

# NEWSLINE

## Great Smoky Mountains Church of Christ

Al Behel, Minister  
abehel@ix.netcom.com

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### I Pledge Allegiance

A few years ago a federal judge ruled that the Pledge of Allegiance could not be said in school if it contained the words, "under God", since such a statement would combine church and state and violate the U. S. Constitution. Following a flood of disapproval from the American people the judge set aside his own order.

When the Declaration of Independence was signed in 1776 its founders were declaring independence from an earthly power while making a clear *declaration of dependence* upon Almighty God. The closing words of this historic document declares solemnly:

*'With a firm reliance on the protection of Divine Providence, we mutually pledge to each other our lives, our fortunes, and our sacred honor.'*

The founding fathers of this nation recognized the need for divine guidance. Relying on the providence of God they pledged their lives, their fortunes, and their sacred honor to the mutual good of the citizens of this new nation. Their declaration was one of *dependence* on God while exercising freedom from foreign domination.

Pledging allegiance to our national flag represents our mutual commitment to preserve our *sacred honor* under divine leadership and guidance. We recognize the position God holds far above governmental leaders and that all nations stand or fall as He wills.

As Christians our allegiance extends beyond flags and declarations of independence. Our God is supreme over all nations, all peoples, and all cultures. He stands untouched by the corruption and greed of rulers gone bad, or governments whose leaders refuse to bow before Him. Arsenals of mass destruction pale under His power. Our allegiance is to the King of Kings and the Lord of Lords.

More than 3,000 years ago God gave a solemn warning to a new nation born out of oppression. That warning was that Israel should not forget the God who brought them out of slavery into a land of freedom (Deut. 8:7-14). That nation would later reject His prophets and corrupt His holy temple. Ultimately, they would kill His only Son.

More than 200 years ago God blessed the founding of a new nation, born for religious freedom. Let us not forget our heritage nor the purpose for which we exist. Let us honor the resurrected Son upon Whom we depend for life and freedom...*eternal* freedom.

\_\_\_ 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. Dr. Harrub is a scientist who specializes in Christian apologetics. This is a tremendous opportunity to reach out to our neighbors. Guests are asked to take a flyer and postcards from the foyer back to your congregation. We hope you will plan to attend. This series would be of special benefit to your students who are being challenged by theories that are designed to discourage faith in God.

**Thanks!!** Recently you gave \$1945 (spontaneously) to help Michael Jacobs, our missionary from South Africa as he was visiting with us. Many of you also responded to another need with more than \$1500.

**Sermon Topics:** A.M.—*"In My Father's House, No. 6—My House is A House of Singing"* P.M.—*"Great Stories of the Bible Series: Jonah, the Man Whose Heart Was Too Small"*

### 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**—results show him to be cancer free.

**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** is recovering from broken ankle and injured knee.

**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 Lasseter'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 breast cancer; Beverly Finnell's grandson, **Liam Finnell**, is having health issues.

**Afghanistan—Major Bryan Darilek**, U.S. Army, in a 9 month deployment. He is the son-in-law of Rick and Ginny Cliett and husband of Laura. He is scheduled to return home within 60 days. Please pray for his safety. We are happy to announce that Woody Chambers, cousin of Rick's, has just returned home.

**Thought to Ponder:** *"I have never been hurt by anything I did not say."* \_\_\_ Calvin Coolidge.

**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—July 30, 7-9 pm**  
Book: Lamentations

### 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](http://www.greatsmokymountainschurchofchrist.com).