



PITMAN ROAD

CHURCH OF CHRIST

December 23, 2018

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500 Pitman Road

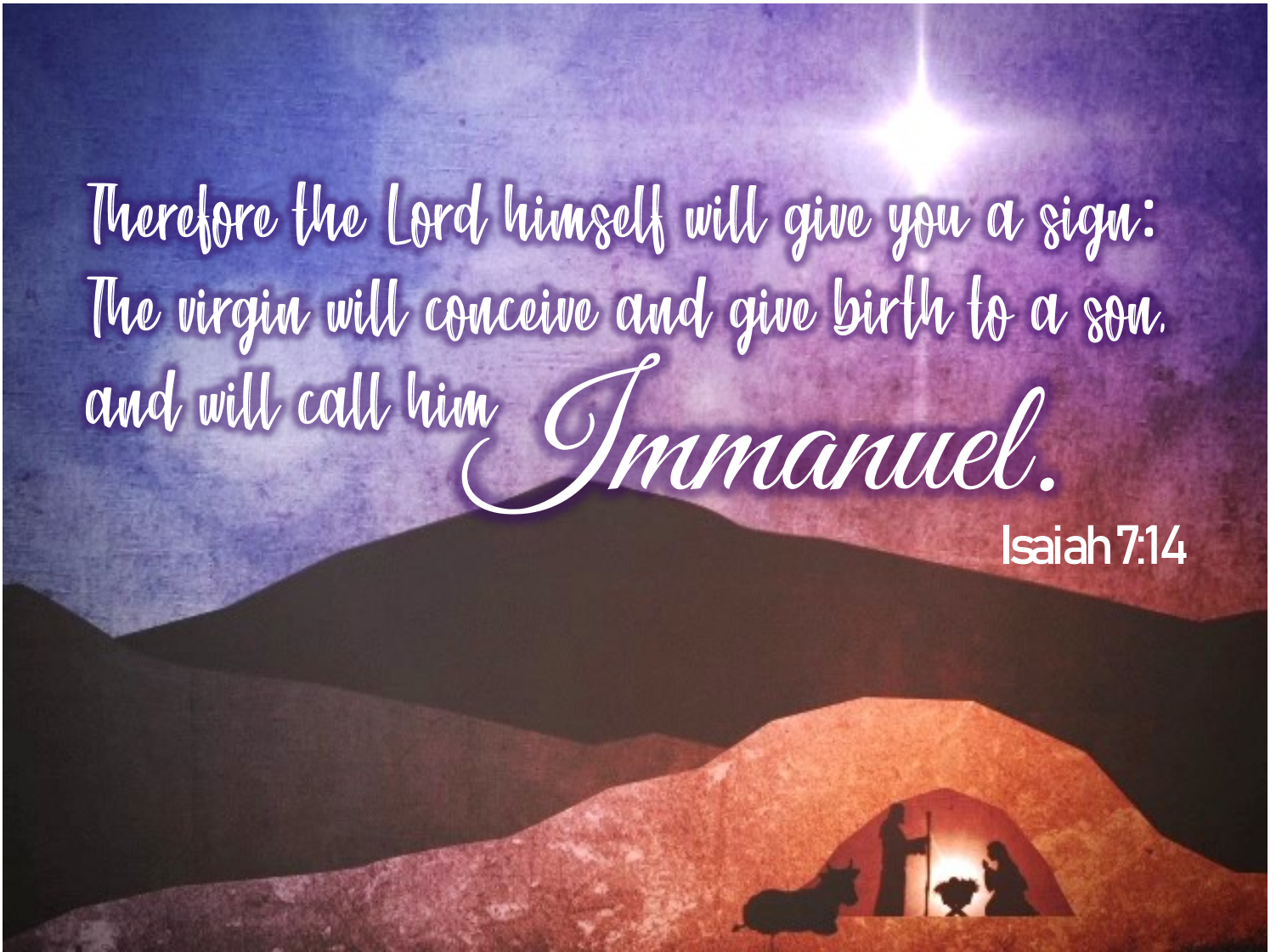
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Therefore the Lord himself will give you a sign:
The virgin will conceive and give birth to a son,
and will call him *Immanuel.*

Isaiah 7:14



Merry Christmas and welcome to Pitman Road Church of Christ!

We are very happy that you've chosen to worship with us today.

We've got a wonderful morning planned,
including a special message for children and their families
and a dramatic telling of the Christmas story
by the youth of our church!

So that everyone can enjoy today's program, Nursery, Kids for Christ,
and Junior Worship are dismissed this morning.

Our Mission

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

From Daniel's Den

Struggling With What to Give a Special Someone for Christmas?

I know of an extremely valuable gift you can give, and it will be worth as much as, or more than, any other gift they'll receive. You can afford it, but it may take some time to put it together! It might be for a family member, or a co-worker, or a neighbor! It may require some time and some thought to put it together, but you can do it.

What is this "extremely valuable" gift?

It is not a \$100 Wawa gift card! It is not an expensive piece of jewelry! It is not a new iPhone! It is not a new car! But, it just may be even more valuable than all of those put together! What is it?

You can give a "word gift!" Take the time to write down your words of affirmation to a friend! Pick a special time to speak your words to the recipient. Then, hand them those words in a note. You will bless them in a powerful way! How do I know? I received such a word gift from my dad in December, 1996.

It was a hand written note on a slip of paper and it said...

Dear Son,

Dec. 2, 1996

I love you.

Maybe I haven't told you as much as I should how I respect you.

You are a credit to the Cooper name.

God Bless!

Love, Dad

I still have the original. I treasure it. I carry it with me all the time. It is in my Bible. If you ask me, I will show you the original document.

Will you share a gift that literally keeps on giving? Write a note of encouragement and tell a family member, friend, neighbor or co-worker why they are special to you.

-Much love and Appreciation, Dan the Grateful Preacherman



Dan Cooper
aka
"Dan, Dan,
the Preacherman"

Write a note of encouragement and tell a family member, friend, neighbor or co-worker why they are special to you.



Tony DeStefano

Deacon:

Body Life & Fellowship

How do we "meet others where they are ..." if we are spending all of our time in the comfort zone of our own fellowship?

A Servant Speaks

Body Life and Fellowship

Our Vision: A place where God's love is experienced, known, and shared by all.

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

One of our Core Beliefs: The church is the worldwide family of God of which Jesus is the head. It consists of individuals and communities of believers working to make known the wisdom of God.

Our "Hammonton" LIFE Group has been meeting together for about 25 years with an ever changing cast. We have had weekly counts as high as three dozen when our homes were bursting with children and now average about a third of that, all adults. Last week, the "Young Married" LIFE Group joined us for our annual Christmas dinner and we had a great time talking, eating, and playing "white elephant Pollyanna" with the next generation.

We have shared both good times and bad. We are family, brought together by Christ's church and bonded together by God's love and shared experiences. It is easy to satisfy our vision and mission statements within this group, but what about those beyond the confines of the Pitman Road church? How do we "meet others where they are and together be transformed into the image of Christ" if we are spending all of our time in the comfort zone of our own fellowship? This is a question that we must answer if we are to fulfill the Great Commission that Jesus has given to us all.

Some of our members are already working to achieve these goals. The bulletin is often packed with outreach efforts our church is participating in and upcoming events that would be ideal to invite visitors to. The Pancake Breakfast is an example of such an event and required a team effort for success. Volunteer to participate in these efforts. Beyond that however, we must consider attending the events of others. We have attended an Easter play, women's tea, and Christmas concert with in-laws, co-workers and friends. We enjoyed these events and were an encouragement to them as well. "The church is the worldwide family of God." Let's get to know them.

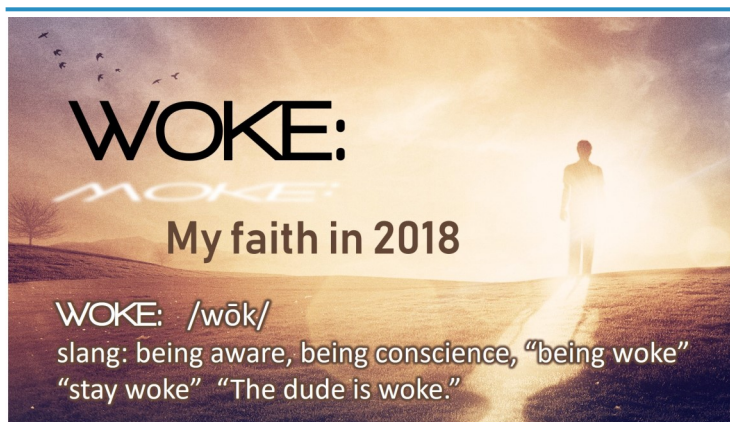
-Tony DeStefano

Holiday Schedule



- The church office will be closed for the holidays on Tuesday and Wednesday, December 25 & 26; and Tuesday, January 1.
- LIFE Groups will not meet formally on December 23 or 30.
- We will not meet at the building on Wednesday, December 26.
- On Sunday, December 30, we will have our regularly scheduled Bible classes at 9:00 am, but the class on Women's Roles in the Church will NOT meet. We will have our regular worship service at 10 am. See below.

Join Us NEXT Sunday!



As 2018 draws to a close, it brings a great opportunity to reflect back on both the good... and not so good. But as Christians, we know faith grows out of the not so good, as well as in the most devastating life experiences. In Hebrews 11, we read of some amazing faith heroes from 3,000 years ago. And, we have some pretty amazing faith heroes that are our contemporaries. In fact, some are in our midst.

NEXT Sunday, December 30, Dan's sermon, **WOKE: My faith in 2018**, is going to feature two of our members who will give their testimony of how life altering experiences impacted and grew their faith: **Carla Ortiz** and **Dr. George Kenner**.

- On June 18 of this year, Carla and her daughter Je'ani were rear-ended by a tractor trailer in a multi-vehicle accident on I-95 near Baltimore. Carla escaped without serious injury, but Je'ani sustained life-threatening injuries, and was left paralyzed from the chest down.
- On October 30, George was in a head-on collision that left him in Trauma ICU with broken ribs, lung trauma, and memory loss.

We hope you will be here as they share their powerful testimonies of how life altering events "woke" their faith and brought their relationship and connection to God to a higher level in 2018.

Upcoming Mission Trip to Haiti

Good morning Pitman Road Church. I pray you all are well! We are planning the next trip to Haiti now and would like to invite you to join the team in February. The trip is being planned for February 7-18 (or close to those dates- depending on flights and in-country transportation and housing availability).

The work of this trip will include...

1. Spending quality time with Marcelin, THEA's agriculture program teacher/coordinator to create a school garden curriculum that can be shared and taught to other school administrators/teachers.
2. Graduation of the final Chicken/Egg Production class.
3. Follow-up with Notre Dame and Mont Sion administrators for primary/secondary students who moved to Cap Haitien.
4. Teacher's Unite conference Continued Bible Curriculum and Child Development topics.
5. Administrative/Operational meetings Assessment of THEA's effectiveness and continued community needs
6. Read with the children in the Breakfast and Tutoring Program

Let me know at your earliest convenience (by December 30 if possible) if you are able to be part of this team. Approximate cost for the trip is \$650 plus airfare (approx. \$500), depending on the number of people in the team. Join us in prayer for the team formation, the activities on the trip, and our brothers and sisters and all of the children and leaders in Lavictoire.

In Christ's love, **Cynthia Mudd** 732-570-1623

Serving Family Promise



Several years ago, our members were seeking a regular mission opportunity here in our own community. Two of our members specifically brought **Family Promise of Gloucester County** to the attention of our shepherds. In January of 2014, we began hosting **Family Promise** for 4 weeks each year.

The mission of **Family Promise of Gloucester County** is "to provide homeless families an opportunity to achieve stability by providing shelter, food, case management, and hospitality while simultaneously utilizing resources within local congregations and the community."

Family Promise consists of congregations of all faiths, working together to provide homeless families a chance to regain their independence and maintain their dignity.

Our **Family Promise** coordinator here at Pitman Road is **John Ashton**. Our next Family Promise Host Week is **January 20-27**. Fifty volunteer positions are needed to staff one host week. Sign up to volunteer at the Family Promise table in our lobby!

BLOOD DRIVE OVERWHELMING SUCCESS! I wanted to thank you so much for all of your help with the blood drive on Friday and share the official results. It looks like we had an AMAZING turnout! Please extend our sincere thanks to the church and those who came out to donate. With these units, we will be able to reach up to 93 hospital patients with lifesaving gifts! There was a goal of 19 units, 31 were collected, including 4 Power Red units, which means we hit 163% of our goal!

Thank you so much!

Mary DePasquale | Account Manager, Donor Recruitment
American Red Cross, Penn-Jersey Blood Services Region

EDITORS NOTE: WE THANK OUR COORDINATOR, MANDY MANSDOERFER, FOR AGAIN WORKING TO EXCEED OUR GOAL!

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	121
Worship	183
LIFE Groups	107
Wednesday	NC

This Week's Prayer Requests

Praises: **Doug Oliver** had his last radiation treatment, and **Dwight Thompson** completed a round of chemo treatment.

Prayer Requests:

Karelle Pierre-Jacques recovering well from prophylactic bilateral mastectomy surgery.

Steve De Prince had nerve and tendon transfer surgery on his right arm and is recovering at home.

Judy Fitzpatrick, Chris Fitzpatrick's wife, biopsy confirms throat cancer. She will have radiation treatments, date TBD.

Pat Moore, Judi Campbell's sister, is at home now.

Penny, Melody Schools' 7 mo. old granddaughter, had eye surgery on December 21.

Jessie Burrell, Mary Collier's sister, recovery from toe amputation.

George Kenner is recovering at home. **Debra Bryant**, Barbara Robinson's sister, recovering from surgery for a brain tumor.

Debby Durham at home recovering from foot surgery.

Amanda Collier, sister of Lee Collier, heart surgery recovery.

Bill Carney, Barbara Carney's husband, heart surgery recovery.

La'Verne Daniels at home recovering from foot surgery.

Please continue to remember in your prayers **Doug Oliver**, **Gwen Phillip**, **Dwight Thompson**, **Linda Prenger**, **Patti Frambes**, and **Doug Oliver** as they receive treatment for cancer, as well as **Kareem Rutledge, Jr.** and **Je'Ani Lyles** in the rehabilitation from life changing injuries.

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Elder on Call for December: John Peoples

Serving Us Today

Nursery	Children sit with families today.
Kids For Christ	Children sit with families today.
Jr. Worship	Children sit with families today.
Greeters: Front Entrance	Corny & Phyllis Walker
Greeters: Back Entrance	Larry & Lee Ann Kellum
Information Center	Jackie Fenton
Ushers	Terry R. & Steve DePrince
Shepherd's Call	Brian Holden
Song Leader	Garth Hutchinson

LIFE Group	Location	Contact
Ageless	Winter Break/Resumes Jan. 6	
Brook Besor	Winter Break/Resumes Jan. 8	
Circle of Sisters	Winter Break/Resumes Jan. 7	
Covenant	Winter Break/Resumes Jan. 6	
Hammonon	Winter Break/Resumes Jan. 6	
Life Challenges	Winter Break/Resumes Jan. 6	
Men's Bible Study	Winter Break/Resumes Jan. 7	
Solid Gold	Winter Break/Resumes Jan. 6	
Teens	Winter Break/Resumes Jan. 6	
Vineland	Winter Break/Resumes Jan. 6	
Women in the Word	Winter Break/Resumes Jan. 15	
Young Married	Winter Break/Resumes Jan. 6	

Find Us on Social Media:

 @pitmanroadcoc  www.facebook.com/pitmanroadchurchofchrist  @pitmanroadchurch

Placing Membership

WELCOME ANGEL BOBE, SR.! This came as a shock to many, but Angel was not currently a member of this church! After his return to the mainland US, he began attending Pitman Road again, and has now formally established his membership here. Welcome back brother... we are thrilled to have you here! Angel's contact information is in our online directory.

NEW ADDRESS FOR SHARNICE JONES:

1525 Williams Ct, Apartment C, Dexter, MO 63841

Update on Our Brother Austin

I and the kids send our greetings to you and the Pitman brethren. We are fine and doing well, as God is always there for His children. We want to inform you that we could not afford asylum in the U.S., therefore we decided to try Canada. We are fortunate the Canadian government took us in, gave us accommodation, medical care for my daughter, free legal representation, and processing my work permit! We are so grateful to you and other church members for your love, assistance & prayers. We hope to always keep in touch; I will update you on our progress.

Thanks you, Bro. Austin Akaninyene
(writing from Montreal, Canada)

Want to know more about who we are and what is happening at Pitman Road? Go to our website at www.pitmanroadcoc.com. There, you can read our mission, vision, core values and beliefs; check out our ministries and view the event calendar. For all of the latest news and events, the homepage links to our weekly bulletin.



Also, follow us on social media!