Dear Lexie,

The Stewardship of Breath

As Christians, the word "stewardship" is one with which we are very familiar. For as long as I can remember, I have been reminded that as a committed follower of Jesus Christ, being a faithful steward should play an important role in my life. And of course, as a pastor, I am constantly reminding God's people that He expects them to be good managers of all that He has placed in their hands.

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Sligo Prays for Cool Spring Elementary School

A few blocks from Adelphi Elementary on Riggs Road you will see another elementary school, named Cool Spring. Outside the main building you will notice several temporary buildings. Yes, your thinking is correct! There is an explosion of educational needs in this
community. There is an expectation of 750 children in the coming school year!

**Summertime: An Opportunity for Service**

Summertime is finally here! If you're like me— you're thinking of baseball games, cookouts and trips to the beach! Surely this is a time to relax and enjoy the blessings of family and friends. Each of these activities is delightful and should be savored. But there's another activity that your young people will be doing that may not come as readily to mind when we think of summer activities: serving others. And that is exactly what some of our Sligo youth will be doing!

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The Stewardship of Breath

As Christians, the word “stewardship” is one with which we are very familiar. For as long as I can remember, I have been reminded that as a committed follower of Jesus Christ, being a faithful steward should play an important role in my life. And of course, as a pastor, I am constantly reminding God’s people that He expects them to be good managers of all that He has placed in their hands. And that’s exactly what we are as stewards; managers. When you briefly examine the etymology of the word steward, you will see that it is from two root words, oikos (house) and nomos (law). So in essence, being a steward means that you are the “law of the house.” Or in other words, you have been given the authority to manage or oversee all that has been placed in your care.

But recently while singing a very familiar hymn, the concept of what it means to be a faithful steward took on a completely different meaning for me. The hymn was, My Jesus, I Love Thee. Now, this has always been one of my favorite songs, but for some reason on this particular day, my attention was drawn to the words of the third stanza as never before. The words were:

*I’ll love Thee in life; I will love Thee in death.*

*And praise Thee as long as Thou lendest me breath.*

These powerful but yet poetic words remind us that even the air we breathe does not belong to us, but it is merely on loan to us from the Creator Himself. Just like everything else that God has placed in our care, He expects us to be good stewards of them, including the air that flows through our lungs. And the hymn writer makes it clear that being a good steward of this breath of life, means that we must use it to bring glory and honor to God both in word as well as in deed.

So the next time you take a deep breath, let it serve as a reminder that it is merely on loan to you and that one day when you least expect it, it will be returned to its true owner. And personally, when that time does come, my prayer is that upon evaluation of my stewardship of this precious gift of life, all of heaven will hear Him say, “Well done!”

(by Charles Tapp)
A few blocks from Adelphi Elementary on Riggs Road you will see another elementary school, named Cool Spring. Outside the main building you will notice several temporary buildings. Yes, your thinking is correct! There is an explosion of educational needs in this community. There is an expectation of 750 children in the coming school year! This is a highly concentrated immigrant community with families that could represent a mini UN.

Families from El Salvador, Nigeria, Guatemala, Haiti, Dominica, and Panama can be seen in this neighborhood. The diversity of languages is thus very evident. Spanish, French, Creole, Swahili and more are represented here. Teachers with ESOL (English for Speakers of Other Languages) are highly valued.

The school’s administration has a vice principal that is from our faith community.

- We pray that the diversity of cultures represented here will become a strength of common support and not balkanized.
- We pray that sufficient ESOL teachers are found to support the growing need.
- We pray that the campus will have adequate resources to provide a solid basic education.
- We pray that the teachers are equipped with the skills to navigate the many cultural demands that will be required.

Yes, Sligo keep praying for the learning places within our community.

(Chris Daley & Dawn Reynolds)
Summertime: An Opportunity for Service

Scott Lawrence

Summertime is finally here! If you’re like me—you’re thinking of baseball games, cookouts and trips to the beach! Surely this is a time to relax and enjoy the blessings of family and friends. Each of these activities is delightful and should be savored. But there’s another activity that your young people will be doing that may not come as readily to mind when we think of summer activities: serving others. And that is exactly what some of our Sligo youth will be doing!

As I have mentioned in several other articles, the Disabilities Action Team (DAT) is joining forces with the Youth Department to give our youth opportunities to serve. Teams Sligo youth will be matched up with those who have some sort of limitation and they could use some sort of help. Who can use this service? Sligo youth will be happy to help anyone who may need these services. For example, maybe you’ve recently had some sort of surgery and could really use a little help. Or maybe you have a child who has a disability and you could really use some help with the child so that you could get some things done. Finally—maybe you’re just lonely and would really enjoy the company of some young people for an hour or two. Here’s how it works: once a month—usually on a Sunday—our youth will go to Sligo members and help them with light chores, yard work, shopping etc. But here’s the thing: we can’t help if we don’t know where the needs are.

Please stop by the Welcome Desk and give us your information below and we will be in contact with you. All you need to do is fill out the form to request these services. But be forewarned: these kids have energy and a passion for service!

So enjoy the blessings of summer. And let’s give our youth the blessing of serving others!

(by Kathy Roy Johnson)