

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



We are so excited that Corny and Phyllis will once again be hosting this long standing annual event!

The pool will be open, bring your bathing suits if you'd like to swim! ● Please supervise your children in the pool.

Entertainment will be provided by many of our multi-talented members.

Please contact Phyllis (856-478-6972) to let her know what you would like to contribute to the picnic.

If able please carpool to help with the parking situation.

It would be greatly appreciated if you would connect with Phyllis ahead of time to let her know you plan to attend, and what you will be bringing.

Our Vision

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

From Daniel's Den

Diversity is Growing!

The caption on the top of the front page of the newspaper caught my eye last week. It said: **"In Garden State, Diversity is Growing! In Cumberland and three other counties, whites no longer comprise most of the population."** The article continued, four New Jersey counties are among 78 counties across the country where "whites no longer make up the majority of the population." (In addition to Cumberland County here in South Jersey; Middlesex, Union and Passaic counties up north report under 50% of their population is white.) The times, they are a changing! And our church is perfectly positioned to minister to a continually growing diverse population! Thank you, God!

When Jesus was here on earth, he reached out to all people! Jesus reached out to people who were like Him. He started with the people like Him. But, He also reached out to people who were not like Him. By the time the gospels concluded, Jesus commanded His disciples to go into "all nations" (Matt. 28:18-20) and share the good news with "all creation" (Mark 16:15-16). The apostle to the Gentiles, Paul, even saw a vision! His vision convinced him that "God is not one to show partiality, but in every nation the man who fears Him and does what is right is welcome to Him" (Acts 10:34-34). And by the time the story of Cornelius ends, Paul concludes; "Surely no one can refuse the water for these (Gentiles) to be baptized who have received the Holy Spirit just as we did, can he?" "And he ordered them (Gentiles) to be baptized in the name of Jesus Christ. Then they asked him to stay on for a few days" (Acts. 10:47-48).

And maybe even more telling, in addition to the "whites" serving in leadership positions at our church, we have "minorities" that serve on our ministerial staff and other minorities serving on our leadership team as elders and deacons!

Thank you, God. May our diversity continue to grow. To God be the glory!

Dan the Preacherman



Dan Cooper
aka
"Dan, Dan,
the Preacherman"

**When Jesus
was here on
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to all
people!**



Carlos Isaziga
twitter@carlosisaziga

**I am finally
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How to Be Real With God

What to do when spending time with God seems like chore.

By Heather Caliri

Not that long ago, reading Jesus' words about "abiding in Him" in John made me wince. Why? Because grace-filled faith seemed like a Catch-22.

I knew I needed to stop "performing for God," stop trying so hard to earn God's favor. But as far as I knew, the only way to stop performing was to try harder.

In other words: Try harder to not try so hard.

Performance-oriented, perfectionist thinking is addictive. It looks pretty on the outside, but it lands you in the same pit of alienation from God. And perfectionists like me need more than firm resolutions and better ideas. We need a miracle. Here's what mine looked like:

- **Give Up on the Checklist**

I used to feel unrelenting shame when I didn't feel like connecting to God. I would force myself to spend time with Him, and then feel awful that my heart wasn't in the task. I hated feeling like time with Jesus was a chore. But if I didn't spend time with Him at all, how could I grow in my faith? About two years ago, at my wits' end in faith, I tried a radically different approach. I stopped doing Christian stuff I didn't want to do. Instead, I got brutally honest with God. If I didn't feel like praying, I told Him, and asked Him to give me that desire. Ditto with the Bible, church, and other disciplines. Funnily enough, that brutal honesty was the most earnest praying I'd done in years.

For the first time, I'm being honest with God and myself. Just as importantly, I am finally seeing that God is the author and perfecter of my faith, not me.

For the rest of this insightful article please go to www.relevantmagazine.com/god/practical-faith/how-be-real-god

May you enjoy this article, be challenged & grow deeper in your relationship with God.

Your friend,
Carlos

Carlos' Corner

Great Rejoicing on Earth and in Heaven!

The story behind the baptisms of Steve and Dreama Musso is a "Once upon a time" story. It literally began over three decades ago...



Dan, assisted by Jeff Brower, minister Wellspring Church where Stephanie's brother Bob attends, prepare to immerse Dreama and Steve.

Once upon a time, a woman named Mary Lea was teaching a ladies' Bible class in Hammonton. Many women attended this class. One of the women who attended was named Stephanie. Stephanie was so attracted to the things she heard that she began attending church where Mary Lee attended church.

That was a very radical step because the church that Mary Lea attended was different than the church where Stephanie grew up. Over a period of several months, Stephanie made the decision that she wanted to be baptized. It was a huge, daring step; nonetheless, she did it. Stephanie continued to attend church and eventually convinced her husband, Tony, to attend with her.

Soon, a weekly Bible study was started in Tony and Stephanie's home. Other newly married couples joined that weekly Bible Study. Eventually, Tony, (along with others from that study), maybe a bit more cautious, followed her simple act of obedience. Still more time passed and God blessed their union with children. About the same time, Stephanie began to share this good news with her parents, Steve and Dreama, but they were reluctant to hear the things she was saying. However, Stephanie persevered and prayers continued. Her dad read the Bible and Stephanie and her parents had many discussions about it.

Decades passed. Stephanie's parents, and her brother Bob and his family, spent many occasions and holidays with Stephanie's extended "church family," getting to know them and their children. Eventually, members of this church family served as their seamstress, HVAC contractor, legal advisor, and ministers. Later, during times when Steve and Dreama were mostly confined to their home due to health issues, these people and others began to visit them and to invest time and love in them. These relationships became their own, not just their daughter's.



Then Stephanie's brother Bob and his wife Pam also came to a deeper understanding of faith. Through them, Steve and Dreama met more of God's people who were now positively affecting their son's life.

That combination of Stephanie's and now Bob's faith, along with the prayers, the relationships, the visits, and increasingly deeper discussions, ultimately lead to Steve and Dreama's decision that they needed to act on what they knew. So, there was great rejoicing on earth and in heaven when they made their decision to be baptized.



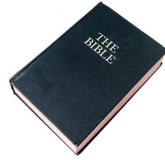
Above: Friends and family members rejoice in the "Love Circle" after the baptisms.

We are still rejoicing! -Dan

Announcements

Tomorrow night will be the last Monday Night Men's Bible Study of the season. We are bringing 1 Corinthians to a conclusion this Monday night. We will begin at 7:00 and this final lesson for 1 Corinthians will be taught by Garth! "All are welcomed to attend and even encouraged to attend." God Willing, we will pick it up again in September. Harry Ake

Ed Note: I would like to personally extend my thanks to Harry for the outstanding job he has done in keeping guys focused on God's word. What a great time of both learning and fellowship these Monday night studies provide for the guys! Dan



It's time to do some spring cleaning

here at Pitman Road! Please check around for anything you've left behind. If there is something stored here that needs to remain in the building for ministry or activity use, please label it with your name, and what it's purpose is.

You have until May 24th, after that date any unidentifiable items will be disposed of at the staff's discretion.

Hands and Feet of Jesus



One of two *Hands of Compassion* hospitality houses offered by the Rochester Church of Christ.

Hands of Compassion is a ministry that was started in 1985 by the Rochester Church of Christ in Rochester, MN. (This is the congregation that Steve and Patti Sikes presently serve.)

Hands of Compassion provides hospitality housing to patients and their families who come from out of town to be treated at Mayo Clinic. They currently

own two houses, and each house can accommodate multiple guests.

Although Jessica, Steve and Patti's daughter, did not need hospitality housing for her treatment at Mayo, she connected with the patients and their families who did, and she was able to minister to them during the time of her illness.

Hands of Compassion is a fine example of a congregation filling the needs of the community they are located in. Being the hands and feet of Jesus is the work that we are all to be about.



Feed the Hungry in Trenton
NEXT Saturday, May 9th
10:00 AM - 2:00 PM

A sign up sheet is available at the Information Center or send an email to **Larry Kellum, Jr.** to volunteer to serve the meal. Transportation to Trenton is provided from the church building in the van, departure is 10:00 AM. The group will return to the building at approximately 2:00 PM.

\$400 is still needed to cover the cost of the meal. If you would like to donate, make your check out to Church of Christ and note "Trenton Meal" on the

Sight and Sound Theater Bus Trip to see *The Miracle of Christmas*.



There are still many tickets available for the bus trip to see *The Miracle Of Christmas* on **Saturday, November 14, 2015.**

There will be only one bus.

There is a total of 49 tickets. If you are interested in going please sign up at the Information Center as soon as possible. The cost for adults is \$97, teens (13-17) \$79, and children (3-12) \$56. The cost includes bus, show, and dinner at Shady Maple restaurant. There will be time for shopping at the Rockvale Square Outlets. Please contact Brian Holden for more information at:

856-881-6792 or bcholden94@hotmail.com

The Button Club will not be meeting on it's regularly scheduled date this month. Instead the club will be meeting on Sunday, May 17th off-site. Location and details to be announced. Stay tuned!



Partners in Ministry,

Our France Prep Class Re-Boots next Wednesday Night, May 6th.

If at all possible, all those going with on to France June 26-July 5 need to attend this class.

(Sanchez family, Noel Young and CJ and Vernell Fuller are exempt! Ha!)

We meet from 7:00 to 7:45 every Wednesday night, for the four Wednesdays of May and the four Wednesdays of June.

Jersey people really need to make all of the June meetings, and the May / June meetings would be perfect!

Then we leave on Friday, June 26th, two days after our final class!

Yes, I am getting excited. Have been in touch with Craig Young as recently as last night.

They are needing us, and getting ready for us!

Most everyone has all of their money in, so I will be paying the balance due on the air fares next week, and sending Craig \$10,500 to help with the charter bus and to purchase materials and food. We will be well fed!

To God be the Glory,

Dan

THANK YOU

Thank you again and again, for the lovely peace lily you sent to our family. Love, Liz Browning—family of Garry Browning

Great Deal on church Logo Jackets

We were just able to purchase some beautiful Winter Jackets from our regular supplier. Because we bought at end of season prices are discounted by over 50%.

Regular price is \$80 each, but we can make them available for \$35 each. Some are black and some are gray.

The sizes that are available are as follows:

2 XX – 2 Jackets

XL—2 Jackets

Large—3 Jackets

Small—1 Jacket

They can be purchased from Dottie in the church office!

This Week's Prayer Requests

Praises : Our church had three baptisms last month of individuals who were all 75 and above.

Prayers Requested:

Steve Musso, was admitted to the hospital on Thursday evening and was undergoing tests at the time of this writing.

Michele Lord, former member, Stage 3 Breast Cancer
If you would like to send a card, 8669 Susie St., Jacksonville, FL 32210

Vivian Owens, friend of Paul Stanford, is still hospitalized after injuries suffered in a bad fall. He is showing signs of improvement, but at 92 years of age, it will be a slow recovery.

Katherine Cooper, continued recovery from cellulitis.

Barby Jo Crema, had surgery this past Thursday and everything went as well as could be expected. She is now undergoing radiation treatments for the tumor on her eye.

Diana Ford will be meeting with the eye doctor on May 27th to discuss cataract surgery.

Jeff Weber, friend of the Schofields, hospitalized for circulatory and complications resulting from alcoholism.

Harvey Grillo, prayers for housing need by June 1.

Franklin Rhodes, cancer treatment.

John Reimels, Jr, in extreme pain from two bulging discs. Pain management treatment began last week. Please pray for it to be effective.

Carl Steiner is recovering from shoulder surgery. Please pray for a full recovery.

Nancy Calabro, continuous prayers for her health concerns.

Georgette Kenna, Beth Loeffler's mother, pancreatic cancer, in hospice.

John Grillo, has an area in his elbow that has not healed yet. Still not allowed to pick anything up over 5 pounds and that continues for another 6 weeks.

Military:

Andrew Holden at West Point.

Expecting:

Sarah and Bruce Stratton, June

Anthony and Kristie Correll, June 25, a girl!

Mary Ellen and Justin Walker, August

Brianne (Gelsinger) and Tom Lodado, October

Engaged:

Anthony DeStefano & Hope Anderson, July 10, 2015

Hope Hooley & Darrell Bargfrede, Date TBD

Traveling:

Paul Stanford

Our Ministers

Evangelist

Dan Cooper dcooper@coChrist.org

Minister

Carlos Isaziga cisaziga@coChrist.org

Visitation Minister

Glynn Durham gdurham1@coChrist.org

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Our Elders

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Larry Point 856-769-0836

..... lawrencepoint@helmerlegal.com

Dwight Thompson 609-561-8561, hm

..... 609-287-0109, cell

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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 Hutchinson Local Evangelism

Larry Kellum, Jr. Caring & Sharing

Brian Kleineweber Financial Consultant

Brian Mansdoerfer Building Maintenance; Jr. Worship

Chuck Olley Teens

Aaron Pearl Youth

John Peoples New 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	123
Worship	242
LIFE Groups	103
Wednesday	96
Contribution	\$10,095
Fiscal YTD Goal	\$449,436.00
Contribution YTD	\$443,375.00
Under Budget	(\$6,061.00)

Serving Us Today

Nursery

Kids For Christ

Jr. Worship

Hall Monitor: Bible Class

Hall Monitor: Worship

Greeters: Front Entrance

Greeters: Back Entrance

Ushers

Information Desk

Shepherd's Call

Song Leader

Communion

Casey Buchanan

Brian Mansdoerfer

Volunteer Needed

Volunteer Needed

Denise Rulli & Mandy Mansdoerfer

Garth & Diana Hutchinson

George Rowe & Mike Lazar

Mary Lea Thompson

Dave Perine

Mike Broyles

Ron Dargan

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	Meet with Another Group	
Hammonton Group	DeStefano's at 5 PM	856-567-9607
Solid Gold	Britton's at 6 PM	609-682-4502
Teens	Church Building at Noon	856-589-1500
Vineland	H. Pearl's at 6PM	856-839-0015
18thirty	Young Adult Room at Noon	850-814-6632

Wednesday Night Meal

Cook: The Pearls

Menu: Chicken Pot Pie



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