



Rockwood Church of Christ

The Proclaimer

July 23, 2023

P.O. Box 416
129 S. Chamberlain Ave.
Rockwood, TN 37854
865-354-0855

Elders:

Kendall Bear
Dana Carter
Don Chandler

Deacons:

Larry Brackett
Aaron Evans
Larry Hill
Steve McCreary

Minister:

Dale Barger

Service Times:

Sunday

Bible Study 10 am
Worship Service 10:45 am
Worship Service 6 pm

Wednesday

Bible Study 7 pm

Email:

rockwdcc@gmail.com

Website:

Rockwoodchurchofchrist.com

How You Can Help 'Boost Our Bible School'

VBS is here! It is one of my favorite times of year. It's exciting to see really creative and talented minds that shine in making a great experience for our kids. It is an opportunity to really "*think outside the box*" and to make a lasting impression on these kids about Jesus. Even if you are not directly involved in the teaching, decorating, feeding process, or anything else here is how you can help "*boost*" our Bible school:

Pray. Some of us don't have the energy we once did to keep up with kids and that is ok. However, all of us can pray for the success of the VBS. Pray for the teachers that they can do their best in communicating God's truth to these kids. Pray for the students who are as absorbent as sponges when it comes to learning God's word. Pray for God's blessing on our efforts.

Invite. School is now out and before long, the "*I'm free*" mentality of these students yields to "*I'm bored*" as the regular activities wear out. Be proactive and invite them to come to the building and enjoy a time learning about God's word with us!

Attend. Though there are not adult classes, there is always work to be done at events like this. As the old saying goes, "*many hands make light work.*" It will be a refreshing sight to see so many young people who are anxious to see what their teachers have for them to do and see in this great endeavor. Though it may be exhausting work, it is rewarding work.

Encourage. There has been a great deal of work done in preparation for this endeavor. Yet, some folks ought to have a PhD in being critical, grumbling and being negative (cf. **Phil. 2:14**). Instead of looking for something that might not go smoothly, how about repurposing those words with encouragement and exhortation? A pat on the back for the teachers, organizers, food servers, and others can go a long way! Find ways to encourage to the glory of God. Be a BOOSTER, not a ROOSTER!

Andy Baker
Graeber Road church of Christ
Rosenberg, TX

Lessons from a Former President

John Quincy Adams may have held more important offices than anyone in the history of the United States. He served with distinction not only as the president and secretary of state but also as a senator, congressman, and an ambassador to major European leaders. He also played several key roles in the American Revolution, the War of 1812, and the events leading up to the Civil War. However, at the age of 70, he wrote, “*My whole life has been a succession of disappointments. I can scarcely recollect a single instance of success in anything that I ever undertook.*”

I think there are a couple of things we can learn from the feelings of our fourth president. First, we should not sell ourselves short. No matter who you are, as a Christian, you play an important role in the history of humanity, and you can impact eternity by the simplest of things. The Bible reminds us to “*comfort the fainthearted*” and “*uphold the weak*” (**1 Thess. 5:14**). We never know when something as simple as a visit, a card, a phone call, a shoulder to cry on, an ear to listen, or a simple kind word can help someone hold on who was on the verge of giving up. A simple invitation to service on Sunday or Wednesday or to a gospel meeting or a VBS could be the difference in someone’s eternal destiny. Never underestimate your role in God’s eternal plan to redeem mankind (**Eph. 3:8-11, 4:16**).

The other thing we can learn from Adams is that unless we pursue things that are spiritual in nature, our lives can seem hollow and meaningless. Here was a man who had achieved the highest and most prestigious position in the United States, arguably in the entire world. He was a man who would have his secular successes displayed in the pages of American history for generations. However, he seemed to be lamenting that his life was disappointing and unfulfilling. The true lesson is that fulfillment comes not from a life of worldly achievement but from a life submitted and committed to the will of God.

Let us hear the conclusion of the whole matter. Fear God, and keep His commandments. For this is the whole duty of man. (**Ecclesiastes 12:13**).

Joe Williams
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Lawrenceburg, TN