

NEWSLINE

Great Smoky Mountains Church of Christ

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"Don't Forget His Benefits"

I stand in awe of the wonderful grace of God. It is beyond description. Looking at God's mercy with a celebrating heart, King David exclaimed, "Praise the Lord, O my soul, and don't forget all His benefits!" (Psalm 103:2). Then he starts enumerating those benefits for us:

"Who forgives all your sins and heals all your diseases, Who redeems your life from the pit and crowns you with love and compassion, Who satisfies your desires with good things so that your youth is renewed like the eagle's."

Wow! Every sin can be taken away, we can be lifted out of hell's horrendous pit and crowned with love and compassion. He even gives us the "fountain of youth." Before God we are ageless because He is ageless. We have eternity in our hearts.

David continues his celebration,

"For as high as the heavens are above the earth, so great is His love for those who fear Him; as far as the east is from the west, so far does he remove our transgressions from us. As a father has compassion on his children so the Lord has compassion on those who fear Him; for He knows how we are formed, He remembers that we are dust."

As high as the heavens and as wide as the world! That's how great God's love and compassion is. Our flesh is limited and weak and God knows it. He knows that we are like grass that springs forth and soon withers, but His love and mercy will sustain us through each moment of struggle...it will last through all the generations of men.

When God forgives no record of our sins remains. They are removed forever. Not just some of our sins, but, "He forgives all your sins." There are no sins too great for God's grace. Unlike man who holds grudges and selectively forgives, God wipes everything out and "redeems your life" for His purposes. When King David contemplated God's enormous grace toward those who serve Him, he burst into singing, "Praise the Lord, O my soul; all my inmost being, praise His holy name!" May we never forget His benefits. May we never fail to join the heavenly host in praising His holy name.

— Al Behel

Other Church Family News Events

Mark Your Calendars: October 4-6—Brad Harrub will be with us for a weekend series on Creation/Evolution and related topics. This is a tremendous opportunity to reach out to our neighbors. Guests are asked to take a flyer from the foyer back to your congregation. We hope you will plan to attend.

From The Elders: The elders would like to encourage all our members to avail themselves of a wonderful Bible school program for yourself and your children. We have wonderful, dedicated teachers who spend long hours preparing to teach and guide our studies. This is a great opportunity.

Sermon Topics: A.M.—"In My Father's House, No. 5—My House is A House of Praise" P.M.—Our Young Men Will Conduct Worship

Our Known Sick

Dez Anderson—multiple health issues, including MS
Andrea Weddington—cervical cancer. Keep praying for her as she has started radiation and chemotherapy.
Jan Messick—still cancer free
Lancaster Littleton—recurrence of cancer. Resumed chemotherapy.
Bill England—cancer and other health issues. Started chemotherapy.
Betty Graves—diagnosed with cancer
Joe Bostick now at home in Texas after having a LVAD (Left Ventricular Assist Device) installed to assist a failed heart.
Debby Bryan—Cancer; **Johnny Bryan**—health issues; **Clara Mayberry**—confined to home.
Kathy May is now at home but must follow up with the cardiologist and neurologist. She had recently been hospitalized with pneumonia.
Cathy Haynes fell in D.C. on the school trip and severely injured her ankle and knee. She will have an extended recovery period.
Brenda Scott is battling shingles.
Carolyn Yates is battling shingles.

Friends and Family

Christopher Howell (grandson of the Littletons-spinal cord injuries suffered in automobile accident), **Arania Blount** (Brenda Scott's sister)-cancer markers have increased, **Betty Langdon** (Ginny Cliett's sister—mental confusion issues), **Rose Parker** (daughter-in-law of Ray & Faye Parker—suffering from Leukemia), **Donna Trout** (Judy Lassetter's sister-in-law in Nashville—infection attacking her liver), **Robin McCollum and Peggy McCollum** (Al's nieces—both battling cancer), **Shelby Daniels** (medical technologist in clinic with Al—recovering from brain surgery), **Libby and Larry Gilley** (friends of Dwight Grizzell—she has breast cancer), Sue Mercer's sister, **Connie Browning**, is being treated for 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's, has returned home.

It was good to have **Michael Jacobs** from South Africa last Sunday. Michael and his family are supported by the GSM church and other congregations. More than \$1800 was given through voluntary donations last Sunday to assist with his deficit.

Rise & Shine—Every Sunday morning at 9:15. Kids—join us for singing, puppets, and stories.

Sunday Adult Bible Class
The Holy Spirit

Next Book of The Month Meeting—June 25, 7-9 pm
Book: Jeremiah & Joel

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

Building Fund

Loan balance as of 05/19/13 is **\$1,206,186.91**. 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.