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FOCUS 2015

Focusing on

- God's Word
- God's Son
- God's Vision
- God's Mission

The Dead Sea Scrolls



Qumran, featuring cave number 3 in the foreground.

The Dead Sea Scrolls, in the narrow sense of Qumran Caves Scrolls are a collection of some 981 different texts discovered between 1946 and 1956 in eleven caves from the immediate vicinity of the ancient settlement at *Khirbet Qumran* in the West Bank. The caves are located near the northwest shore of the Dead Sea, from which they derive their name.

The texts are of great historical, religious, and linguistic significance because they include the second oldest known surviving manuscripts of works later included in the Hebrew Bible canon, along with deuterocanonical and extra-biblical manuscripts which preserve evidence of the diversity of religious thought in late Second Temple Judaism. There are only two silver scrolls which contain biblical text and are older than the Dead Sea Scrolls; they were excavated in Jerusalem and date from around 600 BCE.

Most of the texts are written in Hebrew, with some in Aramaic (in different regional dialects, including Nabataean), and a few in Greek. If discoveries from the Judean desert are included, Latin (from Masada) and Arabic (from Khirbet al-Mird) can be added. Most texts are written on parchment, some on papyrus and one on copper.

The larger consensus is that the Qumran Caves Scrolls date from the last three centuries BCE and the first century CE. Bronze coins found at the same sites form a series beginning with John Hyrcanus (135–104 BCE) and continuing until the First Jewish-Roman War (66–73 CE), supporting the radiocarbon and paleographic dating of the scrolls. Manuscripts from additional Judean desert sites go back as far as the eighth century BCE to as late as the 11th century CE.

The scrolls have traditionally been identified with the ancient Jewish sect called the Essenes, although some recent interpretations have challenged this association and argue that the scrolls were penned by priests in Jerusalem, Zadokites or other unknown Jewish groups.



Israel Museum/Shrine of the Book

Due to the poor condition of some of the Scrolls, not all of them have been identified. Those that have been identified can be divided into three general groups:

1. Some 40% of them are copies of texts from the Hebrew Bible,
2. Approximately 30% of them are texts from the Second Temple Period and which ultimately were not canonized in the Hebrew Bible.
3. The remaining roughly 30% of them are sectarian manuscripts of previously unknown documents that shed light on the rules and beliefs of a particular group or groups within greater Judaism.

-Photos and Article by Dan Cooper

-adapted from Wikipedia



From Daniel's Den

"We are never more like God than when we give!"

That is not a verse in the Bible, but I believe it is, nevertheless very true. I'd like to take credit for being the first to make that statement, but I cannot. One of my old professors in my college days used to say, "The only thing I have that is original is what I've had so long I forgot where I got it." That was Jimmy Allen! (I remember where I got it!)

Jesus said, *"It is more blessed to give than it is to receive"* (Acts 20:35). God gave His only begotten son (John 3:16). *"He who sows sparingly will also reap sparingly, and he who sows bountifully will also reap bountifully,"* says Paul (2 Cor. 9:6-7). God loves generous givers, because when we give we become a little more like God.

With that being said, check out the note from our elders on page 3. What a fantastic response to the "closing the budget gap" between the first of December and now! Additionally I thank God for your generous response to Steve, Patti and Jessica's need. And, on Super Bowl Sunday those participating in our five parties gave over \$200 to help with our on-going work with Family Promise. Plus you gave extra for Orphans Sunday, extra for RUN (Reaching Unreached Nations) to assist Christians in Syria and Iraq, and you gave extra for the Shoebox ministry, and you gave extra toward the Camp Manatawny Mortgage challenge. And, many give extra to help with individual mission opportunities around the world. I thank God for the generous hearts of this church family.

We are never more like God than when we give! **Dan the Preacherman**



Dan Cooper
aka
"Dan, Dan,
the Preacherman"

I thank God for
the generous
hearts of this
church family.



Merle (Glynn) Durham
Visitation Minister

A Few Moments with Merle

Words

No words - Debby and I have a tradition that I give her a book for her birthday each year. It has to be one she can read to her 2nd graders at school. Two weeks ago I began my search for a book for this year. The one I selected that intrigued me the most was a wordless book. It is a colorful book with fascinating pictures which tell the story. The book titled Journey is about a lonely girl who draws a magic door on her bedroom wall with her red marker and through the door escapes into a world where wonder, adventure, and danger abound.

This reminds me that some people are reading the book of our lives without hearing a word from us. We may not speak words, but our lives speak volumes. People see our lives and they get our story. By looking at our lives people learn what is important to us and where our values lie. They see how we treat others. Maybe you have heard the saying, "I'd rather see a sermon any day than to hear one." What do people see in your life?

Few words - I've had a few people say to me, "You are a man of few words." That's okay. I don't have to say a lot to make a difference in people's lives.

Many words - The wise man wrote, *"When words are many, sin is not absent, but he who holds his tongue is wise"* (Proverbs 10:19). Jesus even said you don't have to use many words to be heard by God.

You may choose not to use words when you are with someone. You may just sit with the grieving or lonely, and by doing so you can effectively minister to them. Like Job's friends.

But when you decide to speak up and use words, remember these words of Jesus, *"But I tell you that men will have to give account on the day of judgment for every careless word they have spoken. For by your words you will be acquitted, and by your words you will be condemned"* (Matthew 12:36-37).

-Merle (Glynn)

Maybe you
have heard
the saying,
"I'd rather see
a sermon any
day than to
hear one."
What do
people see in
your life?

A BIG Thank You!



On behalf of the elders, I am expressing a big thank you for your generosity! You may recall that in early December, our budget deficit was in excess of \$20,000. But due to your generous giving near the end of the year, that deficit was nearly wiped out. Praise God! When the need arose, you once again responded. We appreciate your hearts and faithfulness!

-Dave Perine

Secret Sister Revealing Party

The Secret Sister Revealing Party has been rescheduled.

NEW Date: Saturday, February 28th

Same time: 1:00 PM

Same place: the home of Melody Davis
415 Grape Street, Hammonton, NJ 08037

Same plan!

Transportation: If you would like to car pool or ride in the church van, please meet at the bldg. at 12:15.

What to bring: Please bring your favorite finger food and your "revealing" gift.

Please note: If you are not able to attend the party please be sure to give your revealing gift to Melody or Dottie in advance. It's no fun for anyone to be left out.



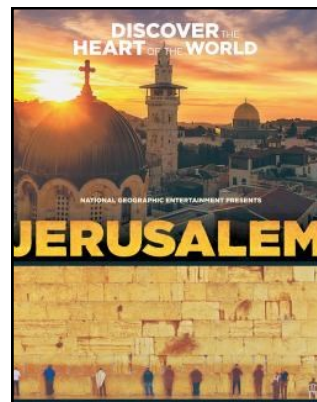
Jerusalem at IMAX

Jerusalem at Imax Theater at Franklin Institute is one week from today, February 22nd.

Details: As of this writing we have 18 people signed up for the Jerusalem at the IMAX theater next Sunday. This trip is specifically designed for those who have attended Dan's "How We Got the Bible" Sunday morning class that meets in the Family Life Center. This is both a fun and educational field trip for the last day of class. You need to pay Dottie, Hope H. or Dan for the tickets **TODAY**. Cost is \$7.00 per person if you go with us as a group. This covers the cost only for the Imax movie (not the entire Franklin Institute) and only if you go with us as a group.

Transportation: Dan is planning to drive the church van and it will comfortably hold 13 or 14. So, we need to car pool and at least one more person will need to drive. If you want to drive up on your own and meet at the Franklin Institute, see Dan on Sunday morning for your tickets.

Meal: If you would like to share the noon meal on Sunday, the van will be stopping at the Deptford Mall Food Court for lunch. You can find just about anything you want to eat there, there is no charge for parking, and there is a large variety of food. We will plan to leave the church building in the van about noon, arrive at the food court by 12:15, and leave the food court at 1:15. Meal is Dutch Treat, unless you want to be generous and buy the meal for a friend.



Last Chance

John Clayton's bi-monthly periodical, **Does God Exist** is thought provoking, colorful, intellectually challenging and beautiful. And, it is free! What could be better. But, you must renew your subscription every couple of years if you want to remain on his mailing list, as he does not want to mail it to "dead" addresses. I read every issue, cover to cover. You have a chance to sign up for this excellent periodical right now on a clip board on the counter of the Information Center.

Do it today, as we are mailing the list of new names off to him in coming days. Dan



Camp Manatawny News and Information

2015 Summer Sessions Schedule & Registration

Session:	Dates:	For Campers Completing Grades:
Senior High 2	June 21 - July 4	11th - 12th
Senior High 1	July 4 - 11	9th - 10th
Junior High 2	July 11 - 18	7th - 8th
Intermediate	July 18 - 25	5th - 6th
Junior High 1	July 25 - August 1	6th - 7th
Elementary 2	August 1 - 8	3rd - 4th
Elementary 1	August 8 - 15	1st - 2nd

You can register your child for camp now on the updated and easy to use camp website at manatawny.org.

Camper fees and discounts remain the same as last year! The camper fee for one full week of "sleep-away" camp including three AMAZING meals a day is \$325. And there are a number of discounts available.

Early Registration Discount: Save \$25 if registered and paid in full by April 30.

First Time Camper Discount: Save \$25 for all first time campers.

Refer A Friend Discount: If you are a returning camper and refer friends who have never attended Camp Manatawny before, you will save \$25 for EACH friend that attends. The discount will be refunded to you after camp session once it is verified the new camper has attended camp. There is no limit on this discount.

Multi Camper Discount: Available for families with three or more children from the same household attending camp. The discount is \$25 and is applied to the third or more child. The campers must be immediate family or legal guardian to qualify.



Have you ever wondered what camp looks like in the wintertime? It's just a beautiful in the winter as is in the summer!

Look Who's Coming Back!



Harry and Linda Ake's horses Rosie and Daisy will be returning to Camp Manatawny this summer for our campers to enjoy. Thank you again Harry and Linda for your generosity to camp!

More Camp Events

Here are some other events at Camp Manatawny that you may be interested in!

Spring Clean Up Day - May 9th, 9 AM 3PM

Put your work clothes on and come out for a fun filled day of gardening and cleaning up camp after a long hard winter. This is a great opportunity for students to receive community service credits for school. Contact Jim or Carol Bailey at 215-822-3845 or at jcbailay@comcast.net to sign up.

Family Camp - May 22-24 - A time to camp as a family, worship together and participate in all the activities that are offered during our summer sessions. Saturday starts off with a 5K trail run and 1 mile fun run/walk. Saturday is open to the public to visit, participate and learn more about our summer sessions.

Manatawny 5K Walk/Run - May 23 - 8 AM - Put your running shoes on and run the trails of Manatawny! This scenic course follows dirt roads from the Manatawny creek to forested rolling hills. This event will challenge even the best trail runners. If you don't feel like running, you can walk a 1 mile course.

Camp Sonshine - May 30-31 - An overnight camping experience for campers with special needs that would make it difficult for them to attend a full week of camp.

For more information on these and other events at camp, visit manatawny.org or call the camp business office at 610-689-0173.

New Member!



Last Sunday, Mary Green placed membership with us here at Pitman Road. We asked Mary to tell us a little bit about herself, and this is what she had to say:

I am so excited to be a part of the work at Pitman and I hope to get to know everyone as time goes by. I was born and raised in South Jersey but have spent many years away, and I am finally coming back home. I

have two grown child that are married, and one grandson and a granddaughter due in June 2015. I work full time as a Food Broker so I travel a lot and cover a large territory. My career background has covered several different areas including sales, marketing, culinary, management, and I dabble in computers. My hobbies include traveling (I am always ready to explore new areas), and also motorcycling, which go hand in hand most of the time. Thank you for making me feel welcome already!!!

Welcome to the family Mary!

Unwrap the BIBLE
LIVE SIMULCAST EVENT

women of faith

Register Now!

CHRISTINE CAINE PRISCILLA SHIRER LISA HARPER SHEILA WALSH CHARLOTTE GAMBILL

Register in the Foyer on Sunday mornings or pick up invitation/registration forms with details at the Information Center. Please also use them to invite family, friends, and neighbors!

Saturday, March 14th - 8:00AM-5:30 PM
Deadline for registration is March 8th.

This Week's Prayer Requests

Praises : Dottie's back!

Prayers Requested:

John Grillo, recovering at home after extensive surgery to repair his elbow.

Lynne Sbaraglia, severe back pain.

Jessica Sikes, hospice care.

Joshua Davis, Harriet Wensel's grandson, hospitalized with pneumonia.

Millie Moore, recovering from hand surgery.

Adam Cerquoni, recovering after prostate removal surgery.

Lee Cooper, Dan's father, awaiting date for prostate surgery.

Pat Schuehler is asking for the church family's prayers for her physical and emotional health. She says, "I know the prayers help."

Jayne Schofield, still experiencing severe back pain.

Nancy Calabro, blood clot and cardiac issues.

David Davis, Harriet's younger son, liver is not functioning very well. He may have a liver transplant.

Military:

Andrew Holden at West Point.

Expecting:

Brendan and Lisa Downing, March

Ryan and Pam Monaghan, March

Lauren (Camorata) & Jeremy Thompson, March 28 - a boy!

Engaged:

Timothy Holmes & Paige Rothmaller, April 4, 2015.

Anthony DeStefano & Hope Anderson, July 10, 2015

Traveling:

Paul Stanford

MED Meeting

Next MED Meeting Scheduled for Sunday, March 1st at noon... Planning Ahead!

The next meeting for all Ministers Elders and Deacons (MED) is scheduled for Sunday, March 1st, immediately after morning worship in the Family Life Center.

Plan on enjoying a home cooked meal compliments of Harriet and Judi to start things off, then we will move into our business section.

As per our usual tradition, the meeting time together will conclude between 2:00 and 2:15.

Please RSVP to Dan @ dcooper@coChrist.org NOW, or by Feb. 22nd at the latest, so that appropriate plans for the meal can be made.

The "Craft Day" scheduled for Saturday, February 21st has been cancelled. The next scheduled "Craft Day" will be on Saturday, March 28th.

Our Ministers

Evangelist

Dan Cooper dcooper@coChrist.org

Minister

Carlos Isaziga cisaziga@coChrist.org

Visitation Minister

Glynn Durham gdurham1@coChrist.org

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Our Elders

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Larry Point 856-769-0836
..... lawrencepoint@helmerlegal.com

Dwight Thompson 609-561-8561, hm
..... 609-287-0109, cell
..... DOThompson@comcast.net

Our Deacons

Bud Britton Grounds Maintenance

Derrick Busch Young Adults

Tim Davis Teens

Tony DeStefano Body Life & Fellowship

Matt Downing Worship

Glynn Durham LIFE Groups

Darren Fields Greeters Ministry

Brian Holden Special Activities; Body Life

Garth Hutchinson Local Evangelism

Larry Kellum, Jr. Caring & Sharing

Brian Kleineweber Financial Consultant

Brian Mansdoerfer Building Maintenance; Jr. Worship

Chuck Olley Teens

Aaron Pearl Youth

John Peoples New Member Involvement

Steve Pierre-Jacques
..... Audio Visual; Information Technology; Website

Jay Schneider Serving Our Seniors

Carl Steiner World Evangelism

Manny Vander Vennen
..... Church Directory, Kids for Christ

Sunday Schedule

9:00 AM Bible Classes

10:00 AM Worship

Wednesday Night Schedule

5:30-6:30 PM Meal

7:00-7:45 PM Bible Classes

7:45 PM Fellowship

Last Week

Bible Class	166
Worship	290
LIFE Groups	130
Wednesday	89
Contribution	\$10,708
Fiscal YTD Goal	\$334,464.00
Contribution YTD	\$329,391.00
Under Budget	(\$5,073.00)

Serving Us Today

Nursery	Becky & Emma Vander Vennen
Kids For Christ	Troy & Kelly Spencer
Jr. Worship	Brian Mansdoerfer
Hall Monitor: Bible Class	Judi Campbell
Hall Monitor: Worship	Volunteer Needed
Greeters: Front Entrance	Larry Peterson & Mike Lazar
Greeters: Back Entrance	George & Cookie Rowe
Ushers	Steve DePrince & Corny Walker
Information Desk	Linda Prenger
Shepherd's Call	HoratioFenton
Song Leader	Matt Downing
Communion	Mike Buchanan

L.I.F.E. Group Locations Today

Group	Location	Contact
Brook Besor	Durham's, Thursday at 7PM	856-589-2280
Circle of Sisters	Prenger's, Tuesday at 7PM	856-689-7932
Convenience Group	Church Building at Noon	856-589-1500
The Flock	Vander Vennen's at 5 PM	856-241-7757
Hammonton Group	Ashton's at 5 PM	609-561-8317
Solid Gold	Meet with another group	
Teens	Church Building at Noon	856-589-1500
Vineland	H. Pearl's at 6PM	856-839-0051
18thirty	Isaziga's at Noon	850-814-6632

Wednesday Night Meal

Cook: Coopers

Menu: Shepherd's Pie