

NEWSLINE

Great Smoky Mountains Church of Christ

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I Want To Go To Heaven

"Every athlete exercises self-control...They do it to receive a perishable wreath, but we an imperishable one..." (1 Cor. 9:25)

John "Pepper" Martin played for the St. Louis Cardinals and was the star of the 1931 World Series. Following one of those games Pepper was interviewed by a newsman. The first question he was asked was, "Pepper, what's your chief ambition?" Without hesitating Pepper responded, "My chief ambition is to go to heaven."

The newsman who interviewed Pepper Martin laughed at his response and said rather sarcastically, "Oh, you want to play a harp, eh?" Martin shot back at him, "My friend, I don't think that is funny. I know you don't mean to be a smart aleck, but there's something wrong with a person's attitude when he's flippant about serious things. If there's anything foolish about reading the Bible every day and believing what it says, and if there's anything funny about wanting to go to heaven when you leave this world, then I'm afraid life here isn't worth living."

What a goal! To go to heaven. I've often asked people, "If you could go anywhere and do anything, what would you choose?" The responses have been interesting. A common response is, "I'd like to go to Europe, Paris, or to Greece, etc." I don't remember anyone saying, "I'd like to go to heaven."

The Christian life is like running a race. In the ancient Olympic games the winner received a perishable wreath of ivy or pine. We are in a race for an imperishable wreath that will never decay. We want to go to heaven. Nothing we gain in life in our careers or accumulate through wealth will be taken into our caskets. Our friends will not go with us. We will go alone. All earthly treasures will be left behind. But, we look beyond these temporary trinkets to an eternal home where we will live for all eternity. In the words of our hymn, *"Heaven will surely be worth it all."*

—Al Behel

Other News/Prayer Requests:

Sympathy: To Ginny Cliett in the death of her sister, **Betty Langdon**. Ginny is in Pasadena, TX for the memorial service

Herman Byrne—home following surgery to remove a tumor from his salivary gland.

Annabelle Chambers, infant daughter of Kelsey and Destin, (granddaughter of Rich and Judy), was taken to Children's Hospital this week. Doctors think she is suffering from a viral infection.

Al's brother, Tom, had hip surgery on Monday and suffered a stroke. His throat is paralyzed and doctors inserted a feeding tube Friday. Al's sister, **Liz Warpula**, had surgery Friday in Birmingham for breast cancer. Her surgeon is optimistic about her prognosis. Al's sister-in-law, **Jean Behel**, is receiving hospice care. Her condition is rapidly deteriorating. His brother, Gilbert, preaches in Alabama. Al's aunt, **Betty Howard**, is hospitalized in Alabama with a large blood clot in her lung along with several other clots.

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

Dan Elkin's sister, Lorna, producing too much blood.

Jimmy Vance, had knee surgery in Nashville last week.

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

Elder Contact for Month: Dan Elkins, Phone No. 1-865-548-9852

Sermon Topics: A.M.—"Jesus Christ, No Ordinary Man, No. 2"; P.M.—"A Hero's Reward-Heaven" (A Special Message for New Union Youth Group)

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

Our Known Sick

Dez Anderson—is slowly improving at home from a blood clot in her heart and bleeding from an artery into her stomach. It appears that the bleeding has stopped. She is being treated with medication only. Please NO visits at this time and NO flowers because of her compromised immune system.

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

Larry Valentine has been diagnosed with lung cancer. He saw his surgeon last week. He believes the cancer is contained to the lower lobe of his left lung but cannot be sure until surgery is done. Larry will see him again this week.

Linda Valentine is recuperating at home from pneumonia.

Deb Elkins is now home following knee surgery last week. She is progressing in her recovery.

Doug Hill is still recuperating from cellulitis.

Wyatt Cox, newborn infant of Heather and Alan Cox, is continuing to improve following heart surgery. Their home address is: 3334 Oma Lee Dr., Sevierville, TN 37876.

Kenny Jones is now at home from rehab.

Friends and Family

Christopher Howell (grandson of the Littletons-spinal cord injuries suffered in automobile accident). Dwight Grizzell's friend, **Libby Gilley**, undergoing experimental treatment at Vanderbilt for metastasized breast cancer. Pray for her and husband Barry. **Arania Blount** (Brenda Scott's sister)—battling cancer. **Robin McCollum and Peggy McCollum** (Al's nieces—both battling 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**, report following cancer surgery is encouraging; 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. **Paul Stream**, who works at Cracker Barrel in Pigeon Forge, fell and broke his neck. He is in U.T.

Adult Bible Class

"Rejoicing In The Lord"

A Study in Philipians

Rise & Shine: Sundays, 9:15

Tonight: New Union Youth Group will meet with us as part of their retreat.

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 01/01/14 is **\$1,166,300.90**. Extra contributions to reduce the loan debt are needed and appreciated. Envelopes are

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.