

Clifton Avenue Church of God

Pastoral Ponderings

I can hardly believe that we are about to enter the last month of the first decade of the 21st century. Christmas is right around the corner and we are reminded that God is with us. The word became flesh and dwelt among us. And we behold his glory full of grace and truth. I am so grateful that God loved us so much that he allowed Jesus to "pitch his tent" among the least of these brothers and sisters, so that we might have hope.

At this time of year I break out the Christmas music and enjoy the countless melodies that have filled my heart with peace. I reflect on how good God

has been to my family and I ponder what I can do to bless someone less fortunate than me. We will share two major outreach opportunities among our neighbors. First, adopt-a-family. I already have about 10 families that have called in for help. If you can share Christmas with a needy family please let me know or call in to the office and tell Ashley.

Second, we are going to celebrate a Christmas banquet on Saturday, Dec. 18th at 6:00pm with live music, good food, Christmas baskets (for needy families) and Christmas cookies with an invitation to our neighbors

to share the Christmas Eve inspiration of the 24th.

Finally, the CWC is coordinating the Christ birthday offering and our goal is to raise \$800.00 this year. Last year we hit \$605.00. The theme is Emmanuel God with us. And if He is with us we can live victoriously.

Much Love,
Pastor David Cotto

Inside this issue: December 2010:

Pastoral Ponderings	1
Counseling Corner	1
Announcements	2
Announcements	3
Calendar	4

Counseling Corner

God grant me the serenity to accept the things I cannot change, the courage to change the things I can and the wisdom to know the difference-AMEN!

(Read Matthew 14:23-33)

Having God deal with our defects can be frightening. We may stay trapped in destructive patterns because we fear change. If we wait for all our fears to go away before we take steps, we will never make significant progress in recovery. Courage isn't the absence of fear. Courage means that we take advantage of the little strength we find within ourselves, that we find little ways to encourage ourselves, and that we stubbornly stick to God's program for us. Courage doesn't mean being free of fear. It means finding enough strength to take the next step.

The disciples were terrified when they saw Jesus walk on water. "Then Peter called to him, 'Lord, if it's really you, tell me to come to you by walking on water.'" "All right, come," Jesus said. So Peter went over the side of the boat and walked on the water toward Jesus. But when he looked around at the high waves, he was terrified and began to sink. "Save me, Lord!" he shouted. Instantly Jesus reached out his hand and grabbed him" (Matthew 14:28-31).

Peter gathered up enough courage to take one step and venture out into a new experience. When he got in over his head, he called out to Jesus and found the help he needed. We only need to summon the courage to take the next step. This doesn't mean that we won't be afraid or don't need help. It does mean that with God's help, we can make it. In this last month of 2010 all we need is courage to take just one more step.

(Read Joshua 1:7-8)

Pastor Tina

Couples Get Together....

TBA

Bring a dessert or drinks

Please RSVP @ the church: 324-5398/cacog1@aol.com



Springfield House of Prayer

616 N. Limestone
Upper Level of Marriage
Resource Ctr.

Hours

Please contact Ben at
937-206-0124 or e-mail at
ben@vineyardnorthridge.org



Kids Hope USA

"May your unfailing love rest upon us, O LORD, even as we put our hope in you." (NIV) Psalm 33:22

Jesus Our Hope

For millions of people, the Christmas season means nothing more than parties, gifts, decorations, and time off work. For Christians, however, this time of year is a happy reminder of the hope we have because of Jesus Christ.



Before Jesus came, God seemed distant, hidden in the Holy of Holies in the temple, accessible only to the high priest. Worshippers wondered whether their sacrifices were acceptable. They doubted their salvation.

Christ means hope—to the person out of work, to the struggling single mother, to the lonely child, to the dying believer. Even if you're just slogging your way through the disappointments of life, if you have Jesus, you have hope. And he is not a false hope, a childish fairy tale that we wish will have a happy ending. When Christ rose from the dead, that ended the argument. Period. Our hope in him is solid and it is real. Christmas is a renewal of that hope. It was settled long ago, so we don't have to doubt any more.

Jesus is the fulfillment of our hope, our deepest longings come true.

Merry Christmas to you, and God's blessings! Thank you, Church for supporting the ministry of KIDS HOPE USA in Lincoln Elementary School!

Please call or see Laura Hufford if you would like to know about how you can be more involved in this ministry.

Clifton Ave. Programs

Pantry Outreach

Every 2nd & 3rd Saturday
 9:30am Breakfast
 10:00-11:30 Pantry

If you want to volunteer, contact
 Sis Debbie Hilliard

uniqueblessed@aol.com

(937) 324-1138

Crusaders

Wednesdays at Ark South
 3:30-6pm

A Meal & Message

Thursdays 5:30-7:00pm

Free dinner, warm fellowship, a
 word of encouragement

Is on Summer Break...See you in
 the Fall :)

Celebrate Recovery

RC will be visiting other CR groups
 throughout the summer. If anyone is
 interested in visiting these ministries,
 please contact Pastor Tina (937-360-
 4079) for dates, places and times. Cele-
 brate Recovery at Clifton will resume
 in the Fall with a new day and time.

God Loves You and so do I
 Pastor Tina

Sunday School: 9:30am

Sunday AM Worship: 10:30am

Children's Church during preaching
 (approx. 11:30)

Sunday Evening Prayer:

5:00-6:00pm

We are on the web....

www.cliftonavechog.org

Do not boast
 about tomorrow,
 for you do not
 now what a day
 may bring
 forth.

Proverbs 27:1

Weeks	Tithes/Offerings	Needed	Attendance
11/07/10	\$1,671.28	\$3,000.00	62
11/14/10	\$2,552.00	\$3,000.00	56
11/21/10	\$1,776.58	\$3,000.00	67
Monthly Total (Nov)	\$5,999.86	\$12,000.00	62 Avg.
Prev. Month (October)	\$9,248.11	\$12,000.00	48.2 avg.
Prev. Month (Sept)	\$8,138.50	\$12,000.00	42.6 avg



December 2010

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
			1 <i>Crusaders at ARL South 3:30- 6pm</i>	2	3	4
5	6	7 <i>Narcotics Anony- mous 7-8:30pm</i>	8 <i>Crusaders at ARL South 3:30- 6pm</i>	9	10	11 <i>Pantry: 930- Breakfast 10-11:30-Pantry</i>
12	13	14 <i>Narcotics Anony- mous 7-8:30pm</i>	15 <i>Crusaders at ARL South 3:30- 6pm Phillip Mann Bday</i>	16	17	18 <i>Pantry: 930- Breakfast 10-11:30-Pantry Christmas Banquet @ 6pm</i>
19	20	21 <i>Narcotics Anony- mous 7-8:30pm</i>	22 <i>Crusaders at ARL South 3:30- 6pm</i>	23	24	25 <i>Merry Christmas Pastor Sam Jean Anniv. Debbie Williard Bday</i>
26 <i>Aaron Willford Bday</i>	27	28 <i>Narcotics Anony- mous 7-8:30pm</i>	29 <i>Crusaders at ARL South 3:30- 6pm</i>	30	31	