

# NEWSLINE

## Great Smoky Mountains Church of Christ

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### Are You Listening?

As a child I was fascinated by echoes. I guess I still am. Behind my childhood home was a large hollow with cliffs that extended for great distances. I always enjoyed standing above the waterfall and shouting into the air only to hear a delayed response to my words coming back through the woods...word for word. If I shouted, "Hello!", I would hear "Hello!" If I yelled, "Be Quiet!", I would hear "Be Quiet!"

Children may echo the messages they receive. They are mistreated, ridiculed or bullied. They may become cynical or angry. They may learn to hate their world. They may start yelling back. I have heard them say, "I hate people! I don't like people!" Adults can react the same way. We learn to echo what we have heard.

When we find ourselves echoing the voices and attitudes of those around us we are victims at their mercy. We are their echo. But, when we decide that we will choose what messages we send out we may also choose what message comes back to us.

We decide our own echo. If we say to those around us, "I love you", we will usually hear "I love you" in return. If we shout angry messages those are the messages that echo back to us. Jesus gave us the Golden Rule which tells us to "do unto others as you would have them do unto you." The messages we send must not be determined by the messages we hear.

Psalm 18 tells us that God may echo the messages that come from us. If we call upon Him he will answer. If we show mercy He is merciful. If we are devious He answers in ways that thwarts our evil designs. God is listening and His response to us is determined by what He hears from us.

When we are uncaring toward God and others God will become distant in our hearts. Our feelings of aloneness grow, our sense of loss becomes deep. Listen carefully and you will hear the echo of your own heart.

It's all up to us. Commentator Richard Steele once wrote, "If you will echo to Him when He calls. He will echo to you when you call." What are you hearing from God? What messages are you sending back to Him? Listen for His response and you will learn what God is hearing from you.

— Al Behel

**Sermon Topic:** A.M.—"Series: Our Unshakable Faith No. 5— "Sin in the Garden"; P.M.—"Great Stories of the Bible: Solomon"

**Sunday Night Series:** "Great Stories of the Bible" starts tonight. Please join us. This is an opportunity to refresh your memory of Bible stories.

**Congratulations To: Robert Anderson, P.E.,** son of Jim and Dez, on winning the Federal Engineer of the Year Award issued by the US Dept. of Agriculture in Washington. We share joy with Jim and Dez in this recognition.

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

**International Dinner Planned:** We will have an international dinner fellowship following worship on Sunday night, February 24. Please plan to attend and bring your favorite international dish. Sign-up sheet is in the lobby.

**Libby and Larry Gilley,** friends of **Dwight Grizzell,** needs our prayers. Libby has a recurrence of breast cancer which has metastasized in her abdomen. The Gilleys have been close friends of Dwight's for many years. They live in Chattanooga.

### 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,** battling Leukemia.

**Helen Costner,** sister of Polly Pack— continuing to improve

**Betty Langdon,** Ginny Cliett's sister, 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 much time in Pigeon Forge.

**Deb Elkins** is home following knee replacement surgery on Monday. Keep her in prayer.

**Jennifer Fulk,** 39 year old daughter of Billy and Barbara Helms (frequent visitors from Milton, FL) cancer recurrence.

**Afghanistan—**Bryan Darilek, Major, U.S. Army, in Afghanistan. He is the son-in-law of Rick and Ginny Cliett and husband of Laura. Woody Chambers, cousin of Rick Cliett, is also deployed.

**Judy Lassetter** had gallbladder surgery this week and is doing well. Ken and Judy are now living near Atlanta.

**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.

**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. 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** received good news this week: NO BONE CANCER! We rejoice with Bill and Pat and will keep praying.

**Bottles of Love**—pick up your baby bottle in foyer today and fill with silver or GREEN. Money allows ladies of congregation to assist 20 newborns in need every month at local hospital. Return bottles by Sunday, March 17.

### 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).