

NEWSLINE

Great Smoky Mountains Church of Christ

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Obsessions With Greatness

We are an obsessed society. We even have a psychological condition called, "Obsessive-Compulsive Personality Disorder", or OCD. While that is a treatable condition with simple medications, many of our obsessions are not responsive to medications because they are not rooted in biochemical elements of the brain. Instead, they grow out of our desire to be great, or powerful, or beautiful, or any number of other unflattering traits.

In the religious arena we have also become obsessed with things that were foreign to the first century church. Modern churches seem obsessed with who is the biggest, greatest, or best. We measure success by figures, not by faith and spirituality.

I wonder why the success of Acts 2 is not mentioned in every epistle in the New Testament. Why did the writers not hold up the conversion of 3,000 Jews in one day before all the other churches? Why didn't the inspired writers take advantage of such success? Surely, that would have been a strong model to follow.

Throughout the epistles we read of godliness, sacrifice, the importance of studying, spiritual virtues...but never about numbers as a measure of greatness. There was no "beating of the drums" to call attention to themselves.

Jesus made clear his view on greatness when he took the towel and basin of water and washed the stinking feet of grumbling disciples. He capped it off by saying, "For I have given you an example, that you also should do as I have done to you" (John 13:15), and "whoever would be great among you must be your servant" (Matthew 20:26). It is not about numbers; it is about bended knees with servant hearts.

There is nothing wrong with bigness as long as that is not our focal point. God adds to the church those who are being saved. But, salvation is the result of conversion, not simply putting one's name on a church role. We want all men to be saved and to become servants of Christ. When that happens we can rejoice in numbers.

— Al Behel

School Clothing Drive: Mark Checks "School Clothing" & leave at sound booth.

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 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

Today's Sermon Topics: A.M.—In My Father's House Series, No. 10—"In My Father's House We Have A Different World View"; P.M.—"Great Stories of The Bible—A Man With A Mission"

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.

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.

David Garrett's mother has been suffering from pneumonia and related health issues. David has been in Indiana with her this week.

Friends and Family

Christopher Howell (grandson of the Littletons—spinal cord injuries suffered in automobile accident), **Aranía 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; 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 30 days. 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—Aug. 27, 7-9 pm
Book: Revelation

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.