



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.

Sanctified

To be [sanctified](#) is to be "set apart." For a thing to be sanctified means it is set apart for a special use. Sinai was set apart from all other mountains for the giving of the Law. The temple in Jerusalem was set apart from all other locations for the worship of the one true God:

Things that are sanctified are reserved for God's purposes and should not be used for mundane tasks. God's name is "hallowed" (sanctified) ([Luke 11:2](#)) and any flippant or disrespectful use of His name is profane.

Jesus spoke of Himself as being sanctified in [John 17:19](#); in other words, He is holy and "set apart" from sin. His followers are to be similarly set apart from sin and for God's use ([1 Peter 1:16](#)).

People who are sanctified are born again and therefore part of God's family ([Heb 2:11](#)). They are reserved for God's use. They know "the sanctifying work of the Spirit" in their lives ([1 Peter 1:2](#)). They abstain from sexual immorality ([1 Thess 4:3](#)). They understand they have been "called to be His holy people" ([1 Cor 1:2](#)).

To be sanctified means that God has been at work in our lives. Under the Old Testament Law, the blood of a sacrifice was required to set things apart unto God: "In fact, the law requires that nearly everything be cleansed with blood" ([Heb 9:22](#)). Blood was sprinkled on tabernacle furniture, on priestly clothing, and on people. Nothing was considered sanctified until it had come in contact with the blood. This was a picture of the spiritual application of Christ's blood for our salvation—we are "sprinkled with his blood" ([1 Peter 1:2](#)). Just as the temple of old was sanctified for God's use, our bodies, [temples of the Holy Spirit](#), are set apart for God's holy purposes ([1 Cor 6:19](#)).

To be sanctified means that God's Word has had an effect on us. It is "through the word" that God cleanses us and makes us holy ([Eph 5:26](#); [John 17:17](#)).

God invites us sinners to come to Him "just as we are" and receive His mercy and forgiveness. When we are saved, the Holy Spirit begins His amazing work of transforming us into the image and likeness of Christ. To be sanctified means that God loves us too much to let us stay the same.

"May God himself, the God of peace, sanctify you through and through. May your whole spirit, soul and body be kept blameless at the coming of our Lord Jesus Christ" ([1 Thess 5:23](#)).

Missionary Highlights

Neal and Lois - PNG

I had previously mentioned my alarm at seeing prisoners with cuts and bruises on their heads and even one eye swollen shut due to police brutality. Well, I recently was able to address this concern with the sergeant in charge of the prison here, and he said this happens when prisoners try to escape. However, he will check into it. Last week 17 prisoners were shot dead in a prison escape down in Lae, a coastal city. Unbelievable.

One of the things I do from time to time is clothing repairs for the guards. They have been given only one uniform to wear every day so of course these fall apart. You know, we often say that so and so takes after their Mother or Father. Well, my Mother used to repair the clothes sent to us in care packages while we were living in South Africa. We would open the care packages and see why this or that item was sent, such as something having a broken zipper. Mom was really good at repairing used clothing. I guess I take after her in that I enjoy doing just that, moreso than following patterns to sew things from scratch. I frequent the second hand stores here and do alterations on what I find as well. I have found large jeans to make really handy bags for shopping and other uses. Also, buying used items gives me fabric to cut up to make scrap quilts for various persons, such as a woman we have been visiting in prison. You see, the prisoners sleep on the cement floor, no beds, no chairs, and so on. Then there are my Friday kids. The clothing I have been able to pick up helps to make fun dress up items for the kids as we have our story time of Biblical parables and so on. This week I had a shirt with sheep on it so we did the parable of the lost sheep that is found by the Shepherd. The little guy with the shirt had a little head dress with paper ears. He hid behind a chair and was easily found by the Shepherd, but I believe the story will be remembered. We all clapped when the sheep was found, just like the celebration in Heaven when a lost person is found by the Good Shepherd, Jesus.

The election campaign has begun and one can only shake one's head at the process. Bribes and lies and violence.

Blessings, Lois

First Christian Assembly,	1900 S. 11 th Street, Philadelphia, PA 19148	215-389-6721
First Christian So Jersey,	123 Egg Harbor Rd. Sewell NJ 08080	
Philadelphia Access Center,	1832 S. 11 th Street, Philadelphia, PA 19148	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 or www.facebook.com/philaccess.

WEEKLY SERVICES /MEETINGS

	Meets at FCA	Meets at PAC
Sunday	9:45 AM <i>Bible Study – Phila -location</i> 10:00 AM <i>South Jersey Worship Service</i> 11:00 AM <i>Phila Location Worship Service & 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 (Fellowship area)</i>	
Wednesday		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 (on a hiatus)</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.



PRAYER REQUESTS

- Ministries at First Christian (Phila.& NJ) and the Philadelphia Access Center
- Christians around the world being persecuted for their faith
- Our supported missionaries – John Koehler
- For our Pastor and his family
- Paula Grazulis

"You can't use strong-arm tactics against the Church without strengthening it. It's always been that way. Under persecution a man looks at his faith to see if it's worth fighting for, and this is a scrutiny Christianity can always withstand. The real danger comes with an indirect attack, where a person is lured away from the Church before he has a chance to become strong". Brother Andrew