

Welcome to the Church of Christ at **SUNSHINE**



Sunday, July 7, 2013
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Blowing Up the Fourth Of July

I nearly blew up the Fourth of July. Well, not the holiday, just the block party we had when I was a kid. For a couple years when I was young, the residents of our neighborhood would congregate at an open lot on the corner. Many of the families would bring bags and boxes of giant bottle rockets, roman candles, sparklers, fountains, and other color-shooting fare. They'd dump them on a ratty blanket and sit in the grass. Most of them took turns launching the flaming orbs into the air, littering the ground with the paper and cardboard of spent fireworks, and filling the night with acrid smoke.

It was glorious, and I wanted to make a huge splash (cue the dramatic music). I scanned the aisles of the fireworks tent not far from our house. Just shooting flaming balls or seeing a pretty sparkly pop in the sky wasn't enough. I wanted to go big. There'd be nothing mundane for my moment of greatness this year.

And that's when I found the perfect Chinese-made, powder-stuffed wonder. It was a green plastic tube longer than my hand with fins sticking out from either end. The packaging promised showers of sparks as it rose into the sky, a loud explosion, and an unforgettable display of color. Some might say spending three bucks on one moment of awesome is a bit excessive. I just saw it as a small price to pay for a green wonder.

When we arrived at the party, I plopped that bad boy on the blanket and waited. The dozen or so puny pops and whistles made me all the more eager to get to my pièce de résistance. Everyone seemed to be enjoying the lightshow, but they didn't know what real excitement awaited them.

Finally, my time came, my moment of triumph. Although I was too young to do the lighting, I marched with my firework contraption to the middle of the road and placed it exactly in the

Please Pray For:

For our nation as we are going through troubled times

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 Chhetri and Ashok Basfor

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

John Gampp at Cleveland Clinic on Tuesday; Doctors believe they can help him.

Henry Mason (Gene and Esther Crisp's son) waiting for a scan to see results of treatment.

Peggy Hollback small improvements coming week by week.

Gavin Rupp a recurrence of tumors in the brain. Under hospice care.

Al Graff is having an IVC blood clot filter inserted on Tuesday at KDMC.

Angie Arnett (39 year old mother of 2) diagnosed with malignant melanoma.

Macie Shumway now transferred to Concord Nursing Home Wheelersburg.

Gladys Shaffer (Clyde Ball's cousin) in Grant Medical Center after auto accident

Karren Griffith in SOMC this week to check out chest pain.

Karen Dawson (friend of Becky Dixon) recuperating from cancer surgery

Joyce Rhoads (friend of Nancy Taylor) recent diagnosis of breast cancer.

Josh Cornett (lifeguard at Fort Hill) had surgery for melanoma on his scalp on Friday.

Bobby Kidd hurt in a 4-wheeler accident this week.

Class Changes

Tonight we would like for all students from grades 4-adult to stay in the auditorium for a special presentation about medical mission work in Panama.



Coming Events

7/7	John Belasco AM & PM
7/14-20	Sunshine at Fort Hill Camp
7/26-29	Honduras Family Mission Trip
8/10	Ladies Inspiration Day--Circleville
9/21	Ladies Day at Elm Grove Church
10/5	Girls Youth Rally—Columbus

Mission Trip to China

Do you feel a call to visit the fatherless? Why not go on a short term mission trip to China? Tim Gampp will be leading a trip to Gansu, China October 10 - 20. The primary purpose for this trip will be to spend time with children in the local orphanage. For more information please visit [www.awaa.org/ACT/trips/China\(Gansu\)](http://www.awaa.org/ACT/trips/China(Gansu)) or see Tim.



Additions to the Body

Last Sunday two were added to the body of Christ and we are rejoicing with both of them.

- **Tony King** confessed his faith in Christ and was baptized at the conclusion of our AM services. He is now living at Bridgehaven Shelter, 109 West 2nd Street, Waverly, OH 45690. Phone: 740-464-2281. He is looking for employment and is trying to clear up legal and financial issues from the past. If you have any leads on employment in the Waverly area or if you would like to help him get on his feet financially or with transportation, contact Becky Miller (cell) 935-4412, (home) 820-4412.
- About a half hour after dismissal last Sunday, **James Hallam**, youngest son of David and Sharon Hallam, confessed his faith and was baptized into Christ. Information for James is already in the fellowship directory. Let's be sure and give both of these men a Sunshine welcome today.

Girls Youth Rally

Fishinger & Kenny Church of Christ in Columbus is having a girls youth rally, Saturday, October 5 at their location. Theme: Molding Girls of Integrity. Ages: 10-18. Speaker: Sue Darby. Details posted on the bulletin board.

Guest Speaker Today

John Belasco, former minister of the Royal Oak church of Christ and now fundraiser for the Royal Oak church's mission effort in Panama, will be speaking for us morning and evening services.



Gift from Heaven

Mason McCleese was born Wednesday about 5 am to Morgan and Chris McCleese in a Cleveland area hospital. All went well in the birth and mom and baby are now home. Congratulations to Chris and Morgan and Maddie and to all the grandparents and uncles and aunts on this new addition to your family.

VBS Evaluation Meeting Today

After services this morning all who helped with VBS are invited to the annex for a brief evaluation meeting of our VBS. If you cannot make the meeting your suggestions are still appreciated. Give them to Steve by email or a note or a phone call. Also, if you had money left from VBS, put it in an envelope with receipts and leave it in Steve's mailbox in the office.

For The Ladies



- September 21, the ladies of the Elm Grove church will be having a Ladies Day. Check the bulletin board for details
- Ladies of the Circleville church are having an Inspiration Day on Saturday, August 10 from 9 to 2:30 pm; guest speaker is Jackie Harding. Details are posted on the bulletin board.

Class Materials In

The new class materials for the new quarter are in. Pick up in the office.

Sweet Monday News

Sweet Monday is on break for the summer, but I am planning the next sessions. If anyone has a simple craft that they would like to demonstrate for us, please let me know! Have a great summer! Heather

Skit Practice

Today at 4:30.



Blowing Up the Fourth of July

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center. This green wonder needed the perfect launching pad, after all.

I hurried away when the host of the party lit the fuse. To this day, I have no idea what happened exactly. I followed the instructions on the wrapper, and yet the green wonder's shower of sparks weren't enough to get it off the ground. Instead, it limped across the road with a pathetic whimper and shot toward the blanket full of fireworks.

Neighbors scattered. People screamed. God had mercy and the sparks and flame didn't set off any of the other fireworks or burn anyone.

Too often, I'm just like I was back then on that Fourth of July: I want my service, my gift, my moment to be more awesome than anyone else's. I compare what I'm doing with what you're doing or he's doing or she's doing to see how I stack up. That's exactly the point where things go boom.

But freedom in Christ begins with a humbling. We're meant to keep our eyes on Him, so much so that we don't compare ourselves with others. One person may preach the gospel to an entire nation, and another may work in a tiny community. One may write books that sell millions of copies, and another may have a blog that ten people read. I Corinthians 12 teaches us that the service each of us give is equally important. We don't need green wonders to make a big splash. We need surrender to the One who made us. That's what sets us free.

John UpChurch
crosswalk.com

