



PITMAN ROAD

CHURCH OF CHRIST

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My Story: Coming to the Pitman Church of Christ



In honor of Black History Month, we are reprinting an excerpt of an article written by Phyllis Walker for the bulletin a few years ago. Phyllis wrote about the integration of the Pitman Road church in the 1960's. This was revolutionary within the churches of Christ at the time! This is an important piece of our congregation's history that we want everyone to know.

Our family was large, 8 kids: Elnora, Loretta, Phyllis, Ida, Bert, Kat, and Anna, and Billy. We were raised in the little town of Clayton. At the time it was a predominately white community, other than the 8 to 10 families in our little neighborhood. I was the only black child in most of my classes throughout my school years. I really didn't think much about it until I was reminded of my "difference" by others calling me names.

You need to know where I came from in order to understand where I wanted to be.

Our father, William H. Williams, was a Church of Christ preacher. He would drive us to Philadelphia every Sunday morning to worship because the Columbia Avenue Church of Christ was the closest black church around. As our family grew, it became more difficult to travel that far.

Dad had a desire to pastor his own congregation. He began the church in our little home, around 1953. Some Sunday evenings we'd have as many as 20 in attendance, mostly family. Within about a year, our mother, Mae, encouraged our father to begin construction on a small church building in Clayton. It still stands today, over 50 years later. It wasn't long before we had a membership of 40 to 45...mostly family, and many new Christians.

The other nearest church to us was in Collingswood. My sisters Ida, Bert, Kat, and I, were asked to sing at their anniversary celebration. This was around 1963, and a few of our relatives were attending there. Having blacks perform there was unusual for the time because Collingswood was also a white community.

Collingswood would soon be responsible for the establishment of the Pitman Church of Christ. Pitman was another all white town; it did have one black family that owned a dry cleaning business.

By 1962 the civil rights movement was gaining momentum. Dad did not want his daughters to get involved. But...I had a boyfriend who was a very active member of the NAACP. He was also a new Christian and saw no reason why there should be black churches and white churches. I always thought that, but would not dare talk about it...Who would listen?

When he suggested going to the Pitman church to talk to the minister about attending there I thought it was a great idea...

although scary. The minister there at the time welcomed us into his office. We told him that we would like to attend his church. His response was that the community was not ready for us.

Soon after that, a new preacher came to Pitman, Paul Cantrell. My father invited him and his wife to our "All Day Meeting" and they came; they were the only whites in attendance. Now, an "All Day Meeting" meant ALL DAY. Every preacher in attendance would have something to say in the pulpit. It seemed that most black preachers were conservative, and felt that white preachers were too liberal; white preachers were not welcome in most black pulpits. But my dad seemed proud to have a white preacher attend, and even asked Paul to "Have a few words..." This was 1964, and began our relationship with the Pitman church.

During the next few years the Pitman church, through Paul Cantrell, began accepting black members. A couple of our relatives from Collingswood started attending there. My sister, Ida, and her husband, George Rowe, were the first from Clayton to attend Pitman. Dad was devastated that his own daughter would leave "his church" for a white church.

In 1966, I met Corny, and we were married 2 ½ months later. We wanted a big wedding but the Clayton church building was too small. So we called Paul Cantrell to see if he would consider permitting us to get married at the Pitman church; we also needed a preacher. He gave his consent for us to use the building, and he agreed to perform the ceremony. My husband and I were the first couple to be married at the Pitman Church of Christ.

This was a big step for Pitman. I was impressed by the change taking place in that white community. Why, they had 7 or 8 blacks attending the Pitman church by now! The town of Pitman was being integrated...through the church. Corny and I wanted so much to be a part of a strong, active, and growing church. In a year and a half we were attending the Pitman church. This was around April of 1968, our first born; Ena, was a year old.

Ted and Rose Noe were the first members at Pitman to invite us into their home for dinner. I believe the Cantrells were the next. I have to mention that it was obvious that it was an effort on the part of some members to accept blacks in the Pitman church. Some were brave and honest enough to admit that.

Corny and I have worshipped here at the Pitman (now Pitman Road) Church of Christ for 50 years! I taught Bible classes for kindergarten through 6th grade children for 26 straight years... only taking one quarter off during that time. Corny was a deacon for 20 years. We have come a long way with our church family. Acceptance of racial differences did not come overnight. We now have blacks serving in every capacity. It's important for it to be known that it wasn't always that way. The diversity here now says that we truly are accepting of ALL God's children. Red and yellow, black and white...all are precious in His sight. This sounds simplistic...but keep on singin' it!

Our Mission

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

From Daniel's Den

Church Office: Annette Perine

Annette is leaving, but not really going anywhere! Her presence in the church offices three days a week will be no more, but she will still play an important role in our church. I will miss having Annette here on a regular basis. But, I do understand her decision and I wish her well in this time of transition. More business trips with Dave, more time to spend with adult children who live far, far, away. And, more time to do more of what she'd like to do as a hospitable elder's wife and dedicated Christian. More time to be quiet and let God lead her in the directions that He wants her to go.

Annette has been filling the vitally important role of administrative assistant in our church office for six years now. And she has done it with both professionalism and heart. Those two attributes don't always go together. She does spread sheets, she keeps church statistics, she edits, she manages our electronic media, she answers the phone, she composes, and she creates beautiful brochures and flyers. Simply put, she is a multi-talented, artistic, creative servant.

Those who work in the church offices are "front line" disciples. They are frequently the first to hear! They take the phone calls and receive emails in times of hospitalization, accident, tragedy, and even death. Conversely, they are frequently the ones who take the exciting calls to add a wedding or a pregnancy to the church bulletin. They are the "gatekeepers." They handle the salesmen who call numerous times weekly. In addition, they are typically the first ones to make an impression when people call or stop into the office. And, Annette has always represented you, and all of us, in a wonderful way.

Thank you, Annette, for your service, your pursuit of excellence, and for what you have given to this church. You are a blessing! Wishing for you God's richest blessings...

-Extending Honor to Whom Honor is Due! **Dan**



Dan Cooper
aka
*"Dan, Dan,
the Preacherman"*

Those who work
in the church
offices are
"front line"
disciples.

IMPORTANT INFORMATION:

This week will be my last week as an administrative assistant in the church office. It's been exactly six years since I began working in the office, and so much has changed here, and in my own life, during that time! I've been asked where we're going and what I'm doing next. Dave and I are not going anywhere! As far as what I'm doing next... I'm looking forward to cleaning out some closets! Seriously, I plan to be an active member of this church, and hope to have more time to spend with my church family.

Katelyn Ikeorha (pronounce it EE-cora), who you probably know as Kate DeStefano, has been hired to fill the part-time administrative assistance position in the office. She is **VERY** capable and possesses all of the skills needed! **Kate is able to do all of the creative work necessary for not only the bulletin, but also all of the flyers and publications that I have done in the past. So please contact her in the office when you need to promote a church event.**

Kate will be in the church office Tuesday, Wednesday, and Thursday, generally between the hours of 8:30 am and 4:30 pm. If you need to contact her, you can reach her by phone at the church office on those days at 856-589-1500. You can email her at kikeorha@cochrist.org.

BEGINNING TODAY, please send all information for the bulletin, LIFE group counts and locations, and any requests for flyers, invitations, etc. to Kate. **The deadline for guaranteed inclusion of announcements/articles in the church bulletin continues to be 4:00 pm on Wednesday afternoon.**

For now, I will continue to maintain our social media and website.

It's been an honor and joy to work at my church for these last six years. I want to thank Dan, Dottie, and the elders for making me feel appreciated and respected. This is truly not good-bye!

Please be patient with Kate as she "learns the ropes" here in the office.

In Christ, **Annette**

Women's Prayer Program *Grace Under Fire*

*"...My grace is sufficient for you, for my power is
made perfect in weakness..."*

-2 Corinthians 12:8-9

SATURDAY, FEBRUARY 23
8:30 am - 1:00 pm



Guest Speaker:
Margaret Robertson

God speaks to our hearts through scriptures and prayer. One need not look far to see signs of strife and division in the fabric of life. Despite what goes on around us, God provides us with the power to maintain "Grace Under Fire." Join us as we delve deeper into scripture for the wisdom needed to rise above the chaos of the world.

This is a free event! Breakfast, lunch, and childcare are provided.
Please register at: pitman-womens-prayer-program.eventbrite.com

For information, contact:

Mary Collier, Program Coordinator: 215-888-0646
Shachara Adams: 609-922-2581

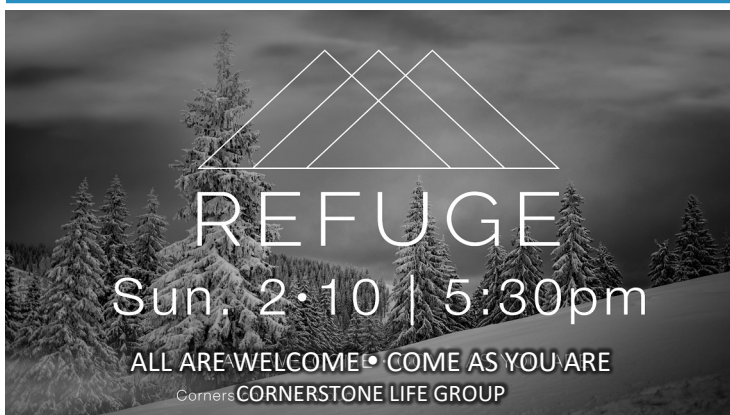
TODAY! Children's Ministry Meeting



All cradle roll, preschool and elementary parents, teachers, special event leaders, worship coordinators, nursery attendants, and interested servants are asked to meet with **Robin Steward** to plan our work in 2019. God is answering our prayers by

sending new young families to our congregation. We need to be ready to serve them! Discussion will include, weekly Bible class curriculum, teaching/nursery schedules and ideas for special events and service projects. **Please meet this morning following worship in the chapel. Snacks provided! See you there!**

TONIGHT!



Congratulations to Luke Olley!

Luke received three year ROTC scholarships to both Texas A&M and The Citadel!! Wherever you choose to go to college, we are proud of you Luke!

goodnews

Support Southwestern Christian College

Wouldn't you love to support a great cause while at the same time enjoying some rich Christian fellowship? **Dan has tickets for a dinner supporting Southwestern Christian College hosted by the Newark Church of Christ on Sunday afternoon, March 3, at 2:00 pm.** Donations of a minimum of \$40 are requested, and the donation is 100% deductible.

This is the 50th Annual National Dinner Day; the new president of the college, Dr. Erwin Seamster, will be the featured guest speaker. See Dan or Dottie if you are interested in attending or for more information.

Women's Three Month Prayer Emphasis



Dear Praying Women,
A new 3-month season of prayer begins this week, and will last for the months of February, March, and April 2019. As of right now, there are three groups meeting. If you are not already part of a group but would like to be, please contact one of these groups, or create one and invite a couple of women to join you.

In the morning, O LORD, you hear my voice; in the morning I lay my requests before you and wait in expectation. -Psalm 5:3

This is the confidence we have in approaching God: that if we ask anything according to his will, he hears us. -1 John 5:14

Let us encourage one another in this important spiritual blessing of prayer! Current groups are:

Thursdays at 6:30 am by phone:

Free conference call phone number: 515-604-9863

Access code: 756 796

Contact persons: Carla Clements or Melody Davis

Tuesdays at 9:00 am at the home of Yvonne Pearl

Contact persons: Yvonne Pearl and Debbie Schreiner

Mondays at 10:00 am at the home of Gloria Myerson

Contact persons: Gloria Myerson and Diana Hutchinson

With love in Christ,

Brenda Busch 646-258-5031 & **Diana Hutchinson** 856-381-9095

Secret Sister Revealing Party
Saturday, March 2 at 1:00
at the home of
Stephanie DeStefano



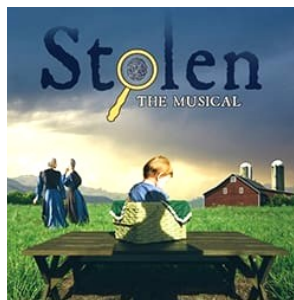
If you are interested in being a Secret Sister this year, please let me know and I will give you a questionnaire to fill out.

Please bring your favorite finger food to the party!

If you are unable to attend the party, please be sure that your gift is given to me or to Stephanie, so that you are "revealed" to your Secret Sister along with everyone else.

Lynn Sbaraglia has graciously offered to drive the church van to Hammonton. It will depart from the church parking lot at 12:15 sharp! **Please** contact me and let me know if you will ride in the van.

Thank you to all her participated this year and I am looking forward to the new year! Each and everyone one of you is a blessing to me. Love you all, **Dottie**



There is a bus trip scheduled for September 28, 2019, to see the musical Stolen at the Bird-In-Hand Stage Theatre in Lancaster County, Pa. The cost is \$87.00 for adults and \$57.00 for children (4-12). The cost includes bus, show and dinner at the Bird-In-Hand Family Restaurant. All money is due by June 15th. There is a sign up sheet in the foyer. There are 100 tickets available. Contact Brian Holden for additional

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

e-mail: bcholden94@hotmail.com

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	115
Worship	188
LIFE Groups	88
Wednesday	62

This Week's Prayer Requests

Please continue to use the January Ongoing Prayer Requests list. There were no updates for February. Thank you!

Prayer Requests:

Dwight Thompson is at home and has begun new treatment.

Elinda Hunter, still awaiting biopsy results.

Marion Jacob, remains in the hospital, but is improving.

Rich Rinnie remains hospitalized after triple bypass surgery and post-surgical complications. There has been some improvement. Jo Ann requests no visitors.

Dorothy Cunningham, Brenda Peoples' mother, in rehabilitation hospital; is having trouble eating and sleeping, which is slowing recovery. Please continue to pray for her, Brenda, and Brenda's brother Ronnie.

Anne Peoples is recovering from surgery for a fractured hip. Cards and calls at the rehabilitation facility: Manor Care, Health Services, 5651 Limestone Road, Wilmington, DE 19808. Room 178 B; cell # 302-634-0792; Manor Care # 302-239-8583

Bill Carney, Barbara's husband, still at Atrium rehabilitation in Woodbury.

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

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Dwight Thompson 609-561-8561-home, 609-287-0109-cell
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Elder on Call for February: Dave Perine

Serving Us Today

Nursery	Hope DeStefano
Kids For Christ	Robin Steward
Jr. Worship	Brian Mansdoerfer
Greeters: Front Entrance	Steve & Jayne DePrince
Greeters: Back Entrance	Derrick & Brenda Busch
Information Center	Shachara Adams
Ushers	Dave & Annette Perine
Shepherd's Call	Brian Holden
Song Leader	Mike Broyles

LIFE Group	Location	Contact
Ageless	Mychajlowyczs' 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	856-419-0544
Covenant	REFUGE at 5:30 pm	908-294-4056
Hammonton	REFUGE at 5:30 pm	609-320-9260
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	Hightowers' at 12:30 pm	856-769-2789
Teens	Church Bldg. at noon	610-476-9057
Vineland	H. Pearls' at 6 pm	856-839-0051
Women in the Word	Church Bldg. FLC, Tues. 9:45 am	856-981-9754
Young Adults	Hutchinsons' Fri. at 6:30/REFUGE Sun.	856-381-9095
Young Married	Church Bldg. at noon	856-899-9466

Sympathy




We extend our sympathy to **Barbara and Bud Britton** on the passing of Barbara's sister-in-law, **Janet Bush**. Funeral services were in Florida, and were private. You can send a card to the Brittons at 100 Levee Rd., South Bay, FL 33493-1222.

Kinda New Members!



Chuzik and Katelyn Ikeorha placed membership last Sunday. Technically, Kate never left! But she did get married, and she and her husband Chuzik have settled back in South Jersey. And as you probably already know, Kate has joined our church staff! Chuzik and Kate's contact information is now listed in the online church directory. Welcome back Kate, and welcome Chuzik, to the church family!

Find Us on Social Media:

 @pitmanroadcoc
  www.facebook.com/pitmanroadchurchofchrist
  @pitmanroadchurch