

NEWSLINE

Great Smoky Mountains Church of Christ

Al Behel, Minister
abehel@ix.netcom.com

Vol. XVIII. No. 05

February 02, 2014

Near To The Heart Of God

Who stirs your heart? Perhaps it is a child who captures your deepest emotions of love. Or, maybe it is that special someone who shares the intimacy of your soul. We all have people in our lives who are very close to our hearts.

God holds certain people close to His heart. They can move him to weep, or laugh, or celebrate. He delights in them daily. He finds pleasure in them. God was so passionate about us that He sent heaven's greatest gift to us...the gift of His Son. And He did that "while we were still sinners" (Romans 5:8). King David said it well, "Great is the LORD, who delights in the welfare of his servant!" (Psalm 35:27)

What thrills God's heart? Scripture tells us, "For the LORD takes pleasure in his people; he adorns the humble with victory" (Psalms 149:4). The heart of God rejoices in His children when we walk with Him and keep faith in Him. He delights in every victory we claim, in every holy moment we share with Him.

He surrounds us with good things. His glorious heavens whisper His praises. The mountains applaud His presence. He extends His strength to those who seek Him. Our power or wealth does not move Him. He is not impressed with our abilities...after all, He made us and gives us our unique talents. He is moved by our faith and love. He rejoices when we believe Him. His heart is near to those who trust Him.

God called David a "man after my heart" (Acts 13:22). The distinctive reason given is that David would do God's will. When we do God's will His heart is pleased. It is never enough to simply proclaim our allegiance...we must follow through. We must not waver, or lose heart. We must always walk under the shadow of His grace in full compliance with His will. Then we are near to the heart of God.

—Al Behel

Other News/Prayer Requests:

Larry Valentine underwent surgery on Monday to remove his left lung. Doctors found a tumor as large as a cantaloupe. There were two cancers but they were contained in a small area. The oncologist recommended he have chemotherapy in 4-6 weeks as a preventative measure. He is in room 5027 at Tennova North in Knoxville. Keep on praying.

Al's brother, Tom, had hip surgery on three weeks ago and suffered an apparent stroke. He is currently in rehab and is using a feeding tube. 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 struggling 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.

Baby Shower: For Wyatt Cox, next Sunday afternoon, February 9, at 2 p.m. in the fellowship hall.

Ladies Bible Study—Tuesday, February 4 at 10 a.m. in 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. 4—He Taught In Parables"; P.M.—"Talking To Others About Jesus, No. 10"

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. Jim reported that this week has been a mixture of ups and downs. She continues to experience a lot of pain.

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.

Linda Valentine is recuperating at home from pneumonia.

Deb Elkins is now home following knee surgery last week. She is progressing in her recovery. It was good to see her back with us last Sunday.

Joey Bailey fell this week on ice and broke his arm in two places. He is scheduled for surgery on Monday at UT Hospital. He is in a lot of pain.

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.

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 fiancé's mother, **Paula Ramos**, undergoing radiation 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; **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 to prevent tumor growth.

Adult Bible Class

"Rejoicing In The Lord"

A Study in Philippians

Rise & Shine: To resume in Spring

Meetings Today: Men and Ladies with have their respective meetings today at 4 p.m.

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