

Stuff Stuff Stuff Everywhere Stuff Stuff Stuff

The basement, attic, garage, throughout the rooms of our house, we are loaded with stuff. It's everywhere.

Once a man came to Jesus and said, "**Teacher, tell my brother to divide the inheritance with me.**" Of all the things he could have asked of Jesus Christ, he chose to make it about his stuff? What a wasted chance!

If you watch a single reality TV show about hoarders, you learn that hoarding is about attaching emotional significance to things instead of people. It's about unprocessed grief, unfelt feelings, and a misguided outworking of the sacredness of life. Rather than risking the vagaries of relationships, the sureness of things don't disappoint. Chronic accumulators of stuff feel that in the layers of physical objects are their sacred memories. So to throw out the objects is to throw away a beloved person and their memory: those who had died, those one had loved, and the childhood versions of grown kids. So rather than conversation, interaction, family stories, taking a photo, praying... stuff piles up layer by layer. Then, finding the truly significant and letting go of the rest becomes a problem. If you have three objects, the decision to keep one that holds special meaning, may be tough but it's a single decision. But what if you have ten-thousand objects and face ten-thousand decisions? It overwhelms and stuff piles up. "I'll get to that someday," but someday never comes.

How much remains of my grandfather's stuff? Is there anything? Not much. Maybe a handful of old hand tools. Might it be the same for my grandkids; not holding a trace of what I owned? And what would that matter? To hold a thing and somehow to feel you are touching the past? Not everyone can feel that, so practical people come along and make practical decisions. Eventually it all gets thrown out, given away or sold off.

In the past century, so much has been manufactured, owned, and handled, we would all be dragging boxcars full of accumulated stuff behind us **encumbering the gift that is today.** Who can drive forward by staring into the rearview mirror? So a decision has to be made and the words uttered, "It's time to move on." It is, for the clock moves inexorably forward. Fantasy, fancy, self-deception will not stop it. I've seen photos of the elderly and many have a subtle look of surprise on their face! Surprised to be old so soon!

ALL that matters is our relationships; to God and to others.
"**A man's life does not consist in the abundance of his possessions.**"
--Jesus (Luke 12:15)

Mark

Today: Ladies going to the Spring Retreat: please meet at the table in the foyer after worship for last minute details, maps, and transportation info.

Tonight: 6:00 PM, The Amado Farewell Party: Please come and enjoy some time with Stanley & Linda. There is a sign-up to bring food. The cake will be provided.

∅ **The Young Adult Group: is Attending This, Too**

Wednesday: Bible Class: "The Letters of 1 & 2 Peter" led by Matt Fortunato in the Auditorium.

Friday: Youth Group: meet at the Finn Home 7 PM

Spring Bible Classes:

Sundays, 9:30 AM

1. "The Unexpected Adventure" Led by Mark Finn in the Auditorium
2. "The Book of Joshua" Led by Tony Ceraso Jr. Downstairs in the Fellowship Room

Wednesdays 7 PM

"The Letters of 1 & 2 Peter" Led by Matt Fortunato in Aud.

Welcome to Jean McKeever: She's our latest NEW member! Here is the information for your directories: 134-B, East Summerfield Avenue, Collingswood, NJ 08108. Phone (856) 858-1316. email: mcklgthousbay@comcast.net

Today's Worship Leaders

Main Prayer: Heinz Fischer **Closing Prayer:** Mark Finn
Lord's Supper: Bret Goen, Jess Nitla, Rick Boyle, Joe Dougherty
Greeters: Scott, Hardee Perazzelli, Chris Schoener, Bibi Williams

Haircuts for Missions will be on March 13th: Please sign-up for your time slot on the bulletin board.

PRAYER LIST: That God would open our eyes to **the lost** and for us to **share our faith** this year; **Anne Pollack** that her new medicine starting Tuesday will give her much more pain relief. Others with health problems: **Bill Willer**, Stanley's mother, **Sydella Butcher**, **Bill Gill's dad**, **Jack Churchill**, **Mary Ann**, Tony Sr.'s cousin, whose cancer reappeared.
Nursery: Becky Finn & Sandy Willer

Orange Action Team cleans this week. **Bill C.** coordinates.

LOCAL OUTREACH/MINISTRY

Mark Finn - Evangelist
Matt Fortunato - Associate Minister
Church Office- (856) 854-0197

Worship 107
Sun. Bible Class 70
Wednesday PM 36
LIFE Groups 62

ELDERS:

Rick Boyle (856-986-4876)

Tony Ceraso, Jr.
Jack Swinehart

Contribution. **\$3,214**
Budget Goal..... **\$4,175**



Collingswood Church of Christ

Church Website: www.ccc123.org

300 White Horse Pike
February 28, 2010

Collingswood, NJ 08107
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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)



Collingswood Joins 14,000 Christian teens at WINTERFEST

