

NEWSLINE

Great Smoky Mountains Church of Christ

Al Behel, Minister
abehel@ix.netcom.com

Vol. XVIII. No. 26

June 29, 2014

Teach Us To Pray

“Lord, teach us to pray” (Luke 11:1)

The disciples of Jesus never asked the Lord to “Teach us to preach” or “Teach us to sing”. They did ask him for instruction in a far more important skill. They ask him to “Teach us to pray.”

Historically, we have placed great emphasis on preaching and singing but neglected the gift of prayer. Many people look for churches where the singing is uplifting and moving, or where the sermons are inspiring and challenging, while giving no attention to the prayer life of its people.

I would much rather be gifted in prayer than gifted in preaching. I would rather move the powers of heaven than to motivate the masses of men on earth. Without prayer-power preaching is empty. It may be filled with the right words but will not be filled with the power of God. More is accomplished through the power of prayer than all the pulpits in the world.

Not everyone is gifted in preaching or teaching. Both of these are important. But, God decides our gifts. He has given to all of us the gift of prayer and encouraged that, “Men ought always to pray and not to lose heart” (Luke 18:1). Prayer is a privilege granted to everyone in all places under all circumstances. Prayer is power. Power to move the hand of God.

The Bible is filled with great prayers. These were not always by great preachers, but by believers seeking God. Study the prayers of the Bible. Read the prayers of Jesus, or Paul, or King David.

When Jesus responded to the disciples’ request he gave them a simple model. He gave them a 45 second prayer that recognizes God’s name as hallowed, a plea for His will to be done on earth as in heaven, His kingdom (rule) to fill the hearts of all men, an appeal for our daily needs to be met by Him, for the cleansing of our hearts and souls, and for deliverance from temptation’s power. A prayer anyone can pray.

— Al Behel

Other News/Sick:

Sympathy To: Brenda Scott and her family in the death of her sister, Arania Blount, who passed away in Ohio. Memorial service is this weekend.

Tom Elkins suffered a shattered heel in a fall on Thursday. He will require surgery but was sent home from the hospital so the swelling could diminish before the operation which is currently projected for Wednesday.

Johnny Bryan is at home and hospice. His lungs are failing. Johnny’s wife, Debby, just passed away a few weeks ago. Keep this family in your prayers.

Linda Valentine is recovering from a severe kidney infection.

Shawn Molloy, frequent visitor and local optometrist, had hip surgery and is facing other surgeries. His wife’s name is Darlene. His home address which is 339 Happy Trails Way, Sevierville, TN 37862. Your prayers are requested.

Teachers Needed For Summer: We need teachers for the 3-4 year old class for Sunday morning and Wednesday night this summer. Please let Mark Haynes know of your availability.

Honduras: Steve & Donna Dick will be visiting La Esperanza, Honduras from July 16-24. They will be visiting and worshiping with the congregation there. There are many needs in the congregation there. If you would like to donate to help those needs make your check to GSM church for that purpose.

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

Sermon Topics: A.M.—“What Does The Real Church Look Like?”; P.M.—“At Home In The Psalms—A Penitent’s Reflections on Sin”

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 in worship. She continues to battle multiple health issues and her activity level is very limited. Keep praying...God is listening and answering.

Marti Cantrell is scheduled for gallbladder surgery on Tuesday at UT Medical Center. Keep her in prayer.

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—has received his last scheduled chemotherapy. He is eager to get back with us. He hopes to be back with us very soon. We have missed him greatly. 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—Room 136 at Wellspring, the new assisted living facility near Wellington Place and LeConte Medical Center.

Friends and Family

Jim Smith, brother of Shirley Harmon, was critically injured in a fall from his attic onto concrete. He is in the trauma center in Memphis and has required multiple surgeries and a feeding tube.

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

Robin McCollum and Peggy McCollum (Al’s nieces—battling cancer). Sue Mercer’s sister, **Connie Browning**, breast cancer.

Esther Stewart’s sister is in need of our prayers. 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, is improving significantly. He is now able to eat, walk with minimal assistance, and has attended church six times.

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), received good reports from her cancer treatments. She thanks you for your prayers. Cards may be sent to Carol at Livingston Clinic, 500 West Main Street, Livingston, TN 38570.

Sunday Adult Bible Study

Colossians

Rise & Shine: Sundays, 9:15

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

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