

NEWSLINE

Great Smoky Mountains Church of Christ

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What The Resurrection Really Means

Something happened 2000 years ago that changed the world. That single event of human history has impacted more lives than any other event and altered the course of mankind more than technology or medical science. That something was an empty tomb half-way around the world.

That Jesus lived, was crucified, was buried in a borrowed tomb, and on the third day that same tomb was empty are indisputable facts. The evidence of the empty tomb and the verdict that He arose from the dead stands solidly before all judicial processes. That fact was witnessed by more than 500 people, many of whom were executed because they would not renounce their eye-witness testimony to this event.

So what difference does it make? The apostle Paul said that if Jesus has not been raised then our *"preaching is vain" and "your faith is vain."* (I Corinthians 15:14-19). He concludes with a sobering thought: *"If we have hoped in Christ in this life only, we are of all men most to be pitied."*

For this life only? No! For this life? Yes, and for the next life. Our lives in this world are different because of the resurrection. First, without His resurrection there would be no church where grace is shared through a fellowship of hope-filled believers. Secondly, without his resurrection every trip we make to the cemetery would be a devastating tragedy.

But that is not the case. Because of His resurrection we can expect that our own bodies will be raised along with all the saints of God (I Corinthians 15). Jesus said, *"I am the resurrection and the life; he who believes in me, though he die, yet shall he live, and whoever lives and believes in me shall never die."* (John 11:15-26). Because of His resurrection we depart this life with celebration and enter into heaven with victory! And we will never die again.

We observe a memorial feast each Lord's Day to commemorate the death, burial, and resurrection of Jesus. This is not an annual celebration of his resurrection, but a weekly proclamation that he is alive and reigns at the right hand of the Father in heaven. This core doctrine of Christian faith is the reason we have hope, not only in this life, but in the life to come.

— Al Behel

Mark Your Calendars: October 4-6—Brad Harrub will be with us for a weekend series on Creation/Evolution and related topics. This is an opportunity to reach out to our community. Our members were asked to select topics of interest and return them to Gary Dick or one of the elders by March 20.

Kenny Jones was flown from LeConte to Ft. Sanders Regional Hospital on Thursday night following a stroke. He is in ICU and has experienced multiple seizures. Please keep Kenny and Charlotte in your prayers. Our thanks to all who have stepped in to help.

Libby and Larry Gilley, friends of **Dwight Grizzell**, needs our prayers. Libby has a recurrence of breast cancer which has metastasized in her abdomen. The Gilleys have been close friends of Dwight's for many years. They live in Chattanooga.

Prayer Requests: Bill England and Jonathan Morris requested prayer for restoration and renewal. Please keep both of these men in your prayers.

Sermon Topics: A.M.—*"Our Unshakable Faith, No. 11—"Noah's Ark and The Ark of Our Salvation"*; P.M.—*Our young men will conduct our worship.*

Other Prayer Needs

Jan Messick is continuing to do well in her recovery from lung cancer. We are thankful to God that no trace of the cancer is left.

Betty Langdon, Ginny Cliett's sister, is now in rehab following shoulder surgery.

Rose Parker, daughter-in-law of Ray and Faye Parker from Hatton, Alabama is suffering from leukemia. Ray and Faye will be spending a lot of time in Pigeon Forge.

Jennifer Fulk, 39 year old daughter of Billy and Barbara Helms (frequent visitors from Milton, FL) has a recurrence of cancer.

Afghanistan—Bryan Darilek, Major, U.S. Army, in a 9 month deployment. He is the son-in-law of Rick and Ginny Cliett and husband of Laura. Woody Chambers, cousin of Rick Cliett, is also deployed.

Baptisms: Andrea Weddington (Shirley Harmon's daughter) was baptized into Christ Tuesday. We welcome Andrea into the GSM family. She has recently been diagnosed with cervical cancer and had five lymph nodes removed on Wednesday.

Hunter Callon was baptized into Christ on Wednesday night. Hunter has been attending our teen class on Wednesday nights for some time and made his decision to follow Jesus. We welcome Hunter into our family.

Sunday Adult Bible Class
The Holy Spirit

Next Book of The Month Meeting—April 30, 7-9 pm
Book: Ezekiel I and Hosea

Times of Services

Sunday A.M.
Bible Study 9:30 AM
Worship 10:30 AM
Sunday P.M. 6:00 PM
Wednesday 7:00 PM

Our Known Sick

Dez Anderson—MS and several other health problems. She has been having increasing difficulty in recent weeks. Please keep her in prayer. Cards are appropriate and encouraging.

Johnny Bryan—continues to need our prayers.

Debby Bryan—battling cancer.

Clara Mayberry—at home.

Christopher Howell, 23 year-old son of Phil and Terrie Howell and grandson of the Littletons, - spinal cord injuries in an auto accident

Brenda Scott's sister, **Arania Blount**, is improving following stomach surgery in Dayton, OH.

Coleen Thomason's mother is in Ben Atchley Veteran's Home.

Angie Daimwood is in Memory Care, Rm. 401, Wellington Place.

Bill England has bone cancer and needs our continued prayers.

Regen Morris, 11 year old student at Phi Beta Phi (son of Dan and Tisha Morris) is in St. Jude's in Memphis with brain cancer.

Andrea Weddington was released from the hospital Saturday after surgery to remove cancerous lymph nodes caused by cervical cancer. She will be having radiation treatment soon.

Building Fund

Loan balance as of 02/15/13 is **\$1,214,158.20**. Extra contributions to reduce the loan debt are needed and appreciated. Envelopes are available in the pew.

Nursery

Located across main foyer. Closed circuit TV allows viewing and participation in worship.

CDs and DVDs of Sermons are available free at sound booth. Also available on the website at: www.greatsmokymountainschurchofchrist.com.

