



PITMAN ROAD

CHURCH OF CHRIST

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A Mother's Day Story of Hope

I'd like to tell you a Mother's Day story. It starts with a wedding; a boy and a girl standing at the altar. They said "I do" and it seemed so simple. Years later, when they thought about having children, they said "we will" and thought it would be the same...only it wasn't. Instead of picking out pink or blue onesies, they stared month after month at single pink lines on pregnancy tests. There were tears and prayers, moments of anger and frustration, and loss of a little one that slipped to heaven before even a "hello" on earth. They wondered what family would look like for them, if maybe they had done something wrong or had been disqualified. Then one night she watched a special on television about foster kids who age out of the system. Kids who are told at eighteen, "have a nice life." And she wondered, who would cheer for them at their college graduation, walk them down the aisle, rock their babies? Who would they would call when they lost a job or just had a bad day? "That's not okay," she said. "Not okay at all."

In the meantime, God showed her that she didn't have to be a physical mother to still be a Mama. In Genesis, Eve is called "the mother of all living." All women are mothers, she discovered, because all women bring life into the world in some way. So she birthed books, and her friends threw her a book shower. She got to mother women all over the world with her words. She started to heal, but there was still a place deep inside saved for someone. She prayed for her child who was

out there somewhere without knowing a name or face.

Years went by and she was invited to a banquet at Saving Grace, a place for girls who age out of the foster system and would otherwise be homeless. She met a twenty-year-old young woman that night and she knew almost right away, "this is my daughter." Her husband agreed. It took time. There were lunches and conversations, hugs and misunderstandings, and prayers. They did the awkward dance of becoming family until they knew it by heart. One day, that girl, Lovelle, moved into their guest bedroom. She took their last name. She called them Mom and Dad.

Later, Lovelle met a boy and her Dad walked her down the aisle in a white dress. She and the groom said "I do", too. More time passed, then last fall Lovelle called, emotion in her voice. "Mom, I'm pregnant," she said. And I almost dropped the phone...because this Mother's Day story is mine. I'm going to be a Grandma. Just last week I sat next to my daughter in another banquet for Saving Grace. I leaned over and placed my hand on her beautiful belly. And I felt a flutter, my granddaughter, saying "hello" for the first time. My eyes filled with tears. I thought of Mark and I on our wedding day, all those pink lines, meeting Lovelle, becoming a family, her wedding day, and the moment I knew that we would be grandparents. Then I imagined what years from now may hold as I hold that little girl—story times, bubble baths, trips to the zoo to see long-necked giraffes; oh, there is so much yet to be.

If you are hurting this Mother's Day, I want you to know I've been there. I wish I could wrap an arm around your shoulder, take you out for coffee, listen long and hard. This is what I know for sure—there is hope and your story is not over yet. It may not look like what you imagined, but it will be good because The One writing it is. *If you are celebrating this Mother's Day*, then I am joining in with you. As a daughter, a Mama, a Grandma, a woman who has come to understand what extravagant grace looks like, I will wrap my arms around my family today and I will place my hand on that beautiful belly again. I will be grateful; so grateful that nothing turned out the way I planned.

Proper stories seem to close with "The End", but that doesn't seem quite right at this moment because this feels like it's still only the beginning. There is so much more to come. I can't wait to meet you, Little One. Happy Mother's Day to you, to me, to all of us, because we are all mothers in some way today. And, we are all part of the great story of motherhood God is writing from generation to generation, from Eve to eternity. - **Holley Gerth**



Our Mission

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

From Daniel's Den

"Happy Mother's Day!" But...My Mother No Longer Prays for Me!

From the 1970's until the day she died (six years ago), my mother prayed for me every single day. She told me when I was still a student at Harding College, *"Danny, I pray for you every single day."* In the intervening years, she repeatedly told me that she was praying for me on a daily basis. No telling how many thousands of prayers she prayed. (And that is the literal truth!) Her prayers undoubtedly protected me from evil. They undoubtedly protected me from the sly attacks of the roaring lion. Her prayers protected me from violating my wedding vows. Her daily prayers even protected me from myself! Can you imagine how reassuring it is for a son or daughter to know that for over forty years, "mom is praying for me every single day"?

If you are a mother, and you pray daily for your kids, thank you. And, please remind them that you are praying for them. There is a strength that surpasses understanding when you know someone is praying fervently and consistently for you. If you are not a biological mother, would you "adopt" a child, and begin now to pray for them every single day? It does make a difference. God answers prayer. And, when we tell our children and our adopted children that we are praying for them, our prayers take on an even greater power.

God answers all prayers uttered by His faithful children, but I have a sneaking suspicion that He gives extra attention to the prayers offered by devoted mothers. Moms, your work is never done! Keep praying for God's protection over your children. And children, if your mom is still living, pray for her on a daily basis. And moms, if you are not already doing so, imitate my mom's faithful example. Pray for your kids every single day, and tell them you are praying for them.

- *Dan the Prayed for and Praying Preacher Man*



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

Pray for your
kids every
single day,
and tell them
you are
praying for
them.



Brian Holden
Shepherd

Shepherd's Voice

Let Go, Let God

"Let go, let God." The more I hear it, the more I realize that living that way has had a great impact on my life. Letting God lead and take control of our lives is easier said than done in our Christian walk. God has given us spiritual gifts and we should use them to do His will and glorify His name. Letting go and letting God does not mean to sit by idly and do nothing. We are to strive to do the work of the Kingdom.

Cindy and I have season tickets to a dinner theater in Paradise, PA. (I believe that God wanted us to have tickets in Paradise.) We were blessed to have Glynn and Debbie Durham accompany us to a show. I told them that when I call for seating, I always inform the theater staff that they can seat us with other people. Of course, Glynn and Debbie were fine with that. We were seated with a couple who tragically lost a son. It was a time of ministering, sharing, and God making a difference. I remember as we left the theater, Debbie stated, "God put us at that table." We all agreed that, indeed, He had!

Let us continue to pray for God's love and guidance as we seek to do His will. "Guide me in your truth and teach me, for you are God my Savior, and my hope is in you all day long." Psalm 25:5

- *Brian Holden*

A Letter from Prison and a Gift of Thanks from a Friend

Dan Cooper, Pitman Road Church of Christ,

I just wanted to contact you and thank you again for the prayers and kindness the Pitman Road Church gave me while I was incarcerated in Prison. The five years I was here in New Jersey was very difficult because I have never been there and did not have family or friends there. But, God allowed me to take two Bible study courses, and I was also able to study my Bible daily and hold a Bible study class in the tier where I was held. My hope is that I touched one of the guys in prison, and maybe the word will spread.

I examined the Bible more in prison than I did my 47 years as a Christian on the outside. I am convinced that the Church of Christ is the New Testament Church! It has been hard returning home to my family and friends for many reasons, but life is okay. I continue to study the word and fellowship with my family and church members. I hope you will take this small gift and use it to help someone else. Hopefully, as things get better for me, God will allow me to help more. I owe so many so much! Please continue to pray for me and my family, and continue to spread the word.

- *God Bless, [Signed]*

Annual Pitman Road Memorial Day Church Picnic

Sunday, May 26
After the worship service

Join us for a cook-out here
at our church building!
INVITE YOUR FRIENDS!

* Inspirational words by Paul Stanford

- Each member/family attending is asked to bring hamburgers or hotdogs; 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, buns, and chips will be provided by the church.
- Desserts will be provided by elders' and deacons' wives.
- Any hot dishes should be preheated.

You are also asked to bring games! (Mostly outdoor games like Horseshoes, Ladder Ball, etc.)

Questions? Contact Tony or Stephanie DeStefano



Munchkin Ministry will now start at 8:30am on Sunday morning! The clean up will start at 9:45am to insure that everyone can get to worship on time.



Camp Manatawny Family Camp

May 24-26, 2019



This is a great time to enjoy our summer camp activities and re-energize your family's walk with God! Activities include canoeing, kayaking, archery, riflery, swimming, crafts, and family friendly food! The lessons often follow a family friendly movie theme, along with thought provoking and engaging messages throughout the weekend.

Cost: \$100. Includes 2 nights cabin lodging, all meals and activities for up to 4 family members. (Upgraded lodging is available for additional cost during registration.) \$20 for each additional family member ages 5 and older. **Children 4 and younger are free.** Go to manatawny.org for the schedule, to register, or for more information.

Church Upgrades



Do you have any ideas or suggestions for possible improvements for the church building and grounds? Visit the Welcome Center and write them on the clipboard provided titled "Church Upgrade Ideas and Suggestions" or get in touch with the team coordinating the effort: Manny Vander Vennen, Brian Mansdoerfer, and Troy Spencer.

Male Camp Counselors Needed!



August 3-10, 2019

Manny Vander Vennen is urgently looking for men (age 18 or older) that would be willing to serve as counselors at **Elementary 1** week. He needs at least five more male counselors!

Elementary 1 is the week with the youngest group of campers, aged 7-8 years old. Having an opportunity to spend time with these excited and enthusiastic young campers as they grow in their knowledge of Christ, and as they enjoy the activities and beauty of camp, is something that promises to be a highlight of your summer! **Please contact Manny if you are able to help:** (home: 856-241-7757; cell: 484-886-5349; email: manatawny@gmail.com)

Every Monday! Men's Bible Study



This Monday evening, from 7:00 - 8:15 pm, the Men's Bible Study group will be featuring the **Book of Revelation**. This group is regularly attended by men from the church and several visitors from the area. We meet in **The Conference Room**. Snacks, coffee, and other hot beverages will be served. **Please join us**

for this wonderful time of fellowship, bible study, and prayer.

"Choices of the Heart": Baby Bottle Campaign Kickoff Sunday, May 19th!

choices
OF THE HEART

Choices of the Heart Pregnancy Center
108 Greentree Road, Suites LM
Turnersville, NJ 08012
(856) 374-2445
<https://choicesoftheheart.com>

God has given us a unique opportunity to help some people in need in our community: families with crisis pregnancies. "Choices of the Heart", in Turnersville, provides numerous free services to these women and their families. We can help them by raising funds in a very creative way!

Next Sunday, each church family/single adult will have the opportunity to take a baby bottle home and fill it with spare change (dollars and checks will fit also). We are privileged to give to this Christ-centered organization providing help to women making life altering decisions.

Last year, our church raised \$2,526.89 from 98 filled bottles! Can we top that this year?



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	116
Worship	181
LIFE Groups	38
Wednesday	NC

Ministers

Dan Cooper, Evangelist dcooper@cochrist.org
..... 856-589-4197
Derrick Busch, Minister dbusch@cochrist.org
..... 267-303-4877

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Elder on Call for May and June: Horatio Fenton

Serving Us Today

Nursery	Lynne Sbaraglia & Need One Volunteer
Kids For Christ	Not meeting today.
Jr. Worship	Not meeting today.
Greeters: Front Entrance	John & Brenda Peoples
Greeters: Back Entrance	Corny & Phyllis Walker
Information Center	Shachara Adams
Ushers	Terry Rhymes & Mike Lazar
Shepherd's Call	Mike Lazar
Song Leader	Garth Hutchinson

LIFE Group	Location	Contact
Ageless	Not meeting today.	
Brook Besor	Durham's Tuesday at 7 pm	856-589-2280
Circle of Sisters	Sbaraglia's Monday at 7 pm	856-419-0544
Covenant	Not meeting today.	
Hammonton	Not meeting today.	
Life Challenges	Not meeting today.	
Men's Bible Study	Church Bldg. Monday at 7 pm	856-217-3956
Solid Gold	Not meeting today.	
Teens	Not meeting today.	
Vineland	Not meeting today.	
Women in the Word	Church Bldg. FLC, Tues. 9:45 am	856-981-9754
Young Adults	Hutchinsons' Friday at 6:30 pm	856-381-9095
Young Married	Not meeting today.	

Find Us on Social Media:

 @pitmanroadcoc  www.facebook.com/pitmanroadchurchofchrist  @pitmanroadchurch

This Week's Prayer Requests

Prayer Requests:

Dorothy Cunningham, Brenda People's mom, in ICU with a torn artery which cannot be operated on. Brenda is there with her mom.
Jayne Schofield, right wrist broken and casted. Having serious problems with her left ear and jaw due to bone deterioration.
Je'Ani Lyles and Carla Ortiz, health insurance battles.
Clare Hightower, radiation treatment until May 29th.
Patti Frambes, minor growth in tumor, however, doctors are optimistic. Resumed chemotherapy.
Wilma Gillespie, Elinda Hunter's mom, continued prayers requested for issues with her heart.
Angel Bobe, Sr., continuing to suffer breathing complications.
Alan Cattier, friend of the Points, is a recent widower who has mobility issues and is facing a very serious surgery.
16 year old daughter of Aurelia, friend of Kelly Spencer, had a mini stroke which led to the discovery of a lesion on her brain.
Dennis Hobbs, a friend and coworker of Troy Spencer, collapsed at work and found out that he has brain cancer. His prognosis and course of action are to be determined.
Doug Oliver, is receiving treatment at Cancer Treatment Centers of America. Requesting prayers for further upcoming decisions.
Patty Ollek, Sandy Sheehan's cousin, diagnosed with stage 3 colon cancer. Had surgery and will start chemo in 2 weeks. She is doing well and gives all credit to God and prayers. Cards have been deeply appreciated: 8 Oakwood Ave., Key Largo, FL 33037.
David Balitz, friend of Sandy Sheehan, stage 3 colon cancer. Is continuing with 46 hours of straight chemo every other week with no side effects. He just returned to work and will continue chemo.
Cliff Dando says thank you for your prayers and he will begin therapy for his vertigo soon.
Elinda Hunter, changing from radiation to a pill form of treatment. Several appointments in May.
Anne Peoples is recovering from surgery and a stroke at home. Cards and calls appreciated: cell # 302-634-0792
Please continue to pray for **Judy Fitzpatrick, Larry Kellum, Sr.**, and **Linda Prenger**, 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.

A Special Thank You

To Minister Dan and the Pitman Road Church of Christ,
Thank you seems so small for all that you did in the passing of my dad, Marion Jacobs. Your generosity and kindness made our family feel loved. A special thanks to Minister Dan for his words of comfort. We are so thankful for the work of Leonard and Mary Collier, for their efforts in securing the delicious food. We appreciate the many cards, your presence, and your prayers. I love you and your hearts of gold.

- Sincerely With Love, Sister Barbara Robinson

With Heartfelt Gratitude

To the Pitman Road Church Family,
The family of Dwight Thompson acknowledges with grateful appreciation your kind expression of sympathy. The flowers sent from the church family were especially lovely. I recall noticing them before the service began. Dwight *did* love you, his Pitman church family, and missed not getting to be there with you when he became ill. His spiritual goals were to be a faithful servant, to be at all worship services, to be dependable and stable, and to replace himself as a leader and shepherd. Thank you for honoring him and respecting him and loving him as a person and as a leader.

-In Him, Mary Lea