

# NEWSLINE

## Great Smoky Mountains Church of Christ

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### They Think It Is Strange

The apostle Peter said, "They think it strange that you do not run with them in the same flood of dissipation, speaking evil of you" (1 Pet. 4:4). That was the reaction of the neighbors of first century Christians who had decided to travel a different road from the unbelieving world around them.

When Mike Delcavo made a different turn in the 10,000 meter race in Riverside, California, only four other runners followed him. Although he kept waving to the other 127 runners only four believed he was going the right way. Delcavo commented later, "They thought it was funny that I went the right way."

That is precisely the reaction of people of the world around us when we choose to go the "right way?" While Christians are saying "no" to the pleasures of sin and "yes" to righteous living, they think it is strange. While Christians are in worship, they think it strange that we are not engaged with them in other activities which they consider to be more important. While Christians sacrifice financial resources to spread the gospel to the world, they buy bigger and better things for personal enjoyment and think it strange that we do not "run with them."

Some believers find it hard to make the right turn when they see their friends choosing a different path. They may question themselves and the choices they have made. The narrow way is always hard. The way can be rough. But it leads to the victory crown (2 Timothy 4:7-8). Non-Christians choose an easy path but there is no reward at the end of the race.

The world offers many diversions. Instant gratifications. Limitless pleasures. Admiring crowds. The way of the cross offers suffering and death. Still, it is the way of life. Abundant life. Eternal life. It is the way home. The way to God's presence. Where joy never ends. And the choice is ours. To run with the crowd, or to choose the right way.

— 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's brother** was hospitalized last weekend with a heart attack. Results of the cath were good—he went home, but was rushed back last evening in a nonresponsive state due to an insulin crash. They are trying to regulate the dosage.

**Sermon Topic:** A.M.—"Series: Our Unshakable Faith No. 3— In The Image of God"; P.M.—"Worship in Song and Devotional"

**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. She had a PET scan on Monday and should get the result tomorrow.

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 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, underwent surgery on Friday for an aneurysm in her brain. She is now at home.

**Barbara Rushing** has been battling some heath issues and was hospitalized a few days ago but is now at home.

**Bill England** had a CT-scan and his cancer has reappeared in his bones. Other tests are being scheduled.

**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., Seveirville 37862. Keep her in your prayers.

**Judy Lassetter** had 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](http://www.greatsmokymountainschurchofchrist.com).