

The Family Room

By Dr. Don Whitehead

Teachers Need to Teach About Religion

Much controversy currently surrounds the topic of religion in public schools. Arguments about prayer, the Ten Commandments and other issues are generating more heat than light. Some clarity is needed when it comes to the topic of religion and schools.

Public schools, including elementary, middle, high school and college, must teach about religion in order to do their job successfully. It is impossible to imagine a competent American History teacher who does not discuss the role of religion in the development of this country. No American history course would be complete without a look at the Pilgrims, the concept of religious freedom and the Great Awakening in New England. The Quakers who settled Pennsylvania and the Catholics in Maryland are a part of United States history.

In the same manner, no Kentucky history course could omit the Great Revivals in Kentucky in the 1800s or the Methodist circuit riders who served the frontier. A course in world history would not be complete without a study of the lives of Christ and Buddha and a look at the Crusades and the Reformation. The growth and influence of Islam and the African religions in the last century would be an important part of any world history course. After all, history is not just about wars, it is also about religion.

Another great service schools could offer would be a course in Comparative Religion. Here students would have the opportunity to study and compare the great religions of the world: Judaism, Buddhism, Hinduism, Christianity, Islam and others. This would prepare these students to be citizens of a world in which many religions influence the thinking of peoples everywhere.

It would also be appropriate for English teachers to offer a course in religious literature. Reading from the Bible, the Koran and the holy books of their religions would develop in the students an appreciation for different types of literature. For example, a course in the Old Testament as Literature has long been offered by the University of Kentucky.

Because of the controversy surrounding the teaching of religion in schools, some have become afraid to touch the subject at all. However, religion is an integral part of life and is a natural part of many different courses from history to English to psychology. Not to teach about religion is to fail to acknowledge the tremendous role religion has played in shaping this country and the world.

While public schools should teach about religion, they should not teach religion as an article of faith. Teachers should not proselytize. Public schools is not the place to attempt to convince students to become Catholic instead of Catholic or Pentecost instead of Episcopalian. While a look at the history of these denominations would be appropriate, no attempt should be made to convince students of the rightness or wrongness of one denomination over another.

Nor should public schools attempt to convert Jews to Christianity or Christians to Islam. Learning about these religions is different from being told to believe in the truth of one or the other. This is particularly important when people of many cultures and religions are moving into southeastern Kentucky. This courtesy is consistent with the long history of religious freedom in the United States.

Teaching about religion is different from teaching religion as a matter of public schools. The latter is best reserved for homes and churches.

Fairview News

By Mrs. Hubert Chasteen

Hello everyone.

Hope you are well and happy. We are having beautiful fall weather. We have had a little rain and the beautiful leaves are falling fast. But we are enjoying them while they lasted. Each day that God gives us is a great blessing.

Rev. Albert Griffin, our interim pastor from Mt. Vernon has been delivering some good spiritual messages lately. We are still having good days and on Sunday, October

22nd our Sunday School attendance was 118 for which we are thankful. Our heartfelt sympathy is extended to all those who have lost loved ones recently, including Mrs. Mildred (Wray) Cummins of Berea and Mr. Eli Chasteen of Disputanta. They have our love and prayers.

Mr. and Mrs. William Alexander of Brodhead recently visited Mrs. Hallie Alexander.

Dorothy Lambert and Mary Lou Reynolds returned to their home in

Willalla News

By Carol Martin

Ray and Irene Willis are the proud grandparents of a new grandson born on October 10th to their daughter, Shelly. He has been named Matthew Allen. He was born at Rockcastle County Hospital and weighed 9 lbs. 1 oz. and was 22 inches long. He was welcomed home by his brother, Jacob.

Ora Lee Hurst is a patient at Central Baptist Hospital in Lexington where she has been since last Thursday.

Mrs. Lillie Parsons is home and gradually regaining her strength after suffering a stroke and spending eight weeks at Cardinal Hill in Lexington. John Debord was transferred from Rockcastle County Hospital on Sunday to Central Baptist Hospital in Lexington where he underwent surgery on Monday.

Mrs. Berthena VanHook is spending this week with her daughter, Lois Ricketts in Lexington.

Mrs. Laura Parsons of Arlington, Virginia arrived here on Monday to spend a few days with her parents, Kenneth and Lillie Parsons and brother, Jim.

Mrs. Lisa Burke and girls of Shepherdsday, spent Sunday with her parents, Kenneth and Lillie Parsons. Mr. and Mrs. Rick Reynolds and Tori were in Lexington on Saturday to visit Ora Lee Hurst at Central Baptist Hospital.

Mrs. Sue Acton and her sisters, have returned home after spending a week in Florida and other points of interest.

Burl Brown of Florida, spent two

weeks here recently visiting his cousin, Mary Jane Randolph and other relatives.

Augusta, Georgia Sunday following a week's stay here with Dorothy's relatives. Mrs. Anna Carey and son, Kenny Carey and his family of Crossville, Tennessee, recently visited Mrs. Hallie Alexander and Mr. and Mrs. Rex Davidson and Jeremy.

Mr. and Mrs. Hubert Chasteen attended the funeral of Eli Chasteen at Lakes Funeral Home in Berea. Also attending were Mr. and Mrs. Anthony Abney. The funeral was conducted Sunday afternoon by Rev. Ron Roberts.

Some of the visitors in our home recently have been Mr. and Mrs. Ben Hunsacker, Mrs. Myrtle Wilson, who also visited Mr. and Mrs. Tip Reppert, Mr. and Mrs. Nick Chasteen and little granddaughter, Mrs. Claudia Wren and Mr. and Mrs. Dudley Thomas.

Mr. and Mrs. Bill Patrick accompanied by Mrs. Hallie Alexander visited Bill's half-sister, Mrs. Milna Reed in Hazel Green a few days ago.

Well Election Day is drawing near and won't you be glad when it is over? (I sure will) As we vote let's pray for God's guidance in choosing the right people for the job.

Please remember church and Sunday School. You are always welcome at Fairview. Let's pray for our lost people, for the sick and lonely, broken hearted and for one another. We never out grow the need of prayer. God bless you all.

No need to travel to find specialty physicians

Rockcastle Countians need look no further than the Rockcastle Medical Arts Building for some of the most highly skilled specialists in Kentucky. Whether it's cardiac or lung disease, ear, nose and throat problems, obstetrics and gynecology or plastic surgery, there's no need to leave home to find a doctor.

"Making health care accessible to everyone in our community is a priority for us," said Lee Keche, president and CEO of Rockcastle Hospital and Respiratory Care Center, Inc. "We know that people don't want to travel to see a doctor, so we're bringing the doctors to them."

Currently, six specialists from Lexington see patients at the Rockcastle Medical Arts Building. They are: Michael Anstead, M.D., Pulmonologist; David Brabon, M.D., Plastic Surgeon; Dennis Havens, M.D., Cardiovascular Surgeon; John Johnstone, M.D., Cardiologist; Preston Nunneley, M.D., Obstetrics and Gynecology and Robert Woods, M.D., Ears, Nose and Throat.

In addition, University of Kentucky Medical Center residents and faculty are serving the Emergency Department from 6:30 p.m. - 6:30 a.m. Monday through Friday and provide 24-hour coverage on weekends and holidays. RHCC physicians cover the Emergency Department during the daytime Monday through Friday. Rockcastle Hospital and Respiratory Care Center, Inc., is a not-for-profit community hospital, which is accredited by the Joint Commission

on Accreditation of Health Organizations. It operates inpatient and outpatient health care programs, 60 long-term beds for ventilator-dependent patients, and an accredited home health care service. The hospital was established in 1956 and treats patients from across Kentucky, Tennessee, Alabama and several other states.

Legislative Update

By State Rep. Danny Ford - State should prepare for record low temperatures and increased heating costs

With our first freeze behind us it's already obvious that this winter may be the coldest we have had in years. The plummeting temperatures are going to mean an increase in heating bills throughout the state, particularly if you heat with natural gas.

According to energy experts the higher costs are due to an increase in demand, not a decrease in supply. Officials at several of the state's largest gas companies have stated publicly that they are fully prepared for the winter months. While that is certainly good news, these same men and women are also warning Kentuckians to prepare for an increase in their heating bills this winter.

There are several things you can do now to help keep your family's heating bill down. Most local gas companies offer a budget plan to help make the cost more manageable. The state also offers assistance to low-income Kentuckians throughout the Department for Community Based Services' Home Energy Assistance Program. Regular applications must be completed at the county office between November 1 and December

13 with specific days set aside for applicants to come in alphabetical order. Families that face an unexpected crisis are still able to apply from January 8 until March 15. The number for the community based services office here in Rockcastle County is 256-2481.

Making your home more energy efficient is another way of dealing with this year's price hike. Here are a few ways you can save:

1. Dress appropriately for the season, wearing winter clothing helps you adapt to the outdoor temperature and allows you to set your indoor thermostat lower.
2. If you plan to be away from your home for a few days, lower your thermostat setting. However, don't lower it past 50 degrees and make sure your water pipes are not in danger of freezing.
3. Inspect your furnace regularly and change filters when they are dirty.

4. Make sure heat registers and air return ducts are clear of furniture, carpet and draperies.
5. Open blinds and curtains during the day to let sunshine warm your home. When the sun goes down close blinds to keep warmth inside.
6. If you have a wood-burning fireplace, keep your fireplace damper closed except when the fireplace is in use. This helps to keep warm inside air from escaping. If you have gas logs, be sure to install and operate them according to the manufacturer's instructions.

7. Make sure your water heater is insulated. Turn water temperature setting down to the "warm" setting of 120 Degrees.
8. Check for drafts around windows and doors. Consider installing high performance windows during remodeling projects to avoid air leaks.

Although the natural gas is available there are more people using it and the demands of today may result in a supply-problem in the years to come. We have been fortunate over the past few years to enjoy warmer than average winters and this year will present the first major increase in almost a decade. Partly responsible for this year's price jump is the lack of a clear energy policy on the part of our federal government and their obvious disregard for need to explore alternative energy sources.

If there are any state programs you might be interested in getting information about, please let me know. If you have thoughts please call me anytime. I can even be reached toll-free at 1-800-372-7181.

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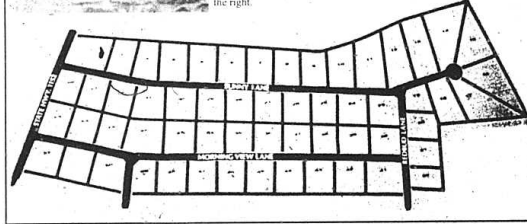
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Low-Income Home Heating Program

The cost of home heating is a problem for many low-income Kentuckians.

Your Community Action Agency, Daniel Boone Development Council, may be able to help. If you live in Rockcastle Co., apply at the DBDC office in Ashlee's house at 105 E. Main St., Mt. Vernon, Ky for the Home Energy Assistance Program (HEAP). Applications will be taken by the last name of the head of the household from November 6 through December 13, 2000. See the list below for your assigned day.

Bring with you (1) Social Security numbers for everyone living in the household, (2) Proof of your household's income for the preceding month, (3) Your most recent heating bills or verification from your landlord that the heating expenses are included in your rent. All eligible households that apply will receive assistance. Liquid resources cannot be over \$1500 and gross monthly income must be within the guidelines listed below. Households not receiving food stamps with no income will be required to fill out a self-declaration form prior to sign up date. DBDC will assure that persons who are working or commuting during the agencies typical business hours may apply for LIHEAP. Call 598-5127 for more information.

If Your Last Name Begins With

- A apply on Nov. 6
- B apply on Nov. 8
- C apply on Nov. 13, 14
- D or E apply on Nov. 15
- F or G apply on Nov. 16
- H apply on Nov. 20, 21
- I or J apply on Nov. 27
- K or L apply on Nov. 28
- M apply on Nov. 29, 30
- N, O, P apply on Dec. 4
- Q or R apply on Dec. 5
- S apply on Dec. 6, 7
- F or G apply on Nov. 16
- T apply on Dec. 11
- U, V, W apply on Dec. 12
- X, Y, Z apply on Dec. 13

Crisis applications can be made from January 8 through March 15, 2001, or until available funds have been expended.

Household Size	Gross Mo. Income	Household Size	Gross Mo. Income
1	\$ 766	5	\$1,829
2	\$1,032	6	\$2,090
3	\$1,297	7	\$2,361
4	\$1,563	8	\$2,627