

# NEWSLINE

## Great Smoky Mountains Church of Christ

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October 20, 2013

### Scarecrows

*"Their idols are like scarecrows in a cucumber field"* (Jeremiah 10:5)

On the farm we often placed scarecrows in watermelon patches and corn fields. We would dress them with human clothing and hats to make them look as life-like as possible. Their success in protecting the field was limited against the determined enemies. These man-made stick figures just don't do the job.

Idols are like that. Jeremiah's contemporaries were immersed in idol worship. The worshippers assigned great power to these man-made images. Before them they trembled in fear. They looked to them in hope of receiving good things. Jeremiah points out how impotent they really are. He says, *"they cannot speak...they have to be carried for they cannot walk. Do not be afraid of them, for they can do no harm nor can they do any good"* (Jeremiah 10:5).

The prophet Isaiah ridicules the idols of his day, *"...they bow down and worship it. They lift it to their shoulders and carry it; they set it in its place, and there it stands. From that spot it cannot move. Though one cries out to it, it does not answer; it cannot save him from his troubles"* (Isaiah 46:6, 7).

Both of these prophets tell us that all idols are made by man, they cannot speak, they cannot walk, they are helpless, and they will perish. Where is Apollo or Jupiter? Where is Baal? Where is Nisroch of Syria, Chemosh of Moab, Dagon of the Philistines, or Tammuz of the Egyptians? They have all perished from the earth.

So it is with all the idols we carve into our hearts. We are too educated and sophisticated to carve idols of stone or wood. We are more likely to bow down before horoscopes and psychic gurus, or to put our trust in material things which are designed to give us happiness. We trust in wealth and power. We trust in relationships and pleasure. Jeremiah is really telling us that it is futile to trust anything except the living God—not a piece of dead wood or stone. God is the *Creator*—not the *created*. He alone gives life and hope and strength. And He is the only God we should bow before in reverence and fear.

In *what* do you trust? Are you worshipping a god who will not give you life, or do you serve the living and All Mighty God?

—Al Behel

### Other News:

**Ryan Wilson** had an auto accident Thursday night on his way back from visiting family in SC. His car flipped and he was treated at the Waynesville Hospital with a concussion and lacerations to his head. We are thankful he is going to be okay. His car did not fare very well, however.

**Howard Yates** fell on Wednesday and broke his knee cap. He will be seeing an orthopedic surgeon on Monday to determine what will need to be done.

**Brenda Scott** will be having knee replacement surgery on October 22. Please keep her in prayer as she goes through surgery and rehab.

**Ladies Bible Study**—First and third Tuesdays, 10 a.m., Fellowship Hall.

Sunday Sermon Topics: A.M.—*"If We Are The Body of Christ"* P.M.—*"Debtors To All Men"*

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**—had failed surgical procedure on artery in ankle last Monday. He is also battling cancer. Keep Bill in prayer.

**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.

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

### Adult Bible Class

*"Rejoicing In The Lord"*

A Study in Philipians

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