

Connect

With Sunny Place Church of God

July 2015

“Don’t Quit Praying!”

PERSISTENCE

Persistence is a human action that starts at a very early age. A baby’s persistent crying when they are hungry brings a quick response from the parents. The persistent young child’s question, “***But why?***”, repeated for what seems ages, invokes a stern reaction from parents. We learn to be persistent in order to make changes to our lives. We are a tenacious people with a desire and resolution that can move mountains. Nothing in the world can take the place of persistence: Not talent, nor genius, nor education. It is the persistence and determination of the human race, seeking answers to questions that drives us to look for answers in prayer.

Jesus was persistent in prayer, and He, taught it to His disciples. He was passionate about not giving up in prayer, because He wanted His disciples to learn to stand firm in persistent prayer. Look at His life. He spent whole nights in prayer. That takes perseverance and incredible persistence. At the end of His life, he prayed so intensely that his sweat was like great drops of blood. Jesus knew how to stand firm in persistent prayer. He wants us to learn to keep asking, to keep seeking, and to keep knocking. He said in Luke 11:9-10, “*So I say to you: Ask and it will be given to you; seek and you will find; knock and the door will be opened to you. For everyone who asks receives; the one who seeks finds; and to the one who knocks, the door will be opened.*”

As Christians, we need to train ourselves to keep praying. Prayer doesn’t always seem so attractive when you don’t see quick results. We think that maybe we are doing something wrong or that God doesn’t hear us. We may even question His goodness. But we are wrong when we think this way. God hears every prayer, and He does answer us, but it is in His way, and in His timing. In Luke 18:1-5, Jesus tells the parable of the persistent widow who never gave up. Jesus told them this parable to show them that they should always pray and not give up. Jesus knows us. He knows our weaknesses. He knows our strengths and successes. So what does Jesus encourage us to do in times when we “lose heart”?.....Keep on praying!

Persistence compels us to the true center of prayer, which is not something, but someone. Persistence deepens our relationship with God, and compels the heart to examine what it really wants most. Do you want God’s will? Do you want God even more than you want what you are asking for? God uses persistence in prayer to purge our desires. God also uses persistence in prayer to mold and transform our desires, so that we gradually come to pray closer to the heart of God’s will.

Are we persistent in our prayers? Have we reached the place where we say, “God, You must answer this prayer because I have

(Continued on page 2)

nothing? You must step in. You must intervene. There is no Plan B." Jesus said to the disciples, "Without Me, you can do nothing." And we say, "But Lord, I can do lots of things. I can teach a Sunday school class, speak at a conference, and have a Bible study. Lord, I can do lots of things." But the problem is that without Him, we accomplish nothing-and it's when we realize this, that we begin to be persistent in our prayer life.

Paul wrote in 2 Corinthians 12:8-9, "Therefore, in order to keep me from becoming conceited, I was given a thorn in my flesh, a messenger of Satan, to torment me. Three times I pleaded with the Lord to take it away from me. But he said to me, 'My grace is sufficient for you, for my power is made perfect in weakness.' Therefore I will boast all the more gladly about my weaknesses, so that Christ's power may rest on me."

The Bible encourages us to ask God for our needs. Paul pleaded with God three times to remove this thorn in the flesh, but the Lord said, "No... my grace is sufficient for you." David made consistent requests of God in the Psalms. Jesus even prayed three times regarding the cross. (Matthew 26:36-46). When we bring our requests to God, we honor Him.

We know that God is good, and that He desires to give us good gifts.

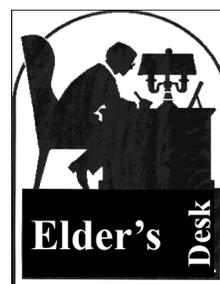
Matthew 7:7-8, "Ask and it will be given to you; seek and you will find; knock and the door will be opened to you. For everyone who asks receives; the one who seeks finds; and to the one who knocks, the door will be opened."

We can continue to seek Him through prayer, and to make our requests known to Him. But in our persistence, we must be willing to submit to God's will. God's ways are not our ways.

Isaiah 55:8-9, "For my thoughts are not your thoughts, neither are your ways my ways," declares the LORD. "As the heavens are higher than the earth, so are my ways higher than your ways and my thoughts than your thoughts."

We know that sometimes our hearts do not understand His will or His timing. At times we must be willing to wait for God's "yes" to manifest itself. At other times, we must be willing to accept "no" for an answer. When we know God, and trust His good character, we can repeatedly bring Him the same request, and rest in the fact that His response will be best for us. God desires both our persistence, and our submission.

Respectfully,
Chuck Bender...



**Surely this
is our
GOD!
we trusted
in him, and
he saved us.**

Isaiah 25:9

Connect

Published by

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901 E. Oak Street, Addison, IL 60101

Connecting Families With The Love Of Christ

TLC

Together Loving Christ

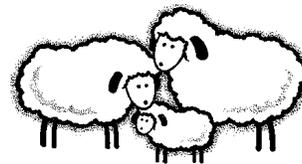
Are you sharing in the exciting and spiritual blessings of studying God's Word and discovering how it applies to your contemporary life?

Join with us in our Adult Study Group at Sunny Place every Thursday at 7:00 p. m.

Grow in the Word!

Sunday Morning Worship 10:45 a.m.

Kid's Rock available for children ages five to nine



Nursery Services Provided



Church Workday

Saturday, July 18th, 9:00-1:00 p.m. at Sunny Place

Be a part of the family.

Visit us at: www.SunnyPlaceChurch.org

HANDS of Service HEARTS of Love

Together the Body of Christ is working towards the three year campaign goal of \$150,000, and the total amount of the pledges, \$173,765. With the power of God, He will enlarge our harvest of righteousness as we fulfill the sacrificial pledges.

“You will be made rich in every way so that you can be generous on every occasion, and through us your generosity will result in thanksgiving to God.” 2 Corinthians 9:11

Monies received to date through May, 2015 is \$29,200 (1% above scheduled giving)

GOALS

This campaign shows our **Hearts of Love**; for Jesus Christ and the Body of Christ. Our priority goals are a new parking lot and continued repairs to the parsonage. The parsonage and garage roofs have been replaced. The Stewardship team is starting the bidding process to remove and replace the parking lot. In Addition, our goals for Sunny Place include a safe and well maintained environment such as the repair or updating of our furnaces and air conditioners, electrical work, attic insulation, windows to be replaced, new entry doors and a projector for worship.

PROGRESS REPORT

The majority of pledge monies have been used for needed repairs in the parsonage. We are planning a celebration **“Open House”** in the parsonage. This event will be in July after a worship service. All are invited; we will share fellowship, prayer, tours and healthy snacks. Much of the labor to upgrade and repair the parsonage has been done by volunteers donating their time and expertise.

Duration of the campaign We are now 6 months into the campaign. The campaign began in December 2014 and will continue until November 2017. Our goal of \$150,000, is obtainable, as we continue in sacrificial giving.

How can you give to the campaign? Pledge cards and envelopes are on the table under the window in the narthex, or vestibule. Please indicate that the donation is for the Capitol Fund Campaign on the memo line of the check or on the outside of the envelope if one is used.

Thank you

Your pledges and generous giving to the Sunny Place Church of God campaign are greatly appreciated. Our efforts in the campaign will help ensure that the facilities we use to demonstrate our **Hands of Service – Hearts of love** continue to be an attractive, inviting place for all our ministries.

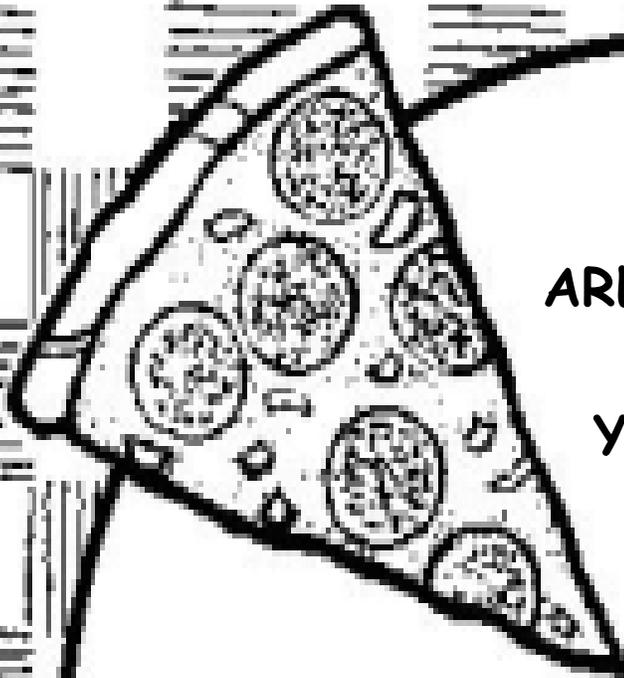
Please remember: The commitments made to the Capital Fund Campaign are over-and-above what you regularly are giving to the Church of God general budget and Faith promise.



Kid's

Connection

June, 2015



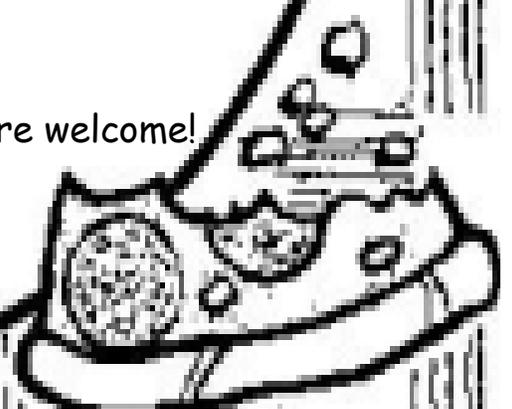
ARE YOU SMARTER THAN OUR YOUTH GROUP?

Please join us on Sunday, July 26th, 12:30 p.m. Our youth will be making and serving homemade delicious pizza.

Afterwards, they will be competing against the adults with Bible quizzes. Come and join the fun, as we see **who is smarter**, our 7th through 12th graders, or the adults.

A free will donation would be appreciated to help towards their trip, in November at the Youth Convention.

Please invite friends and relatives, All are welcome!



Minutes of the Elders Meeting, held on June 3, 2015

Attendees: Phyllis Clark, Ted Gehman, Paul Gigous, Sam Jacob, Shyam Nair, Pastor Weber

Devotion and Prayer: 1 Peter 1:13-25 We need to be prepared for action, and be living changed lives – holy, obedient, and self-controlled. We are strangers here in this world. We need to live our lives knowing that everything here is perishable and temporary, and that what we have been given in Christ is imperishable and eternal. Jesus died for that, and His blood is precious – His life was one that was without blemish or defect. The power of God in His life, is the same power we have in our lives, if our faith and hope are in God through Christ. Live for God like Jesus did. Jesus Christ made that possible.

Ministry Reports:

Treasurer: The budgeted bank balance for 6/3/15 is \$3122.9; Capital Funds Campaign giving for May was \$3160. Tithes and Offerings were very good in May as well, and Faith Promise Giving for the close of 2014-15 fiscal year, was excellent.

Worship: We are preparing to have our Worship Leader candidate, Tyler Martin, with us on the weekend of 6/18-6/21/15. Arrangement are being made for him to meet with the pastor, elders, and worship team, and he will be leading the worship service on 6/21/15.

Christian Education: VBS for this summer is cancelled. Sunday Adult Bible Class: Life Principles will start 5/31. John Gryparis is beginning the series with a study on “The Character of a Christian.” Thursday night TLC will be finishing the study on the Synoptic Gospels in June. We may restructure the TLC schedule and format for the summer.

Hospitality & Encouragement: Arrangements are being worked on for the team to meet with some of our new families.

Missions: The Mission’s Festival was great – we enjoyed, very much having the Schwieger’s and Beverley’s sharing their ministry with us. All of the Faith Promise funds for the 2014-15 budget were received in May; and we have a surplus for the first time in decades – we received 108% of our budget, \$1453 extra. The Faith Promise commitments for 2015-16, however, are \$3145 short of our proposed budget of \$17,820. There were some families absent on the Mission’s Fest weekend, so we hope and pray that more commitments will come in. Pastor will give reminders to the congregation during Ministry Minders after worship services.

Prayer and Devotion: Prayer guides for families have been placed in Sunday bulletins for several Sundays.

Stewardship & Support Services: We had a very productive workday, May 30. The parsonage is nearing completion (inside). We have selected a roofer and are waiting for a date to start. We will be getting bids on the parking lot soon. We also want to begin thinking about having an open house at the parsonage for the church. We want to celebrate our milestones.

Ladies Ministry: May outing – A tour of Fabyan Woods is scheduled for 6/27; also a “Fruit of the Healthy Spirit” presentation by Ryan on 6/7.

Evangelism and Outreach: Have not had a meeting.

Fellowship: Have not had a meeting.

Men’s Ministry: Meeting postponed for the summer.

Old & New Business:

- Worship Leader Position: candidate Tyler Martin, will be here 6/19-21.
- Pastor out of town June 25-July 6; Sam Jacob preaching 6/28 & 7/5.
- July Elder’s Meeting moved to July 8
- Faith of Our Father’s: Movie in theatres July 1. Paul will look into the possibility of gathering people from the church to see it on 7/12.

Next Meeting will be held on Wednesday, July 8, 2015

Women's Ministry Event – Saturday, July 25th
Continental Breakfast and a tour of the Gardens
at Ball Seed in West Chicago, IL

Last year was the first time we toured these gardens, let's repeat the fun. This is an opportunity to strengthen the spiritual bonds that tie us together as sisters in Christ.

THE GARDENS AT BALL SEED

We have been given permission to have a breakfast snack (coffee and pastry) at the Ball Seed Company pavilion located inside the Gardens at Ball. The gardens will contain different plants than last year, so all is new this summer.

Schedule

- 9:30 am** Meet at Ball Seed Co. for a breakfast snack under the pavilion.
- 10 to noon** Tour acres of flowering plants and vegetables walking on grass or paths. There are full sun gardens, hundreds of containers, "filled to the brim", with annuals and perennials. There are woodland and shade plants growing under the canopy of shady maple trees, and plenty of benches for resting places. Most plants are labeled, so you can write the name of your favorite flowers or vegetables to purchase at garden centers next spring. Wear **very** comfortable walking shoes, hats to shade your beautiful heads, and bring water to drink while touring; to remain hydrated.

The Ball Seed Company is wholesale only and the Gardens are not open to the public, only by appointments. The tour will commence rain or shine, there is no alternate date. Let us know your desire to join the outing so that we can provide breakfast snacks. Please invite your lady friends as guests. Any questions, call Nona at 630-584-1684 or text 630-220-4298,

Directions to the Gardens at Ball Seed.

Ball Seed Co. is located at 622 Town Road, West Chicago, IL. Drive to the entrance north of the building on Town Road. Turn west. Drive to the parking lot behind the company and park close to the greenhouses. The entrance to the Gardens is located to the right or south of the patio. We'll be waiting to greet you at the entrance to the Gardens.

July Sunday School Line-Up
Sunday School at 9:30 a.m.

**Adult
Bible
Study**

"Life Principles"

Study led by John Gryparis



Children's Classes

- Grades 1-6** led by Carla Weber
Youth 7-12 led by Kim Gehman & Chuck Bender

Nursery services are provided



Thursday Evenings
7:00 p.m.
at Sunny Place

**"To Live is Christ-
To Die is Gain"**

A DVD study through Philipians
Led by Pastor Pete



JULY 2015



| Sun | Mon | Tue | Wed | Thu | Fri | Sat |
|--|-----|-----|---|--|-----|---|
| | | | 1 | 2 <div style="border: 1px solid black; padding: 2px; text-align: center;">No Adult Bible Study</div> | 3 | 4  |
| 5  Holy Communion | 6 | 7 | 8 <div style="border: 1px solid black; padding: 2px; text-align: center;">Elder's Meeting 7:00 p.m. at Sunny Place</div> | 9 <div style="border: 1px solid black; padding: 2px; text-align: center;">Adult Bible Study 7:00 p.m. at Sunny Place</div> | 10 | 11 |
| 12 <div style="border: 1px solid black; padding: 2px; text-align: center;">Mission's Meeting 12:30 p.m. at Sunny Place</div> | 13 | 14 | 15 | 16 <div style="border: 1px solid black; padding: 2px; text-align: center;">Adult Bible Study 7:00 p.m. at Sunny Place</div> | 17 | 18 <div style="border: 1px solid black; padding: 2px; text-align: center;">Church Work Day 9:00-1:00 p.m. at Sunny Place</div> |
| 19 <div style="border: 1px solid black; padding: 2px; text-align: center;">Light Lunch 12:30 p.m. & Sweet Hour of Prayer at Sunny Place</div> | 20 | 21 | 22 | 23 <div style="border: 1px solid black; padding: 2px; text-align: center;">Adult Bible Study 7:00 p.m. at Sunny Place</div> | 24 | 25 <div style="border: 1px solid black; padding: 2px; text-align: center;">Ladies Tour Of Ball Seed Gardens 9:00-noon West Chicago</div> |
| 26 <div style="border: 1px solid black; padding: 2px; text-align: center;">"Are you smarter than our Youth" Pizza Party and challenge 12:30 p.m. at Sunny Place</div> | 27 | 28 | 29 | 30 <div style="border: 1px solid black; padding: 2px; text-align: center;">Adult Bible Study 7:00 p.m. at Sunny Place</div> | 31 | |