

Sunshine Church Of Christ

Volume 56, Issue 38

www.sunshine-church.org

Sunday, Sept. 16, 2018

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
Josh Coriell	981-6717
Rick Coriell	935-0717
Ryan Coriell	357-5933
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	716-8741
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Family Life Minister

Jamie Riley	935-7812
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Youth Minister

Tim Gampp	(606) 356-3345
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Sunshine Church of Christ
20 Barklow Road
Portsmouth, OH 45662
Church Building - 820-3415
Building Fax - 820-5450
Innermission—355-3186

Britt's Office Hours:

Tu-Th-Sat(10-12pm) 8:00am—4:00pm

Jesus tells the story about a sower sowing seeds (Mk. 4:3-9). As he describes the ancient way farmers planted their crops, he stopped focusing on the sower and spent his time discussing the soil. His four descriptions of the type of soil drive the story. One soil never allows the seed to penetrate the surface. Two soils do allow the seed to penetrate but the seed never takes root, either because the sun scorches the growth or is squeezed out by weeds. The final soil is rich and filled with nutrients to allow for growth.

As much as the focus on the sower drives discussion of contemporary church growth, Scripture says much more about the kind of soil for the seed. Looking at today's soil factors and understanding the ramifications might help in understanding how to tend to the soil for the seed to take root.

The information available tells us that churches in America have stopped growing and are on the decline. I recently read a report that the Southern Baptist Convention lost 200,000 members over the last year or more. One source I read said that Churches of Christ's growth plateaued in 1980 and started losing numbers in the 1990's. Since we do not have collectively accurate records of our members, one may argue any statistics about our fellowship. While pockets of growth are seen in individual congregations, most growth is sporadic at best.

If church growth always mirrors the community, then a couple of community facts must be established. The racial demographics have shifted across America. Not only have the number of people in a household has diminished, but society has grown older. An older society means churches are filled with older members, which means attracting younger members becomes more difficult. Along with the aging society is the influx of minority groups. The white community is not only greying but shrinking as well, with the black and brown community growing. Churches committed to homogeneous congregations will find fewer potential members among the white communities. The white community is older and there is not as many of that demographics as there were in the past.

One other dynamic that will negatively impact church growth is the sex scandal of the Catholic Church. Not long ago, it was believed that the corruption was only in America, but further studies have shown that the scandal is a world-wide cover-up. If churches faced scrutiny before this scandal broke, one can imagine what life under the microscope will be like now. The Catholic Church's conflict will not be self-contained and its seismic tremors will be felt in all religious bodies.

ROOTED IN THE SOIL CHURCH GROWTH IN AMERICA



BY JON PARTLOW

Rooted continued on back...

Prayers For Sunshine Family

Roger Cooper is home recovering from Afib.
Chris Glispie back at school.
Ronnie Hardin is improving from back surgery.
Peggy Hollback recovering and doing therapy at her daughter's home in Cincinnati.
Garnet Lindeman ongoing health concerns.
Faye McGinnis recovering from toe removal surgery.
Sharon Rogers will have surgery to remove gallbladder this month.

Special Members

Judi Allison Elbrooke room #535.
Gene and Esther Crisp Riverbend #123.
Sarah Gililand Hill View, room #3223.
Merritt and Helen Hayward are home bound.
Ruth Morris at Best Care room #10. Has C-Diff and cannot have visitors.

Prayer Requests

Gayle Bays (Dee's sister) did not need the heart cath as she is doing better.
Mary Ann Casey (Tom Kallner's sister) has Alzheimers and is not doing well.
Julie Jennings (Jack and Jane Jennings daughter-in-law) surgery is postponed due to infection.
Martha Salyers (friend of Penny's) three types of cancer.

Expecting Mothers

Brittany Gampp—10/3
Taylor Brothers—10/16
Michaela Miller—10/18
Kiera Deacon—11/27
Lori Devins—12/17
Irish Young—2/2019
Christian Coriell— 3/12



9/21-23	Fall Work Camp
9/28	Minford Concession
10/7-28	Home Groups
10/19-20	Men's Retreat
11/16-18	SpiritFest

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 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.

Jack Jennings Singing

Jack will be singing at local nursing homes and invites you join him. He will be singing at Hillview Thursday, Sept. 20 at 6:00 pm.

Elders Meeting Together

September 2018

Meetings:

Sunday, Sept. 23 at 5:00PM

Prayer Session:

Thursday, Sept. 27 at 7:30PM

Ray of Hope

*A one minute spiritual inspirational message
Airing on The MIX 99.3 WNXT every morning
7:20-7:25 am and from 2:00-6:00 pm
(also on Saturdays from 10:00 am – 2:00 pm)*

A Ministry of Jon Partlow & the Sunshine Church of Christ

Friends and Family Day 2018 Today

Second Annual Friends and Family Day is today. Please come join us after service at the Noble Family Farm for an afternoon of food and fun with the family.



2018 Fall Work Camp

Mark you calendars for September 21-23 at Peace Valley Camp for a work camp weekend. The weekend will be packed with worship, games, work, and home cooked food! This camp is free for all campers (JR. High and up). For more information, please call Garris Coriell.

September Birthday Celebration

September birthdays will be celebrated following Wednesday's evening service, Sept. 19th. Everyone welcome!



Fall Youth Retreat at Fort Hill

Come out for a weekend retreat at Fort Hill, October 5-7. This year's theme is "Make Me A Servant". The cost is \$50 and you can get registered online at www.forthillcamp.org.

Sweet Monday

Sweet Monday returns Oct. 1 at 7:00PM. More information to follow.



Fall Home Groups

Sign-up sheets for this Fall's Home Groups are out in the foyer. Please sign-up and join a Home Group!

Minford Football Concession Stand

We will be working the concession stand for the Minford home football game on Friday September, 28. More information to coming soon. Sign-up sheet in the foyer.

24 Hour Prayer Vigil

Friday, September 29 through Saturday, September 30, Sunshine will be hosting a 24 hour prayer vigil.

Sunshine Men's Retreat at Fort Hill

Come out October 19-20 for a weekend with the guys at the 2018 Men's. This year's theme is "Better Together" and guest speakers are Harold Shank and Gary Herridge. Start time of 6:00 pm Friday.

Dishes In The Kitchen

Dishes from recent annex dinners are located in the kitchen. Please check to see if any are yours. Thank you.

Family Bible Time

Week 38 Text:

Sept. 16—Lesson 179 1 Kings 17

Sept. 19—Lesson 180 1 Kings 18

Week 38 Text:

1 Kings 19

1 Kings 20

Those Who Serve

<u>Sun. Morning</u>	<u>9/16/2018</u>	<u>9/23/2018</u>	<u>9/30/2018</u>
Welcome	Don Coriell	Jon Coriell	Wayne Gampp
Midservice Prayer	Eric Meredith	Caleb Miller	Derek Miller
Communion	Gabe Coriell	Josh Coriell	Rick Coriell
Reading	Rick Coriell	Spike Ferrell	Mike Gampp
Closing Prayer	David Deacon	Jason Foster	Shawn Gragg
<u>Sun. Evening</u>	<u>9/16/2018</u>	<u>9/23/2018</u>	<u>9/30/2018</u>
Song Leader	Zach Coriell	Mark Gampp	Shaun McCray
Reading	Jonathan Partlow	Greg Shepherd	Jeff Vanatta
Communion	Garin Everett	Troy Gahm	Price Gammon
Assist	Adam Cordle	Bradon Foster	Zane Miller
Prayer	Jacob Miller	Shane Mougey	Jamie Riley
<u>Wed. Evening</u>	<u>9/19/2018</u>	<u>9/26/2018</u>	<u>10/3/2018</u>
Song Leader	Greg Ferrell	Aaron McCray	Rich Book
Prayer	Mark Risner	Jacob Book	Jason 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

Rooted from front page...

While many other factors are in play regarding the soil for church growth, a couple of observations can be made about the above information. First, if a local congregation is going to grow it will have to work hard at it and probably need creative approaches to do so. What we've done and might have been successful in the past will not easily translate to today. Secondly, the mobility of America still offers local churches the chance to attract new members, as long as churches recognize and open to accepting the nomads who are moving to their neighborhoods. Thirdly, the flood of immigration coming to America means more than opportunities of fulfilling the Great Commission. As long as individual congregations are willing to put skin color and language behind them, the fields may very well be ripe, if only God had workers willing to work. Finally, issues of integrity, authentic faith and a safe environment for children (and maybe for women) will go a long way to bring healing to the hurting and experience growth at the same time.

Ultimately, growth is not up to an individual or fully in the hands of the local church. Yes, we can prepare the soil. We can plant a seed and water it. But even Paul admitted that ultimately God gives the increase (1 Cor 3:6-8).

Soli Deo Gloria!

(i.e. only God is glorified!)

Jerry & Lynn Jones Presents



A Seminar Coming to Sunshine Church of Christ • March 24-27, 2019

Have a wonderful day! :)