

NEWSLINE

Great Smoky Mountains Church of Christ

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“Near To The Heart Of God”

Who stirs your heart? Perhaps it is a child who captures your deepest emotions of love. Or, maybe it is that special someone who shares the intimacy of your soul. We all have special people who are close to our hearts.

God holds certain people close to His heart. They can move him to weep, or laugh, or celebrate. He delights in them daily. He finds pleasure in them. God was so passionate about us that He sent heavens greatest gift to us...the gift of His Son. And He did that “while we were still sinners, Christ died for us” (Romans 5:8). King David said it well, “Great is the LORD, who *delights* in the welfare of his servant!” (Psalm 35:27).

What thrills God’s heart? Scripture tells us, “For the LORD takes *pleasure* in his people; he adorns the humble with victory.” (Psalms 149:4). The heart of God rejoices in His children...when we walk with Him and keep faith in Him. He delights in every victory we claim, in every holy moment we share with Him.

He surrounds us with good things. His glorious heavens whisper His praises. The mountains applaud His presence. He extends His strength to those who seek Him. He is not moved by our power or wealth. He is not impressed with our abilities...after all, He made us and gives us our unique talents. He is moved by our faith and love. He rejoices when we believe Him. His heart is near to those who trust Him.

God called David a “*man after my heart*” (Acts 13:22). The distinctive reason given is that David would do God’s will. When we do God’s will His heart is pleased. It is never enough to simply proclaim our allegiance...we must follow through. We must not waver, or lose heart. We must always walk under the shadow of His grace in full compliance with His will. Then we are near to the heart of God.

—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.

Karen Daimwood, Angie’s daughter-in-law, passed away last week after suffering a fall resulting in a blood clot on her brain.

Ray Hawkins, minister of the East Cobb church in Marietta, GA is suffering from kidney failure. We have been asked to keep him in prayer.

Sermon Topic: A.M.—“Series: *Our Unshakable Faith—Made By God*”; P.M.—“*Praying Makes A Difference*”

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 now in St. Judes in Memphis. A massive fund-raising effort is underway to help this very deserving family. (You may make a contribution in the foyer.) His father is a teacher at Phi Beta Phi. For more information go to: <http://www.gofundme.com/rootinforregen/>

Rick Cliett is currently in Malaysia where he will be working for an indefinite period of time. Please keep him in prayer as he is away from us. If you wish to speak with Rick, send him an email and he can call you or correspond with you by email. If you call him you will incur a huge cost. His email address is the same. Or, you may relay a message through Ginny.

Wedding Shower for Irma and John McCourt—today before services in the fellowship hall. Gifts of money for the money tree only.

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.

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.

Boonie Mayhall fell recently and broke three ribs. She has been recuperating at home. Her address is 3459 Spring View Dr., Seveirville 37862. Keep her in your prayers.

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.

Barbara Rushing is having a very difficult time with high blood pressure. Doctors are trying to determine the reason for extreme fluctuations in her readings.

Building Fund

Loan balance as of 12/31/12 is **\$1,229,282.76**. 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 \$1,229,282.76. Let’s continue to give generously.