

NEWSLINE

Great Smoky Mountains Church of Christ

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A Light In The Darkness

Nighttime in the country for a little boy could be really dark. Dad's lantern was a welcomed sight. The woods were exceptionally dark as we would go coon hunting or just out to let the dogs run. I wasn't sure why we needed to hunt those little critters anyway.

When the tornadoes came and the sky was black from the threatening clouds and there were no stars to be seen, even the lightening made things seem better. As a teenager the country roads seemed safer when a tiny light could be seen flickering in the window of the farm house.

Light has always provided hope. It has always promised life. Where there is light in the darkness the darkness seems less dangerous. Ancient mariners looked for the comforting glow of the lighthouse. Often when the fog moved in their wives and children would bring lanterns and stand along the sea shore to guide their husbands, sons, and fathers home.

Scripture tells us that "God is light, and in Him is no darkness at all" (1 John 1:5). Our God is the Father of light. The Creator of the sun, moon, and stars brings light into our hearts and lives. Without Him there is darkness, separation, and despair.

We have been sent out as lights in a dark world. A world that has been darkened by sin and its power. Some choose to walk in darkness, thinking they are secure and safe from danger. But the danger is not seen. It is not visible to their eyes because their minds have shut out the God of light.

Some of us remember the old phone booths sitting on street corners. The light inside didn't come on until the door was shut. Jesus told us to go into our closets and "close the door and pray to your Father who is unseen. Then your Father, who sees what is done in secret, will reward you." (Matthew 6:6). The light comes on when the door is closed and we are alone with our Father.

Prayer opens the windows of heaven to us, allowing us to see the radiance and glory of our God. When we commune with Him there is comforting light around us, warming our hearts with His presence, and giving us the confidence we need to face any adversary.

The light of God's Word penetrates our darkest thoughts and pierces through our walls of self-righteousness or self-centeredness, and reveals our deepest motivations. And, that same Word brings light to our paths and enriches our spiritual journeys with the fragrance of His wonderful grace and enables us to see His eternal glory.

— Al Behel

Other News/Sick:

Shawn Molloy, frequent visitor and local optometrist, is now at home following hip surgery and 4 weeks of hospitalization. His wife's name is Darlene. Their home address which is 339 Happy Trails Way, Sevierville, TN 37862.

Polishing The Pulpit: August 22-28, Sevierville Events Center/Convention Center. See details in foyer. This is a great opportunity for spiritual growth and renewal. There are many sessions for all members of the family. You can register at the site.

Ladies Bible Study—resumes on Tuesday, Sept. 16 with a brand new set of lessons—"Like Mother, Like Daughter." Plan to join us at 10 a.m. that day for a good study and great fellowship. See Sue Hayes for a copy of the lessons.

Elder Contact for Month: Jim Anderson, Phone No. 924-1067

Sermon Topics: A.M.—"Growing A Spiritual Church, No. 2"; P.M.—"At Home In The Psalms—What Everyone Should Bring To Church- Psalm 100"

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.

Ron Sommerville is still struggling with pain issues.

Sheryle Elkins has been diagnosed with Adenocarcinoma (lung cancer). Chemotherapy and radiation treatments will begin tomorrow. Please pray that God will shower His grace on Dan and Sheryle and grant healing to her.

Kenny Jones is in LeConte Medical Center, Rm 347. He expects to be transferred to rehab for several days of therapy.

Jerry Dyer—Problems with falling and instability—prayers appreciated for him and Jeanette.

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—is continuing to improve following removal of a cancerous lung. Keep praying for his full recovery.

Wyatt Cox, will have corrective surgery on August 25.

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, continues to improve after being critically injured in a fall from his attic onto concrete.

Christopher Howell—grandson of the Littletons—spinal cord injuries.

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

Dot Willis, Al's first cousin and visitor to GSM church—on hospice.

Rick Cliett's brother, **Ken Cliett**, is battling Ascites and kidney failure. He has been moved to a nursing facility close to his children.

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. His speech is still limited.

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.

Raja Vijay Kumar Vundurthi (India missionary) reports that his father is improving from GB Syndrome. Keep praying for him.

Sunday Bible Study

Colossians

Rise & Shine: Sundays, 9:15

Paul Huston, son-in-law of Gary and Priscilla Dick, departed 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 08/05/14 is **\$1,131,329.64**. 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.