

NEWSLINE

Great Smoky Mountains Church of Christ

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Are You Celebrating Thanksgiving?

Thanksgiving is one of my favorite holidays. It is a tradition as old as America. After a terrible year in which half of their number had died of starvation and disease, The Pilgrims thought it good to set aside three days to praise the Lord and give thanks for a bountiful corn harvest. That year was 1621.

After many years had passed, President George Washington proclaimed November 26 as a national day of Thanksgiving in response to God granting America freedom from Britain. That year was 1789.

In 1863, President Abraham Lincoln thought it wise to revive this old tradition of offering thanks to the God of heaven for all His wonderful gifts. Finally, in 1941, the United States Congress designated the fourth Thursday in November as a national day of Thanksgiving to the Lord.

Thanksgiving is celebrated in various ways by families across America. For some, it is a day off work. For others, it is a time for gathering with families, eating turkey, watching football, or even getting an early start on Christmas shopping. These are important times together, but Thanksgiving is more than that. It is a time for reflection...national reflection. A time for us as a country to remember Who brought us to our place in history, and upon Whom we depend to carry us through.

Sadly, many have forgotten God and hardly pause to notice that He is the One from Whom all blessings flow. He alone gives us life, health, and all good things to enjoy. While we should not wait for one special day each year to give Him thanks, it is good for us to remind each other and our neighbors and friends why we are celebrating Thanksgiving.

God obviously loved for His people to set aside special days of remembrance throughout history. Israel of old celebrated memorials and feast days designated by Him so they would not forget Who had sustained them through their rough and difficult past. God doesn't want us to ever forget.

As we pause this year as a nation, let us as Christians join in remembering the blessings He has bestowed upon us, not only as Americans, but as His holy nation, His own people. Let us, "...give thanks to the LORD, call on His name, make known His deeds among the peoples!" (I Chronicles 16:8).

—Al Behel

Baptism: We are so happy to welcome Caroline Holliman as our new sister. She was baptized by her grandfather, Marc Hayes, last Sunday following morning worship. Caroline is 15 years old and a student at SCHS. Let's encourage her in her new walk with Jesus.

Christmas Party: Is scheduled for Saturday, December 7 at 6 p.m. Sign up in the front foyer to indicate what you will bring. Meat will be furnished.

Rick Cliett will be returning on December 7 from Malaysia where he has been working as a petrochemical consultant. He will speak for us on Sunday night, December 8. He will have to return in January for a few months.

Ladies Bible Study, 1st and 3rd Tuesdays - Fellowship Hall. Next meeting December 3. See Sue Hayes for a copy of the lessons.

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

Sermon Topics: A.M.—"An Ungrateful Heart"; P.M. —"Talking To Others About Jesus" No. 4.

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 is recovering from knee surgery.

Brenda Scott—now at home following knee surgery.

Herman Byrne has been dealing with a mass on his jaw. We are grateful for a negative biopsy and pray for a quick solution for him.

Wyatt Cox, infant baby of Heather and Alan, is in Vanderbilt Children's Hospital, Rm. 7308. He underwent heart surgery and is doing well. He is tentatively schedule to be discharged on Tuesday.

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; Rick Cliett's brother, **Ken Cliett**, is battling Ascites and kidney failure. He lives in Louisiana. **Mark Baker**, brother-in-law of Coleen Thomason, is hospitalized in Fort Myers, FL with abnormal blood vessels in his brain; **Chad Roberts** needs prayers.

Adult Bible Class

"Rejoicing In The Lord"

A Study in Philippians

Rise & Shine: Sundays, 9:15

Phone List Emailed

Email back any corrections—they will be issued in the future.

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.