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"Thought for the New Year!"

by Dr. Foster C. Dryden, Jr.

We do not know what to do, but our eyes are on you. 2 Chronicles 20.12

There's a great story in Second Chronicles (20.1-30) about Jehoshaphat, a godly king who brought renewal and new life to the southern kingdom, Judah. On one occasion three kings conspired together to attack Judah, and King Jehoshaphat, afraid, sought the Lord by proclaiming a fast throughout all Judah. The elders, following the king's example, gathered in Jerusalem, also to seek the Lord in prayer and fasting. At one of the prayer meetings the king stood before the assembly in the Temple and prayed closing his great prayer with these words:

We do not know what to do, but our eyes are on you.

Have you ever been in that place, a place of not knowing what to do? It is a place of fear! Jehoshaphat may not have known how to respond to the enemy threat, but he did know where to turn! With their eyes on the Lord, the Spirit of the Lord came upon a prophet who assured them of God's Presence! He said:

Listen, all Judah and inhabitants of Jerusalem, and King Jehoshaphat: Thus says the Lord to you: 'Do not fear or be dismayed at this great multitude; for the battle is not yours but God's.'

"The battle is not yours but God's!" This truth changed the

balance of power between Jehoshaphat and the three kings who had allied against him! King Jehoshaphat and the gathered assembly bowed down and worshipped God, giving praise before the battle. The next day they went out early into the wilderness and the king encouraged his people to "believe in the Lord your God."

As they continued to worship in the wilderness, two of the allied kings turned on the third and wiped out his army. Then they turned on one another and did the same to each another. It took the Judean army 3 days to collect all the spoils.

There's a great lesson here for us! When faced with life's overwhelming challenges and we simply don't know what to do, we can follow Jehoshaphat's example, and keep our eyes on the Lord. **But that takes practice!** Consecrate each day of the New Year with the commitment to keep *our eyes on the Lord!* Practice makes perfect!

In Him Who is always Present with us,
Bud



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Season of Lent

Lenten Series

Every Wednesday,
March 6—April 17
6:45 p.m.—8:00 p.m.

Easter

Worship Services

Palm Sunday
April 14

Good Friday Service
April 19, 7:00 p.m.

Easter Sunday
Resurrection Service
April 21, 9:30 a.m.



Prayer Requests

The gift of prayer enables us to join with one another in consecrating our world, our lives, and our ministries to

God.

Please lift in prayer:

Morgan, Sloane, Arthur, Madonna, Dorothy, Kathy, Carol & Dick Pauls, Lauren, Brian and Holly, shut-ins, the homeless, elderly, youth, the hungry, our nation, CCC, Presbytery of Philadelphia, General Assembly.

men's group

January 5 and 19

February 2 and 16

Time: 8:30 a.m.—10:30 a.m.

Location: Bud's House



Church Mouse

January 11 and 12

February 8 and 9

9:30 a.m.—2:30 p.m.



Every Wednesday,
March 6 through
April 17

6:45 PM—8:00 PM

**"Praise to the Lord,
the Almighty"**



Life Center Meal

March 30

Mark Your Calendars!



Connect By Night

Our congregation will be hosting Connect-By Night once again this year during the months of January and March. Each evening our homeless guests will be sleeping on the floor of fellowship hall and volunteers from this congregation and community are invited to support them by offering snack, lunches and fellow-

ship.

If you and your family and friends would like to volunteer to prepare a snack, lunches or fellowship please contact:

Jannie Sirkin (jannieds2001@yahoo.com) or Linda Martin (301lwm@gmail.com).

Thank you!

Property Team

While the Property committee works hard to keep the building running, that by itself is not enough. We need to upgrade periodically. We are fortunate enough to have two donations now to improve the flooring. We will start in the parlor, due to its high amount of use, with a new product: carpet tiles. We have selected the carpet and are going out for quotes now, with expectations that we will have new carpeting installed in the first quarter of 2019. Samples of the new carpet tiles are in the office, and we will bring them to Fellowship hour the next couple of Sundays, too. We will expand into hallways and rooms as we get further funding.



Session Corner

Tit Bits



1. We thank God for His grace and mercy this past year. He alone knows what 2019 holds for us, so we ask for renewed strength, wisdom, and faith to trust Him in all we do. May we remain under the shelter of his wings through

all life's uncertainties.

2. Session continues to read "Walking with God", a collection of James S. Stewart's sermons. The sermons are a good source of devotional reading e.g. "The God of Jacob", "The Tenderness, Tenacity and Triumph of the Love of God" or "Coping with Life's Storms". I strongly recommend it to all.

3. "Let us talents and tongues employ, reaching out with a shout of joy..." is one of the hymns we sing here at Christ's Community Church. This year, more than ever, let us employ our talents to make Christ known through word and deed. Let us all reassess our Spiritual gifts and find additional areas to use our talents e.g. Praise Team, Child Care after worship for parents attending classes, Connect by Night, cooking for the Life Center, coordinating servers or Serving at the Life Center every 5th Saturday.

"The harvest is plentiful, but the workers are few. Ask the Lord of the harvest, therefore, to send out workers into his harvest field. Luke 10:2.

Happy New Year!



New Members

We have three new members at Christ's Community Church. All three have completed the Seekers classes, and are now participating in the Magnificent Story class. They are offering to share their gifts with our church family in various ways.

Eric and Ethel Myers live in West Philadelphia and worship and participate in the life of Christ's Community Church. They are working with several rural Liberian villages, (a distance from Monrovia, the capital city) to help them become self-supporting. They are helping these communities identify projects they want to implement to improve their lives, and then get them the proper training. Low-land rice farming is at the top of their list. These rural areas currently import rice, their main food staple, because they have never been trained in how to grow it themselves. Eric and Ethel have four groups within a large community already organized, they have a trainer lined up, and they are in the process of buying materials to get this project underway.



Eric and Ethel are both traveling to Liberia during this organizational period, and want people to hear their story. The long term goal is to expand the rice farming, create co-ops for the farmers, pool their resources and equipment, and develop a central place to take the product for processing.

Our church is helping support their efforts with a pledge of mission money.

Samuel Nyankon first came to America from Liberia in 2012, seeking the American Dream. He went back and forth for several years, and stayed here starting in 2014. He was working, suffered an injury, and became very frustrated and confused while trying to get ahead. A friend introduced him to Christ's Community Church, where he felt an acceptance, a lack of racism and a genuine interest and warmth from the congregation. He joined the Seekers classes and has been learning a lot about his Christianity and strengthening his own faith.

Samuel recently visited home in Liberia to introduce his wife Monica to his family there.

Samuel, in sharing his gifts, is participating regularly in Story Time and brings enthusiasm to any role he plays.

We welcome our new members, and look forward to their participating in the life of our church.

THE SEEKERS CLASS AT CHRIST'S COMMUNITY CHURCH

The process for becoming a member of Christ's Community Church has not only been a welcoming experience for me but a rewarding outcome of my search for a new church-home. As part of the process for becoming a member of the church, I had to attend a Seekers class. This class is offered to anyone in the community and particularly for those who want to become members of Christ's Community Church. I believe attending the Seekers Class has been the best part of the membership process. The Seekers Class is more than just another place to go to learn about God. Instead, it provides a forum for sharing spiritual insight on various topics from The Apprentice Series, through open discussions, questions and answers and related stories of past experiences from other Christians.

In the Seekers Class, we study from a series of three books called the Apprentice Series which the author, James Bryan Smith, refers to as "a curriculum for Christlikeness" for individuals and churches. "One of the central principles of the Apprentice Series is that we live at the mercy of our ideas and our narratives-James Bryan Smith. Imagine living with the believe that God is angry with humanity because of your sins and that you are only good enough when you are not sinning. The objective of the Apprentice Series is to provide "a course in learning to live as Jesus taught us to live"-James Bryan Smith; and it helps us to replace our false narratives with God's narratives.

In the first book of the series, titled The Good and Beautiful God, we study the character of God, based on Jesus narratives of the God He revealed to us. The second book, The Good and Beautiful Life, helps us understand God's narratives regarding our own lives, hearts and character, and helps us look our virtuous selves in the mirror of a loving God. The third book in the Apprentice Series helps us understand how our relationship with others around us and with our communities. It teaches us that our relationship with others and our communities starts from and is influenced by our recognition that Christ dwells in us. This recognition guides our behaviors towards everything.

The Apprentice Series is a transformative approach to enlightening Christians on our journey of living as God wants us to live. One of the most informative lessons I learned from the Seekers Class is that we Christians live a kingdom life on earth. I was one of the millions of Christians waiting to live with God in his heavenly kingdom. But because of this class, I have come to understand that I am already living in the kingdom of God, with the King, each day of my Christian life. Another important lesson I learned from the class is that we live our lives with so many false narratives (misrepresentation of the truth), without even knowing it. Because of these false narratives, many Christians are not living the happy and fulfilling lives God has freely given to everyone.

The Seekers Class enabled me to see how wrong my narratives about life and about God are. It gave me a new perspective of the Christian life by helping me to contrast my narratives with God's narratives. It revealed the love of God towards me in a transformatively different way. I believe I speak for anyone who has had the experience of the Seekers Class when I say the use of the Apprentice Series in the Seekers Class is one of the best ways any church should help its members to understand the Christian life and to live it. *Eric Myers*



Christmas Eve Live Nativity





To know Christ and make Him known!

Christ's Community Church
at the Riverview Avenue
Community Center

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Sunday worship

9:30 a.m.

Informal Worship Service

Nursery available

Fellowship Time

11:00 a.m.

Youth & Adult Bible Studies

11:30a.m.

JANUARY

2—Stephanie Saylee
Jenkins Yeah

8—Bud Dryden

10— Erma Loughran

27—Holton Falk

31—Lynne West



FEBRUARY

4—Chris Stephano

7—Allison Kline

13—Bob Kerr

24—Eloise Smyrl

January/February Calendar

Weekly/Monthly Meetings

Sunday	9:30 a.m., Informal Worship in the Chapel
	11:15 a.m., The Magnificent Story /Children's Ministry
Monday	9:30 a.m., Al-Anon in the Parlor
	5:30 p.m., Drexel Hill Raiders
	7:00 p.m., NA in the Parlor
Tuesday	7:00 p.m., Al-Anon in the Parlor
	7:00 p.m., NA in Fellowship Hall
Wednesday	7:00 p.m., NA in Fellowship Hall
Thursday	7:00 p.m., NA in Fellowship Hall

January

January 1-31	Connect By Night
January 1, Tuesday	Happy New Year! - Office Closed
January 5, Saturday	8:30 a.m., Men's Group Meet at Bud's House
January 6, Sunday	Ordination & Installation of New Officers
January 11 and 12	9:30 a.m.—2:30 p.m., Church Mouse
January 13, Sunday	4:00 p.m., Session Meet
January 19, Saturday	8:30 a.m., Men's Group Meet at Bud's House
January 20, Sunday	Crown Ministries Class Begin
	January Birthday Celebration
January 21, Monday	MLK, Jr. Holiday—Church Office Closed

February

February 2, Saturday	8:30 a.m., Men's Group Meet at Bud's House
February 3, Sunday	Congregational Meeting
February 8 and 9	9:30 a.m.—2:30 p.m., Church Mouse
February 10, Sunday	4:00 p.m., Session Meet
February 15, Friday	March/April Viewpoint Deadline
February 16, Saturday	8:30 a.m., Men's Group Meet at Bud's House
February 17, Sunday	February Birthday Celebration
February 18, Monday	President's Day Holiday—Office Closed



Important Dates to Remember

Lenten Series—Begin March 6
Life Center Meal - March 30
Palm Sunday - April 14
Good Friday - April 19
Easter Sunday - April 21



The Viewpoint is a publication of
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