

Pitman
 Church of Christ
 PO Box 205
 856-589-1500
 WWW.COCHRIST.ORG



The Proclaimer

We proclaim Him so that we may present every man mature in Christ. Colossians 1:28

WON'T YOU BE MY NEIGHBOR?



For over 30 years Fred Rogers opened his children's TV program, "Mister Rogers' Neighborhood" with the following ditty:

*"It's a beautiful day in this neighborhood,
 A beautiful day for a neighbor.
 Would you be mine?
 Could you be mine?"*

*It's a neighborly day in this beauty wood,
 A neighborly day for a beauty.
 Would you be mine?
 Could you be mine?"*

*I've always wanted to have a neighbor just like you.
 I've always wanted to live in a neighborhood with you.*

*So, let's make the most of this beautiful day.
 Since we're together we might as well say:
 Would you be mine? Could you be mine?
 Won't you be my neighbor?
 Won't you please? Won't you please?
 Please won't you be my neighbor?"*

While you read the above limerick, did the music of Mr. Rogers' song come back to memory? For me, the music and the visualization came back of Mr. Rogers donning his cardigan sweater and slipping on his "comfy" and quiet sneakers! Ah... those were the days of the Neighborhood Trolley, King Friday XIII, and Mr. McFeely, the character who ran the Speedy Delivery Messenger Service!

To me, the words, "Won't you be my neighbor?" set the tone for the entire show; a warm invitation that was open to everyone, no matter what!

As I think back over the years, one of my favorite neighbors comes to mind. She was a Christian widow in her 70's named Margaret. Margaret reared five children of her own and by the time we moved in across the street from her, they were all grown. We found our neighbor spending her time taking care of infant babies being put up for adoption. Margaret was a strong prayer warrior in our church family; she was a servant; she prayed with Patti every morning during their daily walks in our neighborhood; she also provided babysitting for our children on a number of occasions, allowing Patti and me to go out on dates. Margaret was a righteous widow who encouraged

and strengthened Patti and me on a daily basis.

Have you ever pictured God as a widow? Have you ever seen Him as an orphan? Thinking about our widow neighbor who cared for orphans brings me to two truths (of many) about God:

GOD HAS ALWAYS HAD a heart for the widow, orphan, alien, stranger, and any oppressed and/or poor person in the neighborhood! His desire is to serve, take care of, feed, shelter, protect, and see after the best interests of all "considered" underdogs in the neighborhood!

Deuteronomy 10:17-22: "For the LORD your God is the God of gods and the Lord of lords, the great, the mighty, and the awesome God who does not show partiality nor take a bribe. He executes justice for the orphan and the widow, and shows His love for the alien by giving him food and clothing. So show your love for the alien, for you were aliens in the land of Egypt."

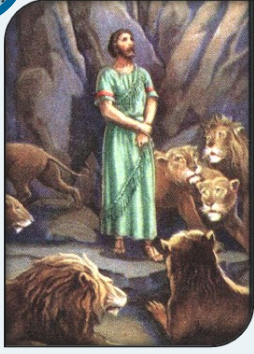
GOD HAS ALWAYS BEEN INTIMATELY ASSOCIATED WITH the widow, orphan, alien, stranger, and any oppressed and/or poor person in the neighborhood! *Matthew 25:34-40 34 "Then the King will say to those on His right, 'Come, you who are blessed of My Father, inherit the kingdom prepared for you from the foundation of the world. 'For I was hungry, and you gave Me something to eat; I was thirsty, and you gave Me something to drink; I was a stranger, and you invited Me in; naked, and you clothed Me; I was sick, and you visited Me; I was in prison, and you came to Me.' "Then the righteous will answer Him, 'Lord, when did we see You hungry, and feed You, or thirsty, and give You something to drink? 'And when did we see You a stranger, and invite You in, or naked, and clothe You? 'When did we see You sick, or in prison, and come to You?' The King will answer and say to them, 'Truly I say to you, to the extent that you did it to one of these brothers of Mine,*

Have you ever pictured God as a widow?
 Have you ever seen Him as an orphan?

(Cont'd on p. 3)



Going to Radio City Music Hall? Note departure change on page 5.



FROM DANIEL'S DEN

“WHEN YOU GET ROMANS, GOD GETS YOU!”

I want to tell you a profound truth: Life does not always make sense! Good people die young. Young men fall out of deer stands! Cancer attacks a young man with a beautiful wife and four young children. A fifty-year-old woman dies of a heart attack. Long-time, seasoned runners drop dead of heart attacks. Kids raised in good Christian homes rebel and turn their backs on God. A brilliant, gifted preacher is diagnosed with cancer and, after a long battle, dies.

On the positive side: Hard-headed, hard-hearted, defiant, “no good” rebels are touched by the love of Jesus and become humble, submissive, obedient Christians. Corrupt, devious politicians stand up for what is right. A violent gang member helps an elderly widow across the street on a dark night. In Rome, Jews (rigid law observers) and Gentiles (self-serving hedonist) were joined together by God and commanded to worship as one church. God does not always make sense!

How does all of that work? It is God! God allows things to happen that we cannot grasp. We simply cannot understand all of God's ways. He is a mystery. God does not fit into any box! He first brings about the faith of the Gentiles through the Jews. Then He brings about the faith of the Jews through the Gentiles. He is amazing. He is so big that we cannot really grasp all of His ways. That is unsettling.

God frequently brings us to faith through turmoil. He is sovereign! He does things His way! We will never fully understand His ways this side of eternity! He appeals to us through surprises, and sometimes pain and adversity. *“Oh, the depth of his riches both of the wisdom and knowledge of God! How unsearchable are His judgments and unfathomable His ways!”* (Rom. 11:33).

That is what Romans is all about. And, when you get Romans, God gets you!

“God causes all things do work together for good to those who love God” (Rom. 8:28).

Dan the Romans Man



*Dan Cooper,
aka
“Dan, Dan,
the Preacher Man”*

God allows
things to
happen that
we cannot
grasp.



The school's generator had gone out and there was no power for microphones, PowerPoint, or lights.



*Dr. Steve Sikes
aka “Mr. Steve”*

THE FRONT PORCH

WHEN WE WERE STILL POWERLESS....

Two weeks ago Sunday, when the power went out at the beginning of our morning service, God was already at work speaking His plan, His way and in His timing.

Brian Kleineweber, our worship leader for the day, informed us that the school's generator had gone out and since there was no power for microphones, power point, lights, etc. we should all move up and sing loudly and listen closely.

From there we sang songs from the heart, prayed light into darkness and communed together with our Lord. In fact it was during Brian Mansdoerfer's communion talk that the power and lights were restored and microphones made hot... at just the right time.

The verse that Brian was reading by flashlight when the power came on was Romans 5:6-8 *“You see, at just the right time, **when we were still POWERLESS**, Christ died for the ungodly. Very rarely will anyone die for a righteous man, though for a good man someone might possibly dare to die. But God demonstrates his own love for us in this: While we were still sinners, Christ died for us.”*

I've had one person ask me if all of this was planned; it was just too perfect. The answer is YES! Our perfect God planned our time together two weeks ago in advance and carried it to completion! IT WAS HIS WORK, HIS TIMING AND HIS REMINDER THAT WITHOUT CHRIST WE ARE POWERLESS!

We had many visitors attend our “power-shortage-Sunday” from all over our region. Whatever else was said and done, I pray all of us heard God's message loud and clear!

*“Now to Him who is able to do far more abundantly beyond all that we ask or think, according to the **POWER** that works within us, to Him be the glory in the church and in Christ Jesus to all generations forever and ever. Amen (Ephesians 3:20-21).*

God is good. Mr. Steve

Personal Reflections of Sunday, October 31st

Merriam-Webster's dictionary defines a miracle as (1) *an extraordinary event manifesting in divine intervention in human affairs*; (2) *an extremely outstanding or unusual event, thing or accomplishment*. That is how I would describe the tour of the new church building on October 31st and the scriptures which will be immortalized on the floor of the building.

I watched as members went from room to room, expressing awe and wonder. For some, it was their first time to tour the building; for others, it was a repeat visit. Several members who have been ill had the opportunity to see the building for the first time and have their scriptures recorded. I saw the care and reflection that went into each of the scriptures being written. I saw the young and the older, the healthy helping the sick, and the able helping the disabled. I saw God's love in action and I knew something special was happening here. History was being made.



Illeana Pierce, in wheelchair above, was able to participate in our scripture blessings.

It all started as *a single idea*. It started as a tiny spark, and we weren't sure our dream would be possible. Then as the ideas were discussed, plans were made and implemented. Funds were requested, goals set, and land was found and purchased. The building process began and it became a physical manifestation of a long-ago dream. **Only God** could accomplish turning a dream into reality. **Only prayer** could make this wonderful new home possible. **Only a family** could pull together to make this happen.



When we moved to Pennsylvania in 1998, Troy and I built a home. As much as I loved my PA home and felt connected to it, those feelings were nothing compared to the way I felt that Sunday. As I moved from room to room, I felt the faith and love which built this building. I felt connected to something bigger than myself. I felt like I had finally come home.

Robin Brier

Cont'd from page 1.

even the least of them, you did it to Me.'

Deuteronomy 10:17-22 invites us to join God in being neighborly – especially to widows, orphans, strangers, etc., and Matthew 25:40 gives us insight of a God displayed as even the least in the neighborhood!

And so I believe that in Texas, in a very real way, God lived across the street from us for five years. We got to see Him live through the life of a widow who had a heart for widows, orphans, strangers....and unwanted babies.

God lived across the street from us for five years. "WON'T YOU BE MY NEIGHBOR?" is more than a line of a song sung by Mr. Rogers. It is an invitation from God to not only be neighborly (to everyone) but to be His neighbor as well. Who knows....GOD just may be the orphan in Haiti needing help, or the exhausted single parent living next door, or the stranger sitting behind you this morning!

"WON'T YOU BE MY NEIGHBOR?" **Today is Orphan Sunday. Please say, "YES!"**

God is good. Mr. Steve

Harding Homecoming Play

Harding produces a play each fall for Homecoming weekend. Three of our young adults—Mary, Steve, and Erin McBride—had parts last weekend in **Thoroughly Modern Millie**.

Mary played the part of Mrs. Meers, an Oriental wannabe; and Erin and Steve were part of the ensemble.

Tom McBride, who had never visited Harding before, went to see the play and spent several days on campus. Mary said, "My dad loved it here!" Dwight and Mary Lea also drove down to support these talented young adults.

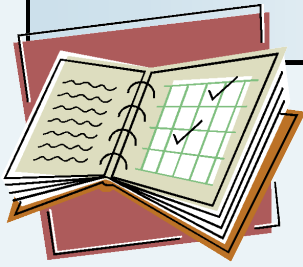


From the left: Erin McBride, Mary McBride, Mary Lea Thompson, Steve McBride, and Tom McBride.

Thanksgiving Cards

We have been richly blessed this year, and we are grateful! Dottie has cards in the foyer for you to sign.

PITMAN CHURCH CALENDAR



Today is Orphan Sunday. Please write your checks to Orphan's Lifeline of Hope.

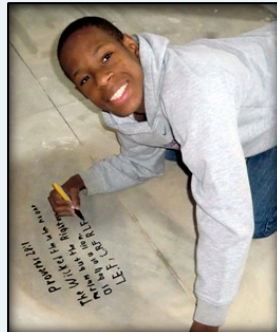
NOTE CHANGE: The New York City bus trip departs from Pitman High School.

Date	Event	Contact/Location
November 14	Orphan's Sunday Special Contribution	Steve Sikes Please write checks to Orphan's Lifeline of Hope
November 20	Radio City Music Hall Christmas Spectacular	Brian Holden, New York City Meet at Pitman High School, 7:45 am Return at approx. 8:00 pm
December 11	Feeding the Hungry	Mike Lazar; Trenton, NJ
December 14	Christmas Tea Tuesday Morning 9:30 -11:00 AM	Cooper's Home Contact Katherine to see what you can bring!
February 18-20	Winterfest	Tim Davis Gatlinburg, TN

Teens Record Scriptures

October 31st was a very special day in the history of the Pitman Church. While the younger children took part in Trunk-or-Treating, the junior and senior high teens diligently worked on recording their scriptures on the floor of their respective classrooms in the new church building.

It was a joy to see how all the teens eagerly participated while proudly showing off



their new classrooms and patiently waited for their turn with a marker. As I walked around taking pictures and just watching them, I was impressed to see the care that each teen took in writing their scriptures. It was evident to me that most of the teens took this event seriously and allowed the Holy Spirit to guide them as to which scriptures they wanted to record.



We are proud of our Pitman teens. **GOD IS GOOD ALL THE TIME! Robin L. Brier**

Top to bottom: Lewis, Kareem, and Mary Joy write the scriptures they chose in their future classroom.



Teens Celebrate Fall Harvest

On November 6th, about fifteen Pitman teens attended a holiday party at the Downing's house. They participated in traditional harvest fun: they roasted marshmallows, went bobbing for apple, played games and competed in a costume contest.



The winners of the costumer contest received cash as well as Wawa gift cards. **Cory Peoples** won Best Male Costume as a Sumo Wrestler and **Callan Downing** won Best Female Costume as a tornado. Other teens dressed as a lifeguard, police officer, French tourist, hippie, a drummer, and two-part heart Best Friends.

We thank the Downing family for hosting this fun event.

Robin Brier

Reaching out in Faith

Expansion Contribution as of Dec. 31, 2009	\$1,042,573
Additional Given Last Week	\$1,042,573
Total Expansion Contribution to Date	\$530

Right: This week, workmen began hanging the ceiling grid in the auditorium. Note the arrow.

Outside, landscapers planted rhododendron and other shrubs.

Below: The foyer ceiling is ready to be painted!



Radio City Trip Is Saturday!

DEPARTURE CHANGE: *We cannot depart from the church building because workers will be paving the new parking lot. Instead, we will depart from Pitman High School at 7:45 am on Saturday, November 20. I will give out the tickets at that time. Please be on time because I have a lot of tickets to hand out.*

TRANSPORTATION: We have two chartered buses.

SCHEDULE: We will leave Pitman High School at 8:00am and we will be dropped off in New York City near Radio City Music Hall. You will have time for shopping, sightseeing, and lunch on your own. The show starts at 1:00pm so plan on getting back to Radio city around 12:30pm.

DINNER: After the show we will travel to Mastoris restaurant for dinner on your own.

RETURN: We will arrive back to the PHS parking lot at approximately 8:00 pm.

Brian Holden

PRAYER LIST

NOVEMBER 14, 2010

EXPECTING: **Brendan and Lisa Downing**, February. **Randy and Jennifer Holland**, April; they have some pregnancy-related concerns.

ENGAGED: **Brittany Banks and Dan Spaeth**, April 17, 2011. **Derrick Busch and Brenda Hall**, July 16, 2011.

NEW THIS WEEK: **Anita O'Hara** has had a relapse; she is very sick and still contagious. **Joyce Reimels'** granddaughter, **Rebecca Reimels**, 3, had a kidney biopsy at CHOP on Friday. **Donna Lazar's** back surgery went well; she came home on Thursday. **Ken Albone:** two stents were successfully inserted. **Melanie Crotty** had a knee replacement on Thursday. **Elinda Hunter** asks for us to pray for her daughter, **Linda Kuznetzoff**, who has been hospitalized. Both **Marie Grieves** and **Lynne Sbaraglia** broke their hands! **Phyllis Walker's** friend has requested that our church pray for **Frank Ceita**, who has pancreatic cancer. **Jeremy King**, young husband, father, and worship leader in the Rochester church in MI, died when he fell from a deer stand.

SURGERIES SCHEDULED: **Steve Pierre-Jacques' mother** will be having double knee surgery this coming Friday. **Cathy Kistler** has recovered quickly and she is scheduled to receive a pacemaker and defibrillator on November 23rd.

RECOVERING FROM SURGERY: **Sherri Herndon, Cathy Kistler, Paul Stanford, Donna Lazar, and Melanie Crotty.**

OUR RELATIVES: **Ken Perine**, Dave's father, is now home. **Katherine Cooper's** mother, **Valeria Mitchell**, waiting for back surgery. **Tim**, the father of **Cathy McClelland's** grandchildren, **Crohn's** disease. **Sandy Stetser's** mom, **Mildred Garner**, now in Manor Care with serious issues. **Sandy Stetser's** granddaughter, **Kelsey**, facing additional surgeries. **Cordelia's** mom, **Belia Booker**, in a rehab in MI. **Carolyn Dargan's** brother, **Wayne Wrench**, diagnosed with lymphoma. **Janice Raively's** niece, **Shawna Harris**, battling severe depression. **Judi Goodman's** great nephew, **Nicholas Diaco**, 12, has Chiari, a spinal cord problem that involves the brain stem.

OUR FRIENDS: **Justin Reimels' friend, Brook Sutherland**, 18, has been diagnosed with thyroid cancer. **Brian and Cindy Holden's** friend, **Eddie Wilson**, lung cancer. **Garry Browning**, previous member, diagnosed with a rare and deadly cancer, myleo-fibrosis; life expectancy varies from a few weeks to a few years; please pray for him and **Liz**. **Diane Vit**, friend of **Tony & Stephanie DeStefano**, severe back pain and disk problems. **Jeannie Swearingen's** brother, **David Beam**; prostate cancer returned. **Carol**, close friend of **Sandy Stetser**, recovering from a stroke.

GRIEVING: Family of **Jeremy King** in Rochester, MI. **Donna Lentz's** mother, **Florence**. **Joyce Reimels' friend, John Golden**. **Yvette Ellis, Jay and Bethany Schneider**, Family of **Tanya McBride, Peggy DuBrink, Joyce and Dolly Reimels**.

NEED JOBS: **Jen Pearl. Shawn Bates.**

MILITARY: **Kase Cosgrave**, young adult from the KoP church joined the Marines; he asks for our prayers.

ON-GOING REQUESTS: **Linda Kuznetzoff. Caryl Ingram. Claire Reynolds**, Dave Perine's 94-year-old grandmother, declining health. **Danny Britton**, Bud and Barbara's son.

CHRONIC HEALTH ISSUES: **Lynn Sbaraglia, lupus, Sjogrens disease. Jeanne Stanton, fibromyalgia. Jessica Sikes, headaches. Nancy Calabro, Pat Schuehler, Denise Rulli, Florence Rickenbach. Linda Prenger's mother, Mae Harrison. Cliff Dando, depression. Mary Lea Thompson, that she will not have another episode of diverticulitis. Rich DeLoskey's mother, LaVinia. Harriet Wensel's daughter-in-law, Lisa Davis, advanced ALS. Steve Musso, Stephanie DeStefano's dad. Marcia Sampson's mother, Myrtle Pollardis, in the final stages of Alzheimer's.**

BATTLING CANCER: **Florence Murray's** daughter-in-law, **Esther Murray**, has begun chemo. **Carla Darunday's** relative, **Pat Swartz**, pancreatic cancer. **Doc's** friend, **Henry Clee**, brain cancer. **Bobby Pierce**, Illeanes' son, Stage III lung cancer. **Tracy Dobkowski**, close friend of **Sandy Stetser**, lung cancer. **Dan Watson**, friend of **Jennifer Holland**, Stage II esophageal cancer. **Nicole**, friend of **Barry Steiner**, leukemia. **Rita Achitelli**, **Mariene Patterson's** mother. **Mark Mallory**, **Julie Church's** brother-in-law. **Gene Welch**, **Lea Ann Kellum's** step-dad. Previous members, **Mickey Rizzuto and Diana McConnell**. **Carl Steiner's** niece, **Yvonne. Susan Giancola**, friend of **Ashley Monica**; breast cancer.

IN REMISSION FROM CANCER: **Debbie Camorata, Katherine Cooper, Tamme DeLoskey, Debbie Durham, Hope Hooley, Nancy Smith, Dwight Thompson.**

MISSIONARIES: **Staffords** in Tanzania, **Youngs** in France, **Cooks** in China. **Kristy Romeo**, that God will guide her.

PARKE PLACE: **Pain relief:** **Dollie. Recovery from surgery:** **Grace R.'s** husband, recovering from eye surgery. **Ellenore; Doc and Cathy Kistler. Grieving:** **Angela and Grace R.; Helene**, whose son-in-law, **Ken**, passed away.

OUR MINISTERS

Evangelist
Dan Cooper dcooper@coChrist.org

Family Life Minister
Steve Sikes ssikes@coChrist.org

OFFICE STAFF

Dottie Grillo dgrillo@coChrist.org

Katherine Cooper.... KatherineACooper@gmail.com

OUR ELDERS

Horatio Fenton HoratioFenton@comcast.net

Greg Krinks..... 856-881-2039, hm
Greg.Linda.Krinks@gmail.com

Mike Lazar..... teacher.engineer@comcast.net

Larry Point856-769-0836

Dwight Thompson..... 609-561-8561, hm
 609-287-0109, cell
 DOThompson@comcast.net

Tom Toy.....856-466-9067, cell
 Barrelman@comcast.net

OUR DEACONS

Bud Britton.....brittonreb2@verizon.net

Mike Broyles mbroyles1@comcast.net

Tim Davis tmdaviszoo@comcast.net

Rich DeLoskey DeloskeyRJ@comcast.net

Tony DeStefano anthony.destefano@navy.mil

Matt Downing mattnsusie@gmail.com

Darren FieldsDarDeeAll@aol.com

Brian Holden holden94@comcast.net

Brian Kleineweber
Brian.W.Kleineweber@usa.dupont.com

Chuck Olley captcrew5@comcast.net

Aaron Pearl pearly1@comcast.net

John PeoplesJPeoplesB@Juno.com

Dave Perine.....davidt.perine@comcast.net

Rich Rinne r.rinne@comcast.net

Jay Schneider..... jay.w.schneider@boeing.com

Carl Steiner BStei11625@aol.com

Manny Vander Vennen
 VanderVennen.Manuel@synthes.com

CONTACT INFO

154-156 S. Broadway
 Pitman, NJ 08071
 Office: 856-589-1500
 Fax: 856-589-8233
www.coChrist.org

LAST WEEK

Bible Class	146
Worship	210
Contribution	\$9,127
LIFE Groups	150
Wednesday	125

SUNDAY SCHEDULE

BIBLE CLASSES 9:00 AM
 WORSHIP 10:00 AM
LIFE Groups Listed Below

SUNDAY LOCATION

PITMAN HIGH SCHOOL
 225 Linden Ave.
 Pitman, NJ 08071

WEDNESDAY SCHEDULE

CLASSES MEET AT 7:00 PM
 DEVOTIONAL at 7:45 PM

WEDNESDAY LOCATION

PITMAN METHODIST CHURCH
 758 North Broadway
 Pitman, NJ 08071-2017

SERVING US TODAY

NURSERY Debbie and Jenna DeStefano

CHILDREN'S CHURCH TBA

GREETERS Darren and Dee Fields

SERVING US NEXT WEEK

NURSERY Mandy Mansdoerfer, Katelyn DeS.

CHILDREN'S CHURCH TBA

GREETERS Darren and Dee Fields

L.I.F.E. GROUP LOCATIONS TODAY

GROUP	LOCATION	CONTACT
Central	Darunday's	469-261-4614
Hammonton	Bates' @ 5:00	609-965-0077
Marriage Mentoring	Kleineweber's	856-478-6985
Noon Time Group	Fields'	609-625-4153
Pitman for Lunch Bunch	Hutchinson's	856-439-4681
Silver Lining	Krinks'	856-881-2039
Solid Gold	Walker's	856-478-6972
Southwestern	Yanzuk's	856-307-0988
Teens	Hutchinson's	856-439-4681
Time Travelers	Hutchinson's	856-439-4681
Vineland	Pearl's	856-457-5207
Young Adults	The Firehouse	609-230-2232

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