

NEWSLINE

Great Smoky Mountains Church of Christ

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If I Were God For A Day

A popular game show in the 1950's was entitled, "Queen For A Day." It was a sob show in which women in desperate circumstances described their dreams. The audience selected the winner by their applause and the winner received her "crown" along with her dream.

I have often wondered what it would be like to be God for a day. I have occasionally switched roles with my young patients, allowing them to sit in my chair and be the "doctor". I will describe "my" problems, which are actually the child's problems, and ask for advice to help me deal with them. The advice I receive is incredibly on target. The experience is often the turning point in the child's treatment.

How would I handle switching roles with God? How would I react to the lack of gratitude and selfishness and evil in the world? How would I respond to the half-hearted prayers of those who claim to have faith in me but distrust my decisions? I wonder how I would deal with those who poke fun at me or deny my existence. How would I deal with those who say my Word is the source of authority for living but who disregard clear instructions which I have given to them? How could I extend grace to those who exploit it and claim unabashed freedom to do as they please?

If I were God for a day would I look favorably on those who sing "All to Jesus I Surrender", while complaining about how much the church seems to require of them? Would I be willing to continue to pour blessings upon greedy people who never lift their eyes to heaven and say "thank you"? Could I resist the temptation to use my unlimited power to teach vivid lessons to insolent, arrogant, defiant, and disobedient people?

When I consider these questions I think I would rather leave the business of being God to God. I don't think I would make a very good God. I am grateful that He is in charge and that He is patient with me as I struggle to joyfully do His will. I am thankful that He doesn't react as I would, that He is forgiving and loving toward me when I fail, and that He gives me another chance. I am glad to have a God who understands me and intervenes on my behalf. I am glad my God is a Savior, a Redeemer, and Friend.

___ Al Behel

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 at home.

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.

Welcome: We welcome **Heather Cox** and her two children, **McKenzie and Emily**, to our fellowship. Heather placed membership last Sunday. They live at: 3334 Oma Lee Drive, Sevierville, TN 37876.

Congratulations to David and Rita Garrett on the birth of their new grandson, Redford Walter Knoth, born on Friday in Denver. Dave and Rita are there.

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 sisters, **Arania Blount**, is improving in Dayton, OH. Also, another sister, **Janice Wells**, is needing our continued prayers.

Coleen Thomason's mother has moved to a different nursing 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 back at home but still battling cancer.

Andrea Weddington is battling cervical cancer. She is waiting to begin radiation and possibly chemotherapy.

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.

Chris Thompson had knee surgery this week and is now in rehab at Sevierville Rehabilitation Center.

Kenny Jones—we are happy that Kenny is now home after suffering a stroke.

Max Elkins, Tom's brother has been hospitalized in WV.

Al's niece, Robin McCollum, had surgery this week for a brain tumor. Please keep her in prayer.

Roy Shannon, friend of the Keyzers, in serious condition at St. Thomas Hospital in Nashville.

Sadie Crochet, 6 month old great granddaughter of Clara Leonard (frequent visitor from LA) is scheduled for brain surgery on April 25. Keep praying.

Libby and Larry Gilley, friends of **Dwight Grizzell**, - she has breast cancer.

Sermon Topics: A.M.—"Our Unshakable Faith, No. 14—"A Name for Ourselves"; P.M.—"Great Stories of the Bible— For Such A Time As This" (Esther)

VBS

Mark your calendars for **June 7-8** for our Vacation Bible School.

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

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.