

NEWSLINE

Great Smoky Mountains Church of Christ

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Entertaining Angels

“...some have entertained angels without knowing it” (Hebrews 13:2)

I don't really know what it means to *entertain* angels. There is no Biblical basis for assuming that angels have withdrawn from our world. In fact, there is every reason to believe they are still very active on behalf of God's people. The book of Hebrews clearly says, “they are ministering spirits sent to serve those who are to inherit salvation” (Hebrews 1:14).

Angels had an active role throughout the Old Testament and in the early days of the church. Jesus said that children have angels in heaven who “always see the face of My Father in heaven” (Matthew 18:10). Jesus seems to be implying that these angels have constant access to God on behalf of children.

Who is an angel? Where are they? How do we know when they are present? Angels are spiritual servants who are subject to God and have historically been involved in assisting God's people in knowing how to deal with special challenges and circumstances. Their mission is to help carry out God's mission. They provided special guidance and instructions to ancient leaders of Israel, comforted Jesus after the wilderness temptation, were present at the resurrection, and assisted the apostles when they were faced with opposition and imprisonment.

The Scriptures provide us no directions as to how we might identify the presence of angels...just that we can be sure they are observing and ministering to us. Their ministry is to assist us in our service to God. Perhaps the best way to identify their presence is through the obvious effects upon our lives. The Hebrews text encourages us to entertain strangers because that's how many people have entertained angels.

A two-way influence between angels and humans seems to be recognized in Scripture. The early church was told that, during worship, women should have a sign of authority (veils) on their heads, “because of the angels” (I Corinthians 11:10). The concern seems to have been that angels would observe Christian women rejecting culturally established signs of authority and be influenced negatively by their behavior, perhaps to rebel against God's authority.

Angels are not objects of worship, nor do they have authority over our lives. Their mission is to always represent God's mission in keeping with God's revealed Word. Their glory is in serving God.

Angels are God's special servants to God's special people. How, when, and where they act may only be known to God...but when we extend acts of kindness to others we may be entertaining angels “without knowing it.”

— Al Behel

Other News/Sick:

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.

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

Sermon Topics: A.M.—“Grace—Where Grace and Judgment Meet”; P.M.—“At Home In The Psalms—Unto You, O Lord, Do I Lift Up My Soul” (Cont.)

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

Our Known Sick

Dez Anderson—It was so good to see Dez back with us last Sunday. She continues to battle multiple health issues and her activity level is very limited. Still, we rejoice that God is answering our prayers on her behalf. Keep praying.

Johnny Bryan—is in Pigeon Forge Rehabilitation Center.

Clara Mayberry—still confined to home.

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

Larry Valentine—received his last scheduled chemotherapy this week. Keep praying for his full recovery.

Wyatt Cox, infant son of Heather and Alan Cox, continues to do well recovering from heart surgery.

Angie Daimwood—is now in Room 136 at Wellspring, the new assisted living facility near Wellington Place and LeConte Medical Center.

Landon Chambers, Andrea Weddington's grand-baby, is now at home. He was diagnosed with a milk allergy.

Sara Teal—surgery to remove kidney stones from one kidney tomorrow, surgery on the other kidney in a week.

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-battling cancer).

-**Sue Mercer's sister, Connie Browning**, is being 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**, had feeding tube removed. He is able to walk with a walker and minimal assistance.

-**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.

-**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.

-**Rick Cliett's 91 year old aunt, Doris Chambers**, is slowly recovering from a second surgery to repair a broken leg.

Sunday Adult Bible Study

Colossians

Rise & Shine: Sundays, 9:15

VBS-God To The Rescue

June 20 and 21

Pick up flyer in the foyer

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 06/02/14 is **\$1,140,411.50**. 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.