

... *May is "Ministry Month"...*

From My Heart

What do I see as I look deeply into this church today?

- New people are stepping up, others are fading back.
- Bob English is demolishing the old baptistery to make more room.
- Kristin Ceraso is organizing VBS.
- Stephanie Cook brought her neighbor Dianna to Christ.
- Stan & Linda moved away and they cannot be replaced.
- Some of the mainstay servants in the church are getting older.
- Most of our teens are graduating and moving out of Youth Group.
- We have a lot of children at church.
- We will start to put forward additional elders this summer.
- Some are growing victorious over old sins and others are succumbing to old sins.
- Some are becoming more faith-filled and positive, others critical and negative.
- Our young adults are wide-eyed, hopeful, yet seem spiritually paralyzed.
- I see ten deacons who mostly deeply care that they fulfill their ministry for God.
- In the past Heinz drove me crazy, but I love and appreciate him more than ever.

And I love every one of you!

The church at this moment has all the tension of a batter at bat, a basketball tossed at the final buzzer. It's a messy but working model of what a church should be. Yet our love and unity are ever on a knife's edge suspended by the Spirit of God and it's been that way for 24 years. It keeps me in prayer. It sometimes wakes me up at night.

But I love every one of you.

I see this played out over and over: emotionally we didn't get everything we needed from our parents, so we turn to our spouse to make up for it. Then we don't get what we needed from them either, so we turn to our kids. Then we realize we can't get it from them, so finally, hopefully, we start to wise up and say, "Okay, God. I get it. It's only in You." It's the only place it's ever been. Lord have mercy on the impossible pressures we put on our families... and on the church.

Even as I see you struggle, I love every one of you.

My enthusiasm and hope are as strong as ever because I know our victory is in Jesus. If we will simply hold together, work together, love together—never giving up on each other, we are going to be fine. In fact, we will be "more than conquerors through Him who loved us."

And I love every one of you.

Mark

MAY is MINISTRY MONTH:

- Do YOU have a ministry?
- Check Out the Ministry Display Tables.
 - Pick up a copy of our NEW Blue *"Ministry Opportunity Guide"*
- Fill out the *"Ministry Interest Form"* and turn it in.

VBS is in 7 Weeks

Sign-up sheets are in the lobby for *volunteers & supplies*.

Missionary Larry Conway from Nairobi, Kenya will be with us next Sunday!

Please Be Praying: Our Elder nomination process starts soon!

Congratulations to Logan & Collin McEntire: who were awarded their "Servant of the Lord" merit badges in Cub Scouts at a special campfire ceremony this past Saturday.

Stanley Amado's Mother Passed Away: Sydella Butcher's funeral will be held in Smyrna, DE on Tuesday at the Centennial United Methodist Church. 1-302-653-7665 Viewing 9-11AM.

Kids & the Office: Kids, please stay out of the upstairs and downstairs church offices. If you need something from the offices, please ask a parent to go with you. **Parents**, please help us with this.

Last Call for the Lost and Found Table: in the Fellowship Hall downstairs. Does any of this belong to you or your kids?

Today's Worship Leaders

Worship Leader: Dave Williams

Main Prayer: Dan Swinehart **Closing Prayer** Mark Finn

Lord's Supper: Rick, Steve Lucas, Justin Henderson, John Derricott

Greeters: Tony Sr., Scott Schoener, Becky Finn, Margaret Perazzelli

Nursery: Bibi & Elaine Next Week: Lillian & Tiana

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

The Weightiness of Christ's Ministry

“The ends of Christ’s priesthood were very weighty, and that in reference to God and man.

To God, for manifestation of his perfect justice, infinite mercy, almighty power, unsearchable wisdom, and other divine attributes, which never were, nor ever can be so manifested, as in and by Christ’s priesthood.

To man, that God’s wrath might be averted, his favour procured, man’s sin purged, he freed from all evil, and brought to eternal happiness.” *From William Gouge, Gouge on Hebrews Volume II, p. 137, Printed 1655*

LOCAL OUTREACH/MINISTRY

Mark Finn - Evangelist

Matt Fortunato - Associate Minister

Church Office- (856) 854-0197

Worship.....115
Bible Class.....85
Wednesday.....52

Article I.

Article II. Rick Boyle

Tony Ceraso, Jr.

Jack Swinehart

ELDERS:
(856-986-4876)
Contribution.....**\$3,911**
Budget Goal.....\$4,260

My Bible and My Cell Phone...

Ever wonder what would happen if we treated our Bible like we treat our cell phone? What if we carried it around in our purses or pockets?

What if we flipped through it several times a day? What if we turned back to go get it if we forgot it? What if we used it to receive messages from the text? What if we treated it like we couldn't live without it?

What if we gave it to kids as gifts? What if we used it when we traveled? What if we used it in case of emergency? Oh, and one more

thing. Unlike our cell phone, we don't have to worry about our Bible being disconnected because Jesus already paid the bill. And no dropped calls! --Submitted by (but not written by) Hoa Ly

Collingswood Church of Christ

Church Website: www.ccc123.org

300 White Horse Pike
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“New faith is being sure of what we hope for and certain of what we do not see.” (Hebrews 11:1)

