

NEWSLINE

Great Smoky Mountains Church of Christ

Al Behel, Minister
abehel@ix.netcom.com

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Being Renewed Day By Day

Reflecting on the aging process and eternity, the apostle Paul captured the essence of our Christian journey when he said, *“but though our outward man perish, yet the inward man is renewed day by day”* (2 Corinthians 4:16).

Henry Wadsworth Longfellow remained a vigorously active man long after his hair had turned white. When asked his secret, he pointed to a nearby apple tree which was in full bloom and said, *“That tree is very old, but I never saw prettier blossoms on it than it now bears. That tree grows new wood each year. Like that apple tree, I try to grow a little new wood each year.”*

God designed the tree to grow new wood, the human body to grow new skin, and the brain to grow new cells. God also designed our inner nature to be constantly renewed and fashioned into His divine image. Each prayer of faith, each contemplative reading of Scripture, each meditation on His law strengthens the heart and shapes our inward being.

Those who spend their lives pursuing the world with its empty promises may have momentary pleasures, but they do not put on “new wood” which will shelter them from the brutal winds of time. There is a huge difference between the aging of our bodies and the aging of our spirits within.

In contrast with those who trust in themselves, the prophet Isaiah tells us, *“but they who wait for the LORD shall renew their strength, they shall mount up with wings like eagles, they shall run and not be weary, they shall walk and not faint”* (Isaiah 40:31). How beautiful it is to see an elderly saint who has maintained the course and has never “fainted.”

Are you growing new wood each year through faithful service to God? Are you waiting for Him to lead you and show you the way? Are you enduring hard times, yet know that He will shelter you under the shadow of His wing?

— 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 some post-cards 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.



Following is the seminar schedule:

Friday—7 p.m.—Atheism’s Attack on America

Saturday—6 p.m.—Can We Prove God Exists?
Was Darwin Wrong?

Sunday—9:30 a.m.—Jesus on Trial in 2013

10:30 a.m.—Faith for Life

1:30 p.m.—Value of Human Life

Al is speaking for the Cheap Hill congregation in Ashland City today. **Mark Haynes** will be our speaker today. Mark is our youth minister and is doing a wonderful work. Al and Linda will be back with us Wednesday night.

Interpreter for deaf and hearing impaired available for AM and PM worship

Our Known Sick

Dez Anderson—multiple health issues, including MS

Andrea Weddington—has been treated for cervical cancer and received a report from her medical team that she is tumor free.

Leah Turner—surgery on her hand/wrist this past week.

Jan Messick—still cancer free

Bill England—cancer. Has had to stop chemotherapy because of an allergic reaction. Will receive other medications.

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 recovering at home in Baxter.

Cathy Haynes is recovering from broken ankle and injured knee.

Larry Valentine—crushed his right heel and fractured his right ankle from step-ladder fall. He will be required to wear a boot for three months and keep weight off his foot and ankle.

Heather Cox—received unfortunate news about her unborn baby’s heart condition. After birth he will need to be transferred to Vanderbilt for stabilization followed by surgery soon afterward.

Friends and Family

Mike Harmon, Andrea Weddington’s father, passed away Saturday in Batesville, Arkansas, after receiving two stents for his heart. Our sympathies to the entire 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—moderate dementia), **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; Beverly Finnell’s grandson, **Liam Finnell**, is having health issues.

Susie Cliett, Rick’s sister-in-law, passed away last week.

Afghanistan—Major Bryan Darilek, U.S. Army, son-in-law of Rick and Ginny Cliett and husband of Laura. Scheduled to return home in September. Please pray for his safety.

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.