

NEWSLINE

Great Smoky Mountains Church of Christ

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The Wings of the Dawn

Ever wonder what God is doing? I mean, right now. Is He simply paying attention to all the details of running our universe and the people He created? Or, is He just staying busy answering prayers?

What did He do before Genesis 1:1, before He created the heavens and the earth? Is God's activity limited to taking care of man's needs? What about running His affairs in heaven?

Obviously, none of us knows what God is doing in the way we know what others around us are doing. But, we do know that He is deeply involved in the lives of His children. King David, reflecting on the continuous care and watchfulness of God, said:

"O, Lord, you have searched me and you know me. You know when I sit and when I rise; you perceive my thoughts from afar....Before a word is on my tongue you know it completely, O, Lord....Where can I go from your Spirit? Where can I flee from your presence? If I go up to heaven, you are there; if I make my bed in the depths, you are there. If I rise on the wings of the dawn, if I settle on the far side of the sea, even there your hand will guide me, your right hand will hold me fast. If I say, Surely the darkness will hide me and the light become night around me, even the darkness will not be dark to you; the night will shine like the day, for darkness is as light to you....I praise you because I am fearfully and wonderfully made; your works are wonderful....All the days ordained for me were written in your book before one of them came to be. How precious to me are your thoughts, O God! How vast is the sum of them! Were I to count them, they would outnumber the grains of sand. When I awake, I am still with you." (Psalm 139:1-18).

On the "wings of the dawn!" God is always present. When we lie down at night, or when we awaken...He is still there. He never leaves. And we cannot move outside His presence. Our Father is always there, keeping watch over us, guiding our steps. His thoughts are far beyond our ability to grasp. His actions cannot be measured nor recorded.

David said, "When I awake, I am still with you." How comforting to know that He will always be there. In the darkness He observes our every need, our actions, and our enemies. In the morning He is still there. You are never alone.

—Al Behel

Update On Building Fund Loan Balance: We want to thank everyone for your continued contributions to our building fund. Because of your generosity, our current balance is **\$1,172,708.72**. The total cost of the building program was \$2,149,303.19. This means we are nearing the half-way mark in paying off the building debt incurred 4 years ago. Most of our payments are now going to principal instead of interest. Thank you!

Welcome Home! We are glad to have Rick Cliett back with us for a few weeks from Malaysia. Rick has been working there as a petrochemical consultant for the past 11 months. He will have to return for a few more months after his visit with us. Rick is one of our elders and attends meetings with the other elders via Skype and is in regular and frequent contact with our members. He will be our speaker tonight at our evening service.

Ladies Bible Study—1st and 3rd Tuesdays, 10 a.m. in Fellowship Hall—next meeting Dec. 17—led by Priscilla Dick. See Sue Hayes for the lessons.

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

Sermon Topics: A.M.—"Wrestling With God"; P.M. —Rick Cliett - "Passing the Test of Faith"

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

Our Known Sick

Dez Anderson—multiple health issues, including MS

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.

John Jenkins—serious knee injury from a fall on the stairs. Awaiting results of MRI.

Joyce Keyser is recovering from knee surgery.

Sara Teal, daughter of Robin Roberts, is battling kidney stones.

Wyatt Cox, newborn infant of Heather and Alan Cox, was released from Vanderbilt Children's Hospital on Wednesday following heart surgery. Their home address is: 3334 Oma Lee Dr., Sevierville, TN 37876.

Kenny Jones has been transferred to Pigeon Forge Care & Rehab Center, Rm. 105B. He is recovering from a head injury suffered in a fall almost two weeks ago.

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; 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. **Mark Baker**, brother-in-law of Coleen Thomason, dealing with complications from abnormal blood vessels in the brain. Al's sister, **Liz Warpula**, has just been diagnosed with breast cancer. The prognosis is good. Al's sister-in-law, **Jean Behel**, is suffering several health issues and just started hospice care. **Chad Roberts**—prayers for his well being.

Adult Bible Class

"Rejoicing In The Lord"

A Study in Philippians

Rise & Shine: Sundays, 9:15

Phone List

For members—a copy is on the Sound Booth ledge.

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 12/01/13 is **\$1,172,708.72**. 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.