

The PRISM

Sunshine Church of Christ

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January 4, 2004

Vol. 39 — Issue 1

It's Another New Year...but for what reason?

"Happy New Year!" That greeting will be said and heard for at least the first couple of weeks as a new year gets under way. But the day celebrated as New Year's Day in modern America was not always January 1.

The celebration of the new year is the oldest of all holidays. It was first observed in ancient Babylon about 4000 years ago. In the years around 2000 BC, the Babylonian New Year began with the first New Moon (actually the first visible crescent) after the Vernal Equinox (first day of spring).

The beginning of spring is a logical time to start a new year. After all, it is the season of rebirth, of planting new crops, and of blossoming. January 1, on the other hand, has no astronomical nor agricultural significance. It is purely arbitrary.

The Babylonian new year celebration lasted for eleven days. Each day had its own particular mode of celebration, but it is safe to say that modern New Year's Eve festivities pale in comparison.

The Romans continued to observe the new year in late March, but their calendar soon became out of synchronization with the sun.

In order to set the calendar right, the Roman senate, in 153 BC, declared January 1 to be the beginning of the new year. But tampering continued until Julius Caesar, in 46 BC, established what has come to be known as the Julian Calendar. It again established January 1 as the new year. But in order to synchronize the calendar with the sun, Caesar had to let the previous year drag on for 445 days.

In 567 AD the Council of Tours abolished January first in favor of March as the start of a new year, varying the actual day to coincide with the Vernal Equinox. New Year celebrations lasted for several days. The first day of the new year was moved back to January 1 with the advent of the Gregorian Calendar by Pope Gregory XIII in 1582.

Although in the first centuries AD the Romans continued celebrating the new year, the early Church condemned the festivities as paganism. But as Christianity became more widespread, the church began having its own religious observances concurrently with many of the pagan celebrations, and New Year's Day was no different. New Years is still observed as the Feast of Christ's Circumcision by some denominations.

During the Middle Ages, the Church remained opposed to celebrating New Years. January 1 has been celebrated as a holiday by Western nations for only about the past 400 years.

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Please Pray For...

For our national leaders and world leaders as they lead their respective nations.

For our troops in Afghanistan, Bosnia, Korea, Iraq, Liberia and other places.

For the lost in our families and community.

For the ban on partial birth abortion to stand as law.

Jeremiah Gayheart (7 yrs old) has an inoperable brain tumor.

Mary Royster (Terry Royster's mother) remains in SOMC recuperating from pneumonia.

Frieda Gampp now has a Wound Vac on her heel to help promote the healing. The healing has been going very slowly.

June Abney (Arlene Knore's sister in Pensacola, FL) has been moved into a rehab center, she is very weak and is expected to be a resident for a month or more. Please keep June and her husband Dan in your prayers.

Walter Buckle (Delores Gampp's uncle in a nursing home in Middletown, Ohio) is suffering with advanced Alzheimer's and severe diabetes. His foot was amputated on Monday. The family is asking us to pray that his days on earth will be shortened. His suffering is great.

Brian Demsich (4 month old son of Joe and Karen Demisich, friends of Miller's in Detroit) has suspected testicular cancer. Prayer for his healing and safety is requested.

Judy Jordan and daughter, Michelle Carroll, both have been having chemotherapy for cancer and at the moment both are doing well. Praise the Lord.

Harry Woodworth suffered a broken foot on Friday while hunting. He won't know till Monday how severe the break is or how it will be treated.

Teen Devo

No more devos until after the holidays.

Looking Ahead at Sunshine

Feb. 7 - Father-Daughter Valentine Gala

Mar. 7 - Apr. 4 - Sunday P.M. Home Groups

Sunday PM Services

Singing devotional for this evening.

Sympathy Extended

To the family of **Anna Mae Miller** (Donnie Miller's mother) who passed away on Tuesday. Her funeral is today at 1:30 pm at the McKinley Funeral Home in Lucasville.

To the family of **Ted Fouch** (father of Tanya Coriell and husband of Carrie Fouch) who passed away on Wednesday evening. He was buried in a private ceremony on Saturday. For the present, cards and prayers are preferred over visits or calls for Carrie. Her address is 100-C Burro Road, Minford, Ohio 45653.

Greeter Sign Up

Those who are willing to serve as greeters for January, please sign up on the list on the bulletin board. There are various jobs to be filled. See the description posted next to the sign up sheet.

More information, see Mark Gampp.

Thank You

The Joy of Giving thanks all who, through their generosity, provided a beautiful Christmas for 22 children. May God bless all those involved.

Youth Committee Meeting

This Sunday at 5 pm. All adults and youth who are interested in helping plan the year for our youth are invited to be present for this meeting.

Skit Practice

Lord's Army will have a practice session next Sunday (Jan. 11) at 5 p.m.

Scheduled Bible Study Texts

Sunday	Wednesday
1/4 I Pt 1-5	1/7 II Sam 19-21
1/11 II Pt 1-3	1/14 II Sam 22
1/18 I Jn 1-2	1/21 II Sam 23-24
1/25 I Jn 3-4	1/28 I Chr 22-29
2/1 I Jn 5	2/4 I Kgs 1-2
2/8 II Jn, III Jn	2/11 I Kgs 3-4
2/15 Jude	2/18 I Kgs 5-6
2/22 Rev-Intro	2/25 I Kgs 7
2/29 Rev 21-22	

Prayer Chain Revamped

Our current Emergency Prayer Chain list is outdated. We are taking this opportunity to invite new people to become involved and to recommit current prayer chain members. The Emergency Prayer Chain is a way of mobilizing several Christians on short notice to begin praying about things that just can't wait till our next assembly. Besides praying there is a need for people willing to make a few phone calls on short notice to pass the prayer information along. If you are willing to participate as a prayer maker and/or caller on the prayer chain, please sign up on the list in the foyer and indicate if you are willing to make phone calls in addition to praying by making a check mark in the appropriate column by your name. For more information, see Steve Miller.

Changes in Sunday AM Class

Starting in January we will be rotating the teacher in the auditorium class month by month. Also, we will be following the curriculum as outlined in the bulletin very closely. Please be reading the designated portion of scripture each time before class. Today we are covering I Peter 1-5.

No Children's Bible Time Today

Due to unforeseen circumstances, there will be no Children's Bible Time today. Next week, we should be back in operation.

Birthday Celebration

Friday, January 9, Charlotte Brisker will be celebrating her 88th birthday. Happy Birthday, Charlotte! Cards can be sent to Charlotte Brisker; 991 Wheelers Mill Road; Wheelersburg, Ohio 45694.

Another Birthday Celebration

Tonight after evening services, everyone is invited to the fellowship hall to have a piece of cake in honor of Estelle Coriell's 90th Birthday. Happy Birthday, Estelle. Cards can be sent to Estelle Coriell; 237 Coriell Road; Portsmouth, Ohio 45662.

It's Another New Year...

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The tradition of using a baby to signify the new year was begun in Greece around 600 BC. It was their tradition at that time to celebrate their god of wine, Dionysus, by parading a baby in a basket, representing the annual rebirth of that god as the spirit of fertility. Early Egyptians also used a baby as a symbol of rebirth.

The use of an image of a baby with a New Years banner æ a symbolic representation of the new year was brought to early America by the Germans. They had used the symbol since the fourteenth century.

The song "Auld Lang Syne" is sung at the stroke of midnight in almost every English-speaking country in the world to bring in the new year. At least partially written by Robert Burns in the 1700's, it was first published in 1796 after Burns' death. Early variations of the song were sung prior to 1700 and inspired Burns to produce the modern rendition. An old Scotch tune, "Auld Lang Syne" literally means "old long ago," or simply, "the good old days."

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THOSE WHO SERVE

Sunday Morning

Bible Class Text
Welcome & Prayer
Song Director
Scripture Reading
Prayer
Lord's Supper - Wine
Bread
Assist
Assist
Assist
Assist
Message
Closing Prayer

January 4

I Peter 1-5
Don Coriell
Shaun McCray
Mark Gamp
Jason Coriell
David Gamp
Aaron McCray
Josh Coriell
Mark Risner
Matt Hoskins
Kevin Stimpert
Steve Miller
Terry Sullivan

January 11

II Peter 1-3
Jon Coriell
Ralph Gamp
Alan Graff
Mike Coriell
Bud Coriell
Rick Brown
Jerry Gamp
Caleb Miller
Greg Coriell
Ed McLaughlin
Steve Miller
Jamie Riley

Sunday Evening

Song Director
Opening Prayer
Lord's Supper
Closing Prayer

Jon Coriell
Aaron Kallner
Rich Book
Gary Glispie

Scott Gamp
Tom Kelley
Josh Coriell
Jim Cunningham

Wednesday Evening

Song Director
Prayer
Bible Class Text

Gabe Coriell
Matt Cram
II Samuel 19-21

Zach Coriell
Mike Gamp
II Samuel 22

Scheduled Services

Sunday

Bible Study - 9:45 am
Worship - 10:30 am
Eve. Worship - 6:30 p.m

Wednesday

Bible Study - 7:30 p.m.

The Prism is a publication of the Sunshine Church of Christ. To learn more about the Church of Christ you may contact us at the telephone number or address on the front cover.

Deadline for each issue is 5 p.m. Friday. News items may be called to Steve Miller or Alan Graff or e-mailed to:

algraff@peoplepc.com

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Elders

Don Coriell	776-6346	pcoriell@yahoo.com
Jon Coriell	776-3248	y2kingcoriell@yahoo.com
Wayne Gamp	820-3444	wgamp@zoomnet.net
Tom Kelley	259-2258	
Harry Woodworth	820-4114	hwoodwor@peoplepc.com

Evangelists

Steve Miller	820-4379	srmler1522@yahoo.com
Pager	290-0156	
Jamie Riley	820-3348	jrlery_sunshine@yahoo.com
Pager	290-0158	

Building	820-3415	Office Hours: 8-12 M-F sunshinecofc@peoplepc.com
Building Fax	820-5450	
Campus Ministry	355-3186	

Deacons & Areas of Ministry

Rich Book	820-3213	Education, Elbrooke Services, Library
Bud Coriell	776-3452	Building Remodeling
Mike Coriell		Local Benevolence - 820-3415
Jason Coriell	820-4739	Treasurer, Office Supplies
Scott Gamp	820-3545	Worship, Special Events
Gary Glispie	776-4279	Church Directory, Program of Work
Alan Graff	776-7905	Bulletin, Advert., Front sign, Computers
Dick Havens	456-5009	Building Maint., Supplies
Taylor Hoskins	820-4645	Worship, Insurance, Budget
Shaun McCray	776-7738	Treasurer, Office Supplies
Homer Miller	776-7550	Funerals, Hosp. Visit., Attendance
Eugene Risner	820-2256	Fire, Health, Seniors, Joy of Giving
Willis Shumway	820-2833	Bldg. Use & Security, Baptistery
Terry Sullivan	776-7056	Youth Ministry