

# Two New Churches Starting Ministries in Colls, Oaklynn

by Bethany Mitros

Sunday mornings have changed over the past few decades and church attendance has declined, but that is not stopping two new organizations from starting new ministries this fall.

The downturn in church attendance actually prompted Deborah Kalinowski to start her outreach program, God's Not Finished With Me Yet Ministries.

Kalinowski, an Oaklynn native, said she noticed in her business as mobile wedding service provider that many people ask for mentions of God to be excluded from their wedding ceremonies. "People today don't have a lot of time for church," she explained, so she and colleague David Lay-Flurrie plan their outreach ministry to "go where they are."

Kalinowski said they have accumulated a collection of religious tracts – pamphlets that explain their beliefs – that they plan to hand out at local events to "reach people with the gospel message."

For now, Kalinowski said they set up a website with informa-

tion about their ministry. It currently includes a Christian message with which she hopes to reach people, as well as helpful links for free Bibles and online church services. She plans to add Lay-Flurrie's and her own biography to the website, as well as a blog.

She hopes their ministry can connect "like-minded people" to "band together as Christians" and help the less fortunate in their communities instead of leaving them to rely on government assistance.

They are not affiliated with any local church right now, but Kalinowski said she would be open to connecting people to area churches in the future. She considers their ministry to be non-denominational, and instead of following the tenets of a certain denomination, they will just "try and follow the Bible and Christ's teaching."

In Collingswood, Jim Angehr plans to head liberti church. "Liberti is a Latin word for 'free people,'" said Angehr, and the church is so named because liberti (yes, lowercase 'l') will "try to communicate that the good news of Jesus frees us to be truly

human in our service to God and others."

Though Angehr is still in the process of moving to the area with his wife and four children, he said he has "deep ties" to South Jersey and he looks forward to returning to the area.

Angehr and his family have been leading a church in Texas but returning to the area is important because "we have a deep love for the Philadelphia and South Jersey region... and the property taxes for where we're living [in Texas] now are entirely too low."

Official worship services will not start on Sundays until some time in the middle of next year. His plan is to "really just to move up, get to know different people, and try to positively engage in a community that so many people already love... If my or any additional church would take root in Collingswood, I would want it to be one that enhances and doesn't detract from the community."

"It's not at all the goal of liberti Collingswood to 'save' the community in some weird way, but to seek avenues humbly to serve it," said Angehr.