

# NEWSLINE

## Great Smoky Mountains Church of Christ

Al Behel, Minister  
abehel@ix.netcom.com

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### “Down But Not Out”

Have you ever had the props knocked out from under you? Maybe it was a job termination, or some major disappointment, or some moral failure. You were tempted to give up and quit. Maybe you were struggling with anger or feelings of guilt. Sometimes the blows come from people you trusted and loved.

The apostle Paul talked about how we are sometimes knocked down but that we are not knocked out (II Corinthians 4:8). The attacks are hard to bear. The disappointments and failures are so heavy we feel we can never get up again. But, the battle is not over.

The reason we are not out is stated a few verses later, “...our inner nature is being renewed every day” (4:16). We can get up because deep inside of us we are not destroyed. The faith we trusted before is still there. The strength that kept us going for so long is still there. We may have stumbled over some sin in our lives or some obstacle from the outside...yet we can get up again.

The greatest servants have been broken. They have learned discipline through confronting the ugly parts of themselves. They have learned humility at the foot of the cross. They have learned that God didn't give up and neither should they. They have learned that cleansing may come through tears of brokenness.

The Holy Spirit renews us through empowering our feeble efforts. He doesn't let us stay down when we want to get up. He created new life in us once and He can do it again. No one needs to stay lost.

When you are knocked down don't lie on the floor and groan about how unfair everyone is or how weak you are. Take hold of His hand and He will lift you up. He isn't finished with you yet.

\_\_\_ 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 postcard or flyer 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.

**Sermon Topics:** A.M.—“*In My Father's House, No. 7—My House is A House of Freedom and Grace*”; P.M.—“*Great Stories of the Bible Series: Amos, The Country Preacher*”

### Declaration of Independence

The Declaration of Independence declares that all men are created equal and are endowed with “unalienable” rights. Among those are life, liberty, and the pursuit of happiness. The Constitution of the United States guarantees that government will protect those rights for all its citizens.

Throughout history God's people have lived by a higher standard than either of the above mentioned documents. We live by the Word of God which has guided patriarchs, kings, and world leaders for centuries. Many have not lived by those laws. Many have...and those who followed God's laws have been blessed by the Him. King David repeatedly proclaimed his allegiance to God's Word: “I have hid Thy law in my heart”, and, “Thy Word is a lamp to my feet and a light to my path.” That is still our guide today.

### Our Known Sick

**Dez Anderson**—multiple health issues, including MS

**Nevaeh Wilson** is doing well after surgery to remove her tonsils.

**Marc Hayes** fell off the roof of his West Tennessee home but, fortunately, was not severely injured. He is a bit sore!

**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), **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, and Beverly Finnell's grandson, **Liam Finnell**, is having health issues.

**Afghanistan—Major Bryan Darilek**, U.S. Army, 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.

Keep **Rick Cliett**, one of our elders, in your prayers as he is away from us in Malaysia. We love and miss him.

**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).