

NEWSLINE

Great Smoky Mountains Church of Christ

Al Behel, Minister
abehel@ix.netcom.com

Vol. XVII. No. 14

April 07, 2013

Loving Through Listening

In his book *Life Together*, German minister and author Dietrich Bonhoeffer wrote, "The first service that one owes to others in the fellowship consists of listening to them. Just as love for God begins with listening to His Word, so the beginning of love for the brothers is learning to listen to them. It is [because of] God's love for us that He not only gives us His Word but also lends us His ear."

Listening is hard work. Understanding what we hear is even harder. Yet, a real measure of love is how much we are willing to listen and understand what others have to say. The same is true with loving God.

Jesus talked about people who have ears but do not hear. He wasn't talking about children who tune out their parents. He was talking about grownups who have closed their minds and will not allow the Word of God to penetrate their hearts.

Many of us have selective hearing. We listen to what pleases us or to what we want to hear and reject everything that challenges our preconceived ideas. Some don't listen because they are not interested in hearing what is being said. Words of correction are quickly rebuffed while words of praise are endlessly repeated in their minds. These persons have difficulty receiving Scripture's demands for repentance and change while they cherish every word that makes them feel good about themselves.

Sometimes we don't listen because there are too many noises around us...too many voices calling for our attention. It's hard to slice through competing and conflicting messages. In the religious world there are many voices calling us to believe and follow a huge array of doctrines and ideas and we find ourselves confused as to which voice represents the voice of God.

In the parable of the Sower Jesus commended those who listen intently and receive God's Word with gladness. These are able to experience the deeper meaning of God's grace because they have tasted the sweetness of the Bread of Life.

— 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.

Kenny Jones: is in Patricia Neal Rehabilitation Center, Rm 489b, at Ft. Sanders Regional Medical Center. Kenny is recovering from a stroke and some seizure activity. He misses everyone and thanks you for your prayers.

Skip and Esther Stewart are in Ohio where Skip's sister is very ill. She is now on Hospice. Please keep her in your prayers.

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 Request: Shirley Harmon requested prayer for a deeper walk with God. Shirley is a wonderful Christian who has encouraged many of us in our relationship with God.

Sermon Topics: A.M.—"Our Unshakable Faith, No. 12—"God Put A Rainbow in the Sky"; P.M.—"Great Stories of the Bible: Joseph"

MEN AND LADIES MEETINGS: Today at 4 p.m.

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.

Sympathy: To Tom Elkins and his family in the death of his sister, Connie, who passed away last Sunday. A memorial service was conducted in Logan, WV on Thursday. Our prayers are with Tom and his family.

Baptism: Rachel Wilson was baptized into Christ last Sunday evening. Rachel is Tanya Smith's daughter. She lives at 2711 Windfall Estates Dr., Lot #1, Sevierville, TN 37876. We welcome Rachel as a new sister in Christ.

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) will be coming home to continue his treatment.

Andrea Weddington is battling cervical cancer. She is waiting to begin radiation and possibly chemotherapy. Andrea was baptized into Christ two weeks ago. Keep praying for her.

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.

