

The Church of Christ at **SUNSHINE** BULLETIN

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The Present

By Karren Griffith

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As we enter this season of giving and receiving gifts, no doubt all of you parents of young children will be tutoring your offspring on the etiquette of the occasion. As I watch my own children prompt their little ones with, "What do you say?" the words echo words I repeated not so long ago. Remember all the prompts your mom gave you at your birthday parties when you were a kid? What if we applied those rules to the gifts we receive from our Heavenly Father?

We call today "the present", and it truly is a gift. I'm ashamed to say that many times, I fail to express my gratitude appropriately for this awesome gift. I think my manners fail when it comes to receiving the gift of a new day from my Heavenly Father. Perhaps, when I get up each morning, I should review the rules Mommy taught me as a child.

1) We should accept each new present with a level of anticipation, perhaps even excitement. Even before we know what the pretty package holds, (or even if it is wrapped in brown paper and tied with baling twine) we know that a loving Father cares enough for us to give us this gift that we are about to open.

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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 "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 innocent who are suffering in the midst of war.
For the church in Siliguri and Naresh Chetri
For the churches in Honduras and Haiti who partner with us in the gospel.

Ellen Lemon has completed her first five weeks of radiation treatments. She starts a second round of radiation treatments right away--20 treatments.

Alex Cram is still facing possible eye surgery to preserve his eyesight.

Kerri Davis is still recuperating from her gall bladder surgery. She had a drainage tube removed this week. Progress is slow but it is coming.

Karen Bennett (Sarah Gilliland's niece) was hospitalized this week with a severe asthma attack.

Bible Study Curriculum

Sunday

12/07 Galatians 1-2
 12/14 Galatians 3-4
 12/21 Galatians 5-6
 12/28 Ephesians 1

Wednesday

12/10 Exodus 11-13
 12/17 Exodus 14-15
 12/24 Exodus 16-18
 12/31 Exodus 19-20



12/07 - Deadline for Coats for Kids
 12/13 - Senior Ambassador Banquet
 12/19 - Christmas Program @ 7 pm
 12/20 - Christmas Program Clean Up: 10 am
 Teen Trip to Clifton Mills
 12/22 - Christmas Cookie Exchange
 2/20-22 - Winterfest in Gatlinburg

Verse of the Month

You are the light of the world. Let your light so shine before men that they may see your good works and glorify your Father in heaven.

Matthew 5:14 & 16

Special Prayer Request

For the Rhoden Family of Clarktown. Michael Rhoden, age 25, young father, recently returned from Iraq, died this week. Also, Michael's grandmother, was diagnosed with inoperable pancreatic cancer. We have gotten to know this family through Angel Food.

Spirit Club News

Meeting tonight at 6 pm. New memory verse.

Angel Food Orders This Week

December Angel Food orders can still be made through Sunday evening. See Jason Coriell.

Coats for Kids

We are in the process of contacting local schools (administrators and teachers) to develop a list of students who are in need of coats, hats and gloves for the winter. It takes about \$25-30 to provide a child with what is needed. If you would like to help with this project, give your donations to Rhonda Berry or Eugene Risner. Checks made out to Sunshine. Donations in excess of what is needed for the coats will go toward the Joy of Giving program which provides wrapped Christmas gifts to a family or families that are struggling financially at this time. Deadline for donations is Sunday, December 7.

Christmas Program

Our annual kids Christmas Program is set for Friday, December 19, 7 pm here at the building. The program is designed for children age 4 and up. Depending on how many of each age group sign up, we may be using older children to help produce the program rather than be in it. Please sign up your child on the pad in the foyer for the Christmas Program no later than Sunday, December 7. See Brandi Gampp for details.

Christmas Cookies/Snacks Needed

We need cookies and snacks to serve during the fellowship time after the Kids Christmas Program. Sign up sheet is in the foyer. Please indicate by your name what you are bringing, i.e., cookies/type and/or snacks--cheeseball, dip, chips, cut-up veggies, etc. See Karren Griffith for details.

Christmas Cookie Exchange

All ladies in the congregation are invited to participate in a Christmas Cookie Exchange. Each participant should bring 8 dozen cookies, packed by half dozens. Dinner will be provided. Cost is \$15.00 per person. Please sign up in the foyer with your name and the type of cookie you will be bringing. Be creative. The event will be in the Annex on Monday, December 22, at 6:30 pm. See Mandi Coriell or Kim McCray for details.

Youth News

Saturday, December 20, 10 am, the youth are meeting here at the building to clean up/straighten up/put up after the Christmas Program. As soon as we are done with the Clean Up Project, we are heading for Clifton Mills to see the Christmas Light Display. This is an all-day trip so bring enough money to cover two meals and also enough to cover what you might buy in the Gift Shop. You will need to wear warm clothing because the light display is outdoors. If you are going to participate in the Clean Up/Clifton Mills Trip, please sign up on the sheet in the foyer. See Tim Gampp for details.

Missions Updates

For the Honduras Trip: We are still looking for people interested in making the Honduras trip. Date for the trip is May 14-21, 2009. See Jason Coriell for details ASAP.

For the Haiti Trip: The trip is closed at this point to new people. Trip dates are February 14-21, 2009. However, it is not too early to start planning for the 2010 trip which will be in January or February of 2010.

We have eight people from our congregation scheduled to go on the February, 2008 trip: **Mike Dixon, Brandy Gampp, Scott Gampp, Candi Gampp, Jason Coriell, Dewey Cordle, Terry Grashel and Aaron Kallner.**

Haiti Mission Donation

There is one item we are collecting for our trip to Haiti. We have been asked to come up with 300 boxes of crayons for Haiti school children. All must have 24 crayons--no more, no less. If you would like to buy some boxes and contribute to this need, there will be a collection box in the foyer to receive your donation.

Winterfest Registration Begins

Winterfest 2009 is scheduled for February 20-22 in Gatlinburg. We always take a charter bus load to Winterfest and registration is now available on the church's website. Click on "Winterfest Sign Up." Cost is \$90.00 which is due upon departure. This does not include meals or miscellaneous expenses (souvenirs, etc). A flyer is available on the table in the foyer. For more information see Shaun McCray or Jamie Riley.

Deacons Meeting

Sunday, Dec 21, 5pm in the Annex

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2) Sometimes when we tear the pretty wrappings off, the present inside is not exactly what we had hoped for. Perhaps it is not even something we want at all! Those are the times when (remembering what Mommy said), we smile sweetly and say thank you for the present, because we are reminded that the Giver does not owe us anything, nor have we done anything to deserve the present at all! It is simply a gift out of His Grace.

3) However, sometimes when we tear off the wrappings, we find our heart's desire, or maybe even something that we hadn't dared to hope for! Wow! We know that we have certainly done nothing to deserve this present! How do we appropriately express appreciation? Those are the times when we go to the Giver and try to express our gratitude by offering our hearts, our praise, and our service, because we know that this gift is out of the Giver's incredibly generous love and caring for us.

As you open the gift of "today", are you anticipating with joy what God has in store for you? Have you remembered to say thank you to the Giver of all good and perfect gifts, knowing that, even if it is not what you wanted, He will be with you to manage whatever this "present" holds? Finally, on those occasions when your today is far better than you could ever deserve, or in fact, dared to hope for, do you offer your humble thanks, your heart and your service to the God who love you so very much?

Those Who Serve

Sunday Morning

Welcome & Prayer	Tom Kelley
Song Director	Ralph Gampp
Scripture Reading	Steve Williams
Prayer	Aaron Kallner
Server 6	Jack Jennings
Server 5	Gary Glispie
Server 4	Jamie Riley
Wine	Spike Ferrell
Bread	Jeff Hayward
Server 3	Ira Coriell
Server 2	Tim Coriell
Server 1	Lane Raiser
Message	Steve Miller
Closing Prayer	David Gampp

December 7

December 14

Don Coriell
Scott Gampp
Jamie Riley
Don Ramey
John Gampp
Rick Coriell
Michael Dixon
Bill Gammon
Rich Book
Gary Glispie
Barry Hayward
Derek Mooneyham
Steve Miller
Eric McLaughlin

Sunday Evening

Song Director	Mark Gampp
Scripture Reading	Bob Havens
Lord's Supper	Dewey Cordle
Assist	Mark Risner
Prayer	Don Ramey
Bible Class	Galatians 1-2

Gabe Coriell
Greg Coriell
David Gampp
Josh Coriell
Mark Gampp
Galatians 3-4

Wednesday Evening

Song Director	Matt Hoskins
Prayer	Mike Gampp
Bible Class Text	Exodus 11-13

Aaron McCray
Derek Miller
Exodus 14-15

Children's Bible Time

Dec 3/5: Jennette Ferrell, Pam Coriell, Irmalee Gampp
 Dec 6/8: Kerri Davis, Kim McCray, Jessie Coriell
 Jan 3/5:
 Jan 6/8:

If you are unable to serve as scheduled, please contact Dewey Cordle at 820-4624

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

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