

1 Peter 2:1-12 (NIV)

¹ Therefore, rid yourselves of all malice and all deceit, hypocrisy, envy, and slander of every kind. ² Like newborn babies, crave pure spiritual milk, so that by it you may grow up in your salvation, ³ now that you have tasted that the Lord is good.

⁴ As you come to him, the living Stone--rejected by men but chosen by God and precious to him-- ⁵ you also, like living stones, are being built into a spiritual house to be a holy priesthood, offering spiritual sacrifices acceptable to God through Jesus Christ. ⁶ For in Scripture it says:

"See, I lay a stone in Zion, a chosen and precious cornerstone, and the one who trusts in him will never be put to shame."

⁷ Now to you who believe, this stone is precious. But to those who do not believe, "The stone the builders rejected has become the capstone," ⁸ and, "A stone that causes men to stumble and a rock that makes them fall." They stumble because they disobey the message--which is also what they were destined for.

⁹ But you are a chosen people, a royal priesthood, a holy nation, a people belonging to God, that you may declare the praises of him who called you out of darkness into his wonderful light. ¹⁰ Once you were not a people, but now you are the people of God; once you had not received mercy, but now you have received mercy.

¹¹ Dear friends, I urge you, as aliens and strangers in the world, to abstain from sinful desires, which war against your soul. ¹² Live such good lives among the pagans that, though they accuse you of doing wrong, they may see your good deeds and glorify God on the day he visits us.

COATESVILLE AREA PRAYER GATHERING

Wednesday, January 16, 2008 – 7:00 PM

"Forget the former things; do not dwell on the past. See, I am doing a new thing! Now it springs up; do you not perceive it? I am making a way in the desert and streams in the wasteland. – Isaiah 43:18-19

PRAISE AND WORSHIP

Welcome and Comments

Invocation

Musical Selection

BUILDING THE CHURCH ON THE RIGHT FOUNDATION

“The Living Stone...the Cornerstone...The Plumb Line”

Scripture: 1 Peter 2:1-4a; 6-8; Zechariah 4:6-10

Prayer

- Jesus...the cornerstone and plumb line of righteousness
- Building an altar of relationship with Jesus (intimacy)

Personal Reflection, Prayer and Repentance

- That we might rid ourselves of all malice and all deceit, hypocrisy, envy, and slander of every kind (1 Peter 2:1)
- Cleansing from hypocrisy...Genuine holiness
- Repenting of hidden (and not-so-hidden) sins
- Increased intimacy with Jesus
- Desire for the milk (and meat) of the Word of God
- Gratefulness for the goodness of the Lord

Opportunity for Active Response

Worship Song

PRAY FOR THE LIVING STONES

“A Spiritual House...A Holy Priesthood”

Scripture: 1 Peter 2:5

Prayer

- The purpose of God for the Coatesville area
- Ask the Lord to build His church in the Coatesville area...in accordance with His purposes for the area
- Trust and relationships between ethnic groups

Small Group Prayer

Some Prayer Points:

- Pray for the stones... divided stones, disheartened stones, disgraced stones, desolate stones, dormant stones, dysfunctional stones, deceived stones
- The coming together of the “living stones”...being fit together
- For the stones to manifest the character of Christ and the fruit of the Spirit

A Child Shall Lead Them...Worship Dance – Rena Warner

Reflection: What is the Lord saying?

PRAY FOR THE OFFERING OF SPIRITUAL SACRIFICES

“Praising God...Living Good Lives...Good Deeds”

Scripture: 1 Peter 2:5, 9-12; Romans 12:1-2

Prayer

- For the church to declare the praises of God
- For the witness of the church
- For the church to live good lives marked by good deeds

Small Group Prayer

Some Prayer Points:

- Pray for believers and ministries which serve...which are doing good works
- Pray for ministries...The Ministers Alliance, Chester County Women’s Services, Good Works, Habitat for Humanity, YWAM, REST Ministries, Bridge of Hope, House of His Creation, Life Transforming Ministries, Prison ministries, Counseling ministries, Food and shelter ministries, Youth ministries, Latino ministries, Missionaries, Evangelism ministries and more!

Reflection: What is the Lord saying?

Final Comments

Song of Praise

Blessing by the Pastors...Numbers 6:24-26

The LORD bless you, and keep you: The LORD make his face shine upon you, and be gracious unto you: The LORD lift up his countenance upon you, and give you peace.

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OVERSEERS OF THIS PRAYER GATHERING

These overseers will lead the Reflection times (What is the Lord saying?) and decide the appropriate response for any Scriptures or words weighing heavily in your heart this evening. Their response could be...

...Yes, it should be shared, along with the timing of that sharing and who will share it, **OR**...

...No, the words will not be shared this evening.

Please honor these servants of God in their role this evening!

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UPCOMING EVENTS

Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. Service: Sunday, January 20 at Greater Deliverance Church in South Coatesville. 4:30 PM Praise Service; 5 PM Worship Service. Speaker: Rev. Dr. Gradis M. Eggleston, Jr.

Sanctity of Human Life Sunday: Sunday, Jan. 20. March for Life in West Chester, 2:30 PM, from St. Agnes Church to the Courthouse.

Ministers Alliance Lenten Services begin on Ash Wednesday, Feb. 6 at First Baptist Church of Passtown. Devotions at 7 PM; Worship Service at 7:30 PM.

Next Prayer Gatherings: Eve of the National Day of Prayer, 7 PM on Wednesday, April 30.