

NEWSLINE

Great Smoky Mountains Church of Christ

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Let Your Words Be Gracious

"Let your speech always be gracious, seasoned with salt, so that you may know how to answer everyone" (Colossians 4:6)

Words are powerful. They can lift and they can crush. They can encourage and they can discourage. They have the ability to bring out the best in us or the worst in us. They are like arrows thrust into the hearts of those who hear us. And they are the soothing balm of compassionate love.

Remember the old adage, *"Sticks and stones may break my bones, but words can never hurt me?"* That's rather silly, don't you think? I like some other versions better: *"Sticks and stones may break my bones, but words can break my heart!"* Perhaps the following is more to the point:

*Sticks and stones are hard on bones,
Cast with careless art;
And words can sting like anything
And silence breaks the heart.*

Words are symbols of ideas, and ideas reflect attitudes and values. Your words tell a lot about you. Are they gentle, warm, and sensitive? Are they harsh and rough, demeaning and denigrating? Your words tell others what you are like on the inside.

Gracious words are filled with beauty and kindness. They are heart-warming and cleansing. They have the power to bring comfort to those who feel defeated and joy to those who are depressed. Scripture tells us that Jesus spoke words of grace and beauty. No wonder the crowds wanted to hear Him; no wonder the outcasts came and sat at His feet. And His words are still gracious today. They are redemptive and healing...and they are life.

—Al Behel

Other News:

Bottles of Love: are due today. Funds raised will be used to provide blankets and supplies for newborns and clothing for school children in Sevier county.

Mission Opportunity: Former members, **Julie and Jenna Ogle**, plan to participate in a medical evangelism project in Diiamba, Nicaragua on June 13-21. **Savanna Smallwood** (who was with us at age 10 and sang at Country Tonight) plans to participate in a mission trip to Malawi, Central Africa in July. They have asked for assistance. If you would like to help, please give your donation to one of the elders or to Al. You may write a check to the GSM church.

Special Mission Emphasis Sunday: April 13. We will have special presentations about our various mission efforts on that day. We currently support missionary efforts in Cape Town, South Africa, LaEsperanza, Honduras, the Philippines, and India. In addition to these works we help raise funds each year to place Bibles in Ukraine and Russia through Eastern European Mission.

Invitation:EEM Brunch, Maryville Church of Christ, 3/29/14, 9:30-11:00 a.m.

Sympathy: To Marc Hayes and his family in the death of his brother-in-law last Tuesday in Florida.

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

Sermon Topics: A.M.—"Jesus Christ, No Ordinary Man, No. 10— A Great Gulf Is Being Fixed"; P.M.— "Where Do We Go From Here?"(Continued)

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

Our Known Sick

Dez Anderson—is home but is having a lot of pain. Dez suffers from many health conditions. She has also been battling blood clots and internal bleeding and has required several units of blood.

Ron Sommerville is recuperating at home following back surgery. He is slowly progressing.

Bill England—his cancer markers are low. We rejoice with him.

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—chemo begins March 24 - Linda's nodule on kidney was nothing of concern.

Deb Elkins—recovering from some post-surgical complications.

Wyatt Cox, infant son of Heather and Alan Cox—heart cath on Wednesday and surgery March 27. Their home address is: 3334 Oma Lee Dr., Sevierville, TN 37876.

Friends and Family

Christopher Howell (grandson of the Littletons—spinal cord injuries suffered in automobile accident). Dwight Grizzell's friend, **Libby Gilley**, has discontinued all cancer treatment and is receiving hospice at home. 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; 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. 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 receiving rehab at home in Alabama following hip surgery and a possible stroke which left him paralyzed in his throat.

Sue Hayes' sister, Joyce - she fell and broke her hip

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

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

Sunday Adult Bible Study

"Rejoicing In the Lord"

A Study in Philipians

Rise & Shine: Sundays, 9:15

LADIES CLASS

1st and 3rd Tuesdays. Theme:

"Apples of Gold"

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 03/01/14 is **\$1,154,725.22**. 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.