

SUNSHINE CHURCH OF CHRIST

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www.sunshine-church.org

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Six Secrets to Bring Back Peace

New friends ask me, "Being blind, how do you put on your make-up?"

My answer is simple: I do it carefully.

After living with complete blindness for 25 years, I often forget my limitations.

But trouble comes when getting ready to go out. I pry myself from endless tasks. At the last minute, I rush around like a crazy woman. I hop in the shower, slip on my robe and dash into my walk-in closet. Frantically, I slide hangers, looking for any outfit to wear.

How do I do this with no sight? It's pretty simple. When I purchase an item, I store in my memory its characteristics—the texture, the shape of the neckline, buttons or length of sleeve. One light touch tells me what the item is. But when I'm in a hurry, trying to find the right outfit gets a bit tough. Not because I can't see, but because I just have too many clothes. Way more than any blind gal should be allowed to have. The bar holding all those hangers is probably sagging from the weight.

Oh, how my jammed closet resembled my life—full of tasks of all kinds and sizes. Like a squirrel running from tree to tree, I'd dash from one task to another.

I had no choice—lots of people to please. Fueling that desire, even as a young girl, I tried to perform to win my parents' and teachers' approval. Later on, I wanted to please my family, my employer, and my friends. Phew! I thought that the only way to please myself was by pleasing them.

Have you been there? The pleasing craze explodes during holiday season. We rush through life eager to make someone happy. And the level of stress and tension rises like the thermometer in Orlando's summer.

So this upcoming season, I vow to cool off. God never meant us to live in the heat of tension. He gave one pretty refreshing directive: "**Master, which is the greatest commandment in the law?**

Jesus said unto him, you shall love the Lord your God with all your heart, and with all your soul, and with all your mind." (Matthew 22:36-37)

When life sags from the weight of countless tasks, obeying His greatest commandment is the key to peaceful success.

When I slip my feet into my slippers in the morning, this is what plays in my head: Loving God means...

- Inviting Him into my day.
- Drawing wisdom to place the correct order to my priorities.
- Presenting Him with my to-do list for His approval.
- Giving thanks for glitches as I know He will resolve.
- Receiving moments of rest to refuel my energy.
- Inhaling His Word to keep calm and secure.

Deviating from His ways equals burnout. But obeying His greatest commandment ushers wisdom: To arrange priorities; to press forth when fatigued; to bring clarity when confused; to be calm when overwhelmed; and to know the warmth of His love when feeling unappreciated.

Ah! Getting ready for the day is easier now—I cleaned out my closet, tossing out unnecessary worry and the foolish notion to always have to please others. When I put on the dress of peace, designed by His love, it looks pretty good on me...and it will on you too!

You can take a deep breath, relax, and slip it on with confidence because "**It's useless to rise early and go to bed late, and work your worried fingers to the bone. Don't you know He enjoys giving rest to those He loves?"** (Psalm 127:2, The Message Bible)

Accepting His invitation to rest, the cure is simple: instead of being productive to fulfill our goals, we aim to please Him to fulfill His plans. That's when we go through the tasks with delight in our heart and with His peace that sings in our soul.

By Janet Perez Eckles



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 church in Siliguri and Naresh Chhetri and Ashok Basfor

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

Jim Young (Terri Young's husband) has stabilized.

Praise Report: Peggy Hollback had great success with her back procedure last week. No pain now. PTL!

Loren Riley (Jamie's brother) diagnosed with rare form of lung cancer. Cards to 4912 Beaver Pike, Beaver 45613.

Sharon Gampp had rotator cuff surgery this week.

Vivian Woodworth (now living in Searcy, Ark) having problems with kidney stones. Cards to 801 South Benton, Apt 3-100; Searcy, Ark 72143

Nita Gammon (Bill's wife) was hospitalized 3 or 4 days this past week with pancreatitis. Home now doing much better.

Jim Cunningham now in Riverbend. Cards to 900 Pirate Dr, Wheelersburg 45694.

Dee Duduit (Troy Gahm's sister) at home but weak.

Bill Reed (Margaret Ann's husband) home now recuperating from hip replacement surgery.

Bud Coriell Stage 4 cancer and seizures. Cards and prayers appreciated. 791 Coriell Rd; Portsmouth 45662.

Garnet Lindeman showing some improvement lately. Staying with Nancy, her daughter.

Alan Graff being treated for cancer of the lung and kidney. Meds causing problems with blood pressure and pulse.

Henry Mason showing some improvement. Cards to Alexandria House, 811 Findlay St, Portsmouth 45662.

Jeanie Williams (P J McGaughey's mother) being treated for multiple myeloma at the James Cancer Center.



Coming Events

Details for all of these events are posted on the bulletin board in the foyer.

12/1-25 The Coming of Jesus

12/7 2nd & 3rd Caroling

12/14 Deacons Meeting

12/31 New Years Eve Celebration

1/23-24 Ohio Winter Lectures, Columbus

Theme for December

Our classes on Wednesday night and Sunday in December up through Christmas will be on the theme of the coming of Jesus into our world. Elders and ministers will be leading the classes. This is the tentative schedule for the month:

Sunday PM

12/7 Jon Coriell

12/14 Wayne Gampp

12/20 Tom Kelly

Wednesday PM

12/10 Don Coriell

12/17 Rich Book

12/24 Steve Miller

12/27 4th Sunday Preaching Service—Aaron McCray preaching.

Christmas Eve Devotional

Christmas Eve comes on Wednesday night. We will be meeting at our regular time but there will be no classes. All are invited to be in the auditorium for a special devotional service.

New Years Eve Celebration

Wednesday, December 31, after our Bible Study, all are invited to stay at the building and bring the New Year in together. More details coming.

Worship Leaders Class

This evening at 5 pm. See Judi Allison.

Singing

Singing here at the building at 6 pm each Sunday night.

More Fellowship Directories

Copies of the latest edition of the Sunshine Fellowship Directory are on the table in the foyer for our regular attendees to have.

Wednesday Night Teachers

We are in need of two teachers for Wednesday night Bible classes. Please see Nick Davis for grade levels and other information if you are interested.

Men's James Group News

The groups meeting on Sunday night and Wednesday will be taking a short break during the holidays from meeting. No meetings for either group from December 22- January 6.

Building/Annex Reservations for 2015

We allow our building to be used by community individuals and groups free of charge on a first-come, first-served basis. However, we hold off on making reservations for non-members until our members have had a chance to reserve their dates. The month of December will be our month to make our reservations for the building for 2015. If you anticipate needing the building or annex for 2015, see Delores Gampp right away and make your reservation. This does not mean you cannot make a reservation later in the year. It's just a way of giving our members first chance at the dates. Ministry leaders, if you know your dates, get them reserved now through Delores Gampp.

Church Events Calendar

In our church office we have a large calendar on the wall for church events. In order to help us in planning and organizing ourselves, we would like for all church events (whether they involve using our building or not) to be recorded on the calendar as soon as you know their date. If everyone works with the calendar things will run a little smoother for all of us. Thanks for your cooperation.

Deacons Meeting

Sunday, December 14, after Bible Classes.

Budget Finalization for 2015

The deacons have been working on the budget for 2015 for the past few weeks and now need your input. If you have ideas or plans for ministry for 2015 that need new funding or additional funding from the church, please check with one of our deacons (preferably the one in charge of the area which includes your idea) and get your request officially considered for the 2015 year. We need to have all requests in by December 21. Ministry leaders of all areas, if you have not checked in with your deacon please do so ASAP.

Coats for Kids Update

We have received our list from the school. We have 52 kids to buy for. Get your money or checks to Kristine Coriell, Eugene Risner or Laryssa Grashel right away. You can write a check to Sunshine and designate Coats for Kids in the memo section. **The deadline for money is Sunday, December 14.** The Christmas break starts December 19. We need to have the coats bought and delivered before the break starts. \$40.00 will cover a coat, hat and gloves for the student, but any amount of money you give will be much appreciated.



Caroling for the Youngsters

The 2nd and 3rd grade class will be joining the youth in Nursing Home Caroling on Sunday, December 7. Please plan to have the children stay the afternoon. Bring a bag lunch to eat right after church. Wear your Christmassy clothes. Bring money to stop and eat someplace after caroling. We do not know when we will be finished so just plan for the 2nd and 3rd graders to come back to the church building and stay till evening services. Any questions please ask Sharon or Tim. We may need some parent drivers depending on how many go caroling. Please talk to Tim if you are able to help in that way.

Youth News

Caroling and Related Activities for the Youth Group:

On Sunday, **December 7**, the youth group will be singing Christmas carols to nursing home residents in the area. We will be going to more than one location and will hand out gifts to approximately 150 residents.

Cookies Needed: The youth group (grades 7th - 12th) need to make cookies at home to hand out. There should be at least 3 cookies in each plastic bag. If you want to meet at someone's house and bake several dozen cookies together that would be fun. We need enough cookies for 150 residents to each get 3 cookies.

Homemade Cards: The youth group (grades 4th - 6th) need to make homemade cards and/or color pictures to hand out. We need each family to make/color 10 cards/pictures.

(Each nursing home resident will receive 1 bag of cookies, 1 homemade card or colored picture and a lap blanket.) Meet at Sunshine Church of Christ in front of the airport at 1:00pm to organize blankets, cookies, cards, etc. before heading out for caroling. For anyone who wants to stay after morning services we can order food and eat at the church. **Please sign up in the foyer if you plan to bring cookies.**

Midwestern Delivery: Saturday December 13 the youth group will be helping deliver the items the church has been collecting for Midwestern Children's Home. The group will leave the church at 2:00. We are planning to take time to Carol to the residents of the Neighborhood after unloading the items we brought. Please dress accordingly. You will need money for dining out one time during the trip. **Please sign up in the foyer if you plan to attend.**

More Youth News: WinterJam

The youth group will be going to the Winterjam concert on January 17. Anyone planning to go needs to sign up in the foyer. The cost for the event is \$30.00. Money needs to be turned in by December 17. This is a senior youth group trip. For more information talk to Tim or visit the Winterjam website at: <http://2015.jamtour.com>

