

# FIRST CHRISTIAN ASSEMBLY



**WELCOME** to First Christian Assembly, an independent church whose mission is articulated by Jesus in Mark 16:15 when he said "...Go ye into all the world, and preach the gospel to every creature". Following this great commission, First Christian Assembly preaches and teaches the gospel of Jesus Christ. In so doing, we trust that God, working through His Holy Spirit will draw souls to salvation in Christ Jesus our Lord.

## Psalm 119

### The Greatness & Glory of God's Word

The Psalm is arranged in an acrostic pattern. There are 22 letters in the Hebrew alphabet, and this Psalm contains 22 units of 8 verses each. Each of the 22 sections is given to a letter of the Hebrew alphabet, and each line in that section begins with that letter. Since this is a Psalm glorifying God and His Word, it refers to Scripture over and over again. The psalm is remarkable for how often it refers to God's written revelation, His word. It is referred to in almost every verse.

*In this Psalm there are 8 basic words used to describe the Scriptures, God's written revelation to us: **Law, Word, Judgments, Testimonies, Commandments, Statutes Precepts and Word.** The theme of the glory of Scripture is diligently explored in this Psalm, but always in connection with God Himself.*

Being such a long Psalm - and the longest chapter in the Bible - this Psalm has been of some historical note. George Wishart was the Bishop of Edinburgh in the 17<sup>th</sup> century. Wishart was condemned to death and would have been executed. But when he was on the scaffold he made use of a custom that allowed the condemned person to choose one psalm to be sung, and he chose Psalm 119. Before two-thirds of the psalm was sung, his pardon arrived and his life was spared.

As you will note, the Psalm begins; with a note of the blessings to those who walk in and keep God's Word.

***Blessed are the undefiled in the way, Who walk in the law of the LORD! Blessed are those who keep His testimonies, Who seek Him with the whole heart!***

And it ends on the reminder that the power and greatness of God's word does not rest only in its literary brilliance. Its greatness and glory is in the fact that God comes to us and seeks us in and through His word.

***Let my soul live, and it shall praise You; And let Your judgments help me. I have gone astray like a lost sheep; Seek Your servant, For I do not forget Your commandments***

*If you would like to learn more about Psalm 119, please join us this Tuesday as we continue our study in the book of Psalms.*

## Ministry Highlights

### Announcements:

⇒ VISIT First Christian Assembly on Facebook. Listen to messages and see past newsletters on our website at [www.fcaphila.org](http://www.fcaphila.org)

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### Philadelphia Access Center

From 7/1/14 PAC email:

#### **Introducing New Staff Members**

On May 15, the Philadelphia Access Center said goodbye to Shaina Schnabel, our full-time social worker of the past four years. Her loving presence and laughter are missed but we rejoice in God's leading in her life.

We have the distinct pleasure of welcoming two new members to our team!

#### **Mary Beth Wilkinson, Social Service Case Coordinator**

Mary Beth was born in Costa Rica, grew up in Virginia, and moved to Philadelphia to pursue a graduate degree in counseling. She fell in love with a Philly boy, got married, and they now have a baby girl named Lizzy.

#### **Tinamarie Rhoades, Social Services Coordinator**

Tinamarie Rhoades volunteered at the Philadelphia Access Center for two and a half years before joining our staff this spring. She is the front desk receptionist at PAC -- often handling walk-in guests, appointments, phone calls, and referrals all at once! We appreciate Tina's faithfulness to this busy and often challenging position.

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 (PAC) Philadelphia Access Center, 1832 S. 11<sup>th</sup> Street, Philadelphia, PA 19148

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 215-389-1985

**The Philadelphia Access Center** is a ministry of First Christian Assembly. Our mission is *revealing Christ through compassionate service*. Services available at PAC include social services information and referrals, biblical counseling, support groups, volunteer training, and community outreach. All services are free of charge and available to anyone. To learn more, visit us in person (across the street from FCA) or online at [www.philaccess.org](http://www.philaccess.org) or [www.facebook.com/philaccess](http://www.facebook.com/philaccess).

**WEEKLY SERVICES /MEETINGS**

	FCA	PAC
Sunday	9:45 AM <i>Bible Study</i> 11:00 AM <i>Worship Service &amp; Children's Sunday School</i>	
Monday		7:00 PM <i>Stepping Stones</i>
Tuesday	6:30 PM <i>Prayer (Sanctuary)</i> 7:00 PM <i>Worship (Sanctuary)</i>	
Wednesday	6:30 PM <i>Men's Fraternity (on hiatus)</i>	1:00 PM <i>Women at the Well</i> 1:00 PM <i>Coram Deo</i>
Thursday		6:00 PM <i>Prayer Service</i> 7:00 PM <i>Bible Study</i>
Friday		7:00 PM <i>Right Path</i>

- *Coram Deo*: A men's Bible study and Christian fellowship.
- *Right Path*: A Christ centered support and recovery group for people whose lives have been affected by drug and alcohol addiction. In a warm and friendly atmosphere, we provide loving support and fellowship; in genuine confidential sharing, coupled with a Biblical twelve step model of recovery.
- *Stepping Stones*: A Christ centered support group for men and women impacted by a loved one's addiction. In a warm and friendly atmosphere, we provide loving support, fellowship, confidential sharing, and intercessory prayer.
- *Women at the Well*: This group is Biblically based and promotes hope, healing, and fellowship for women impacted and struggling with brokenness.

**LOOKING AHEAD**



❖ *A church picnic is being planned for Saturday September 20, 2014, 12 Noon to 5:00 PM. Details will follow. See Gloria if you are interested in attending.*

**PRAYER REQUESTS**

- Ministries (present and future) at First Christian Assembly and the Philadelphia Access Center
- Christians around the world being persecuted for their faith.
- Our supported missionaries
- For our Pastor and his family.

