

CITIZENS  
CONCERNED



BLAIR COUNTY  
CHAPTER

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Citizens Concerned for Human Life

# Blair County Life News

Volume 14 Number 4

Presenting the Pro-Life Message to Blair County, Pennsylvania

Fall 2022

## LIFE CHAIN

Sunday, October 2, 2022 • 2:00 - 3:00 p.m.  
17th St. and 9th Ave., Altoona, at Station Mall Medical Center



**On National LIFE CHAIN Sunday**, hundreds of thousands of participants silently stand in peaceful, prayerful witness to their commitment to love and protect the unborn and their mothers. LIFE CHAIN challenges the community to be aware and to care. The signs we hold deliver the messages that **Abortion Kills Children • Adoption is the Loving Option • Abortion Hurts Women • Pray to End Abortion • Lord, Forgive Us and Our Nation • Life—The First Inalienable Right • Jesus Forgives & Heals**. This peaceful, prayerful event provides a visual statement of pro-life unity to passersby. Signs will be provided. Please join us! For more information, call **814-946-0681**.



# **Annual Pro-Life Prayer Breakfast**

**Grove Hall of Immaculate Conception Church, New Germany**

**Saturday, October 29, 2022**  
**9:00 AM to 12:00PM**



## ***Featured Speaker: Nikki Bruni***

*Ms. Nikki Bruni is the coordinator of 40 Days for Life in Pittsburgh*  
[40DaysForLifePittsburgh.com](http://40DaysForLifePittsburgh.com)

40 Days For Life is an ecumenical pro-life campaign that aims to end abortion through prayer, fasting and peaceful all-day vigil in front of Planned Parenthood for 40 days.

After getting involved in pro-life work in 2009, Nikki eventually became the director of Pittsburgh's 40 Days for Life and has now led 23 consecutive campaigns. Check out her page [www.40daysforlifepittsburgh.com/author/nikkibruni/](http://www.40daysforlifepittsburgh.com/author/nikkibruni/)

Nikki works part-time as a hairdresser. She holds a BFA from Carnegie Mellon University and enjoys using her artistic abilities to glorify God. Her paintings, "Memorial of Mercy", "The Innocents", and "The Pieta" are tributes to the lives lost to abortion. The "Memorial of Mercy" has been displayed in over 60 churches. "The Innocents" has traveled to over 30 churches and her most recent memorial painting "The Pieta" has already been exhibited in a number of churches.

***Please Call Ann at (814) 472-8584 or Steve at (814) 241-2772  
for tickets and more information.***

***Sponsored by the Cambria/Somerset Chapter  
of Citizens Concerned for Human Life***  
**[www.ProLifeCambriaSomerset.org](http://www.ProLifeCambriaSomerset.org)**

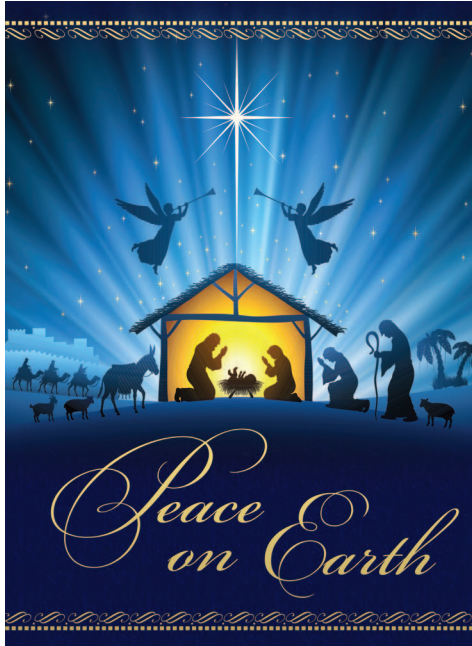
CITIZENS  
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For  
Human  
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BLAIR COUNTY  
CHAPTER

# Pro-Life Christmas Cards 2022

Celebrate the birth of Our Lord and the Giver of Life, and at the same time, help our fundraising efforts. Your purchase supports the pro-life work of the Blair County Chapter of Citizens Concerned for Human Life. To place an order or for more information, call **Pat 814-946-0681** or **Marge 814-505-5025**.



## Peace on Earth

This card portrays the Nativity scene in silhouette against a nighttime Bethlehem backdrop. Borders and text are in gold foil on brilliant shades of blue. White envelopes are included.

**Actual size: 4<sup>7/8</sup>" x 6<sup>3/4</sup>" - \$8.00 per pkg. of 11**

Verse:

*May the Prince of Peace and Lord of Life  
bless you this Christmas  
and throughout the coming year.*

## The Holy Family With Angel

This selection depicts the Holy Family with the Infant Jesus, wrapped in a blanket, on a bed of hay. The border and accents are in gold foil. White envelopes are included.

**Actual size: 4<sup>7/8</sup>" x 6<sup>3/4</sup>" - \$8.00 per pkg. of 11**

Verse:

*May the love of the Holy Family  
rekindle in our hearts  
the comfort of hope,  
the warmth of peace,  
and the joy of life.  
Merry Christmas!*



All cards made in the U.S.A. ©Barton Cotton, All Rights Reserved.

# Pray to End Abortion.

40 DAYS FOR LIFE

22,013 babies have been saved since 2007. 120 abortion centers closed and 242 abortion workers quit—worldwide.

*The next 40 Days for Life campaign  
is September 28 - November 6, 2022*  
Pittsburgh - 933 Liberty Ave.

Liberty Ave. & Smithfield St. Intersection  
For more information: [www.40daysforlife.com](http://www.40daysforlife.com)



# WHERE DO THE CANDIDATES STAND ON LIFE ISSUES?

## ★ PENNSYLVANIA GOVERNOR'S RACE ★



*Doug Mastriano*



*Josh Shapiro*

### WHERE DO THEY STAND ON TAXPAYER FUNDING OF ABORTION?

Doug Mastriano **SUPPORTS** a ban on having our hard-earned tax dollars pay for abortion. He **SUPPORTS** stopping tax dollars from funding the abortion industry.

Josh Shapiro **OPPOSES** a ban on taxpayer funding of abortions. He **OPPOSES** stopping tax dollars from funding the abortion industry.

### WHAT ABOUT LEGISLATION THAT PROTECTS PREBORN BABIES?

Doug Mastriano **SUPPORTS** legislation that protects preborn babies and their mothers from the harm of abortion. He has sponsored legislation that respects innocent human life.

Josh Shapiro **OPPOSES** legislation that protects preborn babies and their mothers from the harm of abortion. He is endorsed by pro-abortion PACs.

### WHAT ABOUT FORCING RELIGIOUS GROUPS TO PAY FOR ABORTION?

Doug Mastriano **SUPPORTS** a ban on forcing religious groups to pay for abortions. He **SUPPORTS** the *Little Sisters of the Poor* in their efforts to be shielded from the federal abortion mandate.

Josh Shapiro **OPPOSES** a ban on forcing religious groups to pay for abortions. He took the *Little Sisters of the Poor* to Court to try to force them to pay for abortion-causing drugs.



*There's always a reason to choose life.™*

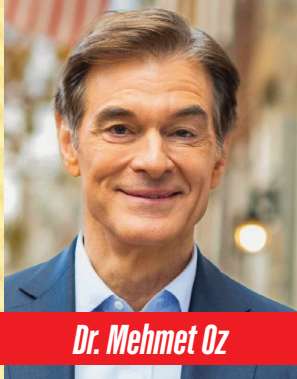
4800 Jonestown Rd., Suite 102, Harrisburg, PA 17109 • 717-541-0034 • [www.paprolife.org](http://www.paprolife.org)

*Please copy and widely distribute this flyer.*

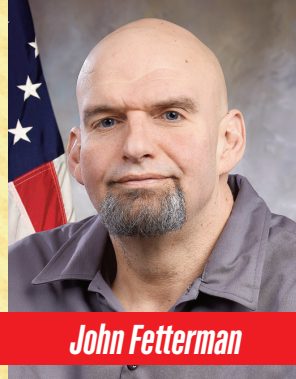


# WHERE DO THE CANDIDATES STAND ON LIFE ISSUES?

## ★ PENNSYLVANIA U.S. SENATE RACE ★



*Dr. Mehmet Oz*



*John Fetterman*

### WHERE DO THEY STAND ON TAXPAYER FUNDING OF ABORTION?

Dr. Oz **WILL NOT USE YOUR TAX DOLLARS** to pay for abortions.

John Fetterman **WILL USE YOUR TAX DOLLARS** to pay for abortions.

### Where do they stand on dismemberment abortions, in which fully-developed, living babies are killed in the womb?

Dr. Oz **SUPPORTS PROTECTING BABIES FROM DISMEMBERMENT ABORTIONS.**

John Fetterman **OPPOSES PROTECTING BABIES FROM DISMEMBERMENT ABORTIONS.**

### What about abortions during all nine months of pregnancy up to birth?

Dr. Oz **SUPPORTS PROTECTIONS FOR PREBORN BABIES AND THEIR MOTHERS.**

John Fetterman **SUPPORTS ABORTION** during all nine months of pregnancy up to birth. He is backed by pro-abortion PACs.



*There's always a reason to choose life.™*

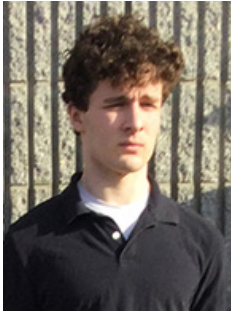
# 2022 Oratory Contest Winners

Printed in this issue are the entries of Third and Fourth-Place Senior Varsity winners, **John Sicree** and **Emily Longstreth**, respectively, and Third-Place Junior Varsity winner, **Matthew Levri**. John Sicree is a senior who is homeschooled and is the son of Andrew and Rebecca Sicree of Boalsburg. Emily is a senior at Great Commission School and is the daughter of Donald and Jennifer Longstreth of Altoona. Matthew Levri is a sophomore who is homeschooled and is the son of Ed and Maureen Levri of Altoona. First and Second-Place winning presentations were highlighted in the Spring and Summer 2022 issues of *Blair Life News*.

## The Hypocrisy of Abortion

By John Sicree

Third-Place Senior Varsity Winner



Sometimes the irony of things hits you like a brick wall. You realize that everything you've been doing is the opposite of what you should be doing. For former abortion clinic worker Julie, it was life-changing.

Working in an abortion clinic, she had been accustomed to seeing the cruelty of it all. It wasn't until during a regular conversation with the mother of her boyfriend, who didn't understand what Julie did for a living, commented, "It must be nice working with all those babies."

This comment shocked Julie, who must never have seen the victims of her abortions as babies. She had never thought of it like that before. The comment stuck with her, and she made the decision to leave the clinic soon after. Instead, she went to work with premature babies, a job that she found that really helped take care of babies. Julie had realized her job at the clinic was far from taking care of babies, but rather discarding them like waste.

Unfortunately, most cases don't end up like Julie's. Most people don't realize that abortion doesn't help either the mother or child, it just cares about pushing its agenda and beliefs in order to kill babies and make money.

Abortion clinics are known for their deception and hypocrisy. They assert that their work is faultless and any opposition to them is unjust—which is impossible for an industry that thrives on other's misfortunes and constantly turns from their own ideals for profit. That's why big abortion providers are constantly under fire for their hypocritical logic. They will always claim that their main goal is to empower women with safe options during pregnancy, but when they're given the chance to do this, they always change in favor of the easier and more profitable way out. Like a business, not like a care provider.

When legislation in Texas in 2013 forced abortion providers to meet basic safety standards of other out-patient surgery centers, they fought back, claiming it would prevent women from accessing healthcare. This just showed that they prioritize quantity of customers over the quality of care, since they were alright with having patients in unsafe conditions.

Furthermore, they were additionally required to have their abortionists have admittance privileges at their local

hospital, which would allow them to continue treatment in an emergency situation if it needed to be moved to the hospital. This too was met with hostility from all over.

Again, making you question if they actually want the best for their patients, given that this is a common guideline for care by other physicians.

Suspensions were proven to be right when clinics like Whole Women's Health in Texas were found to have unacceptable conditions when they were inspected. This included rusty machinery, unsterilized equipment, and poorly trained staff members. Despite this, the clinic still held up its false claim that it was assisting women and the evil pro-lifers just wanted to stop them.

This shows up again and again across the country in abortion clinics that claim they want the best for their patients, but continually fail to back it up with action.

In extreme cases, like the famous case of Kermit Gosnell, this causes the death of patients. His clinic in Philadelphia was allowed to operate under atrocious conditions and he and his staff were able to get away with horrible deeds for years without being stopped or even called out by the state or other abortion providers. These conditions included corroded appliances, blocked exits, expired medicine, and incompetent workers. This culminated in a young woman's death in 2009 and was followed by a revelation of dozens of cases of infanticide.

How can you justify an occupation that so blatantly goes against its self-proclaimed goal?

Additionally, big abortion providers have again proven through their actions that profits, not care, is their primary focus. After New Hampshire enacted a law that required a minor's planned abortion to be reported to their parent or guardian, a reasonable guideline protecting minors, a Planned Parenthood moved just across state lines to Vermont where they could avoid that rule. Again, they complain and avoid guidelines solely for the sake of continuing their shady business.

On a bigger scale, Planned Parenthood has been notorious for planning where their facilities will be built. According to a *Townhall* report, 86% of Planned Parenthoods are located in African American or Latino communities in just 25 counties. These facilities accounted for 30% of all abortions in the U.S. that year. Ironic, considering that they claim they have changed from their racist founding. Plus, if their goal was healthcare for all women, they would spread out their "services" for all women. Instead, they target minority communities, that they claim to care about, and kill their children for profit.

*continued on page 12*

*As a life-long, pro-life Catholic, I mistakenly thought I knew almost everything there was to know about life issues. That changed several years ago when I began working for the Healthcare Advocacy and Leadership Organization (HALO) whose mission is to be “a voice for the medically vulnerable.” Previously, I had not realized that hospitals commonly have “medical futility” policies which dictate that they can withhold or withdraw life-sustaining treatment, even against patients’ or families’ wishes, based on arbitrary quality of life and/or cost-benefit judgments. I also didn’t know that “brain death” is a legal fiction. While I wish there were space to fully address both topics, the below article focuses on “brain death.”*

## Can A Person Die More Than Once?

By Anne O’Meara

**C**elebrity Anne Heche’s recent death brought to mind William Shakespeare’s words in Henry IV, “**I care not, a man can die but once; we owe God and death.**” [Emphasis added.] Many in the media appear not to agree with this truth, as numerous news outlets announced Ms. Heche’s death on two separate dates.

On August 5, 2022, 53-year-old Anne Heche crashed her Mini Cooper into a Los Angeles home, suffering a traumatic brain injury that left her in a coma. On August 12, it was widely reported in the media that Ms. Heche had died the previous day. Her representative, however, told *Fox News Digital* that reports of Ms. Heche’s death were false—“she was declared brain dead last night but has been kept on life support for organ donation.”

Under California law, “brain dead” is considered legally dead. Thus, the media’s and the public’s confusion is understandable.

While it is true that Ms. Heche had been classified as brain dead on August 11, she did not stop living until August 14, after organ recipient matches were found, her organs were surgically excised, and her life support was removed resulting in irreversible cessation of her respiratory and circulatory systems. (Her healthy heart may now be beating in another person.) So why the confusion about her date of death? Why is “brain death” legally considered death in some jurisdictions?

To answer this vitally important question, it is necessary to highlight a few facts about brain death.

Before organ transplantation became possible, declaring a person dead was uncomplicated. All signs of life were gone. The body was cold, blue, and stiff. Now, brain-injured patients who possess many signs of life can be declared dead in order to procure fresh, healthy organs for transplantation.

Where did the term “brain death” originate? In 1968, an ad hoc committee met at Harvard Medical School. The committee’s report stated, “Our primary purpose is to define irreversible coma as a new criterion for death...Obsolete criteria for the definition of death can lead to controversy in obtaining organs for transplantation.” Notice that the committee’s purpose was not to determine if an irreversible coma is truly death. Rather, it was to establish “a new criterion for death” in order to accommodate the desire to acquire organs for transplantation. That was the birth of “brain death.”

The Uniform Determination of Death Act (UDDA) subsequently provided two definitions of death:

- Cardio-Pulmonary Death: The irreversible cessation of circulatory and respiratory functions.
- Brain Death: The irreversible cessation of all functions of the entire brain, including the brain stem.

In all 50 states, some variation of the UDDA now statutorily provides two definitions for death. An individual may be legally declared dead using either definition.

But some patients who have been declared brain dead have survived and recovered, either partially or fully. How many more would have survived long-term if they had been given prompt and appropriate treatment for their brain injuries? How many more would have recovered if the medical team had not considered treatment futile?

For instance, in 2007, 21-year-old Zack Dunlap was diagnosed brain dead after suffering a catastrophic brain injury. He was saved when a relative scraped his foot with a pocketknife and he jerked it away. Just months later, Zack was walking and talking. He recalled hearing a doctor say he was dead and being “mad inside” but unable to move. Proponents of brain death claim that Zack’s case was a failure to follow the American Academy of Neurology guidelines for determination of brain death. Even if one believes brain death is death, this explanation does not instill confidence in the reliability of brain death determinations.

On December 9, 2013, 13-year-old Jahi McMath suffered extensive bleeding and cardiac arrest following surgery to remove her tonsils and adenoids at Children’s Hospital Oakland, in California. Subsequently, she was determined to be “brain dead.” Jahi’s family believed she was profoundly disabled but not dead, and they sought to have life support continued and the brain death diagnosis overturned. Dr. Paul Byrne, a neonatologist who is a stalwart defender of life, stated in court documents that he witnessed Jahi moving in the hospital and that he considered her to be alive.

Nevertheless, the family lost their court appeals. To make a long story short, Jahi was moved to New Jersey, the only state in the U.S. with a law allowing religious objection to a diagnosis of death based solely on neurological criteria (i.e., a diagnosis of brain death). After moving Jahi to New Jersey, Jahi’s mother lovingly cared for her until, on June 22, 2018, Jahi died from abdominal complications unrelated to her neurological condition.

*continued on page 14*

# Planned Parenthood: the #3 cause of death in America in 2020 (and deadlier than COVID)

Several days ago, Planned Parenthood released its 2020-2021 Annual Report. In the past, it was necessary to have a long, detailed post explaining how their own numbers showed their true commitment to abortion over everything else—despite their public relations image, aided and abetted by a largely compliant media.

Given their advocacy turn in recent years, it shouldn't require that at all, but nevertheless, there are still millions of people out there who have absorbed the talking point that "Planned Parenthood does so much more than abortion." So, once again, let's detail the numbers of the leader of the Abortion Industry.

2020 was yet another year proving how Planned Parenthood is increasing their commitment to abortion, even in the midst of a global pandemic. In fact, Planned Parenthood killed more human beings in America than COVID did.

Despite drastic declines in other services, their abortions once again increased from 354,871 in 2019 to **383,460 in 2020**.

Women who go to Planned Parenthood aren't getting actual pregnancy or parenting counseling, but a sales pitch for abortion. We can see this in their adoption referrals numbers. Their number of adoption referrals declined from 2,667 in 2019 to 1,940. That means for every adoption referral they do, they did 198 abortions.

How do we make sense of 383,460 abortions? Well, you paid Planned Parenthood to kill more Americans in 2020 than:

- #4: COVID (350,831 according to the CDC's 2020 numbers)
- #5: Accidents (200,955)
- #6: Stroke (160,264)

Planned Parenthood is deadlier than:

- The Axis Powers in World War II (291,557 deaths in combat from 1941 to 1945)
- The Confederacy (364,511 Union deaths from 1861 to 1865)
- Climate change (250,000 additional deaths a year according to the World Health Organization)
- Vladimir Putin (93,000 total Ukrainian and Russian deaths from war as of September 14, 2022, according to the Ukrainian government)
- The Opioid Epidemic (68,630 overdose deaths in 2020)

## Declining Services

These numbers aren't just a one-time issue because of pandemic lockdowns; Planned Parenthood's commitment to everything other than abortion has been declining since 2009 and the Obama Administration.

From 2019 to 2020 services:

- 10.4 million services down to 8.7 million services:



Planned Parenthood inflates this number by double or even triple counting appointments

- 2.4 million overall clients down to 2.16
- 270,000 breast exams down to 174,000
- 1.8 million contraceptive clients down to 1.5 million
- 5.4 million STI tests down to 4.4 million

Those are all the services Planned Parenthood traditionally held out as their core services. Planned Parenthood still fudges their numbers enough to show that abortions are only "4% of their services." But, given their pregnancy testing is simply a means to identify possible abortion patients, 44% of their clients had pregnancy tests, and 18% had abortions.

## Making Bank Off Declining Services

What sort of business or nonprofit makes more money in government grants and increases their profits while providing fewer and fewer services every year? Why, Planned Parenthood of course.

Look at some of these ridiculous financial statistics, from 2019 to 2020:

- Assets up from \$2.34 billion to \$2.54 billion
- Gross revenue up from \$1.64 billion to \$1.71 billion
- Tax funding up from \$618 million to \$633 million
- Profits from \$69.7 million to \$133.7 million

Planned Parenthood lost 240,000 clients in 2020, but increased their profits by \$64 million! With more than a third of their budget paid for by taxpayers, you are paying to line their pockets and foot their lobbying bills.

## The Abortion Racket

It shouldn't need to be pointed out, but something is gravely wrong in a "non-profit" that keeps losing massive numbers of clients while dramatically increasing their profits on the backs of taxpayers.

In the last 10 years, this "reproductive health" organization has lost 840,000 clients and decreased contraceptives by 30%, while increasing revenues 40%, increasing tax funding 18%, and increasing abortions 17%.

You are being scammed by a political organization that is deadlier than COVID and every other villain held up



in national narratives as a concern requiring immediate action and sustained focus.

While the end of *Roe v. Wade* will no doubt have some impact on Planned Parenthood's mission, this billion-dollar corporation of death will remain a top-10 cause of death in America into the near future. This killing must end.

—*Right to Life of Michigan, September 15, 2022*

### Need help in a crisis pregnancy?

#### Every Life Matters (ELM)

1351 Logan Ave., Tyrone  
814-650-7899; TheELMPSS@gmail.com

#### Precious Life, Inc.

1716 12th Ave., Altoona  
814-944-2669; preciouslifeinc.com

#### Real Alternatives, Inc.

1-888-LIFE-AID; realalternatives.org

#### Post-abortion counseling

##### Project Rachel

814-884-8000; ProjectRachel@dioceseaj.org

##### Rachel's Vineyard

877 HOPE 4 ME (877-467-3463)  
rachelsvineyard.org/

##### Family Life

Diocese of Altoona/Johnstown  
Pastoral Guidance

814-886-5551; familylife@dioceseaj.org

## Regional Chapters Citizens Concerned for Human Life

**The Bedford County Chapter** is sponsoring its annual **Life Chain**, on October 2nd, 2:30-3:30 p.m., from Bedford Elementary School to St. Thomas Church, along Old Route 220/N. Richard St. Signs available, 2:00-2:30 p.m., school parking lot. We invite those attending the **Bedford County Fall Festival**, weekends of October 1-2 and 8-9, to visit the Bedford Chapter table, corner of Richard and Penn Streets.

**The Cambria/Somerset Chapter** will hold its **2022 Annual Pro-Life Breakfast** on October 29, 9:00 a.m.-12:00 p.m., Grove Hall of Immaculate Conception Church, New Germany. See flier on page 2 of this newsletter. Cambria/Somerset will sponsor two **Life Chains** on October 2: 1:30-3:00 p.m. from St. Benedict Church, along Rt. 219 through Carrolltown. Contact Bill and Patti **814-344-6521**—also Cambria City, 1:00-2:00 p.m. from former St. Columba Church, along Broad St. Contact Chris, **814-418-8252**.

**The Centre County Chapter** will hold its **Life Chain** on October 2, 2:00-3:00 p.m., 900 West College Ave., State College. Contact Susan Rogacs, **814-238-9590**.

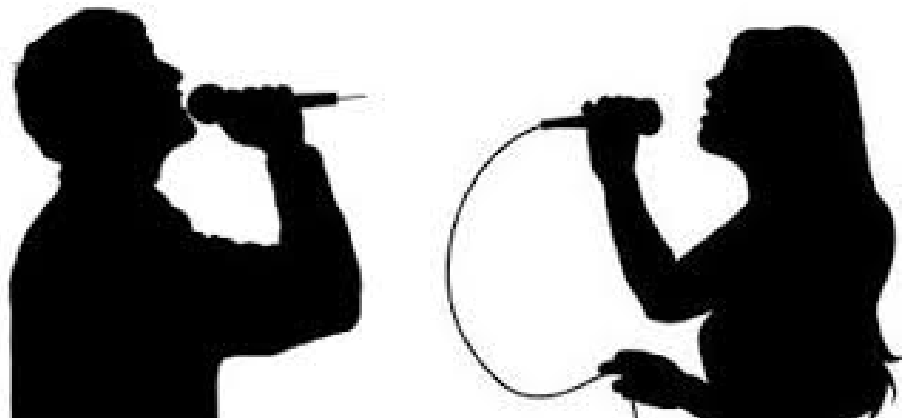
## Songs that tell the truth about abortion

By Jonathon Van Maren

Since the overturning of *Roe v. Wade*, musicians and artists of every stripe have come forward to express their fury. Lady Gaga dedicated her Chromatica Ball tour set to abortion rights. Rage Against the Machine committed a cut of its tour proceeds to abortion groups. Billie Eilish, who previously delivered profanity-laced rants onstage about abortion after the passage of the Texas Heartbeat Act, told her fans that it was “a really, really dark day for women in the U.S.” At the Glastonbury Festival,

rapper Megan Thee Stallion led chants of “My body, my motherf\*\*\*ing choice,” and Phoebe Bridgers started chants of “F\*\*\* the Supreme Court!” And on it goes.

The music industry's support for the abortion industry is nothing new. In the 1990s, the organization Rock for Choice channelled artists' advocacy into fundraising for abortion groups. Rock legend Janis Joplin became a financial benefactor of the Tijuana clinic where she had procured her own (botched) abortion. Frank Sinatra's mother earned the gruesome nickname “Hatpin Dolly” for her long practice of performing illegal abortions (although her son was purportedly devastated to discover that his wife Ava Gardner had aborted two of their children). Rock 'n' roll, after all, is slang for sex—but it is the babies who pay the primary price for free love.



Considering the music industry's support for abortion, it is revealing to consider how the artists and others in the industry actually portray the experience. A handful are cruel, even gleeful—in his biography, Marilyn Manson related the abortion of his child in graphic terms, describing the doctor “tearing out the brain of our child with a pair of forceps.” But most admit to feeling depression or even horror at the experience. Steven Tyler of Aerosmith described the saline abortion of his child to a friend: “It comes out dead. I was pretty devastated. In my mind I'm going...what have I done?” Even Joplin admitted that she regretted her abortion and that she believed it had worsened her psychological struggles.

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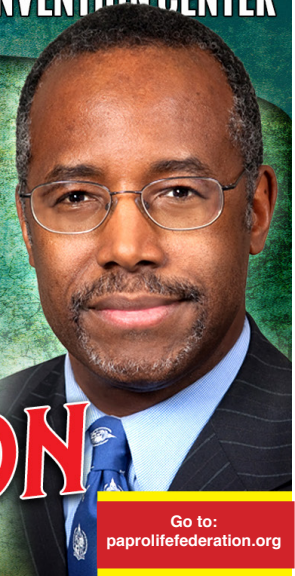
**FRIDAY, OCTOBER 21, 2022 • NEW LOCATION: HERSHEY LODGE & CONVENTION CENTER**

# Celebrate Life!

## BANQUET 2022

*World renowned neurosurgeon and  
staunch advocate for every life at every stage -  
from womb to tomb.*

FEATURING  
**DR. BEN  
CARSON**



Go to:  
[paprolifefederation.org](http://paprolifefederation.org)

### *Once to Every Man and Nation*

Once to every man and nation  
Comes the moment to decide,  
In the strife of truth and falsehood,  
For the good or evil side;  
Some great cause, some great decision,  
Offering each the bloom or blight,  
And the choice goes by forever  
'Twixt that darkness and that light.

Then to side with truth is noble,  
When we share her wretched crust,  
Ere her cause bring fame and profit,  
And 'tis prosp'rous to be just;  
Then it is the brave man chooses  
While the coward stands aside.  
Till the multitude make virtue  
Of the faith they had denied.

Though the cause of evil prosper,  
Yet the truth alone is strong;  
Though her portion be the scaffold,  
And upon the throne be wrong;  
Yet that scaffold sways the future,  
And, behind the dim unknown,  
Standeth God within the shadow  
Keeping watch above his own.

*~ James Russell Lowell, 1845 ~*



### **Every Life Matters (ELM) Pregnancy Support Services**

*Services we offer:*  
*Free Pregnancy Tests*  
*Limited Obstetric Ultrasounds*  
*Parenting and Prenatal Education*  
*Post-Abortion Recovery and Material Resources*

### **Upcoming Event 10th Annual Fundraising Banquet**

Thursday, October 13th, 6:00-8:00 p.m.

New Life Worship Center

600 Ritts Rd., Pincroft exit off I-99

Donation

Keynote speaker - **Bethany Bomberger**  
author of "Pro-Life Kids"

and founder of Radiance Life Foundation.

Child care will be provided.

RSVP no later than October 6th.

Contact: 814-650-7899

Please send donations to this address:

Carol Steffen, Executive Director

1351 Logan Ave., Tyrone, Pennsylvania 16686

Phone: 814-650-7899

[TheELMPSS@gmail.com](mailto:TheELMPSS@gmail.com) ♦ [www.elmcenters.org](http://www.elmcenters.org)

*All material and monetary donations to ELM  
are tax-deductible. Make checks payable to:*

*Every Life Matters (ELM).*

*Thank you!*

## Songs That Tell the Truth

continued from page 9

Trauma and regret are far more common than “Shout Your Abortion” defiance. Suzi Quatro admitted, “I couldn’t get out of my mind who that first baby would have become...Any woman who’s been through an abortion and tells you it was nothing is lying.” Sharon Osbourne concurred: “It was the worst thing I ever did...I howled my way through it, and it was horrible. I would never recommend it to anyone because it comes back to haunt you. When I tried to have children, I lost three—I think it was because something had happened to my cervix during the abortion.”

Indeed, political propaganda can deceive—but art derived from experience rarely does. Madonna, a fierce abortion activist, told *TIME* in 1996 that she regretted her abortion, even though she had believed her lifestyle to be incompatible with motherhood at the time. When she sang about a girl being pressured to kill her child in her 1986 hit “Papa Don’t Preach,” she portrayed the expectant mother pushing back:

“Papa don’t preach I’m in trouble deep / Papa don’t preach, I’ve been losing sleep / But I made up my mind, I’m keeping my baby / I’m gonna keep my baby.”

Rapper Nicki Minaj confessed that she regretted her abortion and sang about the lost baby in “All Things Go”: “My child with Aaron / would’ve been sixteen any minute / So in some ways I feel like ‘Caiah is the both of them / It’s like he’s ‘Caiah’s little angel, looking over him.” Singer Beth Torbert, known to her public as Bif Naked, named a song after a baby she aborted when she was 18: “I hope you can forgive me: my baby Chotee, forgive me.” Stevie Nicks of Fleetwood Mac also named a song after the baby she and Don Henley aborted, “Sara”: “Wait a minute baby / Stay with me a while / Said you’d give me light / But you never told me about the fire.” And Sinéad O’Connor imagined her lost aborted daughter in “My Special Child”:

Think about my little girl  
Her yellow skin and her dark curl  
And how her father’s heart was frozen

I spoke to her and I said:  
“You won’t regret the mother you have chosen.”  
I lied. Where’s she tonight?

One of the most chilling portrayals of abortion in song is found in “Bodies” by the Sex Pistols. John Lydon wrote the story after a mentally unstable fan allegedly showed up on his doorstep, holding an aborted baby in a plastic bag. In his autobiography, he relates that this young woman described her abortions in excruciating detail. One line in the song sums up what he heard: “Throbbing squirm, gurgling bloody mess.”

As America enters the post-*Roe* era and her artists rally for the abortion industry, what should we believe? Should it be their political sloganeering, their fat donations, their profane chants? Or should it be the truths they tell us when they sing of nightmares and pain and longing? Should we believe them when they tell us abortion is about reproduc-



tive health, or when they sing of the lost little boys and girls that still clutch at their hearts in quiet moments? When the artists speak, they tell us abortion is a fundamental right. But when they sing, they tell us that when the songs give way to silence, the yawning emptiness is large enough to swallow entire lives.

Jonathon Van Maren is a public speaker, writer, and pro-life activist.

—*First Things*, September 1, 2022



***How AWESOME is it  
that the SAME GOD  
who created MOUNTAINS and OCEANS  
and GALAXIES  
thought the WORLD  
needed one of YOU too!  
...and that there is not another exactly like YOU,  
nor has there ever been (or ever will be),  
among the 117 BILLION other people  
God lovingly created who have inhabited the earth  
for the past 192,000 years.  
And that really is an AWESOME thought!***

## The Hypocrisy of Abortion

continued from page 6

On top of all of this, if they truly cared about you and your “choice,” they would keep you informed. Instead of fighting sonogram and ultrasound requirements, they would allow you to be informed about what’s going on inside of you. Instead of avoiding talks about the side-effects of abortion, they would inform you about the numerous physical and psychological consequences that could happen. Instead of pushing for just abortion, they could direct you to pregnancy resource centers and adoption centers. But they don’t. More caring guidelines mean more expenses, which is too much for abortion centers.

Abortion providers and clinics instead fight all of these measures, claiming that they are unnecessary obstacles solely for the purpose of preventing abortion. In reality, these actions inform women about what abortion falsely claims to do: her choices. Abortion gives you a one-size-fits-all way out, when in fact, you have many options for your child by choosing life.

Sadly, most of the world doesn’t realize the deception of the abortion industry. There are a few people, like Julie from the clinic, who come to terms with how backward the abortion industry is. Most people believe in the lie that says abortion cares and is the answer to your problems. An industry that cares wouldn’t go through all the hoops that it does in order to hide its true nature.

Hopefully, there are more people like Julie out in the world, who will leave abortion and all of its hypocrisy for a more honest lifestyle. ♦

## Pro-Life versus Pro-Choice

Emily Longstreth

Fourth-Place Senior Varsity Winner



I know a woman who was raped and became pregnant. She faced many difficult choices. She was not yet married and very young, yet she decided to keep the child. Her fiancée married her and loved the child as his own. She saw the value in the little baby. She knew it would be wrong to get rid of her.

The debate of pro-life versus pro-choice has been going on for decades. Before reading the book, *Unplanned*, by Abby Johnson, I had a few misconceptions of my own about abortion. Abby’s story helped me to realize the emotional and mental struggles women face after their abortions, something I never thought about before.

Abby Johnson, a former Planned Parenthood clinic director, is now a pro-life advocate. It took two personal abortions, many emotional struggles, and years of working in an abortion clinic for her to truly see the harm in abortion and realize the value in human life.

When Abby found out she was pregnant, she, along with many other women viewed the baby as a “problem”

rather than a precious human life. Many women become very nervous and scared when they find out they are pregnant, and they think the best solution is to get rid of the baby to make their fears go away.

When Abby got pregnant a second time, she kept thinking to herself, “if I have this child...” (*Johnson 45*). She did not realize she was already a mother.

This common misconception happens when women find out they are pregnant. However, once the child is conceived, the woman is already a mother. She does not have a choice. Many women unfortunately do not realize until after they have an abortion that the baby was a living human. By that time, it is too late.

After having abortions, many women face extreme emotional trauma and relationship problems. It is possible people do not understand the severity of abortion until they experience it firsthand. For example, Abby Johnson did not decide to quit her job at Planned Parenthood until she was asked to help with an abortion.

When she saw the little baby struggling for its life, she knew what she had done. For the rest of her life, she will most likely have thoughts about that little baby and her babies who were aborted as well.

Along with Abby, women who have abortions often feel guilty later in life for what they have done. Every Mother’s Day, they will remember that child. Every year on the baby’s due date, they will remember that child. When they find out one of their friends or family members is pregnant, they will remember that child.

Abortion is not a simple thing; it causes many long-term problems. Abortion can cause serious relationship problems. About 50-70% of couples break up after having an abortion. These failed relationships can also result in emotional trauma.

Abby Johnson’s story helped me to realize the struggles women go through after they have abortions, because they do not understand the value of human life before it is too late. Human lives are a gift from God; they are not a “problem” that needs a quick solution. It is beneficial that Abby Johnson realized the value of human life, because now she is able to help those who were in the same place as she was to find jobs as pro-life advocates as well. They can speak out against abortion and explain why it is wrong to others.

There are many different reasons people decide to be pro-choice and why people may think abortion is beneficial. Some of the most common reasons include rape, not being ready to be a parent, not being able to afford the baby, the baby is unhealthy, or they just don’t want to be a parent. They also may say that a fetus is just a clump of cells or that the baby is not able to feel anything during an abortion. However, these are never reasons to kill a child, and there are ways to have the baby and give it a loving family and home.

In Valerie Tarico’s article, *Why I am Pro-Abortion, Not Just Pro-Choice*, she argues that abortion is necessary for female empowerment and equality. However, it is not the woman’s choice whether she has this baby. The baby has

already been created and formed by God. Human beings cannot choose whether they can bring life into the world or not, because the woman who is pregnant does not own her child. Abortion is not a women's right because nobody has the right to kill anyone they simply don't want.

Another argument in this article is that unplanned pregnancy trivializes motherhood. However, just because the pregnancy was not planned by humans, does not mean it wasn't supposed to happen. One of the largest arguments from those who are pro-choice is that if a woman is raped, she shouldn't be forced to keep the child. Yet only 1% of women who have abortions claim that it is due to rape. Even if a woman is raped, it is still no excuse to have an abortion. The baby could be given up for adoption, where the child could grow up in a loving and caring home with people who are ready to have a child. The mother could always keep the baby, and grow to love the child that God has blessed her with.

Those who are pro-choice may argue that women should be able to have abortions if they are busy with school, don't have the money for a child, or simply just don't want to be a parent. If a woman or couple does not want to have a child, they should not participate in an act that causes a child to be made, without realizing pregnancy could occur.

All actions have consequences, and it's something we all must think about before we get stuck in a situation in which we do not want to be in. The number one reason women decide to have an abortion is because the baby will interfere with the stage of life they are in right now.

When women have abortions for these reasons, they are choosing to kill a child rather than bring them into a world where they may suffer in an orphanage, foster care, or even in their own home. The truth is, all humans will suffer because we live in a sinful world, but death is not better than suffering. It is not right to kill a child just because the mother thinks she is unable to give the child a wonderful life.

Some may argue that a fetus is just a "clump of cells," or the fetus does not feel anything during an abortion. However, when a baby is conceived, the zygote contains all of the genetic makeup it needs to thrive as a living human being. All the DNA is there. The fetus is alive and can undoubtedly feel pain during an abortion.

In Abby Johnson's book *Unplanned*, she explains that she was able to see the baby squirming around and fighting for its life in the womb. There is no doubt that it is a living baby. Those who are pro-choice use language to distort one's view of a fetus. For example, they use terms such as "pregnancy" instead of baby or fetus, because "eliminating a pregnancy" does not sound as gruesome as "murdering a baby."

There are many reasons someone who is pro-choice thinks abortion is necessary and acceptable, but according to science and morality, abortion is murder, and the children are alive and deserve to be brought into the world and be taken care of.

Just as those who are pro-choice have reasons for choosing their argument, those who are pro-life have reasons

to support their argument as well. When examining our reasons for an argument, we can ask ourselves four questions. The first one being, is abortion the truth?

Abortion, to those who are pro-choice, is the elimination of a pregnancy. However, it is known that the child is alive and can feel pain. Therefore, abortion is not the truth.

The next question we may ask ourselves is, is abortion fair to all concerned? That answer, of course, would be no. Abortion is not fair to the human lives being killed in which they have no say what happens to them.

We can ask ourselves, does abortion build goodwill and better friendships? That answer, of course, would also be no. People get into debates and arguments often about the topic of abortion. Families and friendships are torn apart. It creates turmoil and guilt.

The final question we can ask ourselves would be, will it be beneficial to all concerned? That answer would be no as well. It is not beneficial to the lives that are taken, or the women who experience emotional trauma and guilt after their abortions.

After asking myself these questions, I know I am pro-life. I am pro-life because I know that God knows everything about us and has a plan for us before we are even born. I know I am pro-life because each human being is made unique and for a specific purpose, according to Psalm 139.

The woman from my story at the beginning was my great-grandmother. She decided not to abort my grandmother. Instead, she realized that God had a plan for this little baby, and she saw the value in that. Even though it may have been tough for her to get married quickly and raise this child, she loved her and gave her a good home. If my great-grandmother had decided to abort her child, I would not be here today. ♦

## Do Unto Lobsters

Matthew Levri, Third-Place Junior Varsity Winner



So, apparently there are people proposing laws about taking better care of lobsters? Ahead of unborn babies? I would like to address this. So, in response, I hobbled together this poorly-written essay to try to pull some tiny degree of attention toward this subject, and hopefully get a few laughs, so please bear with me.

In an article called, *Backlash Over Legal Reforms that Protect Lobsters from the Boiling Pot*, lawmakers in the UK proposed "protection for octopuses, lobsters and crabs from unnecessary suffering." The bill is called, "The Animal Welfare (Sentience) Bill." The bill will also allow for adding other species, "if there is good evidence that those particular species are sentient."

Now I would like to compare this concern for lobsters to concern for unborn babies through three different avenues: morality, respect, and sentience. This sounds incredibly

*continued on page 14*

## Do Unto Lobsters

continued from page 13

boring, but I will do my best to make it as entertaining as possible, but don't get your hopes up. Then again, if you're still listening this far, you probably weren't prepared for this much amusement.

The first one I want to talk about is morality. Concern for animal welfare, such as lobsters, isn't always bad. It could be really good because it promotes compassion and consideration, thoughtfulness, etc.

It would be nice to have people that are more virtuous. But if we could also have concern for the welfare of unborn humans, we could actually have more people. And then they can grow in virtue.

Second, respect. The first definition for respect is, "a feeling of deep admiration for someone for his abilities or qualities." It sounds like with new discoveries of lobsters' qualities, people are trying to give them more respect than they had before, maybe more respect than they deserve.

A second definition of respect is, "due regard for the feelings, or rights, of others." I guess with lobsters, we can show some respect, but with the unborn humans, we have a duty to show reverence.

Reverence is defined as "a feeling of deep respect, love, and awe, as for something sacred."

Our culture just can't seem to keep anything straight. Our culture values animals more than babies. Having such a twisted society and such a way of looking down at human life in this way goes against our human instincts, robbing us of our true purpose and fulfillment. So, we're doing something, but it's not quite right.

Third, sentient. Now in the article, they used the word, "sentient." Which really stood out to me. I always thought that being sentient really meant being human, and having a greater level of thought and an awareness of morality... which I doubt lobsters have. And the authors described them as being able to feel pain. We don't know how much pain animals can really feel, and maybe we never will.

But, we know humans feel pain. And we're going to do nothing but hurt ourselves by robbing them of the joys of life. And why would it matter if these babies do feel pain anyway? If I take enough drugs, to the point where I am completely numb, I can't feel pain. But that doesn't mean that it's any less of a crime to kill me. This is really no different—except, we know they feel pain. They resist abortion. What's more pure or natural than a child, untouched by morality? If these humans who don't know sin reject abortion and cling to life, why can't we?

Feeling pain shouldn't really matter. All that matters is that it's a human life. A member of the human family. And that's what matters to God.

In the eyes of God, a lobster is a lobster. But a human, no matter what age, is infinitely more precious. Because He came, suffered, and died for everyone. Not for the lobsters. Where in the Bible does it say, "Whatsoever ye do to the least of my lobsters (and various other invertebrate species), that ye do unto me?" ♦

## Can a Person Die More Than Once

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The Catholic Church has been clear about the relationship between organ donation, brain death, and actual death. The Catechism of the Catholic Church (2296) states, "Organ donation after death is a noble and meritorious act and is to be encouraged as an expression of generous solidarity." However, the same paragraph goes on to say, "**it is not morally admissible directly to bring about the disabling mutilation or death of a human being, even in order to delay the death of other persons.**" [Emphasis added.]

We also have the words of Pope Benedict XVI, who, in 2008, addressed attendees at an International Congress organized by the Pontifical Academy for Life, which was tasked with evaluating organ transplantation. He stated that "individual vital organs cannot be extracted except ex cadavere [from a cadaver]."

So, when did Anne Heche die? Was it August 11, when she was declared brain dead, or did she actually die on August 14, when her circulatory and respiratory systems irreversibly ceased to function due to excision of her vital organs and removal of life support? In the words of retired anesthesiologist Dr. Heidi Klessig, whose own professional experience with brain death and organ harvesting shook her to her core:


...I think that the fact that she was "declared" dead but then kept alive for...two days on life support says it all. A dead person cannot be kept alive.

Anne Heche was still biologically and spiritually alive at the time of her...organ harvest. Up until that time her recovery was still possible...*The Washington Post* and the *New York Times* were correct when they...refused to publish her obituary until after her death by organ harvesting.

I find myself asking, "Had Anne Heche's medical team not declared her brain dead, not given up and considered treating her to be medically futile, could she have partially or fully recovered from her brain injury?" We'll never know.

—HALO (*Healthcare Advocacy and Leadership Organization*). A voice for the medically vulnerable; defending the lives and safety of persons facing the grave consequences of healthcare rationing and unethical practices, especially those at risk of euthanasia and assisted suicide—[www.halovoice.org](http://www.halovoice.org)

—September 2022



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## From the President's Desk

### A Time to Choose

An important election will be upon us on November 8, 2022. We cannot endorse candidates, but we are permitted to point out the differences between them.

Our local representatives, Congressman John Joyce, State Senator Judy Ward, Representatives Lou Schmitt and Jim Gregory have all supported the pro-life issues while serving their constituents admirably.

Congressman John Joyce is a leading voice for the pro-life caucus in the House of Representatives and, because he is a physician, his views are well respected.

State Senator Ward has been recognized for her leadership in defending life in the Senate, recently introducing a pro-life state constitutional amendment preventing taxpayer dollars for abortion. Her opponent, Carol Taylor, is a proponent of "reproductive freedom," a euphemism for abortion.

Rep. Schmitt is unopposed and, like Rep. Gregory, has been endorsed by the PA Pro-Life Political Action Committee. Both supported legislation in support of protecting unborn lives.

Jim Gregory's opponent is a mother of three daughters, but she did not respond to the questionnaire from the Pro-Life Political Action Committee.

The Republican candidate for governor, Douglas Mastriano, has a pro-life voting record, while his opponent, Josh Shapiro, wanted the Little Sisters of the Poor to pay for abortions.

The Republican candidate for the U.S. Senate, Dr. Mehmet Oz, is opposed to requiring us to pay for abortions, while his opponent, John Fetterman, opposes any protections for unborn children and would require us to pay for abortion.

When it is time to vote, remember the babies and who will support them with their votes.

*Choose Life, then, that you and your descendants may live. —Deuteronomy*

*R. Thomas Forr, Jr., President*

*Blair County Chapter, Citizens Concerned for Human Life*

### Abortion is...

*One more heart that will never beat again.*

*Two more eyes that will never see light.*

*Two more hands that will never touch or feel.*

*Two more legs that will never run for miles.*

*Two more lips that will never speak a word.*

*One more mouth that will never know a smile.*

*~ Queen Susan the Gentle's friend ~*



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## Georgia opens HOV lanes for pregnant women after recognizing personhood of preborn

By *Bridget Sielicki*

Georgia officials have approved the use of high occupancy vehicle (HOV) lanes for pregnant women, consistent with the state's recognition of preborn children as legal persons.

Following the overturn of *Roe v. Wade*, the state's law protecting preborn children with detectable heartbeats was able to take effect. That law and the subsequent court ruling *Sistersong Women of Color Reproductive Justice Collective v. Brian Kemp*, gave official personhood status to preborn children, noting that, "It shall be the policy of the state of Georgia to recognize unborn children as natural persons." The law goes on to clarify that a natural person "means any human being, including an unborn child," and that "unborn child means a member of the species *Homo sapiens* at any stage of development who is carried in the womb."

According to WABE, the state's law regarding HOV use previously stipulated that the lanes were allowed for "vehicles with two or more (living and not pre-infant) persons." Since preborn children are now considered persons, the Georgia Department of Public Safety decided to remove the language "living and not pre-infant" from the HOV requirements.

—*LiveAction.org*, September 7, 2022



*Now ask the beasts to teach you, and the birds of the air to tell you;*

*Or the reptiles on earth to instruct you,  
and the fish of the sea to inform you.*

*Which of all these does not know that the hand of God has done this?  
In His hand is the soul of every living thing, and the life breath of all mankind.*

~ Job 12:7-10 ~