

Talk



a newsletter for the Forest Hill Church of Christ since 1974

Vol. 48 Issue 7

September 2023



It's back to
school time.



The *Talk*, since 1974, has been a monthly newsletter for the Forest Hill Church of Christ and is dedicated to Christian unity. The usual deadline for submission of articles is the last Sunday of every month with the exception of December.



Talk Staff

Pam Thornton..... Editor
Joe Mason..... Roving Reporter
Joe & Portia Mason.... Prison Ministry

Right about now our children and grandchildren are going back to school. We thought about and prayed about school kids when we did our Backpack Program in July. We pray their beginning in school is easier because they have some of the essentials they need. The pressures that kids face today are not anything like when we were breathing chalk dust daily and trying to stay awake in math class. Many times because of lack of funds teachers themselves have to supply the classroom with necessities like tissues, pencils, glue, books, and any one of a number of essentials. And, for decades now teachers have not been 'allowed' to mention God in any form in the classroom. Pray that our children will be safe and God will surround them with love and protection while they are away from us.

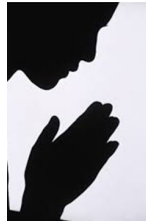
Along with 'back to school' comes the last gasp of summer. It has been a wet one for us here in Cleveland. However, that means that the flowers, shrubs, trees and grass all look especially beautiful right now. Get out and enjoy it. Take your school aged kids along and point out God's beautiful face in every tree. Don't imagine that just because they're kids they don't feel stress. Everyone, breathe in that cooler, crisp air and feel better.

Learning is not exclusive to the classroom. If you are in contact with a student you should be aware that teaching happens all the time anywhere if you can see it. It is also important to let kids know that learning is fun. To find out new things is the most exciting thing in the world. My four year old granddaughter said to me one day after her nursery school, "Grandma, ever hear of the solar system?" The delight in her voice cheered me to no end and reminded me God's world is a vast and exciting place.

Let's send our beloved children off with a prayer and happy encouragement every day!

—Pt

Today, ladies, please join us in the classroom directly beyond the auditorium for just a short time while we pray for our concerns. Prayer is a valuable and readily available tool that we as Christians should be using every day.



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Many have been very uncomfortable because of the severe storm a couple of weeks ago. Be considerate and help where you can. Please remember that the freezer at the church building has been offered to anyone who needs it while their power is out.



Please keep these folks in your prayers this month: for Jami Smith at the loss of her mother recently; the West & Caver families as they are stuck at home; Marylean Warren who was feeling very down lately; Lillie Glenn for difficulties after the storm & for a sick cousin; the Kesslers for difficulties after the storm; Joe & Portia for

Joe to feel better soon & for Portia caring for him; Jeannene & Derwood Smith as he is getting over broken ribs; for the elders to be able to find a minister for us soon and for our church to grow; for Velma Hopkins to adjust to her new home; for Matt & Alison Hale to adjust to their life in Scranton, Pennsylvania.

September

by Helen Hunt Jackson

The golden-rod is yellow;
The corn is turning brown;
The trees in apple orchards
With fruit are bending down.
The gentian's bluest fringes
Are curling in the sun;
In dusty pods the milkweed
Its hidden silk has spun.
The sedges flaunt their harvest,
In every meadow nook;
And asters by the brook-side
Make asters in the brook.
From dewy lanes at morning
The grapes' sweet odors rise;

At noon the roads all flutter
With yellow butterflies.
By all these lovely tokens
September days are here,
With summer's best of weather,
And autumn's best of cheer.
But none of all this beauty
Which floods the earth and air
Is unto me the secret
Which makes September fair.
'T is a thing which I remember;
To name it thrills me yet:
One day of one September
I never can forget.



Of interest...

...stand entire at last.

FULL OF HOLES

©by pam thornnton

In the course of our discussion on Romans last Sunday morning we talked about how difficult it was when we have invited a person to join us at church and they say something to the effect of, “I will when I get myself together,” or “I’m too sinful for church,” or “I am such a sinner I don’t belong there.”

Every single time we sin there is left a hole. Imagine a plate sized hole in your middle. We all come to church full of holes! Here is where the holes are filled and spirits lifted. I long to communicate that effectively to those who think they are not “good” enough for church. None of us is “good” enough.

Each time we let our anger take over — there’s a hole. Each time we let our laziness keep us from attending church services — there’s a hole. Each time we tell a lie, big or little — there’s a hole. Did you curse someone out in traffic because they cut you off — there’s a hole. Did you get a little too mad at your kids, spouse, friend, co-worker, neighbor — there’s a hole. Did someone you love die — there’s a hole. Did someone you trusted dearly disappoint you — there’s a hole.

All the sins, all the negative experiences that are inevitable down here on earth leave us with holes in our bodies, in our souls or in psyche.

“I will ask the Father, and He will give you another advocate to help you and be with you forever— the Spirit of truth. The world cannot accept him, because it neither sees him nor knows him. But you know him, for he lives with you and will be in you. I will not leave you as orphans...”

John 14:16-18

God does not leave us down here to battle the powers of evil on our own. He knows that life will tempt us, shoot us down, chop us up, and if nothing else — leave plate sized holes in us.

In the hymn *Soldiers of Christ, Arise* the lyrics say: “put your armor on, God will supply strength; trust in Jesus’ strength; leave no unguarded place;” and then finally, “so that you may overcome through Christ alone, and stand entire at last.”

Yes, we come to church full of holes but God’s Holy Spirit fills those holes so we can “stand entire.” What happens, then, when a wound heals properly? The scar tissue that forms there can be even stronger than what was originally there. So what happens when we have had lots and lots of holes filled by God’s Holy Spirit? We can be stronger and brighter than ever!

“Therefore, if your whole body is full of light, and no part of it dark, it will be just as full of light as when a lamp shines its light on you.”

Luke 11:36

Church is not a museum with pristine statues perfect in every respect but rather it is a

hospital for sinners who need repair, need encouraging, need to be forgiven and 'rebooted.'

And I thank God that along with the tremendous gift of Jesus and the Holy Spirit He gives us a community of believers to travel this perilous journey together.

I am reposting an article here from Ella Hopkins back in 2020 mostly just because I can, but also because I miss her.

CHALLENGE

I believe when God created Adam and Eve he knew he would have a challenge, because that is when sin began. Each of us was born in sin, but God gave us a free mind and direction for us to choose to go. We could go to the right with God for righteousness and eternal life or left and follow satan and evil.

Satan and his followers have challenged God many times. They thought they were winning and decided to destroy the world back in Old Testament times, but God loved his creation so much he decided to save it through Noah and the ark. He gave mankind a second chance. Then later God gave the world yet another chance when he sent Jesus to die for us.

I believe that today satan and his followers are again challenging God when we stop praying in public, murder other humans and continue racism.

I believe that mankind has another chance to choose direction going right or going left. I believe that God will be pleased if more parents teach their children at an early age that it is all right to pray in public and study the Bible taking the path of righteousness. If they do they will have a much better world to live in and raise their children in.

Prisoners currently in our Ministry: Jose Agosto, Michael Bell, Terrance R. Boyd, Larry Duncan, Glen T. Evans Sr., Michaellyn Hutchins, Christopher Konkel, Albert Lacy, Derrick Lartdale, Latrina Lewis, Chris Love, Scott Markel, Ralphonzo Martin, Bradley Mason, Thomas McCarthy Sr., Leon Napier, Lakiesha Phillips, Melvin Reardon Jr., Antonio Spates, Thomas E. Stephens, George Weaver, and Timothy Wilson. **Also, for those released—**Kenneth Anderson, Nicholas Bowers, Greg Breville, Tony Campbell, Alfred Cleveland, Dean Dupont, Leonardo Frazier, Emmanuel Gonzales, Willard Hall, Tyrell Havergne, Keith Hume, Israel D. King, Juan Rentas, Mark Slayton, Jewell Trischler.



Keep these people in your prayers as they struggle to live behind bars and maintain a faith that is challenged all the time.

Get outside this season to see how beautiful God's face can be. The change of colors is coming and even though we see it in spectacular form every year that does not make it any less amazing or beautiful.



F.Y.I. Healthspot...

AS WE AGE the risk for falls and injury increases. It is very important to stay healthy and independent longer! More than 1 in 4 older adults report falling each year and this results in about 36 million falls. Take action now to prevent falling: 1) tell your doctor if you have fallen or you feel unsteady when standing or walking; 2) ask your doctor or pharmacist to review medicines you take. Some might make you dizzy or sleepy. 3) have your eyes checked at least once a year and keep your eyeglasses updated; 4) have your doctor check your feet once a year and discuss proper footwear to reduce the risk of falling; 5) ask your doctor about conditions like: depression, osteoporosis or hypotension that can increase your risk for falling.

Stay active with exercises that make your legs stronger and improve your balance, like Tai Chi.

Make your home safer by getting rid of trip hazards such as clutter and throw rugs. Brighten your home with extra lighting or brighter bulbs. Install grab bars in the bathroom especially in the tub area. Install handrails on both sides of staircases.

Just take your time and be careful!

For Kids Only...



Proverbs 1:24-27

Every word listed in capitals below is contained within the group of letters. Words can be found in a straight line horizontally, vertically, or diagonally. They may be read either forward or backward.

“Because I have CALLED, and ye REFUSED; I have STRETCHED out my HAND, and no man regarded;

“But ye have set at NOUGHT all my COUNSEL, and would none of my REPROOF:

“I also will laugh at your CALAMITY; I will MOCK when your FEAR cometh;

“When your fear cometh as DESOLATION, and your destruction cometh as a WHIRLWIND; when DISTRESS and ANGUISH cometh upon you.”

— Proverbs 1:24-27

W	H	I	R	L	W	I	N	D	L	M	C	Y
N	Z	D	Z	W	X	G	Q	Y	H	K	F	E
O	D	R	E	Y	K	C	O	M	J	N	Z	X
I	I	D	A	S	H	R	O	K	B	R	Q	O
T	S	Q	N	E	U	D	E	U	D	A	P	Q
A	T	S	P	A	F	F	Y	P	N	U	C	N
L	R	Y	A	K	H	T	E	G	R	S	G	D
O	E	G	Z	U	I	V	U	R	X	O	E	N
S	S	R	T	M	S	I	H	I	B	L	O	L
E	S	Y	A	W	S	V	L	Z	L	U	H	F
D	C	L	G	H	B	T	Q	A	G	Q	F	P
S	A	S	T	R	E	T	C	H	E	D	B	I
C	O	S	E	F	I	O	T	F	Q	L	A	B

Recipe..

Broccoli Cheddar Soup

4 tbsp. butter
 1 medium yellow onion, chopped
 2 stalks celery, thinly sliced
 1/4 cup all-purpose flour
 3 cups lo-sodium chicken broth
 Kosher salt
 Freshly ground black pepper
 large head broccoli, finely chopped
 1 large carrot, grated
 2 cups whole milk
 3 cups shredded cheddar, plus more for garnish
 Baguette, for serving

In a large pot over medium heat, melt butter. Add onion and celery and cook until soft, 5 minutes. Whisk in flour and let cook 1 minute. Slowly add chicken broth and season with salt and pepper.



Stir in broccoli and carrots. Bring to a boil and reduce heat to low. Let simmer until vegetables are tender, 20 minutes.

Slowly add milk and bring to a simmer, then stir in cheddar.

Season with salt and pepper and top with more cheddar. Serve with baguette.

If you have something for the October Talk please, by **Sunday night, September 24th**, hand it to me at church, put it in the box outside the church office, snail mail it to be at home or email me at: pthorn50@roadrunner.com. Thanks in advance. Have a great September!

—Pam

Birthdays...

October

1-Michael Brown
 1-Clarence Kidd
 4-Kelly Caver
 10-Karen Stewart
 15-Lillie Glenn
 19-Denise Brown
 23-Jeanette Stewart



Hope your birthday is the best ever with loads of friends and presents and cake. Happy Birthday!

It was a lovely afternoon—such an afternoon as only September can produce when summer has stolen back for one more day of dream and glamour.

—L.M. Montgomery

Autumn seemed to arrive suddenly that year. The morning of the first September was crisp and golden as an apple.

—J.K. Rowling

September is dressing herself in showy dahlias and splendid marigolds and starry zinnias.

Good News...

—Oliver Wendell Holmes

You are my refuge and my shield;
 I have put my hope in your word.

☞Our mission: to love like Jesus, to serve like Jesus and to teach others to do the same☞