



PITMAN ROAD

CHURCH OF CHRIST

January 7, 2018
Volume 34, Issue 01

500 Pitman Road
Sewell, NJ 08080
856-589-1500
www.pitmanroadcoc.com



LIFE Groups

2017-2018

...because life is better in community.

We cared so deeply for you that we were determined to share with you not only the gospel of God but our very lives as well. That is how beloved you were to us.

– 1 Thessalonians 2:8

The deep and personal relationship that Paul had with the very young brothers and sisters in Thessalonica wasn't because they believed the right things. YES, that was the beginning, the starting point for their relationships. But what made his relationship with them truly special – what made him care so deeply for them – was because THEY HAD SHARED THEIR VERY LIVES with one other. And by doing this, they became BELOVED to him.

Big-Group Christianity (what we do when we are all together on Sunday mornings) is well-suited for worshipping God, exhorting from the pulpit, encouraging the entire body to move in the same direction, experiencing the power of communion at the Lord's Supper together with ALL of our brothers and sisters (regardless of our backgrounds, race, socio-economic condition, etc.), and welcoming new members at their moment of baptism. *Small-Group Christianity*, on the other hand, is much better suited for sharing lives and building relationships with one another and with others who have yet to commit their lives to Jesus. Our model for *Small-Group Christianity* at Pitman Road is our LIFE Group Ministry.

So, as we begin this New Year, we encourage all of you to not only have a Big-Group experience of the church, but a Small-Group one as well. It's so much easier to develop and build relationships with others in circles than in rows, and in homes than in church buildings. If you haven't yet committed to a specific LIFE Group, this is your chance to do that. You can make it your New Year's resolution: *Moving Into Community* with your brothers and sisters and *Making a Difference* in the lives of people who need Jesus.

LIFE Groups will be restarting on Sunday, January 7, and throughout the coming week. Brochures listing all the LIFE Groups and providing additional information are available on the entrance tables and at the Welcome Center. Pick a LIFE Group and commit yourself to experiencing and growing in **L**ove, **I**nvolvement, **F**ellowship and **E**vangelism in 2018.

Our Mission

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

We're All A Mess

Our God Is More Than Able!

By the grace of God, here we are, 2018! As we make the choice to look with gratitude, great anticipation, and excitement towards what God has in store for the Pitman Road body for the coming year, I would like to offer what I believe is a simple, but powerful phrase for the coming year. Here it is, **"Our God is more than able!"** Daniel, recorded in Daniel 3:17, knew that God was more than able. Abraham, as mentioned in Hebrews 11:19, knew that God was more than able. Have we experienced God doing immeasurably more than we asked or imagined (**Ephesians 3:20**)? Think about your personal life and history, can you recall God's grace as He intervened and reminded you that He is more than able? As mentioned last Sunday, many of our difficulties that we wrestled with individually, and in some instances collectively, in 2017 will follow us into 2018. Be encouraged—our difficulties help us to mature as God's children (**James 1:2-4**). So the natural question might arise, "Is there any hope for a better 2018?" **"Our God is more than able!"** God has, and continues to transform us through the gospel of Jesus Christ as we continue to put off the old life, and as our minds are renewed, putting on the new life in Christ. So our hope and assurance for 2018 rest not on all of our problems being resolved, but rather in the finished work of Christ, the sure hope of Christ, and the continuous renewal of our minds. Here are a few scriptures for renewal and to remind us that **"Our God is more than able!"**

Isaiah 40:28 • 1 Corinthians 6:14 • Genesis 18:14 • (Or add you own text)

-Derrick



Derrick Busch
Minister

Do we know experientially that God is more than able?



Andy Mychajlowycz
Minister

You have been saved through faith ... not a result of works ... [but] for good works.
- Ephesians 2:8-10

At the Crossroads

Salvation Is Free, but Following Christ Will Cost You Everything

What makes Christianity different from every other religion? Nearly every religion is built on works – followers must **DO** certain things to gain divine approval, to get to heaven, or to achieve a higher state of being. But Christianity is built on grace – followers must freely accept what has already been **DONE** for them. Jesus said *"It is finished"* (done) at the moment of his death (**John 19:30**). There is nothing we can do to earn, buy, or work for our salvation.

In **Ephesians 2:8-10**, Paul writes: *"For by grace you have been saved through faith. And this is not your own doing; it is the gift of God, not a result of works, so that no one may boast. For we are his workmanship, having been created in Christ Jesus for good works, which God prepared beforehand, that we should walk in them."*

To understand this, we must explain two difficult concepts. (1) The first is that salvation is **FREE**, but that it is also **EXPENSIVE**. How can something be both free and expensive at the same time? For those who have chosen to follow Christ, it is free. But for the Father, it is expensive (He gave His Son for us).

(2) The second teaching is that we can **DO NOTHING** to earn our salvation, but once we accept God's free gift, we now **DO EVERYTHING** for Him. Paul explains how this happens in verse 10 – *"having been created in Christ Jesus"* our life is now focused on the *"good works, which God prepared beforehand"* for us to do. In **Galatians 3:26-27**, Paul says that we, who are God's children through faith, have put on Christ. And in **2 Corinthians 5:17**, Paul teaches that we are NOW newly created beings. After turning our lives over to Christ in baptism, we have been REMADE in Christ Jesus FOR good works.

– Andy

Important Information Regarding the Upcoming Sight and Sound Trip

The money for the March bus trip in to Sight and Sound Theatre to see *Jesus* is due by January 21. The cost is \$108 for adults, \$90 for teens (13-17), and \$64 for children (4-12). Please make checks payable to the Pitman Road Church of Christ. Money should be given to Brian or Cindy Holden or put in Brian's mailbox in Dottie's office.

Anyone who has signed up for the trip but is no longer planning to go should contact Brian as soon as possible because there is a long standby list.

Contact Brian at:

Home: 856-881-6792 Cell: 856-759-2542

E-mail: bcholden94@hotmail.com



January Events and Activities

NEXT SUNDAY, January 14:

MED (Ministers, Elders, Deacons) Meeting, Noon to 2:00 pm in the FLC
If you have received an email requesting your attendance, please mark your calendars and plan to be there! Please RSVP to Dan or Dottie ASAP so there will be enough lunch for all.



Join us for **REFUGE** at 5:30 pm! *Resolutions, goals, intentions—what's the difference? And where can we find God in our New Year's plans?* As usual we will begin with a time of snacks and visiting with one another, and then enjoy praise and devotional time.

ALL AGES ARE WELCOME!
Come as you are!

Thursday, January 18

Financial Peace University begins January 18, 2018, at Pitman Road Church of Christ.

Please register ahead of time and order your class kit at this website: www.fpu/1054125 and a \$10 discount will be available to you.

If you have previously taken FPU, you can reuse your existing kit, but please do register again. Consider purchasing a gift membership kit for someone who could benefit from FPU.

Any questions, or for help with registration, contact **Adam and Helena Cerquoni** at 856-275-1581 or helenasophia53@gmail.com.



NEXT MONTH!



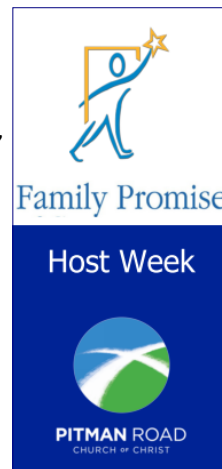
Sunday, January 21

FAMILY PROMISE HOST WEEK BEGINS!

Our first Host Week of the year is coming up quickly, and MANY volunteer positions are still available. John Ashton is our coordinator, please see him in the lobby TODAY to volunteer, or call him at 609-214-8522. Volunteers for the following positions are still needed: (See John for specific days these are needed.)

Shopper
Room Setup
Room Breakdown
Cooks
Morning Drivers

Evening Hosts
Overnight Hosts
Van Transfer
Laundry
Evening Drivers



Saturday, January 27

Join us for our next Bring Your Own Craft Day, noon to 5:00 pm in the Family Life Center!

Do you have a craft hobby that you enjoy, but can't seem to find time for amid daily chores and distractions at home? Then "Bring Your Own Craft Day" is for you! Snacks are served. Everyone is welcome! Need more information? Call Dottie in our church office at 856-589-1500.



85 Years Young!



Who would have ever guessed that **Barbara Perry** was going to celebrate an 85th birthday?!?! Last Sunday, we did exactly that, at a surprise birthday party thrown by her family and friends.

Barbara fought a brave and victorious battle with cancer last year. So there was much to celebrate!

Happy Birthday Barbara, you make 85 years young look fabulous!

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	117
Worship	186
LIFE Groups	NA
Wednesday	29
Contribution	\$9,069.00
Weekly Goal	\$9868.00

Ministers

Dan Cooper, Evangelist dcooper@cochrist.org
..... 856-589-4197
Derrick Busch, Minister dbusch@cochrist.org
..... 267-303-4877
Andy Mychajlowycz, Minister andym@cochrist.org
..... 908-294-4056

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 January and February: Dwight Thompson

Serving Us Today

Nursery	Becky Vander Vennnen
Kids For Christ	Carla Clements
Jr. Worship	Brian Mansdoerfer/Harry Ake
Greeters: Front Entrance	George & Cookie Rowe
Greeters: Back Entrance	Mary & Lee Collier
Information Center	Shachara Adams
Ushers	Dave Perine & Brandon Keeks
Shepherd's Call	Garth Hutchinson
Song Leader	Mike Broyles
Communion	Tyler Steffy

LIFE Group	Location	Contact
Ageless	Sheehan's at noon	215-901-3113
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	Broyles' at 6 pm	609-561-8532
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	Lazar's at noon	856-223-1699
Teens	Church Bldg. at noon	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	

Find Us on Social Media:

 @pitmanroadcoc  www.facebook.com/pitmanroadchurchofchrist  @pitmanroadchurch

This Week's Prayer Requests

Praises:

The **Sheehans** praise God for the recovery from surgery of their grandson **Jason Hall** and are thankful for your prayers.

Jacob Thies completed the course of chemotherapy and scans show that all tumors have shrunk. Praising God that the chemo did it's job! Jacob meets with his surgeon this Wednesday for the next step.

The prosthetic specialist was able to make modifications to **John Grillo's** prosthetic leg so that he can continue to use it as he heals from abdominal surgery. Dottie is grateful for your prayers as John continues to recover from all he has been through medically this last year.

Rachel Stetser had second knee replacement surgery last week, and is again ahead of schedule on recovery!

Prayers:

Doug Oliver, husband of Janice Oliver and son-in-law of Anne Peoples, has been diagnosed with pancreatic cancer. He had surgery this past Friday.

Carolyn Stacey, Ray Wilson's sister, suffered a massive heart attack. There has been a slight improvement in her condition.

Karelle Pierre-Jacques will be having breast surgery to remove ALH cells on January 19. She especially asks for prayers for her reaction to anesthesia; she typically has a very bad reaction to it.

Anita O'Hara, recovering from cataract surgery, will have the same surgery on the other eye soon.

Joe Calebro having fifth eye surgery on Tuesday. He has had multiple procedures since May.

Ray Holmes, radiation treatment for prostate cancer.

Russell Foreman, Jessica's husband, continuing recovery from heart attack and surgery.

Dwight Thompson, lymphoma; chemotherapy.

JoAnn Ruhland, broken bones in her leg and foot.

Mike Lazar, meeting with doctors after testing for back/neck pain.

Isaac Isaziga will have spinal fusion surgery to correct and stop scoliosis on January 18.

Thank You!

Thanks to everyone who reached out to us during our time of loss. We love and appreciate all of you.
-Allison and Charles Woods

A Note from the Hale Family

To Our Church Family,

We love you. We thank you for almost 12 years of loving us and blessing our lives with dear friendships beyond measure. Thank you for teaching, training, and loving our kids. We are also grateful for all of the invitations and fellowship. Thank you to our ministers and leadership for all that you've done. To the ladies from Dawnna: You have given me joy and been my rock, and my sisters, you have truly blessed me, I love you. Church family, we thank you for opening your arms and hearts to mom (Alice,) you have loved an older lady who truly enjoys being cared for.

God has chosen to forward our life journey to Granbury, TX, and our remaining time with you is short. We appreciate your past prayers and your prayers for our future. You taught us to love deeper and you are deeply woven into our hearts forever. We will be heading to our corporate apartment near the end of January. God Bless you and keep you safe.

All our love, **The Hales -Waverly, Dawnna, Trevor, Austin, Garrett, and Alice**