

NEWSLINE

Great Smoky Mountains Church of Christ

Al Behel, Minister
abehel@ix.netcom.com

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The Will of The People

We have often been told that the will of the people guides the decisions of our elected leaders. There are times when that is obviously true and times when it is not. A state governor said he personally did not believe abortion was right but that he would support the will of the majority.

Pilate operated much the same way. He gave in to the pressure of the people. In our culture we have seen many moral norms eroded away because the majority seemed to want those changes. Values of our forefathers have been replaced with postmodern ethics which are defined by the majority who would reject anything that is God-directed. One sports commentator said he believes anything having to do with God should be kept at church.

We have also seen weak leaders give in to the demands and pressures of minorities who would undermine the moral fiber of our nation. It is a sad time in our country when we are told that "cultural sensitivity" is more important than God's law regarding basic morals and human dignity. Marriage is God's idea, to create a union between a man and woman in which children can be brought up and nurtured in the will of God. We are told not to speak out against practices that are clearly defined as sinful in Sacred Scripture because it might hurt someone's feelings.

All of us are appalled at the tragic events that have plagued the children in our schools. Approximately 13 million of our children will be bullied this year, many will be raped, and many will be murdered by other children. We are told that one of the most violently emerging age groups is our middle school children.

How do we stop the downward spiral? The FBI tells us that the major contributing factor is the media (music, video games, and movies) which contain violent themes of killing, rape, pornography, and degrading of other human beings. If media doesn't shape behavior why do companies spend \$4 million for 30 second ads on television?

More than 40,000 of our people are killed on our highways by drunk drivers each year. Our laws against drunk driving or against murder have not stopped the killing. We all know that killing another person results from bad decisions inside the hearts of the killers. Jesus made it clear that the change must be inside...in our core values. We must get back to basics, to core principles of right and wrong, and for respect and submission to God's will. We were made to live in community with others who are made in the image of God and to love our neighbors as ourselves. To reject God's moral standards and be driven by self-will and desires has dramatic and disastrous results.

— Al Behel

Sermon Topic: A.M.—"Series: Our Unshakable Faith No. 4— "They Shall Become One Flesh"; PM—"Brief Budget Presentation and Worship"

Eastern European Mission Dinner: is being postponed due to a request by another state in the Ukraine for Bibles and EEM personnel are needing to work on the development of that expansion effort. A later date is planned.

Mark Your Calendars: October 4-6—Brad Harub will be with us for a weekend series on Creation/Evolution and related topics. This is an opportunity to reach out to our community.

SHEPHERDS' NEWS:

Reaching Out/Teaching/Misc. (in-process proposals)

- 1) Brad Harub (Creation/Evolution—Oct. 4,5,6)
- 2) Streaming homilies/class
- 3) Possible delayed broadcast on radio
- 4) Other building use investigation
- 5) 2013 budget for men's approval
- 6) Information flow to congregation

Other Prayer Needs

Jan Messick received good news regarding her PET scan—NO TRACE OF CANCER LEFT. Keep praying!

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 Hattont, Alabama is suffering from leukemia. Ray and Faye will be spending a lot of time in Pigeon Forge.

Deb Elkins is scheduled for knee replacement surgery on Monday morning. Please keep her in prayer.

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.

Russ Dabney, a friend of Coleen Thomason, died unexpectedly last week because of complications of surgery. Coleen's father passed away recently.

Sunday Adult Bible Class
The Holy Spirit

Next Book of The Month Meeting—Feb. 26, 7-9 pm
Book: Amos

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.

Regina Elkins, daughter-in-law of Dan and Sheryle, is recovering at home following surgery for a brain aneurysm.

Bill England has been diagnosed with bone cancer. Please keep him and Pat in your prayers as treatment options are considered.

Regen Morris, 11 year old student at Phi Beta Phi (son of Dan and Tisha Morris) is in St. Jude's in Memphis with brain cancer.

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.