

Collingswood Church of Christ

Church Website: www.ccc123.org

300 White Horse Pike

Collingswood, NJ 08107

November 4, 2007

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“Now faith is being sure of what we hope for and certain of what we do not see.” (Hebrews 11:1)

God's Great Mercy

Some of us are caught in a vicious cycle of sin and guilt. The guilt amplifies the sin and the sin amplifies the guilt. The guilt feeds off the sin and the sin feeds off the guilt. They are two vampires thirsting after each other. Who will save you from this deadly trap? Jesus Christ through his great mercy. Be set free by the mercy of God and live by his promises. “There is no condemnation for those who are in Christ Jesus!”

Here is an excerpt from *After You've Blown It: Reconnecting with God & others*, by Erwin Lutzer. It is a small but very encouraging book.

The Shawshank Redemption is a movie about prison life in Maine in the 1940s and the following decades. The story centers on the journey of two men's hearts through the trials and temptations of surviving year after year in the penitentiary. When they receive news of a friend committing suicide *after he is released from prison*, Red, perhaps the wisest and most seasoned of the inmates, explains what happens when you live within the prison walls too long: “These walls are kind of funny. First you hate ‘em, then you get used to ‘em. Enough time passes, gets so you depend on them.”

The same thing happens when you are a slave to sin. You begin by hating your dirty clothes—and the anger, addictions, and deception that go with them—but after a while, you get used to them. And then you begin to find comfort in them. Eventually, you *need* them. **That is the most tragic day of**

all—the day you prefer slavery to freedom. The day you prefer permanently stained clothes to the clean royal robes God has waiting for you.

“Mercy triumphs over judgment!” James 2
May God bless you with mercy & kindness,
Love,

Matt

Matt Fortunato, mfort20@hotmail.com

TODAY:

FIRST SUNDAY POT LUCK; is today after worship at the Bill Ceraso's home from 12:30 - 3:30 PM. Ask us for directions or if you need a ride. All are welcome!

NEXT SATURDAY, Nov. 10th, 7 PM the Jr. High: invites every one **and friends** to our free outreach “**Snow Day Night at the Movies**” here at the building. See Nawana (783-8964).

Thanksgiving Catch-up Sunday, November 18 is in two weeks. We want to knock out as much of our \$18,000 shortfall as we can. This special collection, is our group effort to catch up on:

- ✓ Establishing a trust fund for our missionaries
- ✓ Supporting our ministries for the Lord
- ✓ Finishing off our media system in the auditorium

Just as in last year's successful Thanksgiving Catch-up Sunday we are asking each of us to consider a “**4 Plus 1**” approach (four times our weekly contribution plus our regular one week's contribution).

At each obstacle we have faced as God's people we have sacrificed and the Lord has faithfully brought us through. Each year the Lord has made us stronger. If you have further questions, ask us. Where God guides, He provides.

Daily Bible Readers

Last Week – **24** Daily Bible Readers out of 115 people

Youth Group: Friday at the Goen's home.

Today's Worship Leaders

Worship Leader: Gerry Hogan

Main Prayer: Jack Swinehart

Closing Prayer: David López

Lord's Supper: Bret Goen, Tony Ceraso Jr., Dave Lewis

Greeters: Tate, Jeff Powers, Margaret Perazzelli, Becky Finn

Media: Stanley Amado, Alex Lambert

A word of encouragement: Most of you know that "Catch Up-Sunday" is coming up. Don't be discouraged by *numbers* you hear that sound *big*. Here are some **very encouraging** points to consider.

1. We may be behind in budget commitments, but we have no outstanding debt or late bills.
2. The monthly mortgage payment has continued to be paid on time.
3. The amount we are behind is considerably less than in past years.
4. God has always provided and will continue to provide.

Be encouraged at the work God is doing among us. May He bless you as you consider participation in the yearly "Catch Up."

Wednesday Night Classes THIS Week:

1-Book of Romans 2-Christian Evidences

Collingswood Ladies Retreat Dates: Feb. 29-March 2nd in Cape May. See the bulletin board for a picture.

"Focus On The Family" Bulletin Inserts: When you are done with your "Focus On The Family" bulletin inserts, please pass them on to a friend or put them on the back table in the foyer.

Prayer Warriors: Pray for the **growth of the church**, our **youth and children**, for the **Lost**, for our **weekly visitors**, for our **new members**, for our **Thanksgiving Catch-up** Collection, for **Pat Schuehler** in the Underwood Hospital in Woodbury, for **Ann Pollack** healing from heart bypass surgery, **Bill Willer** recovering at home.

Green Action Team cleans this week. Hardee coordinates.

Nursery: **Debbie & Val** Next Wk: Margaret & Nawana

LOCAL OUTREACH/MINISTRY

Mark Finn - Evangelist

Matt Fortunato - Associate Minister

Church Office- 856-854-0197

MISSION WORK

Alberto Juarez & Adelina Binns - Panama

Keith & Grace Gaffner - Eldoret Kenya

Larry & Hollye Conway - Nairobi Kenya

Sunday 10:30 AM..... 115

Bible Class 77

Wednesday PM..... 54

Small Groups..... 61

"On The Move"..... \$395

Contribution **\$3,337**

Budget Goal..... \$4,160

"On the MOVE" Campaign:

Pledged . . . \$116,993

Given to Date \$76,292

The Wednesday Night Junior High Class decides for themselves whether they think that the evident commonality in designs across the universe suggest a Creator or "coincidence."