus, Move Into Community, Make a Difference**. Both goals for the year and goals for each of the three quarters were outlined.

This quarter, as we begin a new LIFE Group "year," our focus is *Moving Into Community*. There are two ways that we encourage you to Move Into Community here at Pitman Road...and they are each one of our goals for this quarter.

Goal Number One: Join a LIFE Group this quarter!

Today is the official start of LIFE Group meetings for 2017-2018. We can't make it to heaven on our own; we need meaningful relationships with our brothers and sisters in Christ. Twelve different groups are meeting; some for specific age groups, some for families, some for empty nesters, some for men only, some for women only, some on Sunday, and some during the week. Stop by the Welcome Center today for more information on specific groups.

Goal Number Two: Participate in one or two of our big events this quarter.

Why? They are opportunities to fellowship and serve together, and hopefully meet with the larger community in the area around our building. What are some big events coming up?

- **Today at 5:30 pm - REFUGE:** Come and fellowship with members and visitors of all ages as we share in a time of praise and meditative prayer.
- **Women's Brunch Fellowship: *Hidden Treasures*** on Saturday, September 30, 9:00 am - noon
- **Family Promise Host Week, October 15-22** - Volunteer now! See John Ashton in the lobby.
- **Fun Fall Festival, Saturday, October 2:00-4:00 pm** - Fun for children and families - serve or attend - open to the community!
- **Trunk or Treat, Wednesday, October 25 at 6:15-7:00 pm** - Decorate your trunk - hand out candy - invite friends!
- **Pack the Pulpit, Sunday, November 19** - Bring in groceries to fill Thanksgiving dinner baskets for those in need.
- **Mark your calendar!** More details to come soon: a seminar on pornography and its affect on families is being planned for Friday and Saturday, December 1 & 2. This seminar will be for both men and women.

And... a reminder of our goals for the year:

- As a church, help 17 new people meet Jesus and be baptized in 2017. (We've had 3 so far this year.)
- Read the New Testament in 2017. (Are you caught up?)
- Increase attendance by 17 people on Sunday mornings in 2017. (Our 2017 worship average to date is 208, which is down from this time last year...so lets put on the full court press and raise that by 17, up to an average 225 in each of the last 4 months of the year!)

Our Mission

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

An Important Message from our Shepherds

Labor Day is a holiday that honors contributions that workers have made to the strength, prosperity, and well-being of our country. Our good brother Dan has made these same contributions to our church family for over 30 years, and we look forward to his continued service. As we all know, Dan takes on countless burdens and responsibilities ministering to Pitman Road; much of which is above and beyond the traditional role of a minister.

At this time, we want to keep you informed about instructions we have given to Dan. Very much like two years ago when he took his sabbatical, Dan is experiencing another period of fatigue and exhaustion. He has requested a break, and the elders have granted him a temporary leave of absence during which he will only be at church and in the office when he feels able.

To our church family, we ask that each of us thinks about our own gifts and skills, and where we can step in to take care of the many things that need to be done on a regular basis. Also, we want Dan to rest from his responsibilities, his drive to take on too much, and from feeling the need to explain this situation. Feel free to drop him an encouraging note, but please direct questions and requests to the elders or other office staff. Thanks for your understanding.

In Christ, Mike Broyles, Horatio Fenton, Brian Holden, Garth Hutchinson, Mike Lazar, John Peoples, Dave Perine, and Dwight Thompson

From Daniel's Den

True Confessions: I've Been Fighting Depression! But...

I have been in a funk for about a month. Seeing more clouds than sunshine. Seeing more raging rapids than smooth sailing. Seeing more winding country cow paths than four lane interstate highways. Seeing more difficult challenges than easy solutions! But, in the midst of this funk, God is still good. Jesus is still on His right hand. The Holy Spirit is still my Comforter. The Bible is still His inspired word. I will persevere. I am right there with the distraught but believing father who said, "I believe, help my unbelief" (Mark 9:24). I am surrounded by godly, compassionate, shepherds, and a church full of brothers and sisters who are supporting me as I travel through this valley. I do know that this is a season that will not last forever.

I have been mightily encouraged by your text messages, your words of affirmation, and by your outpouring of financial support for disaster relief efforts due to the epic flooding from Hurricane Harvey. At the direction of our Caring and Sharing Deacon, Larry Kellum, Jr., our church immediately sent \$1,000 to Church of Christ Disaster Relief Effort in Nashville. They were on the ground in Texas distributing supplies within days after Harvey struck. In addition, many of you contributed directly through a link on my Facebook page. Over \$1,200 was electronically contributed via my Facebook page to that same organization.

Many of you made donations to help Chris and Carlotta Jones' family. The Joneses have relatives living in one of the hardest hit areas, Port Arthur. Their homes have been flooded and they're still in hotels. So far, \$550 has been collected for them. If you'd still like to give, note "flood relief for Jones family" on your check to PRCOC, and 100% of your contributions will be forwarded to those family members most in need.

As we open our hearts, God will use us to help provide financially for those facing major devastation.

Even though I've been in a funk, I know the words of Jesus are true: "It is more blessed to give than to receive." Those words encourage me. **-Dan the Preacherman**



Dan Cooper
aka
"Dan, Dan,
the Preacherman"



Dwight Thompson
Elder

Shepherd's Voice

How Can I Have Greater Faith?

I was reminded this past week of two short scriptures. Ephesians 2:8 - ***"For it is by grace you have been saved, through faith—and this is not from yourselves, it is the gift of God—"*** and Romans 12:3 - ***"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."***

These scriptures tell us that faith comes from God when we become His family. Sometimes we might find ourselves wishing we had faith more like someone we know, and are convinced that God gave them more faith. That is not what is related in these two scriptures. So if God gives equally to his people, how can we have greater faith? It appears what we do with what God gave us will determine the strength of our faith.

I am reminded of what happened to the servant who was given one talent, buried it, and therefore did not allow for growth, and God was upset with him.

So the answer to the question, "How can I have greater faith?" might have something to do with how we allow our lives to be directed with God's teachings. Think of the fruit of the Spirit in Galatians 5. If our lives were guided by those things we would be allowing God's blessings to come in the form of growing faith. Place our lives in His hands, and watch our faith grow!

Are there things in our lives which will then cause our faith to weaken? My conclusion is a definite "yes." If we allow our lives to be defined by our lack of interest in God's Word, our faith will be weaker. If we allow others who are constantly speaking of bad things about God's actions and the church, and how others are hurting their feelings by not loving them as they think they should, our faith will be weakened. If we do not surround ourselves with strong faith folks, our faith will be weakened. The list could go on, but are you getting the picture? God gave us a measure of faith, we ourselves are the ones who will either cause it to grow, or to be weakened. **-Dwight**

TODAY!

LIFE Groups officially start meeting TODAY!
See the back of the bulletin or your LIFE Group leader for locations and times.

Munchkin Ministry resumes TODAY!

Since last year worked out so well, we will continue with one Munchkin Ministry time between Bible classes and the worship service, at 9:40-9:55 am, in the lobby. Also the same simplified "menu" is offered: coffee, water, Munchkins, and breakfast bars. If you wish to have a full breakfast, please do so before you arrive at church. **We ask everyone's cooperation: please throw away your cups and plates and move into the worship service by 10 am.**

Munchkin Ministry is in need volunteers who will commit to helping on a weekly basis.

Please see John Ashton if you are willing to serve in this ministry.

ALSO Resuming TODAY.....

Kids for Christ and Junior Worship!

Children will be excused after the communion service.

Please remember the following age guidelines:

- Nursery: birth to age 2 (available for the full worship service)
- Kids for Christ: age 3 through kindergarten
- Junior Worship: grades 1 through 4

TONIGHT!



Please Note: Annette Out of Office

I will be having minor surgery on my wrist on Wednesday, but it will require an extended period of recovery. So, I will be out of the office for approximately four weeks after surgery. Beginning today, and until further notice, please direct all bulletin announcements, LIFE group counts and locations, and any other church office related business to Dottie. I will be attending church during this time, so I'm happy to answer questions, or discuss ministry issues or concerns, but if it requires me to use my right hand, you'll have to see Dottie! :)

Thank you Dottie for pulling double duty! -Annette

What's Happening in September at Pitman Road!

Sign Up NOW in the lobby for the upcoming **Family Promise Host week, October 15-22**. John Ashton is coordinating and he will be available to answer your questions at the sign up table, or call him at 609-214-8522. **MANY VOLUNTEERS ARE NEEDED!**

TOMORROW NIGHT, and every Monday night through December 4, Men's Monday Night Bible Study will meet in the Family Life Center, 7-8:15 pm. The journey through the New Testament continues! Coffee and light snacks will be served. Contact Harry Ake at 856-217-3956, if you have questions or need more information.

Women's Tuesday Morning Bible Study/Women in the Word LIFE Group will begin again on **Tuesday, September 19 at 9:45 am**. The study of Genesis will continue, picking up with the story of Jacob. Bring a Bible you can take notes in! Childcare will be available. Everyone is invited to join afterwards at Nick's in Glassboro for lunch. Katherine Cooper will teach the class; you can contact her at 856-981-9754 if you have questions or need information.

Bring Your Own Craft Day is **Saturday, September 23, noon to 5:00 pm in the Family Life Center**. All are welcome! Bring a craft or project to work on with other "crafty" people! Snacks will be provided.

The annual See You at the Pole special prayer event will be held here on Wednesday, September 27, at 7:00 pm. Please join us as we pray for our students, their schools and colleges/universities, teachers, professors, and administrators for the upcoming school year. Everyone will meet together in the auditorium.

A Blessing for Mother and Baby

Join us on Sunday, September 24,
at noon in the Family Life Center,
as we shower blessings of love and encouragement on
Brenda Busch and her newborn son Timothy Busch!

Please bring a package of diapers!

If you would like to help prepare food for the luncheon,
please contact Annette Perine at annette.perine@gmail.com
of 609-980-5103 for a list of available menu items.

Please join with the Pitman Road Women's Ministry for a Women's Brunch Fellowship - Hidden Treasure - on Saturday, September 30, in our Family Life Center from 9:00 -noon. Please RSVP by Sept 24! Text your RSVP to Diana Hutchinson at 856-381-9095 or Brenda Busch at 646-258-5031, or sign up in the lobby.

Cornerstone invites all young adults to an End of Summer Bonfire, on Saturday, September 30, at 6:30 pm at the Perine's house. Bring a snack, dessert, or drink...and bring a friend. Contact Toria Davis at 609-680-2494 or Mallory Keeks at 609-417-1113 with questions or for more information.

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	137
Worship	200
LIFE Groups	NA
Wednesday	58
Contribution	\$11,424.00
Weekly Goal	\$9868.00

This Week's Prayer Requests

Praises: Frank and Mickey Rizzuto as well as Rick & Jana, and Jerry & Donna, have all returned to their homes in Texas. None of their houses were flooded, and only their yards were somewhat damaged by floodwaters.

Sunday Morning Responses:

Anita O'Hara requested prayers for her son, who is struggling with coping with life. (Since then, Anita has expressed that he is doing better, and thanks us for the prayers.)

Prayers Requested:

Please continue to pray for all those affected by Hurricane Harvey and Hurricane Irma. Include the many members of Chris and Carlotta Jones' family (parents, siblings, etc.). Most of their family resides in affected areas of Texas.

Lynn Sbaraglia, still having much difficulty walking. No definitive diagnosis has been made. She has been transferred to Atrium Post Acute Care of Woodbury, 467 Cooper St., Woodbury, NJ 08096, where they will attempt to strengthen her legs.

Gary Davis, brother of **Leza Davis**, He has cirrhosis of the liver, and now has been diagnosed with untreatable cancer.

Harry Steward is at home recovering from back injury.

Zack Rizzuto, son of Jerry and Donna Rizzuto, brain surgery went well. Awaiting pathology results.

David Smith, Pilesgrove, went missing in Woodbine, MD. Please pray for his safe return.

Dianne Perales, undergoing testing to discover the reason for her health concerns. Please pray for answers.

Frank Sheehan, pain is now managed! Physical therapy continues.

Pat Schuehler, prayers that she's able to have throat surgery.

Ted Schuehler, testing for some health concerns.

Annette Perine, wrist surgery on Wednesday.

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Elder on Call for September and October: John Peoples

Serving Us Today

Nursery	Hope DeStefano
Kids For Christ	Manny Vander Vennen
Jr. Worship	Brian Mansdoerfer
Greeters: Front Entrance	Steve & Jayne DePrince
Greeters: Back Entrance	Mary & Lee Collier
Information Center	Doryann Seitz
Ushers	Larry Peterson & Corny Walker
Shepherd's Call	Horatio Fenton
Song Leader	Garth Hutchinson
Communion	Carl Steiner

LIFE Group	Location	Contact
Ageless	Mychajlowycz's at noon	908-294-4056
Brook Besor	Durham's Tuesday at 7 pm	856-589-2280
Circle of Sisters	Sbaraglia's Monday at 7 pm	856-466-9879
Cornerstone	REFUGE/Church Bldg. at 5:30 pm	347-922-2248
Hammonton	T. DeStefano's at 6 pm	609-567-9607
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	Walker's at 6 pm	856-478-6972
Teens	Church Bldg. at noon	610-476-9057
Vineland	H. Pearls' at 6 pm	856-839-0051
Women in the Word	Begins Tuesday, Sept. 19	
Young Married	A. DeStefano's at 1 pm	856-899-9466

Find Us on Social Media:

 @pitmanroadcoc  www.facebook.com/pitmanroadchurchofchrist  @pitmanroadchurch

Thank You for Your Generosity!

During our VBS week, our children collected \$500 for the Clean Water Peru Effort. We received a thank you letter, it reads in part:

Thank you so much for your donation of \$500 to the Clean Water Peru Effort and international mission effort of Group Cares. On behalf of Group Cares, our staff, and the thousands of people we serve, we want you to know how much we appreciate your support. We are honored that you would trust us with these funds and we commit to using them wisely as we share the love of Jesus. -Tim Gilmour, president, Group Cares

Thanks to all who contributed backpacks to the West Atco Youth in Action Center. Thanks to your generosity, 29 backpacks were contributed! That was twice as many as were immediately needed! So twice as many children will go to school with the backpacks they need to carry their books and papers! Thank you church for once again filling a need.

Sunset Road Church of Christ invites all women to the Annual Ladies Day, on October 28, 2017, from 9:00 am to 2:00 pm. A continental breakfast and complete lunch will be provided. This year's ladies day will be held at the N. Clinton Avenue Church of Christ in Trenton. The theme is **Christian Relationships: Growing in Sisterhood/Personal Growth and Development in Jesus Christ**. Speakers are: Sister Lia Gilbert and Sister Iris KuKu.

Please RSVP to Sister Betty Cervera at 609-706-6474 or Sister Dolores Romanowski at 609-491-2020, by October 14, 2017.