

500 Pitman Road
Sewell, NJ 08080
856-589-1500
www.coChrist.org

FOCUS 2015

Focusing on

- God's Word
- God's Son
- God's Vision
- God's Mission

One In Christ

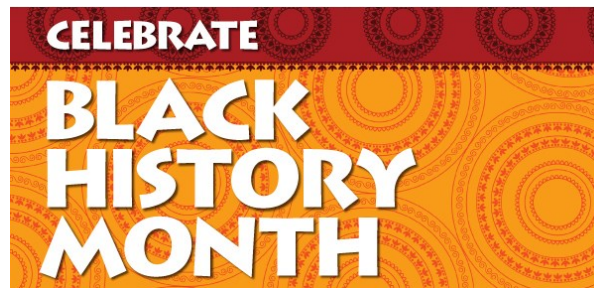
by Derrick Busch

It is my understanding that in 1926 in the United States, Carter G. Woodson and the Association for the Study of Negro Life and History announced the second week of February to be "Negro History Week." Following this monumental event, the leaders of the Black United Students at Kent State University in February of 1969 proposed the expansion of Black History Week to Black History Month. In 1976, the United States Bicentennial, the expansion of Negro History Week to Black History Month was recognized by the U.S. government. President Gerald Ford urged Americans to take this opportunity to honor the too-often neglected accomplishments of Black Americans throughout our history. Giving honor to whom honor is due (**Romans 13:7**).

What comes to mind when you contemplate the significance of Black History Month? Do the adjectives resilient, courageous, and unjust come to mind? Perhaps racism, prejudice, and discrimination come to mind? Have we as the body of Christ developed and accepted a biblical worldview that confronts present and past racism, prejudice, injustice and discrimination? Does this topic bother you...honestly? Let me be very clear, it is not my attempt to cover all of the dynamics and factors that contribute to the magnitude of this topic and its impact on the church. Here's the question, "Have we concluded as the body of Christ that racism, prejudice, discrimination and injustice have been resolved?" Have the above mentioned monumental acts of 1926, 1969 and the like created God's equality? Just think with me... have you asked an African American brother or sister, a Black brother or sister the significance of Barack Obama's rise to the Presidency? Mind you, his belief system and values are another issue.

Has Satan surrendered his device of creating racial divides that have been effectively perpetuating disunity among

God's people? When God's people at large seek to worship multi-culturally, as intended by God and reflective of His Kingdom, God is glorified! Do we resurrect Satan's racial device by accepting the world's terminology when referring to ourselves by terms other than "the Church"? Are we still using the phrase "white church", or "black church" to describe the Church? Are we still using the term "normal" to describe or denote what's "right" or comfortable in church when our ethnic group is dominant numerically? Beware! What is "right" or "normal" can be merely a social construct. As Christians, we are called to view other Christians, and the Church, through God's eyes.



Biblical Worldview text

(Genesis 1:26-27) All human beings are equally created in the image and likeness of God.

(John 3:16) ALL ethnic groups.

(Deuteronomy 10:17; Acts 10:34; Romans 2:11; Ephesians 6:9) God does not show partiality or favoritism.

(James 2:4) Those who discriminate...instead, love our neighbors as ourselves. (**James 2:8**)

(Ephesians 2:14) Dividing wall of hostility...destroyed!

(John 13:34)...love one another as He loves us.

(Ephesians 4:32) Be kind and compassionate to one another.

***(Galatians 3:28)...**for you are all one in Christ Jesus

Interesting Reading: "He's My Brother" By: John Perkins & Thomas A. Tarrants, III 3.8

Our Vision:
A PLACE WHERE GOD'S LOVE IS EXPERIENCED, KNOWN, AND SHARED BY ALL.



Garth Hutchinson
Deacon over
Local Evangelism

The church that Jesus Christ instituted in this world was built for mission.

The body that Jesus created for this world was endowed with a holy purpose.

A Servant Speaks

Purpose

There's a story about a town in California that paid to have a new municipal park built for their community. It was truly beautiful! They even had a local sculptor construct a piece of "modern art" which served to dedicate the new facility. After a time, the park fell into disrepair. During the reconstruction process, one of the workers mistook the "art" structure for some miscellaneous debris and razed it to the ground. The funny thing is, no one even noticed the structure was gone for over two years!

I would not want my life to be like that sculpture: a life without meaning or purpose. And I would not want the church to be like subjective art in the community. What if we were not here? Would the community recognize that we were gone?

The church that Jesus Christ instituted in this world was built for mission. The body that Jesus created for this world was endowed with a holy purpose. At the end of the four gospels, Jesus gave the eleven disciples their marching orders, as follows:

He told them, **"This is what is written: The Messiah will suffer and rise from the dead on the third day, and repentance for the forgiveness of sins will be preached in his name to all nations, beginning at Jerusalem. You are witnesses of these things."** Luke 24: 45-48

Jesus' purpose for his disciples' lives was this: to be His witnesses. This is *our* mission as well. This is *our* purpose. We are His witnesses in a lost world where having purpose in life is not necessarily the main objective.

I love our vision statement: ***A place where God's love is experienced, known, and shared by all.*** It speaks not so much of what we need to do as a church, but more of what we want to BE: the love of God to a lost world. People need to see Christians *being* God's love to each other and to those around them. That's what Jesus wanted for his disciples and that is what he has called us to here at this church...

"... As I have loved you, so you must love one another. By this everyone will know that you are my disciples ..." John 13: 34-35

-Garth Hutchinson

Camp Manatawny News and Information

2015 Summer Sessions Schedule & Registration Information

Session	Dates	Grade Completed
Senior High 2	June 21 - July 4	11th - 12th
Senior High 1	July 4 - 11	9th - 10th
Junior High 2	July 11 - 18	7th - 8th
Intermediate	July 18 - 25	5th - 6th
Junior High 1	July 25 - Aug. 1	6th - 7th
Elementary 2	August 1 - 8	3rd - 4th
Elementary 1	August 8 - 15	1st - 2nd

You can register your child for camp now on the updated and easy to use camp website at manatawny.org.

Camper fees and discounts remain the same as last year! The camper fee for one full week of "sleep-away" camp including three AMAZING meals a day is \$325. And there are a number of discounts available.

Early Registration Discount: Save \$25 if registered and paid in full by April 30.

First Time Camper Discount: Save \$25 for all first time campers.

Refer A Friend Discount: If you are a returning camper and refer friends who have never attended Camp Manatawny before, you will save \$25 for EACH friend that attends. The discount will be refunded to you after camp session once it is verified the new camper has attended camp. There is no limit on this discount.

Multi Camper Discount: Available for families with three or more children from the same household attending camp. The discount is \$25 and is applied to the third or more child. The campers must be immediate family or legal guardian to qualify.

New Classes Begin NEXT SUNDAY!

2015 Spring Quarter March, April, May

Sunday

Location	Intended For	Topic	Teachers
Family Life Center	Adults	Revelation	Mike Grove
B-1	Lavender Ladies	Proverbs	Mary Lea Thompson, Yvonne Pearl
B-2	Young Adults	Truth Matters: Confident Faith in a Confusing World	Coordinated by Carlos Isaziga
B-3 Chapel	Women	"I Want God"	Alana Peterson
B-4	Men	"Stepping Up" A Call to Courageous Manhood	Coordinated by Carlos Isaziga
Conference Rm.	Adults	Finding Encouragement through God's "Do Not Be Afraid" Passages	Mike Broyles
Parke Place	Senior Saints	Worship	Jay Schneider

Wednesday

Location	Intended For	Topic	Teachers
B-1	Adults	Barnabas Group	Fran Point and Donna Lazar
B-2	Young Adults	Message for the Messed Up	Carlos Isaziga
B-3 Chapel	Adults	The gospel of Matthew	Garth Hutchinson
B-4	Adults	A Psalm and A Prayer	Dave Perine
Conference Room	Adults	France Mission Trip Prep Class	Dan Cooper

Camp Manatawny News and Information continued

More Camp Events

Spring Clean Up Day - May 9th, 9 AM 3PM

Put your work clothes on and come out for a fun filled day of gardening and cleaning up camp after a long hard winter. This is a great opportunity for students to receive community service credits for school. Contact Jim or Carol Bailey at 215-822-3845 or at jcbailey@comcast.net to sign up.

Family Camp - May 22-24 - A time to camp as a family, worship together and participate in all the activities that are offered during our summer sessions. Saturday starts off with a 5K trail run and 1 mile fun run/walk. Saturday is open to the public to visit, participate and learn more about our summer sessions.

Manatawny 5K Walk/Run - May 23 - 8 AM - Put your running shoes on and run the trails of Manatawny! This scenic course follows dirt roads from the Manatawny creek to forested rolling hills. This event will challenge even the best trail runners. If you don't feel like running, you can walk a 1 mile course.

Camp Sonshine - May 30-31 - An overnight camping experience for campers with special needs that would make it difficult for them to attend a full week of camp.

For more information on these and other events at camp, visit manatawny.org or call the camp business office at 610-689-0173.

Look Who's Coming Back!



Harry and Linda Ake's horses Rosie and Daisy will be returning to Camp Manatawny this summer for our campers to enjoy. Thank you again Harry and Linda for your generosity to camp!



Last Sunday, the elders and ministers had to make the tough decision to cancel our Bible classes and worship service. Fortunately, with the help of email, LIFE group leaders' phone calls, and social media, we were able to get the word out.

This is not the first time, and it won't be the last, that our Sunday or Wednesday assemblies are cancelled due to inclement weather. Please remember that weather conditions can vary greatly over the wide geographical area in which our members live. While some of us received a dusting last Sunday, Pitman received 5 inches of snow!

We are asking that in the future if you have any question about whether or not we will be meeting, please check your email, Facebook, Twitter, or Instagram. As soon as a decision is made to cancel classes or worship, the information will be communicated through each of those forms of media. And of course, use your own discretion and err on the side of caution if our meeting is not cancelled, but weather conditions in your area are poor.



@pitmanroadcoc



www.facebook.com/

pitmanroadchurchofchrist



Instagram

@pitmanroadchurch

Secret Sister Revealing Party

The Secret Sister Revealing Party has been rescheduled.

NEW Date: Saturday, February 28th

Same time: 1:00 PM

Same place: the home of Melody Davis

415 Grape Street, Hammonton, NJ 08037

Same plan!

Transportation: If you would like to car pool or ride in the church van, please meet at the bldg. at 12:15.

What to bring: Please bring your favorite finger food and your "revealing" gift.

Please note: If you are not able to attend the party please be sure to give your revealing gift to Melody or



Thank You for a Job Well Done!

Thanks go to **Marlon Bundridge** for taking over the job of clearing our walkway after the recent snowfalls! **Marlon, we appreciate you!**



Pitman Road Church of Christ
Monday Night Men's Bible Study
7:00 -8:00 PM
in the Family Life Center
Coffee and snacks will be served.
Topic: **The book of Romans**

Bible Study

Come and Experience the Living Word

women of faith

Unwrap the **BIBLE**
LIVE SIMULCAST EVENT

CHRISTINE CAINE PRISCILLA SHIRER LISA HARPER SHEILA WALSH CHARLOTTE GAMBILL

Register in the Foyer on Sunday mornings or pick up invitation/registration forms with details at the Information Center. Please also use them to invite family, friends, and neighbors!

Saturday, March 14th - 8:00AM-5:30 PM
Deadline for registration is March 8th.

Jessica Sikes: A Life Reflecting God's Grace



On Saturday, February 14th, as her family sang together around her, **Jessica Sikes** slipped away from a lifetime of physical pain into waiting arms of her Heavenly Father. We extend our love and sympathy to Steve and Patti and the entire Sikes family.

Although Steve and Patti were with us for six years, most of us did not get to know Jessica personally because of her chronic pain and headaches, which kept her homebound. We were, however, blessed to learn so much about her character, perseverance, and her love of God from

all that her parents shared with us over the years. Especially in these last few months, as Patti posted daily updates on Facebook, we got a glimpse of the grace and selflessness that Jessica lived out each day. Jessica ministered to other patients she encountered during her treatment at Mayo Clinic's various medical facilities, as well as the medical professionals who treated her. Jessica's final concern was for her parents and the financial burden she would be leaving behind. In Jessica's honor, friends and family from all over the world have generously helped relieve that burden.

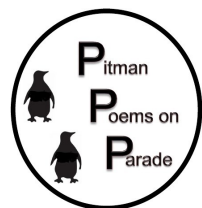
This past Thursday, the Sikes family, along with friends and family from near and far, celebrated Jessica's life. If you would like to send a card or note of support to Steve and Patti, their address is: 2967 Bandel Court, Rochester, MN, 55901.

Thank You for Being Super Generous!



John Ashton would like to thank all of those who contributed to our Family Promise fund on Super Bowl Sunday. Contributions totaled almost \$200. These funds will go directly to support our Family Promise host weeks.

Attention Poets!



Pitman Poems on Parade wants you to be part of the fun! Amateur poets of all ages will be able to celebrate National Poetry Month in April by having their original poems displayed in store windows in the business district of Pitman.

Visit pitmanpoemsonparade.weebly.com for information and an entry form, or contact Diana Hutchinson at 856-381-9095 or drh13013@gmail.com for more details.

This Week's Prayer Requests

Praises : John Grillo is recovering very well after the extensive surgery to repair his elbow. He still has pain, and physical therapy ahead, but his surgeon is pleased with his progress! Dottie thanks you for your prayers and asks for continued prayer.

Prayers Requested:

Dreama Musso, hospitalized and on liquid nutrition. She is too sick to receive chemo treatments at this time.

Steve and Patti Sikes and family as they grieve the loss of Jessica. (See left.)

John Grillo, recovering at home after extensive surgery to repair his elbow.

Joshua & David Davis, Harriet Wensel's grandsons, have both been readmitted to the hospital.

Lynne Sbaraglia, severe back pain.

Millie Moore, recovering from hand surgery.

Adam Cerquoni, recovering after prostate removal surgery.

Lee Cooper, Dan's father, awaiting date for prostate surgery.

Pat Schuehler is asking for the church family's prayers for her physical and emotional health. She says, "I know the prayers help."

Jayne Schofield, still experiencing severe back pain.

Nancy Calabro, blood clot and cardiac issues.

David Davis, Harriet's younger son, liver is not functioning very well. He may have a liver transplant.

Military:

Andrew Holden at West Point.

Expecting:

Brendan and Lisa Downing, March

Ryan and Pam Monaghan, March

Lauren (Camorata) & Jeremy Thompson, March 28 - a boy!

Engaged:

Timothy Holmes & Paige Rothmaller, April 4, 2015.

Anthony DeStefano & Hope Anderson, July 10, 2015

Traveling:

Paul Stanford

MED Meeting

Next MED Meeting Scheduled for Sunday, March 1st at noon... Planning Ahead!

The next meeting for all Ministers Elders and Deacons (MED) is scheduled for Sunday, March 1st, immediately after morning worship in the Family Life Center.

Plan on enjoying a home cooked meal compliments of Harriet and Judi to start things off, then we will move into our business section. As per our usual tradition, the meeting time together will conclude between 2:00 and 2:15.

Please RSVP to at dcooper@coChrist.org BY TODAY, so that appropriate plans for the meal can be made.

Our Ministers

Evangelist

Dan Cooperdcooper@coChrist.org

Minister

Carlos Isazigacisaziga@coChrist.org

Visitation Minister

Glynn Durhamgdurham1@coChrist.org

Office Staff

Dottie Grillo dgrillo@coChrist.org

Annette Perine annette.perine@gmail.com

Our Elders

Mike Broyles..... mbroyles777@gmail.com

Horatio Fenton..... HoratioFenton@comcast.net

Greg Krinks856-881-2039, hm
.....Greg.Linda.Krinks@gmail.com

Mike Lazar teacher.engineer@comcast.net

Dave Perine davidt.perine@comcast.net

Larry Point..... 856-769-0836
.....lawrencepoint@helmerlegal.com

Dwight Thompson 609-561-8561, hm
..... 609-287-0109, cell
..... DOWThompson@comcast.net

Our Deacons

Bud Britton..... Grounds Maintenance

Derrick Busch Young Adults

Tim Davis..... Teens

Tony DeStefano Body Life & Fellowship

Matt Downing Worship

Glynn Durham..... LIFE Groups

Darren Fields.....Greeters Ministry

Brian Holden Special Activities; Body Life

Garth HutchinsonLocal Evangelism

Larry Kellum, Jr. Caring &Sharing

Brian Kleineweber Financial Consultant

Brian Mansdoerfer .Building Maintenance; Jr. Worship

Chuck Olley Teens

Aaron Pearl Youth

John PeoplesNew Member Involvement

Steve Pierre-Jacques.....
..... Audio Visual; Information Technology; Website

Jay Schneider Serving Our Seniors

Carl Steiner World Evangelism

Manny Vander Vennen
..... Church Directory, Kids for Christ

Sunday Schedule

9:00 AM Bible Classes
10:00 AM Worship

Wednesday Night Schedule

5:30-6:30 PM Meal
7:00-7:45 PM Bible Classes
7:45 PM Fellowship

Last Week

Bible Class	Cancelled due to weather
Worship	Cancelled due to weather
LIFE Groups	Cancelled due to weather
Wednesday	94
Contribution	\$0
Fiscal YTD Goal	\$344,916.00
Contribution YTD	\$329,391.00
Under Budget	(\$15,525.00)

Serving Us Today

Nursery	Judi Campbell
Kids For Christ	Manny Vander Vennen
Jr. Worship	Brian Mansdoerfer
Hall Monitor: Bible Class	Judi Campbell
Hall Monitor: Worship	Volunteer Needed
Greeters: Front Entrance	Glynn & Debby Durham
Greeters: Back Entrance	Linda Kuznetzoff & Jerri Manfre
Ushers	Justin Guy & Waverly Hale
Information Desk	Jane Hanuszczyk
Shepherd's Call	Mike Lazar
Song Leader	Dwight Thompson
Communion	Carl Steiner

L.I.F.E. Group Locations Today

Group	Location	Contact
Brook Besor	Durham's, Thursday at 7PM	856-589-2280
Circle of Sisters	Prenger's, Tuesday at 7PM	856-689-7932
Convenience Group	Church Building at Noon	856-589-1500
The Flock	Buchanan's at 5 PM	856-229-1558
Hammonton Group	Not meeting today	
Solid Gold	Lazar's at 6PM	856-223-1699
Teens	Not meeting - Winterfest	
Vineland	H. Pearl's at 6PM	856-839-0015
18thirty	Isaziga's at Noon	850-814-6632

Wednesday Night Meal

Cook: Coopers

Menu: Shepherd's Pie



@pitmanroadcoc



www.facebook.com/
pitmanroadchurchofchrist



@pitmanroadchurch