

Sunshine Church Of Christ

Volume 55, Issue 27

www.sunshine-church.org

Sunday, July 2, 2017

Elders

Rich Book	820-3213
Don Coriell	464-9994
Jon Coriell	820-6145
Wayne Gampp	820-3444
Tom Kelley	259-2258
Shaun McCray	935-9701

Deacons

Dewey Cordle	820-4624
Gabe Coriell	820-8652
Jason Coriell	820-4739
Gary Glispie	776-4279
Shawn Gragg	820-5346
Dale Kuhn	820-4690
Aaron Kallner	285-0738
Eric Miller	820-4944
Eugene Risner	820-2256
Mark Risner	820-2948

Pulpit Minister

Dr. Jon Partlow 270 871-0892

Family Life Minister

Jamie Riley 935-7812

Youth Minister

Tim Gampp 250-9460

Sunshine Church of Christ
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Portsmouth, OH 45662
Church Building - 820-3415
Building Fax - 820-5450

CHURCH A God-Giving Increase

By Jon Partlow



I sat and listened to a preacher share his insights into church, church systems and church growth. His expertise was his own congregation experiencing tremendous growth during his tenure as the preacher. Someone finally verbalized what I was thinking, "Why don't you write a book about church growth?" While he was willing to share his own experience and church story, he was reluctant to say his church's growth can be simply duplicated for another church in another community. I guess looking back on it, too variables were present to give someone a simple key to church growth.

For the past forty years volumes have been written about church growth. Like anything, it's been a mixed bag of worth-while material versus throw-away junk, and sound biblical advice versus flawed man-driven opinion. While the Bible says a lot about what kind of people the church must become, it doesn't give three, five or ten principles to grow a church.

In a context where the church was dividing over their favorite preacher, Paul tried to paint the larger picture for congregants. A year earlier, Paul planted the seed of the gospel in Corinth and growth began sprouting. A church was established. But some-time after he left the city, Apollos came through the city and his preaching captivated a segment of the church. Captivated may be an understatement for a group of people gravitating toward charisma; they became hard core loyalists and questioned the leadership of Paul (1 Cor. 3:4).

I don't believe any animosity existed between Paul and Apollos, and the conflict was generated by a church with a propensity to divide. However, Paul's approach was certainly not to undermine Apollos' preaching, but to accentuate the bigger picture. Sure Paul planted the seed of the Gospel in Corinth, and Apollos came in after him to water the seed, but God was responsible for the growth (1 Cor. 3:6). To make sure his point was clear, he reiterated what he said, "So neither he who plants nor he who waters is anything, but only God, who makes things grow" (1 Cor. 3:7). Drawing from the agricultural imagery, the amazing and almost magical process of growth is less about who the farmer is or what he does, and more about the God who created a world for growth. One might argue that the farmer could ruin his crop, but he can't grow his crop.

While church growth is always God-given, the growth may very well be predicated on numerous factors. One is the willingness for the church to embrace growth. Most people talk about wanting the church to grow, but the steps it takes to implement a culture of growth can be challenging at best. Growth means change, and the difficulty for a church to change is even more challenging. How a church relates to each other when they are less than a hundred is quite different from a church that is 400 members. The decision-making made in smaller churches is a different process than the one in larger churches.

Continued on page 3...



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

For our nation

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

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

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

Prayers For Sunshine Family

Alan Graff is at OSU in ICU. He is up walking and eating solid food. Continued prayers for Al and his family.

Garnet Lindeman is in need of prayers. She is not doing well. Prayers for Garnet and family.

Bill Gammon is home recuperating from heart by-pass surgery. Continued prayers.

Judi Allison is home and still recovering. Continued prayers for Chuck and Judi.

Ben Shumway is at OSU Ross Heart Center ICU room 4032 recovering from his heart valve surgery. Continued prayers for Ben.

Cheryl Lemon is home now. Continued prayers.

Talia Scott (Vanessa's cousin) is recovering from spinal surgery and is doing wonderful. Continued prayers as she is headed on track for recovery.

Helen Creech prayers for ongoing strength.

Gene Crisp is in Hillview Retirement Home for rehab in room #331. Visitors are welcomed. Continued prayers.

Prayer Requests

Don Murphy (step-father of Tim Wheeler) had surgery and is improving greatly. Continued prayers.

We extend our sympathy in the passing of Eldon Conkel-husband of Carol Shumway Conkel.

Sue Mefford (friend of Penny) having hernia pain. Prayers for healing.

Missy Wheeler (friend of Penny) is having personal problems. Prayers for Missy.



7/4	Independence Day
7/5	Birthday Celebration
7/9-15	Fort Hill Church Camp

Sunshine Church Service Info

Anonymous Prayer Request Hotline:
Text **94706** & your request to the phone
22333

Sunday Morning Live Streaming: <http://media.sunshine-church.com> or <http://sunshinecofc.sermon.net>

Welcome To All of Our Guests

We give a special welcome to all of our guests today. If this is your first time to visit with us this year, please stop by the Welcome Center in the foyer at the conclusion of services, sign our guest register and pick up your gift for being one of our guests today.

Gluten Free Communion Now Available

We have gluten free communion available for anyone who needs it. It can be found at the Welcome Center. You can simply pick it up before the services or on your way into the auditorium.

VBS Evaluation Forms

VBS evaluation forms are available at the Welcome Center. If you had a part in this year's VBS please take time to complete one and return it to the folder also located at the Welcome Center.

Next Quarter Curriculum

Curriculum for the next quarter is in the classes. The new quarter begins today, July 2nd.

Rada Cutlery Fundraiser for Honduras Trip

Terese Jones is taking up a Rada order to raise funds for the family Honduras trip. Anyone interested contact Terese Jones. She is taking orders through July 15.

Family Honduras Trip Meeting

There will be a meeting right after the second service today for everyone who is going on the Family Honduras trip, July 27-31st. Please meet in the Annex.

Help Needed

Help needed loading the moving truck for the Villingers Saturday, July 8 at 10:30 am.

Birthday Celebration

June and July Birthday Fellowship will be on Wednesday, July 5th after class.



Honduras T-Shirt Fundraiser

Terese and Jordan Jones are selling the word cloud shirts to help fund their trip to Honduras as well as raising money for Breaking Chains Homeless Ministry. Please see Terese or Jordan if you are interested in buying a shirt. Thank you!

Teen Hiking Trip

The teens will be going to Hocking Hills Thursday to go hiking. Any teen interesting in going should be at the church no later than 7AM and they will be returning mid to late afternoon. Pack and lunch and a couple of drinks. See Tim Gampp or Jamie Riley for questions.

Fort Hill Church Camp Info

Fort Hill Camp season is right around the corner! Sunshine will be staffing the week of July 9-15 for kids ages 7-18. Get registered at Fort Hill Youth Camp's website. Any questions, see Shaun McCray.



Continuation from front article...

Another factor is whether or not the church will embrace the community they are planted in, even more so if the community has experienced a demographic shift. The issue was huge when I lived in Memphis (1990-93), and no doubt is still prevalent today. Many communities were in the process of a racial demographic shift. Some churches refused to make the shift, while others graciously explored the opportunity for growth. Even still, some members of these churches sought other churches to avoid a racially mixed worship.

A church that is growing is doing a lot to prep the soil and to plant the seed. They nurture the seedling with water, sunlight and nutrients. Ultimately, the results are up to God, because he's the one who causes the growth. Since he's the one who causes the growth, maybe he should get the glory too.

Soli Deo Gloria!

Family Bible Time

Week 27:

July 2—Lesson 51 Exodus 4

July 5—Lesson 52 text Exodus 5

Discussion Questions for Families:

1. When Moses didn't want to lead the Israelites, what was his excuse?
2. What did Moses tell the Pharaoh the Israelites wanted to do in the desert?
3. How did Moses' request change the way the Israelites were treated?

Week 28 Text:

Exodus 6-8

Bible Knowledge For June

Name the 10 plagues that were inflicted on the Egyptians.

Those Who Serve

<u>Sun. Morning</u>	<u>7/2/2017</u>	<u>7/9/2017</u>	<u>7/16/2017</u>
Welcome	Tom Kelley	Shaun McCray	Rich Book
Reading	Mark Villinger	Sam Williams	Shaun Young
Midservice Prayer	Dale Kuhn	Mark Gampp	Mike Gampp
Communion	Jason Coriell	Gary Glispie	Shawn Gragg
Sermon	Jamie Riley	Jon Partlow	Jon Partlow
Closing Prayer	Mike Gampp	Shawn Gragg	Dusty Henry
<u>Sun. Evening</u>	<u>7/2/2017</u>	<u>7/9/2017</u>	<u>7/16/2017</u>
Song Leader	Johnny Beekman	Rich Book	Jon Coriell
Reading	Don Ramey	Mark Risner	Greg Shepherd
Communion	Jason Foster	Troy Gahm	Price Gammon
Assist	Alex Coriell	Garris Coriell	James Hallam
Prayer	Shane Mougey	Shaun Young	Greg Ferrell
<u>Wed. Evening</u>	<u>7/5/2017</u>	<u>7/12/2017</u>	<u>7/19/2017</u>
Song Leader	Matthew Hoskins	Aaron McCray	Shaun McCray
Prayer	Rick Coriell	Tim Coriell	Zach Coriell

Regular Service Times

Sunday

Early Worship - 8:15 am

Late Worship - 10:00 am

Bible Study - 6:30 p.m.

Wednesday

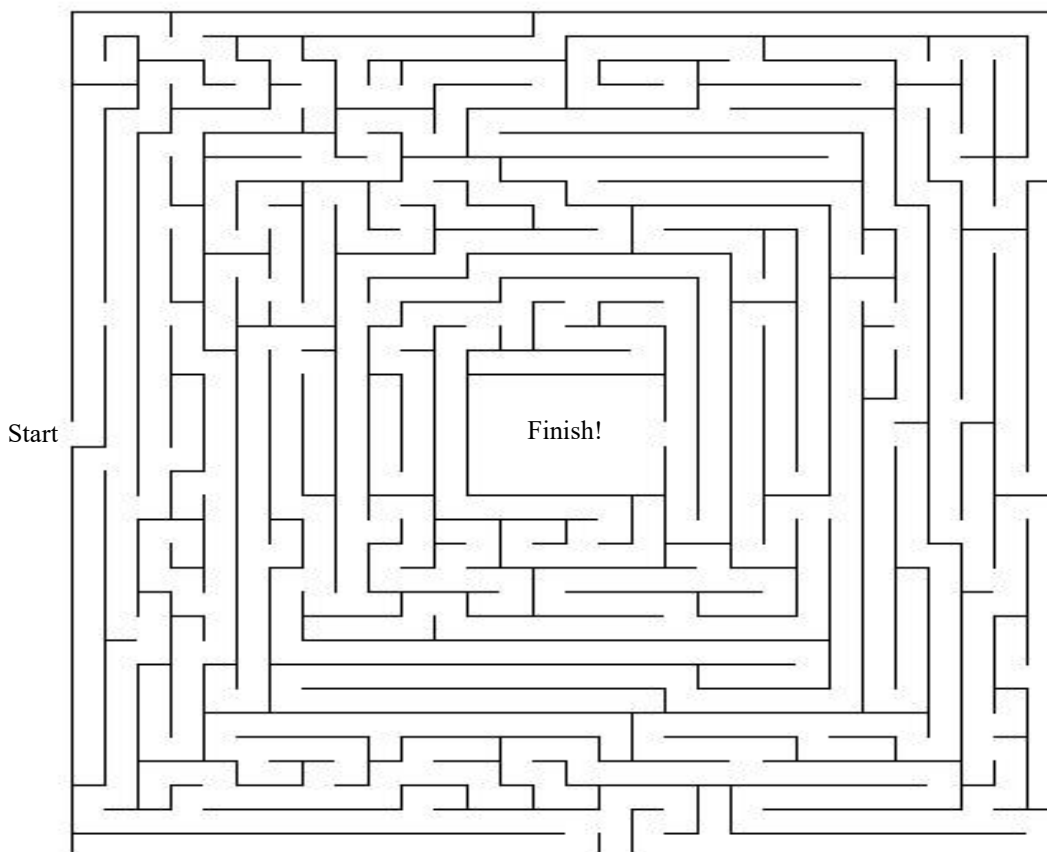
Bible Study - 7:30 p.m.

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 8 am Friday. Content should be emailed to info@sunshine-church.org

Visit us on the web:

sunshine-church.org

Maze Running!



Find your way to
the middle of
the maze!
Good Luck!



www.365greetings.com

This puzzle can be found at: <http://www.thinkablepuzzles.com/mazes/maze14.shtml>