

# NEWSLINE

## Great Smoky Mountains Church of Christ

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November 14, 2021

### What I Learned Before Kindergarten

Robert Fulghum wrote an article some years ago entitled, "All I ever really needed to know I learned in Kindergarten." Well, I happen to think the most critical lessons are learned before Kindergarten. In fact, I can't remember ever going to kindergarten. My school memories begin with the first grade. Before kindergarten I learned many important lessons.

One of the most important lessons was *obedience*. My parents taught us to obey our parents, teachers, police officers, and every lawful authority in our lives. Disobedience was not tolerated and when we were told to do something we knew there would be major consequences for failing to comply. The authority of our parents was never questioned.

We learned *respect for one another and for our elders*. When addressing adults we were taught to say, "Yes, Sir" and "No, Sir", and were not allowed to be impolite toward anyone. We were respected by our parents and we showed respect in return. Our opinions were considered important but did not rule the day.

We learned to *accept responsibility for our own behaviors* even when it hurt to do so. Blaming others, lying, or being deceitful was not accepted. My mom seemed to have eyes in the back of her head and always knew when we were not on the "up and up."

We also learned to *practice the Golden Rule with everyone we met*. Mistreating others was met with strong consequences. Our community was filled with many good people and a few very, very bad folks. Even the bad folks respected my dad because he always treated them with dignity and kindness. On one occasion my father encountered a very wicked man at a country grocery store who decided to harass him. Another man who was feared even by local authorities intervened and put the other man in his place, saying, "This is a good man...leave him alone!"

I learned the value of prayer, loving your neighbors, sharing your possessions, practicing hospitality toward others, and giving more than you had to give. Hard work was expected of everyone and a task wasn't done until it was done. I also learned that going to church wasn't an option and that everything we did was to glorify our eternal Father. That's what I learned before kindergarten. I learned much more in the coming years.

I'm sure that most of you learned the same lessons. But, more important than learning them is practicing them. Many parents have been heart-broken when they discovered that the lessons they thought they had taught were lost. There is no greater pain than learning that the "prodigal" is your son or daughter.

Most of the time the lessons we teach are not lost. Especially if we teach them before kindergarten. Character is shaped early. The mold is set and the training throughout childhood forms lasting habits. Habits that are not easily forgotten.

—Al

### Other News

**-Rick Cliett**, former elder of the GSM church is in critical condition in the hospital in San Antonio, TX. He is suffering from bladder cancer and it has metastasized. Please pray fervently for Rick and Ginny. They are dear to our hearts.

**Online Worship:** Online worship and Bible class may be accessed at [www.greatsmokymountainschurchofchrist.com](http://www.greatsmokymountainschurchofchrist.com).

**Food Contact For Month:** Polly Cline

**Elder Contact for Month:** Marc Hayes, 732-608-4248

**Sermon Topics:** A.M.- "Guard Your Steps When You Go To The House of God"  
P.M.- "As I Have Loved You" (Al)

Archived sermons and Al's Blogs available at [albehel.com](http://albehel.com)

### Our Known Sick

**-June McGowen**, is in Pigeon Forge Nursing Home. Her condition has deteriorated significantly over the past few months.

**-Linda Valentine**— battling cancer.

**-Anna Ruth Franklin**— Prayers for several health issues.

### Friends and Family News/Prayer Requests

**-Tracey's mom, Judy Pitt**— We are happy to report that she is now cancer free! We give God thanks!

**-Ronnie Pitt**, Tracey's dad, is being treated for A-Fib. Their address is: 313 Monticello Rd., Franklin, TN 37064

**-Treavor Hayes**, 7 year old grandson of Marc and Sue is receiving treatment through a port which has been installed to make his treatment easier. He has a tumor on optic nerve. Please keep hm in prayer.

**-George Tolliver's sister, Mossie Simpson**, is battling COPD. She is staying with her son. Prayers still needed.

-Shannon Wade requests prayers for **Harley Tucker**, who is a 24 year old friend of their family. She just started chemo for breast cancer. She lives in MS.

**-David Byrd**, son of Herb and Sybill Byrd, has been suffering from a mysterious illness with cranial leaking. He has n moved to Knoxville for rehab. Their son-in-law, **Joel Davenport**, has been suffering from post-covid blood clots, sarcoidosis in the lungs, and currently stage 2 renal failure. Herb is an elder of the Maryville church and has spoken for us several times in the past.

**-Priscilla Dick** has completed her chemotherapy and is doing well.

**-Bill Pierce**, father of **Carol Kizer** (wife of Nelson), has been placed in Smoky Mtn. Rehab Center in PFs. Please keep this wonderful family in prayer.

**-Debbie Odom**, mother of Tricia Hayes, has been diagnosed with leukemia with only months to live. Please keep Tricia and her mother and family in prayer.

### CHRISTMAS POTLUCK

#### And Fellowship Gathering

Will be Sunday, December 5, following morning worship

Sign-up board will be in the foyer next Sunday

Safety protocols will be in place that day. Food will be separated into different stations instead of one long buffet (so everyone will not be gathered in one location). Gloves for handling food will be provided on each table.

*Ladies will meet at the church building at 9 am on Saturday, December 4 to decorate tables, the fellowship hall, and to put Sunshine baskets together.*

### Sunday Adult Class

*A Study in Acts*

Al Behel

### Teen Class

Jacob Forman

### Wednesday Night Class

Danny Cline—Colossians

### Monday Night Ladies Study

"O To Be Like Thee"

Polly Cline

Zoom Bible Class Each Monday  
Night 6:45-7:45

Follow Email Instructions

### Building Loan Balance

**\$662,934.33**

Additional contributions to building fund are appreciated

### Times of Services

Sunday A.M.

Bible Study 9:30 AM

Worship 10:30 AM

Sunday P.M. 6:00 PM

Wednesday 7:00 PM