

Laurel Church of Christ

Family Focus

September 3, 2023

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SCHOOL IS BACK IN SESSION

By Josh Blackmer

This is a day that parents look forward to and children dread—the end of summer break. With the beginning of school, there are a lot of changes as the family sets into a new routine. This is a good time to make some other changes that you may have been putting off or would like to practice this school year. Starting new habits is never easy, but it can be easier if you incorporate them during a time of transition. For instance, right now children are changing sleep patterns and daily routines. Use this time to start some other spiritually healthy habits. Some of those things could be praying before school or reading the Bible after school. There are many things that could be put into practice. Choose the ones that are going to help your family grow closer and closer to God.

A healthy practice during large shifts in the family routine is reaffirming expectations and responsibilities. As a family unit, everyone plays a role in how the family operates. Children should know what is expected of them. Their chores should be mapped out. The “when you get home” list of things that need to be accomplished should be communicated. Also, conduct expectations should be clearly stated. Using inclusive words like we and us make it more about how we as the family should act and not just another lecture about their behavior. Children need to know that they can expect help and guidance through these changes. Making the home a safe place with structure, guidance, and clear expectations will help children to be productive in school.

Looking at how God has guided His people, we can see things in His communications to us. I think specifically of when the Israelites were poised to go into the Promised Land the second time. On the doorstep of that promise, Moses delivered the message of Deuteronomy. Chapter 6 highlights those points very clearly. Verses 1-3: The reason to be obedient. Verses 4-6: Individual responsibility for spiritual maturity. Verses 7-9, 20-25: Teach it to the family. Verses 10-19: Don't forget God. We live, love, labor and die to go to that promised rest. Take this time to instill in your family, habits that will see you to the other side.

He has granted to us His precious and magnificent promises. 2 Peter 1:4

Pray for the sick: You may not know some of them but God knows them and their needs, so let's lift them up to Him!

CONTINUING CONCERNS: Terry Hastings; Sandi Holt, Michelle Tucker, Pat Tucker, Myra's sister, Connie; Norma Hudson, Butch and Jenny Womersley and family.

On-going personal Bible studies

World turmoil; people of Russia and Ukraine

Cipolla family and their work with children

"Celebrate Recovery"

AIM missionaries, Carolina Aguilar, Miguel Javier

Dale and Maddy

Ruth Banks; now at home

Joe and Donetta Daliessio; motorcycle accident.

Latin American Missions

Andrea Kondrup

Tracy Moran (Diane's niece); cancer, chemo

James Bratton; in hospital and receiving dialysis

Ashley Cox (Wayne, Doris' niece); health

Teachers and students returning to school

Ace Himes passed away. Prayers for his family.

Wayne Mathis awaiting test results.

CELEBRATE RECOVERY each Monday evening from 6-8 in the FLC.

WOMEN'S STUDIES— Apostle Paul study Fridays at Cathy's, 10:00 (Tai Chi), coffee and fellowship 10:30, study at 11:00. Ladies' Tuesday evening Zoom study resumes Aug. 22nd at 7 pm.

NURSERY ATTENDANTS still needed

LADIES' DAYS COMING UP: Mark your calendars

Sept. 23 at Chesapeake CoC

Sept. 30 at Frankford Firehouse

Oct. 28 here at Laurel CoC (return Ginger's handout to her asap).

CAMP MANATAWNY Golden Age Retreat, Sept. 8-9. Go to camp website.

MEN TO SERVE;

Welcome/Scripture; Bobby-3rd; Danny-10th

Prayer; Vinny-3rd; Philip-10th

Table; Dale-3rd; David-10th

Announcements/Closing prayer; Dave-3rd; Chad-10th

Song Leader; Troy-3rd; Daniel-10th

Opportunities for study and worship

Sunday: (In person and virtually at:
www.laurelcoc.org)

Bible Classes 9:00 a.m.

Worship 10:00 a.m.

Tuesday:

Women's Zoom Study 7:00 p.m.

Wednesday

Men's prayer (Shawn's) 7:30 a.m.

Bible Study at building 6:30 p.m.

Thursday

Men's Bible study (Philip's) 8:30 a.m.

Friday ladies' Paul study 10:30 a.m.

We invite you to attend any of our service times, and we look forward to welcoming you, and pray

If you need Media help — connections, addresses, or general questions contact: Don Trader or Julio Brennick

WHO WE ARE

The body of Christ in Laurel, Delaware is a family of believers knit together in love (Colossians 2:2), striving to serve God in spirit and in truth (John 4:24) and carrying the gospel to the lost (Matthew 28:18). We are an autonomous body with Christ only as our head, and elders shepherding the flock of God (Acts 20:28).

We have been entrusted with the gospel (I Thessalonians 2:4) and so it is that we speak. The congregation seeks to uphold the doctrine and practice of the first century church using the only true standard, the Bible, as our guide (2 Peter 1:3). It is our prayer that all would come to a knowledge of the truth and partake in that divine fellowship in the body of Christ, being immersed for the remission of sins, and beginning life anew with Christ as Lord (Acts 2:38, Romans 6:1). Our plea is that we might be one in Christ, and serve the Lord faithfully unto death to receive our crown (Revelation 2:10).