

NEWSLINE

Great Smoky Mountains Church of Christ

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April 20, 2014

The Empty Tomb

It must have been breath-taking. Standing outside the open tomb, now empty of its victim, they wept. The women had come to anoint His dead body, but He is not there. "Where have they taken Him? Why would they take Him away?"

Finally revealing Himself to them, Jesus instructed the women to return to Jerusalem and tell the disciples that He was alive. A special message was given, to "tell Peter." Knowing the grief in Peter's heart for denying Him, Jesus wanted to be sure that he knew that He was alive.

That empty tomb is one of the most important symbols of our faith. Without that symbol our faith would be without substance and our future would be without hope. Without that symbol God would have failed and we would be left alone. Without that empty tomb death would be the end for all of us.

But that tomb was empty. Satan and all his angels couldn't seal it. The stone rolled in front of the mouth of that tomb was a feeble effort to capture the power of God. Satan must have cheered and celebrated his short-lived victory.

When the women arrived at the tomb the angel invited them to come inside and investigate for themselves. Skeptics and critics have questioned the reality of the resurrection. No one had a greater need to disprove it than the leaders of the Jews. Had they produced a dead body they could have stopped this movement once for all. But there was no body. He was alive! His resurrection is the central item of Christian faith.

All Scripture and every promise hinges on this fact. And our own resurrection to eternal life is guaranteed by this reality. *Thank God, He lives! He still lives!*

—Al Behel

Other News/Sick:

Bob Klingerman, Al and Linda's son-in-law's father, passed away Thursday. Please remember his wife Jean, their sons and grandchildren in your prayers.

Carol Fromke, wife of Vince Fromke, M.D. (one of Al's associates), has been diagnosed with advanced lung cancer. Your prayers for Carol will be appreciated. Cards may be sent to Carol at Livingston Clinic, 500 West Main Street, Livingston, TN 38570.

Gayle Raines, a frequent visitor and minister, is suffering from Stage 4 cancer of the jaw. Please keep him in prayer.

Kenneth Williams, brother of Priscilla Dick, is very ill in Abilene, TX. Pris plans to go there in a few days.

Mission Emphasis: We believe the mission of the church is to share the good news of the gospel with the world. Last Sunday Michael Jacobs from Cape Town, SA, was with us. On April 27, Jim Anderson will update us on the work in Honduras and Steve Dick will give a report on the work in India.

Al and Linda will be away next Sunday.

Baby Shower—for Sara Teal (baby boy) is scheduled for Sunday, May 4, 2-3:30 p.m. See bulletin boards in foyer for a list of needed items and to note items NOT needed.

Graduation Celebration and Pot Luck—May 18 after evening services in fellowship hall. Graduates are Hunter Haynes, Hunter Callon, Abby Lee and Scott LaFollette.

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. 865-548-9852

Sermon Topics: A.M.—"Jesus Christ, No Ordinary Man—He Arose From The Dead"; P.M.—"At Home in the Psalms"

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

Our Known Sick

Dez Anderson—suffers from many health conditions. She has recently battled blood clots and internal bleeding but is at home slowly improving.

Ron Sommerville is experiencing significant pain as he recovers from back surgery.

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

Debby Bryan—battling cancer at home. She is not doing well at this time. Keep praying.

Johnny Bryan—was released from the hospital and is now at home.

Clara Mayberry—still confined to home.

DeEte Alexander—battling an infection.

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

Larry Valentine—began chemo on March 24

Wyatt Cox, infant son of Heather and Alan Cox— is now at home recovering from his second heart surgery. Their home address is: 3334 Oma Lee Dr., Sevierville, TN 37876.

Angie Daimwood—suffering agitation due to advancing dementia. She is back in Wellington Place.

Friends and Family

Christopher Howell (grandson of the Littletons-spinal cord injuries suffered in automobile accident).

Arania Blount (Brenda Scott's sister)—battling cancer and is now receiving hospice.

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**, liver disease 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, 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

Madison Stanley, seven year old granddaughter of friends of the Clietts -stage 4 cancer—undergoing aggressive chemo and radiation.

Sunday Adult Bible Study

"Rejoicing In the Lord"

A Study in Philippians

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 **\$1,150,519.86**. 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.