

Resolution? Repentance

“Produce fruit in keeping with repentance.”

John the Baptist’s message is timeless: produce fruit in keeping with repentance, or *live according to repentance* (Matthew 3:8). Let repentance toward God shape your life—your words, your actions, your everything.

What is my New Year’s resolution? *New Year’s Repentance.* New Year’s repentance is simply having God-centered New Year’s resolutions. A Godward, or a God-oriented change of ways. It is an abiding, intentional, genuine change of heart, mind, and behavior—a constant striving and deep longing for a Christ-centered existence.

Matt must produce fruit in keeping with repentance in 2010. Fruit in keeping with a patient heart, not a short fuse. Fruit in keeping with a compassionate heart, not an angry spirit. Fruit in keeping with a forgiving heart, not a hard heart. Fruit in keeping with humility, not a bad temper. Soft words not sharp words. Healing words not harmful words. Helpful words not hurtful words in 2010. That’s me—what about you?

Matt needs words in keeping with love, not slander or gossip. Words in keeping with grace, not judgment. Words in keeping with peace, not war. Words in keeping with joy and praise, not resentment. Words in keeping with thanksgiving, not greed and discontent.

Have you noticed the power of words?! Have you noticed that words flow out of your heart and reveal your heart? Sometimes my pain expresses itself in words that cause others pain. Sometimes my insecurities express themselves in words that make others feel or look insufficient. I must repent in 2010—what about you?

Matt must show active love (*or love in action, or action in keeping with repentance*) **toward my family members.** How must I repent regarding my spouse—my children—my parents—my siblings—my coworkers and supervisors/supervisees—my friends—my enemies—my neighbors, etc. Who must I actively forgive? Who must I

actively ask for forgiveness? Where must I repent? Where must you?

Matt needs God’s gift of repentance—what about you? We must pray for New Year’s repentance. God must enable us to produce fruit in keeping with repentance. Be blessed in your effort!

In Love, *Matt*

January, a Month of Prayer and Fasting: Every January we have a blank calendar on the bulletin board for anyone who can, to anonymously put a check mark on a day when he or she will fast and pray for the lost, the church, our leaders, our country.

Volunteers for 2010 Are Needed: There is a new list on the bulletin board for jobs for a month.

On Sunday Mornings we need: Communion Prep, Bringing Bagels & Setting-up, Bringing Donuts, Clean-up downstairs after Worship.

Wednesday Night we need: Clean-up after Classes. Please sign-up and make sure all jobs are covered. In God’s family we all have to work together!

Snow is Coming Again! Please **sign-up** to help with snow removal. Snow blowing will be taken care of BUT additional shoveling is always needed.

Ladies, Please Mark Your Calendars: We will be having a Bridal Shower for Sonya on January 24th right after Worship Service. More details will follow.

Thank YOU DEBBIE & JEFF Powers for the Gingerbread House Event and a Big hug from our grateful kids!

Thank You Bill Ceraso and Bill Gill for leading our Men’s Retreat at the Wildlife Refuge this month.

Adult Bible Classes for January:

Sunday 9:30 AM Bible Class --

1 - **Special Men's Class Series**

2 - **Special Women's Class Series**

Wednesday Night:

Option 1 - **Holiness & Repentance** (upstairs)

Option 2 - **Group Prayer** (downstairs)

Beginning Sunday, Jan. 3rd: the Young Adult Group will be meeting Sunday evening at 7:00 PM at the Cooper's home in Pitman. See Matt or Becky Fortunato for details.

Tony Sr. Would Like to Thank: the Trailblazers and all who came out to visit Dave Pollack at the Masonic Home where he now resides. 25 of us made Dave very happy.

Verdun & Heinz: want to wish all of you a happy, healthy New Year. God has been good to us!

Today's Worship Leaders

Worship Leader: Dale Sherry

Main Prayer: Jerry Clark. **Closing Prayer:** Matt Fortunato

Lord's Supper: Hardee Perazzelli, Jay Nitla, Bill Gill, Kevin Finn

Greeters: Nelson,, Bob English, Sr., Val Henderson, Becky Finn

Nursery: Veronica & Aryn Next Wk: Bibi & Elaine

Yellow Action Team cleans this week. **Norma**

LOCAL OUTREACH/MINISTRY

Mark Finn - Evangelist

Matt Fortunato - Associate Minister

Church Office- (856) 854-0197

ELDERS:

Rick Boyle (856-986-4876)

Tony Ceraso, Jr.

Jack Swinehart

Worship..... 38

Bible Class ... no class-snow

Contribution..... **\$1,051**

Budget Goal..... \$4,175

"Today in the town of David a SAVIOR has been born to you; he is Christ the Lord." -- Luke 2:11

FOUR DECEMBER IDEAS

* Worship Fully

* Spend Less

* Give More

* Love All

Collingswood Church of Christ

Church Website: www.ccc123.org

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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)

