

NEWSLINE

Great Smoky Mountains Church of Christ

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“Time Is Filled With Swift Transition”

A new year! Seems like only a few days since we began the old year. Maybe the “other side of the hill” moves faster. Or, maybe we are victims of a fast-paced world which seems to accelerate time, causing us to miss the opportunity to enjoy the richness of each day.

Benjamin Franklin reportedly said that “*Time is the stuff life is made of.*” While that is true, time doesn’t determine the quality of one’s life. Some people live the same year over and over, while others are constantly growing, expanding, and finding new challenges. For God’s people, time is His way of giving us another opportunity to serve Him. The apostle Peter says that time is God’s patience toward those who need to repent.

The old hymn gives a plain analysis, “*Time is filled with swift transition.*” Change occurs so rapidly we can’t measure it. We can’t capture the moment. Photographs help, but they are out-dated by the time they are processed. The hymn, entitled, “*Hold To God’s Unchanging Hand*”, states our deeper need:

*Time is filled with swift transition,
Naught of earth unmoved can stand,
Build your hopes on things eternal,
Hold to God’s unchanging hand!*

I remember singing this old hymn as a child in my home church. Most of those older folks in that church have passed on into eternity where there is no more time. Some of them held securely to God’s unchanging hand and are celebrating a victory for their unfaltering faith. The length of years on earth no longer means anything to them. They have gone home.

For us the years come and go quickly. Soon the clock will stop. The important question will be whether we held to God’s “unchanging hand.”

— Al Behel

Jennifer Fulk, 39 year old daughter of Billy and Barbara Helms (frequent visitors from Milton, FL) has a recurrence of cancer. Her husband is youth minister at the Margaret St. Church of Christ in Milton. She is the mother of 3 children, one only 2 years of age.

Rick Cliett is currently in Malaysia where he will be working for an indefinite period of time. Rick is a chemical consultant and is consulting on the construction of a large petro-chemical project for that country. His unique abilities in this field makes him one of the few specialists who can lead a project of this magnitude. We will miss Rick, but will be in constant contact with him via email, phone calls, and skype. You may email him, but **please do not call or text** as you and he will incur huge charges. **He can call you.** You may also relay messages through Ginny who will be talking with him each day.

Meetings Today: The men and ladies will have their respective meetings today at 4 pm. All members are encouraged to attend.

Sermon Topic: A.M.—“*This is the Year The Lord Has Made*”, P.M.—“*God’s Simple Rules For Living*”

Regen Morris, 11 year old student at Phi Beta Phi (son of Dan and Tisha Morris), has been hospitalized since Nov. 5, suffering from Anaplastic Astrocytoma (brain tumors). He is scheduled to be moved to St. Jude’s in Memphis early this week. A massive fund-raising effort is underway to help this very deserving family. His father is a teacher at Phi Beta Phi. For more information go to: <http://www.gofundme.com/rootinforregen/>

Other Prayer Needs

Jan Messick is now home recovering from lung surgery for cancer and blood clots which developed afterward. Doctors are optimistic about her prognosis.

E.R. Arrowwood, father of Missy Messick (Jan’s daughter-in-law) recovering from cancer surgery.

Chris Thompson is having a lot of pain following knee surgery.

Sue Hayes’ sister-in-law, **Jane Huffard**, is suffering from Leukemia.

Helen Costner, sister of Polly Pack— continuing to improve

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 have purchased property here and will be spending a lot of time in Pigeon Forge.

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.

Galina Koval, Russia staff member with World Christian Broadcasting is suffering from advanced dementia. Please keep her in prayer.

Sunday Adult Bible Class
The Holy Spirit

Next Book of The Month Meeting—Jan. 29, 7-9 pm
Book: II Corinthians

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.

Robin McCollom and **Peggy McCollom**, two of Al’s nieces, are battling cancer in Alabama.

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 and father are in Ben Atchley Veteran’s Home.

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

Lancaster Littleton is doing well following eye surgery in Florida.

Maria Reyes, 12 year-old 6th grader at Catlettsburg Elementary (Marti’s school) died on New Years Eve of unknown causes. Keep her family in prayer.

Building Fund

Loan balance as of 11/30/12 is **\$1,241,518.55**. 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.

Building Fund— Loan balance \$1,241,518.55. Let’s continue to give generously.