



August 30, 2009  
Little Hocking Church of Christ

**The Little Hocking Church of Christ Welcomes You All!**

You are invited to study the Bible and  
worship God with us each week. We hope you enjoy being with us today.

***Elders:***

Bob Swain 315-5346, Gary Kehl 667-6735, Charlie Cramlet 989-2262

***Deacons:***

Harry Miller 989-2813, Bill Fisher 667-3491, David Eaton 667-6224

Brian Hall 989-0137, Jeremy Kehl 667-6735, Mark Fleak 551-9859

**Meeting Times: Sunday Morning Worship 9:00 am, Bible Classes 10:15 am**

**Evening Worship 6:00 pm**

**Wednesday Bible Study 7:00 p.m.**

**Church Address : Little Hocking Church of Christ, 708 Collins Rd,**

**P.O. Box 152, Little Hocking, OH 45742**

**Office Phone: 740-989-5137**

**Web Page: [www.lhcoc.com](http://www.lhcoc.com)**

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### ***Those who need our prayers***

- Andrew Waplinger, nephew to Rita Kehl has cancer. He is having surgery on his neck September 4th.
- Mark Bartlett, brain cancer and is starting radiation.
- Donna Newberry, Dave's sister is under going tests for cancer.
- Gary Wood, Missy Fleak's Grandfather has 2 crushed vertebrae's. Waiting to have surgery.
- Larry Wood, Missy Fleak's dad has 3 deteriorating disks in his neck.
- Nancy Gribble's sister diagnosed with colon cancer.
- Susan Lee is having trouble with her blood pressure and anxiety attacks.
- Lizel Crider is at Arcadia
- Nina Butterfield, has infection and is back in the hospital.
- Ruth Ann Gibbs, surgery to repair a hole in her heart.

Remember all those traveling and away from home.

### ***Book of the Month for September is***

#### ***Deuteronomy***

***The clothing giveaway is scheduled for September 24th. Please bring in your fall and winter clothing.***

***Silverado's -Sept. 14, 10:00 AM at Little Hocking park. Bring a sack lunch.***

#### ***Joint Fall Gospel Meeting***

***Plan now to attend with us!***

***7:00 Nightly***

***9/14 Barlow Speaker David Brothers***

***9/21 Blackburn Hills Speaker Dave Newberry***

***9/28 Little Hocking Speaker Charles Abby***

***10/5 Veto Speaker Mike Moore***

***10/12 Hickory Hills Speaker Dan Plum***

***Ladies Bible Class will begin on Sept. 8th, 6:30pm at the church building.***

***Anyone interested in playing softball please bring your glove and bat and meet at the Little Hocking park after evening services this Sunday.***

***Pantry Items needed are hot and cold cereal, veggies, instant potatoes, sugar and crackers. Missy Fleak will be out of town 9/2-9/14, contact Robin Cramlet at 989-2262 for assistance during this time.***

### *An Empty Nest*

This spring Sherry's dad made a home-made bluebird box for us (well, actually for the birds) and brought it to our house. He even placed it in our yard next to the woods for us before I got home from work. Aren't father-in-laws great (mother-in-laws too)? One day, not long after he had placed it there, while I was mowing I noticed a piece of grass dangling from the entrance hole. A couple weeks later I noticed that same piece of grass was still there. Well, needless to say, curiosity got the best of me so I went over there and decided to take a peek inside. I carefully tried to look through the hole to see if anybody was home, but I couldn't see very well at all. I figured if anybody was home, surely he or she would have noticed my presence and would have already scared me to death exiting the hole. I was glad I had my glasses on just in case, but nothing happened. Since I couldn't see through the hole I decided to remove the nail holding the front door closed just enough to be able to raise it from the bottom to get a better look inside.

When I stooped down and peered up into the box I first saw a perfectly constructed nest. The builder must have checked all the building codes because it was a nice nest, certainly "up to code". As my eyes rose up a little further much to my surprise there were two small eyes in that nest staring back at me over the top of it. The bird never moved. It just sat there quietly. I stopped moving and just stood there. We just looked at each other dumb founded, our eyes just inches apart from each other. After I got over the shock and realized somebody *was* home, I apologized for entering without knocking and as slowly and carefully as I could I shut the door and slid the nail back in place. There must have been something pretty valuable in that nest to that bird for it to stay there like that.

Sherry's uncle was at our house several weeks later and I asked him about the nest. He said after the eggs hatched and the young had flown away it was best to remove the nest. I guess it had served its purpose and wasn't needed anymore. Her uncle said many times the birds will build a new one two or three times during the course of the season. So he reached in and removed it. I shut the door again, replaced the nail, and we walked away.

While I was mowing this week I was thinking about how quickly things change. *Both* of my daughters are now off to college. The house is quieter than usual. I often wonder what they're doing and how things are going. The dog is still chasing the cat through the house and chewing up whatever he can find, but much has changed. As I was thinking about these things while riding on the mower, I looked to my left and there was the bluebird box. I turned the riding mower off and went over to it and decided to take a peek inside again. I hadn't done that since Sherry's uncle had been here and removed the old nest. Once again I carefully removed the nail, lifted the door, and peeked inside. There I saw another perfectly constructed nest just like before with one distinct difference.....it was already *empty*.

I don't know how many trips were made to and from that small opening to prepare those nests. But I know they were *carefully* constructed by the builders with a definite purpose in mind. I don't know how many birds grew up in those two nests. But I know they felt *secure* in it. I don't know how many trips were *tirelessly* made to that opening with food for their young. But I know it must have been enough and exactly what they needed in order to grow. I don't know what became of the occupants. I just know they have long since gone and its time to remove the empty nest again.

As parents, what kind of "nest" should we build? Do we "tirelessly" see that our children have the right kind of nourishment "spiritually" in order to grow? What will become of *them* when the nest is empty? Do you have something "valuable" in your nest to take care of while it is still there?

I hope my bluebird box has a "builder" next year.

In Him,

Bob

