

NEWSLINE

Great Smoky Mountains Church of Christ

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Putting Out The Fire

*"For lack of wood the fire goes out, and where there is
No whisper, quarreling ceases" (Prov. 26:20)*

Northern California is host to the mighty redwood and sequoia trees. During the past two years raging wildfires have threatened many homes and burned thousands of acres of timber and grasslands. One wonders with all the fires what happens to these centuries old trees.

The answer is simple. Wildfires, while threatening human life, can be a friend to tree life. They benefit immensely by the destruction of underbrush. The fires stimulate the germination of desirable trees and renew the forests. The cones from the Sequoia and Lodgepole Pine are serotinous, which means that they require heat to open and disperse their seeds.

Uncontrolled fires, however, can be very destructive. That is why foresters do back burning and controlled burns to minimize their destructive power. Back burning is designed to stop a wildfire's spread by creating small fires that burn the undergrowth, or fuel, which keeps the fires going. When these fires meet the out-of-control fires, the wildfires go out.

Solomon said that for lack of wood *"the fires go out."* He is talking about the fire that is created by an irresponsible tongue that causes pain and resentment to burn in the hearts of those in its path. Uncontrolled speech has the destructive power of wildfires and leave devastation wherever it spreads. James tells us that the tongue is *"a little member, and boasts great things. Behold, how great a forest is set ablaze by such a small fire"* (James 3:5,6).

The tongue can inflict deep and lasting wounds upon others. Many relationships have been torn apart by careless words. Churches have been maligned, fellowship broken, and the body of Christ riddled by the harmful fires of slander and gossip. James warns that tongues that destroy others are in danger of themselves being set on fire by the *"fire of hell"* (James 3:6).

An unknown author has penned these words:

*"How many fires have swept the land and left an ugly scar!
But of the blazing flames that burn, the tongue's the worst by far."*

— Al Behel

Other News/Sick:

Landon Teal, Sara's baby, has been diagnosed with a heart murmur but doctors do not believe he needs additional treatment. Please pray for little Landon.

Shawn Molloy, frequent visitor and local optometrist, is now at home following a hip surgery and 4 weeks of hospitalization. His wife's name is Darlene. Their home address which is 339 Happy Trails Way, Sevierville, TN 37862.

Polishing The Pulpit: August 22-28, Sevierville Events Center. See details in foyer. This is a great opportunity for spiritual growth and renewal. You can register at the site or by going to www.polishingthepulpit.com.

Gary and Priscilla's grandson, **Jeremy Huston**, was baptized into Christ by his granddad in Washington state last week. His dad, Paul, was home from deployment in Egypt and able to share this joyful time with Jeremy and his family.

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

*Sermon Topics: A.M.—"Growing A Spiritual Church"; P.M.—"At Home In The
Psalms—Longing To Be In God's House- Psalm 84"*

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 is still struggling with pain issues.

Sheryle Elkins has been diagnosed with lung cancer. They will learn the type of cancer and treatment options on Tuesday. Please pray that God will shower His grace on them and grant healing to her.

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.

Larry Valentine —is continuing to improve following removal of a cancerous lung. Keep praying for his full recovery.

Jerry Dyer (and Jeanette) were back with us Wednesday night.

Wyatt Cox, will have corrective surgery on August 25.

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.

Robin McCollum and Peggy McCollum (Al's nieces-battling cancer).

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

Dot Willis, Al's first cousin and visitor to GSM church—on hospice.

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. His speech is still limited.

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.

Raja Vijay Kumar Vundurthi (India missionary) reports that his father is improving from GB Syndrome. Keep praying for him.

Dr. Kent Brantley, the doctor who is infected with Ebola, appreciates your prayers. Some of our members have close ties with his family.

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 08/05/14 is **\$1,131.329.64**. 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.