

NEWSLINE

Great Smoky Mountains Church of Christ

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August 03, 2014

Giving God Our Best

During Sunday morning service a robbery occurred which is hard to believe, much less comprehend. It seems that more than one person was involved. In fact, there were likely several people who were participants in this unbelievable deed. We cannot be assured that it will not happen again. But the most disturbing thing of all is that the robbery was carried out by members of the Lord's church.

It is hard to imagine that professing Christians would actually steal from the church, taking funds that could be used to provide supportive help to the hungry and poor, and especially to support mission efforts around the world.

You probably haven't read about this in the newspapers even though it occurred in open daylight, in full view of the church, during Sunday services. It happened as the collection plates were being passed. Actually, no one seemed to notice the robbery occurring.

Reports are that some of the robbers have used the Lord's money to fund expensive tastes, travel the world, buy bigger and better cars and houses, and hoard much of it for future use.

Malachi was the last prophet of the Old Testament to speak for God against His people. The above story illustrates what was happening in Judah when God asked, "Will a man rob God?" (Malachi 3:8). The people had robbed God every time they brought their offering or tithe to Him. They kept the best for themselves.

Churches have been robbed during worship by gunmen who took advantage of a captive group. Hopefully, no Christians participated in these acts. Still, every Sunday many of us withhold from God what He requires of us. We give Him the leftovers, keeping the best for ourselves. That was Israel's sin. That could be our big sin as well. It's really a matter of trusting God. It's a matter of honoring God with our hearts...and our resources.

— Al Behel

Other News/Sick:

Sheryle Elkins has been suffering from a cough and had a CT Scan this week which revealed a spot (mass) about 5 cm (2 inches) in diameter at the top of her left lung. Her doctor and the radiologist are doubtful that it is benign but further tests, including a PET Scan will be necessary to determine what the mass is and how to treat it. They are scheduled to see an oncologist on Monday. Please pray fervent for Sheryle and Dan as they deal with this uncertainty. God's ear is open to us and our hearts lift them up to His throne.

Carolyn Yates is scheduled to have surgery on August 6 to remove a defibrillator from her leg. Keep Carolyn in prayer.

Landon Teal, Sara's baby, has been diagnosed with a heart murmur. He will be seeing a pediatric cardiologist. Please pray for little Landon.

Shawn Molloy, frequent visitor and local optometrist, had hip surgery and is facing other surgeries. His wife's name is Darlene. His home address which is 339 Happy Trails Way, Sevierville, TN 37862. Your prayers are requested.

Polishing The Pulpit: August 22-28, Sevierville Events Center. See details in foyer. This is a great opportunity for spiritual growth and renewal.

Elder Contact for Month: Jim Anderson, Phone No. 924-1067

Sermon Topics: A.M.—"Giving God Our Best, No. 3-Robbing God"; P.M.—"At Home In The Psalms— Growing Old God's Way, Psalm 71"

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

Our Known Sick

Dez Anderson— It was so good to see Dez back with us in worship. She continues to battle multiple health issues and her activity level is very limited. Keep praying...God is listening and answering.

Ron Sommerville had to delay nerve block surgery because of low heart rate.

Clara Mayberry—still confined to home.

Kathy May –ill in Baxter. You can send her a card at P.O. Box 465, Baxter, TN 38544-0463.

Tom Elkins - recovering from a shatter heel suffered in a fall.

Larry Valentine –has received his last scheduled chemotherapy but has been battling a cold. Keep praying for his full recovery.

Wyatt Cox, received a good report from his cardiologist. Heather reports that he will be having surgery on August 25 for an undescended testicle.

Angie Daimwood –Room 136 at Wellspring, the new assisted living facility near Wellington Place and LeConte Medical Center.

Friends and Family

Jim Smith, brother of Shirley Harmon, continues to improve after being critically injured in a fall from his attic onto concrete.

Christopher Howell (grandson of the Littletons-spinal cord injuries suffered in automobile accident).

Robin McCollum and Peggy McCollum (Al's nieces-battling cancer). Robin's mother is also very ill and is requiring hospice.

Sue Mercer's sister, **Connie Browning**, breast cancer.

Rick Cliett's brother, **Ken Cliett**, is battling Ascites and kidney failure. He has been moved to a nursing facility close to his children.

Leah's neighbor's (Miss Rose) son –in-law, Jimmy Lee, is being treated for brain cancer.

Jerry Ellison, Brenda Scott's brother-in-law, failing lungs with no further treatment available.

Al's brother, Tom Behel, is improving significantly. He is now able to eat, walk with minimal assistance, and has attended church six times.

Madison Stanley, seven year old granddaughter of friends of the Clietts -stage 4 cancer—undergoing aggressive chemo and radiation.

Gayle Raines, a frequent visitor and minister, is suffering from Stage 4 cancer of the jaw. Please keep him in prayer.

Dr. Kent Brantley, the doctor who is infected with Ebola, and his family need our prayers. Members of this family are close to the Behels and the Haynes. Dr. Brantley is now at Emory Hospital in Atlanta.

Sunday Bible Study

Colossians

Rise & Shine: Sundays, 9:15

Paul Huston, son-in-law of Gary and Priscilla Dick, deployed to Egypt for one year. Prayers appreciated.

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 07/01/14 is **\$1,135,918.29**. 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