

NEWSLINE

Great Smoky Mountains Church of Christ

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The Toddler's Creed

Children are special people... especially toddlers. They have a rather unique view of the world. Someone has shared this insight into their thinking, called, "The Toddler's Creed":

If I want it, it's mine.

If I give it to you and change my mind later, it's mine.

If I can take it away from you, it's mine.

If I had it a little while ago, it's mine.

If it's mine, it will never belong to anyone else, no matter what.

If we are building something together, all the pieces are mine.

If it looks just like mine, it's mine.

Every parent of a toddler knows that this is an accurate description of the world as they see it. While we expect this self-centered trait in toddlers, we find it very repulsive in older children and adults.

Many people live almost exclusively for themselves. Extreme self-interest is called "narcissism." The narcissist thinks the world should evolve around them...everyone should focus on them, elevate them, cower to their wants and demands, and yield to their emotional manipulations.

Self is at the center of all sin. There is no room on the throne for Christ as long as self is king. Dying to self is essential to serving Christ. The apostle Paul taught that we should "count others better" than ourselves (Philippians 2:3).

Sadly, toddlers are not the only ones who suffer from self-centeredness. Our culture worships at the altar of self. Our insatiable demand for fun, entertainment, and comfort leaves us approaching almost every issue with thoughts of how we are affected, not what effect our choices may have on others.

The religious world has its share of narcissism. Worship is often reduced to pleasurable, feel-good events that focuses more on what we enjoy than on what God wants. Many conceive of the mission of the church as meeting their needs and that of their families.

Although Jesus clearly taught that He came to seek and save the lost, only a small percentage see the church's primary task as taking the gospel to the world. Narcissistic Christianity is not Christ-centered, but is self-centered, and will ultimately destroy itself.

The apostle Paul repeatedly emphasized that we much become spiritually mature in Christ. Putting away "childish things" enables us to become God-centered in all that we do and all that we are. —Al Behel

Other News: Rick's brother in Louisiana, **Ken Cliett**, is back in the hospital in a constant battle with Ascites and now failing kidneys. Ken lost his wife to lung cancer a couple of months ago, and prayers for his physical, as well as mental health, are so appreciated.

Philippines: Keep in prayer those struggling with the typhoon. Mariejane's family is ok. They live in the northern part of the country and were not damaged by the rain or winds.

Elder Contact for Month: Marc Hayes; Phone No. 1-731-608-4148

Al is speaking at the Sycamore church in Cookeville today. Mark Haynes, our youth minister, will be our speaker.

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—still battling cancer and artery problems in his leg.

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—good to see him back with us. Recovering from a broken ankle.

Heather Cox—Wyatt was delivered on Wednesday and transported to Vanderbilt Children's Hospital on Thursday where he will have heart surgery on Monday. Please keep the Cox family in prayer. We are not sure how long they will have to stay in Nashville.

Jean Compton recovering from a heart attack.

Howard Yates—recovering from broken knee cap.

Brenda Scott—now in NHC rehab in Farragut after knee surgery.

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 Teal**, 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—more surgery is planned for December 10 with radiation to follow; Tom Elkins' sister-in-law, **Joyce Elkins**, cancer surgery & auto accident; **Mark Baker**, brother-in-law of Coleen Thomason, is hospitalized in Fort Myers, FL with abnormal blood vessels in his brain; **Chad Roberts** needs our prayers.

Adult Bible Class

"Rejoicing In The Lord"

A Study in Philippians

Rise & Shine: Sundays, 9:15

Ladies Bible Study

Every first and third Tuesday in the fellowship hall

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 **\$1,176,850.95**. 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.