

NEWSLINE

Great Smoky Mountains Church of Christ

Al Behel, Minister
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May 25, 2014

What Does Freedom Mean To You?

Freedom. A word we cherish but often take for granted. What does it mean to you? We have grown up knowing that in America we are free to pursue life, liberty, and happiness. We can travel wherever we please in our country without permission. We can assemble for worship or gather in crowds without interference. Our freedom includes the right to speak out, to preach freely God's Word, and to practice our faith openly.

While visiting China over 30 years ago we were constantly watched. We were not free to move about freely without permission. We were not free to preach or teach openly. Possessing and reading a Bible was banned. There was a hunger for freedom among the people.

Each year we celebrate "Memorial Day." Originally, it was designated as "Decoration Day" as the graves of America's fallen soldiers were decorated in memory of their heroic sacrifices. It is a time to remember those who fought for our freedoms. We are free because others' lives were cut short on the battle field.

Like so many holidays in America, to many people Memorial Day is just a day for cookouts, going to the lake, or just relaxing at home. But, let us not forget why we are able to these things...freely. Let us remember those who can not enjoy those activities any more so we would be free to do so.

God has always emphasized the importance of memorials. The rainbow in the sky reminds us that the earth will never be destroyed with a flood again. The Passover for the Jews and the Lord's Supper for Christians have served as important reminders of God's grace.

We honor those who have served in our military. We honor those who have died in service for our country. We lift you up in our hearts and thank God for your willingness to support and sustain our freedoms.

___ Al Behel

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—lots of pain as he recovers from back surgery.

Deb Elkins—difficulty stabilizing medications for anxiety.

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

Johnny Bryan—is in Pigeon Forge Rehabilitation Center.

Clara Mayberry—still confined to home.

DeEtte 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—recovering from his second heart surgery. Home address: 3334 Oma Lee Dr., Sevierville, TN 37876.

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

Sara Teal, is at LeConte at this writing awaiting the birth of her baby boy.

Shirley Harmon had a defibrillator installed on Friday and is home.

Landin Chambers, Andrea Weddington's grand-baby, is in Children's Hospital with complications following a virus. A feeding tube was installed yesterday.

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**, treated for breast cancer.

Rick Cliett's brother, **Ken Cliett**, is battling Ascites and kidney failure; 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, recovering from hip surgery and stroke.

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

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

Other News/Sick:

Sympathy: We extend sympathy to the family of **Debby Bryan**. Debby passed away Thursday evening. The family will receive friends today between 2-3 with the funeral service at 3 p.m. at Atchley's Funeral Home. Our prayers are with Johnny, Andy (Christine), Scott, David (Shannon), Deonna (Randy), Clara Mayberry (mother), the grandchildren, and all the family. Debby has battled cancer for the last 6 years and has not been able to attend worship for some time. In years past Debby was very active teaching children's classes and doing many acts of Christian service. She was deeply loved by those of us who knew her.

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

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

Brenda Dawson, visitor from Mount Washington, KY, has requested prayers for herself, her son, Daren, and grandsons, Ethan and Trevoe.

Mary Ellen Rhoden, visitor from Muscle Shoals, AL, has requested prayer. She is struggling with major health issues.

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

Sermon Topics: A.M.—"God's Marvelous Grace"; P.M.—"At Home In The Psalms-The King of Glory"

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

Sunday Adult Bible Study

"Rejoicing In the Lord"

A Study in Philippians

Rise & Shine: Sundays, 9:15

LADIES CLASS

Will resume in September

Stay tuned

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 05/01/14 is **\$1,146,072.68**. 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