

Connections

Exchange Street Church of Christ, Inc.
Union City, Tennessee

The Price of Children

I have often seen the breakdown of the cost of raising a child, but this is the first time I have seen the rewards listed this way. The government recently calculated the cost of raising a child from birth to 18 and came up with \$160,140 for a middle income family. Talk about sticker shock! That doesn't even touch college tuition. But \$160,140 isn't so bad if you break it down like this: \$8,896.66 a year = \$741.3 a month, or \$171.08 a week. That's a mere \$24.24 a day! Or just over a dollar an hour.

Still, you might think the best financial advice is don't have children if you want to be "rich." Well here is what you may get for your investment of \$160,140. Naming rights. Glimpses of God every day. More love than your heart can hold. Butterfly kisses and Velcro hugs. Endless wonder over rocks, ants, clouds, warm cookies, and all of God's creation. A hand to hold, usually covered with jelly or chocolate. Someone to laugh yourself silly with, no matter what the boss said or how your stocks performed that day.

For \$160,140, there is no greater bang for your buck. You get to be a hero just for: retrieving a Frisbee off the garage roof, taking the training wheels off a bike, removing a splinter, filling a wading pool, answering simple questions about God and life. You get a front row seat to history to witness the: first step, first word, first date, and first time behind the wheel. You get to be immortal. You get another branch added to your family tree, and if you're lucky, a long list of limbs in your obituary called grandchildren and great grandchildren. You get an education in psychology, nursing, criminal justice, communications, and human sexuality that no college can match. In the eyes of a child, you rank right up there under God. You have all the power to heal a boo-boo, scare away the monsters under the bed, patch a broken heart, police a slumber party, ground them forever, and love them without limits. So . . . one day they will, like you, **love without counting the cost**. When all is said and done that is quite an investment we have a responsibility for as we embrace the children of our church family.

Within the congregation I often hear people talking about growth, or how we are not growing. In light of this article and what we experience through our youth today, I sincerely believe our conversation content needs to continue in the area of how can I help someone who is younger (in years or in faith) than me.

Blessings, Jeff

In the final analysis, it is not what you do for your children but what you have taught them to do for themselves that will make them successful human beings. --- Ann Landers

Exchange Street Church
Homecoming
April 15, 2018

UPCOMING EVENTS	
PRIVATE EVENTS, Gym: 3:30-5:30p; & 5:30-7p	3/15
DRAMA & DESSERT, 7:30p, Masquerade Theater; then Dessert, Fireside Room	3/16
LADS TO LEADERS Lead AM Worship	3/18
LADIES BIBLE STUDY, 10-11a, Etheridge House	3/20
SEWING CLUB, 10a-Noon, Annex #10	3/22
PRIVATE EVENTS: FH, 5:30p; Gym, 5:30-7p	3/22
KID'S NIGHT OUT > Easter Eggs-travaganza, 6-8:30p, Gym, New Kitchen	3/23
NEW PATHWAYS Collection L2L Room \$ Due BABY SHOWER for Leigh Willett, 2-4p, FH PROVIDERS & KEEPERS, 5p	3/25
DEACONS MEETING, 6:30p	4/3
MEN'S BREAKFAST, 8am	4/8
Homecoming	4/15

APRIL CALENDAR & SERVANTS SCHEDULE

will be published next week. If you are planning an activity that is not on the office calendar OR know you will be absent any Sunday morning in April, please let Ethelene know by Monday noon.

THIS SUNDAY MORNING at 9am we will have our annual LADS TO LEADERS pre-convention presentations. Boys will lead Worship, giving talks, leading prayers & songs, & serving Communion. During Class Time, Bible Bowl teams will challenge our Elders. We will then go to the Gym where the Puppet Cast will present their skit (& coffee will be served). Then Boys & Men will go to Fellowship Hall while Girls lead Worship in Auditorium, giving talks, leading songs & prayers, & reading scripture. The young people have been preparing for several months for events at the L2L Convention in Nashville March 30 through April 1. Plan to attend this Sunday morning, to worship our God & to encourage our young people.



KidsForChrist

KID'S NIGHT OUT - Easter Eggs-travaganza: Friday, March 23, 6pm to 8:30pm. Bring your baskets! **ADULTS: We need small wrapped candy, by 21st; please place in cart in Hall.**

OPPORTUNITIES TO SERVE

As we continue to grow & seek to reach out to our community, critical service opportunities have surfaced.

Facebook

Assist in monitoring & working with our Facebook presence.

Volunteer to Jeff Kenee or Steve Bing.

Devotional Leaders

Adult & Teen Men willing to serve one Sunday afternoon every other month, to assist with the devotional at Obion County Nursing Home. Two men divide duties: lead songs & prayers, serve communion, give brief devotional talk.
Volunteer to Steve Bing.



CHALLENGE for 2018:
Read through New Testament
Reading plans at Exchange Street & Office entrances

Readings for March 12-18:
Philippians 4—2 Timothy 4



**SUNDAY, APRIL 8
8AM**

[COOKS/DEACONS EARLIER]

ALL MEN INVITED

HOSTED BY DEACONS

**SIGN LIST ON BOARDS IF YOU WILL ATTEND
[DEACONS & ALL WHO WISH, ALSO LIST FOOD
YOU WILL PROVIDE]**

QUESTIONS? SEE JOE WARD OR STEVE BING

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