

NEWSLINE

Great Smoky Mountains Church of Christ

Al Behel, Minister
abehel@ix.netcom.com

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October 13, 2013

Gratitude

A little boy was given an orange by a man. "What do you say to the nice man?", asked his mother. The little boy handed it back and said, "Peel it!" We may chuckle, but ingratitude is one our most prevalent sins.

Thankfulness is a condition of heart which grows out of an awareness that what we have received is far greater than what we deserved. It is responsive...gratitude for what someone else has done for us.

God gives good things. He always has. Every "good gift, and every perfect gift" comes from Him. From the morning sunrise to the food we eat, the health we enjoy, or the children who lift our hearts...God is the Giver of all.

Looking at my gratitude list is not an annual event. It is not turkey and dressing. My list includes many things which have enriched my life, and the many people who have touched my heart in special ways.

At the top of the list is God's grace, without which I would still be a slave to Satan. I am thankful He broke sin's power and gave me life through His Son. I am thankful for the hope of eternal life.

I am also thankful for my church family. I am thankful for caring and loving brothers and sisters with whom I can share worship experiences and from whom I receive continuous encouragement in my Christian life.

I am thankful for physical families who give us a sense of meaningful relationships. Children are a special gift, and grandchildren reward us with unlimited moments of joy and from whom we receive unconditional love.

I am thankful for special friends who bring meaning to the routines of work and life. Friends who understand us with our weaknesses and still love us. Friends who allow us to share their successes and struggles, and with whom we can be very honest.

I am thankful for our beautiful world with its mountains and oceans, its valleys and streams. I am thankful for the sound of birds singing, the wind blowing, and leaves falling slowly to the ground. I am thankful for the moon and stars, God's night-lights, which thrill lovers' hearts and provide guidance to travelers at sea.

I am thankful that I can be thankful...that I have the capacity to know that what I receive is greater than I deserve. To know that Someone greater than I had a hand in providing for my needs. I am grateful that, unlike the animals of the forest, I can know the origin of those gifts and express gratitude to the One who watches over me and supplies every need.

—Al Behel

A Huge Thank You! To everyone who assisted in making the seminar with Brad Harrub a great success. There were *many* volunteers who gave so freely of your time, money, expertise, and support in every aspect of the seminar. The lessons were great, the sessions were well attended, the lunch was awesome, and all who helped deserve a big "Thank You!" Five people responded to the invitation on Sunday morning requesting prayers for deeper commitment and service. Many others responded privately with similar requests.

Congratulations! To Destin and Kelsey (Sortore) Chambers on the birth of their baby daughter, Annabelle Yeatts Chambers, born October 3, weighing 7 lbs., 15 oz. We are happy for Kelsey, Destin, and the proud grandparents.

Elder Contact for Month: Dan Elkins at 865-548-9852

Sunday Sermon Topics: A.M.—"Why Seek The Living Among The Dead?" P.M.—TBA

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

Our Known Sick

Dez Anderson—multiple health issues, including MS

Jan Messick—new scan shows no return of cancer!

Andrea Weddington—reports show her cancer free!

Bill England—is battling cancer. He is currently receiving oral chemotherapy. We pray for positive results for our brother.

Debby Bryan—Cancer; **Johnny Bryan**—health issues.

Clara Mayberry—broken arm suffered in a recent fall.

Kathy May recovering at home in Baxter. You can send her a card at P.O. Box 465, Baxter, TN 38544-0463.

Larry Valentine—recovering from a fall and broken ankle. Good to see him back with us.

Linda Valentine is have health issues and must see a hematologist.

Heather Cox—unborn child-heart issues. Surgery will be required.

Jean Compton suffered a heart attack this week and had to have a stent installed. She is now at home.

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), **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; **Sara Teel**, daughter of Robin Roberts, is dealing with several health issues; Rick Cliett's 90 year old aunt **Doris Chambers** is recovering from multiple broken bones in her leg suffered from a fall while getting ready for church in Texas; Michael Cliett's girlfriend's mother, **Paula Ramos**, suffering from breast cancer; Tom Elkins' sister-in-law, **Joyce Elkins**, cancer surgery & auto accident. Patty Adair's son-in-law's mother, **Robin Bell**, very serious surgery for ruptured blood vessels in her stomach; **Roy Lafollette**, father of Scott, Seth, and Sonja, recovering from triple bypass surgery; **Bradley Rand**, friend of Steven Bryant, seriously injured in auto accident.

Meetings Today: Men and Ladies—4 p.m.

Adult Bible Class

"Rejoicing In The Lord"

A Study in Philippians

Rise & Shine: Sundays, 9:15

School Clothing Drive

Mark checks "School Clothing" & leave at sound booth.

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 10/01/13 is **\$1,184,923.82**. 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.