

The Church of Christ at **SUNSHINE** Bulletin

VOLUME 42

December 9, 2007

ISSUE 49

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Pioneers And Other Thoughts

You know, this time of year we think a lot about people who have gone before us - family members that have passed on, friends that have moved on, and possibly those who blazed trails through history to give us the land we live in, our form of government, and even our faith. Pioneers. The image that this word always brings to the forefront of my mind is the girl looking out the back of a Conestoga wagon from Little House on the Prairie. But pioneers were/are so much more than just conceptions from history books, and while our lands have all been explored, and scientific discoveries are myriad, there are still pioneers today. They won't have muskets or wagons, and they probably won't speak in olde English, but they are here nonetheless. In our communities, churches, schools, and offices. Private lives that cross into the great unknown taking risks that are dangerous for the hope of fulfilling a sort of Manifest Destiny. A commitment to God that looks very different than merely the keeping of rules. It's a life on the edge. It's practicing what is preached. These are the folks in the gutters pulling out the drunks, the ones intervening personally to befriend the unpopular and the outcasts. Present day pioneers are also those who risk ridicule and ostracism to find help for the drug habits, sexual addictions, or psychological problems that have bound them for years. These folks and the ones who care for them are going where few have dared to go. But when I think about my Savior, these are the ones he came to save "it's not the healthy who need a doctor..." I often think about those who have risked openness about their struggles and the exclusion and judgement they so often incur from those whose love and understanding are all they ever needed, and then I think about my mother.

For years she's endured awful things that nobody realized were out of her control. From the outside it may have appeared she was at great fault, but inside things were totally different. To me she took great risks in being open about emotional illness and many of the hands that should have reached out shut doors instead. To see her today, I am filled with the good kind of pride at how much she's overcome internally. I have a great appreciation for how she's responsible for my being here, for the fact that she (and my dad) encouraged my brother and I to be active in the church and youth group from an early age, for how she would literally give her last material possession to anyone she thought needed it, and for the fact that nobody else was able to reach my grandfather with the Gospel but her. God used her to ensure that he's in Heaven today. When Papaw accepted Christ, mom was at a very low point in her life. But it's funny how God loves to use broken people.

So today, I'm inspired by her story, motivated to reach out further to the downtrodden and those who are so tragically misunderstood. Motivated by my Savior's faithfulness and love to care for those who have been marginalized. Hopefully, we can all be pioneers like Jesus, who came for the purpose of setting captives free. That is my prayer for myself and for the church. And these are just a few thoughts inspired by this holiday season as I reflect on heritage, thankfulness, and the gifts that really matter.

Eric McLaughlin
Sunshine Church of Christ

PRAYER REQUESTS

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

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

For the innocent who are suffering in the midst of war.

For the “people in the box” the lost in our families and community.

For those who are being martyred and persecuted for Christ in our own time

For marriage to stand in our laws as God ordained it.

For the church in Siliguri and Naresh Chetri

For the churches in Honduras and Haiti who partner with us in the gospel

For our Haiti Mission Team leaving in January

Sarah Riley (Jamie's mother) has been moved from Holzer to Four Winds Nursing Home near Jackson this week while her fractures heal.

Millie Lemon is at home recuperating from her last surgery. Hopefully she will be back with us soon.

Renee Bissell had round 5 of her chemo and things have gone considerably better.

Rick Richmond had his “gamma knife” treatment on November 20. A small spot was detected in another location of his brain and was treated at the same time as the tumor at the original site.

Alex Cram spent last week at Children's in Columbus. Excess spinal fluid is the apparent cause of his headaches and periods of blindness. Treatment will involve medication to control seizures and periodic spinal taps to check for excess pressure and to draw off fluid. The possibility of a shunt to drain excess spinal fluid is also on the table.

Shirley Gilliam is recuperating from knee surgery at Heartland in Jackson.

Sharon Neal (mother of Sarah Gilliland's caretaker) has been diagnosed with cancer.

Tom Ball (Clyde's brother in Hopkins, MI) has cancer in multiple locations. Prayers for his soul requested.

Allison Thompson (Brandy Gampp's 21 yr old cousin) had surgery last week for Stage 4 cancer.

Steve Miller in SOMC this week for bleeding ulcer which required blood transfusions. Recuperating at home now.

Spirit Club Verse of the Month

Seek ye first the kingdom of God and his righteousness and all these things shall be added unto you.

Matthew 6:33

Hospital Bed

Tamera Green is working with a patient who needs an electric hospital bed. If you have access to one, please give her a call. Would like to borrow or purchase or rent.

Haiti Mission Needs

The Haiti mission team leaves on January 19. They are requesting your prayers and your donations of the following items to be taken to Haiti for the 590 children we are currently sponsoring through Hope for Haiti's Children: **Socks**, all sizes, white, brown, black: **Ball Caps**; **Hair Accessories** for girls (barrettes, bow, ribbons, clips. There will be receptacles placed in foyer over the next few weeks for you to deposit these items.

Angel Food Delivery

This Saturday, 8:30-10 am, here at the building. Workers need to show up early. See Jason or Judi Allison for details.

Christmas Program Rehearsals

There will be two rehearsals for this year's Christmas program. The first will be on **Sunday, Dec. 16th** at 4 p.m. with pizza to follow. The second rehearsal will be on **Tuesday, Dec. 18th** at 7 p.m. The Christmas program will be presented on Thursday, Dec. 20th. For more information, see Scott Gampp.

Help Wanted

If you have experience using desktop publishing software or would like to learn, I am looking for someone to train to do the bulletin once or twice a month including creating and uploading the online version and do routine maintenance of the church website. If you are interested, see Al Graff.

Haiti Update

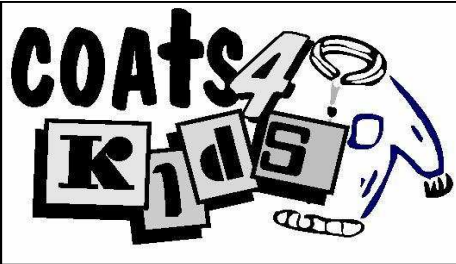
We have received a report from Hope for Haiti's Children detailing the needs of the villages where HFHC has been ministering. These villages were hit by severe flooding caused by Hurricane Noel. Debbie Vanderbeek (HFHC's executive director in Haiti) has visited all of the villages in question over the last two weeks. She distributed about \$6700.00 in aid and estimates it will take another \$34,450.00 to provide the immediate needs of the families affected. On Sunday, December 16, we already have a special collection scheduled for Haiti through the efforts of our young people in their Hunger Awareness Weekend. Be sure that you are generous in that contribution. Christian brothers and sisters and their children are in great need in Haiti right now. Copies of Debbie Vanderbeek's report are on the table in the foyer for you to take.

Hunger Awareness Report

This weekend 13 of our young adults and teens were able to complete the 36 hour fast in our Hunger Awareness Weekend. About 10 or 15 other young adults and teens participated on a drop-in basis. The group that did the fast stayed together in the building for the last 24 hours of the weekend and had times of fellowship and devotion interspersed with video documentaries dealing with the problem of hunger in our world. Thank you to those who participated.

Hunger Awareness Collection

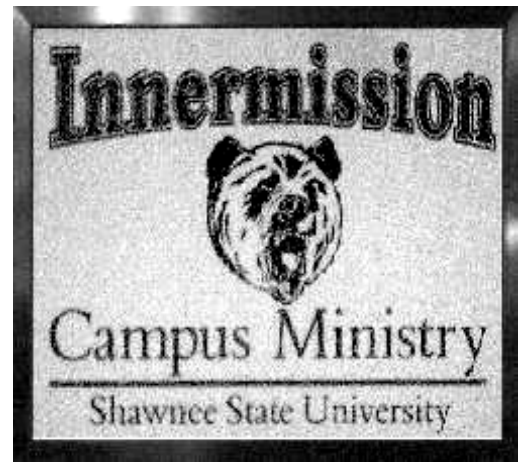
Next Sunday, December 16, we will be taking up a special collection during the AM service to help relieve the problem of hunger in our world. Part of the collection will be sent to Haiti through Hope for Haiti's Children and the remainder will be sent to the Homeless Shelter in Portsmouth.



Contributions are being received now by Eugene Risner and Rhonda Berry for a fund to purchase hats, coats and gloves for needy students in the Minford School District. We have used the staff at the school to determine who should receive the items. The items have already been purchased and will be delivered on Monday. The total bill comes to \$380.00. So far \$52.00 has been collected. Get your money to Eugene or Rhonda by Sunday, December 16. Checks made out to Sunshine church of Christ.

Men's Meeting

Any men who would like to get together for a time of fellowship and prayer are invited to attend an informal meeting at the Innermission Campus Ministry building (Corner of Gay & 4th in Portsmouth) on Friday, January 11th at 6:00 p.m. Main topic for discussion will be things men commonly struggle with. The meeting is expected to last about 2 to 3 hours.



COMING EVENTS

- 12/13 - Tim & Jennifer Gampg depart for China
- 12/14 - Angel Food Delivery
- 12/16 - Collection for Hunger Awareness Weekend
- 12/16 - Coats For Kids Deadline
- 12/16 - Christmas Program Rehearsal @ 4 p.m.
- 12/18 - Christmas Program Rehearsal @ 7 p.m.
- 12/20 - Christmas Program
- 1/19-26 - Haiti Mission Trip

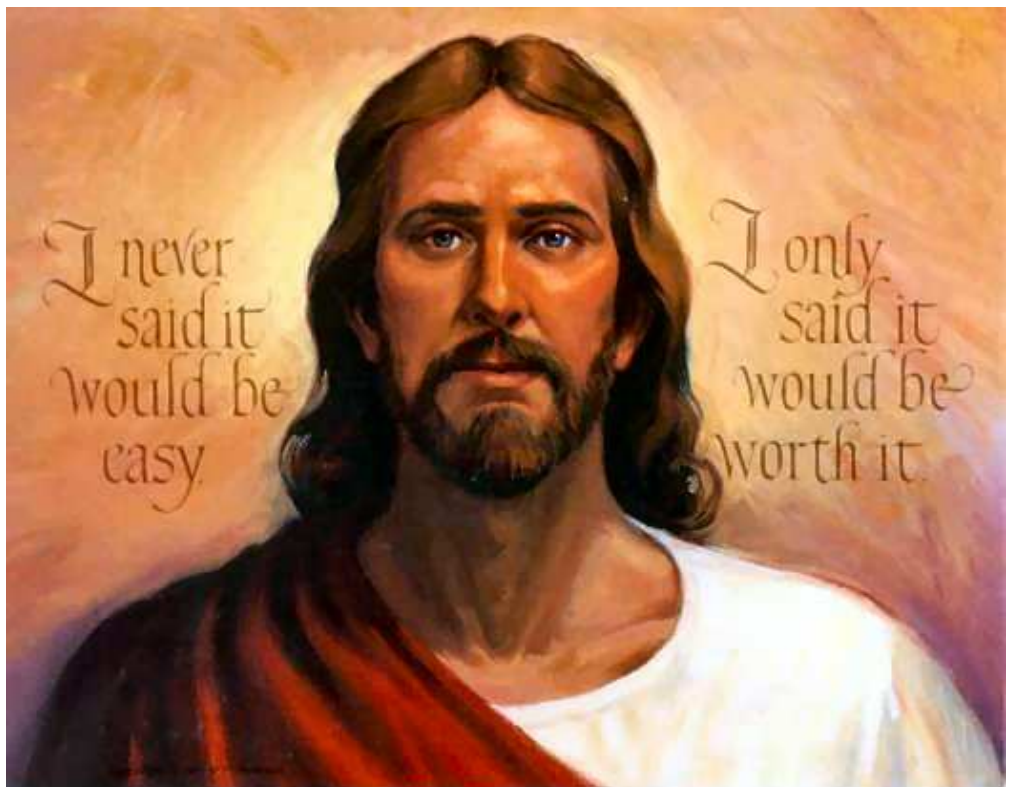
Bible Study Curriculum

Sunday

- 12/9 Acts 11
- 12/16 Acts 12
- 12/23 Acts 19

Wednesday

- 12/12 Ezek 2-4
- 12/19 Ezek 18, 28
- 12/26 Ezek 34, 37



Those Who Serve

<u>Sunday Morning</u>	<u>December 9</u>	<u>December 16</u>
Welcome & Prayer	Tom Kelley	Don Coriell
Song Director	Ralph Gampp	Scott Gampp
Scripture Reading	Spike Ferrell	Shawn Gragg
Prayer	Rich Book	Dewey Cordle
Lord's Supper –Bread	Eric McLaughlin	John Berry
Wine	Aaron McCray	Mark Villinger
Server 1	Eric Copas	Chuck Allison
Server 2	Josh Coriell	Ira Coriell
Server 3	Barry Gampp	Ryan Coriell
Server 4	Dale Gampp	David Gampp
Server 5	Gary Glispie	John Gampp
Server 6	Jack Jennings	Matthew Gampp
Message	Steve Miller	Steve Miller
Closing Prayer	Jason Coriell	Mike Gampp

<u>Sunday Evening</u>		
Song Director	Mark Gampp	Zach Coriell
Scripture Reading	Tim Gampp	Troy Gahm
Lord's Supper	Jamie Riley	Matt Hoskins
Assist	Steve Williams	Sean Higbee
Prayer	Greg Coriell	Nick Gampp
<i>Bible Class Text</i>	<i>Acts 11</i>	<i>Acts 12</i>

<u>Wednesday Evening</u>		
Song Director	Gabe Coriell	Jacob Miller
Prayer	Jeff Hayward	Aaron Kallner
<i>Bible Class Text</i>	<i>Ezekiel 2-4</i>	<i>Ezekiel 18, 28</i>

Children's Bible Time

December 3/5: Joan Coriell, Pam Coriell, Irmalee Gampp
 December 6/8: Kerri Davis, Kim McCray, Jessie Coriell
 January 3/5: Jane Ruggles, Stephanie Copas, Jennifer Gampp
 January 6/8: Kristin Riley, Cindy Coriell, Becky Dixon

If you are unable to serve as scheduled, please make arrangements for a substitute. Thank you.

Regular Service Times

Sunday

Worship - 10:00 am
 Bible Study - 6:30 p.m

Wednesday

Bible Study - 7:30 p.m.

This bulletin 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 Al Graff or Steve Miller or e-mailed to:

info@sunshine-church.org

VISIT US ONLINE AT
sunshine-church.org
sunshine-church.blogspot.com
innermissionssu.com



Scripture Word Search

Find the words from Acts 11 listed below that are hidden in the grid

WORD LIST

APOSTLES	DISCIPLES	BRETHREN
GENTILES	JERUSALEM	CIRCUMCISION
JOPPA	SIMON	CAESAREA
SHEET	ANIMALS	BARNABAS
TARSUS	ANTIOCH	EXHORTED
BELIEVED	CHRISTIANS	AGABUS
PREACHING	PERSECUTION	UNCLEAN

U U P E R S E C U T I O N E C H N S U S R A T S R
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