

NEWSLINE

Great Smoky Mountains Church of Christ

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Birth – Life – Death – Eternity

Several years ago a popular television program began with the words, **“Birth, Life, Death, Eternity.”** In reality, to borrow another theme, *“these are the days of our lives.”* How do you measure your life? These words explain the dimensions of time, but they don’t explain the quality of our existence. Why are we here?

Birth. All of us begin our journey in the same way. Usually, it is a happy moment, filled with celebration, anticipation, and hope. We enter the world pure and clean. No stains from sin; no disappointments or failures. The future looks promising.

Life. The distance between birth and death is measured by the “dash”. Scripture describes the journey as *“a vapor that appears for a little while and then vanishes away.”* It is like grass that *“withers and then passes away.”* At the front end it seems so long. At the back end it seems so short.

Death. Shakespeare described life as a city with many strange streets and death as the marketplace where they all meet. A common experience for all of us, death is an inevitable appointment we must keep (Hebrews 9:27). Is it the end, or the beginning?

Eternity. Without time to define it, how can we comprehend it? Infinity. Forever. Never-ending. From *“everlasting to everlasting.”* Only God can conceive of the vastness of it all. Life without end. Eternal life. The promise to all who serve the *“Father of Eternity.”*

Our lives have a beginning but no end. Death is a transition into eternity where we face the ultimate results of our choices in life. *“It is appointed to man once to die, then comes the judgment”* (Hebrews 9:27). Scripture tells us further, *“Blessed (happy) are the dead who die in the Lord... that they may rest from their labors, for their works follow them”* (Revelation 14:13). A *“crown of life”* awaits the faithful believers. It will be worth the journey.

___Al Behel

Other News/Prayer Requests:

Larry Valentine is recovering from surgery to remove his left lung. He is at home and plans to receive chemotherapy in a few weeks as a preventive measure. His surgeon believes the cancer was contained to the one lung.

Linda Valentine had tests on Friday to check out what appears to be a cyst on her kidney. Keep Larry and Linda in your prayers.

Al’s brother, Tom, is receiving rehab at home in Alabama following surgery and a possible stroke which left him paralyzed in his throat.

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.

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

Sermon Topics: A.M.—“Jesus Christ, No Ordinary Man, No. 7– He Taught In Parables: Getting Our Focus Right”; P.M.—“Where Do We Go From Here?”

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 hopeful that the surgery will greatly improve his pain level and mobility.

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.

Deb Elkins—recovering from gallbladder surgery and some post-surgical complications.

Joey Bailey recovering from broken arm.

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 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.

Ladies Bible Class: Tuesday mornings. Theme: *“Apples of Gold”.* See Sue Hayes for materials.

Potluck Dinner: After worship Sunday night, March 9. No sign-up. Just come and bring lots of good food!

Adult Bible Class

“Rejoicing In The Lord”

A Study in Philippians

Rise & Shine: Resumes 3/9

*“My help comes from the Lord,
who made heaven and earth”
(Psalm 121:2)*

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 02/03/14 is **\$1,159,597.63.** 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.