

# NEWSLINE

## Great Smoky Mountains Church of Christ

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### Amazing Lessons From Nature

Late one afternoon I was visiting an elderly friend. As we were sitting on her porch I noticed a baby bird which had fallen prematurely from its nest and was unable to fly to a safe haven. I watched as the mother bird descended to its side and began coaching it out of harm's way. She led her baby across a busy street and into a yard on the other side.

During the next several minutes I observed one of nature's most amazing lessons. Joined by the father the parents of this tiny bird began frantically to teach a crash course in flying. Dusk was quickly approaching and dogs could be heard in a distance. They jumped over its head, ran and jumped into the air, flew upward a few inches from the ground, came back repeatedly to its side and demonstrated how to flap wings and jump, and would slowly fly to a nearby limb.

As I watched the patience and tenderness these parents exhibited as they engaged in this essential exercise I thought of how much we can learn from our feathered friends. Nature (God?) teaches us innately to care for our offspring, to provide for their needs, and to teach them the essential attitudes and skills

they will need for life. They learn from watching us.

From us they learn basic values, to love and be loved, to solve problems, establish and maintain healthy relationships, and to feel a sense of worth and dignity. They learn to forgive and to serve others, to give themselves to causes beyond themselves, and to make a significant difference in the lives of those around them. From us they learn to depend on God and to seek His will above all other pursuits.

One of my most vivid childhood memories centers on following my father as he walked through the plowed fields. His steps became my steps. I wanted to be like him. As an adult I will never forget looking behind me one day to find my own son trying to place his feet directly in my steps. A sense of awe gripped my heart as I thought of how he would walk behind me for only a short time, then would go on to become a model for his children.

The most important lessons we teach our children are those which prepare them for service in God's Kingdom and equip them for eternity. Their needs extend far beyond expensive houses, cars, and entertainment opportunities. They need parents who spend the time

and energy to teach and model eternal values which will anchor them through every challenge and hold them safe through every storm. They will not be taught by friends. They will be taught by parents who give them time, attention, and commitment. Our time is limited. Dusk will soon come and the opportunity will be gone.

— Al Behel

### Other News

**-Jimmy Britt,** Tracy Wade's dad, is in a comma in the hospital in MS battling the effects of Covid pneumonia. He is on life-support. The family must make critical decisions by Monday. Please pray for him, Tracy, and their family.

**FROM OUR LADIES:** Our next fellowship dinner will be postponed for a few weeks along with our monthly meeting. We hope to resume very soon.

### Sunday Adult Class

#### A Study in Acts

Al Behel

#### Teen Class

Jacob Forman

### Wednesday Night Class

Danny Cline—Colossians

### Monday Night Ladies Study

Resumes Mon., January 10

Topic: "O To Be Like Thee"

Mondays, 6:45 pm

Teacher: Polly Cline

### 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

### Food Contact For Month:

Polly Cline

### Elder Contact for Month:

Jim Anderson 865-924-1067

**Online worship:** available on church website or FB page

### 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

**-Keep Tracey's dad and mom, Ron and Judy Pitts,** in your prayers.

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 him 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.

**-Tricia Hayes'** mother, Debbie Odham, has been diagnosed with leukemia with only months to live. Her father is also struggling with COPD and is in critical condition. Please keep Tricia and her family in prayer.

**-Larry Sanderson,** Al's brother-in-law, is losing his eyesight. Doctors are trying to determine if he had a blood clot or a stroke. Please keep Larry and Helen in your prayers.

**-Emma Oliver,** girl friend of Al and Linda's grandson, received an MRI report that revealed some abnormal developments in a portion of her brain. She has episodes of passing out and falling.

### Building Loan Balance

\$639,375.84

Additional contributions to building fund are appreciated

Archived sermons are available on the church website or at [albehel.com](http://albehel.com)

### "My People Are Destroyed For Lack of Knowledge"

A group of 150 freshmen in a church-related college were given a Biblical literacy test. Here are some of their answers: "The Exodus was the return of the Jews to Palestine after WW II. Jesus gave the 10 Commandments from the Mt. of Olives. Jesus was born in Rome, betrayed by Samson, and died in Bethlehem. Genesis was the earliest of the four Gospels. Joan of Arc saved the Hebrew people from the plot of Haman. Jesus was baptized by John the Baptist on the Day of Pentecost in the Red Sea." The highest score was 34, and 10 was the average. Hosea put his finger on it: "My people are destroyed for lack of knowledge" (4:6)

**Sermon Topics:** A.M.— "Jesus Christ, No Ordinary Man" (Al)  
P.M.— "I Am The True Vine" (Al)