

NEWSLINE

Great Smoky Mountains Church of Christ

Al Behel, Minister
abehel@ix.netcom.com

Vol. XVII. No. 46
November 17, 2013

Fearing God

"The fear of the Lord is the beginning of knowledge" (Proverbs 1:7)

Modern man has learned not to fear God. In fact, fearing God is not considered to be an essential part of knowledge any more. We have grown brave and arrogant, trusting our own wisdom and strength to accomplish whatever our hearts desire...without God's help.

Still, a wise king told us long ago that *"the fear of the Lord is the beginning of knowledge"* (Proverbs 1:7). When Harvard University was founded it was dedicated to serving God. Its motto was, *"Veritas Christo Ecclesiae"*, or, *"Truth for Christ and the Church."* The motto was symbolized by three books, one facing downward to signify the limitation of human knowledge. Sadly the motto has changed. It now reads, *"Veritas"* —"Truth". The book is now turned upward to signify the unlimited capacity of the human mind.

There is an unbreakable connection between God and truth. It is impossible to really understand truth without a broader awareness of God. The apostle Paul spoke of people who were always *"learning but never able to come to a knowledge of the truth"* (2 Timothy 3:7). Without God it is impossible to see the full picture. All that we know is limited to all that we can discover through research, observation, and experimentation. With God, we look beyond the limitations of man and see through the eyes of Almighty God. He alone reveals the deeper mysteries of knowledge through revelation and inspiration.

Jesus said it clearly, *"You shall know the truth and the truth shall make you free"* (John 8:32), and, *"Thy Word is truth"* (John 17:17). The Bible is God's revealed truth...a truth that cannot be discovered on our own. The deeper meaning of life is made known through revealed truth, not through human knowledge. The Bible tells us the truth...even truth about truth. It provides light in our darkness, and comfort in our moments of discouragement, and lifts us when we are faced with despair.

*Holy Bible, Book divine,
Precious treasure, thou art mine;
Mine to tell me whence I came,
Mine to teach me what I am. —Burton*

—Al Behel

Special Collection For Philippines: We will pass the baskets a second time this morning to collect funds to help with the people struggling with the devastation cause by the typhoon in the Philippines. Two of our members, Mariejane and Marci, are from the Philippines. Their family was spared damage, but millions have suffered enormous destruction. Their need is great. Let's give generously of the gifts God has placed in our trust.

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.

Ladies Bible Study—1st and 3rd Tuesdays—Fellowship Hall—next meeting on Tuesday, November 19 at 10 a.m.

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

Sermon Topics: A.M.—"An Undivided Heart"; P.M. —"Talking To Others About Jesus" No. 3.

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.

Joyce Keyser will be having knee surgery Tuesday. Keep her in prayer.

Heather Cox—Little Wyatt is now in Vanderbilt Children's Hospital where he underwent heart surgery on Tuesday. He was born one week earlier. Heather and Alan are with him, staying at Ronald McDonald House, Rm. # 6, 2144 Fairfax Ave., Nashville, TN 37212. Prayers and cards will be encouraging.

Brenda Scott—now at home following 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; 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.

Adult Bible Class

"Rejoicing In The Lord"

A Study in Philipians

Rise & Shine: Sundays, 9:15

Telephone List Emailed

Any corrections send back via email—notification of changes at later date.

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.