

NEWSLINE

Great Smoky Mountains Church of Christ

Al Behel, Minister
abehel@ix.netcom.com

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“Don’t Quit Too Soon”

While growing up I often traveled past Ivy Green, the birth place of Helen Keller. This remarkable woman, who was both deaf and blind, was an inspiration to many of us in her hometown. Through persistent efforts she overcame one obstacle after another. She once said, “*We can do anything we want if we stick to it long enough.*” Her phenomenal influence as a speaker and writer is a living testimony to her determination to succeed in spite of seemingly insurmountable odds.

Many of us have a great beginning but soon lose our enthusiasm and get diverted from our goals. Maybe we just get tired of the pursuit. Or, maybe the disappointments, heartaches, and struggles of life get too much for us, and we quit.

Serving God is a life-long process. The commitment we make must be a total commitment for the rest of our lives. Sometimes others encourage us along the way, and perhaps we are an encouragement to them as well. But there are times when we must walk alone. In those dark moments the stability of our faith is deeply tested.

Don’t let discouragement stop you. Quitting before reaching the finish line would be the greatest tragedy one could experience. The Crown awaits the faithful. Eternal life awaits those who don’t give up.

— Al Behel

Barbara Rushing was in UT Medical Center over the weekend, released last evening, suffering with severe abdominal pain and internal bleeding. Doctors believe she has kidney stones and possibly diverticulitis. She is also suffering from very erratic blood pressures which have been out of control. She is now recovering at home.

Bill England needs our prayers. Doctors discovered spots on his right lung this week. They will be doing further tests on Tuesday along with a bone scan to see if his previously treated cancer has returned.

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’s brother, Ken Cliett, is hospitalized in Louisiana with a heart attack. He is scheduled for a heart cath on Monday.

Sermon Topic: A.M.—“*Series: Our Unshakable Faith—Days of Creation*”; P.M.—“*Discovering Faith*”

Special Guests Tonight: We will host a youth group from the New Union church in Manchester tonight. About 55 members of their group are expected to be with us as part of their youth retreat. Al has been asked to present a special message on “*Discovering Faith*” as part of their retreat theme. Please try to be present and welcome this group along with all our other guests. **Our teens** will have a pizza fellowship this afternoon at 4:30.

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 still make a contribution). His father is a teacher at Phi Beta Phi. For more information go to: <http://www.gofundme.com/rootinforregen/>

Eastern European Mission Dinner: March 12, 7-9 p.m. at the Marriott in Knoxville. The dinner is free but you will have an opportunity to make a financial commitment. See Dwight or Al if you wish to attend.

Elder Contacts: Rick sends his greeting from Malaysia. He can be reached by email. The other elders can be reached on the following phone numbers: Jim (Cell only)—924-1067; Dan—548-9852, and Marc—1-731-608-4148.

Other Prayer Needs

Jan Messick is continues to improve from lung surgery for cancer. 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.

Regina Elkins, daughter-in-law of Dan and Sheryl, is scheduled to have a surgical procedure (coiling) for an aneurysm in her brain. The procedure is scheduled for Friday at Vanderbilt.

Sympathy: To Coleen Thomason in the death of her father, Andy, who passed away on Monday night. His funeral was on Friday. Please keep Coleen and her family 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.

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.

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

Judy Lassetter is scheduled to have a pacemaker installed this week. Please keep her in prayer.

Ray Hawkins, minister of the East Cobb church in Marietta, GA suffering from kidney failure.

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.