

NEWSLINE

Great Smoky Mountains Church of Christ

Al Behel, Minister
abehel@ix.netcom.com

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I Heard An Old, Old Story

Over and over again the story is told. In every language. In every culture. In every century. The same story. The story of a loving God who came down. A God who knew that our need was greater than our ability to make things right. A God who cares more than we do. It's the story of a manger. It's the story of a cross. More than that, it's the story of an empty tomb.

From early childhood we have heard the story. A virgin conceived and brought forth a son. Not just a son, but the Son. Angels announced His birth and never left Him alone. They didn't stop history from happening. They didn't rescue Him from the wilderness temptation, but came and ministered to Him after it was over.

The story is one of unrequited love. A love that will not let me go. A love that keeps on waiting and hoping. For, "God so loved the world that He gave His only begotten Son, that whoever believes in Him might not perish, but have eternal life" (John 3:16). The good news is that lost man did not have to stay lost. He is still the "Way, the Truth, and the Life." And no one can reach the Father except through Him (John 14:6).

The story will never change because God never changes and sin never changes. Sin still condemns us and destroys us. But, God keeps waiting for our repentance and our redemption. He longs for our salvation just as He has always done.

Let's keep telling the story...over and over again. As long as there are lost men and women on earth the story *must* be told because there is no other way. It is up to you and me to tell it.

—Al Behel

The Best Is Yet To Be

The preacher was called to the home of a dying church member. "I have one request for my funeral", she said. "I would like to be buried with a fork in my hand." The preacher replied, "Of course, we will accommodate your request, but I must admit that is a bit unusual. Can you tell me what that means to you?" "Certainly," she said. "At every church dinner they tell us to keep our forks. I always knew that meant the best is yet to be. At my funeral I just want everyone to know the best is yet to be."

Other News/Prayer Requests:

Al's brother, **Tom**, had hip surgery on two weeks ago and suffered an apparent stroke. He is using a feeding tube. Al's sister, **Liz Warpula**, had surgery for breast cancer and doctors believe she is now cancer free. 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, is recovering from knee surgery.

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

Ladies Bible Study—Tuesday, February 4 at 10 a.m.—Fellowship Hall. Last class in this series—stay tuned for more!

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

Sermon Topics: A.M.—"Jesus Christ, No Ordinary Man, No. 3—The Great I Am"; P.M.—"Talking To Others About Jesus, No. 9"

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

Our Known Sick

Dez Anderson—is slowing improving at home from a blood clot in her heart and bleeding from an artery into her stomach. Jim reported that she was gaining strength and was feeling somewhat better this week.

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 is scheduled to have surgery tomorrow morning at 8 a.m. for lung cancer. Surgery will be at Tennova North in Knoxville. Please keep Larry and Linda in your prayers.

Linda Valentine is recuperating at home from pneumonia.

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

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

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; **Jimmy & Joan Lee**, daughter and son-in-law of Leah Turner's very special neighbor Miss Rose—Jimmy has a malignant brain tumor and is now undergoing treatment and is doing well thus far. Goal is to prevent tumor growth.

Adult Bible Class

"Rejoicing In The Lord"

A Study in Philippians

Rise & Shine: To Resume in Spring

"Trust in the Lord with all your heart and lean not on your own understanding" (Prov. 3:5)

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 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.